

AmericasRelief Team NEWS REPORT

December 6, 2006
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SALUTES AMERICAS RELIEF TEAM

On Tuesday, December 5, 2006, humanitarian experts met at the Intercontinental Hotel in Miami to celebrate a year of minimum hurricane activity in the Caribbean Basin. The reception took place as a collateral event of the 30th Annual Conference on the Caribbean Basin hosted by the Caribbean Central America Action (CCAA), a member of *AmericasRelief Team*. Walter M. Bastian, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Western Hemisphere at the U.S. Department of Commerce was the keynote speaker.

Mr. Bastian gave a detailed account of the Commerce Department's involvement during past crises in the Caribbean and Central America and expanded on department's plans and support following future catastrophic events in the region. Bastian heads the department's Office of Latin America and the Caribbean and directs the Latin America/Caribbean Business Development Center. He has received numerous awards for his work, including, in 1999, the Department's Silver Medal for his work in designing reconstruction programs following the impact of Hurricane Mitch and Georges in Central America and the Caribbean.

During his speech, Mr. Bastian stated that "the U.S. Commerce Department encourages and supports the humanitarian efforts of U.S. companies to the Caribbean following a humanitarian crises such as a hurricane". "We salute and applaud the efforts of non-profit organizations such as the *AmericasRelief Team* to assist those affected by these devastating storms", he added.

AmericasRelief Team's Executive Director, Dr. Teo A. Babun Jr. provided a compilation of the organization's activities and accomplishments during '2006, including an introduction of its **Americas Alliance for Disaster Relief initiative**, which was offered to the Central America's countries of Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador in October, 2006. Relief items commonly requested during the first hours, days and weeks following a crisis are shipped in a coordinated basis through *AmericasRelief Team's* **Bank Depository of Charity Cargo** carriers and others. Then in return, the collaborating country provides first-hand communications on needs, custom's priority for the humanitarian aid being shipped,

AmericasRelief Team is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) charitable organization formed by a collaboration of corporations and non-profit organizations to expedite relief to the Caribbean and Latin America in response to natural and manmade disasters. *AmericasRelief Team* responds to immediate crisis, provides logistics assistance, and conducts plans to respond to future events. When disaster strikes, *AmericasRelief Team* works in a coordinated basis with governments in the region, the U.S. government, donating & logistics companies, air & sea cargo carriers, non-governmental experts, and others to effectively channel emergency relief to the areas affected most.

AmericasRelief Team members include top executives from Carnival Corporation; Cross International, FedEx Latin America; Feed the Children; Lucent Technologies; Pharmed Group Corp.; Caribbean Central America Action (CCAC); Florida Stevedoring; G.O.A.L., Inc.; Miami-Dade Aviation Department; Port of Miami Terminal Operating Co. (POMTOC), Seaboard Marine; Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA); Food for the Poor; Gordon, Reyes & Co.; Harvest International; Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); WorldCity Media; Enterprise Florida and World Vision-South Florida.

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER



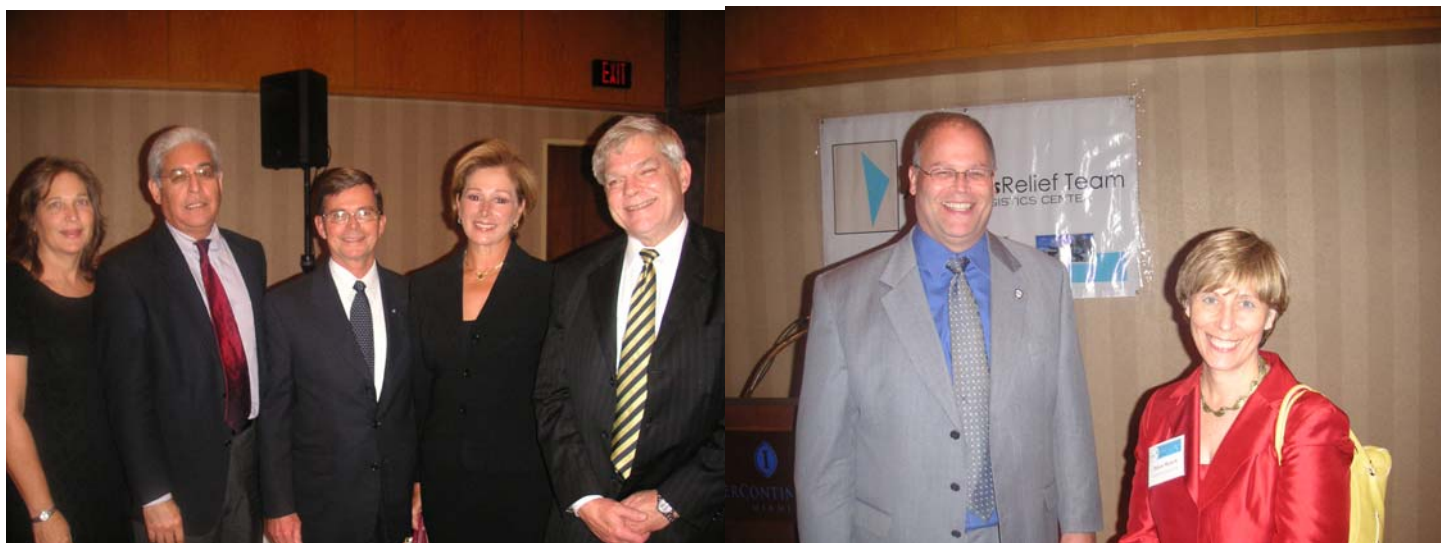
Mr. Walter M. Bastian, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for the Western Hemisphere-U.S. Department of Commerce invited the challenged the private sector to continue helping our friends in the Caribbean Basin and congratulated AmericasRelief Team on its efforts.

FACES AT THE EVENT



From left to right: Consultant to Julieta Valls of Pan American Development Foundation; Ines Calderon of Florida FTAA, Jose Perez Jones, Event Chair & VP of Seaboard Marine, Brian C. Dean, Executive Director of Florida FTAA, and The Honorable Jose Velazquez Escobar, Consul General of Nicaragua.

SPECIAL GUESTS



AmericasRelief Team Members, Strategic Partners, and friends took advantage of the event to network. Some of those attending shown here included: Sam Tidwell, President of the Red Cross-Miami and the Keys, Eric Williams, Chairman of the Board of AmericasRelief and President of GOAL, Inc, and Dunia Miranda, Trade Commissioner of Guatemala. Other VIP's (not shown) included LTC Patricia Stolz of SOUTHCOM, Timothy Callaghan and Todd Horne of USAID, Robert Pelegreen of the U.S. Army South, and Suzanne Brooks of the Center for International Disaster Information, amongst others.

AmericasRelief Team

AmericasRelief Team is a private sector collaboration of companies, non-profit organizations, and government agencies, created to coordinate, facilitate, and offer the following services for victims of humanitarian emergencies in the Americas: relief aid, preparedness, development, and recovery. AmericasRelief Team also:

- Reacts to immediate crisis,
- Facilitates and coordinates relief aid logistics for its members and others,
- Provides guidance for implementation of effective supply chain management disciplines,
- Advocates for efficient logistics integration,
- Supports broad range planning & implementation,
- Encourages and conducts educational programs on effective processing, distribution, logistics, and capacity building,
- Provides advice on state-of-the-art logistics techniques and effective emergency relief protocols,
- Assists in the assessing and surveying of needs and damage, to help guide the effective channeling of emergency relief to the most affected areas,
- Promotes the charitable activities of its members.

Strategic Supporters

AidMatrix Foundation, Airline Cargo Services; Antillean Marine Shipping Corp.; Family Outreach Ministries International; Future of Nicaragua Foundation; Helping Hands Ministry; Seafreight Agencies.

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