

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman

May 15, 2009

MEDIA NOTE

U.S.-Caribbean Technical Meeting on Security Cooperation

The United States and the nations of the Caribbean will gather in Paramaribo, Suriname, on May 20, 2009, for the U.S.-Caribbean Technical Meeting on Security Cooperation. This meeting will develop joint strategies to address common security concerns and increased violence throughout the region. The meeting will shape a U.S.-Caribbean Security Cooperation Dialogue to take place later this year in Washington, DC.

The United States is committed to working with Caribbean and other international partners in sharing the responsibility in developing a multinational approach to address transnational crime, while simultaneously focusing on building economic and educational opportunities for all citizens in the Caribbean.

To achieve these goals, President Obama has requested from Congress a \$45 million financial contribution towards a multiyear, multi-faceted Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. It is our intention that this initiative will strengthen key Caribbean institutions, both socially and economically, and ensure the safety of all our citizens who are increasingly suffering from the adverse impacts of transnational crime and reduced economic opportunities.

The U.S. delegation will be led by Ambassador David M. Robinson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs. It will also include representatives from the U.S. Department of State; the U.S. Agency for International Development; and the Departments of Justice, Defense, and Homeland Security.

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