



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



July 29, 2009

## Continuing Promise 2009

*"My perception toward the U.S. military after participating in this mission is that... they are committed to liberty, respect, democracy and human rights, not only in the U.S., but for partner nations and the entire world."*

– Dr. Angel Gonzalo Nicaragua Latino, Nicaraguan doctor embarked aboard USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) for Continuing Promise 09

Continuing Promise 2009 (CP09), a humanitarian and civic assistance mission in direct support of the Maritime Strategy, will be completed July 30. During CP09, which began in April 2009, the hospital ship USNS Comfort provided humanitarian and civic assistance to [Antigua and Barbuda](#), [Colombia](#), the [Dominican Republic](#), [El Salvador](#), [Haiti](#), [Nicaragua](#) and [Panama](#). CP09 is a collaborative effort between the U. S. military and interagency, civil service mariners, [non-governmental organizations](#) (NGO), academia and partner nations. The mission, planned and coordinated by Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command (NAVSO) and U.S. 4th Fleet, builds strong and enduring partnerships and demonstrates continued goodwill and the lasting commitment of the United States to nations of the Caribbean and Latin America.

### Committed to Working Together with Friends, Partners and Neighbors

- CP09 was an excellent opportunity to provide humanitarian aid, learn from host nation partners and train a diverse team of experts to be better prepared to respond to a regional crisis.
- The U.S. Navy executed CP09 to provide the type and level of care needed to assist the people of the region and build on the partnerships fostered during USNS Comfort's 2007 deployment and Continuing Promise 2008 deployments by USS Boxer (LHD 4) and USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) to the region.

### Committed to Regional Peace and Stability in the Caribbean, Central and South American Region

- The relationships built and sustained with our multinational partners through exercises and professional exchanges enrich our humanitarian efforts and preserve peace and stability in the region.
- CP09 demonstrates NAVSO and 4th Fleet's continued commitment to nations of the Caribbean and Latin America and exemplifies our longstanding ties and continued commitment to work together to address mutual issues and concerns.

### Sustaining Cooperative Relationships with our Partners

- Seventy-one medical professionals from the partner and host nations of Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, the [Dominican Republic](#), [El Salvador](#), France, Haiti, the Netherlands, Nicaragua and Panama served on the CP09 team and developed lasting professional and personal relationships.
- More than 270 volunteers from numerous NGOs, including [LDS Charities](#), [Operation Smile](#), [Project Hope](#), [University of California San Diego Pre-dental Society](#) and [Rotary Club International](#) also worked on the team. Donations totaling more than \$4 million were provided by more than 20 different organizations, including the U.S. Navy's Project Handclasp.

### Key Messages

- In partnership with nations of the Caribbean and Latin America, Continuing Promise 09 conducted medical, dental, veterinary, educational and civic action programs both ashore and afloat.
- Continuing Promise 09 demonstrated unique execution of the Maritime Strategy through diversity, inclusivity and collaboration with hundreds of partner nation representatives, NGO volunteers, other services and U.S. Navy civilian mariners.
- Continuing Promise is a demonstration of U.S. commitment to neighbors in the Americas.

### Facts & Figures

- Total patients treated: 100,049
- Total surgeries conducted: 1,657
- Dental patients: 15,003
- Animals treated: 13,238
- Construction projects: 13 projects ranging from minor renovations of facilities to building new schools
- Community Relations: 17 projects
- USNS Comfort Continuing Promise 2009 photo gallery is available at:  
<http://www.southcom.mil/AppsSC/photoGallery.php?gallery=Continuing%20Promise%202009>