RELEASE IN FULL

From:

Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>

Sent:

Tuesday, March 20, 2012 1:46 PM

To:

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Subject:

FW: Congo Brazzaville Explosion Response

FYI on Congo Brazzaville.

From: Burns, William J

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:02 PM

To: Sullivan, Jacob J

Subject: FW: Congo Brazzaville Explosion Response

From: Yamamoto, Donald Y

Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2012 11:59 AM

To: Neville, Colleen C

Cc: Burns, William J; Alsup, Carolyn P; Carson, Johnnie; Ashraf, Madeeha S

Subject: Congo Brazzaville Explosion Response

Colleen: to pass to the Deputy Secretary in response to his call this morning:

Deputy Secretary: <u>UNOCHA</u> estimates 30,000 displaced, 5,000 homes destroyed. We have reported based on UN and Congo B estimates that 246 perished and 2,500 injured. But it is believed that many more probably perished since within a kilometer of the blast was a major military storage area with equipment, weapons, helicopters and the barracks / residences for officers, NCOs and troops. It is difficult to assess the loss of Congo B's military force. (Note: The population of Brazzaville is estimated at around 1 million in a country with a population of 3.6 to 4 million). There are still concerns about unexploded ordnance in the area and that other sites in the country are not secured.

<u>UNDP</u> is coordinating clean up, demining and other issues. Here's a very rough list of how we've responded to the Brazzaville munitions explosions thus far.

Already Provided

- The Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement in the <u>State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs (PM/WRA)</u> has deployed a total of seven explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) experts to provide technical assistance and work with local nationals to initiate a surface clearance in an area 1,000 meters (1km) circumference around the initial blast site. Two of the EOD experts have been on site since only a few days after the explosions and conducted an initial assessment of the area. The other five were to arrive over the weekend.
- Africa Command (AFRICOM) has deployed a team of four officers (two EOD experts, one desk officer, and one medical planner to provide advice and assistance to our

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- embassies in Brazzaville and Kinshasa (he Defense Attache who covers Congo/B is assigned to Embassy Kinshasa) and to further assess the impact of the explosions. AFRICOM will use this assessment to determine whether it can provide follow-on assistance. The team arrived on Monday, March 19, to Brazzaville.
- <u>USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)</u> provided \$100,000 in non-food items (temporary housing, water/sanitation) very shortly after the disaster. An OFDA officer is on site conducting a more detailed assessment of needs.

To Provide

- The <u>Centers for Disease Control</u> is deploying a technical advisor to work with the Congolese Ministry of Health and WHO on disease surveillance, especially in the internally displaced person sites.
- OFDA is planning to provide additional assistance to fund child protection activities in the camps and also to help provide water and sanitation facilities.