

Australian military mounts major airlift to evacuate flood-hit community

Dec. 19 (UPI) — The first group of about 20 people were airlifted to safety Tuesday from a remote flood-ravaged community in northern Queensland amid a major rescue operation by the Australian military.

The Wujal Wujal evacuees arrived safely in Cooktown just before 5 p.m. local time aboard one of two Australian Defense Force chinook helicopters deployed to rescue all 275 residents of the town, submerged by floodwaters after days of torrential rain dumped by a weakening tropical cyclone.

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