

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BLOGGERS ROUNDTABLE WITH U.S. NAVY CAPTAIN CYNTHIA THEBAUD, COMMANDER, DESTROYER SQUADRON 60; NIGERIAN NAVY CAPTAIN JIMI OSINOWO; GHANAIAI NAVY LIEUTENANT COMMANDER SAMUEL AYELEZONO; ITALIAN NAVY LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MARCO CAMPASSO; U.S. NAVY COMMANDER TIM LABENZ; AND SENEGALESE NAVY LIEUTENANT ASSANE SEYE VIA TELECONFERENCE SUBJECT: USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44) MISSION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE-HAITI TIME: 2:00 P.M. EST DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2010

-----  
Copyright (c) 2010 by Federal News Service, Inc., Ste. 500 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA. Federal News Service is a private firm not affiliated with the federal government. No portion of this transcript may be copied, sold or retransmitted without the written authority of Federal News Service, Inc. Copyright is not claimed as to any part of the original work prepared by a United States government officer or employee as a part of that person's official duties. For information on subscribing to the FNS Internet Service, please visit <http://www.fednews.com> or call (202) 347-1400  
-----

(Note: Please refer to [www.dod.mil](http://www.dod.mil) for more information.)

PETTY OFFICER WILLIAM SELBY (Office of the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs): With that, I'd like to welcome you all to the Department of Defense's Bloggers Roundtable for Wednesday, January 27, 2010. My name is Petty Officer William Selby with the Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs, and I will be moderating the call today.

A note to the bloggers on the line today: Please remember to clearly state your name and blogger organization in advance of your question. Respect our guest's time, keeping questions succinct and to the point. Today our guest is U.S. Navy Captain Cynthia Thebaud, commander, Destroyer Squadron 60, who will discuss the mission in support of Operation Unified Response.

And Captain Thebaud, if you have an opening statement, you can go ahead with that now.

CAPT. THEBAUD: Actually, what I'd like to do is introduce the other people I have in the room with me and are part of my Africa Partnership Station staff. We were embarked aboard Gunston Hall, ready to deploy to West and Central Africa for a maritime safety and security capacity-building mission on the 15th of January. And then, midday the day before, we got -- the ship got directed to get underway as scheduled, but head south instead of east. And our Africa Partnership Station staff, they remain embarked on board the ship. And it's a unique group of people that we have, comprising the APS staff. It's really helped enable the ship to do all the things we've done down here in Haiti to assist with the relief efforts.

With me I have Captain Jimi Osinowo from the Nigerian navy, Lieutenant Seye from the Senegalese navy, Captain Ayelazono -- excuse me

-- Lieutenant Commander Ayelazono -- I know he appreciated the temporary promotion -- from Ghana; Lieutenant Commander Campasso from the Italian navy; and Lieutenant Commander Tim LaBenz, who is my operations officer with DESRON 60. (Inaudible.)

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Roger that, ma'am. And thank you. And you're coming in loud and clear.

With that, we'll go ahead and get to our first question. And David Axe was first on the line.

Q Hi, it's David Axe with WarIsBoring.com. It's nice to speak to you again.

CAPT. THEBAUD: David, good to talk to you again as well.

Q Great. I'd like to just get a summary of your recent activities and then follow that up with a question.

CAPT. THEBAUD: Sure. As I think you all know, probably, from reading the news, Gunston Hall is deployed along with the ships of PHIBRON 6 out of Little Creek to come down and support the U.S. efforts, which are in support of the larger U.N. efforts to provide relief and assistance to the people of Haiti.

In particular, when this ship got down here, we folded in with an effort the Coast Guard was undertaking at the Coast Guard base named Killick, the Haitian Coast Guard base, working with the Haitian Coast Guard and the Sri Lankan U.N. forces co-located at that base. We have folded into two programs. One is providing support and assistance for medical teams who are located at that base providing medical assistance, triage, some surgical capabilities to the citizens of Haiti in need of medical assistance. So we perform a whole round of things that -- a whole bunch of things helping out the medical programs, and then working in concert with the MINUSTAH U.N. forces. They're co-located at the base, and also with the Haitian Coast Guard.

We are supporting predominantly food-aid distribution into the local and outlying communities around the Killick Coast Guard base. And we have also been helping to offload the aid from Mexican ships that are down in the area, based on a request from the government of Mexico.

Q Great. And can I ask, do you -- are you facing any logistical bottlenecks with these operations?

CAPT. THEBAUD: In our area, we have become fairly self-sustaining, between the superb work by the U.N. forces and the Haitian Coast Guard and national policy. Almost as quickly as we get things ashore, there are people ready to take them out and distribute them into communities in need of assistance. And we have also integrated with the World Food Program headquarters for ways to get additional resources if and as needed, whether that's food and additional medical supplies and so on.

Q Great. Thank you very much.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: And --

CAPT. THEBAUD: One other thing I'd like to note, that I'm particularly proud of the men and women here, what they have accomplished. When we pulled in -- we got to this base on Monday the 18th. The Coast Guard had been here for a few days and really in very much of a triage situation. It was not too long after the real bulk of the response had started. And medical treatment was being done at that point by local doctors, (three ?) people from Health & Human Services, Coast Guard medics.

And the day after we got here, a medical team from JTF Bravo, Joint Task Force Bravo out of Honduras, arrived. But we were able to work with the Haitian Coast Guard and clear a very rubble-strewn soccer field and turn that into a landing zone. So we've also been able to work with people to medically evacuate over 400 patients in need of critical care to other medical facilities by setting up a helo landing zone there that our guys have done.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Yes, ma'am.

And Dale, you were next on the line.

Q Ma'am, this is Dale Kissinger from MilitaryAvenue.com. And I have an international relations degree and I have an interest in how the team that you have on board has made your impact there different than just a straight U.S. Navy team would have made it. Is there anything that you can see that they've helped you with? CAPT. THEBAUD: You must be reading our minds. We have a combination of European and African partners on board.

And I would like to let them speak to that question about the things that they have done. Gunston Hall has a fairly junior crew (sic/staff) on board, and we have a number of senior officers who have been able to take the burden of a lot of the coordination of events ashore.

So, gentlemen, I'll turn it over for anything you may want to say about the roles you have played. We'll start with Lieutenant Commander Ayelazono from Ghana.

GHANA NAVY LT. CMDR. AYELAZONO: I'm -- (inaudible) -- from Ghana. When we got here, I was tasked to collect information from patients that were ready for medevac. The problem is there isn't enough space on the aircraft to take both patients and relatives, and this is particularly so for children. And so -- (inaudible) -- when the patients are finally discharged, there might be a problem locating relatives. So I get information and (talk to ?) patients and get them ready for medevac. That was my role and it is still my role.

Thank you.

CAPT. THEBAUD: I think one of the things that -- (Sam ?), tell me if you agree or disagree -- but I think one of the things that really helps is the Haitian people are obviously still in shock and distress from the situation. (To see ?) people of similar culture and background, and they're able to build confidences that way that we may not be able to do ourselves.

Sam, what's your thought on this?

LT. CMDR. AYELAZONO: That is very true, because language played a very important role in our contribution here. Most of (our crew ?) (sic/staff) can speak French, particularly -- (inaudible) -- with the local community. And they felt very confident in relating with us, and it proved very helpful.

CAPT. THEBAUD: I have one of my African officers who now the Haitians that we work with constantly refer to him as -- they see him and they yell his name and say, "Hey, you're my African -- you're my Haitian brother."

LT. SEYE: I am Lt. Seye, from Senegalese navy. My main job here was to -- (inaudible) -- about 50 volunteers working with us. The (main point ?) we have is we have (already ?) over 200 volunteers -- (inaudible) -- to be accepted inside the (hospital ?) -- (inaudible). We (need them ?) for (operations ?) -- (inaudible). These people needed to work with someone they know. And because our -- (inaudible) -- quite close, then working with them is not quite (different ?) by having all these volunteers working with us, translating for us, playing -- (inaudible) -- role between us and the Haitian patients were very important.

CAPT. THEBAUD: I have Lieutenant Commander Campasso from Italy, who, although he's Italian, is also a French speaker, and he is going to give you some perspective from his view.

LT. CMDR. CAMPASSO: Good afternoon. I am Lieutenant Commander Campasso. I was in charge of the security operation to the (gate ?) of the base. I acted as (the primary ?) filter and interface with the Haitian population, and to give all information to the population outside. And also we start to collect information and to -- (inaudible) -- system to let our people working the base -- (inaudible) -- information, to give all information about the patients (getting ?) inside the base, and also help the people outside to have all information about their families inside the base.

It was really demanding and challenging because of the language problem. But also I brought my Italian behavior and my language-speaking knowledge to help in that sort of thing.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Roger that, sir.

CAPT. THEBAUD: I also have a British commander who's part of our staff. He's ashore right now, but I think a lot of us hear frequently about British efficiencies, and he was very instrumental in

helping us set up an organizational structure that really is very, very collaborative in nature, working with such a wide variety of organizations and groups on the Coast Guard base.

First and foremost, we're there in support of the Haitian Coast Guard and the U.N. effort, building a team and integrating into what they want and need to have done, and then coordinating in the various international people that we have on the staff, working with the Haitian police. There is a team of Mexican doctors and nurses on the base now as well; as we said also, the joint medical team that came in shortly after we got here.

We've had four different Coast Guard ships we've been working with and two other Navy ships, the Mexican ships that we mentioned; they're offloading. So there really is an international team effort all pulling together for one common goal. This is not business as usual. We are consistently working creatively and pulling out all the stops to figure out how we can best get the job done together.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Roger that, ma'am. And Chuck, you are next.

Q Yes, ma'am. Chuck Simmins from America's North Shore Journal. A dual question here, if you will. First of all, the load-out that you were taking to West Africa, how has that helped? And what would you have made different, had you known you were coming here instead of West Africa? And also, can you talk a little bit about the Haitian Coast Guard? They seem to be the only unit of the Haitian government that seems to be functioning right now, so if you could talk a little bit about those guys.

CAPT. THEBAUD: Actually, I think we were very lucky that we had our APS staff and APS load-out on board the ship. Any disaster relief effort like this, you come with whatever you have on board. And there is not a lot of time to get extra things loaded out. So when you look at it in that context, we really were very, very lucky, very blessed to have the group of people we had on board and the equipment we had on board.

In addition to our international staff we talked about, I have a small military civil-affairs team that has been very, very helpful and useful in integrating in with the U.N. forces and knowing how to go about interfacing with the civilian community and the civilian population -- terrific asset. And they are led by a German commander who happened to be on my staff for ATF. I have a civilian employee from Naval Forces Europe in Africa who is their subject-matter expert on maritime civil-military initiatives and interfacing with NGOs. He has a very strong NGO background.

Again, he has been a key person for us in interfacing with the NGO organizations, in helping to figure out how to interface with the MINUSTAH headquarters and World Food Program, for additional aid sources as needed, and then working with the local Sri Lankan MINUSTAH forces here at the base.

I have a lieutenant commander from Norfolk who is TAD from my staff to help do assessments, train on doing assessments for ATF mission. He happens to be an FA-18 pilot with a lot of flight-deck experience. So he's the one who took the lead on turning the rubble- strewn soccer fields that originally had about 800 displaced persons into a usable landing zone so we could do the helo-based medical evacuations.

We also had a team of about 130 Marines for a special-purpose MAGTF that was going to be doing some mil-to-mil activities in West Africa and their vehicle and equipment. They folded in under the 22nd MEU and went ashore with the MEU further down the coast to assist in the disaster relief efforts.

We had loaded out a considerable amount of Project Ten Class (sp) materials, much of it was specifically designated for certain places in West and Central Africa and wasn't necessarily what was needed here right away. But working through Project Ten Class (sp) leadership, you are able to get all of our food that was loaded for the ATF deployment released, and we have been using that and transporting that ashore for the aid assistance. So for what ends up is a come-as- you-are game. And I don't mean game saying that this is a game but, you know, come-as-you-are activity -- I don't think you could find a ship that has a better composite -- composition of people and things on board for this type of mission.

Q And can you talk a little bit about the Haiti coast guard?

CAPT. THEBAUD: The U.S. Coast Guard has had a long-standing working relationship with the Haiti coast guard, and when we got down here, there were two U.S. Coast Guard cruisers -- cutters already on station. The commanding officer on one of them was recently -- and I understand it -- the Coast Guard -- the U.S. Coast Guard's maritime liaison officer in Haiti. So he know the coast guard base quite well. He knew the people at the coast guard base, and he knew that the base -- (inaudible) -- was a place that could start providing assistance right away.

It had a very small medical facility used for treatment of the coast guard -- of the Haitian coast guard people. And he knew that the Haitian coast guard was very professional and would be very eager to assist in an effort like this.

There has been an outstanding cooperative effort. They have been very anxious to get back on the water doing patrols in the harbor. The U.S. Coast Guard personnel that have been down here that have a history of working with them have continued in that engagement effort. And every day, we are coordinating our comings and goings from the base with the Haitian coast guard.

As we started offloading the Mexican ship that is here that has brought down tons of aid -- a lot of which is food aid -- the Haitian coast guard, working in concert with the Haitian national police in this area and the volunteers that they have been working with went out and obtained through their government trucks that could be used for delivery

of food aid and started doing food aid distribution themselves on their own time in addition to the regular work that they had to do.

We have found them terrific to work with.

Q Thank you.

CAPT. THEBAUD: Go ahead.

Q I'm sorry, ma'am. No. Go ahead and --

CAPT. THEBAUD: I was just wondering if any of my other international staff had any comments they wanted to add about that.

Okay. I think we're ready to continue on. PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Roger that. And, Richard, you are next on the line.

Q Hello. This is Richard Lowry (ph) with Op4.com (ph) and Examiner.com.

You seem to have a truly international effort going aboard your ship. I wonder just -- I've got a couple of little questions that are interconnected.

First off, where exactly is the coast guard base in relation to Port-au-Prince? And what were the conditions ashore when you first went ashore when you first got there? What are the conditions now in relation to that. And can you talk a little bit about the Haitian people's reaction to your efforts?

CAPT. THEBAUD: The base is southwest of downtown Port-au-Prince. If you are familiar with the Port-au-Prince harbor and you look at the main commercial piers and you work your way around -- if you're facing the piers from the harbor, you work your way around the harbor -- the coastline -- to the right. It's tucked in there just before you get to an oil terminal facility there. If you're walking along the coast, it is just before you get to the -- (inaudible) -- proper.

Q I think I can find it from that description.

CAPT. THEBAUD: The -- I have not particularly Googled it, but I am told when people have Googled, they didn't find it on a map, but it is right before you get to Carrefour as you walk along the coastline. (Inaudible) -- the coast guard base itself, not the community in which it's located. It's named after a Haitian admiral from the early 1900's.

The issues on the base, I think that's what you would expect. Very shortly after the place had been devastated as much as Haiti has by the earthquake. The base is very lucky. It did not have many buildings that were badly damaged. The galley -- the cooking area -- the eating area for the base -- for the coast guard base had collapsed, but that was the only building with significant structural degradation that could not be used any further.

And, you know, the Coast Guard, as I said, got there first. We did not get down until Monday about five days about the quake -- five days after the actual earthquake.

Still a very makeshift operation. Both of the Coast Guard cutters had about 95 people on board. They were helping the Haitian coast guard get back on the (sea ?) -- helping the base get back on the (sea ?) and providing initial medical triage the best they could.

And a lot of people -- families of the coast guard and other people living on the base -- as we were able to come in and further help and some more doctors got there, the medical treatment conditions improved. We were able to work with the Haitian coast guard on helping them clean up the field so we could start bringing helicopters in for medical evacuation as needed. The joint field medical team from JTF Bravo arrived on scene and was able to set up a much more capable medical treatment site than had originally been there when we got there. There were five tables -- regular -- like an office table or something -- that were being used as treatment tables for the most critically injured personnel.

We were able to develop what we essentially refer to -- (inaudible) -- machine now so that we have a process where we bring people -- (audio break) -- Hello?

RECORDED VOICE: This conference is scheduled to be disconnected automatically in five minutes. To extend the time, please signal for an operator by pressing star zero.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Wow. I apologize for that, ma'am. We'll get that taken care of and keep on continuing unless we do finish by that time.

CAPT. THEBAUD: We brought in about 20,000 -- yeah, about \$20,000 worth of medical supplies to help enhance the medical treatment facilities. As I was saying, when we first got there, it was about five tables that were being used for medical triage and stabilization of patients as best we could.

As we were able to better integrate in with the operations there, we are able to set up a whole process where, if somebody comes in and is initially assessed on the level of treatment they need, if it's an emergency surgery case, we would get them straight in to see the doctors right away. If it was initial triage, if they needed a greater medical assessment, various areas, we are able to get tents into the base and set up to help keep the patients out of the sun, give the patient's families a place to stay.

We set up a food program for the people who were there on the base. Some of the Haitian volunteers are now cooking food for the patient's, the patient's families, and the volunteers using some of the food through the food aid program -- rice and beans, proteins, different types of proteins -- fish and so on. And they're able to bring in their

own seasonings and spices and cook it to the way they like, so we seem to be a very good receptivity to that.

I'd like to turn over reaction to the Haitian people question to some of my colleagues here.

Gentlemen?

CAPT. OSINOWO: Ma'am?

CAPT. THEBAUD: Captain Osinowo. CAPT. OSINOWO : Hello. I would just like to add -- (inaudible) -- program -- (inaudible) within the past few days, the confidence -- (inaudible) -- to the extent right now is how the coast guard, together with the local communities, will go out, do their distribution, get back and -- (inaudible). And so far -- (inaudible) food, of course, to the -- (inaudible) -- people -- to the local communities. CAPT. THEBAUD: So I think another thing you probably see on the news is allegations of the value of food distribution because of the potential for mobs and so on. I think it's a credit to the Haitian coast guard, the Haitian police, and to the integrated team ashore that we have not had any problems at the gates to the coast guard base.

Commander Campasso talked about working at the gate. We have had some of our African colleagues working at the gate. There is always a Haitian coast guard presence. And the people in the community seem to understand that the role of the base is to provide medical assistance and medical care to those in need and that, while we do have food sources and other aid at the base, there has not been, to date, any effort for people to come in and swarm the base.

I think they understand that the food that we have is immediately getting out to the people of Haiti. And we -- the people that we have had wanting to come work with us as volunteers -- the Haitian people in the local community -- have been just as active and involved in all the support as anyone else on the base, whether it's doctors, it's nurses, it's people working as interpreters, it's ladies who are cooking the food. Very, very inductive. And I think, very appreciative that there are people who are there, truly, with their best -- with the best interests of the people of Haiti in their mind.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Roger that, ma'am. And, obviously, I got the phone line fixed. I apologize for that.

Do we have time for -- did you have time for another few questions, ma'am?

CAPT. THEBAUD: Sure. If you do.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Yes, ma'am. And David Axe, if you have a follow-up question, you can go ahead with that now.

It looks like David might have dropped off.

Dale, are you still on the line? Q I'm here. Dale from MilitaryAvenue.com.

Has there been one event or one happening that would be touching for the hearts of Americans that we could report?

CAPT. THEBAUD: I'm sorry. Could you say that again?

Q Yeah. Is there one outstanding event or something that really touched you or your crew that you'd like to tell us so we can report it to our fellow citizens?

CAPT. THEBAUD: One event after all the touching things we see on a daily basis, that's really a hard question.

I think the most touching event -- well, actually, the ship's commanding officer, Commander Fred Wilhelm, just walked in. And I'm going to let him take that question since his eyes lit up when he heard that.

CMDR. WILHELM: Good afternoon. It's Commander Fred Wilhelm the CO from the Hall. I just heard the question.

The most touching event, I'd have to say occurred, like, three days ago when the Joint Task Force Bravo guys delivered a premature baby. And the when the baby was delivered, it started crying instantly and then was unresponsive. And within no more than a minute and a half, they had that baby on a helo going directly out to the Comfort. And an after hour and a half later, we got word that the baby had survived.

But, you know, with all the trauma that was going around, it was one of those life miracle things where we had a lot of bad stuff happening, but that day, that was -- that brought everybody joy because we were able to all work together to save that baby's life.

CAPT. THEBAUD: Another incident like that, a couple nights ago, we had a young 15-day-old baby brought into the clinic who was having some problem. The doctors were very, very worried were they going to be able to even keep it alive all night.

We had shut down helicopter operations for the evening. The team was on shore because there were no critical patients at the end of the day, and we don't normally do nighttime helicopter operations due to safety of flights at that field.

And apparently, within minutes of that baby arriving, just out of the blue, I helicopter came down, landed at the field with no people out there to assist it. It was a pilot who knew the field well. And the medical people who were at the base and the coast guard people heard the helo come in and ran down to see what they needed.

At the same time, a crew (sic/staff) member off the helo came out to see what -- if there was anything needed at the base. And they

were able to evacuate that baby over to Comfort. And then the next morning, we got word that the baby was doing much, much better.

And, again, part of it is luck and timing, but if that helo hadn't been there, the baby probably wouldn't have made it.

We had two people come in. One was a lady in her late 20's, another was a baby -- both who had been very badly burned. And somehow, God only knows how, they had managed to survive eight or nine days after the earthquake. And for quite a while, we didn't think that they were going to be able to get them out. The helicopters that we had access to had higher-priority taskings.

And just as we thought we were going to have to tell them -- just as we thought we were going to have to tell them we're sorry we will have to keep you another day, the helicopter showed up and was able to evacuate them to another site for the level of treatment that they needed.

I think the interesting thing is for all of us, in looking at the eyes around the room, all of these examples are saving lives.

There's another gentleman who was talking to people earlier today. He said he's been there -- the first day he went in, he was taking some name out and trying to figure out -- there was a little girl who came up, eight years old, this is one of the French speakers, and she was talk very, very quietly and befriended her. And she relayed to him that both of her parents had been killed in the quake and she hadn't had anything to eat for two or three days.

And he just happened to have a couple of bananas in his -- (inaudible) -- and pulled them out and gave them to her. And he said the look in her eyes was just something he will never forget.

Q Wow. Those are great. Thank you very much.

CAPT. THEBAUD: We can go on or do you want to move on to another question?

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Yes, ma'am. (Laughs.) We'll go on to -- I guess we'll finish up with -- Chuck, do you have a follow-up?

CAPT. THEBAUD: Another example that touched a lot of us -- (inaudible) -- the interconnectivity of the world is involved -- (inaudible) -- here. I think it was the first day we were here, we had an American lady of Haitian descent, but she was a U.S. citizen, was running an orphanage about 20 -- well, no -- probably about 15 miles from the base -- had come in because she heard there were Americans, and she needed some assistance. She was trying to see about assistance for the orphanage. She has about 150, 160 orphans.

We got her name. We said we would go out, you know, as soon as we could with the U.N. forces to assess her orphanage. While we were there, there was a little boy who wandered up to the gate -- eight years

old -- he had a head injury. Had seen parents had both been killed in the earthquake. And the this lady from the House of Hope said, you know, if you can treat him, I'll take him we me; he needs a home.

The next day, we went out to visit her orphanage and, really, she was in very -- she was in very good condition. None of her children had been injured. She did just some damage to one of her buildings. (Inaudible) -- but in the meantime, she gave us the name of some people in the U.S. that were her sponsors that she had been trying to reach unsuccessfully.

So Lieutenant Commander LaBenz, meanwhile, had met her when she first was at the base, e-mailed his wife back in Naples, Italy, where we're both stationed. His wife got online -- can you tell the rest of story because you were involved in it?

LT. CMDR. LABENZ: My wife got online, heard of the orphanage, House of Hope, remembered seeing it online somewhere on a news story and just started Googling. And she connected Alex (ph), who runs the orphanage, with her son and daughter who live in Philadelphia.

CAPT. THEBAUD: And with the sponsor --

LT. CMDR. LABENZ: And with the sponsor's church and with a church sponsoring Alex (ph) in Virginia. I got an e-mail last night from the church that sponsored this orphanage. And so connecting all these people together who were trying to find out the status of Alex's (ph) welfare and, more importantly, the kids in the orphanage -- now, there's this connection.

So it just keeps growing. So everyone has their own story. If you look around the room, we can probably keep going on. But that's the story that I'm personally involved in as well as my family.

CMDR. WILHELM: While I've got to -- (inaudible) -- do you have any quick questions for me? I have, like, two minutes before I have to move on to another event. So I'll stand by real quick if you have any quick questions for me.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Well, actually, Chuck, did you have any more questions?

Q Well, I wanted to ask the partner officers from Africa if they picked up any lessons from this mission to take home with them. If anything strikes them right now that, you know, that they've learned.  
CAPT. OSINOWO : Okay. I'm Captain Osinowo. There's so many lessons -- (inaudible) -- foremost, we have -- (inaudible) -- on the professional side the flexibility and -- (inaudible) -- and the deployment of -- (inaudible) -- particularly for operations such as -- (inaudible) -- military officials -- (inaudible) what you call -- (inaudible) -- operations -- (inaudible) -- growing part in this respect -- (inaudible) -- without the availability of -- (inaudible) -- capability and look -- (inaudible) -- a little bit -- (inaudible) -- the United States military are able to bring to bear -- (inaudible). And, of course, we'd also like

to -- (inaudible) -- this type of -- (inaudible) -- on the west coast of Africa -- (inaudible) -- although -- (inaudible) -- also provide a very good -- (inaudible) -- particularly the -- (inaudible) -- strong points which -- (inaudible) -- about and I know individually, too, the order -- (inaudible) -- African -- (inaudible) -- they have -- (inaudible) -- which I'm sure -- (inaudible) -- get back home.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Roger that and thank you.

CAPT. THEBAUD: Lieutenant Commander Ayelazono also had some things he wanted to say.

LT. CMDR AYELAZONO: (Inaudible) -- I just want to ask -- (inaudible) -- operations are not a one-man show. It has to be a collaborative effort. And, indeed, this reflects in the name of this operation -- Operation Unified Response. (Inaudible) -- and I've seen it work here. Working together with NGOs -- non-governmental organizations -- and all -- every interested party coming together to help solve the problem.

So I've learned a lot and, indeed, it will help in my career as a naval officer.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Thank you, sir.

And with that, thank you, everybody, for your time and your questions and your comments.

Captain Thebaud, do you have any closing remarks?

CAPT. THEBAUD: I just want to thank you for the opportunity to tell what I think, collectively, we see here in as a good-news story about the ability of people to come together can and help each other in a time of need.

We were a team that came together to work on a maritime security capacity-building mission and, collectively, in a totally different part of the world. And this has demonstrated the flexibility of a group of international staff integrated with a very, very, very professional ship company on board Gunston Hall.

And it just reinforces, I think, for all of us, that no one person, no one group of people has all the answers. And it really is the team approach, and for us, the multi-national approach that has been so successful in the area that we're able to affect in helping the people of Haiti and in working with the Haitian coast guard and the U.N. forces in support of their efforts.

PETTY OFFICER SELBY: Thank you very much, ma'am.

And once again, thank you, everybody, for your questions and comments today and your time. Today's program will be available online at the bloggers link on DODLive.mil where you'll be able to access the

story base on today's call along with source documents such as the audio file and print transcripts.

Again, this concludes our call and thank you, again, ma'am, and feel free to disconnect at this time.

END.