



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



April 17, 2009

UNITAS Gold – 50th Iteration

“It’s very important (for us) to be here, because you can see each other and the eyes of our friends and to specify all the details of this huge operation, UNITAS Gold. It’s very important for the friendly ships to work together. This operation is very important in this aspect to increase interoperability, and to standardize the procedures among us and of course, to increase the friendship among the countries, mainly among ... the Sailors.”

– Brazilian Navy Rear Adm. Carlos Alberto Guimaraes De Almeida e Albuquerque

This year’s UNITAS Gold is the 50th iteration of the longest running multi-national naval exercise in the world. This annual exercise is scheduled from April 20 to May 5 at Naval Station Mayport, Fla., and will emphasize interoperability and cooperation between U.S. and partner nations’ maritime forces through exercises and events.

Improving Interoperability Through Training

During UNITAS Gold, forces will participate in a series of Theater Security Cooperation events which will provide unique training opportunities in a challenging maritime environment, incorporating scripted, event-driven scenarios, to provide the maximum opportunity to improve interoperability.

- UNITAS has evolved over many years and includes training to combat many of the 21st century threats encountered in today’s maritime environment, as well as essential seamanship and navigation that are core competencies for maritime services.
- UNITAS provides the opportunity to conduct and integrate joint and combined land, maritime and air operations in a realistic training environment.
- Combined training will address a variety of mission areas; and will include live-fire exercises, undersea warfare, air defense and surface warfare, electronic warfare, special warfare, shipboard operations, maritime interdiction operations and amphibious operations.

Building Partnerships for Security and Stability

UNITAS develops and sustains relationships that improve the capacity of regional maritime forces to address common security issues and tests participating navies’ capabilities to respond in a unified manner to a wide variety of maritime missions.

- Latin American and partner nation participants and observers include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.
- Expanded cooperative relationships with partner nations contribute to the security and stability of the maritime domain for the benefit of all.

Key Messages

- UNITAS fosters friendly, mutual cooperation and understanding between participating navies.
- Regional challenges require cooperative solutions, and naval exercises like UNITAS help build strong and lasting maritime partnerships.
- UNITAS promotes interoperability and develops coalition building and multi-lateral security cooperation.
- U.S. 4th Fleet is committed to working with partner nations to establish lasting partnerships to increase the security and stability of the Americas.

Facts & Figures

- UNITAS, which means “Unity” in Latin, was designated by Commander, U.S. Atlantic Fleet in May 1960.
- More than 30 ships, 50 aircraft, and more than 8,000 Sailors and Marines will participate in the 50th iteration.
- Between August and November 1960, 48 ships from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, and the United States participated in UNITAS I.