

Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2024

Remarks in an Exchange With Reporters at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida
October 13, 2024

Governor Ronald D. DeSantis of Florida/Federal Disaster Assistance

Q. Mr. President, where was Governor DeSantis? Did you speak with him while you were here?

The President. No, I didn't.

But I—by the way, I think we're making real progress. Everybody seems pretty happy with the way it's going. We're not leaving. We're providing—we're going to—the next thing to do, we're trying to make sure we get the money in there for small businesses; talking to the Congress to see if they can get the money quickly. It's important.

So you saw, I mean, Republicans and Democrats are happy with what we're doing. And so we're making progress. We're making progress.

Q. Sir, could you—

Israel/U.S. Military Aid

Q. On the THAAD. Did you—why did you decide to give the permission for the THAAD to be deployed in Israel?

The President. To defend Israel.

Q. Any worries about it?

Q. Is the misinformation hurting FEMA's ability to respond?

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:35 p.m. on the tarmac prior to boarding Air Force One en route to Philadelphia, PA. A reporter referred to the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) antimissile system.

Categories: Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters, MacDill Air Force Base, FL.

Locations: MacDill Air Force Base, FL.

Names: DeSantis, Ronald D.

Subjects: Florida, Governor; Florida, Hurricane Helene damage and recovery efforts; Florida, MacDill Air Force Base; Florida, President's visit; Israel, security cooperation with U.S.; News media, Presidential interviews.

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