

WHO WE ARE -VO:

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND DATES BACK MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS - TO 1903, WHEN U.S. MARINES ARRIVED IN PANAMA TO PROTECT THE PANAMANIAN RAILROAD. FORMALLY CREATED IN 1963, THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND, WAS HEADQUARTERED IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES.

SINCE THEN, SOUTHERN COMMAND HAS PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW, AND PROMOTING PEACE, DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES PROMPTED THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO MOVE THE HEADQUARTERS TO MIAMI IN 1997 AND DEVELOP A NEW THEATER ARCHITECTURE FOR THE COMMAND.

TODAY, FROM ITS SOUTH FLORIDA HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHERN COMMAND IS ONE OF FIVE GEOGRAPHIC COMBATANT COMMANDS. TOGETHER, THESE COMMANDS DEFEND UNITED STATES' INTERESTS AND CONDUCT MILITARY OPERATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE.

ADMIRAL STAVRIDIS

THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND IS A KEY COMPONENT OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL SECURITY. OUR MISSION IS TO CONDUCT MILITARY OPERATIONS AND PROMOTE SECURITY COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE UNITED STATES STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES IN THE CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, CREATING TRUE "PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE AMERICAS."

THE COMMAND OVERSEES ALL U.S. MILITARY OPERATIONS IN AN AREA THAT ENCOMPASSES 32 COUNTRIES AND 13 TERRITORIES WITH A TOTAL POPULATION OF MORE THAN 450 MILLION PEOPLE.

SOUTHERN COMMAND BELIEVES THAT SECURITY IS A NECESSARY CONDITION FOR PROSPERITY AND LASTING DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS. OUR COMMANDER'S OBJECTIVES ARE TO ENCOURAGE REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, ENSURE THE FORWARD DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES AND ENHANCE HEMISPHERIC STABILITY AND SECURITY.

COMPONENT COMMANDS – VO:

SOUTHERN COMMAND ACHIEVES ITS MISSION THROUGH ITS SERVICE COMPONENT COMMANDS FROM EACH OF THE ARMED SERVICES:

- **U.S. ARMY SOUTH**, HEADQUARTERED AT FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS, SUPPORTS REGIONAL DISASTER RELIEF AND COUNTERDRUG EFFORTS AND PROVIDES OVERSIGHT, PLANNING, AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.
- **U.S. SOUTHERN AIR FORCE**, BASED IN DAVIS MONTHAN AIR FORCE BASE IN ARIZONA, MAINTAINS A FORWARD ELEMENT AT JOINT TASK FORCE BRAVO IN HONDURAS AND SEVERAL COOPERATIVE SECURITY LOCATIONS IN ARUBA/CURAÇAO AND MANTA, ECUADOR. THESE LOCATIONS ARE STRATEGIC HUBS AND STAGING AREAS FOR SUPPORTING COUNTERDRUG OPERATIONS AND CAN BE USED FOR HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.
- **U.S. NAVAL FORCES SOUTHERN COMMAND**, LOCATED AT MAYPORT NAVAL BASE, FLORIDA, OVERSEES SOUTHERN COMMAND'S NAVAL OPERATIONS AND OPERATES THE NAVAL SMALL CRAFT INSTRUCTION AND TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHOOL, WHICH TEACHES RIVERINE OPERATIONS AND SMALL CRAFT MAINTENANCE TO LATIN AMERICAN NAVIES AND COAST GUARDS. IT ALSO OPERATES A COOPERATIVE SECURITY LOCATION IN COMALAPA, EL SALVADOR.
- **MARINE FORCES SOUTH**, LOCATED IN MIAMI, FLORIDA PLANS ALL MARINE EXERCISES IN SOUTHERN COMMAND'S AREA OF OPERATIONS AND PROVIDES IMMEDIATE REACTION RIVERINE CAPABLE FORCES READY TO CONDUCT TRAINING FOR PARTNER NATIONS.
- **U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND SOUTH**, HEADQUARTERED AT HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, FLORIDA, PROVIDES THE PRIMARY THEATER CONTINGENCY RESPONSE FORCE AND PLANS, PREPARES FOR, TRAINS AND CONDUCTS SPECIAL OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF SOUTHERN COMMAND.
- **JOINT TASK FORCE-GUANTANAMO** IN CUBA CONDUCTS DETENTION OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE WAR ON TERRORISM PROVIDES A SECURE, HUMANE, LEGAL, AND TRANSPARENT DETENTION

FACILITY. THIS TASK FORCE IS ALSO PREPARED TO SUPPORT MASS MIGRATION RESPONSE OPERATIONS, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

- **JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE-SOUTH**, HEADQUARTERED AT NAVAL AIR STATION, KEY WEST, FLORIDA, IS COMPRISED OF A DOZEN U.S. AGENCIES AND LIAISON OFFICERS FROM PARTNER NATIONS. THIS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE SERVES AS THE CATALYST FOR INTEGRATED AND SYNCHRONIZED INTERAGENCY COUNTERDRUG OPERATIONS, AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DETECTION AND MONITORING OF SUSPICIOUS AIR AND MARITIME TRAFFICKING WITHIN THE CARIBBEAN SEA, GULF OF MEXICO, AND THE EASTERN PACIFIC.

- **JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO**, LOCATED AT SOTO CANO AIR BASE IN HONDURAS, OPERATES A FORWARD, ALL-WEATHER DAY/NIGHT C-5-CAPABLE AIRBASE. THE TASK FORCE ORGANIZES MULTILATERAL EXERCISES AND SUPPORTS HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC ASSISTANCE, COUNTERDRUG AND DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA.

VO:

LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE COMMON VALUES AND INTERESTS SUCH AS DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, FREEDOM, SOVEREIGNTY AND LEGAL MIGRATION AND HAVE STRONG ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SECURITY TIES.

U.S. TRADE WITH THE REGION EXCEEDED \$194 BILLION IN 2005, A 23% INCREASE FROM 2004 AND REMITTANCES FROM THE UNITED STATES TOTALED \$55 BILLION. TOTAL TRADE IN THE AMERICAS IS 40% OF ALL U.S. TRADE.

THE REGION ALSO ACCOUNTS FOR 17% OF THE WORLD'S NATURAL GAS AND OIL RESERVES, 36% OF U.S. IMPORTED OIL AND 14% OF THE WORLD'S CRUDE OIL, HIGHLIGHTING THE REGION'S IMPORTANT GLOBAL STRATEGIC RESOURCES.

LATINO'S ARE ALSO CURRENTLY THE LARGEST AND FASTEST GROWING MINORITY IN THE U.S. AND ARE PROBABLY THE 2ND LARGEST SPANISH-SPEAKING POPULATION IN THE WORLD. BY THE YEAR 2050, LATINO'S ARE PROJECTED TO REPRESENT 25% OF THE U.S. POPULATION.

THIS VITAL EXCHANGE TRANSLATES INTO MILLIONS OF AMERICAN JOBS AND BUSINESSES LINKED TO NATIONS IN OUR HEMISPHERE. THE POLITICAL STABILITY AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS OF EACH OF THESE NATIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE U.S. ECONOMY AND NATIONAL SECURITY.

CESAR CONDE (JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ALUMNI CLASS OF 2005): THE BIGGEST VALUE THAT SOUTHCOM IS PROVIDING IS SECURITY IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ALLOWS US TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE REGION. IF WE HAVE STABLE GOVERNMENTS AND WE HAVE SECURE GOVERNMENTS PROMOTING DEMOCRACY AND BELIEVING IN DEMOCRATIC VALUES, THAT ALLOWS US TO DO OUR JOB MORE EFFECTIVELY.

JOINT TRAINING SPEAKER (INTERVIEW)

REGIONAL CHALLENGES REQUIRE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS. TO ACHIEVE SOUTHERN COMMAND'S COMPLEX MISSION, THE COMMAND SPONSORS AND CONDUCTS A BROAD RANGE OF COOPERATIVE SECURITY ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT ITS AREA OF FOCUS. MILITARY EXCHANGES, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES THAT PROMOTE COOPERATION AND INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN MILITARIES, ARE THE BACKBONE OF THESE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS.

SOUTHERN COMMAND'S EXERCISES FOCUS ON PEACEKEEPING, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, COUNTER NARCO-TRAFFICKING, AND OTHER MISSIONS APPROPRIATE TO THE REGION.

CESAR CONDE (JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ALUMNI CLASS OF 2005): IF I WAS TO LOOK AT IT FROM SOMEONE IN THE REGION, I WOULD CERTAINLY WANT A PARTNER THAT WOULD HELP ME ADDRESS SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT MY COUNTRY IS STRUGGLING WITH. WE HAVE SHARED ISSUES THAT WE HAVE TO ADDRESS, FROM TERRORISM, ECONOMIC PROSPERITY... AND THOSE I THINK ARE ISSUES THAT GO BEYOND BORDERS, AND I THINK THE UNITED STATES AND PARTICULARLY THE SOUTHERN COMMAND HAS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF EXPERIENCE WITH THESE ISSUES.

VO:

SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO ASSIST HOST NATIONS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP, RESTRUCTURE, AND REINFORCE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MILITARY INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SOCIETIES, SOUTHERN COMMAND'S EXTENSIVE MILITARY-TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL TO ACHIEVING U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES. ONE OF THE HALLMARKS OF SOUTHERN COMMAND'S FOREIGN MILITARY INTERACTION PROGRAMS IS DEMONSTRATING THAT A MODEST MILITARY PRESENCE CAN AND WILL PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT RETURNS.

BOB DICKINSON (JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ALUMNI CLASS OF 2002): CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES HAS 21 CRUISESHIPS CARRYING A LITTLE OVER THREE MILLION PEOPLE A YEAR AND THE VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE VOYAGES ARE IN THE CARIBBEAN WATERS AND OBVIOUSLY WE WOULD HAVE A VERY, VERY DIFFICULT TIME IF THOSE WATERS WERE NOT SAFE. IF THOSE WATERS WERE NOT SECURE, WE CLEARLY COULD NOT PUT OUR GUESTS OR OUR CREWS OR OUR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF SHIPS AT RISK. SO HAVING SOUTHCOM THERE, HAVING THE VIGILANCE, KNOWING FOR EXAMPLE THAT THEY ARE NOT JUST WORKING UNILATERALLY BUT THEY ARE WORKING IN COORDINATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE CARIBBEAN, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA WHICH ARE OUR CRUISING GROUNDS-- THAT GIVES US A GOOD SAFETY NET AND A GOOD THEATER FOR US TO OPERATE.

HUMANITARIAN OUTREACH SPEAKER (INTERVIEW)

WHEN DISASTERS STRIKE, THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND IS READY TO LEND A HELPING HAND. IN RECENT YEARS, COMMAND RELIEF OPERATIONS HAVE MOVED HUNDREDS OF TONS OF EMERGENCY SUPPLIES TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANES, EARTHQUAKES, FIRES, AND FLOODS. MILITARY RESCUE WORKERS, MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND ENGINEERS HAVE SAVED COUNTLESS LIVES AND HELPED REBUILD INFRASTRUCTURE IN DEVASTATED AREAS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

MILITARY DOCTORS, DENTISTS, AND VETERINARIANS PROVIDE VITAL HEALTH CARE TO LOCAL POPULATIONS AND DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK THROUGH AN AVERAGE OF SEVENTY MEDICAL READINESS TRAINING EXERCISES PER YEAR, TREATING MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PATIENTS.

COOPERATIVE TRAINING ROUTINELY CONDUCTED WITH PARTNER NATION MILITARY FORCES HELPS TO IMPROVE RESPONSE CAPABILITIES AND PREPARATION FOR FUTURE DISASTERS THROUGH EXCHANGES.

MARY AGOSTA (JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ALUMNI CLASS OF 2002): GOD FORBID

AN INTERNATIONAL DISASTER DOES OCCUR, WE ARE BASICALLY ON THE SAME PAGE.

COMMUNICATION DOES NOT MEAN SPEAKING THE SAME LANGUAGE, THE COMMUNICATION ELEMENT THAT EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING AND HOW WE ARE GOING TO DO IT, GOOD TIMES AND IN BAD. WE KNOW THAT THE MILITARY IS THERE AND NOT JUST TO FIGHT WARS, THEY ARE THERE IN PEACE TIME AND THEY ARE AS VALUABLE, IF NOT MORE, WHEN WE ARE IN PEACE TIME.

VO:

SOUTHERN COMMAND IS ALSO THE FIRST UNIFIED COMMAND TO CREATE A HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE, ENSURING THAT HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING PROGRAMS AND GUIDANCE ARE INCORPORATED INTO ALL SPONSORED MILITARY CONTACT PROGRAMS.

NARCOTERRORISM SPEAKER (INTERVIEW)

THE WAR ON TERRORISM IS TODAY OUR NATION'S TOP PRIORITY, AND OUR HEMISPHERE HAS NOT BEEN IMMUNE TO THE ACTIVITIES AND OPERATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSNATIONAL TERRORISM. THE ACTIVITIES OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR HEMISPHERE RANGE FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING TO ARMS SMUGGLING, AND FROM MONEY LAUNDERING TO DOCUMENT FORGERY.

TERRORISTS RESPECT NEITHER LIVES NOR NATIONAL BORDERS. NARCOTERRORISM IS, THEREFORE, A PRIMARY FOCUS OF THE UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND'S SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. THANKS IN PART TO, SHARED INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE, AND EQUIPMENT PROVIDED BY THE U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND, SECURITY FORCES IN THE REGION ARE WORKING TO PREVENT THE REGION FROM BECOMING A SAFE HAVEN FOR TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS INTENT ON USING VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION TO IMPOSE THEIR VIEWS AND UNDERMINE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

MARTHA PANTIN (JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ALUMNI CLASS OF 2000): DRUG

INTERDICTION ACTIVITIES THAT WE COORDINATE HAS SIGNIFICANCE TO ANY LAW ABIDING CITIZEN. BECAUSE THESE TYPE OF ACTIVITIES LEAD INTO CRIMINAL ENTERPRISES; AND CRIMINAL

ENTERPRISES NOT ONLY AFFECT THE CONSUMERS IT AFFECTS THE PRODUCERS, IT AFFECTS THE WHOLE GAMUT OF PEOPLE ACROSS SOCIETY. SO I THINK THAT FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE LAW ABIDING, WHETHER THEY MIGHT BE IN PERU OR WHETHER THEY MIGHT BE IN IOWA, I THINK THAT THOSE ACTIVITIES ARE VITALLY IMPORTANT.

BOB DICKINSON (JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ALUMNI CLASS OF 20020) IF YOU LOOK AT THE WORLD TODAY WE HAVE A LOT OF COMPLEX FORCES, WE HAVE TERRORISM, WE HAVE DRUGS, WE HAVE IMMIGRATION ISSUES AND IT IS VERY, VERY IMPORTANT THAT OUR COUNTRY BE VIGILANT AND BE STRONG, AND SOUTHCOM IS CERTAINLY A KEY PART OF THAT.

VO:

AS THE WAR ON TERRORISM PROGRESSES, SOUTHERN COMMAND AND REGIONAL ALLIES MUST CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER TO DETER, DISSUADE, AND DEFEAT TRANSNATIONAL THREATS IN THE HEMISPHERE. SOUTHERN COMMAND'S SECURITY COOPERATION SUCCESSES NOT ONLY DEMONSTRATE ITS OWN READINESS, BUT ALSO BRING IT CLOSER TO REALIZING ITS VISION OF BUILDING A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE AMERICAS.

MARY AGOSTA (JOINT CIVILIAN ORIENTATION CONFERENCE ALUMNI CLASS OF 2002): WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL WE USED TO SAY YOU CAN SLEEP WELL TONIGHT BECAUSE THE NATIONAL GUARD IS ON DUTY. WELL I THINK THE MESSAGE TO THE WORLD IS YOU CAN SLEEP WELL TONIGHT BECAUSE SOUTHCOM IS ON DUTY.