



U.S. EMBASSY Belmopan, Belize  
Office of Public Affairs

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**For Immediate Release**

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## Press Statement

*Belmopan* - The goal of the U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) is to support the Belizean military and people so that the United States and Belize can continue to work closely together in strengthening maritime security interests that affect both countries. In consideration of our strong U.S.-Belize partnership, USSOUTHCOM and the U.S. Embassy in Belmopan are currently examining the contracting procedures and construction efforts underway to address Government of Belize concerns.

The USSOUTHCOM is funding the Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Hunting Caye and other projects for the Belize Coast Guard through its Counterdrug Program in direct support of the Belize Coast Guard's 2020 strategy. The bidding process for these infrastructure projects is transparent and open to a pool of international contractors under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Central America "Multiple Award Task Order Contracts" (MATOCS). The Army Corps of Engineers grants the contract to the company assessed to provide the best product at the most reasonable cost as is the custom with contract bidding. As such, source selection is based on 'best value' which includes analysis of cost, record of performance, and technical qualifications. For this project, the Guatemalan company Bonatti Ingenieros y Arquitectos Sociedad was assessed as the most qualified based on the selection criteria. Contract award processes are codified in U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations.

The San Pedro FOB, also constructed by Bonatti Ingenieros y Arquitectos Sociedad, has had a tremendous positive impact on the ability of the Belize Coast Guard to project power and sustain operations in littoral waters, saving Belizean resources and providing sailors with a comfortable, safe and long-lasting platform from which to operate daily. The Hunting Caye FOB will do the same for the Belize Coast Guard.

Please email [BelmopanPA@state.gov](mailto:BelmopanPA@state.gov) with further questions.

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