

LOCAL NEWS

US commits \$5 million and sends teams after Panama quake

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Summary

The U.S. Embassy in Panama announced \$5 million in humanitarian aid and the deployment of rescue, structural assessment and airlift support after the 9 October earthquake.

Details (summary of the article)

The U.S. Embassy in Panama announced on 11 October that Washington has committed \$5 million in humanitarian assistance following the magnitude 7.7 earthquake of 9 October. Ambassador Kevin Marino Cabrera travelled by a SOUTHCOM Chinook helicopter to Soná in Veraguas with a Los Angeles County structural assessment team to deliver emergency supplies. The disaster assistance response team includes 20 urban search and rescue specialists from Fairfax County, Virginia and Los Angeles County, who have been inspecting hospitals, churches and government buildings in Coclé, Veraguas and Los Santos. SOUTHCOM's Chinook has flown three humanitarian airlift missions from the Aeronaval base at Panamá Pacífico to airstrips in Penonomé, Las Tablas, Guararé and Tonosí, carrying thousands of pounds of supplies, and will keep moving food, water and tents. The State Department's INL bureau added two more helicopters through its aviation partnership with the Aeronaval service. On 10 October, 37 U.S. personnel helped load more than 50,000 cases of water and nearly 40,000 cans of food alongside SINAPROC. The \$5 million will fund relief organisations working on multi-sector assistance and logistics; assessments and flights continue in coordination with Panamanian authorities.