

The Official Publication of the Passenger Vessel Association • March 2010

FOGHORN

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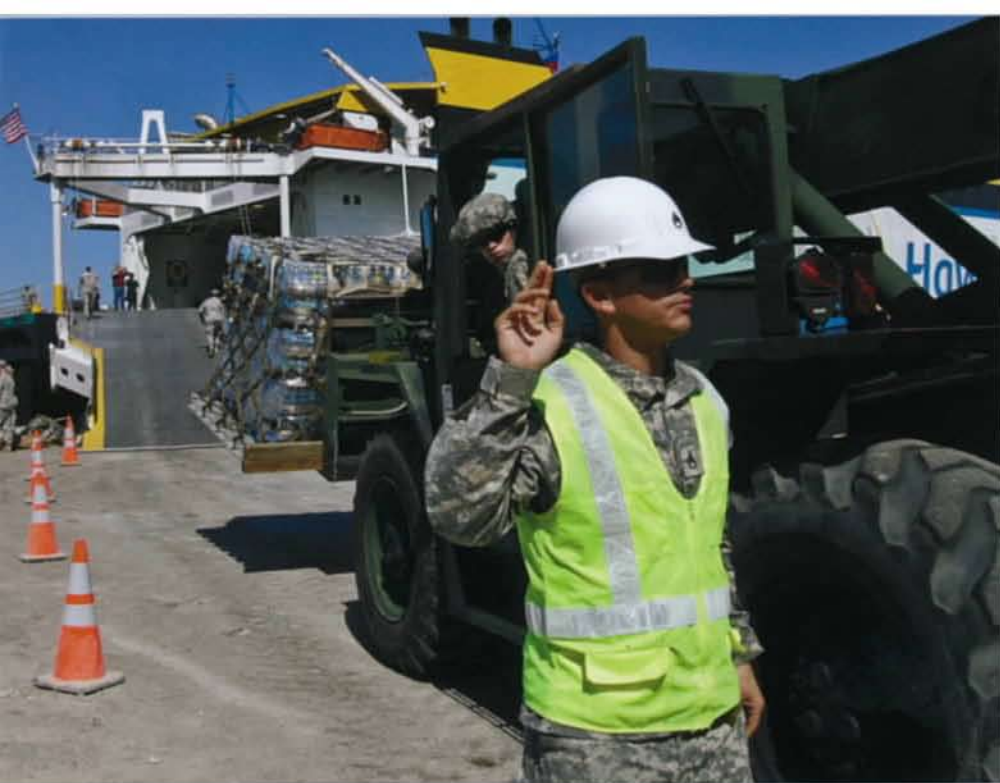
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**Fast Ferry
Provides Big Assist in Haiti
for Quake Stricken Area**

FOGHORN Focus:
**Convention
Review**



**Tampa Convention
Draws Crowds and
High Praise**



Fast Ferry Provides Big Assist in Haiti for Quake Stricken Area

By Karen Rainbolt, FOGHORN Managing Editor

It only took about 10 seconds for the bottom to fall out. Literally. On January 12, a 7.0 magnitude earthquake shook the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince and thousands upon thousands of people—well over 100,000 and possibly as many as 200,00—died. Since then, heroic relief

efforts from around the world have ensued, including aid from our own PVA family.

PVA member Hornblower Marine Services (HMS), New Albany, IN, is operating a vessel, built by a PVA associate member, Austal USA, Mobile, AL, pressed into service by

the U.S. Maritime Administration to carry personnel, medical supplies, and humanitarian aid to the stricken area.

On January 27, HMS-operated *Huakai*, a 373-foot, 800-passenger fast ferry with 25,000 square feet of cargo deck capability, set sail for Haiti laden with 250 tons of cargo comprised of heavy equipment, generators, and relief supplies for the people of Haiti. The ferry, capable of traveling at speeds exceeding 30 knots, also carried 155 relief personnel that include members from the 597th Transportation Brigade, the 689th Rapid Port Opening Element and the 3rd Expeditionary Sustainment Command's 7th Sustainment Brigade.

"The devastation in Haiti is truly heart wrenching," said HMS Vice President and Haiti project manager William (Bill) Annand.

"All of us at Hornblower Marine Services are honored to have the opportunity to work with the Maritime Administration and Military Sealift Command in assisting in this humanitarian effort," he said.

As of February 19, the crew of 18 had completed three missions and preparing to begin the fourth. Each one consists of sailing from Jacksonville, FL to Port-au-Prince, then refueling in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, before heading back to Jacksonville.

The effort has not gone unnoticed. At the PVA Annual Convention at MariTrends 2010, Coast Guard Rear Admiral Brian Salerno noted this humanitarian effort during his speech on February 16.

This isn't the first time that Hornblower Marine Services has leapt into action after a natural disaster struck. According to Annand, "The large high-speed ferries we operate, such as the *Huakai*, are very versatile and scalable platforms that are very well-suited to this task. HMS previously experienced a similar hu-

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Huakai, operated by Hornblower Marine Services, was immediately prepped for service ferrying supplies and personnel between Florida and Haiti to aid the quake-stricken nation.

manitarian relief effort while assigned to Operation Unified Assistance after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. HMS operated the high speed vessel *WestPac Express* and delivered tons of needed supplies to Thailand in 2004."

Still, even with experience on their side, the need to act quickly was demanding. "It was a fast-paced and stressful week getting the ship activated so quickly," said John Waggoner, President and CEO of HMS. "We are very proud of our HMS team for rising to the challenge and grateful for the teaming effort we received from the United States Coast Guard, the Military Sealift Command and all of the vendors and others that were a part of this operation."

The HMS crews prepared the *Huakai* to leave port from Fort Eustis, VA on January 27 and travelled the 1,175 miles to Port-au-Prince to join the relief efforts. According to Greg Brown, HMS director of marine operations, that it took 10 days and 35 people to fully prepare the vessel for its "herculean" mission. The vessel, built by Austal USA in Mobile, AL, is powered by four MTU 20V 8000 M70 main engines using ZF gears.

Annand said of the *Huakai*, "This unique vessel has tremendous capabilities with its roll on/roll off cargo decks, high passenger capacity, high speed, shallow draft and self deploying cargo ramps. HMS is able to quickly man the vessels from our large pool of professional mariners

and is actively assisting in any way needed."

To allow people the opportunity to be up-to-date on HMS' progress, a website (www.hmshaiti.com) was developed, or follow them on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HMSHaiti. ■

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