



THE CARIBBEAN BASIN SECURITY INITIATIVE



A Shared Regional Security Partnership



The Bahamas 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 \$1.6 million for programs in The Bahamas, to include:

- Training to enhance the criminal investigative capacity of Bahamian law enforcement agencies
- Equipment to support the efforts of Bahamian law enforcement agencies to interdict, disrupt, and deter narcotics trafficking through The Bahamas
- Support for the Bahamian Government's efforts to reduce the demand for illicit drugs in The Bahamas.

CBSI Complements Other U.S. Assistance

The U.S. commitment to The Bahamas and to the CBSI partnership extends beyond the CBSI funding described above. Over the past two years (FY2009 and FY2010), the U.S. has committed \$800,000 in bilateral security assistance, as well as support for the following:

- Supporting the Royal Bahamian Police Force's (RBPF) efforts with patrol boats and trailers, computer hardware and software, safety equipment, vehicles, and communications equipment for police
- Providing first-response and decontamination equipment to the RBPF, as well as training to more than 155 Bahamian officials in document fraud recognition, airport security management, and response to weapons of mass destruction
- Supporting the Royal Bahamian Defence Force's (RBDF) efforts through the donation of six 43-foot interceptor patrol boats outfitted with state-of-the-art communications equipment since 2008
- Providing funding over three years for technical assistance to prevent HIV/AIDS
- Assisting the Bahamas Red Cross with hurricane preparation materials and supplies

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