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HUAKAI UNDERWAY FOR HAITI

(NEW ALBANY Ind.) January 27, 2010 – Hornblower Marine Services (HMS) is underway with the Huakai, the first fast-ferry activated by the Maritime Administration in wake of the Haiti earthquake disaster. The former Hawaii Superferry has left port from Fort Eustis, Virginia and will be traveling the 1,175 miles to Port-au-Prince to join the relief efforts.

HMS crews deployed the Huakai at 1600 hours today carrying 250 tons of cargo comprised of heavy equipment, generators and relief supplies for the people of Haiti. The vessel is also carrying 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 373-foot Huakai is a passenger and vehicle vessel that can travel 30+ knots with available seating in excess of 800 passengers and a cargo deck capacity of 25,000 square feet.

"It has been 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."

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