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FA-HUM 08 WELCOMES AMERICASRELIEF

Central American and Caribbean Armed Forces prepare for hurricane season

MIAMI, FL – MAY 2008 – On May 11-15 *Americas*Relief Team participated in the Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias 2008 (FA-Hum 08) in San Salvador, El Salvador. FA-Hum 08 was a regionally-oriented disaster relief exercise and program involving military and civilian agencies from Central America and the Caribbean Basin. The event was sponsored by USSOUTHCOM and the Salvadoran Ministry of Defense. It was designed to bring together experts in all aspects of disaster planning and management and enhance military to military, military to civilian, and civilian to civilian contacts between the participants, and encourage and promote regional cooperative engagement in disaster planning and response.

Countries participating included: Antigua/Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.

Organizations attending included: USAID-Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Pan American Health Organization, UN-Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Conference of Central American Forces-Humanitarian Rescue Unit, the Conference of the American Armies, *Americas*Relief Team, and others.

One of the components of the event was a trade exposition that provided participants with an opportunity to see the latest in disaster management items and introduce participants to organizations involved in disaster planning and mitigation. Dr. Teo A. Babun, Executive Director of *Americas*Relief Team represented the organization.

ABOUT AMERICASRELIEF TEAM:

*Americas*Relief Team has been operational since 2003. The recent active hurricane seasons helped prove the organizational strength of the organization and helped propel the organization. All staff is on a volunteer basis yet, the level of knowledge and dedication is highly professional. Members include top executives from Carnival Corporation; Cross International; FedEx Latin America; American Red Cross-Greater Miami & The Keys, Baptist Health System; Feed the Children; Food for the Poor; Lucent Technologies; Caribbean Central America Action (CCAC); Florida Stevedoring; Miami-Dade Aviation Department; Port of Miami Terminal Operating Co. (POMTOC), Antillean Marine, DRT International, Seaboard Marine; Miami River Marine Group, Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA); Gordon, Reyes & Co.; Harvest International; Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); WorldCity Media; Enterprise Florida and World Vision-South Florida.

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Left to right: Mr. Gregg Nakano, Director of ALLIES; Teo Babun, AmericasRelief Team; and Branson Rector, Col. U.S. Southern Command



Walter Wintzer, Executive Secretary CEPREDENAC (Center for Coordination for the Prevention of National Disasters in Central America), and Dr. Teo Babun, AmericasRelief Team at the event's booth.