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### NATIONAL INTERAGENCY FIRE CENTER PROVIDES ASSISTANCE IN HAITI RELIEF EFFORT

The National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) in Boise, Idaho is sending employees and equipment to Haiti to assist the military in the earthquake relief effort.

NIFC is sending two USDA Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management Program telecommunications specialists and 30 kits of radio equipment to Haiti at the request of the U.S. Department of Defense Southern Command. The equipment includes 320 radios, five repeaters, and five remote stations that will be used to establish a communications network for security and logistics around Port-au-Prince. The two USDA Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management Program telecommunications specialists, Jose Lopez and Mike Tuominen, are traveling to Haiti to set up the system and orient military personnel in the use of it.

For many years, the U.S. military has provided troops to serve as wildland firefighters, as well as aircraft to drop retardant on wildland fires, during busy wildland fire seasons. This is the first time that NIFC has supported this type of military operation.

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