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Partnership of the Americas 2008

“This POA deployment operationalizes the Maritime Strategy and Naval Operations Concept. It affords us unique opportunities to build steadfast partnerships with other nations which, together with us, call this hemisphere home – and which face common threats to maritime security with a cooperative coalition that is a unifying force for global prosperity and peace.”

– Rear Adm. Philip Cullom, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Eight

Partnership of the Americas 2008 (POA 2008) is a six-month deployment from April – October throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America. POA 2008 is the third such deployment and emphasizes interoperability and cooperation between U.S. and partner nations’ maritime forces through a variety of exercises and events.

The goals of POA 2008

During POA, forces will participate in a series of Theater Security Cooperation events as they circumnavigate South America, including military-to-military cooperation, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, combined training, exercises and operations and maritime security.

- Combined training will address a variety of mission areas; emphasizing multinational operations and the countering of unconventional threats such as narco-terrorism/trafficking, piracy and fisheries violations.
- POA 2008 aims to create bonds across cultures and foster friendship and understanding among the nations.
- By training with South American counterparts, we learn from each other, sharing our best practices and proving our collective reliability for addressing hemispheric maritime challenges.

U.S. forces participating in POA 2008

Maritime assets include USS George Washington, Carrier Strike Group Eight, Carrier Air Wing 17, Destroyer Squadron 40, USS Farragut, USS Forrest Sherman, USS Kauffman, USS Boone, USCGC Northland, a detachment of 24th Marines and USCG Aircrewmen.

Major planned events include three phases and two exercises

POA 2008’s planned events will enhance SOUTHCOM maritime security and readiness by improving maritime situational awareness. In turn, awareness improves velocity of commerce and counters unconventional threats.

- UNITAS Atlantic & Pacific – Two annual maritime scenario training exercises aimed at innovatively enhancing security cooperation and improving coalition operations.
- Silent Forces – An annual Peruvian-administered multinational undersea warfare-focused exercise.
- FA (Fuerzas Aliadas) PANAMAX – An annual multinational exercise focused on the defense of the Panama Canal.

Key Messages

- Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States share common interests. Multinational maritime engagements like POA foster friendly, mutual cooperation and understanding.
- Regional challenges require cooperative solutions.
- Maritime partnerships are key to security and stability of the world’s oceans. POA puts words into action.
- We cannot surge trust. Only by working and communicating with our partners now can we hope to have the relationships needed in event of a crisis requiring multinational effort.

Facts & Figures

- POA 2008 includes two months of participation by USS George Washington, in transit to its new homeport in Japan.
- Last year, a task force of four ships, including a Chilean Navy frigate, deployed for POA.
- More than 5,700 U.S. Sailors and thousands of host nation citizens will gain new understanding of each other’s culture and people.
- Chilean ship Riveros will be an integral part of the CSG during the Pacific phase of POA.