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Southern Partnership Station... Expanding Maritime Partnerships

"Southern Partnership Station provides an excellent opportunity to facilitate cooperation, interaction and communication between regional partners' civil and maritime services. Working together alongside our partner nations, sharing knowledge and experiences through joint, multinational and interagency exchanges will help to build strong relationships, improve interoperability and enhance regional maritime security."

– Rear Adm. Joseph D. Kernan, Commander, U.S. Naval forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet

High Speed Vessel (HSV) 2 Swift is deployed to U.S. Southern Command in support of Southern Partnership Station (SPS). HSV-SPS will transit the Caribbean, Central and South American region through April 2009 in direct support of the Maritime Strategy. As part of the Global Fleet Station concept, SPS seeks to support regionally-sustained, focused training and multinational/interagency collaboration. The mission expands on the Navy's strong partnerships and demonstrates the goodwill and commitment of the U.S. in the region.

Committed to working together with friends, partners and neighbors

- HSV-SPS provides a visible, engaged, and self-sustaining sea-base from which to conduct regional operations and to launch a variety of engagements with partner nation defense forces, police departments and Coast Guards.
- HSV-SPS focuses on sharing mission-focused knowledge and expertise so each participating nation will improve capabilities in its key mission areas. Assigned units focus on locally identified needs.

Committed to regional peace and stability in the Caribbean, Central and South American region

- SPS is designed to achieve common security goals through partnerships and collaboration. HSV-SPS specifically aims to bolster regional maritime safety and security by increasing partner nation maritime capabilities and capacity through exchange of ideas, information and interaction.
- Regional challenges require cooperative solutions. SPS provides the opportunity for joint operations between partner nations, which develops and tests participating regional civil and maritime services ability to respond to a wide variety of maritime missions while keeping open vital lines of communication.

Supporting the Maritime Strategy

- HSV-SPS represents another example of our cooperative approach in enhancing maritime partnerships and interoperability through multinational and interagency collaboration.
- Supporting elements include: Military Sealift Command, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command's Expeditionary Training Command Mobile Training Team, U.S. Marine Corps Training and Advisory Group Mobile Training Team, and Naval Criminal Investigative Service Security Training, Assistance, Assessment Team. Additionally, host and partner nations have been invited to participate and to integrate into the command and support elements.

Key Messages

- The Southern Partnership Station concept is based on the premise that strong, open, multi-lateral partnerships enhance regional stability and security.
- Security is a necessary condition for prosperity and lasting democratic institutions.
- Expanded cooperative relationships with other nations will contribute to the security and stability of the maritime domain for the benefit of all.

Facts & Figures

- HSV-SPS is scheduled to visit Barbados, Colombia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Nicaragua and Panama.
- This is the third SPS deployment to the region: Swift deployed in 2007 as part of Southern Partnership Station Pilot Deployment and USNS Grasp (T-ARS-51) deployed in support of Navy Diver-Southern Partnership Station earlier this year.
- For more information, visit the [Southern Partnership Station Fact File](#).