On January 12, 2010, a catastrophic earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale struck Haiti, close to Port-au-Prince. The quake caused widespread devastation and loss of life.

Operation HESTIA was the Canadian Forces participation in humanitarian operations conducted in response to the catastrophic earthquake. From their arrival hours after the earthquake, approximately 2,000 personnel from the Army, Navy and Air Force helped countless people and provided medical care and humanitarian aid assistance, such as food and water delivery, security, engineering services, and search and rescue support.

HMCS Halifax transported hundreds of medical personnel, sailors, soldiers, airmen and airwomen ashore. Commander Josée Kurtz (Commanding Officer, HMCS Halifax) should know, as she and her crew played a vital role in the relief effort, delivering basic comfort amid fear, destruction and distress.

On September 17th we invite you to take the rare opportunity to hear from Commander Josée Kurtz as she reflects on Canada’s response in Haiti and view a stunning photography exhibit of Operation HESTIA. The vivid images included in the exhibit reveal the immense scope of the operation and the remarkable efforts of the Canadian Forces, and their dedication to the Haitian populations of Port-au-Prince, Jacmel and Léogâne.

Photo credit: Corporal Johanie Maheu, Formation Imaging Services

174 members of the Royal 22e Régiment from HMCS ATHABASKAN are transported to the beach of Leogane, Haiti, for OP HESTIA, on January 28, 2010.

Friday, September 17, 2010 -- 4:30 pm
Liu Institute for Global Issues, Multipurpose Room & Lobby Gallery, Reception to Follow
Please register at www.ligi.ubc.ca/events/register.htm

The exhibit “Operation HESTIA: Canada’s Response to the Earthquake in Haiti” will be on display September 13 - 17 in the Lobby Gallery.