

Two local volunteers deploying to Orlando *Will assist repatriation efforts*

Friday, January 22, 2010 — Two American Red Cross Lee County Chapter volunteers have been activated for deployment to assist Red Cross efforts in Orlando. Robin Moore, who is trained in client case work, and Tom Lee, trained in logistics and technology, will leave for Orlando Friday afternoon.

The repatriation of U.S. Citizens in Haiti began last week and as the number of cases increases, so has the need for Red Cross assistance. Homestead, Miami, Sanford and Orlando are processing the bulk of these cases with increasing activity in Ft. Lauderdale, Palm Beach and Ft. Pearce

In coordination FLDCF (Florida Department of Children and Families), which is charge in the repatriation efforts, Red Cross workers are helping with transportation and lodging as well as assessing the individual needs of these citizens.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement/Administration for Children and Families, under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides the following broad definition of the emergency group repatriation process and the agencies responsible:

“Emergency group repatriations occur when American citizens who are living overseas must be evacuated because of war, natural disasters, or other conditions that place Americans at risk.

Repatriation is the final link in the evacuation process. Repatriates are returned to the United States by U.S. Department of State (DoS) order, transported in a Non-combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) conducted by U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) or other arrangements by DoS. Emergency repatriation is a Federal-State government partnership. The Federal agencies and national organizations involved in repatriation activities include the DoD, DoS, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), U.S. Customs Service, Department of Agriculture, American Red Cross, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and International Social Services, U.S.A. Branch, under a cooperative agreement with the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR)/Administration for Children and Families (ACF).” Under Executive Order 12656, DHHS is responsible for arranging through State agencies the reception, temporary care, and onward transportation to their final destinations of non-combatant evacuees returned to the U.S. from a foreign country. DHHS also has the responsibility for the development and implementation of the National Emergency Repatriation Plan. DHHS delegated the lead responsibility for these activities to ORR/ACF.

You can help the victims of countless crises, like the recent earthquake in Haiti, around the world each year by making a financial gift to the American Red Cross International Response Fund, which will provide immediate relief and long-term support through supplies, technical assistance and other support to help those in need. The American Red Cross honors donor intent. If you wish to designate your donation to a specific disaster, please do so at the time of your donation by mailing your donation with the designation to the American Red Cross, P.O. Box 37243, Washington, D.C. 20013 or to your local American Red Cross chapter. Donations to the International Response Fund can be made by phone at 1-800-REDCROSS or 1-800-257-7575 (Spanish) or online at www.redcross.org



Robin Moore



Tom Lee