



CALL FOR HAITIAN CREOLE INTERPRETERS TO SERVE IN USNS COMFORT

February 1, 2010

Dear Haitian medical interpreters,

This is a unique opportunity for medical interpreters to serve providers and patients.

The IMIA has been recruiting Haitian Creole medical interpreters interested in doing field work in Haiti. The USNS Comfort is assisting Haitian victims since the disaster took place. The American Red Cross in Miami is organizing the placement in the USNS Comfort and is working now with the IMIA to recruit professional medical interpreters. Over 100 interpreters were deployed last month and there will be rotations of 34 interpreters each month. Attached you will find the recruitment criteria, guidelines and the deployment guidelines for travel and items they should bring etc. Please read it carefully. **If you are seriously interested and committed to volunteering for field work at the USNS Comfort, please do the following:**

- 1) log on to www.miamiredcross.org
- 2) Complete the volunteer application under the section titled – Become a Red Cross Volunteer.
- 3) Save it to a word document and email to LuisJac@usa.redcross.org.
- 4) then log on to www.mybackgroundcheck.com and complete the background check under the Greater Miami & The Key Chapter.
- 5) The IMIA will be sending all the applications that are relevant to this mission to a designated contact at the Miami Red Cross.*
- 6) Please email info@imiaweb.org to let us know if you are volunteering so that we can include you in a mailing list for future relief opportunities.

The Red Cross needs rotations of 34 Haitian medical interpreters to leave Miami on different dates. The Red Cross will pay for travel to Miami and provide lodging and meals aboard the USNS Comfort as well as telephone cards. Term of field work is 30 days.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The IMIA Haiti Relief Team

*Any information provided to the IMIA for this project will ONLY be shared with the Miami Red Cross for the specific purposes of this project.



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RECRUITMENT CRITERIA

- Should be a volunteer that has or has had an affiliation with the American Red Cross in the past – can be done immediately by filling out appropriate forms.
- Must be Fluent in English and Creole
- Prefer those that are trained in medical interpreting
- Must commit to a 30 day deployment onboard the USNS Comfort (this time commitment does not include preparation, training if required, travel or staging)
- Do not have or had family members residing in Haiti who have been directly impacted by this earthquake.
- Prefer those who have some experience in Crisis situations (I.e. medical or first responder) or have some experience in direct patient care or medical/military background – Prefer those who have experience with direct patient care in crisis situations.
- Must not have any legal issues pending (i.e. workers comp claims, court appointments, etc)
- Must have a valid U.S. Passport
- Must be able to work in confined spaces and maneuver up and down narrow ladders. Participants are required to climb multiple flights of stairs daily, no elevators are available. The physical stamina required for this is essential
- Must be able to do shift work and must be prepared to work long hours when necessary (i.e. 12 hours, 16 hours etc)
- Must be flexible with travel arrangements and capable of living in austere living conditions/accommodations (i.e. flying in military aircrafts both fixed wing (Planes) and rotary (Helicopters), multiple stops along the way until reaching final destination, sleeping on the floor or on cots for short periods of time)
- Must be physically fit should be able to work for prolonged periods both sitting or standing
- Must be able to travel with minimal comfort items, no more than 40 lbs Maximum
- Must be able to work and live in confined spaces with little privacy. Should be aware the accommodations are basic and all lavatory facilities are shared and could be coed with very limited personal space
- Must adhere to military rules and regulations
- Must be able to eat food served on the ship, no special dietary food available. Participants with high blood pressure may not be good candidates due to sodium content of the diet.



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- Must follow military rules and regulations as set forth by USNS Commander
- 12-hour Work shifts, 7 days a week, Be prepared to stand for 12 hours each day
- Must wear ARC uniform (blue vest) at all times (when on duty)
- Open-bay, co-ed sleeping/living with bunk beds
- Phone cards required to make calls; otherwise no phone access
- Cell phone service: T-Mobile (only)
- Laundry facilities available, but you must purchase detergent on board
- All music must be listened to using earphones if you bring it
- Absolutely no fraternization allowed between ARC volunteers and/or military members
- Muster (formation) each morning, 0630 hours
- This is shipboard living, expect harsh conditions with very little amenities, sleep arrangements are austere (Be prepared for coed living arrangements with little to no privacy)
- Transit to and from the ship may take up to a day, expect to sleep in austere conditions when conducting move
- You will be exposed to severely injured patients on a regular basis, expect hard emotional cases. Volunteers should be aware that this work is difficult emotionally, mentally and physically. Only those of stable emotional status are suitable for this mission
- No special dietary food on the ship
- Volunteers should be aware that they are expected to clean their own areas and do their own laundry. Personnel will be assigned a specific time when they have access to the laundry
- There are very few electrical outlets available for recharging phones, etc. No laptops are allowed
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- Volunteers should be aware that this mission is ongoing and changing as the needs of the people of Haiti change. Therefore it is imperative that they are willing to change work shifts, assignments, etc at the direction of the Team Leader
- Participants may have to eat Meals Ready to Eat (MRE)
- Space is very limited upon the Comfort. Therefore, your personal items should be limited to those that can fit in a backpack or handgrip
- You will be required to take malaria medication



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Deployment Gear List
40 lbs max

Personal Items

- Small suitcase (must fit under bunk) or a military style green duffle bag
- 7 pair socks
- 7 changes of under garments
- 4 pair pants
- 4 shirts
- Sneakers
- Shower shoes
- Towels; washcloths
- Body Soap
- Laundry detergent
- Hygiene items
- Fanny pack
- Lock to secure your items
- Water bottle
- Small Backpack
- Appropriate sleeping clothes, Pajamas
- Appropriate gym clothes
- Support socks (food is high in sodium)
- No more than 100 dollars cash

Do not bring:

- Laptops
- Short-Shorts
- Tank tops
- Purses
- Radio