



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Advisory 01-14
January 9, 2014

Media Availability at Little Creek (UPDATED)

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (JEBLCFS) – A media availability is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story.

Navy, Coast Guard, and Virginia Beach Fire and Rescue personnel will provide an update of ongoing operations following Wednesday's MH-53E crash off the coast of Virginia Beach. Additional subject matter experts are also scheduled to be available to answer questions following initial statements and updates.

In the meantime, search efforts continue at the crash site. USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51) and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit 2 are using side-scan sonar to locate wreckage. Remotely operated vehicles diving on the potential sites of tail and fuselage sections **confirmed location of the wreckage.**

USS Mesa Verde (LPD 19), USS Jason Dunham (DDG 109), USNS Medgar Evers (T-AKE 13), USNS Grasp, U.S. Coast Guard cutter Shearwater, Virginia Beach Fire and Rescue small boats and multiple Navy H-60 helicopters remain on station conducting searches.

Five crewmembers were on board the MH-53E when it crashed. One crew member is still missing. Two crew members died and two remain hospitalized at Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.

The crew members are all members of Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 14 based at Norfolk Naval Station Chambers Field. They were flying an MH-53E "Sea Dragon" on a routine mine countermeasure training exercise when the accident happened.

Media wishing to attend should contact USFF Public Affairs at (757) 836-0541 no later than 2 p.m. today. Advance notification is required for access to Little Creek. Personnel will meet outside Gate 3 at JEBLCFS no later than 3 p.m.

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