

ATSS-MH (870)

MEMORANDUM FOR Commandant, United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas 79918-8002

SUBJECT: Access Agreement for Personal Experience Papers

1. I, Earl Perry, have submitted a Personal Experience Paper to the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy archives regarding events and experiences from my participation in Haiti Operation that may be of historical significance to the United States Army and the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

2. I understand the manuscript and attached documents will be accessioned into the historical holdings of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy archives and will belong to the United States Government to be used in any manner deemed in the best interests of the United States Army as determined by the Chief of Military History or his representative. I also understand that I may retain a copy for my own use subject to classification restrictions.

3. I hereby expressly and voluntarily relinquish all rights and interest in the paper to the United States Army with the following caveat/exception:

- None  
 Other:

I understand that the information in this paper may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act, and therefore, may be releasable to the public contrary to my wishes. I further understand that, within the limits of the law, the United States Army will attempt to honor the restrictions I have requested to be placed on this material.

Date: 18 March 2011

Printed Name: Earl Perry

Signature: Earl Perry

Accepted on behalf of the United States Army by:

Printed Name/Date: Montes, Moses 19 June 11

Signature: M. Montes

USASMA FORM 7273-R, APR 06

**Haiti Operation Unified Response 2010**

**SGM Gail Peavy**

**Sergeant Major's Academy**

The earthquake that struck Haiti on 12 January 2010 was a catastrophic and devastating incident. Approximately, 3 million people were affected by the quake and an estimated 316 thousand people died. According to the Haitian government 300,000 people were injured and 1,000,000 were homeless. The government also reported that 250,000 residence 30,000 commercial buildings collapsed or were severely damaged. The earthquake caused the most damage in Port-au-Prince, Jacmel and other nearby areas in the region. The country received an abundance of humanitarian aid from other countries by deploying medical teams, engineers and military support personnel (wikipedia.org, 2010).

On 24 January 2010, the 3<sup>rd</sup> (ESC) Expeditionary Sustainment Command received a call from higher headquarters to inform Soldiers that our support was needed in Haiti. The 3<sup>rd</sup> ESC provides logistics and distribution management anywhere, at any time, in any environment, against any adversary. While deployed to Haiti, the 3d ESC assisted in the completion of 2,704 humanitarian aid / distribution missions, fed 530,166 Haitian families, transported 29,351 short tons of supplies and performed 1,008 preventative medicine assessments.

I personally felt it was essential to provide humanitarian aid to the Haitians, despite the fact, our unit had just returned from a 15month deployment in Afghanistan and within 5 months of our return, received marching orders to Haiti, The Haitians really appreciated our support and our presence while temporary residing there.

Upon our arrival to Haiti, we had left freezing temperatures in Kentucky. Our unit landed in Port-au-Prince on the night of, 3 February 2010. When I stepped off the C-130 it felt like being inside an oven. Soldiers were being told to drink plenty of water and remove heavy over

garments. I thought to myself, I need to prepare my mind and get acclimatized with this sudden weather change.

A small portion (advance party) of our unit arrived in Haiti approximately two weeks before we got there and set up living tents for the remainder of our unit (main body) which eased our mind on living areas. While being a Senior Chaplain Assistant in the Army, my duties and responsibilities were to provide religious support to Soldiers and provide humanitarian aid to the Haitians. The Chaplain and I set up a working tent, so that we could effectively correspond with superior and subordinate levels command teams. Each day we attended several staff meetings to ensure communication was flowing up and down the chain. Often we submitted reports consisting of an assessment of areas that we had visited. Every time Soldiers left the compound we had to receive written permission from our commander and locate a Haitian contract driver. I receive the opportunity to actually walk through the Joint Logistical Mortuary Affairs Operations Tent to see how Mortuary Affairs Specialist recovered remains record personal data and identification. The smell was very overwhelming and viewing the remains was very unpleasant.

After being in country for two weeks we got acclimatized and developed a battle rhythm. We conducted religious services for Soldiers on the weekend and often assessed the Soldier's morale. We ate Meals Ready- to-eat (MREs) three times a day. The MREs are self contained meals with all essential nutrition for Soldiers on the go. The meals consist of a side entrée, heater, side dish, condiments, dessert and an eating utensil. We provided the Haitians with bulk food such as rice and beans. There were approximately 20 distribution sites in Haiti that we dropped off bulk containers of food and water. While out visiting other units, Haitians would often run up to our vehicles and beg for our food, simply because they knew we had food in our

vehicles. We were only allowed to give food out to the Haitians at designated food distribution sites.

I can remember being stopped at a traffic light and seeing the Haitian kids run up to our vehicle knocking on our doors, constantly begging for food and water. This occurrence really made me feel sad on one hand and being appreciative on another hand. Our command did not want us to give food out while traveling through-out the city, because of the risk of being attacked and to prevent the Haitians from fighting over the food.

Some Soldiers did not receive the chance to travel through-out the entire city of Port-u-Prince. Most of the buildings were badly damaged and completely destroyed. The medical facilities were badly destroyed which hindered support personnel to aid the patients. Also, the prison was destroyed, allowing approximately 4000 inmates to escape. Large portions of the National Palace collapse and was severely damaged. Most schools were destroyed which created a problem for the children to receive education.

In closing, the humanitarian aid that our unit and other support personnel provided to Haiti really made a difference in the country. The Haitians did not want to see us leave their country. They felt appreciative of the support we provide them. Often I tell my kids to appreciate the simple things in life, because tomorrow isn't promised to us. Once our unit re-deployed to the states, I felt like kissing the grounds simply because of the good lifestyle that I could continue.

References:

[wikipedia.org/wiki/2010\\_Haiti\\_earthquake](http://wikipedia.org/wiki/2010_Haiti_earthquake)