

RELEASE IN PART
B6

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 5:59 PM
To: H
Subject: FW: Spanish Thanks

FYI

From: Lindwall, David E
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 5:03 PM
To: Mills, Cheryl D; Curtis, Meghann A; Reynoso, Julissa
Cc: Merten, Kenneth H; Rodriguez, Karen M; Robinson, Stephanie L
Subject: FW: Spanish Thanks

You may already be aware of this, but in the event you aren't: A Spanish helicopter based on their Navy ship "Castilla" disappeared in a mountainous region near the Dominican border shortly before noon. The Spanish Embassy called us, and JTF scrambled a helo. Chilean MINUSTAH helo had also been dispatched. The Spanish helo apparently crashed and burned in an area where rescue helos could not land, so a JTF helo landed in the closest area and US troops with stretchers hiked in. On arrival, they reported that the crew of four had all been killed. We are getting body bags into the site now and will remove the bodies today. This is the first fatality involving foreign troops engaged in earthquake response.

From: Keen, Ken LTG USA USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC (L) [mailto:]
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2010 3:59 PM
To: Merten, Kenneth H; Lindwall, David E
Subject: Re: Spanish Thanks

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Classification: Unclassified

Thanks, will pass it along to those who responded. Sorry there was not a better outcome. As happened here, we do keep a quick reaction force ready to respond to events like this. If it is life or limb we will launch them immediately.

V/R
Ken

From: Merten, Kenneth H <MertenKH@state.gov>
To: Keen, Ken LTG USA USSOUTHCOM/SC-CC (L); Lindwall, David E <LindwallDE@state.gov>
Sent: Fri Apr 16 16:46:56 2010
Subject: Spanish Thanks

Genl Keen,

The Spanish Ambassador just called to express his government's gratitude for the U.S. rescue/recovery efforts regarding the helicopter. I told him all credit was due to my colleagues in the U.S. military and that I would pass along his thanks to you.

KM