



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



June 20, 2011

## Continuing Promise 2011

*"Continuing Promise and operations like it create bonds across cultures and serve as the relational building blocks that allow partner nations to work side by side during times of crisis."*

- Capt. Brian C. Nickerson, mission commander, Continuing Promise 2011, commander, Destroyer Squadron FOUR ZERO

USNS Comfort (T-AH 20), one of two U.S. hospital ships, [deployed March 17](#) from Baltimore on a five-month mission to nine nations in the Caribbean, Central and South Americas as part of Continuing Promise 2011 (CP11). Now in its fifth year, CP11 is an annual joint and combined training and readiness mission that works with and through host and partner nations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other U.S. government agencies to execute humanitarian and civic assistance activities in preparation for and in response to crisis.

### Strengthening Regional Alliances and Building Capacity to Respond to Crisis

- The U.S., NGOs, and partner nations will conduct civil-military operations, including humanitarian assistance and [medical](#), [dental](#), [veterinary](#) and [engineering support](#) programs that have been prioritized by the host nation governments.
- The programs are tailored to provide local communities with a variety of services to support and enhance local health care and ensure rapid international response in times of crisis.

### Partnering with Host Nations

- To date, CP11 has completed mission stops in [Jamaica](#), [Peru](#), [Ecuador](#) and [Colombia](#), building and strengthening regional partnerships and enhancing coordination efforts between the U.S., partner nations, and international humanitarian and relief organizations. CP11 will continue its mission visiting Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Haiti.
- Some partner nations for CP11 include the United States, Canada, [Mexico](#), [Brazil](#), [Paraguay](#), Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador and the Netherlands.
- Relationships developed with multiagency, multinational and NGO teams ensure the ability to work collectively in response to future humanitarian requirements.

### Partnering with Host Nations

- Continuing Promise (CP) works with host nations to identify and prioritize medical, dental, veterinarian and engineering civic action projects that increase the host nation's ability to respond in a crisis situation as well as improve public health capacity.
- Host nation issues provide unique learning opportunities for the CP team enhancing the collaborative ability to respond to a natural disaster crisis.

### Key Messages

- The U.S. Navy is dedicated to being a good neighbor to our friends in the Caribbean, Central and South Americas.
- The CP mission is about people helping people and [building relationships](#).
- CP11 support consists of medical, dental, veterinary, engineering and [subject matter expert exchanges](#).
- For more information on Continuing Promise follow their [Facebook page](#) or visit [U.S. Southern Command's website](#).

### Facts & Figures

- The CP11 team has provided care for 28,121 patients, performed 498 surgeries and treated 5,644 animals, completed four engineering projects and conducted several subject matter expert exchanges.
- During the previous five years CP has made 43 mission stops, providing medical and dental services along with health and hygiene training to more than 340,000 patients. CP personnel have completed more than 101 engineering projects encompassing school constructions, renovations and utility system repairs.