



NEWS

United States Consulate General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USNS HENSON on Oceanographic Survey Mission



The USNS HENSON (T-AGS 63) will conduct oceanographic surveying operations in the Caribbean through next year in support of U.S. Southern Command survey requirements and U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command in support of Partnership of Americas, which seeks to strengthen partnerships and improve regional security.

The USNS HENSON will use the port of Curacao as a staging point for crew turnover, basic maintenance and fuel, equipment testing and an end of the year

break for the crew.

Also, the USNS HENSON will conduct equipment testing of an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) in territorial waters during the next several months. The AUV is an autonomous vehicle which measures the bottom contour of the ocean floor and samples the water column. The testing location was selected based on the critical bathymetry requirements for testing the AUV.

Curacao is ideal for those testing requirements. Furthermore, data that is collected during the testing will be shared with Netherlands Antilles authorities. The U.S. Government welcomes local government participation in the testing.

USNS HENSON is one of the seven Oceanographic Survey Ships that are operated by the Military Sealift Command for the Naval Meteorology and Oceanography Command. The USNS HENSON has a crew of about 55 Department of Defense surveyors and merchant marines aboard. For more information on USNS HENSON, please visit their webpage at:

<https://oceanography.navy.mil/legacy/web/>

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