

Local Serviceman Involved In Haitian Migrant Effort

BY MARSHALL B. WILKINS
 U.S. Army Pvt. Francis W. Dilworth III wants Americans to know he's one of many U.S. servicemen called overseas to support another country's citizens.
 This is the third consecutive year American troops have provided such support during the holiday season.
 In December 1989 American troops were in Panama for Operation Just Cause. Last December, U.S. forces helped Kuwaitis get their country back. This year, Haitian migrants are the beneficiaries of American goodwill.
 Dilworth, 19, is the son of Pamela Galloway of Carolina Shores Village Club and a 1990 graduate of West Brunswick High School in Shallotte.
 He is one of more than 1,500 American troops sent to Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba since Nov. 21 for Operation Guantanamo. They're providing food, clothing, shelter, security and medical aid for more than 7,000 Haitian migrants at this base almost 400 air miles southeast of Miami.
 A joint task force of Marines, sol-

diers, sailors, airmen and coast guardsmen is expected to house 10,000 Haitians in humanitarian centers. The naval base, at the southeast corner of Cuba, is the only U.S. military installation located in a communist country. U.S. forces will remain here, according to a task force spokesman, until the fate of the Haitians is decided in court.
 "The first time I saw the migrants I wondered why they left their home country," said Dilworth. "I also wondered what they thought about us as a military force here to keep law and order and if they would cooperate with us in assisting them."
 The migrants began fleeing their imperiled island home in crudely built boats after a Sept. 30 military coup in which control of the government was wrested from President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. A trade embargo imposed on the new regime by the Organization of American States after the ouster dealt the weak Haitian economy a crippling blow.
 Islanders risking their lives at sea to cover the 200 miles between Haiti and Cuba are being picked up at sea by Navy and Coast Guard personnel.

"When we first got here we set up camp for ourselves to live in," said Dilworth, who was sent here Nov. 27 from the 108th Military Police Company based at Fort Bragg.
 "The Navy provided us with a Thanksgiving Day dinner, but it wasn't like home," he continued. "Since then, we've been working as gate guards, manning the guard towers, and I've been a member of several roving patrols."
 After Haitians are brought to the 45-square-mile (land and water) naval base, they're taken by bus to the center built by the troops. In addition to food and shelter, they receive clothing donated by Cuban-American residents of Miami and people from other cities.
 "I feel this mission couldn't be avoided," Dilworth said. "It's not nice being away from friends and loved ones during the holiday season, but now I can say I was at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the only U.S. military installation in a communist country."



HAITIAN MIGRANTS wait in long lines for breakfast served by American troops and other Haitians at Camp McCalla. U.S. ARMY PHOTOS BY JOHN A. BOHMER



PVT. FRANCIS DILLWORTH makes a radio call from inside his vehicle at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

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