The Caribbean Basin Security Initiative

A Shared Regional Security Partnership

Guyana is partnering with the other nations of the Caribbean and the United States to combat the drug trade and other transnational crime that threatens regional security. This shared security partnership, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI), fulfills the commitment to deepen regional security cooperation that President Barack Obama made at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, in April 2009.

Enhancing Citizen Safety

CBSI complements other citizen safety initiatives between the United States and other partners in the hemisphere. CBSI will increase citizen safety throughout the Caribbean by working together to:

- Substantially reduce illicit trafficking
- Increase public safety and security
- Promote social justice

Regional Cooperation

Participating nations worked together for more than a year to develop CBSI. In meetings, which leadership of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Dominican Republic facilitated, we assessed strategies to combat transnational crime and the root causes of crime and violence. Together, CBSI partnering nations adopted a Declaration of Principles, Plan of Action, and Framework for Security Cooperation at the inaugural Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation Dialogue held in Washington, D.C. in May 2010.

We will continue this dialogue through technical working groups to coordinate local, national, and regional security and crime prevention activities and policies. These working groups will ensure effective and efficient implementation of programs, identify future program and policy needs, and inform policymakers at the 2nd annual Caribbean-U.S. Security Cooperation Dialogue in 2011.

United States Support Under CBSI

The United States will provide more than $45 million to support CBSI in 2010. In addition, the Obama Administration has requested $79 million to continue support for CBSI in 2011. This funding will complement non-monetary policy support the United States has committed to this multi-year partnership.

U.S. funding and programs complement those of our Caribbean partners. These programs were developed in response to those concerns and priorities discussed during our initial meetings, build on existing partnerships and prepare for future cooperation, and meet objectives described in the CBSI Joint Plan of Action.

The first fiscal year of CBSI funding includes approximately $3 million for programs in Guyana, to include:

- Patrol/interceptor boats, support equipment, command and control system, radios, logistical and maintenance support, and training to increase maritime interdiction capability
- Training and equipment to increase the capabilities and effectiveness of police and customs units at ports of entry
- Establishing an effective Financial Intelligence Unit to combat money laundering and other financial crimes
- Building partnerships with local NGOs to provide rehabilitation for juvenile offenders and offer alternatives to violence
- Remedial education in basic literacy and math
- Training and increased access to microfinance for young entrepreneurs

CBSI Complements Other U.S. Assistance

The U.S. commitment to Guyana and to the CBSI partnership extends beyond the CBSI funding described above, including support for the following:

- HIV/AIDs programs for prevention, counseling and testing, and treatment, to include care and support for 1,500 children and adults, and job skills training for youth
- Advancing economic development and trade through support for market-led agricultural diversification for exports, expansion of aquaculture, promotion of ecotourism, and certification of forest products
- Mediation training to increase access to justice and reduce case backlog
- Training for counselors, social workers, and court clerks on new sexual violence and domestic violence legislation and protocols
- Establishment of Guyana's first Child Protection Agency
- Training for GDF special forces in counterterrorism and counternarcotics

The United States looks forward to continued cooperation with its Caribbean partners to strengthen the CBSI partnership. More information is available at: www.state.gov/p/wha/rt/cbsi