



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Coronet Oak aircrew responds to Haiti after Hurricane Matthew

**MANSFIELD, Ohio** – On Wednesday, October 6, 2016, a crew from the 179th Airlift Wing (AW), in support of Operation Coronet Oak, was tasked to provide support to the Republic of Haiti. The 179<sup>th</sup> AW aircrew was among the first aircraft to provide relief to the country after Hurricane Matthew went through the area.

Coronet Oak is a continuing operation for Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) and Air National Guard (ANG) in which C-130 aircraft, aircrews and related support personnel deploy from the United States to Muniz Air National Guard Base, Puerto Rico, on a continuing basis for the U.S. Southern Command.

Col. David Johnson, Commander of the 179<sup>th</sup> Operations Group said “In response to Hurricane Matthew, our crew was tasked as a contingency response and sent to Haiti to provide contingency support via personnel and relief supplies to the people of Haiti.”

The unit is tasked to support the operation for at least a month long period.

“If Air Mobility Command (AMC) tasks us, we will certainly respond. The mission of the Ohio National Guard (ONG) and the 179<sup>th</sup> AW, we are “always ready - always there”; trained and ready to respond at a moment’s notice, providing any support we can” said Johnson.

Just like after the 2010 earthquake in the Republic of Haiti, a crew from the 179<sup>th</sup> (AW), in support of Coronet Oak, was the first aircraft to provide disaster relief. The members of the 179<sup>th</sup> AW continue to answer the call.