106 Haitians found off Miami

The rescue of 106 Haitian migrants off the coast of Florida is being hampered today by 20–25 knot winds and 5–7 foot seas. The 57-foot Haitian boat *My Friend* was located around 4:30 yesterday afternoon by a civilian aircraft about 25 miles east of Miami.

A Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Miami arrived on scene and dropped a radio to the boat. The people aboard originally reported that there were 101 people on the small boat, but the count was later increased to 106. They also reported the vessel was taking on water, and a pump was dropped to the boat to keep the flooding at bay.

Three Coast Guard cutters, the 110-foot *Manitou* and the 82-foot cutters *Point Charies* and *Point Barnes*, were scrambled to assist. The *Manitou* arrived on scene around 10:30 p.m. and attempted to transfer the Haitians to the cutter. Their efforts were unsuccessful due to 8–10 foot seas and 40–45 knot winds. During the operation, several Coast Guard aircraft and a Homestead Air Force Base H–3 helicopter were keeping an eye on the situation, dropping pumps to the vessel and maintaining communications. Coast Guard aircraft included a C–130 aircraft and an H–3 helicopter from Air Station Clearwater, Fla., and two H–65 Dolphin helicopters and a Falcon jet from Air Station Miami. Efforts to transfer the Haitians were postponed until this morning, although units remained on scene throughout the night.

This morning, the transfer of people to the cutters has begun. The cutters *Manitou* and *Point Charies* are on scene, and a Coast Guard helicopter is transferring Immigration and Naturalization Service agents to the area. The 378-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Hamilton* is on its way to the area. Upon its arrival, around 5:00 p.m. today, the Haitians will be brought aboard for interviewing by INS agents. INS will determine whether the Haitians will be repatriated or brought to the U.S.

There are three pregnant women and 16 children aboard the vessel. No serious injuries have been reported, but one of the women is eight months pregnant and may have to be airlifted to a hospital.

—USCG—
UPDATE: Rescue of 106 Haitians (11:00 a.m.)

Of 106 Haitians, 103 have been transferred from their 57-foot boat to Coast Guard cutters on scene. Seventy are aboard the cutter Manitou and 33 are aboard the Point Charles.

The three remaining people aboard the Haitian vessel are the three pregnant women, one of whom is reported to be eight months along. In order to avoid any unnecessary jostling or activity, the women will not be transferred to the cutters by boat. Instead, they will be hoisted in baskets by Coast Guard helicopter and transferred to the Manitou.

Immigration and Naturalization Service agents are being flown to the area, and will begin interviews after they are lowered to the cutters. When the INS agents are aboard, the cutters will head toward Great Isaac Light in the Bahamas, about 60 miles northeast of Miami, to wait for a rendezvous with the Coast Guard Cutter Hamilton. The Hamilton is expected to arrive around 5 p.m. today.

The Coast Guard Cutter Point Barnes is en route to the scene and will attempt to tow the Haitian vessel back toward Miami.

—uscg—
106 Haitians Rescued From Sinking Boat

By Andy Fribbenga
Coast Guard cutter stands by near disabled Haitian boat My Friend during rescue operation off Boynton Beach on Fr...

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Coast Guard effort saves 106 Haitians from sinking ship

RESUCE

days, of interviews ahead of us, and I have no idea what will happen," said Leon Jennings, who heads the Alien Migrant Interdiction Office of INS.

Only a handful of Haitians intercepted on the high seas have been allowed to stay in the United States. Since the interdiction program began in 1981, 21,919 Haitians have been intercepted.

"There is no reason to think this situation is any different," Jennings said. "But if the Coast Guard feels there is any reason to take the pregnant women off, they can take them to the nearest hospital."

Richard Smith, INS director in Miami, said, "If anybody needs medical attention that can't be taken care of on the cutter, he or she will be paroled into the country and will be able to begin asylum proceedings."

The cutter Point Barnes was towing the empty Haitian boat toward Miami late on Frida...
Please see Haitians, 2B

INS interviews begin

106 Haitians rescued;

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Coast Guard picks up 11 refugees in small boat; Haitians rescued; INS interviews begin.
Future dark for lighthouse

By WANDA FERNANDES

Artist Tripp Harrison remembers as a boy the first painting he ever did was of the Cape Florida Lighthouse. Now he is working with the Save Our Lighthouse committee to make sure the structure, which is one of Florida's oldest landmarks, gets a much-needed face lift.

"My father used to take us fishing by the lighthouse, so I've seen it all my life," said Harrison, a Miami native who has done a series of prints of the structure to raise money for the lighthouse.

The lighthouse at Bill Bagg's Cape Florida State Park in Key Biscayne is no longer one of the most beautiful in the country, but it has a rich history and needs work done on the masonry and most of the metal work. It has been closed to visitors for 1½ years and the light was deactivated by the Coast Guard last October.

The committee, a part of Dade Heritage Trust at 190 SE 12th Ter., has been working for more than two years to raise $75,000 for repairs. Currently, it has $25,000.

Malinda Cleary, chairman of the 30-member committee, says it would be a "shame" to let the lighthouse, built in 1825, go to ruin.

"It's a wonderful site. Miami melts away because it's so peaceful. It's in another world," said Cleary.

Park manager John Fosbury said the closing of the lighthouse hasn't exactly helped tourism. Attendance has dropped since it was shut down.

"It's the oldest man-made structure in South Florida and it is the only lighthouse to survive an Indian attack and so it has a uniqueness about it," said Fosbury.

The committee wants the public to help save the structure by buying a print featuring the lighthouse called "Cape Florida." The print, a copy of an original oil painting by Harrison, costs $125, and for each one sold, the artist, who is owner of Main Street Gallery in Atlanta, will donate $25 for lighthouse repairs.

T-shirts for $10, polo shirts for $20 and specially engraved bricks for $100 also are being sold by the committee. The bricks, which will contain names or messages of purchasers, will be placed in the pavilion area outside the lighthouse.

Louise Yarbrough, assistant director of Dade Heritage Trust, believes no effort or contribution is too small to save the lighthouse.

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ATLANTIC OCEAN

Coast Guard scuttles Haitians' ship

A rickety Haitian freighter that had carried 106 Haitians from U.S. waters off South Florida was sunk early Saturday morning, after the U.S. Coast Guard determined the vessel was unsalvageable.

The 106 Haitians had earlier been transferred onto a U.S. Coast Guard cutter. Teams from the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service were interviewing the Haitians Saturday as the cutter headed toward Haiti. Any Haitians determined to have a valid reason for seeking political asylum will not be returned to the country when the cutter arrives Monday, said Coast Guard Lt. Todd Turner.
Haitian advocates claim discrimination

Interdiction assailed as double standard

By GARRY PIERRE-PIERRE
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, 13 Cubans escaping their homeland washed ashore in South Florida. They were fed, given medical care and taken to Krome Detention Center, and soon will be released to relatives.

Two days later, 106 Haitians, also seeking asylum in the United States, were intercepted about 20 miles east of Boynton Beach and will probably be sent back to Haiti.

Why are the Cubans allowed to stay here while the Haitians are returned to Haiti? Haitian advocates say the reason is race, but government officials say it's because of a bilateral agreement signed with the government of former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier.

Cubans and Haitians have traditionally fled to the United States by boat. Under the terms of the 1981 interdiction treaty with Haiti, Coast Guard ships can stop Haitian vessels in international waters and return the people on board to Haiti, said Pam Lewis, a State Department spokeswoman in Washington.

The treaty angers Haitian advocates, who have been fighting it in the courts since 1982. Representatives have pressed the new Haitian government to revoke the treaty.

Cubans, on the other hand, can defect to the United States with greater ease than people from other countries, because of the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act.

Cubans arriving in the United States can simply declare they do not want to go back, and the act bars the United States from deporting them, Lewis said. The defector then waits 18 months to establish legal residency and applies for citizenship, which is invariably granted.

"It's a double standard," said Cheryl Little, an attorney with the Haitian Refugee Center in Miami. "The Cubans are treated like heroes, while the Haitians are treated like criminals."

"I think it's discriminatory," said Chantal Thomas, executive director of the Haitian American Center in West Palm Beach.

Guard sinks rescued Haitians' boat

By DEBORAH P. WORK
Staff Writer

Its mission completed, the sinking wooden boat that transported 106 Haitians from the Caribbean to within miles of Boynton Beach was sunk by the Coast Guard on Saturday.

The 57-foot boat, christened My Friend, brought the refugees through the 500-mile crossing before taking on water and going out of fuel. The passengers included three pregnant women and 16 children.

The Haitians, who had not eaten in five days, were doing well, Coast Guard officials said.

"The boat was unseaworthy. We couldn't just set it adrift because it would be a hazard to [other boat's] navigation," said Coast Guard Lt. Todd Turner. "That was a bad situation."

Turner said the weatherbeaten boat was taken 40 miles off the coast of West Palm Beach. Then riddled with bullet holes in the hull and the deck to sink it. Fed and dried off, the Haitians are being interviewed aboard the Coast Guard cutter Hamilton by U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service agents to determine whether any are eligible for political asylum.

Haitian refugees are routinely turned away from the United States when they are intercepted on the high seas since 1981, 21,919 Haitians have been intercepted.