



NEWS

United States Consulate General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.S. Forward Operating Location Welcomes New Commander

Lieutenant Colonel Otto Habedank, Commander of the United States Forward Operating Locations in Curacao and Aruba relinquished his leadership to Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Price, yesterday.

Colonel Douglas Galipeau Commander of 474th Air Expeditionary Group, Headquarters Twelfth Air Force, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, presided over the ceremony.

The Change of Command is a time-honored military tradition which symbolizes the continuation of leadership and unit identity despite the change in individual authority; it also allows other airmen to personally witness the command authority passing from one officer to another. Passing the ceremonial flag from the old commander to the new commander physically represents this transfer.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Price was the Air Force Section Chief United States Military Group Bolivia prior to taking command in Curacao and Aruba. (full bio attached)

The U.S. FOL, 429th Expeditionary Operations Squadron, supports multi-national aircraft operations that conduct detection, monitoring and tracking missions supporting counter-drug efforts in the region. U.S. FOL Curaçao was formed as a result of an agreement between, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the United States whereby aircraft and crews deploy to the U.S. FOL on a temporary basis to conduct mission operations.

During 2008, surveillance flights from the U.S. FOL assisted in the seizure of more than 270 tons of narcotics with a street value of over 5 billion USD. Also, U.S. FOL military and civilian personnel often volunteer their services in support of community projects and are pleased to have established partnership with various local agencies which benefits the people of Curaçao.

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