



Earthquake Haiti

Back to Basics

(Big Rocks First Please)

LCDR Jacob H. Wamsley III
Deployed with PSU 307
Port-au-Prince Haiti



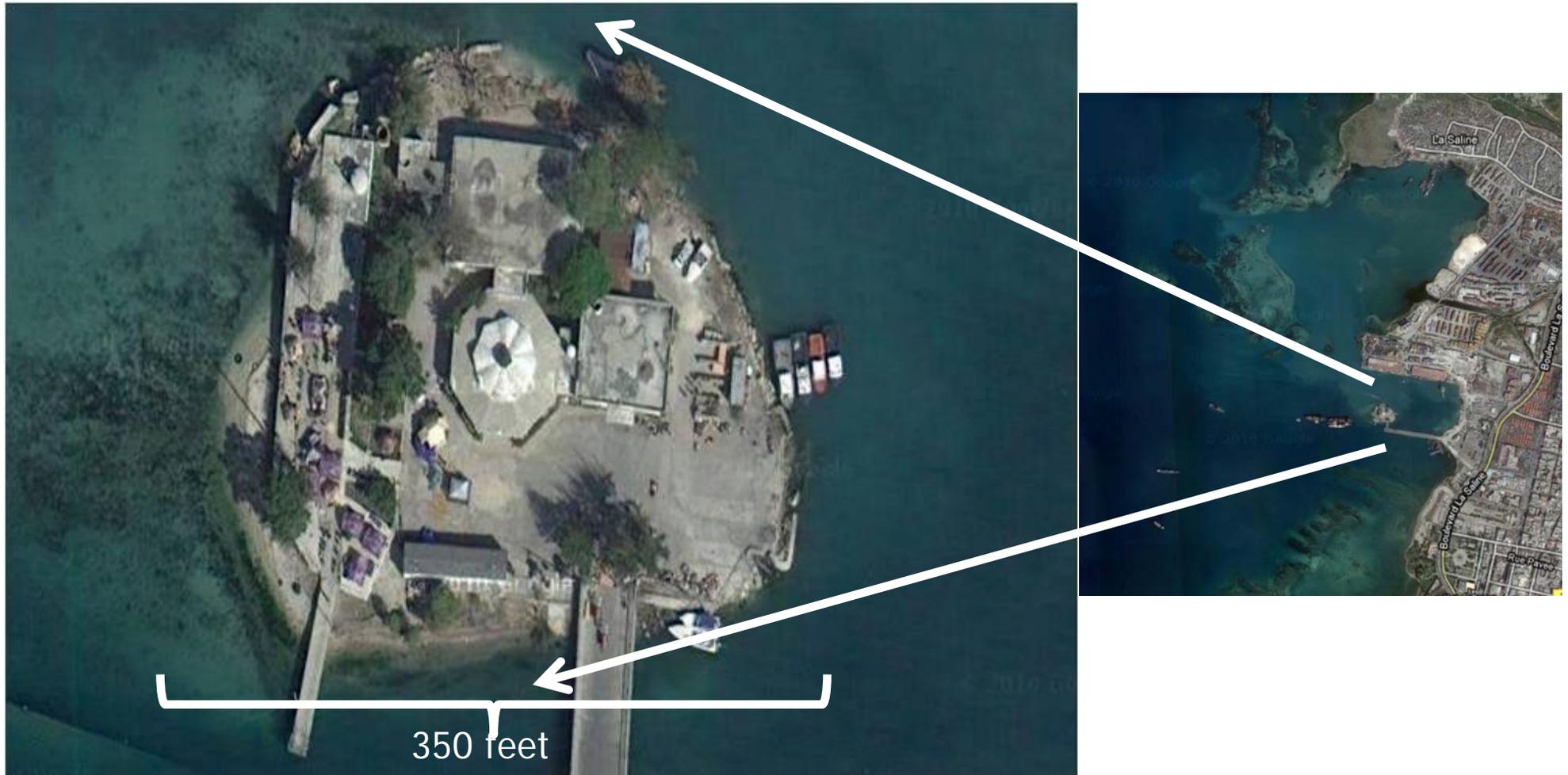
The Basics

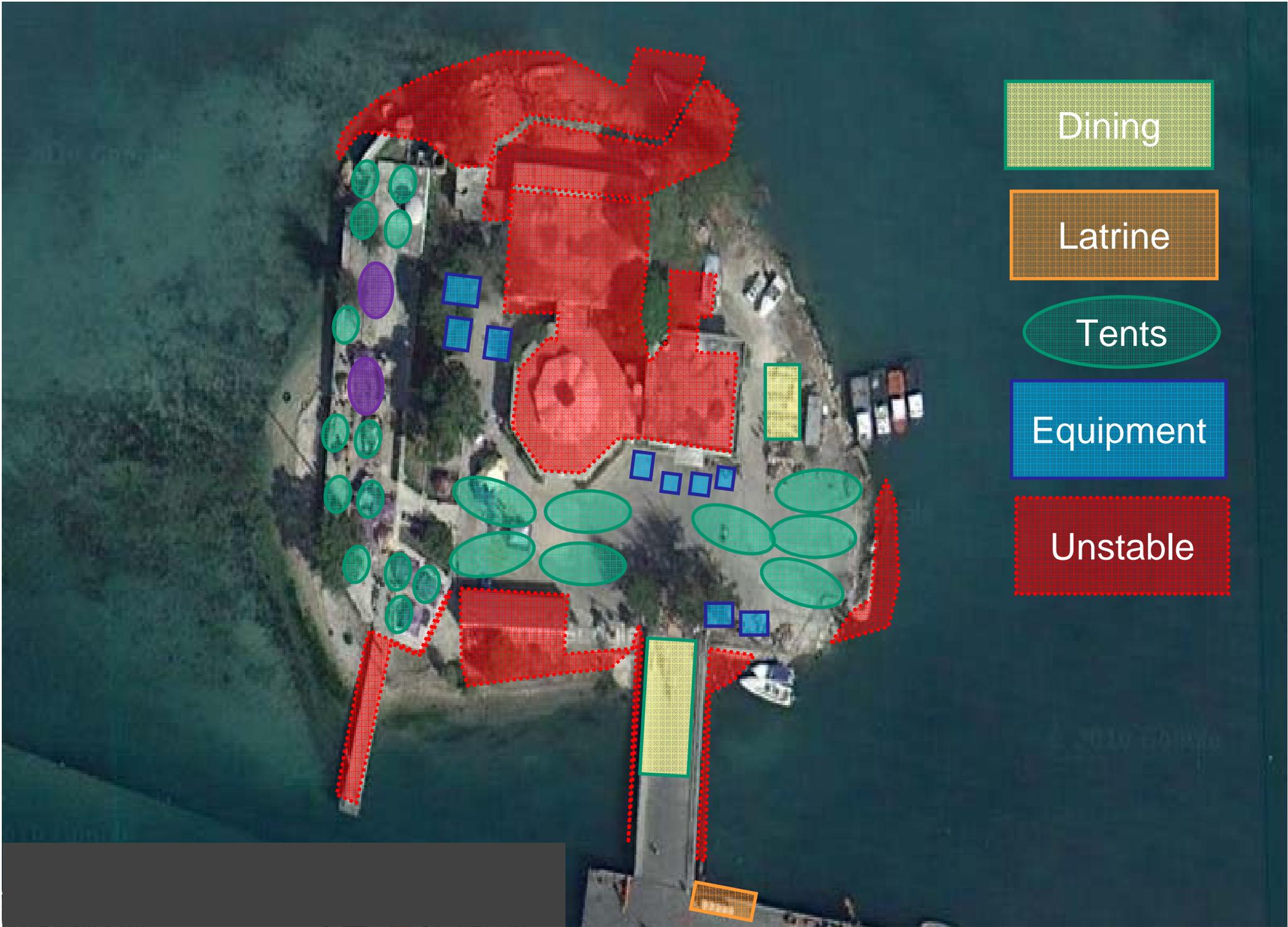


- Where are we?
- Food and Water
- Shelter
- Health Risks
- Physical Environment
- Mental Health
- Test Results
- Lessons Learned



Where Am I?





Dining

Latrine

Tents

Equipment

Unstable



Food and Water



- Drinking water from home: **most critical asset**
- No heat stress injuries during deployment



Meals Ready to eat (MRE) 30-60 days.

- No contamination
- No food prep
- Easy cleanup; only debris
- Not a lot of sugar to attract pests
- Rats did not like MREs



Shelter

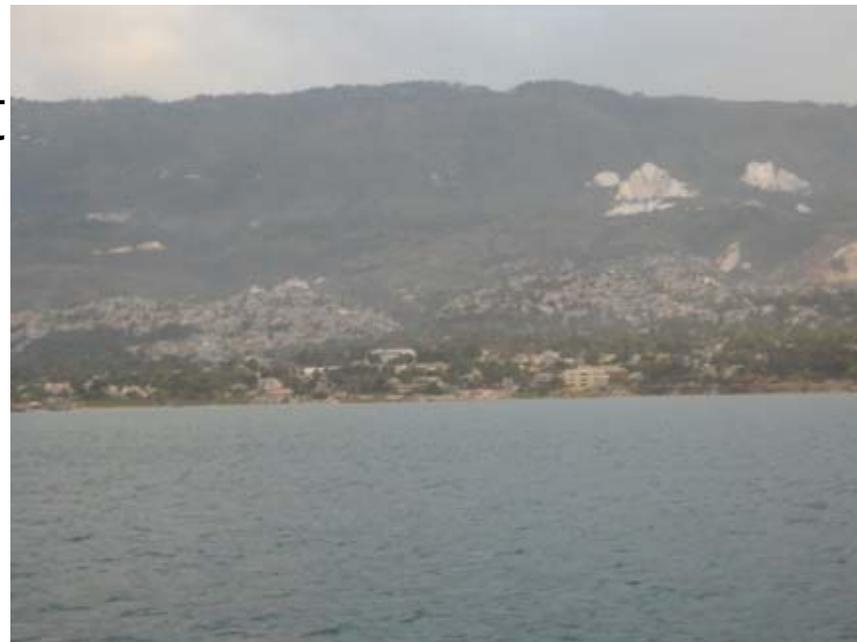


Little shelter from the elements

- Sun
- Heat
- Humidity



Dust





Shelter



110 degrees some days
85 degrees at night with haze



Shelter



Even after an earthquake





Health Risks



5 initial latrines

Hand washing





Health Risks



Bathing water and wash water

- Source?
- Condition?



Haitian-Reverse Osmosis





Health Risks



Evening
burning



Fine
powder



Morning
haze





Health Risks



Insect bites
while sleeping

Smart
rats



Floating water hazards



Trash
detail



Physical Environment



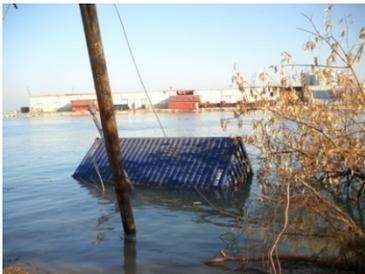
Earthquake Detector



Mental Health



Smell, limited sleep, no running water, aftershocks, bodies, 7-day work schedule, isolation from world, isolation from family





Test Results



- Dust Varreux
- VOC Varreux
- Well water Hope
- Soil Varreux
- RO water
- Bulk Red Falcon
- Untreated Water Airport
- Treated water airport
- Untreated USNS Comfort
- VOC Port-au-Prince
- Asbestos Seaport
- Asbestos Black Falcon

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY US ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND

The occupational and environmental health risk estimate for exposure to XXXX in the ambient air at the Airport, Port-au-Prince, Haiti is low.

None of the other XXXX detected in the samples were present at concentrations greater than their respective military exposure guidelines.

Exposure to XXXX in the ambient air at the sampled site is expected to have little or no impact on unit readiness.



Lessons Learned



For Field Response

- Take everything you could possibly need.
- Many basic IH and EH health protection factors are lost.
- What works in the Station may not work in the field.
- Internet and telephone should be preplanned.
- Command priorities should include safety and environmental health.
- Be flexible.



Questions?