

**MÉRIDA INITIATIVE**  
**FY08 SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS**  
**CENTRAL AMERICA**

**Objective: Peace and Security**  
**1.3 Stabilization Operations**  
**Central America Fingerprint System**

**Program Name:** Central American Fingerprint Exchange (CAFE)  
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

**Funding:** **\$1,500,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental  
Appropriation)**

**Guatemala \$400,000**  
**Honduras \$200,000**  
**Belize \$150,000**  
**Costa Rica \$200,000**  
**Nicaragua \$250,000**  
**Panama \$300,000**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

Criminals, including gang members, move among countries of the region and the United States using different aliases to avoid arrest. This poses a serious problem for law enforcement officials of the region as well as the United States.

The FBI, through the joint efforts of the MS-13 National Gang Task Force and the Criminal Justice Information Services Division, has initiated a program designed to evaluate the use of fingerprints for law enforcement purposes and promote the consistent use of fingerprints for criminal identification purposes. This initiative, known as the Central American Fingerprint Exchange (CAFE), includes an assessment of existing fingerprint programs within a country followed by a targeted assistance program that includes the introduction of automated fingerprint technology, basic and advanced fingerprint training, and technology, procedure, and policy support. Through CAFE, the fingerprint identification capabilities of a country are enhanced and the United States Government (USG) gains access to the fingerprint-based criminal records of that country. These records are searched in the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) with resulting matches shared with the contributing country for investigative lead purposes.

Under the INL Regional Gangs Program, the USG is supporting the CAFE initiative by providing AFIS for Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, with technical assistance being provided by the FBI. In an effort to enhance the overall regional fingerprint identification capability, the FBI will use \$1,500,000 to complete CAFE in Honduras and Guatemala, and similarly initiate automating the

fingerprint capability of law enforcement in the remaining four Central American States: Belize, Costa Rica, Panama and Nicaragua and to introduce FBI and international fingerprint identification standards. This funding would establish the basic systems, with additional remote stations added later as additional funding permits.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations Improved policing through modernization and technical assistance**

**Regional training – ILEA**

**Program Name:** International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA)

**Funding:** **\$1,500,000 INCLE (FY2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

The International Law Enforcement Academy will offer a complete schedule of activities in the upcoming year in San Salvador, El Salvador to include:

- Four iterations of the six-week mid-level criminal justice management Core program. Total students to be trained – 160.
- Four iterations of Anti-gang programs covering advanced techniques, forensics, witness and judicial security and prevention and rehabilitation. Total students to be trained – 120
- International Post Blast Investigations. Total students to be trained – 30
- Small Arms Trafficking course. Total students to be trained – 30
- Incident Command system course. Total students to be trained – 30
- Advance Forensics course. Total students to be trained – 30
- Tactical Safety course. Total students to be trained – 30
- Chemical Precursors course. Total students to be trained – 30
- Combating Economic Fraud course. Total to be trained – 30

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations**

**Regional arms trafficking program**

**Firearms Interdiction Training**

**Program Name:** Firearms Interdiction Training

**Funding:** \$462,000 NADR (FY 2008 Supplemental  
Appropriation)

**FY 08 Program Description:**

ATF will support law enforcement training on tracking and seizing illegal firearms in Central America. ATF anticipates working with the individual countries to analyze their specific challenges. Training will be conducted for law enforcement agencies on-site in all seven Central American countries so that actual setups and confiscated firearms can be used as training examples.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations**

**Improved Border Inspection-Equipment and Training**

**Program Name:** Improved Border Inspection

**Funding:** \$2,143,000 NADR (FY2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

<b>Belize</b>	<b>\$259,050</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>\$179,010</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$299,070</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>\$419,130</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>\$588,675</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>\$259,050</b>
<b>Panama</b>	<b>\$139,015</b>

**FY 08 Program Description:**

Border and mobile inspection stations play an important role in deterring and detecting drug smuggling and the reverse flow of bulk cash. Using low tech and relatively inexpensive devices adequately trained police can perform intelligence-driven and random checks on traffic transiting the isthmus, including drugs landed from boats transiting the Pacific and Caribbean corridors.

The program will provide two fiber optic inspection probes and three density meters for each border inspection point that does not have this equipment, plus outfitting at least two mobile units for each country with inspection equipment. The mobile stations would include disassembly tools, flashlights and radios as well as one density meter and one fiber optic scope per unit. A train-the-trainer approach would be employed in the first year to ensure the establishment of a base of in-country training expertise. The delivery of basic border enforcement training accompanied by a train-the-trainer module will ensure that those officers assigned the buster or fiberscopes are taught how to operate the devices by a designated group/agency within the country. The program would allow each country to inspect both north-flowing traffic for drugs and south flowing traffic for illegal cash and other illicit goods. The program would outfit up to 35 fixed inspection points at highway border crossings in all seven countries, and would also provide two mobile inspection points per country to circulate on back roads or provide cross checks.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations**

**CICTE/OAS Port, airport, and border security**

**Program Name:** Regional Programs in Border Controls and Security (Ports, Aviation, Document Fraud, Immigration, Customs) Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE)

**Funding:** **\$1,100,000 NADR (FY2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

The Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE) promotes and develops cooperation among OAS member states to prevent, combat, and eliminate terrorism through training courses and technical assistance. Funds will strengthen Central American states border security through proven CICTE programs. Programs in the three areas indicated below would be conducted for the Central American states.

- Aviation Security Program – Includes courses such as Basic Security Training, Advanced Security Training, Crisis Management Workshops, National Development Workshops, and the provision of scholarships for participation in ICAO training courses. In 2008 particular focus will be given to Central American region, with emphasis on crisis management and the provision of training for front line inspection and enforcement personnel and their supervisors, as well as for senior aviation security officials and other appropriate government officials.
- Port Security – Includes Port Facility Security and Training Needs Assessments and Follow-on Training, Crisis Management Exercises, and Central America Best Practices Workshops.
- Document Security and Fraud Prevention – Courses designed to support and strengthen government anti-fraud initiatives by enhancing relevant officials' expertise, strengthening border and customs controls essential for document security, and enhancing communication and institutional links and the sharing of best practices among customs and border security agencies in Central America.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations**

**Regional Arms Trafficking Program**

**OAS Small Arms and Light Weapons Fund**

**Program Name:** Organization of American States Stockpile Management and Destruction

**Funding:** \$1,295,000 NADR (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

<b>Belize</b>	<b>\$86,000</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>\$59,000</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>Panama</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

**FY 08 Program Description:**

This program will support the objectives of the OAS fund on small arms and light weapons (AG/RES 4422/05) to collect and channel financial resources to Central American states for small arms collection, destruction, and related training programs, through multi-year stockpile destruction programs underway in Central America. Additionally, the monies will provide support for member states to reach full compliance with the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). Programs would consist of legislative assistance as well as training of national authorities in arms trafficking prevention.



**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations**

**Regional arms trafficking program**

**Regional Firearms Advisor**

**Program Name:** Regional Firearms Advisor

**Funding:** **\$1,000,000 NADR (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

The funding will support an ATF Special Agent, with expertise in firearms trafficking, to serve as a regional advisor in Central America.

ATF will post a special agent in an advisory role to enhance the capacity of the seven SICA governments to combat arms trafficking and encourage marking and tracing of all firearms manufactured, imported or confiscated or seized in the region. The advisor will manage a program of assistance to police and other justice sector entities involved in reduction of reducing firearms crime and violence. The advisor will be placed in Panama City, Panama, but work with counterparts throughout Central America to address the illicit trafficking program from the southern region working in conjunction with existing ATF resources in Mexico.

The regional advisor will train customs, police and court officials, and conduct comprehensive assessments of the national threat and the approaches taken to date to address the threat, including making policy, technical and administrative recommendations to the governments. The regional advisor will also conduct comprehensive assessments on the scope and severity of the firearms trafficking problems in each of the affected countries and the region as a whole.

**Objective: Peace and Security**  
**1.3. Stabilization Operations**  
**Maritime Interdiction**

**Program Name:** Regional Maritime Interdiction: Maritime Assistance for Costa Rica, Panama, and El Salvador

**Funding:** **\$4,000,000 FMF (FY2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>\$2,800,000</b>
<b>Panama</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

**FY08 Program Description:**

Funds will strengthen Costa Rica’s maritime interdiction capability and complement on-going U.S. maritime efforts in the region by providing assistance to Costa Rica, El Salvador and Panama. Key USG and Central American objectives are:

- a. Share information about possible threats affecting the region
- b. Enhance nations’ ability to patrol their sovereign waters in accordance with international and domestic laws
- c. Provide a mechanism for collective action should a threat arise.

Funds will specifically be used to:

- Refit 82-ft patrol boats for Costa Rica: Repair/replace the electronics and communications systems for the three 82-foot patrol boats. Costa Rica is carrying out the needed hull and maintenance repairs/refits to these assets, which are the backbone of the “fleet” for the National Coast Guard Service (SNGC). Combining these patrol boats with refitted and newly-purchased go-fast boats, as well as a regionally-compatible command, control and communications package (see below) would greatly enhance Costa Rica’s patrol, surveillance and maritime interdiction capabilities, thereby improving Costa Rica’s contribution to regional counter-narcotics and counter-trafficking efforts.
- Refit interceptor boats for Costa Rica: Repair/replace the electronics and communications systems for four of the SNGC’s go-fast boats. These craft will interdict suspect craft that are too fast for the larger patrol boats to interdict. The SNGC is carrying out the hull and engine repairs to these boats.

- Purchase interceptor boats for Costa Rica: Purchase up to three 33-ft interceptor boats along with spares, maintenance and training packages. These boats will support Costa Rica's efforts to better control its national waters by interdicting suspect craft.
- Provide a command, control and communications package to Costa Rica to start implementation of the Enduring Friendship program that will not only allow for better communications between headquarters, shore, and boat locations, but will facilitate combined operations with US and other regional forces, strengthening collective action against common threats.
- Follow-on training for maintaining boats and upgrades and training for communications systems for Panama as provided under the Enduring Friendship program: Providing Panama with follow-on maintenance training for boats will allow the Panamanian National Maritime Service (NMS) to perform better preventive maintenance and intermediate level repairs. Upgrades for the communications system will expand the systems at the headquarters and operational sites; technical training provided through a train-the-trainer approach will allow for a more self-sufficient capability within the NMS to maintain existing communications systems.
- Provide initial command and control package to El Salvador to start implementation of the Enduring Friendship maritime security program. This initial funding will provide equipment needed for the headquarters and operational sites, and possibly some radios for boats.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations**

**eTrace Equipment and Software and program**

**Program Name:** eTrace Equipment and Software

**Funding:** \$200,000 NADR (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

**FY 08 Program Description:**

The Central American states lack the capability to trace illicit trafficked weapons that have been seized. They are interested in cooperation with the United States in order to identify traffickers and trafficking routes. A Spanish Language version of eTrace is being developed using initial Treasury funding. The program described here will support the implementation of a Spanish language version of eTrace for Central America (English for Belize) through training and hands-on implementation practices provided by a team of trainers as well as provide them with training. An opportunity to formally participate in eTrace was extended to the seven SICA states at the U.S.-SICA Technical Working Group meeting on Security in June 2008. We hope that all seven SICA states will be prepared to sign an agreement to formally participate in eTrace on December 12, 2008 at the second U.S.-SICA Dialogue on Security to be held in Washington.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.3. Stabilization Operations**

**Regional Equipment, including communications**

**Program Name:** Improved Policing/Police Equipment

**Funding:** \$7,148,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

<b>Belize</b>	<b>\$608,000</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>\$742,000</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$1,152,000</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>\$1,246,000</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>\$1,194,000</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>\$734,000</b>
<b>Panama</b>	<b>\$613,000</b>
<b>Regional</b>	<b>\$859,000</b>

**FY 08 Program Description:**

Police in Central America are chronically under-equipped, lacking even basic communications and transport. The need to address this shortfall will become more urgent as additional law enforcement personnel are added. This equipment will complement and allow better use of other program elements, such as the intelligence and investigative technology. The following list is illustrative:

- Protective equipment such as vests and face protection are required for police facing well armed criminals.
- Basic communications are critical to effective investigations and operations. Remote rural areas are under-served by police, and reliable communications are necessary for increased police presence. This includes longer distance radio systems with repeaters. Shorter distance radios serve urban forces. In three countries, broad band connectivity will be installed in selected areas to enable quick consultation of criminal records and fingerprints.
- Improved transportation allows better patrols, more effective investigations and improved interaction with the communities served by the police. Simple motorcycles supplement vehicle fleets to get more police out to communities. Basic transportation includes double cabin pickups, the most versatile workhorse for unimproved roads. For urban areas, where quick police presence is needed, vans are proposed.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.4. Counter-narcotics**

**Vetted units**

**Program Name:** Central American Vetted and Sensitive Investigative Units (SIU) Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

**Funding:** **\$4,000,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**El Salvador \$ 500,000**

**Guatemala \$1,000,000**

**Honduras \$1,000,000**

**Nicaragua \$ 500,000**

**Panama \$1,000,000**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

Sensitive Investigative Units and vetted units are groups of host country investigators who are polygraphed, trained, equipped, and guided by DEA. These units conduct complex multinational investigations and are a critical component of DEA's efforts to combat the production and trafficking of narcotics and the diversion of precursor chemicals. The requested funding will provide for operating costs, investigative equipment, and training for host nation investigative and enforcement units. Funding will support an investigative/interdiction unit to augment the existing Guatemalan SIU intelligence group (\$1,000,000); training and vetting for the Panamanian Drug Task Force (\$1,000,000), a requirement for completing their transition into the SIU program; and creation or expansion of vetted task forces in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.4 Counternarcotics**

**Drug Crime Information Sharing**

**Program Name:** Center for Drug Intelligence (CDI) Program

**Funding:** **\$1,000,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

<b>Belize</b>	<b>\$142,858</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>\$142,857</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$142,857</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>\$142,857</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>\$142,857</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>\$142,857</b>
<b>Panama</b>	<b>\$142,857</b>

**FY 08 Program Description:**

The Center for Drug Intelligence (CDI) Program is an internet-based network that affords foreign law enforcement counterparts in 48 countries a secure means to exchange counter-drug information, coordinate interagency/international investigations, and report law enforcement activities within each participant's geographical area of interest. The requested funding would support operational expenses, user training sessions, regional conferences, and equipment purchases for new participants, hardware replacement, software upgrades, network maintenance, and contractor support.

The current CDI operating system, Version 2.0, established a standardized intelligence reporting format for CDI users. The next step is to incorporate interfaces within the system to chart data that depicts entities of interest and the connections between them that might be overlooked in text-based reports. To facilitate international exchange of information, CDI would employ machine translation of text from one natural language to another. This capability is a system priority.

**Objective: Peace and Security**  
**1.5. Transnational Crime**  
**US-SICA Dialogue**

**Program Name:** Technical Coordination Consultations and Vice-Ministerial Engagement for the Second and Third U.S.-SICA Dialogue

**Funding:** **\$252,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

Funds will be used directly for program development and support for the Technical Coordination Consultations and Vice-Ministerial engagement for the second and third U.S.-SICA Dialogue meetings, allowing for follow-up and continued coordination on agreed objectives outlined in the US-SICA Declaration on Security issued on July 18, 2007. The U.S. and Central American Integration (SICA) member states established a strong common agenda to tackle the transnational threats of criminal gangs, drugs and arms trafficking. A technical working group meeting and the second US-SICA Vice-Ministerial Dialogue on Security will be hosted in Washington, on December 11 and 12. The dialogue will seek to advance coordination and cooperation. U.S. House of Representatives Resolution 564 adopted on October 2, 2007 encouraged “Central American and United States officials... to meet on a regular basis to further cooperation in combating crime and violence in Central America.”



**Objective: Peace and Security**  
**1.5. Transnational Crime**  
**Law enforcement**

**Program Name:** Transnational Anti-Gang Initiative (TAG)

**Funding:** **\$3,400,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$450,000</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>\$1,225,000</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>\$1,225,000</b>
<b>Officer Exchange</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

**FY 08 Program Description:**

This program will enhance the Transnational Anti-Gang (TAG) program by providing technical expertise and specialized equipment such as computers, software, protective gear, radios, and vehicles to law enforcement agencies in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and augmenting their investigative and operational capabilities. The funding will support the deployment of FBI Agents to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, extending the technical assistance and training already provided to El Salvador.

The TAG program was developed to combine the expertise and resources of the jurisdictions and agencies involved in countering transnational criminal gang activity in the United States, Central America, and Mexico. The goal is to provide technical assistance to aggressively investigate, disrupt, and dismantle violent gangs whose activities rise to the level of criminal enterprises, and who pose the greatest transnational threat, while enhancing the capabilities of the law enforcement agencies involved. As an outcome of the FBI assistance, Central American law enforcement agencies will be able to acquire and disseminate valuable information to law enforcement in the region, including the United States, plan effective law enforcement actions, and carry them out with full respect for human rights.

Funds will also directly support the Foreign Officer Exchange Program, an international exchange program designed to enhance information/intelligence sharing and encourage constructive discourse on best practices in gang investigation and dismantlement.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**1.5. Transnational Crime**

Improved Information on Criminal History

**Program Name:** Improved Information on Criminal History  
**Funding:** \$1,000,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

**FY08 Program Description:**

Relevant U.S. agencies will create a process whereby they provide countries relevant criminal background information for the impending arrival of repatriated nationals. This will give participating countries additional criminal history information. The FY 2008 funding will be for development of this program.

The program, once developed, will provide the Central American countries with relevant criminal background information on nationals are returned from the United States. This program will help develop an efficient way to provide countries with criminal history and gang affiliation.

**Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically**  
**2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights**  
**Systematic improvements in justice sector institutions**  
**Prison management**

**Program Name:** Improved Prison Management

**Funding:** **\$3,000,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

<b>Belize</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$ 850,000</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>\$ 550,000</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>\$ 850,000</b>
<b>Nicaragua</b>	<b>\$ 200,000</b>
<b>Panama</b>	<b>\$ 100,000</b>

**FY 08 Program Description:**

*Technical Assistance in Prison Management*

Prisons in much of Central America have come under the control of gangs and other criminals, who also use it as a base to consolidate power and commit crimes outside prisons through intermediaries and cell phones. Prison officials need techniques, training and equipment to regain control of prisons, especially those housing violent gangs. This component builds on the program already initiated in El Salvador under the Regional Gangs program and prisons management training corrections program. Additional funding for training and equipment in Guatemala and Honduras has been provided separately in the Regional Gangs Program budget for FY 2008 (\$600,000 for both countries). Priority will be given to the most violent and crime-connected prisons, including focused assistance as needed in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. This component does not include construction of additional facilities, but covers minor renovations at critical sites.

**Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically**  
**2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights**

**Program Name:** Support to CICIG, International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala

**Funding:** **\$1,000,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**Guatemala \$1,000,000**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

A grant will be provided to CICIG through the United Nations to support its work against corruption and impunity in Guatemala.

**Objective: Peace and Security**

**2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights**

**Economic and social development**

**Community Prevention activities**

**Program Name:** Central America Gang Prevention Program

**Funding:** \$7,000,000 ESF (FY2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Honduras</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>\$2,000,000</b>
<b>Regional</b>	<b>\$1,000,000</b>

**FY 08 Program Description:**

The USG approved anti-gang strategy recognizes that prevention is an essential element to combating criminal gangs. This program provides funding to local governments to establish and strengthen activities that prevent youth from joining gangs, including activities based on the *Central America and Mexico Gang Assessment* conducted by USAID in April 2006. This funding is also coordinated with the Community Action Fund and the Community Policing line items to ensure maximum impact and effect. The Community Action Fund addresses governance weaknesses and socio-economic conditions that make communities vulnerable to drug traffic, crime, violence and gangs. The Community Policing program will improve the trust, communication and collaboration between the community and law enforcement officials leading to reduced levels of crime and violence.

Activities will enable municipal governments to act as a catalyst in making communities safer for youth. Areas of emphasis include:

- Small grants to municipalities, communities and NGOs (including faith and community-based organizations) to develop innovative, community specific responses for at-risk youth and gang prevention. Examples of the approaches that these grants may develop include integrated community centers to bring residents together to discuss community issues and design joint solutions, community crime-mapping, or courses and training for police on community intervention. Grants will allow time for local governments, communities and NGOs and their private sector partners to assume management and direct financial support for the activity themselves.

- Support for community focus groups and regular consultative practices to identify gang recruitment practices and vulnerable areas or groups. This process will include local government and law enforcement, parent groups, youth organizations and other community groups.

Funding for this activity will concentrate on the countries identified in the USAID gangs assessment and the inter-agency, anti-gang strategy as having the highest need for gang prevention activities: El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. It will also include smaller amounts for countries with emerging gang problems. For example, Belize has a significant problem with MS-13, and Panama has identified growing gang influence. Small grants will average approximately \$100,000 each.

**Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically**  
**2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights**  
**Prosecutor Capacity Building**

**Program Name:** Prosecutor Capacity Building

**Funding:** \$1,000,000 INCLE (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

**FY 08 Program Description:**

Security objectives are achievable only if arrests translate into effectively prosecuted cases that move efficiently through the court system, with closure and due process protections. Across the areas of assistance, anti-corruption, transparency and accountability of justice and security sector institutions will be emphasized.

Technical Assistance will be provided to strengthen the capacity of Central American prosecutors and encourage cooperation between the prosecutors, judges and police in Central America. This assistance program will be coordinated and facilitated by an experienced US prosecutor who will serve as a Resident Legal Advisor based in the region. The programmatic assistance will focus primarily on regional training of prosecutors to improve investigations and prosecutions of violent crime cases, especially gang related violence, but will also include training of prosecutors, police and judges in specific countries. The Resident Legal Advisor will coordinate this technical assistance throughout the region, focusing on improving the quality of violent and organized crime cases through the use of forensic evidence in court; witness security; and information sharing between police and prosecutors within each country and within the region. Assistance will also focus on improving techniques to investigate and prosecute members of the federal police who have been credibly alleged to have committed violations of human rights and those credibly alleged to have committed crimes that violate public integrity. In addition, assistance will strengthen the management of prosecutor offices at the national and local level; establish policies and procedures to monitor and review the ethical conduct and integrity of prosecutors and support personnel; and prepare policy and procedure manuals for prosecutors. This training will include regional training programs for all countries as well as particularized training for individual countries most affected by gang violence: El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Training will include participants from all sectors of the criminal justice sector including judges, police and prosecutors, to increase the likelihood of sustainable results.

**Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically**  
**2.2 Good Governance**  
**Economic and social development**  
**Community policing**

**Program Name:** Community Policing

**Funding:** **\$3,000,000 ESF (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**Guatemala \$2,000,000**

**Regional \$1,000,000**

**FY 08 Program Description:**

To promote good governance the program will strengthen the credibility and legitimacy of the local government through improved collaboration between the police and the community. Assistance would focus both on community organizations and the police, and on joint activities. Training, technical assistance, and grants would be provided to community organizations to improve their communication with the police and facilitate their participation in crime prevention, detection, and reaching vulnerable youth. Examples include patrolling directed at vulnerable areas as identified by the community, tip lines to report criminal activity such as extortion, and joint activities such as sport leagues. It would also include community education about gangs and prevention strategies. Training and equipment to enhance police effectiveness for gang prevention activities will be provided, such as handheld radios and bicycles for community patrolling. Opportunities to involve judges, prosecutors and other government actors into training and/or outreach activities will be pursued. Citizen engagement with local government will be managed through open communication forums and civil society organizations.

This program will be closely coordinated with community prevention and community action fund activities to ensure maximum impact and effect. The community prevention program is aimed at helping communities and the private sector better integrate youth-at-risk, thereby reducing gang recruitment, crime and violence. The community action fund addresses root causes predisposing youth to gang membership



**Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically**  
**2.2 Good Governance**  
**Economic and social development**

**Program Name:** Community Action Fund

**Funding:** \$10,000,000 ESF (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)

**FY 08 Program Description:**

Among the root causes of gangs and organized crime are lack of economic opportunity, poor academic or vocational skills, weak local governance and fractured communities. The Community Action Fund will seek to address these root causes in targeted, low-income areas, including rural communities that are particularly vulnerable to drug trafficking and related violence and organized crime. Allocations by country will respond to demand. The community prevention program is aimed at helping communities and the private sector better integrate youth-at-risk, thereby reducing gang recruitment, crime and violence. The community policing program will improve the trust, communication and collaboration between the community and law enforcement officials leading to reduced levels of crime and violence. Wherever possible, corporate and business sponsorship will be sought for community action fund activities.

Successful innovative solutions will be examined for replication in development of program activities. Areas of emphasis include:

- Targeted Education for At-Risk Youth: basic/secondary education to at-risk youth in gang hot spots in peri-urban areas; scholarships for at-risk youth to stay in school; after-school and community outreach programs.
- Vocational Training: market-driven youth training opportunities in key urban hot spots and mobile training units ("Smart Bus") to reach rural areas.
- Job Creation: micro-credit and micro-enterprise training and mentoring, partnerships with private sector, including business associations and small- and micro-enterprise support organizations, to place at-risk youth in apprenticeships and jobs.
- Small community infrastructure projects to create safer and inviting environments for citizens such as street lighting, improved accessibility and community spaces.
- Technical assistance to build capacity within local and municipal governments to focus on youth-at-risk.

**Objective: Investing in People**

**3.3 Social Services and Protection for Especially Vulnerable Populations**

**Program Name:** Educational and Cultural Affairs

**Funding:** **\$5,000,000 ESF (FY 2008 Supplemental Appropriation)**

**Academic Programs** **\$4,000,000**

**Professional and Cultural Exchange** **\$1,000,000**

**FY08 Program Description:**

*Academic Programs - \$4,000,000*

The Supplemental Funds will allow Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs – Office of Academic Programs (ECA/A) to focus on the disadvantaged, minorities and indigenous communities, women and those populations at risk from criminal and anti-social forces intent on destabilization in the region. ECA/A will expand to Central America successful pilot efforts that have operated in South America and form the core of the Partnership for Latin American Youth described in the ECA FY 2009 budget request. Activities will include:

- English Access Microscholarships (\$1.5 million) - to support 1,000 14-18 year old students in Central America for two years of English study in after-school learning programs. These students will develop the communication skills to acquire better jobs in the local economy, additional background to help them succeed in advanced study at home and make them eligible to participate in and competitive for USG funded Youth Exchange and higher education exchanges. English competence is a universally recognized employment tool. In order to change social structures, improve economic equality and support social justice, ECA needs to provide individuals with the tools they need to develop a stake in their societies and the access to advanced education and quality information resources.
- Community College Program (\$1.6 million) - to support 54 students in community college programs (including a pre-academic English language program). This initiative will focus on key skills identified in concert with partner governments that will lead to employment and the improvement of

- important sectors in the national economies, such as health care, tourism, agriculture, applied engineering and IT competencies. The program will lead to one-year certificate programs and is designed to reintroduce those with improved skills quickly into society.
- Opportunity Grants (\$250,000) - these awards allow the USG to foster the development of talent among undergraduate students who can compete for supplementary scholarships from U.S. host institutions, thereby significantly increasing the number of individuals able to study in the United States. The Opportunity Grants provide awards for up-front costs of testing, applications, travel and initial fees to students who can be expected to receive full awards from U.S. colleges and universities for undergraduate study. The grants are provided through Education USA advising centers in consultation with our Embassies.
- Summer/Winter Institute (\$300,000) - to fund one institute with up to 22 participants for six weeks, focusing on American society and leadership development. This program may be conducted in Spanish at a U.S. college or university so that it is readily accessible to disadvantaged populations which might not have significant fluency and facility in the use of English. The program has several objectives: to expose student leaders many of whom are resistant to considering study in the U.S. about the openness and value of U.S. higher education; and to build a wider pool of candidates for our merit-based competitive programs such as Fulbright.
- Short-Term English Study Program (\$350,000) - to support two cohorts of 20 undergraduate students each to come to the U.S. for up eight weeks of intensive English. The most significant hurdle facing less advantaged but talented students who wish to study in the U.S. is lack of proficiency in the use of English. This program will be a first for Latin America but it has been successfully utilized in Indonesia, where concern about ability to communicate in English is the major deterrent to competing for U.S. college and university admission. This program will clearly signal to talented non-elite students, who have not had the benefit of private school or elite metropolitan public school education and foreign language learning that the people of the U.S. want to engage with them and work with them through education to enhance both our partnership and our democratic societies.

*Professional and Cultural Exchanges –\$1,000,000*

The Youth Programs Division proposes a Youth Leadership Program model for \$1,000,000 that will bring secondary school-aged youth (ages 16-18) from seven countries in Central America to the United States for three-week exchanges focused on entrepreneurship and business skills, community engagement, and leadership. The participants will be recruited from underserved or disadvantaged populations of youth in these countries, including public school students, high school dropouts, and those at risk for involvement with drugs and/or gang activities.