



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



December 2, 2008

## Continuing Promise 2008 Caribbean Phase

*"There is a warship in Bilwi [Nicaragua], but with medical aid. The ships from the U.S. are coming to help the people, and we have to sincerely express our gratitude."*

– Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, as reported in Inter Press Service, Aug. 20, 2008

[Continuing Promise 2008 \(CP08\)](#), a humanitarian civic assistance mission in direct support of the Maritime Strategy, drew to a close Dec. 2. During CP08, which began in August 2008, the amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) provided humanitarian civic assistance and disaster response to Nicaragua, Colombia, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana. CP08 is a collaborative effort between the U.S., partner militaries, host nations, non-governmental organizations (NGO) and partner-nation support organizations. The mission, planned and coordinated by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. Fourth Fleet, builds strong partnerships and demonstrates the goodwill and commitment of the U.S. in the Caribbean, Central and South American region.

### Committed to Working Together with Friends, Partner and Neighbors

- CP08 rapidly responded to a request to support international disaster response operations in Haiti following a succession of devastating storms. The valuable experiences provided through CP08 for medical and engineering personnel, including the opportunity to learn from and train with regional experts, contributed to the ability of the Continuing Promise team to support disaster response efforts.
- The U.S. Navy executed CP08 to provide the type and level of care needed to assist the people of the region and build on the partnerships gained during USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) and USS Boxer (LHD 4) visits to the region for CP07 and CP08 Pacific Phase.

### Committed to Regional Peace and Stability in the Caribbean, Central and South American Region

- The relationships built and sustained with our multinational partners in the region through exercises and professional and military exchanges help in humanitarian efforts and preserve peace and stability in the region.
- The CP08 deployment to the Caribbean, Central and South America exemplifies the longstanding ties between the U.S. and the Caribbean and Latin American nations, as well as our continued commitment to work together to address mutual issues and concerns.
- The U.S. military is flexible and maintains readiness to respond rapidly to a wide range of situation.

### Sustaining Cooperative Relationships with our Partners

- Medical and engineering professionals from the partner and host nations of Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Guyana, Haiti, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Trinidad & Tobago and Spain served on the Continuing Promise team.
- Members from three NGOs, including Operation Smile, International Aid and Project Hope, also worked on the team.

### Key Messages

- In partnership with Caribbean, Central and South American nations, USS Kearsarge conducted medical, dental, ophthalmological, veterinary and civic action programs both ashore and afloat.
- Continuing Promise 08 proved a collaborative effort with partner nations and non-governmental organizations in executing the Maritime Strategy.
- The Continuing Promise team worked together with our friends, partners, and the regional community to support the host nation efforts to help the people of the region.

### Facts & Figures

- Total patients triaged: 47,043
- Total surgeries conducted: 217
- Dental patients: 4,629
- Animals treated: 5,672
- Construction projects: 22 projects ranging from minor renovations of facilities to building new schools
- Community Relations: 24 projects
- USS Kearsarge Continuing Promise 2008 photo gallery is available at:  
[http://www.navy.mil/view\\_gallery.asp?category\\_id=111](http://www.navy.mil/view_gallery.asp?category_id=111) or  
[http://www.navy.mil/view\\_gallery.asp?category\\_id=114](http://www.navy.mil/view_gallery.asp?category_id=114)