



## HAA TEAM LEAPS INTO ACTION AFTER MASSIVE QUAKE HITS SOUTHWEST

“Unspeakable” was the only way to describe the scene as a magnitude 7.2 earthquake flattened large swaths of Southwest Haiti, including packed, vulnerable neighborhoods in Jeremie and Les Cayes. 80 miles to the east in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince, the calls began pouring in. Buildings collapsed. Injured people screaming. Utter chaos in the streets.

With so many lives at stake and major roads blocked by debris, the need for HAA’s services was dire. Our team mobilized instantly. Within hours HAA’s fully equipped Bell 407J was ferrying doctors and medical supplies to the disaster area, picking up badly injured victims and whisking them to multiple hospitals.

As the relief efforts picked up steam, HAA also provided coordination and crucial information for many responding agencies, including the US military and Coast Guard. Our landing zones, security procedures and overall knowledge of local conditions proved vital.

We worked closely with the land-based ambulance service HERO, the Coast Guard, Mission Aviation Fellowship and others to make sure lifesaving flights were conducted as efficiently as possible despite the formidable conditions and logistics.

The entire drama played out in front of international media and a worldwide audience. HAA Executive Director David Ellis [did interviews for Good Morning America and NBC](#). (David’s interview begins at 3.2). Donations and pledges of support poured in, including one from a charity operated by superstar singer Rihanna.

All the attention to HAA’s role may soon result in temporary expansion of our fleet: AirCare of Puerto Rico and the Atlanta-based non-profit LIFT are arranging for a Bell 429 and an EC-135 to be on loan to our base for the next several months.

Most important of all, our quick and well-executed response to the disaster undoubtedly saved many lives. There is hope in the skies over Haiti!



Please share our donation link with your contacts. [paypal.me/HAADonations](https://paypal.me/HAADonations)