



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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U.S. 4th Fleet - Contributing to Global Operations

"We share a common cultural heritage with our partners in the Caribbean, Central and South America, which allows us to use traditional naval forces and non-traditional adaptive force packages to develop relationships and to work together in countering transnational organized crime (C-TOC), a significant threat to the security and stability in the region."

Rear Adm. Kurt Tidd, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. Fourth Fleet

U.S. 4th Fleet (C4F) supports U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) by providing naval forces to operate forward to ensure freedom of maneuver in the maritime domain and foster and sustain cooperative relationships with international partners in order to enhance security and promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the Caribbean, Central and South American region.

Warfighting First

- Through operations such as [Operation Martillo](#), C4F works closely with Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S), other U.S. Armed Forces, various federal law enforcement agencies, and partner nations to [disrupt transnational criminal organizations' use of the maritime environment](#) as a means to transport illicit cargo.
- Operation Martillo is a key component in support of the President's Strategy to Combat Transnational Organized Crime, the U.S. Central America Regional Security Initiative and the Merida Initiative.
- C4F supports [multinational operations](#) to combat organized crime in Latin America.
- The Southern Seas deployment series exercises navy-to-navy interoperability through UNITAS and the Silent Forces Exercise, a biennial, bilateral antisubmarine warfare exercise with Peru.

Operate Forward

- Naval Station Guantanamo Bay (GTMO) is a key U.S. Navy hub directly supporting operations by several SOUTHCOM joint task forces. It includes a detachment of 85 Seabees who support construction projects at GTMO and throughout the region.
- Southern Partnership Station (SPS) focuses on sharing knowledge and expertise with partner nation militaries and civilian services to improve C-TOC capacity and capability. The SPS concept is carried out through four enduring deployments: [High Speed Vessel-SPS](#), [Navy Dive-SPS](#), [Oceanographic-SPS](#) and [Amphibious-SPS](#).

Be Ready

- PANAMAX is an annual multinational exercise that focuses on ensuring the defense of the Panama Canal. The 2012 exercise, set for August, will take on even greater importance because of the canal's expansion.
- C4F executes its mission with no permanently assigned forces, but employs a flat, flexible organization that leverages key U.S. Navy partners and integrates them into our operations to deliver decisive effects.
- The [littoral combat ship](#) (LCS) and [joint high speed vessel](#) (JHSV) are tested and proven in the region, and are ready to meet all C4F lines of operation as they are commissioned into service.

Key Messages

- Our primary mission is C-TOC, in support of civilian and partner nation law enforcement.
- We focus on partnerships, shared interests, and shared concerns, based on our common cultural heritage.
- LCS and JHSV will provide immediate value in our region as the forces come into service.

Facts & Figures

- 85% of illicit trafficking comes from the sea.
- Our maritime domain is six times the size of the U.S.
- The Panama Canal will double capacity in 2014/2015.
- The multinational PANAMAX exercise, now in its 10th year, focuses on the defense of the canal.
- UNITAS is the longest-running international military training exercise in the world, now in its 53rd year.