

**POSTURE STATEMENT OF
GENERAL DOUGLAS M. FRASER, UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
COMMANDER, UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND
BEFORE THE 112TH CONGRESS
SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
6 MARCH 2012**



Introduction

Chairman Levin, Senator McCain, distinguished members of the Committee: thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to report on the posture, security concerns, and future direction of United States Southern Command. Within the context of modest funding, we continue to accomplish our primary objective of defending the United States while also promoting regional security and enduring partnerships. The key to our defense-in-depth approach to Central America, South America, and the Caribbean has been persistent, sustained engagement, which supports the achievement of U.S. national security objectives by strengthening the security capacities of our partner nations. Militaries in our area of responsibility (AOR) are increasingly capable, professionalized, and rank among the most trusted institutions in many countries in the region.¹

Interagency coordination is the foundation of United States Southern Command's approach. Our relatively lean budget necessitates that we embrace innovative techniques to accomplish our mission; we do so by leveraging the capabilities and resources of our partners within the region, the U.S. government, and our command. Thirty-three interagency representatives and foreign liaison officers from five countries are integrated into our command, allowing us to capitalize on in-house expertise and align our engagement activities within U.S. government frameworks. We are continuing to refine our organizational model, but the guiding principle remains unchanged: we support a comprehensive interagency approach that employs whole-of-government solutions to address the complex challenges in the region.

¹ Aravena, F. *Confianza: base para la gobernabilidad y la convivencia democrática en América Latina y el Caribe*, 2010. (*Trust: Foundation of Governability and Democratic Coexistence in Latin America and the Caribbean*). Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO).

Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF South), our key component in detection and monitoring of illicit traffic, exemplifies this unity of effort. Considered the linchpin in U.S. counterdrug efforts, JIATF South capitalizes on the unique capabilities, authorities, and strengths of interagency partners such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Homeland Security. In 2011, JIATF South operations resulted in the disruption of 117 metric tons of cocaine, denying illicit traffickers approximately \$3 billion in revenue. Our return on investment is substantial; in 2010, JIATF South supported the interdiction of eight times the amount of cocaine than was interdicted on the Southwest border, at a third of the cost and in an operating area that covers 42 million square miles.²

None of our efforts would have been possible without the continued support of Congress. Almost three decades ago, Congress recognized the important role the Department of Defense could play to counter the threat of drug trafficking, particularly in support of civilian law enforcement efforts. More recently, through the provision of authorities commonly referred to as Sections 1206, 1207, and 1208, we trained and equipped partner nation forces to help the United States combat terrorism and conduct stability operations. Congressional approval to delink the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program from the American Service Members' Protection Act sanctions has allowed us to educate and train hundreds of military personnel in the region, a critical element in strengthening military-to-military relations. We also appreciate the ongoing support Congress provides to the Department of State's regional security initiatives such as the Central American Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), the

² In FY2010 the U.S. government expended a combined \$1.8 billion across 11 agencies on interdiction efforts on the 1,969-mile long Southwest border (SWB); FY2010 total operating cost for JIATF South was \$565.5 million. In FY2010, law enforcement agencies seized 19 metric tons of cocaine at the SWB; in comparison, JIATF South operations resulted in the disruption 154 metric tons.

Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), and the Colombia Strategic Development Initiative (CSDI), all of which provide direction and support to our engagements in the region.

As we look to the future, we will continue to seek innovative ways to support interagency coordination; streamline programs and initiatives; and replicate the success of our highly effective, small-footprint approach that bolsters the security capacity of regional militaries and ensures the multi-layered defense of the United States. We believe our approach will be increasingly important given constrained resources and the complex challenges we face in our AOR. While we do not see a traditional military threat emanating from the region, nations throughout our hemisphere are contending with an asymmetric threat to national and international security: Transnational Organized Crime (TOC). In addition to this primary concern, United States Southern Command also remains watchful for the potential impact of natural disasters; the activities of violent extremist organizations; and the implications of the activities of nations such as Iran in our area of responsibility.

Strategic Environment

Security Concerns

During the past decade, the international system underwent a profound transformation as globalization irrevocably altered commerce, culture, trade, and technology. With these developments, however, came the parallel globalization of organized crime, violence, murder, and kidnappings related to illicit trafficking. In many parts of our hemisphere—but most acutely in Central America—transnational organized crime has evolved into a volatile and potentially destabilizing threat to both citizen and regional security. Fluid, agile, and complex, these sophisticated networks conduct illicit operations that traverse the boundaries of the Geographic Combatant Commands (GCCs). Illicit trafficking by transnational criminal organizations is

expanding between our AOR and the AORs of United States Northern Command, United States Africa Command, and United States European Command, underscoring the truly global nature of this networked threat.

Central America has become the key transshipment zone for illicit trafficking in the hemisphere; approximately 90 percent of cocaine destined for the United States now transits the sub-region. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are experiencing alarming increases in murders and brutality. The rising wave of violence and illicit trafficking, coupled with the expansive resources of transnational organized crime, is challenging the law enforcement capacities of some Central American governments. Accordingly, these countries view their militaries as the only entities capable of responding to these threats. In 2011, El Salvador extended the 2010 deployment of its military to support domestic law enforcement, while Guatemala and Honduras repeatedly relied on their armed forces to counter the spread of transnational organized crime. Guatemalan law enforcement institutions struggled to bring violence under control in 2011; after the massacre of 27 farm workers in Petén by operatives of the Mexican-based Los Zetas organization, Guatemala declared a 60-day military state-of-siege, the second in less than a year.

To Central America's north, the government of Mexico has fully committed to reducing the power and impunity of transnational organized crime and drug cartels. Events in Mexico and in United States Southern Command's AOR are inherently connected, requiring an integrated effort across law enforcement, military, and civilian agencies. Many countries in Central America face challenges in addressing impunity, porous borders, and large areas of under-governed territory, all of which underscore the imperative of a whole-of-government approach. The emergence of a collective of compromised states in Central America that is unable to

counter transnational threats would have enormous implications for the United States and the hemisphere. The inability of one country to effectively respond to the intertwined threats of transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking is troubling; the inability of an entire sub-region has serious implications for regional stability and the security of the United States.

Profile of transnational criminal organizations

In recent years, transnational criminal organizations have diversified their portfolios

beyond cocaine, trafficking
in precursor chemicals
from India, China, and
Bangladesh; commercial

CY2011 Documented Cocaine Movement	CY2012 JIATF South Projected Cocaine Movement ³	Details
Toward U.S. 1086 MTs	Toward U.S. 775-930 MTs	~90% moves through Central America via illicit air, maritime, or land routes
Non-US (Africa/Europe/Asia) 60 MTs	Non-U.S. (Africa/Europe/Asia) 475-570 MTs	Primarily from Venezuela to Africa via commercial containers or illicit maritime conveyances

weapons from the United States; people, including the forced trafficking of humans and the smuggling of migrants and special interest aliens; and drug proceeds in the form of bulk cash from the United States. This cash is increasingly entered into the global financial system through countries such as Panama, Guatemala, Argentina, and Venezuela,⁴ often under the guise of legitimate trade. The narcotics business model has also evolved. Many criminal organizations operate with impressive acumen, employing an interconnected network of operational enablers: brokers who negotiate with coca growers in South America; *transportistas* who act as sub-contractors to coordinate cocaine shipments through the transit zone; specialists who construct sophisticated submersible vessels capable of transporting 8-10 metric tons of cocaine in one trip; hitmen or *sicarios* whose violent services ensure compliance and territorial protection through

³ The U.S. interagency flow numbers use Documented Cocaine Movement, which is drawn from analysis of the Consolidated Counterdrug Database (CCDB) and augmented by law enforcement reporting. JIATF South’s Projected Cocaine Movement is calculated based on demand-driven methodology to project the amount of cocaine that must be leaving South America to satisfy global demand. JIATF South’s methodology attempts to capture the ‘unknowns’ inherent to cocaine flow figures.

⁴ Department of State. *2011 International Narcotics Strategy and Control Report, vol. II*; Financial Action Task Force (FATF). *List of jurisdictions with AML/CTF deficiencies*, October 28th, 2011.

coercion and intimidation; wholesalers and retailers in the U.S. who distribute illicit products; and attorneys, bankers, and accountants who help launder illicit proceeds that can be used for corruption of police and border officials to ensure freedom of movement.

While Mexican criminal organizations have expanded and consolidated control over key illicit trafficking routes in Central America, they are by no means the only illegal groups operating in the region. Terrorist groups, like the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) and Sendero Luminoso in Peru, fund their insurgencies through illicit trafficking. Criminal activities extend into the Venezuelan government; in September 2011, the Department of the Treasury designated four Venezuelan officials under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Act—identical to the 2008 designation of General Henry Rangel Silva, the new Minister of Defense—for supporting the FARC’s narcotics and arms trafficking. The *bandas criminales* (BACRIM) in Colombia are testament to the highly adaptive nature of transnational organized crime; these criminal networks grew from the vestiges of disbanded paramilitary groups and are now focused on illicit profits rather than territorial control. In Brazil, criminal gangs control cocaine trafficking and many of the country’s *favelas*. Transnational gangs like Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS-13) and Calle 18 (M-18) have a long-established presence in Central America and maintain active ties to U.S.-based affiliates, engaging in extortion, kidnapping, and murder-for-hire in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and the United States. Increasingly, these gangs are collaborating with larger trafficking organizations to provide a range of criminal services.

Transnational criminal organizations possess a critical enabler that many states in Central America lack: enormous financial reserves. The illicit financial flows associated with transnational organized crime are staggering; the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

Country	Homicide Rate per 100,000 ⁷
Honduras	82.1 per 100,000
El Salvador	66.0 per 100,000
Guatemala	41.4 per 100,000
Belize	41.7 per 100,000
Panama	21.6 per 100,000
Costa Rica	11.3 per 100,000
Mexico	18.1 per 100,000
United States	4.6 per 100,000

(UNODC) estimates annual global gross profits from cocaine sales at \$84 billion, \$35 billion of which is generated in retail and wholesale profits in

North America alone.⁵ Illicit traffickers in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean pocket an estimated \$18 billion in gross cocaine profits per year.⁶ Lucrative profits enable organized crime to increase operational capacity at a rate that far outpaces that of regional law enforcement and militaries, purchasing sophisticated, military-grade weapons, investing in semi and fully submersible vessels to improve transportation, corrupting and coercing government officials to ensure freedom of movement, and recruiting and bankrolling highly trained specialists, many with military backgrounds.

Threat to Citizen Safety

In support of security initiatives led by the Department of State, we focus our efforts on countering the impact of transnational criminal activity on citizen security, which is currently most threatened in Central America. Lack of rule of law and widespread impunity provide fertile ground for illicit trafficking and unchecked criminal violence. Present-day homicide rates in Central America have reached crisis levels.⁸ Honduras posted a record-setting homicide rate not

⁵ United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). *Estimating illicit financial flows resulting from drug trafficking and other transnational organized crime*, 2011. Similar estimates are provided by the DEA; according to the *2011 National Drug Control Strategy*, the DEA estimates that Mexican and Colombian drug traffickers generate, remove, and launder between \$18 billion and \$39 billion annually in wholesale drug proceeds, which are largely smuggled in bulk out of the U.S via the Southwest Border.

⁶ UNODC, *op. cit.*

⁷ UNODC. *2011 Global Study on Homicide: Trends, Context, Data*.

⁸ Due to inconsistencies in data collection, it is difficult to ascertain how much of this violence is directly caused by illicit trafficking, organized crime, and gang activity, but the UNODC's *2011 Global Study on Homicide* assesses that between 25 and 40 percent of violence in the Americas is related to organized crime and gangs.

seen in the hemisphere since Colombia in the 1980s; in 2011, San Pedro Sula overtook Ciudad Juarez as the most violent city in the world, with 159 homicides per 100,000 residents.⁹

Although still low by regional standards, Panama's rate represents a 140 percent increase over the past five years. In Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, we have also seen troubling instances of targeted murders of government officials, community activists, journalists, and law enforcement personnel. In 2011, drug traffickers killed and dismembered an auxiliary prosecutor in Cobán, Guatemala, leaving his decapitated body in front of the governor's house. In El Salvador, gangs have repeatedly attacked or murdered local officials, police officers, and soldiers. In Honduras, 23 journalists have been assassinated in the past five years, 10 of whom were specifically targeted for covering illicit trafficking and corruption.

Threat to U.S. National Security

Of particular concern, transnational criminal organizations operating in the region control the smuggling routes that traverse the hemisphere, many of which lead into the United States. These routes represent potential access points that could be leveraged by other groups. South American-based Alien Smuggling Organizations (ASOs) provide a critical link for international trafficking networks and facilitate the illegal movement of Special Interest Aliens (SIAs) through South and Central America for attempted entry into the United States.¹⁰ While we have not yet seen any attempts by international terrorist groups to leverage these smuggling routes, we remain watchful for the potential threat of transnational criminal organizations collaborating to move terrorists through our AOR and into the United States.

⁹ Consejo Ciudadano para la Seguridad, Justicia y Paz Penal A.C. (Citizen Council for Public Security and Criminal Justice), Mexico, 2011.

¹⁰ The Department of Homeland Security defines SIAs as individuals from "Special Interest" countries, or countries that have some connection to international terrorism.

Additionally, the global illicit economy is underpinned by vast and intricate money laundering systems that are utilized by both criminals and terrorists alike, albeit to different ends. Understanding the complex financial flows of these networks can help the law enforcement, intelligence, and defense communities focus our efforts on groups engaging in activities that most directly threaten U.S. national security. We do see evidence of international terrorist groups benefitting from the intertwined systems of illicit trafficking and money laundering in our AOR; in South America, funding for Hizballah is raised through licit avenues, such as charitable donations, and illicit means, including trafficking in drugs, counterfeit, and pirated goods. In 2011, the U.S. Treasury Department identified the Lebanese Canadian Bank as a “primary money laundering concern” for its role in facilitating the money laundering activities of Ayman Joumaa and his Lebanon-based drug trafficking network, which also channeled financial support to Hizballah. Joumaa is also accused of smuggling U.S.-bound cocaine through Central America and Mexico and providing money laundering services to Los Zetas and numerous Colombian and Venezuelan suppliers.¹¹

Finally, the pernicious reach of transnational organized crime is exemplified by one word: *transnational*. The National Drug Intelligence Center assesses that Mexican-based transnational criminal organizations and their associates operate in upwards of 1,000 U.S. cities, working with domestic U.S. gangs to distribute and traffic illicit drugs throughout the United States.¹² Additionally, transnational gang activity in the United States is a growing concern for the FBI. MS-13 leaders in El Salvador manage five regional “programs” of cliques in cities such as Boston, Greensboro, Miami, and Dallas, and have authorized retaliatory actions against U.S. law enforcement personnel in the Virginia and Maryland areas, which fortunately did not come

¹¹ *United States of America v. Ayman Joumaa*. U.S. District Court for the Eastern Division of Virginia, November 3, 2011.

¹² National Drug Intelligence Center, *2011 National Drug Threat Assessment*.

to fruition. The deepening linkages between illicit trafficking inside the United States and transnational organized crime in our AOR are representative of the wide-reaching impact of this networked threat.

Regional Stability

In addition to the threat posed by transnational organized crime, the region is also vulnerable to humanitarian crises, mass migrations, and natural disasters. United States Southern Command remains a committed and responsive partner in foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts. To enhance partner nation preparedness, we strengthen the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR) capacities of regional militaries-through our multinational training exercises and security cooperation activities. Our efforts are yielding long-term dividends while also promoting the shared responsibility and costs of regional leadership in responding to catastrophes. Countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, and Colombia have demonstrated an increased capacity to respond to natural disasters without asking for U.S. or international aid, a testament in part to the effectiveness of our programs.

United States Southern Command is also watchful for potential geopolitical turbulence that could impact U.S. citizens and military personnel in the region, particularly in Cuba, Haiti, Bolivia, and Venezuela. Fidel Castro's leadership transition to his brother Raul is complete, but the long-term effects of the government's market reforms remain to be seen. Haiti, while making slow but steady progress, remains vulnerable to natural disasters and economic hardship. Public demonstrations in Bolivia related to wages, food prices, and energy shortages are likely to continue until the government addresses the underlying causes of social turmoil. In Venezuela,

uncertainties about President Chavez's health, continued economic instability, and escalating levels of violence are placing increasing demands on the Venezuelan government.

Violent Extremist Organizations and Influence of Iran

In addition to Hizballah supporters throughout South America, the region is home to a small number of violent extremist organizations. We remain vigilant for the potential radicalization of homegrown extremists. Sunni extremists, while small in number, are actively involved in the radicalization of converts and other Muslims; these efforts can be seen through the influence of public personalities like Jamaica's Shaykh Abdullah al-Faisal, who was convicted in the United Kingdom for inciting terrorism. Current Al-Qaeda senior operative Adnan el-Shukrijumah has held valid passports for the U.S. as well as Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, where he has family and associates. Despite the recent convictions in the 2007 plot to attack the John F. Kennedy International Airport, one alleged co-conspirator remains at large in Guyana.

In an attempt to circumvent international sanctions, Iran continues its overtures to the region and has succeeded in establishing modest economic, cultural, and security ties, mostly with nations aligned with the Bolivarian Alliance for the People of our Americas (ALBA), such as Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Cuba. Iran also propagates its agenda through its thirty-six Shi'a cultural centers. The *Fundación Cultural Oriente*—an Iranian outreach center dedicated to strengthening Iranian ties to Latin America—is run by the radical cleric Moshen Rabbani, currently on the Interpol Red List for involvement in the 1994 bombings of a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires. Rabbani oversees several media outlets and has recruited students from the region to study in Iran. We take Iranian activity in the hemisphere seriously

and we monitor its activities closely. The U.S. government's successful detection and thwarting of the plot to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States reinforces the importance of that monitoring and the effectiveness of U.S. countermeasures.

Russia and China in the Region

Russia and China also factor into the strategic environment in the region. Russia's outreach to the region is centered primarily on arms sales and expanding military ties. Russian weapons provide a low-cost alternative that is appealing to many nations in the region; in 2011, Venezuela became the largest importer of Russian arms in the world.¹³ Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru all have engaged in arms transfer agreements with Russia over the past few years, and the Latin American market represents a large and growing segment of global arms sales by Russia. Historically, Russia's strongest partnerships have been with Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, but its engagement efforts are expanding.

China's strategy vis-à-vis the region is based on expansion of trade and investment in commodities. Beijing has also increased its engagements in the military realm; Chinese arms sales to regional militaries have more than quadrupled in the past five years, while the frequency of high-level Chinese visits has also increased substantially. Currently, 18 countries in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean receive military training from China. In September 2011, the Chinese hospital ship "Peace Ark" embarked on its first-ever humanitarian mission to the Western Hemisphere, visiting Cuba, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Costa Rica and provided bilateral medical exchanges and assistance in each port visit. This type of endeavor is

¹³According to the Center for Analysis of World Arms Trade, in 2011 Venezuela purchased an unspecified number of T-72B1 tanks, BMP-3M infantry fighting vehicles, BTR-80A armored personnel carriers, Msta-S 152-mm self-propelled howitzers, Nona-SVK 120-mm self-propelled mortars, Grad multiple rocket launchers, and an assortment of other weaponry. In 2012, the country will begin production of AK-103 assault rifles.

consistent with China's declared intent to expand diplomatic, economic, and military relations in the region.¹⁴

United States Southern Command will continue to maintain and deepen our existing partnerships, while exploring avenues for future cooperation with key nations in the region. Throughout the world, U.S. military and defense partnerships are essential to ensuring national security, but nowhere more so than within our own hemisphere, which is comprised of nations that share the same interest in promoting regional and global stability, freedom, and prosperity. United States Southern Command is committed to being the security partner of choice for these nations. We demonstrate this commitment through our multinational training exercises, security cooperation activities, humanitarian assistance programs, and military-to-military engagements, all of which build strong security partnerships that help every nation meet the challenges of an uncertain and complex security environment.

Strategic Approach

Strengthening Our Partnerships

Building partnerships is the cornerstone of our strategic approach, ensuring the forward defense of the U.S. by promoting capable regional militaries that share in the responsibility of hemispheric security and stability. Our efforts are designed to strengthen and enhance the capacities of partner nations to respond to domestic and regional threats, both individually and collectively. We envision a hemisphere characterized by nations working together to address the emerging security challenges of the coming decade. United States Southern Command's modest budget and small footprint have encouraged us to embrace innovative, low-cost approaches to achieving our security objectives; annual exercises, rotational presence, and advisory roles are

¹⁴China's Policy Paper on Latin America and the Caribbean, 2008.

integral to our engagement with the region. Through our component commands, our efforts focus on strengthening the security capacity of regional militaries in support of civilian government-led efforts to counter transnational organized crime and illicit trafficking; respond effectively to natural and humanitarian disasters; contribute to global stability operations; and assist in our efforts to ensure a safe, secure, and stable region.

Countering Transnational Organized Crime (C-TOC)

Within our authorities, United States Southern Command is supporting the efforts of militaries throughout Central America that have been tasked by their civilian governments to assist in countering transnational organized crime. Our component command 12th Air Force (U.S. Air Forces Southern) began implementation of its successful Sovereign Skies Expansion Program (SSEP) with Air Forces in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. Working closely with United States Northern Command, the State Department, and the U.S. Embassies in Guatemala, Belize, and Mexico, we supported full implementation of our Border Security Initiative, providing targeted counter-narcotics training, equipment, and infrastructure to all three countries. Under this initiative, we facilitated the establishment of an Interagency Border Security Unit in Tecún Umán and a border checkpoint at El Carmen to increase land interdiction capabilities along the Guatemala-Mexico border. Further south on the Central American isthmus, we worked with the U.S. Embassy in San Jose to conduct training and checkpoint infrastructure improvements in Costa Rica to help address the flow of illicit traffic along the Pan-American Highway.

Executed by our component command U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, our multinational naval training exercise Southern Seas continues to yield positive results in

increased maritime domain surveillance and interdiction capabilities throughout our AOR. The 2011 Southern Seas included two multinational exercises conducted off the eastern and western coasts of South America. UNITAS Atlantic and UNITAS Pacific provided training on multinational naval interoperability, maritime interdiction operations, and naval special warfare. Over 4,000 participants from navies in the region participated in the 2011 UNITAS exercises in Brazil and Chile. Thanks in part to participation in our security cooperation activities, the Nicaraguan, Honduran, Salvadoran, Panamanian, and Colombian navies are contributing important interdiction capacities to JIATF South's ongoing operations. Capable militaries and security forces that help counter illicit trafficking act as force multipliers to regional efforts and are indicative of the long-term dividends of our training and exercise programs. Cocaine seizures in Colombia, particularly by the Colombian Navy, are among the highest in our AOR, while Brazil seized a record 115 tons of illegal drugs on their borders this year.

Our annual multinational exercises are also designed to improve interoperability and promote collaboration among participants, skills that can be employed at the regional level and in multinational operations. Held in El Salvador and executed by our component Special Operations Command South, this year's FUERZAS COMANDO helped improve the training, readiness, and capability of 250 Special Operations Force (SOF) soldiers and special police units. During the 2011 Southern Partnership Station exercise, U.S Naval Forces Southern Command deployed a High Speed Vessel (HSV) SWIFT team, which conducted engagements in five partner nations centered on medical, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and Maritime Civil Affairs (MCAST) discussions with partner nation counterparts.

Although we are focusing our current efforts in Central America, we recognize the interconnectedness and adaptability of transnational threats throughout the hemisphere.

Colombia and Peru remain top priorities; both countries are engaged in definitive campaigns to defeat the weakened terrorist threats within their borders. U.S. support to both nations remains important at this critical juncture. Due to its proximity to the United States and former role as the primary transit zone, the Caribbean remains vulnerable to exploitation by transnational organized crime. In support of the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), programs like Secure Seas and our multinational training exercises are improving maritime interdiction in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and throughout the Eastern Caribbean, providing an important preventative capacity each nation can use to enhance their security. Led by our component U.S. Marine Corps Forces South, over 1,000 military personnel from the Caribbean and the United States participated in our 2011 TRADEWINDS exercise, which focused on improving maritime interdiction and ground security skills at the tactical and operational levels.

Promoting Regional Stability and HA/DR Capacity

As demonstrated by our support to the U.S. response effort after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, United States Southern Command possesses unique capabilities to respond to natural disasters. These capabilities provide critical support to lead federal agencies in disaster response efforts and ensure that we remain prepared to conduct non-combatant evacuation operations for American citizens in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean, if necessary. We also stand ready to bolster the efforts of regional militaries to provide support to civilian authorities in foreign HA/DR events. During 2011, we made significant progress advancing a framework for military support to civilian-led disaster relief operations, using the computer-networking tool *All Partners Access Network* (APAN) as a potential standardized technology platform to facilitate collaboration among regional militaries during disaster response efforts. We also continued development on our Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) initiative,

promoting increased disaster resilience and response capability in the eighteen Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nations.

In 2011, United States Southern Command also engaged with our partners through several complementary activities: our Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP), disaster preparedness projects, and annual humanitarian assistance exercises. This past year we completed 255 HAP projects in 28 countries in our AOR, constructing disaster response warehouses, wells, potable water systems, and emergency operations centers. We also executed 22 low-cost projects designed to increase disaster preparedness in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Dominica, Haiti, St. Kitts, and Suriname. In conjunction with these projects, we provided training to first responders and disaster response managers, imparting a critical skill that can be employed long after our forces have left the country. Held in Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala and led by our component U.S. Army South, the 2011 FUERZAS ALIADAS HUMANITARIAS exercise brought together more than 480 participants from regional militaries, civilian disaster management agencies, and first responders to provide field training in disaster relief and recovery efforts. Of note, our cost-effective HAP program has attracted funding from the international community; the Inter-American Development Bank has pledged to incorporate the sustainment of eight HAP schools being built in 2012 into its \$50 million grant package that supports public and primary education in Haiti.

Our Continuing Promise humanitarian mission continues to foster goodwill and demonstrate core U.S. values. In 2011, the USNS Comfort visited nine countries in the region, providing invaluable training to U.S. service men and women and partner nation personnel while also providing free medical care and civic assistance to communities throughout our AOR. During the 2011 mission, the 850-person crew—comprised of U.S. service members, civilians,

volunteers from non-governmental organizations, and members of partner nation militaries—treated approximately 70,000 patients, performed more than 1,000 surgeries, and conducted 16 engineering projects in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Peru, and Haiti.

Our component U.S Army South led the 2011 humanitarian civic assistance exercises BEYOND THE HORIZON and NEW HORIZONS in El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, while 12th Air Force (U.S Air Forces South) executed the 2011 NEW HORIZONS in Suriname. An integral part of these missions, our medical readiness training exercises (MEDRETEs) resulted in the treatment of 85,364 patients and provided training opportunities to more than 6,000 U.S. Reserve Component and active forces and 250 partner nation personnel, while also bolstering partner nation state presence in rural, often under-governed areas. As our only forward operating location, Joint Task Force Bravo (JTF-B) supports immediate response to HA/DR events and DEA-led counter-drug operations. In 2011, U.S. medical forces stationed at JTF-Bravo treated 20,257 patients throughout Central America and assisted with transporting food and supplies to local schools and orphanages in Honduras. Although small in force size, JTF-Bravo serves as a tangible representation of U.S. values and of our steadfast commitment to the region.

Promoting Shared Responsibility

Our security cooperation activities and military-to-military engagements by United States Southern Command and our components have helped increase security across the entire region and helped promote shared responsibility for hemispheric security. For example, during the Sovereign Skies program, our component 12th Air Force (U.S. Air Forces Southern) provided

training and conducted interoperability exercises with the Dominican Republic Air Force to increase illicit air interdiction capacity in the Caribbean. This training—in conjunction with the country’s purchase of Brazilian A-29 Super Tucano aircraft and Italian radars—helped reduce illicit air tracks into the Dominican Republic from over one hundred per year to almost zero. Led by U.S. Army South, PANAMAX focuses on the cooperative defense of the Panama Canal. PANAMAX is one of our oldest multinational exercises, growing from two participating nations in 2003 to over seventeen this year. Colombia’s participation culminated by leading the Combined Forces Land Component Command in 2011. This remarkable achievement is a testament to Colombia’s success in regaining security and the importance of ongoing U.S. engagement with Colombia, which is yielding enormous dividends in other areas. Colombia is now a leading provider of bilateral security assistance and a regional partner in security operations throughout Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

Our engagement with regional militaries also includes training for peacekeeping operations in support of multinational peace and stability efforts. We execute the Department of State’s Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI) to build the peacekeeping capacity of 11 participating partners. In support of this objective, our components U.S. Marine Corps Forces South and U.S. Army South conduct two annual training exercises, PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS and PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AMERICAS (PKO-A). The GPOI program and our exercises provide the opportunity for our partners to sustain capacity to support United Nations peace support operations. Countries in our AOR contribute nearly 8,000 personnel to peace support and stability operations throughout the world, including critical and ongoing support to the U.N. Missions in Haiti, Lebanon, and the Sudan. We are also seeing GPOI-funded countries exporting their peace support training; in 2011, a GPOI-funded Peruvian Military

Mobile Training Team provided training to the El Salvadoran military in support of its deployment to the U.N. Mission in Lebanon.

We engage with regional militaries through our educational and academic institutes: the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS). We also utilize the International Military Education and Training (IMET) program to achieve our objectives for regional military engagement. I want to thank Congress for its continued support for these important programs, which build enduring relationships between future military leaders in the region and the United States and promote positive relations between partner nations. We further expand on these relationships through our engagements with senior defense leaders throughout our AOR. Our component command U.S. Army South supported the 2011 Central American Regional Army Leaders Conference, bringing the Guatemalan, Honduran, Salvadoran, and Nicaraguan Army Commanders together for the first time to discuss shared security concerns related to transnational organized crime. U.S. Marine Corps Forces South's 2011 Marine Leaders and Senior Enlisted Leaders Conferences helped enhance relations between the Marine Corps and Naval Infantries in North, Central, and South America, while 12th Air Force's (U.S. Air Forces Southern) support to the 2011 System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA) brought together representatives from 13 member nation Air Forces in the Western Hemisphere to discuss opportunities for mutual cooperation.

As we look to future engagements, United States Southern Command is working with the armed forces of other willing nations, such as Colombia, Chile, and Brazil, to enhance security throughout the Western Hemisphere. Colombia is providing training to military personnel in its

Regional Training Center¹⁵ and to over 2,000 police officers in Central America. In 2011, the Colombian Air Force began working with its Honduran counterparts to interdict illicit air traffic and expand intelligence sharing. In support of the 2011 Central American Integration Secretariat's (SICA) Donors Conference, Chile offered to share its naval expertise in securing its maritime domain with Central American militaries and security forces. In 2011, Brazil played a pivotal role in facilitating improved trilateral counterdrug efforts with Bolivia and the United States, and we hope to expand and deepen this kind of cooperation in the coming year.

Our engagement efforts also extend to the private sector and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Many NGOs have their own active programs in the region and can lend unique capabilities and expanded resources to complement our engagement initiatives. United States Southern Command championed public-private cooperation during Operation Unified Response (OUR), and this type of collaboration can yield enormous benefits for U.S. departments and interagency, and our partner nations. In 2011 our business engagement team facilitated support from a multinational corporation to a local U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) project in Honduras and coordinated the donation of \$20 million worth of pharmaceuticals from NGOs to clinics and hospitals in Honduras, Guatemala, Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, helping strengthen partner nation state presence in under-governed areas. The cumulative result of this type of engagement—along with our ongoing exercises and security cooperation activities—is a region comprised of nations, militaries, and citizens that are willing and able to share in the responsibility of ensuring hemispheric security and stability.

¹⁵ Under the U.S. OH-58 helicopter initiative, the Rotary Wing Entry Training Center in Melgar, Colombia is currently training 24 Mexican pilots per year, enhancing efforts in the AORs of both United States Southern Command and United States Northern Command.

Ensuring the Safe, Humane, and Transparent Care and Custody of Detainees

As part of our strategic objective to defend the United States, United States Southern Command also remains committed to providing a safe, humane, and transparent detention center at U.S. Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for detainees and prisoners in U.S. military custody there. In accordance with guidance from the Secretary of Defense, United States Southern Command will continue operations at Joint Task Force-Guantanamo until such time as directed otherwise. We will also continue to support the transfer of those detainees who are approved for transfer to their country of origin for repatriation or third-countries for resettlement, consistent with applicable U.S. laws and reporting requirements. Joint Task Force-Guantanamo and United States Southern Command routinely meet with International Committee of the Red Cross representatives to discuss their observations following regular visits to the detention facilities. Additionally, coverage of the 2011 arraignment of Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri was broadcast via closed circuit television in selected sites in Norfolk and the Washington DC areas, enhancing the transparency of military commission proceedings at Joint Task Force-Guantanamo.

Looking to the Future

Strategic Priorities

In the immediate future, we will focus our efforts on strengthening the security capacities of our partners in Central America. As the lead U.S. agency responsible for directing illicit trafficking detection and monitoring activities, we are undertaking operational and tactical activity in support of whole-of-government efforts to counter transnational organized crime in the maritime approaches to Central America. On January 15th, within our existing resources, we

began OPERATION MARTILLO, a joint, interagency, and combined operation led by United States Southern Command and JIATF South and coordinated with partner nation assets on patrol or alert. This persistent operation aims to disrupt maritime illicit trafficking along the Central American littorals. We recognize that the effects of OPERATION MARTILLO can be amplified by aligning our air and maritime focus with complementary land law enforcement activities conducted by partner nations; as such, we have coordinated our activities with the Central American governments and international donors to maximize all possible means for supporting this effort.

While we work to achieve our strategic objectives in the long-term, the challenge for United States Southern Command is to find creative ways to enhance interagency, public-private, and partner nation cooperation as we plan, train, and operate with regional militaries to address the predominant security concerns in the region. The intricately networked, globalized nature of transnational organized crime signifies that no one country or agency can solve this problem alone; collaboration with partner nations and across the U.S. government will be essential to successfully mitigate this threat. Our goal is to support partner nation and U.S. government efforts to improve citizen safety by reducing the threat of transnational organized crime from a national and regional security threat to a public safety problem.

We expect militaries in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador will continue to be called upon to play an important role in domestic security matters in the coming years, given the increasing threat to citizen security and the numerous challenges facing regional law enforcement institutions, which are under-resourced, poorly trained and equipped, and prone to corruption. While we recognize this is a necessary initial step to help curb the rising tide of violence, we also recognize that this approach is unsustainable in the long term; strengthening

civilian law enforcement institutions is critical, and we will support the Department of State as the lead agency in this endeavor. As militaries continue to take on internal security responsibilities, our Human Rights Initiative will remain a critical mission set. Through this program, we will continue to support partner nation military and security forces in instituting human rights training; revising policies and regulations to include human rights principles; strengthening internal control mechanisms; and improving cooperation with civilian authorities and civil society.

To address the growing threat of transnational organized crime, United States Southern Command has shifted its approach towards a more holistic strategy that will help us prioritize programs, streamline activities, and integrate our efforts across the U.S. interagency. While our primary focus will remain strengthening partnerships to enable effective regional security, we will also support and contribute to the disruption of illicit trafficking; the dismantling of transnational organized crime networks; and the fostering of alternatives to criminal influence in under-governed areas. Our efforts complement both the *National Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime* and the citizen safety goals of CARSI and CBSI. The key concept in our strategy is *support*. With the exception of fulfilling our statutory responsibility as the lead agency for detection and monitoring of aerial and maritime transit of illegal drugs, the Department of Defense plays a supporting role in all counter-narcotics and related efforts.

Enhanced support is only one part of our refined approach; we are also examining how to use our capacities in network analysis and operational planning to maximize U.S. government and partner nation efforts throughout the region. We are working with the U.S. interagency to support a more effective integration of effort, improving the alignment of our operations, exercises, and initiatives with those of United States Northern Command, the Department of

State, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Department of Homeland Security, USAID, and others. United States Southern Command will continue to support the Department of State as it leads the effort to integrate U.S. security initiatives with SICA's regional security strategy, which incorporates assistance offered by donor nations like Canada, Spain, and Chile and organizations like the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the World Bank. We will also sustain our support to Colombia and Peru, countries that are fighting narco-terrorist groups whose illicit trafficking activities extend throughout the hemisphere. Finally, in close coordination with the Regional Security System (RSS), CARICOM, and Caribbean nations, we will continue to play an active role in developing a regional maritime interdiction plan in the Caribbean.

Resources and Requirements

We recognize difficult adjustments will be required as we enter into an era of fiscal austerity. The emerging security threats in our AOR, however, necessitate that we remain engaged with militaries in the region. Historical events in our AOR have demonstrated that investing in early and routine engagement activities can avoid exponentially larger expenditures in the future. We firmly believe that building, maintaining, and sustaining capable security partners is a wise investment to hedge against future security challenges and guarantee the long-term stability of the Western Hemisphere. The new *Defense Strategic Guidance* recognizes our approach as the model for the future. As the Department of Defense prioritizes resources across the Joint Forces, we will look to share the "best practices" of our agile, small-footprint approach to building partner capacity and promoting the layered defense of the United States.

As we look to the future, United States Southern Command is exploring ways to improve our flexibility to address the problems facing Central America, including an examination of the authorities available to the Department of Defense; how we can better support the U.S. interagency; and our engagement with the Guatemalan military, which remains limited by restrictions on U.S. security assistance. In 2011, Guatemala took important steps to address past human rights violations through release of key documents pertaining to the country's civil conflict and continues to make progress on enforcing the rule of law and respecting human rights. United States Southern Command supports efforts by the Department of State and Congress to find a constructive way forward to improve the human rights situation in Guatemala and address the existing restrictions that prevent full support to the Guatemalan military.

Budget Considerations

In 2011, United States Southern Command took proactive steps to identify and enact cost-saving measures. Having improved the command's organizational structure during our 2010 reorganization, this year we conducted a manpower analysis to further align resources and functions. As directed by the Secretary of Defense, United States Southern Command eliminated the Standing Joint Force Headquarters and froze Department of Defense civilian senior executives, general, and flag officer positions at 2010 levels. We also applied reductions in areas such as: reduction of support to Operation Southern Voice; reduction or adjustments to annual foreign military interaction exercises; and reduction in discretionary travel. We have also reduced activities in certain lower-priority portfolios and revamped our internal business practices to better manage resources.

While we are committed to enacting cost-saving mechanisms, reducing duplication, and improving the accountability and cost-effectiveness of our programs, we remain committed to

our most important resource: our people. As a joint command, United States Southern Command supports the needs of our Army, Marine, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard service members, their families, as well as our civilians. In 2011, we took measures to extend our survivor outreach program to the families of the more than 100 service members from South Florida who have died in the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. Many of these survivors live hundreds of miles away from the nearest long-term survivor program for their particular supporting Service. United States Southern Command is working with the Service Casualty Chiefs to establish an agreement to allow our survivor outreach coordinator to offer long-term support to all the families of fallen heroes in South Florida, regardless of Service affiliation. I am proud of this effort and I believe it embodies the truly joint nature of our command.

Conclusion

This will very likely be my last opportunity to testify before you in my current capacity. Over the last three years, it has been my great honor to serve with the men and women of United States Southern Command. It has also been a distinct privilege to serve with the dedicated and capable leaders of Central and South America and the Caribbean. My time at United States Southern Command brought me back to the region I left almost 41 years ago. Returning reinforced my belief in the importance of the region: the role it plays for the security of the United States and the critical need to remain engaged with our military partners. I also believe strongly in the importance of expanding interagency, regional, and multilateral efforts to address transnational security concerns, and in the value of being prepared to support disaster relief efforts.

As I finish my tenure at United States Southern Command, I want to thank the Congress and the distinguished members of this committee, especially Senator Levin and McCain, for your

continued support to our men and women in uniform. Our armed forces remain strong and capable because of your leadership, your focus, and your commitment to ensuring they remain the best armed forces in the world. My parting request to the members of Congress is to sustain the unmatched capability of our armed forces, continue to support the incredibly dedicated, imaginative, flexible, and wonderful men and women in our armed forces, and keep faith with our veterans and their families. Thank you.

2011 Component Accomplishments (Annex)

U.S. Army South Headquarters: San Antonio, Texas Major 2011 Accomplishments

- **U.S. Army South** conducted 128 security cooperation events in 17 countries in United States Southern Command's AOR.
- **Central American Regional Army Leaders Conference:** In March 2011, U.S. Army South executed the Central American Regional Army Leaders Conference bringing together the senior Army commanders from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua to discuss emerging threats in the sub-region.
- **PANAMAX 2011:** a joint and combined operational exercise focused on defending the Panama Canal and Central America by a multi-national joint task force, as well as building disaster and pandemic outbreak response capabilities of 17 participating partner nations.
- **FUERZAS ALIADAS HUMANITARIAS:** regionally-oriented humanitarian assistance/foreign disaster relief (HA/FDR) exercise that brings together partner nation and U.S. military units, civilian disaster management agencies, and local first responder. This year's exercise was held in Trinidad and Tobago, with 640 participants from 27 nations.
- **PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS AMERICAS:** PKO-A provides training in international stability and peace operations, in support of the United Nations and the Conference of the American Armies doctrine and procedures. This year's exercise was held in Brazil and Chile, with 244 participants from 16 nations.

U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command Headquarters: Mayport, Florida Major 2011 Accomplishments

- **Continuing Promise 2011:** USNS COMFORT (T-AH 20) brought medical, dental, veterinary, engineering and civic action programs to nine partner nations during the annual deployment designed to promote partnerships and goodwill. The COMFORT Team treated 67,897 patients and performed 1,130 surgeries.
- **Southern Partnership Station 2011:** Southern Partnership Station (SPS) is a series of Navy deployments focused on Theater Security Cooperation (TSC), specifically subject matter expert exchanges with partner nation militaries and civilian security forces.
 - **HSV SWIFT Southern Partnership Station 2011:** The High Speed Vessel (HSV) SWIFT (HSV 2) deployed to United States Southern Command's AOR during Southern Partnership Station 2011. During HSV SPS 2011, the SWIFT Team conducted engagements in five partner nations, and included medical, Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), Maritime Civil Affairs (MCAST), and U.S. Marines expert exchanges with partner nation counterparts. SWIFT Seabees completed small-scale construction/refurbishment projects. The SWIFT

Team also delivered Project Handclasp Gifts-in-Kind during COMREL Projects, and made a special delivery of relief materials to Port Au Prince, Haiti.

- **Amphibious Southern Partnership Station 2011:** USS GUNSTON HALL (LSD 44) conducted AMPHIB SPS 2011 from January to March 2011. USS GUNSTON HALL's deployment featured an embarked U.S. Marine Corps Security Cooperation Task Force that completed afloat and ashore engagements in three partner nations.
- **Southern Seas 2011:** This year's Southern Seas included the following exercises: UNITAS ATLANTIC and UNITAS PACIFIC. USS THACH (FFG 43) and USS BOONE (FFG 28) circumnavigated the South American continent to conduct a variety of exercises and multinational exchanges to enhance interoperability, increase regional stability, and build and maintain regional relationships with partner nations.

**Marine Corps Forces South
Headquarters: Doral, Florida
Major 2011 Accomplishments**

- **Marine Corps Forces South** conducted 65 Security Cooperation events in 19 countries in United States Southern Command's AOR.
- **TRADEWINDS:** exercise designed to improve coordination and interoperability of participating Caribbean nations to respond to transnational threats, emphasizing maritime interdiction and ground security skills at the tactical and operational levels. Held in Antigua and Barbuda, with 1,000 participants from 19 countries.
- **PARTNERSHIP OF THE AMERICAS:** table-top exercise conducted in Miami with 8 partner nations, focusing on interoperability and collaboration in peace support operations.
- **CD/CN Mobile Training Team Deployments:** provided training throughout the AOR to partner nation counterdrug and counter narco-terrorism forces to increase interdiction capacities.
- **USMC SPMAGTF:** supported the 2011 CONTINUING PROMISE mission aboard the USS IWO JIMA, demonstrating U.S. commitment and values to the region and providing unique seas based capabilities.
- **MARINE LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE (MLAC):** The Commandant, USMC and the Commandant, Peruvian Fuerzas Infaterias de Marina co-hosted this year's MLAC in Miraflores, Lima, Peru. 15 partner nations attended the conference, which focused on the role of regional Marine Corps/Naval Infantries in confronting shared security challenges in the region.

12th Air Force (Air Forces Southern)
Headquarters: Tucson, Arizona
Major 2011 Accomplishments

- **PANAMAX 2011:** Successfully trained/integrated partner nation air planners into division processes and pushed 9 ATOs/ACOs with a total of 1,166 missions (1,462 sorties). During PANAMAX 2011, 12th Air Force integrated the first-ever Dynamic Targeting Cell, prosecuting 8 time-sensitive targets and providing collateral damage estimate calls and weaponeering solutions.
- **ISR Missions:** Provided C2 for 900+ ISR missions in support of United States Southern Command's priorities; over 7,000 images, 800+ hours of signals intelligence. As a result, over 126,000 lbs (\$1 billion worth) of drugs and weapons were seized, and two high-value narco-terrorists killed in action.
- **Airlift Missions:** Executed 116 theater airlift missions moving 4,489 passengers and 730 tons of cargo throughout United States Southern Command's AOR.
- **Medical Deployments:** 12th Air Force planned and executed 12 Medical Deployment for Training Exercises in United States Southern Command's AOR in 2011, treating 51,495 patients. All provided increased readiness of U.S Forces and improved the capability of regional partners to conduct combined operations.
- **UNITAS PACIFIC:** Through its MEDRETEs during the 2011 UNITAS PAC, 12th Air Force helped strengthen ties with the Peru Ministry of Health, the Peruvian Navy, and Ministry of Defense, as well as with the local communities of the Alto Amazonas region. 12th Air Force medical teams treated 4,303 patients during this exercise.
- **NEW HORIZONS:** A field training exercise that trained 550 participating U.S. Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve military engineer, medical, and support forces. This year's exercise provided humanitarian and civic assistance to rural areas in Suriname, resulting in the construction of schools and medical clinics.
- **Sovereign Skies Expansion Program:** 12th Air Force applied to successful lessons learned from Dominican Republic and Colombia programs to develop air force capabilities, such as helicopter maintenance and operations, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, in Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. 12th Air Force also conducted an integrated air sovereignty study of these four countries and sent the Mobility Support Advisory Squadron (MSAS) to Honduras for a proof of concept activity.
- **Air Mobility Support:** Air Mobility Command stood up the 571st Mobility Support Advisor Squadron, consisting of 4 teams and 25 specialties, to address air mobility and airfield support needs, and to facilitate the training and interface with the 6SOS for spin-up training.

**U.S. Special Operations Command South
Headquarters: Homestead, Florida
Major 2011 Accomplishments**

- **FUERZAS COMMANDO:** a multinational exercise designed to improve the training, readiness, interoperability and capability of regional Special Operations Forces (SOF) in the tactics, techniques, and procedures used to prosecute Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO). This year's FUERZAS COMANDO was held in El Salvador, with 250 participants from 19 partner nations.
- **FUSED RESPONSE 2011:** Exercise validating existing crisis response capabilities and helped reveal areas requiring further improvement. This year's FUSED RESPONSE was held in the Dominican Republic.
- **Logistics Training and Advisory Team (LTAT):** U.S. Special Operations Command South synchronized efforts with U.S. Special Operations Command, U.S. Army Special Operations Command, and U.S. Army South to increase Partner Nation Special Forces' logistics capacity, with the goal of continued sustainment.
- **Intelligence analytical support to U.S. Country Teams:** U.S. Special Operations Command South analysts supported 7 US Country Teams focusing on terrorism, human smuggling networks, and transnational organized crime. The unclassified results culminated with three Pakistani citizens pleaded guilty in the District of Columbia to conspiracy to provide material support to the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP); -one Colombian hostage rescued; and transnational criminal organizations exploited.

**Joint Interagency Task Force South
Headquarters: Key West, Florida
Major 2011 Accomplishments**

- **Seizures / Disruptions (CY2011)—119 MT of Cocaine:** Facing the consistently mounting challenge of operating in an austere asset environment, JIATF South supported the disruption of 119MTs of cocaine resulting in the arrest of 355 traffickers and the seizure of 70 aircraft and vessels. This amount of cocaine represents \$7.1 billion in gross profit denied to transnational criminal organizations operating in the JIATF South Joint Operating Area. Stated another way, in CY2011, JIATFS supported the disruption of nearly twelve lethal doses of cocaine for every high-schooled aged American child.
- **Operation Martillo:** JIATF South planned, coordinated and synchronized the major elements of Operation Martillo. The operation is currently being executed under JIATF South leadership and supports a whole-of-government approach to countering the spread of transnational organized crime in Central America by denying the use of the Central American littorals as transshipment routes for illicit drugs, weapons, people and bulk cash. The operation is designed to foster capacity building to enable partner nation successes within their own sovereign responsibilities. The desired strategic effects are to enhance regional stability and to reduce the flow of cocaine ultimately destined for the United States.
- **Command and Control:** Under JIATF South Tactical Control, 17,710 aircraft flight hours and 2,548 ship days were executed without mishap. While this is a significant decrease in asset support from previous years, effective and efficient planning resulted in

the successes shown above. This year saw first ever deployments of the JSTARS aircraft to the JIATF South Joint Operating Area, which proved to be a “game changer” with respect to achieving Maritime and Air Domain Awareness.

Joint Task Force Bravo
Headquarters: Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras
Major 2011 Accomplishments

- Conducted 15 MEDRETEs, resulting in the treatment of 20,257 patients throughout Central America.
- JTF-Bravo received 7,000+ pounds of food and supplies on military aircraft cargo under the Denton Program, which was made available to NGOs for delivery to local families.
- JTF-Bravo received food, shoes and clothing on military aircraft cargo under the Denton Program, which was made available to NGOs for donation to approximately 800 children in five orphanages near Soto Cano Air Base.
- JTF-Bravo received 70,000 pounds of cargo, to include 460 wheelchairs and \$9,000 in equipment on military aircraft cargo under the Denton Program, which was made available to NGOs for donation to remote locations.
- JTF-Bravo received 5,000 backpacks on military aircraft cargo under the Denton Program, which was made available to NGOs for delivery to children from Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras.

Joint Task Force Guantanamo
Headquarters: Guantanamo Bay, Cuba
Major 2011 Accomplishments

- **Safe and Humane Care and Custody:** Most detainees have been moved from expeditionary camps to more modern Camps V and VI. Detainees in camp VI are allowed communal living arrangements, improving social interaction and overall well-being. Outdoor recreation areas have been expanded, and library holdings increased to 25,000 items. Educational course offerings have been broadened in scope and frequency, and videophone conferences have been made available to the detainees.
- **Legal and Transparent Operations:** Continued quarterly assessments by the International Committee of the Red Cross, who have verified compliance with international standards of custody as specified in the Geneva Convention. Detainees are granted routine visits by legal representatives, having received more than 4,500 Commissions and Habeas attorney visits since 2007. A dedicated effort is ongoing to increase visibility of the conduct of Guantanamo Bay detention operations, by having hosted more than 1,166 visitors and 100 media representatives from 70 domestic and international news organizations over the past year.
- **Military Commissions:** In March 2011, the Obama administration announced that military commissions would resume at Guantanamo Bay. Military commission proceedings are open to observation from the media, non-governmental organizations, and victim family members.