



# JOINT TASK FORCE BRAVO

## Who we are

Joint Task Force Bravo is one of three task forces under the U.S. Southern Command, based out of Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras. JTF-Bravo operates a forward, all weather C-5 capable air base and organizes multilateral exercises and support, in cooperation with partner nations, counter transnational organized crime, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief efforts and the development of partner capacities, to promote regional cooperation and security in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

## Mission

JTF-Bravo conducts and enables SOUTHCOM OAs across all domains, in support of USG agencies and partner nations in the CENTAM JOA, to enhance regional security and defend the U.S. homeland and national interests. On order, JTF-B will deploy for crisis response as directed by USSOUTHCOM within the area of operations.

## Social Media



@JointTaskForceBravo

**60,122**



@jtfbravo

**9,373**



@jtfbravo

**9,307**



[jtfb.southcom.mil](https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/JTF-B)

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# JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO

## FACTS SHEET

Joint Task Force-Bravo operates out of Soto Cano Air Base, a Honduran military installation located in the department of Comayagua, Honduras. It is made up of more than 500 U.S. military and U.S. and Honduran civilian personnel.

JTF-Bravo works to forge relationships within Central America to foster security, stability, and prosperity in the Americas through the practice of a variety of missions, ranging from supporting U.S. government operations, to the fight against transnational organized crime, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and development of partner nation capacities.

The Caribbean, Central America, South America, and the United States share common security interests and concerns. JTF-Bravo is committed to promoting our mutual interest of safety and progress, as reflected in our motto "Progress through Unity."

### **JTF-Bravo Supporting Commands**

- The 612 Air Base Squadron (612th ABS) operates a C-5 capable airfield and provides base operations support, air traffic control, weather, fire rescue, logistics and civil engineering for JTF-Bravo and operations within the entire USSOUTHCOM area of operations.
- The Army Forces Battalion (ARFOR) executes command and control of the JTF-Bravo operations within the Central American area of responsibility, in support of missions against transnational organized crime, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and fostering the development of partner nation capacity. The battalion includes the Medical Element and the Military Police Company.
- The 1st Battalion, 228 Aviation Regiment (1-228 AVN) conducts general aviation and medical evacuation operations in support of JTF-Bravo and U.S. Southern Command operations in the region. The 1-228 operates U.S. Army UH-60L and HH-60 Black Hawks, as well as CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

Please visit our website for additional information here:

<https://www.jtfb.southcom.mil>

For recent images and videos visit:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/unit/JTF-B>

## Support to the US Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) for Haiti - Earthquake

### Department of Defense and U.S. Coast Guard Assets Providing lifesaving support:

- The Joint Task Force (JTF) Haiti commander, Rear Adm. Keith Davids, continues to lead DoD's efforts in support of USAID/BHA and plans to operate the JTF's command-and-control element from the U.S. Navy's USS Arlington (LPD 24) upon arrival, while working between and in close coordination with the Embassy.
- 3 US Coast Guard helicopters (H-60s) – as of 12:00EDT this afternoon, 202 lives assisted and saved and nearly 7,000lbs of medical supplies transported.
- Special Tactics Airmen assigned to the 24th Special Operations Wing are augmenting humanitarian aid efforts in Haiti and are responsible for conducting various airfield surveys to determine suitability for bringing in humanitarian aid via airlift.



### Additional lifesaving and disaster relief support:

- 2 UH-60s and one LHU-72 from Puerto Rico Army National Guard are supporting Urban Search and Rescue teams today for lifesaving missions.
- 200 Marines and equipment embarked on the U.S. Navy's USS Arlington (LPD 24), which is underway for Haiti and expected in theater by the end of the week to provide lifesaving and humanitarian assistance support augmented by helicopters or vertical take-off and landing aircraft capabilities.
- 8 helicopters from JTF-Bravo (out of Honduras) are forward, including 3 UH-60 Black Hawks, 3 CH-47 Chinooks, and 2 HH-60 Pave Hawk Bravo (JTF-B), and operating in Haiti (launching from Naval Station Guantanamo Bay) to provide lifesaving support and transport disaster relief personnel and supplies.



### Working with Allies / Partners:

- UK Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) Wave Knight is stationed off the western most point of Haiti and is continuing to aid the lifesaving mission by facilitating refueling operations and functioning as an emergency flight deck.



@RFAWaveKnight

### Humanitarian Support:

- USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) is expanding relief operations in more areas impacted by the August 14 earthquake. U.S. military helicopters are transporting DART members to affected areas to conduct additional search and rescue operations and provide assistance. USAID requested the unique capabilities of the Department of Defense / U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) for air transport support as many roads remain impassable due to damage from the earthquake. At the request of USAID, SOUTHCOM is also transporting a Samaritan's Purse surgical hospital to Les Cayes to support medical relief efforts, which is expected to be completed today.

## 1st Battalion, 228 Aviation Regiment

The 1st Battalion, 228 Aviation Regiment supports U.S. Southern Command engagements and security cooperation strategy under Army South, providing heavy lift, medical evacuation, and general aviation support, spanning the joint operations area as part of JTF-Bravo.

It is a composite battalion with UH-60L and HH-60L Blackhawks, and CH-47F Chinooks, providing airlift and evacuation capabilities to the region.



Typical missions conducted include countering transnational organized crime, counter-narcotics, aerial firefighting, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief, theater security cooperation, building partner capacity, medical evacuation, limited search and rescue, and air movement of people, equipment and supplies throughout Central America and the Caribbean.

At USSOUTHCOM's request, the battalion may be called upon to respond to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations within the joint operations area.



## Interagency cooperation

JTF-Bravo maintains a close relationships with international organizations as well as governmental and non-governmental agencies from the U.S. and Central America to distribute supplies, medical equipment, school supplies, and donations.

Additionally, JTF-Bravo supports the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) with the Denton Amendment Program, which facilitates the transportation of humanitarian assistance to local organizations in a variety of countries using military cargo aircraft at no cost, on a space-available basis.



August 16 , 2021

## **JTF-BRAVO DEPLOYS ASSETS IN SUPPORT OF USSOUTHCOM DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO HAITI**

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras – At the request of U.S. Southern Command, service members assigned to Joint Task Force-Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, will deploy to Haiti in support of relief efforts and deliver critical supplies to the people of Haiti who were affected by the recent earthquake on Aug. 14, 2021.

Three U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook, three UH-60 and two HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, will provide heavy and medium lift to support the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureaus of Humanitarian Assistance-led mission to alleviate human suffering and bolster Haitian disaster response capabilities.

Joint Task Force-Bravo is one of three task forces under U.S. Southern Command that operates a forward, all-weather day/night C-5-capable air base, organizes multilateral exercises and supports, in cooperation with our partner nations, counters transnational organized crime, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief efforts and the development of partner capacities, to promote regional cooperation and security in Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

SOUTHCOM has previously supported USAID/BHA-led disaster relief missions in Haiti, most recently in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew, with JTF-Bravo supporting aviation operations. SOUTHCOM has also assisted Haiti in preparing for natural disasters with the construction of emergency operations centers, disaster relief warehouses, fire stations and community centers that double as shelters.

For more information, contact Capt. Annabel Monroe, JTF-Bravo Public Affairs director at [annabel.g.monroe.mil@mail.mil](mailto:annabel.g.monroe.mil@mail.mil).

- For videos and images from JTF-Bravo visit [www.dvidshub.net/unit/JTF-B](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/JTF-B)
- For the latest updates on U.S military support to U.S. foreign disaster assistance to Haiti visit [www.southcom.mil/HaitiEarthquakeSupport/](http://www.southcom.mil/HaitiEarthquakeSupport/)
- For videos and photos of U.S military support to U.S. foreign disaster assistance to Haiti visit [www.dvidshub.net/search/?q=haiti+earthquake&view=grid&sort=publishdate](http://www.dvidshub.net/search/?q=haiti+earthquake&view=grid&sort=publishdate)

August 17 , 2021

## **JTF-BRAVO ASSETS ARRIVE AT FORWARD OPERATING LOCATION FOR USSOUTHCOM DISASTER ASSISTANCE TO HAITI**

GUANTANAMO BAY, CUBA – Two U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook and two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, Joint Task Force-Bravo, based out of Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, arrived at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in support of disaster relief operations for Haiti, August 16.

At the request of U.S. Southern Command, service members assigned to the Task Force deployed to support relief efforts for the people of Haiti after the nation was hit by a 7.2 magnitude earthquake August 14.

“We are strategically positioned to provide unique capabilities in support of humanitarian efforts,” said U.S. Army Col. Steven Gventer, JTF-Bravo commander. “We will help our Haitian friends through this. Our partnership with Haiti is vital to the security and prosperity of the region.”

The aviation assets will provide heavy and medium lift support to U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance operations, and provide transportation for critical personnel and supplies to alleviate human suffering and bolster Haitian disaster response capabilities.

“Our skilled aircrew are capable of providing life-saving support,” said Gventer. “We bring unique capabilities to help save lives during tragic and evolving humanitarian disasters.”

JTF-Bravo will establish a forward operations center and has deployed approximately 120 personnel to sustain relief efforts.

The team has flown more than 6,000 nautical miles in 59 hours to conduct refueling at Roatan, Honduras, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, and Montego Bay, Jamaica and to deploy all assets to the forward operating location at Guantanamo.

JTF-Bravo will work in conjunction with a SOUTHCOM Situation Assessment Team from Special Operations Command South in Haiti, working with U.S. government diplomatic and disaster-assistance personnel assessing the situation in areas impacted by the earthquake, and will arrive in Haiti August 18 to provide additional lifesaving support.

- For videos and images from JTF-Bravo visit [www.dvidshub.net/unit/JTF-B](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/JTF-B)
- For the latest updates on U.S military support to U.S. foreign disaster assistance to Haiti visit [www.southcom.mil/HaitiEarthquakeSupport/](http://www.southcom.mil/HaitiEarthquakeSupport/)



**BIOGRAPHY**  
**STEVEN GVENTER**  
**COLONEL, U.S. ARMY**  
**COMMANDER**  
**JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO**

Colonel Steven E. Gventer is a native of Grapevine, Texas and a graduate of Baylor University with a BS in Education. In 1998, after three years as a high school teacher and coach, he joined the Army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in Armor from Officer Candidate School. At Camp Casey, Korea, he served as an Assistant Brigade Intelligence Officer and Tank Platoon Leader. In 1999, he was assigned to the 8th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, and served as a Tank and Support Platoon Leader and Battalion Logistics Officer.

In 2003, he assumed command of Charlie Co, 2-8 Cavalry and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), commanding for 19 months, 12 in Sadr City. His follow-on included Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General (CG) 1st Cavalry Division, transitioning to Aide-de-Camp to the CG of Multinational Corps-Iraq deployed to Baghdad for the entirety of 2006.

In 2007, he reported to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, where he stood up and commanded the Army's first Warrior Transition Company and later served as Executive Officer to the Commanding General of the Warrior Transition Command in MEDCOM.

As a Major, his assignments included Battalion Operations Officer (S3) in the 1st Cavalry Division, deployed to Maysan Province, Iraq and then as the S3, 3rd Armored Brigade, 1st CAV. In 2013, while assigned to NATO Joint Forces Command-Naples, he served as the Executive Officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, a French General.

In 2015, Colonel Gventer assumed command of Cougar Squadron, 2d Squadron, 2d Cavalry Regiment, a Stryker Infantry Battalion, and led them through NATO training events and Operation Atlantic Resolve North in the Baltics. In 2017, the squadron became the first NATO Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group based in northeastern Poland as a Multinational Battle Group of U.S., UK and Romanian Soldiers under command of the Polish 15th Mechanized Brigade. In 2018, he served as Grizzly 07, the Senior Cavalry and Recon Trainer at the Joint Multinational Training Center, Hohenfels, Germany. He was the Chief of Operations Branch, Army Futures Command prior to assuming command of Joint Task Force-Bravo.

Colonel Gventer is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. Army War College Class of '19 and member of the Advanced Strategic Art Program. His schools include Armor Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Australian Command and Staff College and others. His awards include the Bronze Star with V - "Valor" Device, the Bronze Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart with one Oak Leaf Cluster and others.

He is married to Dr. Celeste Ward Gventer, a former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and Professor at The University of Texas. They have a son Nate, who lives in Michigan. Steve is also an Eagle Scout who swims, plays basketball, dabbles in Triathlons and watches football.

