

# The Caribbean























## Defence and Security in the Anglophone Caribbean The Roads to Cooperation

The Anglophone Caribbean and Latin America represent different realities joined through geography and found in the same hemisphere. They share many of the same hemispheric structures and also (though only partly) historical agendas and pattern of relations with their neighbours. Knowledge of the defence and security realities of the Caribbean adds to the sense of being part of the same hemisphere and affects the policies of many Latin American countries, as witnessed by the involvement of Guyana in the South American Defence Council, existing cooperation and accords, and their common participation in Defence Ministerial Conferences and the OAS Committee on Hemispheric Security.

This Dossier presents data and analyses on twelve countries of the Anglophone Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The information contained allows one to appreciate the richness of their relations and experiences and the prospects of bringing the Latin American and Caribbean regions closer, thus associating two regions that evolve and cooperate in the same space.

Anglophone Caribbean countries' political systems derive from their British colonial past and, because of both history and language, the region has developed its strongest ties with such actors as Canada, the USA and Great Britain. In matters of security and defence, Anglophone Caribbean countries share an agenda with the one another and, in many instances, participate in regional structures, including the Regional Security System. The characteristics of their territories and populations have had an impact on the composition of either regular and sizeable defence forces or, as another political option, the presence of constabulary or police forces.

Fledgling relations of cooperation in security and defence have been strengthened by a landmark event: the 2007 Cricket World Cup. In addition, these countries share their space with other independent countries, including Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and dependencies of other countries, such as the USA, France, the UK and The Netherlands, with a variety of legal status, with which they tend to have cooperation agreements. In sum, all twelve countries, sharing cultural ties and structures, have certain particular aspects and make their own distinctive political choices with respect to their defence systems and relations with other countries, including those in Latin America.

Defence and Security Forces	
Antigua and Barbuda	 
Bahamas	 
Barbados	 
Belize	 
Dominica	
Grenada	
Guyana	 
Jamaica	 
Saint Kitts and Nevis	 
Saint Lucia	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	
Trinidad and Tobago	 
	 
	<b>Defence Forces</b> <b>Defence/Police Forces</b>


### Defence Force's Mission

Country	Defence, sovereignty and Territory	Cooperation to internal Order and Security	Assistance in the event of emergency and/or natural disaster
Antigua and Barbuda	x	x	x
Bahamas	x	x	x
Barbados	x	x	x
Belize	x	x	x
Dominica	In the event of war or other emergency, if proclaimed by the authorities, the Police Force shall be a military force which may be employed for State defence		
Grenada	In the event of war or other emergency, if proclaimed by the authorities, the Police Force shall be a military force which may be employed for State defence		
Guyana	x	x	x
Jamaica	x	x	x
Saint Kitts and Nevis	x	x	x
Saint Lucia	In the event of war or other emergency, if proclaimed by the authorities, the Police Force shall be a military force which may be employed for State defence		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	In the event of war or other emergency, if proclaimed by the authorities, the Police Force shall be a military force which may be employed for State defence		
Trinidad and Tobago	x	x	x

**Sources:** Defence (Amendment) Act, 2007 (Antigua and Barbuda). Defence Act, Chapter 211 (Bahamas). Defence Act, Chapter 159 (Barbados). Defence Act, Chapter 135 (Belize). Police Act, Chapter 14:01 (Dominica). Defence Act, Chapter 15:01 (Guyana). Ministry of National Security and The Defence Act (Jamaica). Defence Act (Saint Kitts and Nevis). Defence Act, Chapter 14:01 (Trinidad and Tobago).




**Official name: Belize**




*Population:* 313.000 inhabitants.  
*Governor General:* Colville Young.  
*Prime Minister:* Dean Barrow.  
Parliamentary monarchy since 1981. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Belize Defence Force, 1978.  
Belize Police Department, 1973.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, OEA.

**Official name: Commonwealth of The Bahamas**



*Population:* 346.000 inhabitants.  
*Governor General:* Arthur Foulkes.  
*Prime Minister:* Hubert Ingraham.  
Parliamentary monarchy since 1973. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Royal Bahamas Defence Force, 1980.  
Royal Bahamas Police Force, 1840.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA.


**Official name: Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis**



*Population:* 52.000 inhabitants.  
*Governor General:* Cuthbert Sebastian.  
*Prime Minister:* Denzil Douglas.  
Parliamentary monarchy since 1983. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Defence Force, 1896.  
Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Police Force, 1960.  
*Special service unit:* Special Service Unit.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA, OECS, RSS




**Official name: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines**




*Population:* 109.000 inhabitants.  
*Governor General:* Frederick Ballantyne.  
*Prime Minister:* Ralph Gonsalves.  
Parliamentary monarchy since 1979. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, 1979.  
*Special service unit:* Special Service Unit.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA, OECS, RSS.

**Official name: Jamaica**




*Population:* 2.825.928 inhabitants.  
*Governor General:* Patrick Allen.  
*Prime Minister:* Bruce Golding.  
Parliamentary monarchy since 1962. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Jamaica Defence Force, 1962.  
Jamaica Constabulary Force, 1832.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA.

**Official name: The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago**




*Population:* 1.344.000 inhabitants.  
*President:* George Maxwell Richards.  
*Prime Minister:* Kamla Persad-Bissessar.  
Parliamentary Republic (Independence 1962). Member of the Commonwealth.  
Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force, 1962.  
Trinidad and Tobago Police Force Service, 1792.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA.

**Official name: Grenada**



*Population:* 104.000 inhabitants.  
*Governor General:* Carlyle Glean.  
*Prime Minister:* Tillman Thomas.  
Parliamentary monarchy since 1974. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Royal Grenada Police Force, 1853.  
*Special service unit:* Special Service Unit.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA, OECS, RSS.

**Official name: The Republic of Guyana**



*Population:* 761.000 inhabitants.  
*President:* Bharrat Jagdeo.  
*Prime Minister:* Sam Hinds.  
Semi-presidential republic (Independence 1966). Member of the Commonwealth.  
Guyana Defence Force, 1965.  
Guyana Police Force, 1839.  
*Organizations:* ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA.

**Source:** compilation based on information supplied by the mentioned institutions. Population: Anuario Estadístico de América Latina y el Caribe, 2009, ECLAC.

**Official name: Antigua and Barbuda**

Population: 89.000 inhabitants.  
Governor General: Louise Lake-Tack.  
Prime Minister: Baldwin Spencer.

Parliamentary monarchy since 1981. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Royal Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force, 1981.  
Royal Antigua and Barbuda Police, 1967.  
Special service unit: Special Patrol Group.  
Organizations: ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA, OECS, RSS.

**Official name: Commonwealth of Dominica**

Population: 67.000 inhabitants.  
President: Nicholas Liverpool.  
Prime Minister: Roosevelt Skerrit.

Parliamentary Republic (Independence 1978). Member of the Commonwealth.  
Dominica Police Force, 1940.  
Special service unit: Special Service Unit.  
Organizations: ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA, OECS, RSS.

**Official name: Saint Lucia**

Population: 174.000 inhabitants.  
Governor General: Pearlette Louisy.  
Prime Minister: Stephenson King.

Parliamentary monarchy since 1979. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, 1834.  
Special service unit: Special Service Unit.  
Organizations: ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA, OECS, RSS.

**Official name: Barbados**

Population: 257.000 inhabitants.  
Governor General: Clifford Husbands.  
Prime Minister: David Thompson.

Parliamentary monarchy since 1966. Member of the Commonwealth.  
Barbados Defence Force, 1979.  
Barbados Police Force, 1835.  
Special service unit: Task Force.  
Organizations: ACCP, ACS, CARICOM, CDEMA, IMPACS, OEA, RSS.

**National legislation**

<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	- Police (Amendment) Act, 1998. - Defence (Amendment) Act, 2007.
<b>Bahamas</b>	- Police Act, Chapter 205, 1965. - Defence Act, Chapter 211, 1979.
<b>Barbados</b>	- Defence Act, Chapter 159, 1985. - Police Act, Chapter 167, 1998.
<b>Belize</b>	- Police Act, Chapter 138, 1951. - Defence Act, Chapter 135, 1978.
<b>Dominica</b>	- Police Act, Chapter 14:01, 1940.
<b>Grenada</b>	- The Police Act, Chapter 244, Revised Laws of Grenada 1990.
<b>Guyana</b>	- Police Act, Chapter 16:01, 1957. - Defence Act, Chapter 15:01, 1966. - Status of Visiting Police Forces Act, 7, 2008.
<b>Jamaica</b>	- The Constabulary Force Act, 1935. - The Defence Act, 1962.
<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>	- The Police Act, 2003. - Defence Act, 10,1997.
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	- Police Act, Chapter 14:01, 2001.
<b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	- Police Act, 280
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	- Defence Act, Chapter 14:01, 1962. - Police Service Act, Chapter 15:01, 2006.

Source: Compilation based on the mentioned legislation.

**Legal functions related to defence in the system**


GG: Governor General. PTE: President. PM: Prime Minister. DB: Defence Board.  
CF: Chief of the Force. SC: Security Council. CP: Commissioner of Police.


Country	Commanded formally by	Directed by	Controlled through	Commission in another country authorized by	Command, administration and discipline	Responsible for Operations	Troop exit authorized by	Defence Board Members
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	GG	PM	PM	DB	DB	CF	GG	PM, JF, other to be designated.
<b>Bahamas</b>	GG	PM	Minister of National Security	SC	SC	CF	GG	PM, Minister of National Security, other to be designated.
<b>Barbados</b>	GG	PM	--	DB	DB	CF	GG	PM, Other Ministers to be designated.
<b>Belize</b>	GG	PM	Minister of Defence and Immigration	Minister	DB	CF	GG	Defence and Immigration Minister, JF, other ministers to be designated.
<b>Dominica</b>	PTE	PM	Minister for National Security, Labour and Immigration	--	CP	CP	--	--
<b>Grenada</b>	GG	PM	--	--	CP	CP	--	--
<b>Guyana</b>	PTE	PM	--	PM	DB	CF	PM with Parliament	PTE, PM, Minister of Home Affairs, JF, three other to be designated.
<b>Jamaica</b>	GG	PM	Minister of National Security	DB	DB	CF	GG	Minister of National Security, JF, other minister to be designated.
<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>	GG	PM	Minister of National Security	DB	DB	CF	GG	PM, Minister of National Security, other to be designated.
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	GG	PM	Minister for Home Affairs and National Security	--	CP	CP	--	--
<b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	GG	PM	Minister of National Security	--	CP	CP	--	--
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	PTE	PM	Minister of National Security	Minister	DB	CF	PTE	Minister of National Security, JF, two other ministers to be designated.

Source: Compilation based on the defence and police force acts of each country. In the case of Dominica, Police Act, Chapter 14:01, 1940, reference is made only to responsibility for the police force.



## Organization of Defence and Security Forces


 Prime Minister's Office  
Royal Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force

 Personnel: 270

Regular Forces

- 1st Battalion
- Coast Guard
- Service and Support Unit

Reserve Forces


 Minister of National Security  
Royal Bahamas Defence Force


 Personnel: 1,061

Regular Forces

- Squadron
- Air Wing Department

Reserve Forces

 Prime Minister's Office  
Barbados Defence Force

 Personnel: 626

Regular Forces

- 1st Battalion
- Coast Guard
- Air Wing

Reserve Forces


 Minister of Defence and Immigration  
Belize Defence Force


 Personnel: 1,029

Regular Forces

- 1st and 2nd Infantry Battalion
- Service and Support Battalion
- Volunteer Battalion
- Air Wing Special Boat Unit
- National Coast Guard (1)

Reserve Forces

 Minister of National Security, Labour and Immigration  
Dominica Police Force

 Personnel: 444

Regular Forces

- Departments
- Marine Unit

 Prime Minister's Office (2)  
Royal Grenada Police Force


 Personnel: 836

Regular Forces

- Departments
- Coast Guard


(1) Independent from the Defence Forces.

(2) Ministry of National Security, Public Administration, Information, Technology Communications and Culture reporting to the Prime Minister's Office.



Office of the President  
Guyana Defence Force

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 Personnel: 3,428

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Regular Forces

- 1st and 2nd Infantry Battalion (Reserve)
- Service and Support Battalion
- Engineers Battalion
- Artillery Company

Coast Guard      Air Corps

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Special Forces Squadron

Reserve Forces



Minister of National Security  
Jamaica Defence Force

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 Personnel: 4,125

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Regular Forces

- 1st and 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion (Reserve)
- Service and Support Battalion
- Engineer Regiment

Coast Guard      Air Wing

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Combat Support Battalion

Reserve Forces



Minister of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Labour, Immigration and Social Security  
Royal Saint Kitts and Nevis Defence Force

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 Personnel: 375

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Regular Forces

- Company
- Service and Support Platoon

Coast Guard

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Reserve Forces



Minister of Home Affairs and Security  
Royal Saint Lucia Police Force

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 Personnel: 947

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Regular Forces

- Departments
- Marine Police



Minister of National Security  
Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force

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 Personnel: 880

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Regular Forces

- Rapid Response Unit
- Special Services Unit

Coast Guard



Minister of National Security  
Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force

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 Personnel: 5,126

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Regular Forces

- 1st and 2nd Infantry Battalion
- 3rd Engineering Battalion
- Service and Support Battalion

Coast Guard      Air Guard

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Reserve Forces

**Sources:** Government of Antigua and Barbuda and Defence (Amendment) Act, 2007 (Antigua and Barbuda). Ministry of National Security (Bahamas). Barbados Defence Force and Defence Act, Chapter 159 (Barbados). Ministry of Defence (Belize). Ministry of National Security, Labour and Immigration (Dominica). Ministry of Finance of Grenada (Grenada). Office of the President and Defence Act Chapter 15:01 (Guyana). Ministry of National Security (Jamaica). Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Labour, Immigration and Social Security (Saint Kitts and Nevis). Saint Lucia Police Force (Saint Lucia). Ministry of National Security Air and Sea Port Development (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). Ministry of National Security (Trinidad and Tobago). In all cases where defence forces exist, Reserve Forces are established besides the Regular Forces. In Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, there also exist Special Service Units, of a militarized nature, within the Regional Security System (RSS).



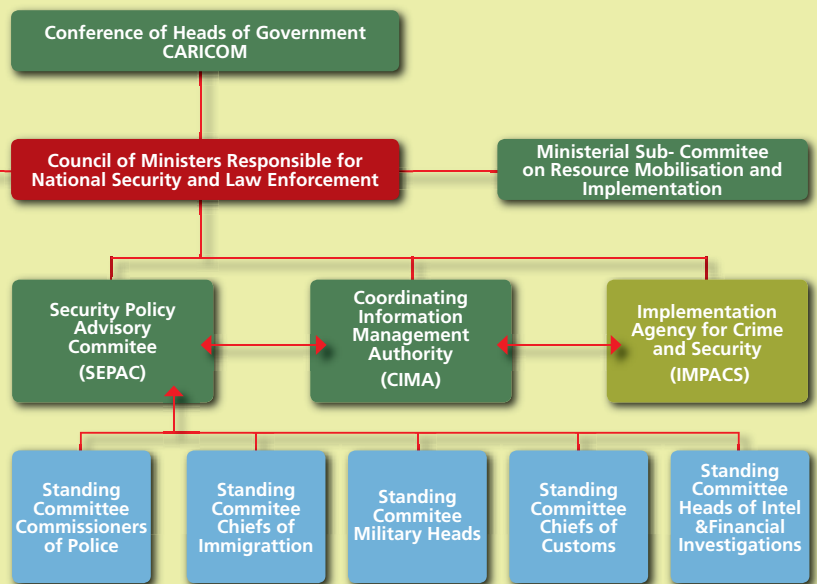
## The Cricket World Cup Test Cooperation and confidence in regional security

In 2007, the organization of the ICC Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean region gave way to an unprecedented level of cooperation with the result that many mechanisms and institutions, including IMPACS were created. The magnitude of the event (the final visitor count totalled 2,838,474) and the geographic dispersion of the venues represented the main challenge. Thus, already in July 2005, the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government, following the recommendation of the ministers in charge of regional security, agreed to establish a framework for crime and security management in the region. With the creation of a Council of Ministers responsible for national security and the rule of law within the CARICOM a significant step was taken in this respect.

Based on these actions, the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government agreed on the creation of a Single Domestic Space and mandated the organization of the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), which became the main agency for the regional security strategy implementation during the Cricket World Cup. In the same manner as the preparations for the CWC were the starting point for the devising of a regional security strategy, the Cricket World Cup was the first functionality test for this new architecture.

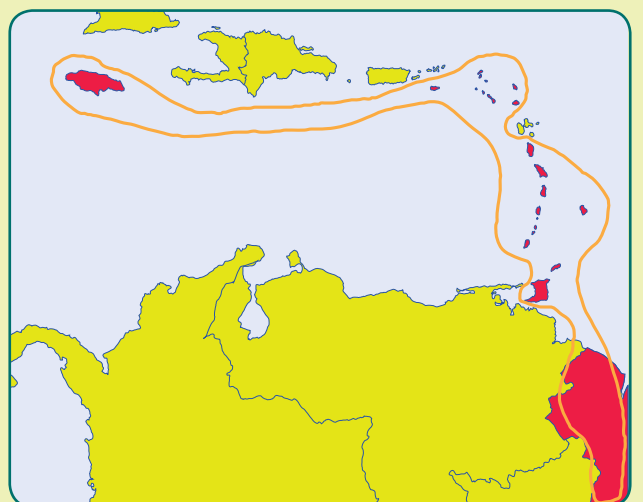
Ad-Hoc Sub - Committee for Cricket World Cup 2007 Security

ICC Cricket World Cup WEST INDIES 2007



### The Single Domestic Space An unprecedented confidence building measure

The Single Domestic Space encompassed all nine countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago) where the Cricket World Cup took place. Dominica decided to join in the initiative. It was implemented from January 15 to May 15, 2007. The Space implied that citizens of all these countries and other countries' nationals visiting from different parts of the world were free to move within the Space after completing migration formalities in the first port of entry. Visitors from different parts of the world took part, especially from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, England, India, Nepal, Nigeria, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa and United States.





The preparations for the Cricket World Cup were the starting point for the devising of a Regional Security Strategy over geographically dispersed spaces and encompassed all CARICOM Member States.



**Regional Security Strategy**

**Intelligence sharing**

- Objectives: procedure standarization and officer training, strengthening of regional security and intelligence mechanisms and creation of a system to share intelligence.
- Once the Cup finished and owing to the successful organizational performance, the following entities were selected to remain in place permanently:

- Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFIC): combined work for the collection, analysis and dissemination of threats and intelligence information. The RIFIC acts as contact point with countries outside the CARICOM that took part in the CWC. It organized three courses on intelligence operations attended by 52 officers, among which RIFIC members were selected.
- CARICOM Intelligence Sharing Network (CISNET): facilitates secure sharing of intelligence reports, on-line meetings and videoconferences.
- CARICOM Watchlist System (CAWS): listing of criminals, International terrorists and other individuals of interest to the intelligence area.

**Regional Security Plan (June 2006)**

- Subjects addressed:
- Land, maritime and air operations.
  - International support.
  - Communications.
  - Logistics.
  - Personnel.
  - Humanitarian assistance training.
  - Public relations.
  - Finance.

Generated coordination mechanisms including the Regional Operation Coordination Center (ROCC) and the Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFIC).

Established cooperation with international agencies, including INTERPOL.

Created the CARICOM Operations Planning and Coordinating Staff (COPACS) to define the State instruments to provide the necessary support.

Established task forces associated with security of facilities, patrolling, force fast response and counterterrorism, among others.  
 North: led by Jamaica and the Regional Security System (RSS) to cover Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.  
 Center: Guyana, RSS and Bermuda to give support to Barbados.  
 South: Trinidad and Tobago and RSS to give support to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Saint Lucia.

**Border Security**

Facilitate free movement and transit of nationals of all countries across all borders, through:

- A common CARICOM visa policy. Visas were granted to 43,408 applicants and denied to 1,692.
- Advanced passenger and cargo information policy: Under charge of the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS), established the Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC) with which INTERPOL staff cooperated and 2,834,474 passengers were recorded.

**International Support Advisory Group (ISAG)**

- Established for the purpose of supporting mobilization of the resources required for the CWC. Comprised of representatives from Australia, Bermuda, Canada, France, India, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, the UK and the USA.
- Other countries, including Brazil, Colombia and France, in turn, lent their assistance.
- Netherlands and Venezuela cooperated with navy forces.

**Budget**

The total organization cost was US\$ 16,000,000

Elaborating a Regional Security Strategy required that all CARICOM Member States adapt or amend part of their internal legislations (mainly in matters associated with immigration, entrance and exit of foreign military and police men), in order to make the Cricket World Cup tournament possible in the region.

**Natural Disasters**

- Work was conducted with CDERA (currently CDEMA - Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency-), in emergencies occurred as a result of a natural disaster.
- A subcommittee was established formed by the officials responsible for the matter in each country, presided over by the Saint Lucia Minister for Home Affairs
- Disaster simulation exercises were conducted under the coordination of the Humanitarian Allied Forces (FAHUM) and sponsored by the United States Southern Command. Also, two Tradewinds exercises were held.

Source: Compilation based on the work One Team, One Space, One Caribbean, CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, 2007.

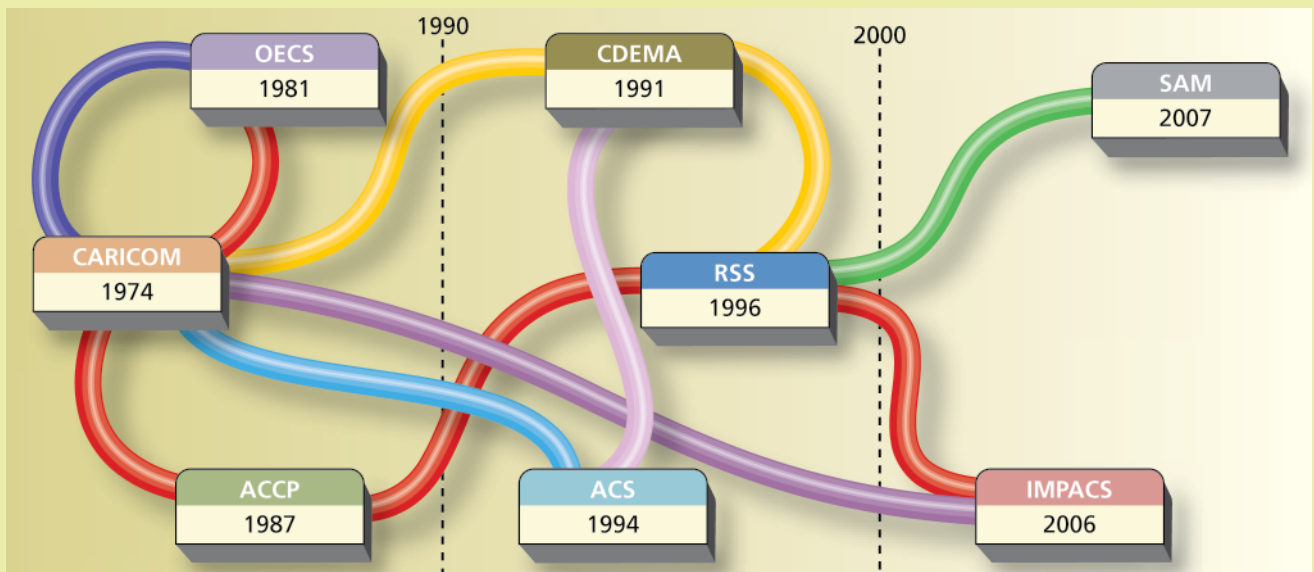


**Participation in regional organizations**

Anglophone Caribbean	Other dependencies and countries in the region	Latin America
Antigua y Barbuda	Anguilla (UK)	Colombia
Bahamas	Aruba (1) (NL)	Costa Rica
Barbados	Bermuda (UK)	Cuba
Belice	British Virgin Islands (UK)	Dominican Republic
Dominica	Curaçao (NL)	El Salvador
Grenada	Cayman Islands (UK)	Guatemala
Guyana	French Antilles (FR)	Haiti
Jamaica	Montserrat (UK)	Honduras
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Netherlands Antilles (1) (NL)	Mexico
Saint Lucia	Saint Martin (FR/NL)	Nicaragua
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Suriname	Panama
Trinidad and Tobago	Turks and Caicos Islands (1) (UK)	Venezuela
	Virgin Islands (USA)	

(1) Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and Turks and Caicos Islands, along with France on behalf of the French Guyana, Guadeloupe and Martinique, are associated members. They have the right to participate and vote on issues directly affecting them and within their constitutional competence.



- CARICOM:** Caribbean Community.
- RSS:** Regional Security System.
- CDEMA:** Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
- ACCP:** Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police
- IMPACS:** Implementation Agency for Crime and Security
- OECS:** Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
- ACS:** Association of Caribbean States
- SAM:** Security Assistance Mechanism
- Legend:**
  - Light blue line: CARICOM is founder and observer of the ACS.
  - Purple line: Implementation Agency.
  - Red line: Actors in the regional crime and security task force.
  - Dark blue line: Relation between Secretariats.
  - Yellow line: Action upon natural disasters. CDEMA organizes CARICOM directives and the RSS is the executing body.
  - Green line: The RSS acts as SAM's Executive Secretariat.
  - Pink line: Memorandum of Understanding on Natural Disaster Assistance and Relief.

**Source:** Compilation based on information posted on the websites of the mentioned institutions.



## Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

The CDMA is an intergovernmental body created in 1991, by decision of the Heads of Government of CARICOM Member States. Initially created as CDERA (Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency), in September 2009 it adopted the concept of emergency management, thus expanding their scope of action.

CDEMA and cooperation in the event of disaster represents another indicator of Caribbean area coordination and cooperation and their interrelation with Latin American countries.

### Functions:

- Mobilizing and coordinating disaster relief.
- Mitigating or eliminating, as far as possible, the consequences of disasters affecting Participating States.
- Providing immediate and coordinated response by means of humanitarian assistance to an emergency in any participating State.
- Securing, collating and channelling to interested governmental and non-governmental organizations, comprehensive and reliable information on disasters affecting the region.
- Promoting the adoption of loss reduction policies and practices at the national and regional levels and cooperative arrangements and mechanisms to facilitate the development of a culture of disaster loss reduction.
- Coordinating the establishment, promotion and maintenance of adequate disaster response capabilities among Participating States.

**Secretariat:** St. Michael, Barbados. Acts as Coordination Unit

**Board of Directors**  
Comprised of the coordinators of each national disaster management organization. It makes recommendations and provides technical advice to the Work Programme and the Budget and other political decisions that so require.

**Council:**  
It is the supreme political body. It is made of the Heads of Government of participating states and meets annually to review the agency's work, approve the work programme and make all the required political decisions.

The CDEMA obtains project financing from several organizations, including the Inter-American Development Bank, the Program of the United Nations for Development, and co-operation agencies from Austria, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Japan and the European Union.

### National Organizations

<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	National Office of Disaster Services (NODS). Ministry of Health and Social Transformation.
<b>Bahamas</b>	National Emergency Management Agency. Prime Minister's Office.
<b>Barbados</b>	Emergency Management Department. Ministry of Home Affairs.
<b>Belize</b>	National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO). Ministry of Transport, Communications and National Emergency Management
<b>Dominica</b>	Disaster Management Office. Ministry of National Security, Labour and Immigration.
<b>Grenada</b>	National Disaster Management Association Agency (NADMA). Prime Minister's Office.
<b>Guyana</b>	Civil Defence Commission. President's Office.
<b>Jamaica</b>	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM). Prime Minister's Office.
<b>Saint Kitts and Nevis</b>	National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA). Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Security, Labour, Immigration and Social Security.
<b>Saint Lucia</b>	National Emergency Management Organisation. Prime Minister's Office.
<b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	National Emergency Management Organisation. Ministry of National Security.
<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management. Ministry of National Security.

**Note:** The list is completed with Anguilla (Department of Disaster Management), Turks and Caicos Islands (Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies), British Virgin Islands (Department of Disaster Management), Haiti (Civil Protection Directorate), Montserrat (Disaster Management and Co-ordination Agency) and Suriname (National Coordination Centre for Disaster).

### Emergencies in which the Agency has been involved

- Hurricane Andrew (Bahamas, 1992).
- Earthquake in Jamaica (1993).
- Tropical Storm Debby (Saint Lucia, 1994).
- Floods in Barbados (1995).
- Hurricane Louis (East of the Caribbean, 1995).
- Volcano in Montserrat (1995 - 1996).
- Hurricane Georges (North of the Caribbean, 1998).
- Hurricane Lenny (East of the Caribbean, 1999).
- Hurricane Keith (Belize, 2000).
- Hurricane Ivan (Grenada, 2004).
- Hurricane Jeanne (Bahamas, 2004).
- Floods in Guyana (2005).
- Hurricane Dean (Dominica, Jamaica, 2007).
- Hurricane Ike (Turks and Caicos Islands, 2008).
- Earthquake in Haiti (2010).



**Source:** Compilation based on information supplied on the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency website.



## Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

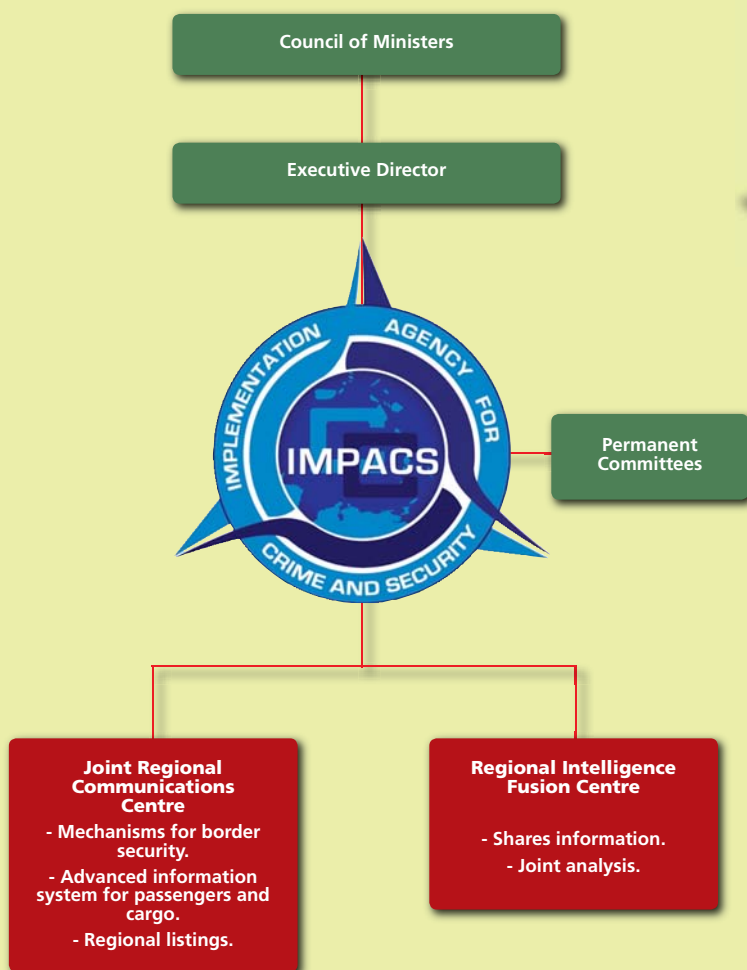
**Seat:** Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

It is the operational centre of CARICOM crime and security management structure and main responsible organization for the implementation of the agenda against crime and security. Among its functions it is daily reporting to the Council of Ministers responsible for these matters. It is focused on projects related to security affairs management and investigation.

In 2001, the Conference of the Heads of Government of CARICOM, at their XXII meeting held in Nassau, Bahamas, established a Regional Task Force to examine the main causes of crime and make recommendations to cope with interrelated problems, including trafficking of drugs and fire arms, and terrorism.

In June 2005, a formal structure was established for the Agency at the XXVI Meeting of the Conference of the Heads of Government of CARICOM. By means of an inter-governmental agreement, the IMPACS was created in July 2006. The IMPACS worked in a limited way until January 2007, when it started to operate as it is known today.

IMPACS has two sub-agencies: **The Joint Regional Communications Centre (JRCC)** and the **Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC)**. These agencies were created for the purpose of supporting the Regional Security Strategy during the Cricket World Cup. As a result of their success, in February 2007, the Conference of Heads of Government endorsed a proposal for their permanent establishment.



### Permanent Committees

- Commissioners of Police and Chiefs of Military.
- Chiefs of Immigration and Customs Comptrollers

### Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police (ACCP)

Year of creation: 1987  
 Denomination: Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police  
 Mission: Promoting and facilitating cooperation in the development and implementation of policing strategies, systems and procedures. Also, police technical skills development and proactive measures to prevent crime and improve police-community relations. Meetings are held every year.  
 Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Source: Compilation based on information supplied by the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police, and IMPACS.

## Regional Security System (RSS)

The Regional Security System (RSS) was created in 1996. It is a collective security system by means of which members agreed that any armed attack against any of them, whether by a third State or other sources, represents an armed attack against all of them. As an organization it is a 'hybrid': Security forces are comprised of military and police personnel.

**Mission:** To ensure the stability and well-being of Member States through mutual cooperation, in order to maximise regional security in preserving the social and economic development of the people.

**Functions:** Promote cooperation in the prevention and interdiction of traffic in illegal narcotic drugs, national emergencies, search and rescue, immigration control, fisheries protection, customs control, maritime policing duties, natural and other disasters, pollution control, combating threats to national security, prevention of smuggling, and protection of off-shore installations and exclusive economic zones.

**Secretariat:** Permanent, with seat in Bridgetown, Barbados. It is headed by a Regional Security Coordinator (Mr. Grantley Watson in 2010), appointed by the Council of Ministers and assisted by the Joint Coordination Committee, made up of seven Commissioners of Police and three military commanders of the Defence Forces of the Member States.

**Central Liaison Office:** It is the Secretariat to the Security Assistance Mechanism established by CARICOM. In addition, the CLO coordinates disaster response on behalf of the CDEMA, activating the Caribbean Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU) for such purpose. The Unit consists of a special corps of defence and police men and women of CARICOM countries.

**Budget:** US\$ 4,780,848 for fiscal year 2009-2010. Provided by Member States.

**Troops:** Based in each Member State. The combination of police and military staff totals 9,300 personnel.

### Background:

1982: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by four members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Barbados, to provide for mutual assistance on request.

1983: Saint Kitts and Nevis adhered to the MOU.

1985: MOU signing by Grenada.

### El RSS Air Wing and the Air Operations Centre

The Regional Security System's Air Wing was established in 1999 with direct US assistance. Since 2006, it is fully financed by the System itself. It works mainly in:

- Air surveillance (it has two C-26 aircraft available -donated by Barbados).
- Assistance to States in the fight against drug trafficking.
- Assistance in the event of disasters.
- Search and rescue.
- Logistics support to exercises and operations.

The Air Operation Centre conducts an average of twenty monthly operations, especially anti-narcotics. The dialogue to establish a similar structure for the Coast Guard is well advanced.

### Exercises and Relations

It conducts exercises for member states and with other countries of the region and of the world: the UNEX (internal exercise to test mobilization plans), and three other in cooperation with the US Southern Command (Tradewinds – air-, PKO North –peace operations-, and FAHUM –disaster assistance).

It has relations with:

- Countries: Brazil, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, French, Netherlands and British territories in the area and, naturally, all CARICOM countries.
- Organizations: CARICOM, CCLEC, CDEMA, INTERPOL, United Nations, OAS and European Union.

### Training

The Training Unit has its seat in Antigua and Barbuda and works mainly in maritime training. It was financed by the United Kingdom until March 2008. Afterwards, the System has been self-supported.

Land force training is geared to Special Service Units (SSU). It is militarized and is partly conducted in Barbados and partly in other Member States when land characteristics so require.

### Security Assistance Mechanism

In July 2006\* twelve Anglophone Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago) signed together with Suriname and the Regional Security System (RSS) a treaty establishing a security assistance mechanism. The Treaty represents a link among different spaces (the RSS and States that do not belong to it, the Anglophone Caribbean and Suriname).

Objectives:

- Disaster response.
- Regional resource mobilization and deployment for national and regional crisis management and fight against crime.
- Combat and elimination of threats to national and regional security.
- Preservation of the territorial integrity of participating States.

A Joint Coordination and Strategic Planning Committee, comprised of the Regional Security System (RSS) Coordinator and the Security Chiefs of the Member States, has been established for its implementation. Where defence forces exist, both their commander and the commander of the police force are part of the Committee.

\* The signing by the various countries occurred gradually since that date and continued through 2007.

Source: Treaty Establishing the Regional Security System (05/03/1996) and information provided by the RSS Permanent Secretariat (Central Liaison Office, Barbados).



## Strategic Links and International Assistance

### The International Military Education and Training (IMET) Program

The set objective is the defence understanding and cooperation between the United States and countries by increasing military force capabilities. The IMET provides professional training and scholarships to both civil and military students. Their program includes over 4,000 courses in 150 military schools, and involves about 7,000 students per year.

Participating countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

### Caribbean-Canada

There exist bilateral treaties for mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between Canada and Caribbean countries, including Bahamas, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

### Military Training Assistance Program (MTAP) - Canada

It emerged from agreements signed in the early 1960s to provide military training assistance to certain recently independent Caribbean nations. It includes education to foreign students in Canada and offers advisory teams to member countries. Funds were assigned to the Program to contribute to the construction of the Jamaica Military Aviation School (JMAS), which is used for training to other countries in the region.

Participating countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

### Caribbean-United States

Bilateral treaties in force provide for assistance in the fight against drug-trafficking and other criminal matters between the United States and the Caribbean countries Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

### Strategic links and international assistance to organizations

Organization	Program	Counter party
CARICOM	Security Cooperation Plan	United Kingdom
CARICOM	Ministerial Forum	United Kingdom
CARICOM	CDEMA	Austria, Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Japan and European Union
CARICOM	IMPACS	European Union United States
RSS	Exercise and Training	United States, United Kingdom

### Caribbean-France

Exercises are conducted by military forces from France and the Caribbean countries Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, aside from maritime anti-narcotics operations with Trinidad and Tobago.

## Defence in the Anglophone Caribbean

### Dion Phillips

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Defence in the Anglophone Caribbean in contemporary time has its antecedents in the insertion of the British military in what was then referred to as the West Indies in the 17th century. This pattern took the form of garrisons, the militias and even fortifications. However, since the demise of the Federation in 1962 and acting on nationalist impulses, Anglophone Caribbean states have opted for national defence forces. These forces as a whole have been small, not well funded and dependent on foreign assistance from the US, Britain, Canada and to a lesser extent, China, for their training, development and survival. At the outset, most of the regular military or defence forces of the Anglophone Caribbean were clearly established for external defence. However, this emphasis has been downgraded if not dropped in favour of an emphasis on internal security at the local level or in a neighbouring Caribbean territory as well as for relief operations, particularly for hurricanes.

By the middle of the 17th century, Britain established permanent colonies of settlement in the An-

glophone Caribbean (also called the British West Indies), examples of which are St. Christopher (better known as St. Kitts) in 1624, Nevis in 1628, Montserrat and Antigua in 1632 and Jamaica in 1655.<sup>1</sup> By so doing, Britain was responsible for the defence of these colonies even though they were expected to provide for their own internal security and a holding force against rivals.<sup>2</sup> Formed under the control of the colonial government, militia forces existed until the aboli-

1 The Anglophone Caribbean group of states is the smallest of the smallest in the Western Hemisphere. Even the next smallest, its Central American neighbours in the Caribbean Basin, are larger. It refers to the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean littoral: Antigua and Barbuda (1980), Bahamas (1973), Barbados (1966), Belize (1981), Dominica (1978), Grenada (1974), Guyana (1966), Jamaica (1962), St. Kitts and Nevis (1983), St. Lucia (1979), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1979) and Trinidad and Tobago (1962). These countries were all under British colonial rule and gained their independence in the year that is provided. Bermuda and Montserrat are in effect internally self-governing. However, defence and foreign affairs remain the responsibility of Britain.

2 Richard A. Preston. *Canada and "Imperial Defense": A Study of the Origin of the Commonwealth's Defense Organizations, 1869-1919*, (Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press, 1967), 7.

### Caribbean Basin Security Initiative

The resources initially used to finance the Merida initiative include funds for Mexico, Central America, Dominican Republic and Haiti. For 2010, the United States administration proposed a new security system for the Caribbean: the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI).

Objective: designed to strengthen the capabilities of Caribbean countries, including maritime security, law enforcement, information sharing, border control and migration, transnational crime and criminal justice.

Participating countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

#### Matters

- Financing through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP).
- Support to security sector reform, and (civil, police and military) leadership.

- Main dialogue vehicle between the parties.
- Coordination of different matters including civil defence and security.

Natural disaster response.

Funds for institutional strengthening.

IMPACS Implementation.

Assistance in courses related to drug-trafficking combat, imparted to civilians, and military and police officers.

<sup>1</sup> Only European Union and governmental cooperation agencies are included. The contributions of multinational and non-governmental organisations are not included. Source: websites of Caribbean organisations, United States Department of State, United Kingdom Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Guyana Government Information Agency, National Defence and the Canadian Forces, Embassy of China in Barbados; and information supplied by the ministries of Bahamas, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago.

### Caribbean-China

China has in place an agreement for the free provision of military assistance with Barbados, and an agreement for the provision of military training and equipment with Guyana.

### Caribbean-United Kingdom Security Cooperation Plan

In 2004 a Plan was approved to supply a more coordinated and strategic approach to joint operations for security in the region. The GCPP is a source of financing through which the United Kingdom offers assistance in a variety of areas, including the reform of the security area, leadership training, and prison system reform.

Regional projects implemented since 2003:

- Leadership and command training for high defence and security officers (customs, police, military).
- Security force training.
- Training of prison staff leaders and review of penitentiary systems to meet United Nations minimum standards.
- Workshops for Public Defenders' Office Directors.

tion of slavery (1838), except for Jamaica.<sup>3</sup>

However, due to their size and training, these forces could never hope to provide adequate defence in times of war. Hence, the defence of the islands and other territories really depended upon the sea power of the Royal Navy. Also, because the militia forces were not always capable of maintaining internal order, especially when confronted by uprisings of some magnitude, they were reinforced by regular troops stationed in the colony and elsewhere in the region. The configuration of this defence took the form of British soldiers arriving in the West Indies in 1652.<sup>4</sup>

This incipient insertion of ground forces must be understood with the knowledge that English soldiers tended to follow English settlers, with the ensuing garrisons serving as instruments of social order. During this period, English colonial society largely determined the nature of defence. The British garrison in the West

<sup>3</sup> The militias were also mobilized during wars or threat of invasion to assist the defence of the colonies. In the case of Jamaica, its militia existed until the 1860s because Jamaica, unlike Guyana (formerly British Guiana) and Trinidad, was not a crown colony but enjoyed "representative government."

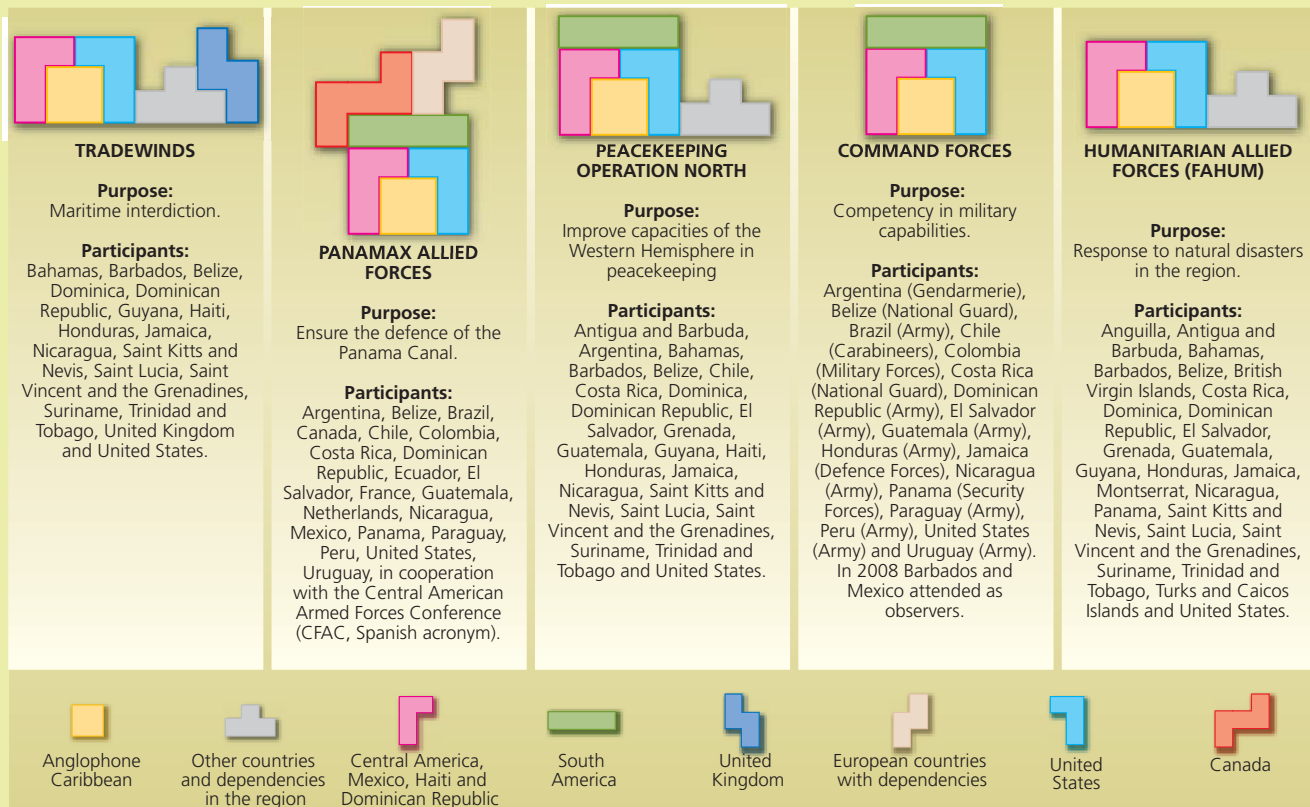
<sup>4</sup> Roger Norman Buckley, *The British Army in the West Indies: Society and the Military in the Revolutionary Age*, (Miami, Florida: University Press of Florida, 1998), xiii.

Indies had a critically important function, namely, the protection of the region's then profitable plantation economics. The post-emancipation period demanded new arrangements for maintaining internal security. Militia forces, originally recruited from free whites, were inappropriate for societies where formal universal freedom prevailed. And so, for the maintenance of internal order, the British required the development of police forces as well as volunteer forces in the 1870s and beyond.

Up to the time of World War II, all troops in the British West Indies were under the Northern Caribbean Command with its headquarters in Jamaica or the South Caribbean Command with its headquarters in Trinidad. After the war, the British government initiated the process of granting relative authority to its West Indies colonies as a result of the lack of resources necessary to maintain the British Empire as well as due to the great expenditure and the effects of the war. In 1958, the Anglophone Caribbean countries created the West Indies Federation on the initiative of the British government but controlled by the West Indies. Its headquarters was located in Trinidad, with Port-of-Spain as its capital. The intent was to establish a loose



## Strategic links - Excercises



Source: Compilation based on information supplied by the US Southern Command.

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federation aimed at fostering political and cultural solidarity and breaking down the barriers between the islands.<sup>5</sup> The defence arm of the West Indies Federation was the Federal West Indies Regiment (FWIR) formed in 1959.

Before the establishment of the FWIR, troops in the sub-region existed in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. Barbados had had a small regular regiment of reserves but in Trinidad and Tobago, the only serving officer was Captain Josette Serrete who returned in the mid-1950s as Garrison Quartermaster. In Jamaica, no regular black troops existed before 1926, except the Jamaica Military Band which was started in 1927 and remains active. Defence rested solely on British troops until 1938 when the Jamaica Infantry Volunteers, which later became the Jamaica Regiment, was established. However, in December 1958, the Federal Legislature passed the Defence Act. The act revived the regiment on January 1, 1959, to serve as the nucleus of the military arm of the West Indies Federation. Consequently, the pre-existing Jamaica Regiment was integrated into the Federal Defence Force to become the FWIR.

<sup>5</sup> David Killingray, "The West Indian Federation and Decolonization in the British Caribbean", *Journal of Caribbean History*, vol. 34, no. 1 & 2 (2000): 71.

### Post-West Indies Federation and Regional Defense

In the aftermath of the demise of the West Indies Federation in 1962, the Anglophone Caribbean's efforts at cooperation and integration displayed little concern with regional defence. Once political integration had eroded, it was virtually impossible to maintain the level of coordination and centralized defence policy that was once the goal of the Federation. In the same way that emerging nationalism had fragmented the West Indies Federation, so too did the impulse for national defence forces serve to replace the FWIR. And so, in the relatively free environment of the 1970s, regional defence was regarded by the Caribbean governments as peripheral and hence, beginning with Jamaica in 1962, followed by Trinidad and Tobago in that very year, several of the territories became independent and established separate defense forces. In fact, one of the preconditions for formal independence of the new Anglophone Caribbean states as imposed by Britain was the establishment of a defence force.

After 1962, economic issues overshadowed all other concerns and the Caribbean appeared to be secure in a turbulent world. The birth of CARIFTA in 1973 once again provided a framework for a collective defence

### Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

The Convention Establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was signed on 24 July 1994 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, with the aim of promoting consultation, cooperation and concerted action among all the countries of the Caribbean. The main organs of the Association are the Secretariat and the Ministerial Council, made up of the Ministers of Foreign Relations of the Member Countries. The Ministerial Council is in charge of policy-making and the conduct of the Association, and meets every year since 1995. The XV Ministerial Council Meeting took place in January 2010.

**Members:** Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

**Associated Members:** Aruba, France (on behalf of the French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique), Netherlands Antilles and Turks and Caicos Islands.

**Observers:** Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, India, Italy, Korea, Morocco, Netherlands, Peru, Russia, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, and United Kingdom.

### Summit of the Americas

Declaration of the V Summit of the Americas, Trinidad and Tobago, 2009:

- Addressing the threats to security, according to the priorities of each State, and strengthening cooperation bonds in the matter (Art. 68).
- Condemnation to terrorism (Art. 69).
- Fight against organised crime and illicit trafficking of drugs, arms, etc. (Art 70).

**Guyana** is a member and Pro Tempore President of the UNASUR South American Defence Council for 2010-2011.

### Central America Integration System (SICA)

The Secretaries-General of the Central America Integration System (SICA, Spanish acronym) and of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), during the First Meeting of the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Governments and the SICA plus the Dominican Republic (2007), agreed upon an action plan to develop human and institutional capabilities needed to adequate responses to natural disaster vulnerabilities. In the matter of security, they undertook to discuss the possibility of adopting mechanisms for sharing crime information and condemned terrorism in all forms.

**Source:** Convention establishing the Association of Caribbean States, 1994. Action Plan of the Commonwealth of the Caribbean and the Central America Integration System, 2007. V Summit of the Americas, Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, 2009.

**Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC)**  
Objective: promote further regional integration.

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Rio Group**  
Objective: expand and systematize the political cooperation among member states  
Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Venezuela.

### Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean

Seeks to consolidate and project, at global level, Latin American and Caribbean identity based on the following common principles and values, among others:

- the respect for international law.
- the sovereign equality of States.
- the non use nor threat of use of force.
- democracy.
- the respect for human rights.
- respect of the environment, taking into consideration the environmental, economic, and social pillars of sustainable development.
- the unity and integration of Latin-American and Caribbean countries
- an ongoing dialogue that promotes peace and regional security.

**Note:** The I Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC, Spanish acronym) was held in Salvador, Brazil, on December 16 and 17, 2008. The Rio Group was created on December 18, 1986. The Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean was created by the XXI Summit of the Rio Group and the II Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development on February 22 and 23, 2010, Riviera Maya, Mexico.

**Source:** Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, Declaration of Salvador de Bahia, 2008. Rio Group, Declaration of Rio de Janeiro, 1986. Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, Declaration of the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, 2010.

policy. CARICOM, the successor to CARIFTA, lacked the political cohesion necessary for the direction of an inclusive defence policy in the way that the West Indies Federation was coordinated by the Federal parliament. The predominance of national interest over regional considerations took precedence and served as an obstacle to any CARICOM-wide regional defence mechanism. A CARICOM defence force remained but a fleeting idea in the midst of the plethora of national defence forces that exist throughout the Caribbean sub-region.

In December of 1979, there was the temporary seizure of state power in Union Island in the Grenadines which prompted the signing of an MOU that later led to the establishment of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Defence and Security Committee in July 1981. This Defence and Security Committee of the OECS, established under Article 8 of the Treaty, was charged with coordinating collective defence. Barbados, the strongest militarily of the Eastern Caribbean states, was not included. Two factors served as catalysts to revive the need for defence and regional security cooperation, namely, the coming to power of the socialist People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada in March 1979 as well as the perception of the

US of this development. As a result, the Regional Security System (RSS) was formed on October 29, 1982 by the member-states that were party to the OECS as well as Barbados. The special arrangement was the second time since World War II that the Anglophone Caribbean had adopted a coordinated and centralized approach to defence policy.

In view of the crisis that had developed in Grenada on 19 October 1983, the OECS formally notify Britain and the United States of the decision to take joint action to restore order in Grenada. Subsequently, a more formal request for US assistance was made in writing in October 23. An OECS emergency session was held in Trinidad and Tobago but CARICOM heads of government were unable to reach a consensus on the proposal for joint action in Grenada. They agreed only to impose sanctions on Grenada, including suspension of its CARICOM membership. It was the OECS countries as well as Barbados and Jamaica who actively supported the joint US-Caribbean operation on October 25, 1983 called Operation Urgent Fury, although three OECS members –Grenada, St. Kitts and Montserrat- did not participate in the voting. After the Grenada operation, the US, Britain and neighbouring states began to rebuild Grenada's security forces.



• On July 30, 1974, a Cooperation Agreement was signed by Mexico and the Caribbean Community under which the CARIOM-Mexico Joint Commission was created.

• The Cuba - CARICOM Summit is held every year an half since 2005.

The US also began to increase its military training assistance to the RSS member states. It trained SSU personnel on each of the RSS islands, including the newly independent St. Kitts and Nevis and, along with Britain and Canada, started to develop and equip the coast guards of the region.

In response to the creation of the RSS and the SSUs, some elements in the Eastern Caribbean charged that these measures were designed by the US to keep conservative, pro-US governments in power. In addition to the regional debate concerning the advisability of establishing the RSS, two other related security concerns emerged in the 1980s. One was the proposal to establish a regional defence force, revived by Barbadian Prime Minister Tom Adams. The other was the charge being made that the Eastern Caribbean was being militarized. Plans to establish a regional defence force date back to the 1960's and again in April 1979, John Compton, then Premier of St. Lucia, put forward a proposal that the embryonic OECS include, in addition to its political and economic arms, a sub-regional defence force. This was in part a reaction to the Grenada coup in March 1979, but because of differences over that and other practical obstacles the proposal made little headway.

The idea of a region-wide regular army was rejected as too costly. The creation of such a regional defence force, at the time, would have been unprecedented for a sub-region that had been guarded largely by police since the islands became independent from Britain in the 1960s. Again, in February 1984, the RSS Council of Ministers, meeting in Bridgetown, studied a report on the implications of establishing a regional security force that did not include Trinidad and Tobago. By that time, the proposal envisioned an 1,800-member force costing US\$100 million over 5 years. This figure included the purchase of coast guard vessels and helicopters. The idea was stillborn, again due to its cost. Rather, the emphasis was placed on the creation of SSUs in each RSS country. The thrust for Caribbean regional security in the form of a standing army never materialized. In fact, regional security cooperation took the form of exercises<sup>6</sup>, and the charges of militarization were sidelined,

<sup>6</sup> Humberto García Muñoz, *Boots, Boots, boots: Intervention, Regional Security and Militarization in the Caribbean 1979-1986*, (Río Piedras, Puerto Rico: Proyecto Caribeño de Justicia y Paz, 1986).

particularly as the RSS got involved in the mitigation of hurricanes, beginning with 'Hugo' in Jamaica, which resulted in a great deal of goodwill towards the forces. However, the call for greater regional security cooperation again emerged in the aftermath of the Jammal al Muslimeen's insurrection against the ANR Robinson government in Trinidad in July 1990. It was Barbados' Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford, at the 11th Heads of Government Summit in Jamaica in 1990, who made a plea for the implementation of a system of closer cooperation in collective matters.<sup>7</sup> The meeting was held without the then Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, who had been wounded by gunfire and held hostage in parliament during the assault. The following year, Sandiford indicated that three studies on regional security had been commissioned and disclosed that they had been done by the CARICOM Secretariat, the RSS and the Barbados government. In March 1996, the RSS MOU, which was updated in 1992, acquired juridical status in March 1996 under a treaty which was signed at St. George's, Grenada.

The affordability consideration has also been a constant in defence policy formation. From the days of scepticism toward funding for the FWIR in the 1950s, Anglophone Caribbean countries, constrained as they are by their limited resources, have always had leaders who view alleviating the social conditions of their peoples as a foremost priority area of action. Some Anglophone Caribbean countries, particularly the OECS, have tended not to invest in defence while the larger countries did. The general trend is that defence budgets are low compared to education for example. This proclivity has created a dependence on donations, mainly from the United States, Britain, Canada and even China, to fund training programmes, carry out maintenance and make acquisitions.

<sup>7</sup> Address by L. Erskine Sandiford, Prime Minister of Barbados to 1990 CARICOM summit in "Communiqué and Addresses—Eleventh Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community", *CARICOM Perspective Special Supplement*, 49 (July-December 1990): 6.



# THE COUNTRIES

