



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **United States Increases Disaster Relief Assistance to the Philippines**

To address the immediate needs of victims of Typhoon Juan (international name, Megi), U.S. Ambassador Harry K. Thomas, Jr. announced today that the United States is making available an additional \$800,000 in disaster relief assistance through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), bringing the total in relief assistance offered to \$900,000.

Let me applaud the excellent preparation, prompt response and ongoing effectiveness Philippine authorities have demonstrated in anticipating and responding to Typhoon Juan. Their efforts saved lives, contained damages, and facilitated quick support to the typhoon's victims. Our military played a discrete role in helping to transport the tons of relief supplies gathered by national, provincial and local officials. Now that the military component of our relief support has successfully concluded, we are pleased to make additional resources available to assist in the early recovery of those affected by Typhoon Juan," said Ambassador Thomas.

In addition to the financial contribution, U.S. Military personnel from the Joint Special Operations Task Force (JSOTF) and the Amphibious Landing Exercise (PHIBLEX) provided logistical support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to help deliver relief goods to communities affected by the storm. Since October 20, U.S. Military personnel supported the AFP by conducting aerial assessment of typhoon-affected areas, by delivering over 170,000 lbs of relief supplies, and by transporting over 180 personnel to assist with relief efforts in Northeastern Luzon.

“As a longstanding friend and ally of the Philippines, our military is proud to work side by side with the AFP to address the needs of the communities affected by the typhoon,” noted Ambassador Thomas. “Our quick contribution to the Government of the Philippines’ response was made possible by the Visiting Forces Agreement and an annual exercise schedule that allows our two militaries to work seamlessly together to respond to humanitarian crises.” He added, “Ang lakas ng bagyo. Tulungan natin ang mga nangangailangan.”

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