

# Case Study

## Devastating Earthquake in Haiti

Pioneering Technology Application Saves Time & Resources



### Client:

An American Missionary Organization

### Summary of Core Activities:

- Assisted in the emergency relief efforts at the request of NGOs and relief agencies
- Rapid response: was on-station before the U.S. Military
- Employed new UAV technology to provide real-time situation assessment of otherwise inaccessible rural areas

Natural disasters are a reality in the world we live in, and the ability to respond and support during such times of crisis is a capability being pioneered by VT Group. Following the January 2010, earthquake in Haiti, our Unmanned Systems division deployed a small unmanned aerial systems team to Port Au Prince to aid in the emergency recovery in Haiti. Critical to this effort was providing support to the outlying regions that had not received immediate attention in the city of Port Au Prince. The urgency of the situation required an accurate and real-time assessment of the problem to make life-saving decisions. VT Group was able to integrate new technology into a chaotic emergency support situation, helping support the Haitian disaster relief effort in real time.

An example of our unmanned aerial operation occurred while on the ground in Port Au Prince. The VT Group team was contacted by an American missionary organization responsible for the oversight and staffing of an orphanage in the mountains above Port Au Prince. The orphanage had not made contact with the U.S. support team since the earthquake. The status of the children and their health was unknown. VT Group was able to determine the extent of the damage and if there was a need for immediate assistance through the use of the unmanned aircraft embedded with the team.

By modifying the mission profile and flying to the remote region, VT Group made the aerial assessment in real-time with onboard surveillance equipment. From the air, it was apparent that the structure was intact and water sources were available. By using this technology, critical resources were able to remain on-station, supporting search and rescue efforts and not spending days traveling through difficult mountainous terrain assessing an unknown situation. VT Group aircraft were used to enable effective and accurate decision making during a life threatening and disorganized situation.

In this situation, had the unmanned aerial vehicle not been used, a team of rescuers would have had to leave their operation to create a new search and rescue mission, siphoning off vital mission resources and personnel. Our pioneering application of unmanned aircraft was instrumental in giving peace of mind to the supporting entities of the orphanages and potentially saved the lives of many children.

Throughout the evolving and chaotic environment of any emergency response, having accurate and timely information is critical and can mean the difference between life and death. VT Group is ready to respond and support with its fleet of unmanned aircraft should another disaster occur. Our experience, international reach and proven record of safe operation is a legacy we are proud of and unmatched by any other unmanned service provider.

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