



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



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U.S. 4th Fleet Executing Global Operations

"4th Fleet has played a critical role in our engagement through robust collaboration with interagency and international organizations, improved cooperative maritime security, and quick response to the needs of our partner nations. Their professional operation significantly reinforces our commitment to international partnership and teamwork in this region."

– Air Force Gen. Doug Fraser, Commander, U.S. Southern Command

U.S. 4th Fleet is assigned to U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, the Navy component for U.S. Southern Command. 4th Fleet exercises operational control of assigned forces in Southern Command's area of focus, which includes the Caribbean, Central and South America and surrounding waters, in support of U.S. objectives and security cooperation activities that promote coalition building and deter aggression.

Sea Control

- [Southern Seas 2009](#) is an annual naval task group deployment, led by Destroyer Squadron 40, which focuses on military to military engagement through exercises and theater security cooperation visits. The deployment serves to enhance interoperability by working with navies in the region to increase regional stability, and to build and maintain regional relationships.

Maritime Security

- PANAMAX is the largest annual multinational training exercise in the world and focuses on ensuring the defense of the Panama Canal by exercising a multinational force in response to a request for support from the government of Panama.
- [UNITAS](#) is an annual [multinational naval exercise](#) to enhance interoperability with regional navies. The exercise trains units to work as a multinational force countering asymmetric threats. In 2009, UNITAS celebrated its 50th iteration making it the longest-running multinational maritime training exercise in the world.

Forward Presence

- Southern Partnership Station's (SPS) mission is to conduct [cooperative operations](#) and engagements through tailored and adaptive packages with regional partners. SPS involves a variety of platforms and is based on the premise that strong, open, multi-lateral partnerships enhance regional stability and security. In 2008 and 2009, USNS Grasp (T-ARS 51), High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) and USS Oak Hill (LSD 51) supported SPS.

Deterrence

- 4th Fleet assigns U.S. Navy ships, aircraft and submarines on routine deployments to the area of focus in support of [counter-illicit trafficking \(CIT\) operations](#), which involve the detection, monitoring, tracking and interdiction of suspected illicit traffickers.

Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response

- USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) arrived at Naval Station Norfolk July 30 after completing [Continuing Promise 2009 \(CP 09\)](#), a four-month humanitarian and civic assistance mission in seven nations in the Caribbean, Central and South America. Continuing Promise is a collaborative effort between the U.S. military and interagency, civil service mariners, non-governmental organizations, and partner nations.

Key Messages

- The United States, Latin America and the Caribbean share common interests.
- Security is a necessary condition for prosperity and lasting democratic institutions.
- Regional challenges require cooperative solutions.
- U.S. Navy, U.S. Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet are committed to lasting partnerships in the Americas.

Facts & Figures

- PANAMAX 2008 involved more than 30 ships, a dozen aircraft and 7,000 personnel from 20 nations.
- CP 09 team treated 100,049 patients and conducted 1,657 surgeries.
- CIT deployers conducted 85 interdictions, disrupting the flow of drug trafficking operations.
- Southern Seas 2009 conducted operations with 11 countries, held 51 Subject Matter Expert Exchanges and hosted 400 partner nation Sailors.