

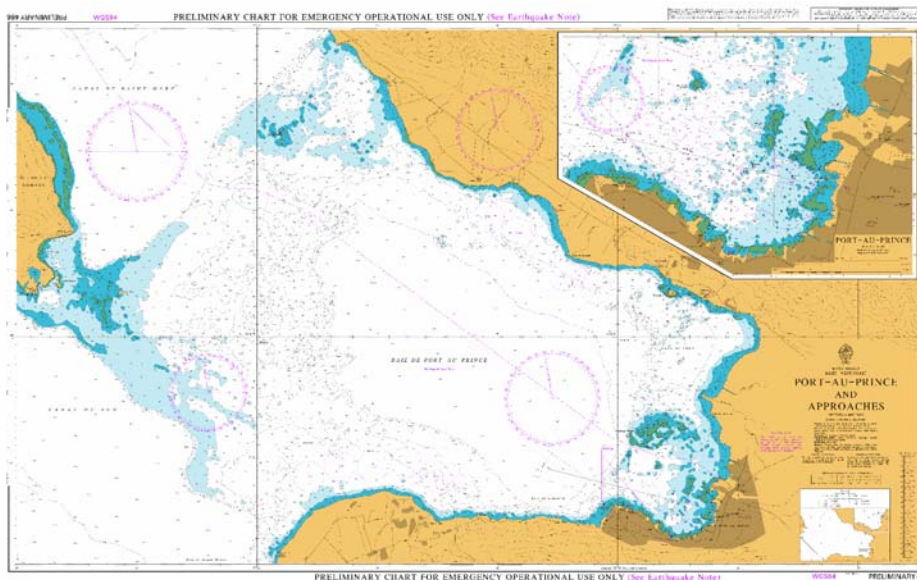


26 January 2010

New UKHO Chart for Haiti Relief Effort

A joint effort by United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO) staff has resulted in the latest charting information being supplied for earthquake-hit Haiti to help with relief efforts by the United States.

To back up efforts by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency in Washington, our USA-based Liaison Officer requested up-to-date charts from the office for disaster relief planning and operational use by US Navy. The Caribbean Island was rocked by an earthquake on January 12 and charts in particular were needed for the city of Port-au-Prince.



Preliminary Chart - BA 466

More...

The British Admiralty chart of the harbour, BA 466, was fortunately already in progress, however this needed to be accelerated to produce the latest picture and also use post earthquake imagery. Staff pulled out all the stops to release the new edition for operational use ahead of its formal publication date, within two days.

This was e-mailed to the US late on January 15 and also to the Dutch and Colombian Navies, who were also sending vessels to assist with the aid efforts.

It was a true team effort and UKHO staff were only too pleased to be able to help with the relief work. As Austin Capsey, imagery analyst, said: "Even though you are nearly 7000km away it gives you great satisfaction knowing that the specialist skills you use in your job really makes a difference to others in need."

ENDS

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Notes for Editors

1. The UKHO, which is part of the Ministry of Defence, has been charting the world's oceans for more than 200 years with the primary aim of providing navigational services for the Royal Navy and merchant mariners to save and protect lives at sea. In addition it also serves the small craft and leisure mariners and provides a range of consultancy services.
2. The UKHO produces a worldwide series of some 3,300 paper nautical charts and 160 publications under the Admiralty brand and has a growing portfolio of Electronic Navigational Charts (ENCs). These charts are sold globally and used by nearly 70 per cent of international shipping.
3. The UKHO is a Trading Fund which means it is a government agency owned by the MoD with the freedom to trade commercially to generate revenue and cover running costs.
4. The UKHO also plays a central role, in support of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, in discharging the navigation element of the UK's Safety of Life at Sea Treaty obligations for waters of UK national responsibility.