



UNITED STATES SECURITY STRATEGY
FOR THE AMERICAS



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As we enter the 21st century, the impact of globalization and the spread of democratic governments have opened the door to a new era of security challenges and opportunities. The report updates the 1995 United States regional security report of the Americas. It is part of the Department of Defense's overall effort to promote transparency and a spirit of mutual trust and cooperation in the hemisphere. The document outlines a multifaceted security strategy, including:

- Enhancement of U.S. defense cooperation with Western Hemispheric nations;
- Continued support for institutionalization of democratic norms in defense establishments;
- Encouragement of strengthened regional and sub-regional cooperative security mechanisms;
- Support for cooperative approaches to peacekeeping, transnational threats and humanitarian crises;
- Encouragement of peaceful resolution of disputes that threaten regional stability.

The foundation for a U.S. approach to the Americas remains a shared commitment to democracy, the rule of law, conflict resolution, mutual cooperation, and Confidence and Security Building Measures (CSBMs). The Defense Ministerial of the Americas process underscores the hemisphere's commitment to these fundamentals and provides avenues for further cooperation.

The five years since the release of the last United States regional security report for the Americas have produced important developments in the security environment of the hemisphere. During this period, the United States has worked hard to demonstrate its commitment to the region and its willingness to adjust to the evolving security environment. Some of the steps the United States has taken include the successful transfer of all responsibility for the operation of the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama and U.S. military engagement in a variety of humanitarian assistance efforts. Together with the other guarantor nations, the United States fulfilled an historic peacekeeping role in resolving the disputes between Ecuador and Peru. The United States also established the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies to develop primarily civilian expertise throughout the region on defense matters.

The security challenges and opportunities in the region are varied. They range from strengthening democratic governments to confronting transnational threats, such as drug trafficking and terrorism. Working in a spirit of cooperation, the countries of the region can build on the accomplishments already achieved to build a more peaceful, stable, and prosperous hemisphere of free peoples.

I welcome your attention to this report.

William L. P.

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Preface

Continuity and change mark U.S. engagement in the Americas over the last decade. The United States has reaffirmed its commitment to the region "the aftermath of the Cold War, while adapting its approach to conform to a series of striking changes in the hemisphere's security environment. The transformations, which began in the 1980s, include the re-emergence of new and strengthening of existing democratic systems, widespread economic reform, the growth of non-governmental actors, including crime organizations, and other trends that have modified how states think about their security. As a result of these changes, hemispheric security has evolved in several ways. There has been a shift away from a focus on cooperation against international Communism to a focus on institutionalizing democratic norms in defense establishments, strengthening regional confidence and security building efforts, pursuing cooperation between defense establishments and developing cooperative approaches to transnational threats and humanitarian crises.

The 1995 Defense Ministerial of the Americas in Williamsburg, Virginia was a milestone in this transition. It was the first-ever gathering of civilian and military leaders from the region to discuss defense and security in light of the resurgence of democratic government in the hemisphere and the end of the Cold War. The defense leaders exchanged views on the role of the military in the 21st century, confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), and areas for future regional cooperation. This new thinking was reflected in the "Williamsburg Principles," which underscore the preservation of democracy as the basis of hemispheric security.

The Williamsburg Principles

- Uphold the promise of the Santiago Agreement that the preservation of democracy is the basis for ensuring our mutual security.
- Acknowledge that military and security forces play a critical role in supporting and defending the legitimate interests of sovereign democratic states.
- Affirm the commitments of our countries in Miami and Managua that our Armed Forces should be subordinate to democratically controlled authority, act within the bounds of national Constitutions, and respect human rights through training and practice.
- Increase transparency in defense matters through exchanges of information, through reporting on defense expenditures, and by greater civilianmilitary dialogue.
- Set as a goal for our hemisphere the resolution of outstanding disputes by negotiated settlement and widespread adoption of confidence building measures, all of this in a time-frame consistent with the pace of hemispheric economic integration, and to recognize that the development of our economic security profoundly affects our defense security and vice versa.
- Promote greater defense cooperation in support of voluntary participation in UN-sanctioned peacekeeping operations, and to cooperate in a supportive role in the fight against narcoterrorism.

Following the Williamsburg Defense Ministerial of the Americas, the United States issued its first regional strategy report that outlined the shift in U.S. thinking about security in the Americas. The document focused on promoting democracy, resolving disputes peacefully, and expanding defense cooperation to counter transnational threats. Since its publication, the United States has worked to demonstrate its continued commitment to the Americas and readiness to adjust to the region's evolving security environment. Some of the steps taken include:

- A U.S. commitment to implement the Miami Summit Mandates; and Santiago
- Ensuring successful implementation of the Panama Canal Treaty commitment to transfer all responsibility for the operation and security of the Panama Canal to the Republic of Panama, along with 356,000 acres of land and over 7,000 structures;
- U.S. military participation, along with Argentina, Brazil and Chile, in the Military Observer Mission, Ecuador-Peru (MOMEPE) which played a critical role in bringing the parties to a permanent resolution of their border dispute
- U.S. military engagement in a variety of humanitarian assistance efforts in response to floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other natural disasters;
- U.S. commitment to support Organization of American States (OAS)-sponsored efforts to encourage defense transparency and CSBMs;
- Establishment of the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies in 1997 to develop primarily civilian expertise in defense and military matters;
- Initiation of annual defense Bilateral Working Group meetings with Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina and Chile to provide structure and advance our bilateral relations; and
- Development of trilateral and regional drug interdiction programs.

These steps are credible and sustainable because they are in the common interest of the United States and its hemispheric partners. The security system emerging in the Americas at the beginning of this new century is marked by peaceful change. Conflict between neighbors has become less likely as the region's border disputes, once a primary source of tension,

are resolved through diplomacy. With the strengthening and, in some cases, establishment of democratic government and open free market economies, internal unrest has also become less of an issue in the hemisphere. Latin American and Caribbean nations have declared a nuclear-free zone and renounced other weapons of mass destruction. Countries are more focused on military modernization within national means, transparency in defense policy, and cooperation on regional, sub-regional and global levels.

This strategy document does not change the U.S. approach to regional security. Rather, the document is part of the overall effort to promote openness and a spirit of mutual understanding, respect and trust among North American, Latin American, and Caribbean nations. The Department of Defense welcomes open dialogue concerning this report as constructive for building security and confidence throughout the hemisphere. We encourage the continued development of similar public documents throughout the Americas.

U.S. Goals and Objectives for the Americas

Goal 1: Strengthen and expand U.S. defense cooperation with Western Hemisphere nations

Obj 1. 1: Increase interoperability of equipment and doctrine for purposes of international peacekeeping and to better respond to humanitarian crises in the hemisphere.

Goal 2: Institutionalize democratic norms within defense establishments

Obj 2.1: Develop accountable defense institutions subordinate to democratically elected civilian governments.

Obj 2.2: Encourage respect for human rights and democratic governance within defense institutions.

Obj 2.3: Encourage effective legislative oversight of national defense and promote rational and transparent budgetary processes.

Obj 2.4: Support development of transparent national security concepts and defense strategies.

Obj 2.5: Encourage creation of national programs to increase democratic civilian expertise on defense issues.

Goal 3: Strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperative security mechanisms

Obj 3. 1: Continue implementation of Summit Mandates and the 1998 Santiago Summit Action Plan.

Obj 3.2: Encourage accelerated adoption of OAS-sanctioned CSBMs.

Obj 3.3: Fully participate in and support transparency in military holdings and expenditures.

Obj 3.4: Encourage cooperation between and among national defense establishments.

Obj 3. 5: Encourage a Defense Ministerial of the Americas process that advances regional peace and security cooperation and is a valuable part of the hemispheric security architecture.

Goal 4: Encourage cooperative approaches to international peacekeeping, transnational threats, and humanitarian crises, while respecting sovereignty concerns.

Obj 4. 1: Improve capabilities for combined action among regional partners, especially on international peacekeeping and disaster relief operations.

Obj 4.2: In cooperation with other U.S. government agencies and working with other nations, assist hemispheric security partners in preventing the flow of illegal drugs from and within the region by combating drug production and trafficking, money laundering and arms trafficking.

Goal 5: Peaceful resolution of disputes that threaten regional stability

Obj 5. 1: Encourage dialogue and peaceful engagement among nations to prevent and resolve disputes that threaten regional stability.

Obj 5.2: Promote resolution of remaining insurgent threats to democratic regimes through political means, law enforcement, social development and, if necessary, lawful military means.

Obj 5.3: Coordinate regional and international efforts to help governments resolve domestic conflicts when requested.

Regional Security Outlook: Real Progress, but Challenges Ahead

A Hemisphere in Transition

The past decade has brought about a period of unprecedented transition in the hemisphere. The end of armed conflict in Central America and other improvements in regional security have coincided with renewed emphasis on democratic principles and free market economics throughout the Americas. The nations of the Western Hemisphere, individually and collectively, exercise much greater influence on global trade and investment than in the past. Canada has become the largest merchandise export market and trading partner of the United States in the world. Mexico has become the second largest goods export market and trading partner of the United States due to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). The United States shares with its neighbors an increased financial and commercial stake in the economic growth and prosperity of the hemisphere.

Many Latin American nations have made enormous advances in democratic governance. The hemisphere's leaders are committed to strengthening democracy, justice, and human rights. They have pledged to intensify efforts to promote democratic reform, subordinate their militaries to democratic civilian authorities, protect the rights of migrant workers, improve the civil and criminal justice systems, and encourage a strong and active civil society. However, the reform process has been difficult and the pace of institutionalizing reform slow. For citizens to realize the benefits of political liberalization and economic growth, the hemisphere needs effective regulatory, legal and educational institutions as well as increased commitment to greater social inclusion in these institutions.

Increased sub-regional security cooperation has contributed to peace and prosperity in the hemisphere. In 1999, for example, the guarantor nations of the Peru-Ecuador peace process - Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States - brought the parties to a permanent solution to their decades-old border dispute.

While traditional security concerns continue to exist, the principal security concerns in the hemisphere now are transnational in nature. They include drug trafficking, arms trafficking, money laundering and other organized crime, illegal immigration, and terrorism. These threats could undermine the sovereignty, democracy, and national security of nations in the hemisphere. Working bilaterally and multilaterally through the OAS and other organizations, the countries of the region have reaffirmed their commitment to combat together the serious challenges posed by these transnational threats.

Democratic Defense Reform

While there is a strong commitment in the hemisphere to uphold democratically elected governments, the region's ability to realize this commitment depends in part on meeting the challenges posed by weak democratic institutions, persistently high unemployment and crime rates, and serious income disparities. Among the institutions that are key to this are defense establishments that are genuinely committed to democracy, civilian authority over defense matters, transparency, respect for human rights, and international cooperation.

Civil-military relations in the hemisphere are better than in the past, but could still improve. Most countries are at varying stages of completing the initial phase of difficult structural and procedural reform on defense and security matters. Several states have newly created ministries of defense; other states have empowered existing ministries of defense. Major changes are being institutionalized. The next stage of the military reform process involves the development of transparent national security concepts, defense strategies, and budgetary processes. Concurrently, nations are participating in programs to increase civilian expertise on defense issues and consolidate respect for human rights and democratic governance.

Impact of Globalization

Globalization brings both opportunities and risks to the hemisphere. The process of accelerating economic, technological, cultural, and political integration is bringing citizens from the hemisphere and the world closer together, allowing the region increasingly and more rapidly to share ideas, goods, and information. The dynamism of the global economy is transforming commerce, culture, communications, and global relations. It is also creating a security environment replete with opportunities and threats that have the potential to facilitate terrorism, drug trafficking, and other international criminal activity. For example, while the globalization of the world economy brings increasingly dynamic and efficient markets, it also facilitates transnational crime and its destabilizing effects. The revolution in information technology has enabled the world to communicate as never before, but has also exposed new vulnerabilities in the critical electronic infrastructure of all nations that seek to leverage the power of contemporary information systems. The United States and its hemispheric security partners must work together to leverage the benefits of globalization while addressing its potentially adverse consequences.

Terrorism

Latin America is not immune to the actions of international terrorist groups and the resultant threat of terrorism. Extrahemispheric actors were linked to Hizballah car bomb attacks against Israeli targets in Buenos Aires in 1992 and 1994. Some regional terrorism is rooted in long-standing internal strife. In Colombia, for example, there are two main groups - the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and the National Liberation Army (ELN) - and a league of criminal paramilitary groups which engage in extensive terrorist activity. These groups threaten the lives of Colombians and other citizens and the security and development of the region. In Peru, the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) remain potential threats even after both suffered severe reversals in the mid-1990s at the hands of government security forces.

The United States is unequivocal in its opposition to terrorism and committed to take whatever steps are necessary to protect American lives, property, and interests. Our goal is to investigate terrorist attacks fully and capture perpetrators as quickly as possible, not only to put them out of action but also to deter would-be imitators. The United States will bring to justice those who commit acts of terrorism against American interests. Countries in the hemisphere must work together to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries, counter state-supported terrorism and employ all available legal means to punish terrorists.

Drug Trafficking

The Andean Ridge states of Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru produce the vast majority of the world's cocaine as well as a significant amount of heroin. Lesser quantities of heroin are cultivated in Mexico. Efforts to eradicate crops at the source or interdict them en route show progress in terms of hectares destroyed and kilograms seized, but the volume of drugs available on the streets of countries across the hemisphere, including the United States, remains unacceptably high. Drug trafficking presents multi-faceted problems to many nations: smuggling routes, money laundering, growing criminal organizations, and increasing drug use within source and transit countries. Widely dispersed, wealthy organized crime organizations make interdiction difficult. Drug trafficking and its profits potentially threaten the stability and authority of regimes across the Americas.



U.S. Special Forces train counterdrug forces in Andean region.

The illicit drug trade has a direct impact on domestic security and social stability of every country in the hemisphere. The United States will continue to support eradication, interdiction of regional air-bridges, anti-trafficking efforts on maritime and riverine routes, alternative crop

development, and reform of judicial systems and law enforcement agencies, while simultaneously promoting intensive demand reduction at home. The United States will pursue opportunities to foster greater intraregional counterdrug cooperation, taking into account the role of the armed forces, police forces, and law enforcement personnel associated with the counterdrug effort varies from country to country. The United States seeks to achieve a counterdrug alliance in this hemisphere, one that might serve as a model for enhanced cooperation elsewhere in the world.

Arms Trafficking

An illicit trade in firearms, ammunition, and explosives fuels much of the violence associated with terrorism, drug trafficking, and other forms of international crime. Moving to establish a common regional legal framework, the United States and its partners in the OAS signed the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials in November 1997. This convention is currently pending advice and consent to ratification by the U.S. Senate and is the first international agreement designed to prevent, combat, and eradicate illegal trafficking in firearms, ammunition, and explosives.

United States Security Strategy for the Americas

The United States has long defined its security interests in the Western Hemisphere in terms of peace, stability, and prosperity. From the early nineteenth century until the end of the Cold War, the United States considered activity by rival extrahemispheric actors and the challenge of competing political ideologies, most recently Communism, as sources of destabilization and threats to national security. A strategic framework took shape under the Monroe Doctrine, which dictated U.S. military activity for over 100 years and focused U.S. defense policy on preventing hostile penetration of the hemisphere. With the end of the Cold War, the United States adjusted its diplomatic and military posture to the new realities in the hemisphere. The focus of U.S. policy shifted to achieving increased interoperability for purposes of international peacekeeping and to better respond to humanitarian crises in the hemisphere, encouraging the institutionalization of democratic norms within defense establishments and engaging in cooperative security initiatives to include combating transnational crime.

U.S. Policy Framework

The United States seeks to eliminate the threats and secure the benefits provided by this new climate in the hemisphere. Our long-range policy approach focuses on the positive power of democratic norms, open economies, and enhanced regional security cooperation. It is premised on the belief that democratic governments, committed to the establishment of free market economies, are the best guarantee of peace, stability, and economic well being in the region. The resultant policy framework stresses: (1) helping states to strengthen the institutions of democratic governance;

(2) strengthening economic reform and trade integration; and (3) nurturing bilateral and multinational relationships to advance mutual trust and cooperative security against shared threats.

Continued advances in the strengthening of democratic government in the hemisphere remain a priority of the United States, as reflected in the Summit of the Americas process. The methods for assisting countries in their efforts to promote democracy vary. In Colombia, Haiti, and Paraguay, for example, the United States has taken firm action to help counter attempts to reverse democracy through diplomacy and a strong foreign assistance program. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense has sought to strengthen defense establishments supportive of democracy throughout the hemisphere in its bilateral contacts, exercises, education, and training programs. Through continued engagement with regional defense ministries and armed forces, the Department of Defense helps increase civilian expertise in defense affairs, enhance civil-military relations and reinforce the positive trends of civilian control of the military including subordination to and support for democratically elected governments.

On the economic front, the United States seeks to advance the goal of an integrated hemisphere of free market democracies by building on the economic integration process begun with NAFTA. Formal negotiations to initiate the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by 2005 are underway. The United States will also continue to work with the IMF, the World Bank; the Inter-American Development Bank, the governments of the Western Hemisphere and the private sector to help the transition to integrated, mature, free market economies.

The United States seeks to advance regional security cooperation through its support for multilateral efforts in the OAS and Summit of the Americas, combined bilateral and multinational exercises, and other regional fora, such as the Defense Ministerial of the Americas. Working bilaterally and regionally through the OAS and other organizations, for example, the United States is seeking to eliminate drug trafficking in the hemisphere. The purpose of the Multilateral Counterdrug Alliance is to better coordinate efforts to extradite and prosecute drug traffickers; combat money laundering; halt, illicit traffic in chemical precursors; strike at the financial support networks; enhance national drug abuse awareness; and eliminate illicit drug cultivation through alternative crop development and eradication programs. On a bilateral basis, the United States works closely with a number of regional partners to increase counterdrug and law enforcement cooperation.

U.S. Security Objectives

To achieve its larger policy goals, the United States will remain engaged in the hemisphere and develop a partnership with the other defense ministries and armed forces in the region. Working with other hemispheric states, the following security characteristics for the hemisphere can be achieved by 2005:

- Security forces under effective civilian control, moving toward increased interoperability, of a size and structure appropriate to national defense needs.
- A system of civil-military relations in the hemisphere that insures accountability of defense policymakers to the public, respect for human rights, rational and transparent budgets and security concepts, and increased democratic civilian expertise on defense issues.
- A climate of mutual trust that advances regional cooperation and transparency on defense matters as well as regional security and confidence building.
- Latin American and Caribbean nations' participation in efforts to address shared priorities, such as regional disaster response, countering drug trafficking, humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, and development of a basic capacity for cooperation with U.S. forces and amongst each other in addressing these and other demanding transnational and international challenges.
- Steady progress toward peaceful resolution of border disputes and remaining insurgent threats to democratic governments, reinforcing regional CSBMs.

Together, these goals capture the substantive shift in U.S. defense policy orientation, since the end of the Cold War. Changes in the security environment have enabled us to move away from a policy focus on preventing hostile foreign armed penetration of the hemisphere to a focus on increased interoperability, institutionalized democratic norms and engagement in cooperative security initiatives to include combating transnational threats to the region's stability. The Department of Defense engages defense ministries, armed forces, and relevant public security elements of countries in the hemisphere with the intent of forwarding these goals.

Strategy for the Americas

In pursuit of these objectives, the Department of Defense has a five-pronged strategy. First, the Department of Defense will *remain engaged in the hemisphere*. The Department of Defense will continue to participate in the Defense Ministerial of the Americas process, conduct high-level bilateral working group meetings, and explore new forms of regional diplomacy to advance shared objectives for the hemisphere. The Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies and U.S. military schools will offer opportunities for foreign civilian and military education and adjust their programs to address changing dynamics in the hemisphere. The U.S. military will work with the region's armed forces and police at multiple levels including operational deployments, exercises, and professional educational activities. The Department of Defense's engagement in the hemisphere will contribute to regional stability by encouraging professionalism, improving interoperability, and supporting rapid responses to unexpected events.

Second, the Department of Defense will *support efforts to ensure democratic control of defense and law enforcement institutions*. Within this context, the Department of Defense will seek to encourage effective legislative oversight of national defense and to assist ministries in achieving effective and efficient administrative practices, such as open budgetary processes, accountability for defense expenditures, and transparency in national security concepts and defense strategies. The Department of Defense also will help governments expand civilian expertise on defense and military issues and assist ministries of defense that desire to restructure and modernize their armed forces and police forces within national resource constraints.

Third, the Department of Defense will *support efforts to strengthen effectiveness, legitimacy, and transparency of regional and subregional security structures and regimes*. The countries in the hemisphere have already made considerable progress in promoting confidence and security building in arms control, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and restraint in the transfer of sensitive or dual-use technologies. The Department of Defense will seek to reinforce the success of these efforts by promoting mutual trust among neighbors, reliance on international law and transparency in military holdings and expenditures.

Fourth, the Department of Defense will *support cooperative approaches to the peaceful resolution of border disputes and response to transnational threats and humanitarian crises*. When appropriate, the Department of Defense will assist in the establishment of a process to address disputes and resolve them peacefully, if possible. For purposes of international peacekeeping and to better respond to humanitarian crises in the hemisphere, the Department of Defense will seek to achieve a greater degree of interoperability among military forces in the hemisphere and improve the region's ability to conduct combined mission planning, training, and operations. To counter the varied threats to the hemisphere posed by drug trafficking, organized crime, money laundering, illegal immigration and terrorism, the United States will continue to pursue an integrated approach that seeks to bring to bear all the capabilities and assets required. The United States will closely coordinate its efforts with those of other countries and international organizations, and maintain a strong foreign assistance program and a wide-ranging military training and exercise program.

Finally, the Department of Defense will *seek to build mutual confidence on security issues and develop long-term bilateral and multilateral cooperation among defense ministries and security forces*. In this context, the Department of Defense seeks to advance the region's understanding of the security concerns facing it, develop mechanisms for addressing these concerns, and obtain consensus on common principles and concepts of security to address emerging threats. The Department of Defense wants to foster expanded dialogue and cooperation in an atmosphere of mutual respect for sovereignty and understanding of diverse points of view.

Implementing United State Security Strategy

The Western Hemisphere is a region mostly at peace. It is an area of the world where the security interests of nations converge and the reservoirs of political will to deal with new challenges run deep. In this setting, the United States seeks to join with partners to dampen sources of insecurity, instability, and conflict. Together with its neighbors, the United States can do this through focused engagement, helping strengthen the military policymaking of regional states, and encouraging increased bilateral and multilateral cooperation, while searching for new opportunities to build mutual confidence and a spirit of common regional security for the years ahead.

Strengthen U.S. Defense Cooperation with Western Hemisphere Nations

The United States is committed to maintaining its defense engagement in the hemisphere. There are a variety of tools available to the Department of Defense in support of this commitment. They include counterpart visits, bilateral working group meetings, exercises, training, education, and security assistance.

Counterpart Visits

The Secretary of Defense conducts bilateral consultations with his counterparts during travel to the region and by hosting Defense Ministers from the hemisphere at the Pentagon in Washington, DC. In 1999, for example, Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen traveled to Argentina, Brazil, and Chile to meet with the presidents, ministers of defense, foreign ministers, and parliamentarians in these countries. He also hosted his Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, Colombian, and Mexican counterparts in Washington, DC.



Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen meets with visiting Chilean Minister of Defense Mario Fernandez.

Bilateral Working Groups

Bilateral Working Group meetings on defense matters occur once a year to further defense relations between the United States and other countries in the hemisphere. The Department of Defense now has annual and ad hoc meetings with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Mexico. The meetings usually include a plenary session and discussions in small functional working groups regarding, for example, military cooperation, security assistance, civil military relations, science and technology, and peacekeeping. At the end of the meeting, the two sides agree on a detailed agenda of work for the next year.

Military Service Staff Talks

Military staff talks between the offices of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and its counterparts or between Service staffs and their counterparts also typically occur annually and last several days. The talks focus on achieving tangible standardization and interoperability results in concepts, doctrine, and strategy. Joint Staff Talks are held with Argentina, Brazil, and Chile. The Brazilian Army and the U.S. Army also hold Service Staff Talks, as do the navies of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and the United States. There are high-level counterpart visits annually hosted by the military departments, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Services also participate in inter-American service conferences.

Maintaining an Overseas Presence

The U.S. military changed its overseas presence in the hemisphere with the gradual transfer of all responsibility for the operation and security of the Panama Canal to Panama. The United States Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) relocated its headquarters from Panama to Miami, Florida, in 1997. The Army component, U.S. Army South, moved its headquarters and operational elements to Puerto Rico two years later. In March 2000, the U.S. Navy established Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command as the Operational Component Commander to USSOUTHCOM, based at U.S. Naval Station Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. A small joint task force continues to sustain the Command's activities in Central America from the Honduran air base at Soto Cano. To support U.S. counterdrug strategy, USSOUTHCOM has shifted its assets to forward areas. The United States has signed agreements

with three nations to maintain forward operating locations in Aruba/ Curacao, Ecuador, and El Salvador to enhance the effectiveness of cooperative detection, monitoring, and tracking activities and improve the Department of Defense's support for partner nations' interdiction operations:

Military Exercises and Training

The U.S. military contribution to the hemisphere extends beyond responding to hostilities or crises as they occur. During 1999, USSOUTHCOM conducted more than 2,800 events throughout the hemisphere involving more than 55,000 personnel. They included professional military training, medical training and assistance, joint and combined exercises, and counterdrug operations. The U.S. military also deploys a large number of military personnel individually or in small units to participate in specific training activities. It participates in a variety of low-level, combined training assistance opportunities, to include the technically oriented Mobile Training Teams (MTT), tactically oriented Joint and Combined Exchange Training (JCET), and information/doctrinally oriented Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE). The U.S. Navy has participated in UNITAS exercises for over 4.0 years. UNITAS encompasses approximately 30,000 sailors and Marines and 80 ships and submarines from ten Western Hemisphere navies.

The training; exercises, and other events in which the U.S. military engages throughout the hemisphere serve as a visible demonstration of our commitment to the region. They also facilitate regional cooperation and improve professional interoperability and readiness. We place a premium on multinational exercises, which provide realistic conditions for collaboration and solving problems stemming from

different military technologies, systems and operational procedures, all of which could pose serious obstacles in an emergency. Exercises also afford U.S. forces geographic familiarity outside the United States and introduce participants to the military and civilian cultures of other neighboring societies.



Foreign Military Training and Education

The U.S. Army, Navy, and Air Force sponsor technical and tactical academic programs for Latin American and Caribbean military and police forces. These regionally focused schools, originally located in Panama, are without counterparts in other geographical areas and reflect the Department of Defense's commitment to the Americas. The Naval Small Craft and Technical Training School (NAVSCIATTS) provides courses in Spanish and mobile training teams to improve equipment readiness of naval and coast guard forces in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA), founded in 1943 offers professional, technical, and management training in Spanish to approximately 650 Latin American military personnel a year.

The Department of Defense plans to close the U.S. Army School of the Americas (USARSA) on December 15 and establish the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation in January 2001. The education and training will include a range of subjects such as leadership development, peace support, and disaster relief operations. Among U.S. military schools, USARSA was the predominant training choice of Western Hemisphere countries. Over 2,300 students trained at USARSA between 1997 and 2000. We expect the new institute will be equally popular with our counterparts in the hemisphere. The training at the institute will, be taught entirely in Spanish.

Technical training opportunities are available using Foreign Military Financing (FMF) and International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds. The types of training include, but are not limited to, helicopter maintenance, aircraft maintenance and support, ship repair, and marine safety inspection.

Institutionalize Democratic Norms for Defense Establishments

From the U.S. perspective, civilian authority over the armed services is an essential aspect of democratic government. Civilian authority over the military helps to ensure that decisions concerning defense policy do not compromise fundamental democratic values such as freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of religion. In the United States, the Secretary of Defense and other civilian leaders are committed to strengthening democratic defense institutions throughout the world. By maintaining a regular dialogue with their counterparts in the hemisphere, U.S. defense officials seek to promote legislative oversight of defense policy, respect for

human rights, development of strong civilian defense ministries, and the formulation of transparent defense strategies. Engagement that offers modern professional education from Department of Defense academic and research institutions to sectors with defense-related responsibilities further supports the Secretary of Defense's efforts in this area.

Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS)

The Department of Defense established CHDS at the National Defense University in Washington, DC in September 1997 to educate primarily civilians from South and Central American and Caribbean countries on defense and security issues. CHDS' mandate is to improve civilian expertise in national defense decision-making and resource management; stimulate civilian and military thinking about defense policy and civil-military relations; and promote civilian and military cooperation on defense issues at the national, regional and international levels. Consistent with its mission, CHDS provides high quality, internationally recognized academic programs focused on the theoretical concepts, practical knowledge, and technical skills and expertise needed by civilians to participate in defense and security planning and management. CHDS conducts regional programs in the United States, and collaborates with local institutions to develop seminars hosted in the region. In 1999 alone, over 286 Fellows graduated from CHDS' Defense Planning and Resource Management seminar.

Foreign Military Officer and Civilian Education

The Department of Defense offers a wide range of academic programs that address civilian control of the armed forces, defense management, the rule of law, and human rights. There are individual programs, such as the Defense Resource Management Institute and the Center for Civil Military Relations, in which classroom instruction is part of a broader experience at a military college or school. The primary sources of funding for foreign military officer and civilian education are International Military Education and Training (IMET) and Foreign Military Financing (FMF). Students are exposed, on a practical level, to a wide range of democratic values in action, such as press freedom, the rule of law, and respect for human rights and equal opportunity. They also see first hand the manner in which the U.S. military functions under civilian rule. These academic opportunities provide participants a venue to discuss the role of the armed forces in society and to consider different perspectives. A key goal of foreign military officer and civilian education, in addition to enhancing professional

skills, is to ensure that visiting students return to their country with an enhanced understanding of the responsibilities of governments, militaries, and citizens in a modern democracy to protect, preserve, and respect the rights of every individual.

Increase Regional and Subregional Cooperative Security Initiatives and Organizations

In the hemisphere's complex security environment, the assurance of national security remains an important priority. Governments are concerned about force modernization and the acquisition of weapon systems in neighboring states, their defense expenditures and budget priorities, and changes in military roles, missions, and strategic doctrine. To address these concerns, the hemispheric community, working through the OAS, adopted the strategic concept of "cooperative security" in the early 1990s. This concept stresses transparency in defense matters, confidence building, and collaboration on specific security issues before they become problems.

Confidence and Security Building at the OAS

The United States has actively supported the OAS in its efforts to develop the concept of cooperative security through conferences on such issues as CSBMs and the development of the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials. In recognition of the importance of these initiatives, the United States has agreed to contribute start-up funding and hardware to the OAS to establish a communications network among its 34 member states. The network will provide rapid communications on CSBM related issues. The United States also endorsed the creation of a modern framework for dealing with regional security matters that led to the establishment of a Permanent Committee on Hemisphere Security. The development of these new security institutions is also in accordance with the Santiago Summit mandate "to pinpoint ways to revitalize and strengthen the institutions of the Inter-American System related to the various aspects of Hemispheric Security" The United States seeks to deepen this discussion at the OAS-sponsored Special Conference on Security.

Through its various high-level contacts with regional states, the Department of Defense encourages transparency in defense and military matters and the adoption of CSBMs, either those proposed by the OAS or measures developed bilaterally between neighbors, such as Chile and Argentina have done. The United States provides the OAS and its members a copy of the

U.S. Foreign Military Assistance to the Hemisphere

COUNTRY	FMF FY99	FMF FY00	IMET FY99	IMET FY00 Est.
Argentina	1,000 – EIPC ¹		613	700
Bahamas	130	50	127	100
Belize	100	100	175	250
Bolivia		250 - EIPC	533	550
Brazil			206	225
Chile	400 - EIPC		478	450
Colombia			917	900
Costa Rica			240	200
Dominican Republic	370	400	493	450
Eastern Caribbean	1,300	1,300	444	500
Antigua-Barbuda	[410]	[515]	[109]	[120]
Barbados	[75]	[55]	[57]	[75]
Dominica	[145]	[150]	[50]	[55]
Grenada	[190]	[165]	[59]	[60]
St. Kitts-Nevis	[155]	[125]	[63]	[70]
St. Lucia	[195]	[165]	[57]	[60]
St. Vincent & Grenadines	[130]	[125]	[49]	[60]
Ecuador			569	500
El Salvador			491	500
Guatemala			253	225
Guyana	100	100	216	175
Haiti	300	300	160	275
Honduras			560	500
Jamaica	475	500	472	450
Mexico			918	1000
Nicaragua			200	200
Panama			87	1 00
Paraguay			215	200
Peru			478	450
Suriname			100	100
Trinidad and Tobago	225	250	148	125
Uruguay	800 - EIPC	300 - EIPC	364	300
Venezuela			400	400

¹ U.S. dollars in thousands. Financing for Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capabilities [EIPC] was established in 1998 to improve the peacekeeping capabilities of countries.

Secretary of Defense's Annual Report to the President and Congress. This document reviews U.S. defense strategy and the current state of the armed forces, presents military requirements to support the strategy, and explains the Department of Defense's budget and future defense program. The report includes information on the size, structure, and capabilities of the U.S. Armed Forces, and their deployment worldwide. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and El Salvador have similar unclassified presentations of defense policy. The Department of Defense also provides information for the annual U.S. report to the OAS on steps taken to implement various CSBMs promulgated by the OAS.

Sub-regional Cooperation

In Latin America and the Caribbean, countries are beginning to address differing security circumstances through localized arrangements. The United States is supportive of such arrangements so long as they are transparent. The oldest and most sophisticated example of sub-regional cooperation is the Eastern Caribbean Regional Security System (RSS), which was established in 1982 in recognition of common threats and capability limitations. RSS forces engage with the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard in counterdrug operations and participate regularly in USSOUTHCOM's military training exercises in conjunction with forces from other Caribbean countries, the United States, and often Canada, Britain, France and the Netherlands. USSOUTHCOM recently has begun to interact with the new Conference of Central American Armed Forces (CFAC). In South America, the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) nations, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and associates Bolivia and Chile, have declared themselves a zone of peace and have undertaken broader security cooperation and coordination.

Defense Ministerial of the Americas

The Defense Ministerial of the Americas is a collaborative process that occurs approximately every two years to promote stability and security through practical cooperation among regional defense establishments. Established in 1994, the Defense Ministerial of the Americas process provides the defense leaders of the hemisphere an important opportunity to strengthen regional security cooperation, develop cooperative approaches to the new security challenges facing the hemisphere, and share ongoing efforts to institutionalize democratic defense norms.

Cooperative Approaches to Peacekeeping, Transnational Threats and Humanitarian Crises

Terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, and other international crimes directly affect the basic political, economic and social fabric of societies. Defense establishments can play an important role in countering and responding to them, although that role will vary for each country. Since these threats are often transnational in nature, they require transnational responses. To assist neighboring states in confronting them, the United States works to achieve closer coordination and cooperation with other governments and international organizations through high-level interaction and a wide range of training initiatives. USSOUTHCOM exercise program, for example, seeks to build mutual confidence and advance regional cooperation. USSOUTHCOM's training exercises are multinational, involving forces and occasionally civilian agencies from the same sub-region as well as international military and civilian observers. The exercises focus on collaboration in planning and executing operations aimed at combating drug trafficking, supporting disaster relief, and participating in international peacekeeping. These exercises have taken place in the Caribbean, Central America, and the Southern Cone.

USSOUTHCOM's successful exercise program has served to enhance military interoperability among modern forces in the hemisphere. This can be achieved through combined doctrine development and training, and a focus on the acquisition of compatible military systems. The United States changed its arms sales policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean in 1997, establishing a process for case-by-case consideration of requests for advanced arms transfers and promotion of a transparency norm. The new policy recognizes the region's democratic transformation and its high level of dialogue and cooperation with the United States.

As a means of promoting increased military interoperability and participation in international peacekeeping, the United States established in 1998 the Enhanced International Peacekeeping Capabilities (EIPC) Initiative. This is a FMF resource to improve the peacekeeping capabilities of selected countries as well as foster the development of common doctrine and procedures among countries. Within the hemisphere, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Uruguay have been beneficiaries of the EIPC program.

Humanitarian Crises

U.S. defense engagement in Latin America and the Caribbean, as elsewhere in the world, includes readiness to deploy U.S. forces to alleviate humanitarian crises, when appropriate. While the military is generally not the best instrument for addressing a humanitarian crisis, in some situations use of the unique capabilities of the armed forces may be both necessary and appropriate. This is particularly true when a humanitarian catastrophe overwhelms the ability of civilian relief agencies to respond or the need for immediate relief is urgent and only the U.S. military has the ability to respond rapidly, in advance of appropriate longer-term assistance.

Since the mid-1990s, USSOUTHCOM has provided transportation assistance and relief supplies to over a dozen countries in the hemisphere in response to floods, hurricanes, fires, earthquakes, and airplane crashes. Hurricane Mitch was one of the strongest hurricanes ever to hit the Caribbean and Central America. The 180-mph winds and torrential rains caused catastrophic floods and landslides throughout the area. Between October 24. and November 5, 1998, over 22,000 people died and about 2.3 million people were displaced or homeless. The U.S. response included the provision of millions of dollars in aid and placement of 2,000 military personnel on the scene. The U.S. military conducted search and rescue operations, transported 4. million tons of food and other provisions, and provided medical treatment to over 3,000 people.

The magnitude of losses caused by Hurricane Mitch underscores the importance of developing more effective regional and subregional cooperation on disaster preparedness and response. The United States has strongly supported the OAS committee on disaster relief. For its part, USSOUTHCOM revised and expanded its humanitarian and civic assistance exercises in the area, began conducting disaster preparedness seminars in several countries, and



U.S. military provides assistance to Hurricane Mitch victims.

established a Regional Disaster Relief Warehouse System in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA). The goal of this project is to reduce the time needed for supplies to reach affected areas, promote regional self-sufficiency, and further regional stability. In December 1999, USSOUTHCOM held a Central American Regional Disaster Response Seminar wherein a regional disaster response plan was drafted, tasks were assigned, and Panama agreed to establish a disaster relief/response and preparedness training academy. Countries participating in USSOUTHCOM's February 2000 Allied Forces Humanitarian 2000 (FA-HUM 2000) Command Post Exercise in the Dominican Republic engaged in planning, coordinating, and conducting a disaster relief operation.

The experiences gained by the Department of Defense during the Hurricane Mitch relief effort proved useful when torrential rains hit Venezuela in December 1999, causing massive flooding, and mudslides. As in Central America, the U.S. military engaged in search and rescue missions and transported personnel, equipment, medicines, food, and other provisions. Washington allocated over \$20 million in aid to help the Venezuelans. Other forms of assistance included the provision of water purification units and airlift.

Peaceful Resolution of Disputes That Threaten Regional Stability

Military Support to Diplomacy

The unresolved border and territorial disputes that simmer beneath the surface in Latin America and the Caribbean are a source of continuing concern. Cross-border incidents such as illegal immigration, the movement of armed bands, drug and arms trafficking, and illegal fishing are increasingly the cause of inter-state friction. The United States alone and in support of the OAS pursues diplomatic initiatives in conflict resolution and dispute settlement. When requested, the Department of Defense supports these efforts.

The U.S. military contribution to the Peru-Ecuador peace process provides an excellent example and model for future multilateral military cooperation. The U.S. military was deeply involved with Argentina, Brazil, and Chile in the formation of MOMEPA. The military observer mission secured a cease-fire and separated forces in 1995, keeping incidents from escalating in the volatile demilitarized zone along the border until the dispute was resolved over four years later. MOMEPA demonstrates what can be accomplished through multinational military collaboration and the importance of seeking greater interoperability among the armed forces of the hemisphere.

Building Mutual Confidence and Long-term Cooperation

The Department of Defense recognizes the critical role that regional cooperation plays in securing peace and stability in the Americas. The Department of Defense further values the substantial progress that has been made to advance our bilateral relationships in the hemisphere. This section reviews the development of U.S. regional and bilateral relationships.

Strengthening Mexico-U.S. Defense Cooperation

Defense relations between the United States and Mexico have become more cooperative since the mid-1990s. In part this is the result of increasing recognition on both sides of our many shared security concerns. During this period, there has been significant improvement in military-to-military relations, exemplified by the establishment of the Bilateral Working Group process in 1995 and high-level counterpart visits to Mexico City and Washington. The establishment of more regular contacts has in turn resulted in such unprecedented military interaction as training Mexican Airborne Special Forces Group personnel at Fort Bragg and maritime interaction at sea with the Mexican Navy. Mexico is the largest recipient of the IMET program in the hemisphere, and our two militaries cooperate in the counterdrug arena. One area of potential future cooperation is in regional disaster relief support. Our goal is to pursue a defense relationship based on common interests in a manner and at a pace consistent with Mexico's priorities and respectful of its sovereignty.

Broadening Multilateral Cooperation with Central America and the Caribbean

The return to democratic government in Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua during the late 1980s and the achievement of the Central American Peace Plan resulted in a marked improvement in U.S. defense relations with these countries and in their relations with one another. The local change is embodied in the Conference of Central American Armed Forces (CFAC), which was formed in November 1997 to establish regular contact between the defense establishments in the region and seek areas of future regional cooperation. Lingering tensions remain, however, as a result of unsettled territorial disputes. These include the maritime boundary dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua in the Caribbean Sea, a newly developing maritime boundary dispute between Guatemala and Honduras in the same area, a territorial dispute between Belize and Guatemala, and a Gulf of Fonseca dispute affecting El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.



Guatemalan Minister of Defense Brigadier General Juan de Dios Estrada Velasquez visits the United States.

The United States supports the Central American focus on cooperation in responding to natural disasters and in combating drug trafficking. Over time, successful subregional security cooperation may allow resource-strapped Central American governments to reconfigure their national militaries based on the diminished threats of the 21st Century.

Multinational security cooperation is most advanced among Caribbean states, Belize, Guyana and Suriname. There are different organizations, such as the Regional Security System (RSS), and activities, such as the annual Caribbean Nations Security Conference (CANSEC) that link these nations together. The Association of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Military Chiefs provides oversight and is the decisionmaking body with which USSOUTHCOM engages and through which new cooperative initiatives are considered and, if appropriate, accepted and implemented. Recent examples are the establishment of a Department of Defense funded information security network and the launching of the "Caribbean Support Tender" (CST) initiative. The CST fully integrates personnel from the sub-region with the crew of a U.S. Coast Guard vessel.

This initiative introduces uniformity in many aspects of naval training, provides maintenance and repair to the region's naval assets and fosters operational cooperation. Building on recent developments, the Department of Defense sees interaction with Caribbean states expanding within their effective security framework and cooperation with Central America countries gradually becoming multilateral. USSOUTHCOM exercise programs will focus on building Central American collaboration in the areas of disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. Central American and Caribbean countries will continue to play an important role in a variety of counterdrug efforts and international peacekeeping operations.

Comprehensive Engagement with the Andean Region

The United States also continues to explore ways to enhance collaboration with the Andean Ridge nations. Defense partnerships with the countries of the Andes enable all to confront a range of security challenges. Expanded U.S. cooperation and interoperability with Colombian forces remains critical. Increased attention to human rights issues will continue to be a high priority. Over the last decade Colombia has become the center of the cocaine trade in Latin America, largely because of the successful interdiction and eradication efforts in Peru and Bolivia. More than eighty percent of the world's coca is grown and manufactured into cocaine in Colombia, whereupon it is shipped to an increasingly diversified worldwide market, including the United States. Colombia has also become a major source of heroin for the U.S. market.



Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen meets with Minister of National Defense Luis Fernando Ramirez and Ambassador Luiz Alberto Moreno, both of the Republic of Colombia.

To disrupt illegal cocaine cultivation and production, the United States - in collaboration with Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru - has developed a threat-based, intelligence-driven, counterdrug interdiction strategy that focuses on air, riverine/coastal, and ground programs. Ecuador provides its airbase at Manta as a forward operating location for multilateral aerial

surveillance of drug trafficking flights. The Department of Defense has worked closely with Colombia, Peru, and Bolivia to improve their air interdiction capability, including the provision of ground-based radars and cockpit upgrades for interceptor aircraft. The Department of Defense's counterdrug riverine efforts have provided equipment and training support to these countries, thereby facilitating operations along the vast river networks that are a major supply route for precursor chemicals. Finally, U.S. ground interdiction assistance has concentrated on training selected military units in the light infantry tactics they require to support law enforcement interdiction and eradication operations. The service programs have been enhanced by the development of intelligence and communication networks. This approach has proven successful in both Peru and Bolivia.

The Colombian government has developed a comprehensive and integrated approach to address Colombia's problems. "Plan Colombia" underscores the government's commitment to strengthen the economy and democracy while fighting illicit drug trafficking. In mid-2000, the United States provided significantly increased support for implementation of Colombia's plan as part of a 1.3 billion dollar emergency supplemental. The funds will, among other programs, provide equipment, training, and intelligence support to Colombian air, naval, and ground forces to support drug eradication and interdiction efforts. In addition, the United States will continue to seek to strengthen respect for human rights in Colombia.



In support of Plan Colombia, U.S. provides helicopters to Colombian armed forces and police involved in counter-drug operations.

The governments of Ecuador and the United States are working together to fight drug trafficking. Ecuador is one of the primary transit routes for cocaine and heroin from Colombia and Peru. Since 1998, the United States has worked with Ecuador to enhance its ability to interdict suspect flights and establish an effective riverine counterdrug presence. In November 1999, the United States and Ecuador signed a ten-year agreement to permit U.S. aircraft to use Manta as a Forward Operating Location. The agreement allows Ecuador and the United States to work even closer together in the detection and monitoring of clandestine aircraft transporting illicit drugs to Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

In Venezuela, the Department of Defense continues to encourage its counterparts to pursue change with full respect for democratic practices and principles of civil-military relations. The Department of Defense endeavors to maintain a positive relationship with the Venezuelan Ministry of Defense and further cooperative efforts between our armed forces. United States and Venezuelan forces have participated in several combined exercises such as Red Flag and UNITAS. The Department of Defense also has provided technical training to foster self-supporting air, ground, and riverine programs in support of counterdrug objectives.

Building Interoperability with the Southern Cone

Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay provide an increasingly important locus for the development of regional CSBMs and cooperation between and among defense establishments. They are also important partners in international peacekeeping and other UN operations, which contribute to mutual global security interests. By expanding already robust exercise and exchange programs and maintaining close highlevel relationships, the five nations are progressing toward a strategic partnership that could ensure the possibility of greater cooperative security in the hemisphere.

Argentina-U.S. Defense relations have grown progressively closer over the past few years. The annual Bilateral Working Group meeting has become a centerpiece of the relationship. In addition, senior leaders, both civilian and military, visit their counterparts regularly during the year. An extensive military exercise program exists between the United States and Argentina as typified by the exchange program that brought 66 officers and civilian students to the United States in 1999. Argentina has sustained its commitment to peacekeeping across the globe. In January 1998, President Clinton designated Argentina as a major non-NATO ally (MNNA), in



Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen meets with Minister of Defense Ricardo Lopez Murphy of Argentina.

recognition of its peacekeeping commitments in Bosnia, Cyprus, Haiti, Iraq-Kuwait, the Sinai, and the Western Sahara.

Chile-U.S. Defense relations continue to warm. In addition to several highly successful head-of-state and ministerial visits, both governments agreed to establish a Defense Consultative Commission (DCC), which provides structure to Chile-U.S. bilateral defense relations. At least in part because of the DCC process, the Chilean Navy is embarking on its first indigenous surface combatant construction program. The Department of Defense actively supported participation by two U.S. defense firms in the Chilean Air Force's fighter aircraft competition and has contributed a major presence at the Chile's air and space exhibition in recent years. Chile's engagement in peacekeeping includes a recent commitment of forces to the UN Standby Arrangement System and participation in USSOUTHCOM's peacekeeping exercises.

Both Argentina and Chile have made commitments to confidence and security building measures and defense cooperation in the Southern Cone. Over the past few years, Argentina and Chile have promoted transparency and the reduction of tensions through



Brazilian Minister of Defense Geraldo Magela Quintao Alvares is escorted by Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen to the Pentagon River parade field for his welcoming ceremony.

more frequent consultations and cooperation. Initiatives, such as joint Antarctic Patrols, joint army exercises on the border, and joint frigate construction highlight the progress the two countries have made in building a more cooperative relationship. Other steps are being taken to harmonize the two countries' budgeting and accounting systems to permit meaningful comparisons of their defense programs. Argentina and Chile's Defense White Papers are examples of transparency and serve as comprehensive documents on their national security strategy, resources, and processes.

Brazil-U.S. Military relations date back to World War II, when Brazil sent a 25,000 man force to fight with the U.S. 5th Army in the

Italian Campaign. The historically close military relations between Brazil and the United States are exemplified by annual Joint Staff talks, extensive service-to-service exchanges and conferences, increased high-level visits, and participation in annual exercises. The establishment of the Brazilian Ministry of Defense in 2000 facilitates bilateral discourse in defense channels. The U.S. and Brazilian defense ministries met in June 2000 for the first meeting of the Bilateral Working Group for Defense. Brazil is enhancing regional transparency through its publication of a National Defense Policy. Evidence of Brazil's efforts to promote regional security cooperation include the major role it played in defusing the 1997 crisis in Paraguay, and also its leadership of the MOMEF peacekeeping mission on the Peru-Ecuador border.

The United States shares close defense relations with Uruguay, which contributes more peacekeepers to international peacekeeping missions per capita than any other Latin American country. Defense relations between the United States and Paraguay are likely to grow stronger as Paraguay develops its civilian ministry of defense and increases the professionalization of its military.

Sustaining U.S. Engagement into the 21st Century

The United States will maintain its strategic engagement in the hemisphere in the new century. Countries in the hemisphere have made considerable progress over the past decade in establishing and strengthening civilian ministries of defense. The United States will continue to encourage this trend, supporting the development of democratic military policies and the creation of a large pool of civilian expertise in defense affairs. Instruction at U.S. defense institutions will continue to stress the importance of civilian authority over the military in a democratic society, and the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies will continue to offer high quality education to civilians on the management of democratic security structures.

The United States also will remain committed to seeking increased regional cooperation as a means of addressing future security challenges. The Department of Defense will advance regional security cooperation through security dialogues and working group meetings, multilateral efforts in the OAS and the Defense Ministerial of the Americas process, as well as USSOUTHCOM's exercise and exchange programs. The United States will continue to support transparency and CSBMs as important to building security, peace, and stability in the hemisphere.

The United States remains committed to conducting its regional affairs in an open and transparent manner, and encourages all nations and institutions involved in regional security initiatives to conduct their activities similarly to build trust and enhance regional stability.

The United States Department of Defense Strategy for the Americas outlines the United States' vision of the region and strategy for achieving it. The Department of Defense is committed to working with civilian and military counterparts in the countries in the hemisphere to realize the opportunities and confront the challenges facing us in the years ahead.