The DART and Op HESTIA
Canadian Forces: Helping in Haiti

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Agenda

1. Background of the DART
2. Role and Capabilities
3. Haiti 2010 and CF Deployment
4. The DART in Haiti (My Story)
5. Port-au-Prince & Jacmel
1. Rwanda 1994: the Canadian Forces were required to mount a humanitarian aid force

2. Lessons learned from that mission led to a framework for rapid disaster response – The DART.

3. Since inception in 1996, the DART has deployed 5 times:
   - Honduras hurricane – November 1998 (Op CENTRAL)
   - Turkey earthquake – August 1999 (Op TORRENT)
   - Sri Lanka tsunami – January 2005 (Op STRUCTURE)
   - Pakistan earthquake – October 2005 (Op PLATEAU)
   - Haiti earthquake – January 2010 (Op HESTIA)

4. The DART Reconnaissance Team has deployed three separate times since 2005:
   - Indonesia earthquake – May 2006
   - Burma/Myanmar cyclone – May 2008
   - Haiti hurricanes – September 2008 (Op HORATIO)
Role of the DART

1. Stabilize primary effects of an emergency or disaster
2. Prevent onset of secondary effects of the disaster by producing potable water and providing primary medical care
3. Gain time for international community and NGOs to deploy domestic/international humanitarian aid so as to facilitate long term recovery in the community
DART Capabilities

1. Quick response
2. Self-sufficiency
3. Primary capabilities:
   • Primary medical care
   • Provision of potable water
4. Enabling functions:
   • Command, control and communications
   • Light engineering
   • Force Protection
Criteria for DART

1. Disaster
   • Scale

2. Affected Nation
   • Willingness to request/accept foreign aid
   • Willingness to request/accept foreign military assistance

3. International Response
   • Capacity
   • NGOs and UN orgs already in area

4. Government of Canada
   • Ability to achieve response aim through other means
   • Willingness to deploy military forces

Potential DART Deployment
Deployment Decision

1. GoC decision to deploy Interdepartmental Strategic Support Team (ISST) to assess GoC responses

2. ISST:
   - Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)
   - Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
   - Department of National Defence (DND)

3. DART RECCE accompany ISST?

4. GoC decision to deploy DART not CF decision.

“The DART is not the answer for every disaster”
Earthquake strikes Haiti

At 16:53 hrs on 12 January 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti, close to Port-au-Prince.
Haiti
Canadian Forces: Helping in Haiti
Commitment

• Canada has consistently demonstrated strong support for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations throughout the world.

• With its rapid-response capabilities, the Canadian Forces’ moved without delay to provide critical disaster relief for the people of Haiti.
Operation HESTIA

- Canadian Forces (CF) participation in a whole-of-government humanitarian response to the earthquake
- Under command of Brigadier-General Guy Laroche
- Over 2,000 CF personnel deployed
Canada’s Response

- Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)
- Department of National Defence / Canadian Forces (DND/CF)
- Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
- Citizenship and Immigration Canada
- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA)
- RCMP
- Department of Public Safety
- and others…
Operation HESTIA

- Search and rescue
- Emergency medical services
- Food and water
- Engineering assistance
- Mobility by sea, land and air
- Defence and security support
Op HESTIA – Force structure

**Joint Task Force Haiti (JTF-H)**
Command Element - BGen Guy Laroche
(Command & control, Co-ordination with Cdn and international partners)

**Joint Task Force (JTF)**
**Support Element**
Transport, shipping & receiving, contract administration etc.

**Land Component**
DART
3 R22eR Battalion Group
1 Canadian Field Hospital

**Maritime Component**
HMCS Athabaskan
HMCS Halifax
(C2 and CH-124 Helo)
Naval construction troop

**Air Component**
Airfield Operations
6 Griffons (Utility)
CC130 (Tactical Lift)
CC177 (Strategic Lift)
CC150 (Passenger Lift)
CC144 (Passenger Lift)
Op HESTIA – Components

Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART)

- Rapid-response capability
- 205 CF members: C2, engineers, medical platoon, defence & security platoon

Tasks:
- Primary medical care
- Safe drinking water
- Clean-up and construction
- Security
Op HESTIA – Components

Canadian Forces Health Services (CFHS)

- Over 180 CFHS members representing 16 different health care trades
Op HESTIA – Components

Navy

- Over 500 naval personnel
- The destroyer HMCS ATHABASKAN
- The frigate HMCS HALIFAX
- Sea King helicopter air detachment
- Naval Construction Troop
Op HESTIA – Components
Army

• 500 soldiers in total
• Two Infantry Companies from 3 R22R
• An Engineer Squadron from 5 Combat Engineer Regiment
• Support Company
Op HESTIA – Components
Air Force

- Over 250 personnel
- Transport of humanitarian aid supplies, equipment, vehicles and passengers (including evacuees)
- Jacmel airstrip: air traffic and ground control
Op HESTIA – Some Accomplishments

In total, some 2,046 CF personnel deployed. Accomplishments:

- 4,620 Canadians evacuated
- Over 1,000,000 pounds of humanitarian relief supplies and equipment delivered
- More than 22,000 patients treated
- 2,890,988 litres of safe drinking water processed
- Re-opened the hwy between Leogane and Jacmel
Helping Haiti – Next Steps

• The Canadian Forces’ mandate is complete
• Shift from emergency relief to sustained development coordinated by DFAIT, CIDA and NGOs

• CF continues to provide support to MINUSTAH, the United Nation’s stabilization mission in Haiti.
Some Lessons Identified

1. Early and decisive strategic direction was key to success of rapid response

2. Strategic airlift availability essential

3. Use of Liaison Officers key to operating in WoG context
Medical Platoon

- Approx 45 pers
- Primary Med Care – no formal surgical capability
- During the first days in Jacmel, medical elements worked at the local hospital.
  - Treated earthquake victims
  - Worked along side Haitian/Cuban medical personnel
- Set up at Jacmel port once eqpt arrived
Medical Platoon

Treated over 10,000 patients

- 7,500 in clinic
- 2,500 through Mobile Medical Teams in mountains – mostly via helicopter
- Referred more seriously injured to local hospitals, Cdn Military Hospital in Leogane or USNS Comfort
Defence and Security Platoon

• Approx 40 pers
• Provided Security for:
  • Embassy and for convoys of CEPs
  • DART Camp
  • Medical Clinic
  • Mobile Medical Teams
  • ROWPU site
  • VIP visits
  • Food Distribution – Camp Pinchinat
Engineers – Water Purification

- Approx 35 Engineers in total
- Produced over 500,000 litres of potable water
- Shocked city wells (super-chlorination)
- Constructed 5 water points in/around IDP camps
- Repaired portions of the underground water distribution system – parts flown in from Canada
Engineers – Rubble / Earth Removal

- Cleared streets of Jacmel – 116 dump truck loads
- Cleared dirt from Highway 204 – 316 dump truck loads
- Cash for Work
  - Hired 288 Haitians for 17 days to clear the ditches along hwy
  - Hired 50 Haitians for 10 days to clear road in remote area
Engineers – Sanitation/Shelters

- Constructed 45 latrines (135 seats)
- Built 2 x shelters at local orphanage
- Supervised ‘Cash for Work’ project for construction of four shelters at orphanage
Joint Ops – Navy

- HMCS Halifax (220 Pers)
- 40-60 pers ashore/day (general labour/limited security/diesel engine and ROWPU knowledge)
- Some potable water production
- Ability to transport large quantities of HA in theatre
- Ability to make repairs to broken parts
Joint Ops – Air Force

- Jacmel Airfield (80 pers)
  - Ensured orderly and secure flow of materiel and pers through airport to support DART and flow of HA
  - Air Traffic Control
Cluster Meetings

- Method of needs assessment
- Provided a venue for centralized coordination of humanitarian relief for all actors in each operational area
- Many types: Health, Protection, Logistics, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Shelter
- CF, DFAIT and CIDA
Additional Projects

- Assessed 14 orphanages
- Repaired local mill through Cash for Work program
- Donated wood to MedAir for transitional shelter construction
- Donated material and design for 12 x two-room schools
The DART in Haiti
(My Story)
DART – Arrival

- DART Recce – 12 hrs NTM

- First elements (22 pers) of the CF and GOC reps arrived **within 24 hours** of the disaster:
  - the ISST (3 civ, 1 mil)
  - the DART Recce Team (11 mil)
  - 7 pers Med Tm
  - Rations and water
Canadian Embassy

- Initially established at the Canadian Embassy
- Cdn Ambassador's #1 priority – evacuation of Cdn Entitled Personnel (CEPs)
  - (Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations (NEO))
- 3 Separate Tasks – HO, NEO, TA
Non-Combatant Evacuation Operations

• Provided Security, Convoy Escort, and Coord with Air Force for timings and spaces on CF flights
• Left a security element at Embassy for first three weeks
• DART helped to facilitate the evacuation of the first 3,000 Canadian Entitled Persons (CEPs).
• Treated more than 300 Canadians as they awaited evacuation
Trapped BC Students

- 16 Jan – Received info about stranded students
- 17 Jan – Used SAR helo, SAR Tech and convoy with security to collect students
- 18 Jan – Students & chaperones arrived in Canada

B.C. students safe in Haiti quake zone

A group of 17 B.C. high school students travelling in Haiti are reported to be safe after arriving in the Caribbean nation three hours before it was struck by a devastating earthquake Tuesday.

The Grade 12 students are from Mount Sentinel School in South Slocan, a town of about 360 people located 800 kilometres east of Vancouver. The students travelled to Haiti to help set up a farm in a local community.

The school’s principal, Glen Campbell, said there had not been telephonic contact but he has received emails saying everyone was safe.

An earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0...
Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)

Specially trained SAR Techs and firefighters deployed with their specialized equipment.
DART AOR – Jacmel

- Population: 41,500
- Jacmel Commune (Region): 173,000

- Hardest Hit Region in South
  - Almost 400 dead in Jacmel (450 in entire SE District)
  - Almost 3000 homes destroyed and 7500 damaged in Jacmel Commune
  - 41 food distribution sites in Jacmel feeding 34,000+ pers/day
  - Two large Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps

- HEGG had lived there!
DART AOR – Jacmel

DART CO and Ambassador recommended Jacmel as AOR for DART because:

- Haitian PM and President concerned that Jacmel:
  - 30-50% destroyed
  - Cut-off from Port-au-Prince
  - Lacking fresh water
  - Hospital destroyed

- Jacmel needs matched DART capabilities

- No other major player assisting there

- CF able to make more of an impact in Jacmel than in Port-au-Prince
- **Evening Sun 17 Jan** – Approved by BGen Laroche
- **Morning Mon 18 Jan** – Flew via Griffon Helo
  - Med pers / D&S pers
  - Med pers working within 1 hr of arrival
- **Morning Tues 19 Jan** – Met naval pers on HMCS HALIFAX
  - Clearing rubble within an hr of arrival
- **Afternoon Tues 19 Jan** – Met AF pers on Hercules
Camp Jacmel
Living Conditions

- Very austere
- Insects
- Rations
- Rain/ Heat
Challenges

• Arrival of kit/pers into theatre
  • Congestion at Port-au-Prince
  • Task Force & DART vying for space on strategic lift
• Vehicles / Accidents
• Comms – Blackberry!!
• Land route to Port-Au-Prince
• Visits
Port-au-Prince & Jacmel
The Story in Pictures
Port-au-Prince

1. First night
2. Next couple days
3. No open space left unoccupied
4. Life starts to return to normal
Jacmel

1. Population was afraid.
2. Took long time for return to normalcy.
3. Banks remained closed for extended period.
5. Decisions took long time.
Why so Bad

1. Non existent building codes
2. Building techniques
   - Material
     - Lots of concrete
     - Very little rebar
     - Wrong type and undersized rebar
     - River rock for course aggregate
   - Exposed rebar
   - Nothing to prevent lateral movement
3. No emergency services, fire or ambulance
4. Substandard hospital capacity (public/private)
5. No effective local government
6. All the cards in the deck were stacked against Haiti
The “Way Ahead”
Modularization

1. Allows us to contribute without deploying the full “DART”

2. Meets distinct needs such as medical or water production

3. Concept is still undergoing development
   • New CONPLAN RENAISSANCE (presently GRIFFON)
Rapid Reaction Packages

1. DART’s traditional contribution during the Relief Phase

2. “Rapid Reaction Packages” for the Rescue Phase
   - Mobile Medical Teams
   - USAR
   - Engineering
   - Aviation (helos)

3. More CF pers at High Readiness
Summary

1. CF efforts in Haiti were needed and appreciated

2. Humanitarian Operations for the CF continue to evolve. Aim is to be faster, lighter, and be able to fill humanitarian gaps other than just medical and clean water
Questions ?