



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



May 13, 2010

U.S. 4th Fleet Executing Global Operations

“Recent missions executed within 4th Fleet’s area of responsibility, to include Operation Unified Response and the LCS Freedom maiden deployment, illustrate the significance of building trust and fostering relationships with our partner navies. Our partnerships continue to strengthen and are critical to the security of our maritime interests ashore and at sea. Partnerships are vital to the safety and stability of an uncertain world now and in the future.”

- Rear Adm. Vic Guillory, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command / U.S. 4th Fleet

Sea Control

- [Southern Seas 2010](#) is an annual naval task group deployment, led by Destroyer Squadron 40, which serves to enhance interoperability in order to increase regional stability. [USS Carl Vinson](#) (CVN 70) participated in Southern Seas 2010, allowing for several theater security cooperation engagements, aerial demonstrations and joint exercises with South American navy partners.

Maritime Security

- [UNITAS](#) is an annual [multinational naval exercise](#) to enhance interoperability with regional navies. The exercise trains units to work as a multinational force countering asymmetric threats.

Forward Presence

- Southern Partnership Station’s (SPS) mission is to conduct [cooperative operations](#) and engagements through tailored and adaptive packages with regional partners. USNS Henson (T-AGS 63) conducted the first Oceanographic-Southern Partnership Station 2010 deployment with the Colombian and Brazilian navies. HSV 2 Swift, USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51), and USS New Orleans (LPD 18) will support the remaining 2010 SPS activities.

Deterrence

- 4th Fleet assigns U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines on routine deployments to the area of focus in support of [counter-illicit trafficking \(CIT\) operations](#), which involve the detection, monitoring, tracking and interdiction of suspected illicit traffickers.
- During its accelerated operational deployment, [USS Freedom \(LCS 1\)](#) conducted three drug seizures and recovered three tons of cocaine in the 4th Fleet area of responsibility.
- A [MQ-8B Fire Scout Vertical Take-off and Landing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle \(VTUAV\)](#) supported its first drug interdiction with USS McInerney (FFG 8) and a U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment.

Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response

- Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 is deployed to support the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission for Operation Unified Response in Haiti.

Building Maritime Partnerships

- Naval Oceanographic Office deployed a compact hydrographic airborne rapid total survey (CHARTS) team in support of U.S. Southern Command’s oceanographic, hydrographic and bathymetric requirements, and the CNO’s global maritime partnership initiative. The team diverted to Haiti and flew 90 missions, making the first assessment of Port-Au-Prince facilities. Additionally, the team surveyed nearly 700 square miles of ocean off Mosquito Cays, Nicaragua.

Key Messages

- The United States, Latin America and the Caribbean share common interests.
- Regional challenges require cooperative solutions.
- U.S. Navy, U.S. Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet are committed to lasting partnerships in the Americas.

Facts & Figures

- As of May 10, there are 1,104 Sailors in the 4th Fleet area of responsibility.
- USNS Henson conducted the first Oceanographic-Southern Partnership Station.
- USS Freedom and a MQ-8B Fire Scout seized more than three tons of cocaine during CIT operations.