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Mar 17, 2011

US Navy delivers protective suits to Japan

WASHINGTON - THE US Navy delivered special protective suits and masks to Japan on Thursday to help workers struggling to contain damage at the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, officials said.

The US Navy's 7th Fleet said '100 nuclear, biological, chemical (NBC) firefighting suits and masks were delivered from the USS George Washington to the government of Japan this morning for use at the Fukushima power plant.' The suits are designed to protect against radiation or other toxic materials.

US President Barack Obama has promised Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan to give Tokyo any support needed in the face of a deepening nuclear crisis triggered by last Friday's devastating earthquake and tsunami.

The US Energy Department's National Nuclear Security Administration has reportedly sent 33 experts to Japan with 7,700kg of equipment to assist Japanese authorities.

The US experts will help monitor and survey areas of the country for possible radiation.

The American military has provided equipment and logistical support but has not been asked by Japanese authorities to join directly in the emergency effort at the damaged Fukushima plant. -- AFP

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