

## **COMMARFORPAC LEADS RELIEF EFFORTS**

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII, NOVEMBER 24** -- Lt. Gen. John F. Goodman, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific, in response to a request from the government of Bangladesh to the United States and at the direction of the U.S. Pacific Command, is leading U.S. Department of Defense efforts to assist the people of Bangladesh in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Sidr, which devastated that nation Nov. 15.

The amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), as well as elements of Amphibious Squadron (PHIBRON) 8 and the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) arrived off the coast of Bangladesh today to support ongoing disaster relief operations.

At the request of the Government of Bangladesh, Kearsarge and 22nd MEU (SOC) are coordinating with government officials, military leaders and international aid organizations to determine how best to focus the added capabilities of the U.S. Naval forces against relief efforts.

The Kearsarge brings several much-needed capabilities to help mitigate the suffering of the Bangladeshi people, including water purification, air and sealift of relief supplies and medical care.

Additionally, an assessment team from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Expeditionary Brigade, led by Marine Brigadier General Ronald L. Bailey, is working with the U.S. Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, to coordinate relief efforts. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

The American people continue to stand by our friends in Bangladesh during this time of need. The U.S. Government is mobilizing all appropriate resources to assess how we can best support Bangladesh in responding to and recovering from the cyclone.

For the latest imagery, visit [www1.apan-info.net](http://www1.apan-info.net) - Bangladesh Relief.

=====

**GR/ 2007**