



NAVY MEDICINE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

USNS COMFORT LEAVING BALTIMORE SATURDAY MORNING TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO HAITI RELIEF

The Navy hospital ship, USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20), home ported in Baltimore, is preparing to go underway Sat. Jan. 16, to support the relief efforts in the aftermath of Haiti's devastating earthquake that struck the country Jan.12. The ship is currently scheduled to depart Sat., Jan. 16 at 9:00 a.m. Media are invited to cover the departure Saturday and should arrive at Canton Pier, Baltimore (directions and parking instructions below) beginning at 5:30 a.m. for escort to the ship.

Please contact the National Naval Medical Center Public Affairs office at 301-295-5727 if you plan to cover. **RSVP required by 6:00 p.m. January 15 to ensure pier access and parking.**

A medical team of 550 doctors, nurses, technicians and support staff will provide a host of medical services to include primary care, trauma care, pediatric care and orthopedic care upon arrival in Haiti. Staff members from the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md. and Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Portsmouth, Va. are preparing to leave and will be arriving pier side in Baltimore today.

The COMFORT was last in Haiti in April 2010 for 12 days as part of Continuing Promise 2009.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON USNS COMFORT:

<http://www.msc.navy.mil/inventory/ships.asp?ship=74>DIRECTIONS/PARKING:

Directions:

DIRECTIONS TO USNS COMFORT:

From the North: Follow I-95 South to the Keith Avenue exit (#56). This is the last exit before the Fort McHenry toll booth. Follow the exit to the traffic light and turn left onto Keith Avenue. On Keith Avenue, continue straight to the second stop light. Turn right onto New Vail. At the bottom of the ramp, New Vail becomes Newgate. You will go through a preliminary security gate (they are expecting media). Follow Newgate three blocks. Turn left onto the pier parking area (Pier 11) and park wherever it is most convenient. News vans will have spaces reserved near the gated pier entrance and the far end of the parking area.

From the South: Follow I-95 North to the Fort McHenry tunnel, stay to the extreme right where you should enter and emerge from the tunnel. Use the farthest right-hand toll booth available. Take the first exit, Keith Avenue (#56), which is approximately 75 yards past the toll plaza. Follow the exit to the traffic light and turn left onto Keith Avenue. Continue straight to the next traffic light and turn right onto New Vail. At the bottom of the ramp, New Vail becomes Newgate. You will go through a preliminary security gate (they are expecting media). Follow Newgate for about three blocks. Turn left onto the pier parking area (Pier 11) and park wherever it is most convenient. News vans will have spaces reserved near the gated pier entrance and the far end of the parking area.

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