

## Coast Guard Brings Christmas To Great Inagua

*Story and Photo by PA3 Sondra-Kay Kneen, PADET St. Petersburg, Fla.*

During the 2007 holiday season, crewmembers from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Fla., were given a mission unlike their everyday search-and-rescue operations. The crew of a C-130 Hercules search plane flew six hours from Clearwater to Matthew Town, Bahamas, Dec. 17, delivering more than 200 toys, ranging from cars and dolls to skateboards and footballs, to the children of Great Inagua, Bahamas.



*Crewmembers from Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Fla., along with Preston Cunningham, the island's administrator, and Ronald Roker, the island's Chief Counselor, stand under a Hercules C-130 search plane at Matthew Town Airport in Great Inagua. The crew of the C-130 delivered more than 200 toys to the children of Great Inagua during the 2007 holiday season.*

the toys on behalf of the children. Cunningham and Roker distributed the toys to the children during a local community event Dec. 22.

“We do this every year, and every year we feel great about giving these kids gifts they wouldn’t normally receive,” said Lt.j.g. Alexander J. Moore, a Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater C-130 pilot. “A few boxes of toys may not seem like much, but it means a lot for these children to get a special gift for Christmas.”

Great Inagua is the southern most island in the Bahamas and is home to two permanently-deployed Coast Guard HH-60 Jayhawk rescue helicopters from Air Station Clearwater. Coast Guard crewmembers from the air station routinely rotate HH-60 crews from the air station to Great Inagua about every two weeks to aid in search-and-rescue and law-enforcement missions in the area.

Preston Cunningham, the island's administrator, and Ronald Roker, the island's chief counselor, met the Coast Guard C-130 crew at Matthew Town Airport where they accepted

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