



65TH MILITARY POLICE IN HAITI: JOB WELL DONE!

By Captain Maurice Green

The Soldiers of the 65th Military Police Company (Airborne), 503d Military Police Battalion (Airborne), Fort Bragg, North Carolina, support the global response force (GRF) mission of the XVIII Airborne Corps by providing a platoon that is ready to respond to any contingency operation in the world within 96 hours of notification. As part of the GRF, the 65th recently deployed to the island nation of Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response.

On 12 January 2010, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale¹ overwhelmed Haiti, resulting in a disaster of epic proportions. The devastation resulted in an estimated 212,000 deaths, with millions more affected. The 65th Military Police Company deployed to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Once on the ground in Haiti, the 65th partnered with the Haitian National Police United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and several local community leaders to provide immediate assistance to more than 500,000 Haitians who were displaced by the earthquake. The company was initially responsible for providing support in the northeastern region of Tabarre, where there were more than 50,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The 65th conducted more than 70 humanitarian assistance missions to IDPs, distributing more than 1,000 tons of food, 500 shelters in a box, 5,000 personal hygiene kits, and 5,000 tarps. In addition, the company's medics provided treatment to several Haitians affected by the earthquake.

After the immediate needs of the IDPs were satisfied, most of the GRF redeployed; however, the 65th and the

2-325 Airborne Infantry Regiment remained in Haiti, where they helped the Government of Haiti and MINUSTAH prepare Haitian citizens for the impending rainy and hurricane seasons. The company partnered with MINUSTAH and NGOs to facilitate decongestion and mitigation efforts aimed at reducing suffering and preventing deaths inside designated at-risk camps during the rainy season. For example, at Champs De Mars (an IDP camp located outside the Haitian presidential palace), the 65th assisted MINUSTAH and Save the Children (an NGO operating in Port Au Prince) with the posturing of about 40,000 displaced inhabitants for the upcoming rainy season. In addition, the company provided momentum, advice, and security to help prevent deaths at Champs De Mars and maintain conditions for reconstruction in Port Au Prince. The 65th Military Police Company also assisted in the relocation of several hundred IDPs to Corail Cesselesse from various IDP camps throughout Port Au Prince.

Endnote:

¹The Richter scale, developed by Charles F. Richter, is a logarithmic scale that expresses the magnitude of a seismic disturbance in terms of the energy dissipated. A 1.5 magnitude earthquake is the smallest disturbance that can be felt, a 4.5 magnitude earthquake is capable of causing slight damage, and an 8.5 magnitude earthquake is considered very devastating.

Captain Green served as the commander of the 65th Military Police Company during Operation Unified Response. He holds master's degrees in human resource management from the University of Phoenix and business and organizational security management from Webster University, St. Louis, Missouri.