

## HydrAid™ Partnership with Project Handclasp & the United States Navy

April 12, 2009

### Context:

HydrAid™ is a product of International Aid Inc. (IA), a faith-based 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization located in Spring Lake, Michigan. The HydrAid™ BioSand Water Filter is a patented, proven point-of-use safe water technology that prevents death, disease and disability in developing countries. IA is the exclusive global distributor of HydrAid™.

Attached is an article that appeared in a United States State Department publication that highlights this innovative partnership and its work in Ghana, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

### Opportunity:

The U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp (PH), is seeking to expand their partnership and include the HydrAid filter on a five nation deployment of USS Dubuque (LPD 8). The plan is to load 10 pallets of filters with each pallet containing 15 filters and the necessary sand and installation materials, aboard the USS Dubuque for deployment to:

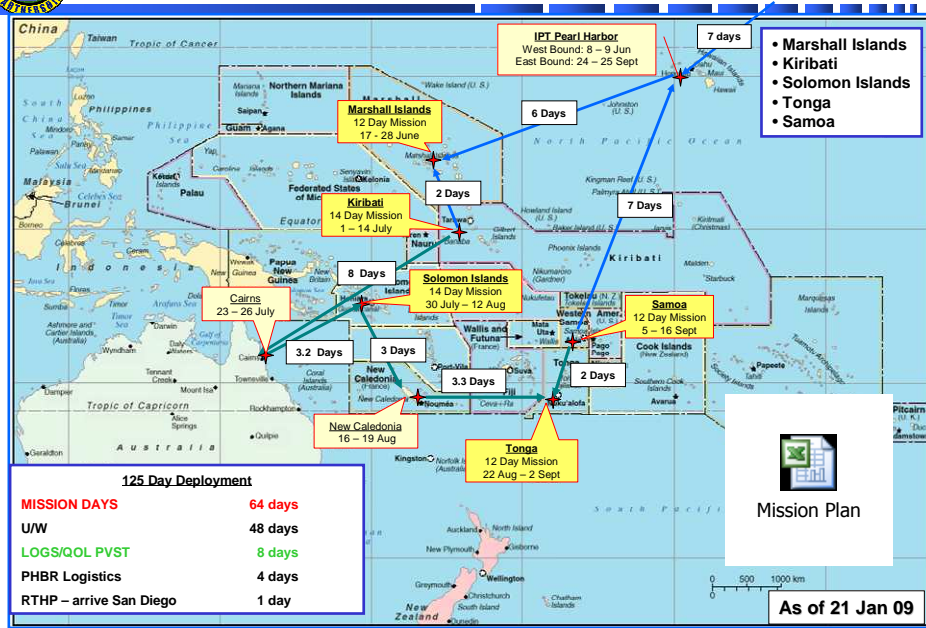


the Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Western Samoa (Cairns and New Caledonia are resupply points for the deployment). The filters must be delivered to San Diego, California by the first week of May, 2009.

The scope and timing of the mission is depicted in the following diagram:



**DUB PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 2009**  
*Proposed Transit Plan*



This deployment is the Navy's most high impact/high visibility engagement in the Asia-Pacific region in 2009 and is an opportunity to build on the relationship that was already piloted in Africa and Central America.

This partnership has the potential to be a top focus of the top military engagement in the region this year.

There are extremely compelling aspects to this opportunity, including but not limited to:

1. This is the first and highest impact opportunity to launch the initiative in the Asia-Pacific theater - under the largest U.S. regional military command in the world. This can anchor the initiative and its success in the deployment culture, making it more routine in the future.
2. The project has the attention and support of Project Handclasp and the United States Navy.
3. The Navy intends to prioritize a PH outreach ceremony in each host nation. The HydrAid implementation can be a significant aspect of those ceremonies if not the marquee event. The participation of U.S. ambassadors, military commanders, civic leaders, partner organizations, distinguished guests, and communities of interest is anticipated.
4. The Navy's Mission Commander's team and IA will seek to establish relationship with NGOs on the ground in each country who will be trained by the IA and Navy personnel to install the filters in each country. Having NGO support is a critical component to ensure sustainability of the filter installation.

7. IA will provide training to Navy personnel to permit Navy personnel to train representatives of other NGOs when the ship arrives in each country served by the mission.

8. The Navy will provide their Public Affairs Officer to document the story for all countries where filters are installed.

9. The budget for the filters, shipping, and transportation is as follows:

10 - pallets of filters with 15 filters, sand and installation materials (\$950 per pallet)	\$9,500
Shipping of 10 pallets (2,000 pounds each) from Grand Rapids to San Diego, CA to arrive by May 1, 2009	\$3,000
Training of Navy personnel	<u>\$2,500</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>

11. In order for IA to implement this program and provide the 10 pallets of filters, \$15,000 in funding is required. The actual size and scope of this project will be adjusted up or down depending on the availability of funding.

**AMERICAN GIVING | Strengthening communities through generosity**

20 March 2009

**U.S. Navy Carries Filters to Haiti, Dominican Republic, Ghana  
International partnership plans to distribute 300,000 water filters**

Residents of a mountain village in Honduras wait in line to receive the blue plastic HydrAid filters.

By Nancy L. Pontius  
Special Correspondent

Littleton, Colorado — The U.S. Navy is working with U.S.-based nonprofit International Aid during February, March and April to transport household drinking-water filters to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Ghana. This assistance is part of a larger effort by International Aid and partner organizations, which aim to distribute 300,000 filters in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Caribbean in the next

two years through a new network of filter distribution centers.

"The Navy's role in transporting the filters is an example of a new outreach strategy to make humanitarian assistance and disaster response core elements of Navy operations worldwide," Paul Brown, director of the Navy's Project Handclasp, told *America.gov*.

"Through Project Handclasp — a unique public-private partnership — U.S. military personnel serve as ambassadors of goodwill on behalf of the American people, and provide humanitarian and educational materials donated by the U.S. private sector to overseas recipients, often along with conducting community-service projects, such as refurbishing schools, hospitals, orphanages and homes for the elderly," Brown said.

"We focus on building partnerships between the people of the U.S. and overseas communities, and between the Navy and U.S. private sector," he explained. "Our partnerships are based on long-term respect, trust and teamwork."

For Project Handclasp's next major event, the Navy hospital ship USNS *Comfort* will deliver 350 water filters to Haiti in April, in addition to more than 1 million high-nutrition meals, medical supplies and pharmaceutical products. The *Comfort's* first stop in Haiti is part of a large-scale Navy effort in which medical personnel on the ship will provide medical assistance to six nations in the Caribbean and Central America.

**WATER FILTERS**

"As many as 4 billion people in the world lack access to safe drinking water," Jim Bodenner, International Aid's director of water initiatives, told *America.gov*. "Every day, 5,000 to 8,000 people, mostly children under 5, die from waterborne diseases."

"Biosand filters are a very effective solution to bring basic water-filtration technology to households in different geographies," Adam Muellerweiss, director of corporate water strategy at The Dow Chemical Company, told *America.gov*.

Portable, plastic HydrAid filters can treat water for drinking, bathing and washing for eight to 10 people daily, Bodenner said, without needing electricity. The filters are affordable, easy to use and designed to last 10 years or more without needing replacement parts.

International Aid is partnering with many organizations in this effort:

- Dow Chemical donated \$2 million of plastic resin for filters, and funded a filter health-impact study in Africa.
- Cascade Engineering and Nugent Sand are engineering and producing the plastic filters and sand filtration media.

- Rotary clubs and Rotary International are providing project funding and help with filter distribution.
- U.S. and international nonprofits, including World Vision, Plan International and Adventist Development and Relief Agency, are bringing filters to households and schools via projects already established in developing countries.
- A University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill research team completed a large-scale health-impact study in the Dominican Republic and Cambodia showing that biosand filtration significantly reduced the incidence of gastrointestinal diseases.
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation funded a soon-to-be-completed filter health-impact study in Central America.



International Aid Honduras program manager Rony Meza and his team unload the first filters for installation in Honduras in 2007.

"Access to clean drinking water is key to both public health and economic development," Muellerweiss said. When people are healthier and need less time to obtain clean water, more time is available for income-generating activities and for children to attend school, he said.

To create local jobs, International Aid is exploring ways to foster micro-businesses associated with the filters in developing countries, such as encouraging entrepreneurs to deliver and install the filters.

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HONDURAS

On February 27, Navy personnel delivered 100 filters from the USS *Swift* to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, for use in homes and schools.

Since 2002, the Children's Safe Water Alliance — founded by Rotary District 4060 and U.S. nonprofit Project Las Americas — has installed nearly 4,500 plastic filters and 14,500 of the original concrete biosand filters in more than 300 rural communities covering all of the provinces of the Dominican Republic.

"Each day, nearly 100,000 Dominicans drink safe water from these filters," Robert Hildreth, Children's Safe Water Alliance founder, told *America.gov*. More than 150 U.S. and Canadian Rotary clubs and the Rotary Foundation have donated almost \$1 million toward clean-water projects in the Dominican Republic, he added.

In December 2008, the first lady of Honduras donated \$175,000 on behalf of the Honduran government to fund almost 11,000 filters jointly with International Aid. This pledge was made on national television during a speech from first lady Xiomara Castro de Zelaya that identified providing clean water as one of her top priorities, according to International Aid's president, Myles Fish.

These filters will be distributed through existing projects operated by U.S. nonprofits Plan International, World Vision and Pure Water for the World, and the Honduran nonprofit Project Global Village.

The 11,000 filters are in addition to those previously installed in dozens of remote villages in the Honduran mountains.

More information is available on the [HydrAid filter Web site](#).

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