
French Military Docs, Nurses Contribute to Continuing Promise

By

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USS Kearsarge, At Sea**



BAYAGUANA, Dominican Republic (October 5, 2008) - French Air Force Lt. Col. Bruno Rosier, a medical augmentee embarked aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), exams a Dominican boy's throat during a general medical examination at the El Deporte y Recreacion Derecho de la Poblacion during the humanitarian/civic assistance mission Continuing Promise (CP) 2008. Kearsarge is the primary platform for the Caribbean phase of CP, an equal-partnership mission involving the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, Brazil, France, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW/AW) William S. Parker/Released)

Since August, the Continuing Promise (CP) 2008 mission has included medical personnel from Brazil, the Netherlands, and Canada. During outreach efforts to the Dominican Republic Oct. 3 -16, medical personnel from France also joined in the humanitarian/civic assistance mission.

Currently embarked aboard USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) for the CP 2008 mission, French medical personnel have been eager to offer their assistance.

“We’ve participated in similar missions, but nothing of this scale,” said French Air Force Lt. Col. Bruno Rosier. “The amount of sick and injured people who are receiving care is amazing. They need our help, and together we are making sure they get it.”

In the Dominican Republic alone, Kearsarge established four medical sites that provided basic medical care, as well as dental and optometric aid to many rural areas.

“In some places, we provided care that the citizens otherwise would not have received,” said Master Chief Virginia Coste, a nurse in the French Navy. “Whether they received medical treatment or just education, we made a difference, and they know they have our support.”

However, the patients are not the only ones who are benefiting from this mission, said Rosier. “At the end of each day, we all walk away a little richer,” he said. “Each morning we arrive at the clinic and see the vast number of people waiting,” said Coste. “The way they welcome us seems to break down all barriers between us. We have so many nations together under one roof, yet no one thinks of the diversity, just the mission.”

Kearsarge is supporting the Caribbean phase of CP, a joint effort among the U.S., partner nations, and non-government organizations to provide humanitarian assistance to South American countries.

Kearsarge is under the operational control of U.S. 4th Fleet. U.S. 4th Fleet’s mission is to direct U.S. naval forces operating in the Caribbean, and Central and South American regions and interact with partner nation navies to shape the maritime environment.

The CP Caribbean Phase is the second of two HCA deployments to the Southern Command area of focus for 2008. The first CP deployment was conducted by USS Boxer (LHD 4) in the Pacific.
