



HMCS Athabaskan, Area Air Defense Destroyer (DDG). Displacement: 5,100 tonnes. Length: 130 m. Beam: 15 m.

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healthy baby boy. OS Cloutier-Joly, a Haitian orphan himself, held this tiny miracle in his arms and fed him sugar water. Lt(N) Wyand asked a young Haitian translator if he knew the name of the newborn. He informed her that Haitians typically wait seven days before naming a baby in case the child does not survive. Lt(N) Wyand's words: "a sobering response and a quick reminder of where we are."



Commander Peter Crain enjoys outdoor activities such as running and biking and is an accomplished sailor who races a 33 foot yacht based in Halifax. He also enjoys woodworking and home renovations. He joined the Forces from Berwick, Nova Scotia and spent some of his early years living in France and England with his parents.

We have also been providing security to the CMAT camp during the day. Let me assure you that the Haitian people have been very orderly and calm throughout this tragedy. Line-ups for treatment have been long and they have been patient and brave, considering the seriousness of some of the injuries. The need for security has not as yet been called for but is a reasonable precaution on my part to ensure the safety of our personnel should things change.

We are working with two orphanages to help them get back on their feet. The first one cares for about 45 kids and the couple in charge is a husband and wife - she is Canadian from Quebec City and he from California. They have a reasonable supply of food having just received a shipment from the States and we are giving them a steady supply of clean fresh water until their purification system is repaired. We built a shelter for the kids and temporary toilet facilities. Their house is still standing but has significant cracks that make it dangerous, especially with the aftershocks. They were lucky in that everyone survived the earthquake but it broke my

heart to see those kids and I don't mind saying that I shed a tear watching our sailors playing with them amid the destruction that was their home. We just took on a second orphanage with 80 kids and we are working with Crisis International to provide some temporary shelter. Our sailors are working in the heat to build a wooden frame and tarp building that will get the kids off the ground and out of the brutal heat. Crisis International is providing the materials and food and water to this mission.

We have also gone out into the community to seek areas in which we can help - we have fixed solar panels, got generators running and restored water purification systems. Sailors have great skills that they have learned both through the Navy and from their hobbies and pastimes. All are in demand and being put to good use.

One of the biggest assets that we have is the helicopter. It has flown everyday, landing in airports, clearings and farmers fields to move people and materials where they are most needed. We moved most of the DART medical equipment from the capital to a neighboring city, many soldiers to Leogane, and loads of supplies all over the region. We even flew two critically injured people to the US hospital ship, Comfort, who is operating a floating hospital just offshore. The aircrew is flying 8-10 hours a day and the aircraft

never goes anywhere empty. The technicians and landing crew are working in 30 to 40 degree weather to make this happen!

Here onboard, those who are not ashore are working double time to support the teams and keep the ship running. I estimate that it takes just as many people to launch and load the boats as go ashore. The engineering spaces have been as hot as 50 degrees and guys have been down there keeping our water making at 100 percent when the tools are too hot to hold. Everyone is doing their part. I am trying to make sure that over the period that while we are here helping Haitians, everyone who wants to get ashore to help will have that opportunity.

I know that this has been a long letter, but I wanted to let you know personally what a great job your loved ones are doing here. The pride that I feel for their accomplishments is immeasurable and moves me greatly. We were one of the first military organizations to get ashore and make an immediate improvement in the conditions ashore. While we cannot build them new homes, we can help with medical care, water and temporary shelter. I have taken the liberty of modifying the ATHABASKAN motto: We Fight (and Help) as One.

Peter Crain, Commander
Commanding Officer, HMCS
ATHABASKAN
"We Fight (and Help) As One"



After learning about the earthquake in Haiti, WCCS grade four student, Noah Tremblay suggested a Haiti Relief fund raiser. Initially the grade 4/5 WCCS class set a goal to raise \$100.00 from students and staff. After a week and a half of placing spare change in a jar at the office, it took students and staff over three hours to roll thousands of pennies and other change. In the end they raised \$462.10. (Submitted Photo).

My Favourite Pet



Guinness, a Golden Retriever who is 2 1/2 years old and loves to smell the wind. He is also 'Mr. January' in the SPCA calendar this year and is owned by Sheri Ellis, Glenholme. They have been awarded a \$20.00 gift certificate from The Shoreline Journal and Clarence's Farm Services, Truro, NS.



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