

**CENTRAL AMERICA
REGIONAL SECURITY INITIATIVE (CARSI)¹
FY 2010**

PROGRAM ACTIVITY DESCRIPTIONS

**BELIZE, COSTA RICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA,
HONDURAS, NICARAGUA AND PANAMA**

¹ The FY 2010 Omnibus Appropriation which funded the Department of State included conference report language changing the name of the Central America Merida Initiative to the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI). All FY 2008 and FY 2009 program descriptions contained in this document refer to programs which were originally initiated and funded under Congressional appropriations for the Merida Initiative – Central America.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.2 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 1.2: Modernize/Enhance Law Enforcement/Intelligence

Program Name: **Regional Equipment and Training for Law Enforcement**

Funding: **FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$7,148,000 (INCLE)**
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$11,485,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$2,550,319 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

Police in Central America are chronically under-equipped, lacking even basic communications and transportation assets. The need to address this shortfall will become more urgent as additional law enforcement personnel are added to security services across the region. FY 2010 CARSI Initiative assistance will continue to support the critical needs of law enforcement. This program will provide equipment, technical assistance, and training to law enforcement officials throughout the Central American region. Equipment purchases will be determined in conjunction with host-country governments.

Impact of the Program:

The program will improve the effectiveness of policing and reduce crime, while simultaneously addressing chronic equipment problems and deficiencies throughout Central America, including shortages in basic communications and transportation equipment, as well as essential training and technical assistance. This program focuses on the basic operational equipment that can be productively used and sustained by host nation security services and reflects the significant investment made under the Merida Initiative in FY 2008 and FY 2009.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 1.1: Break Power/Impunity of Criminal Organizations

Program Name: Aviation Support

Funding: FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$10,000,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

Guatemala receives a significant primary and secondary flow of cocaine moving to the United States and has shown a strong commitment for nationalization of a four year U.S. investment in air mobility. In FY 2010, support will continue refurbishment, training, and maintenance support for a four year aviation program in Guatemala, initiated in FY 2009. This program is vital to combating trafficking throughout Guatemala and reducing trends in Central America by limiting sanctuaries provided to drug trafficking organizations. Aviation assets provide law enforcement rapid access to areas of Guatemala that would otherwise be too dangerous or too difficult to access. As part of the nationalization of the program, the Government of Guatemala has committed its resources for such costs as fuel, petroleum products, all salaries and benefits, including per diem and authorized specialty pay for all the Guatemalan staff.

Impact of Program:

The long-term goal of this project is to develop sustainable counternarcotics air mobility support capacity for Government of Guatemala operations to enhance efforts that combat the production and trafficking of illicit drugs. Over the course of the program, it is intended that counternarcotics units will have the knowledge, skills, abilities, and financial resources to act independently and in conjunction with other Central American countries in the fight against drug trafficking while providing strategic support to regional cooperation. The goals of the program are to establish a fully trained team that has the knowledge, skills and abilities to perform counternarcotics operations both independently and jointly with international partners; maintain fully trained and certified aircrews capable of executing missions in a safe, professional and effective manner; and maintain a team that can work in conjunction with regional partners including joint operations in multiple countries.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 1.1: Break Power/Impunity of Criminal Organizations

Program Name: Regional Maritime and Land Interdiction

Funding: FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$4,700,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

Drug trafficking organizations are pushing closer to the territorial waters of Central American nations and often switch trafficking routes between rivers and land. To complement on-going Enduring Friendship maritime assets, FY 2010 funds will provide training, logistics, and equipment support for maritime interdiction. These efforts may include training riverine police units, supporting joint maritime-land units, providing for spare parts and on-going boat maintenance for boats purchased or refurbished in prior years, support for maritime advisors, and basic equipment and logistics support to improve maritime interdiction in the region, such as cell phones and radios. Funds may also provide enhanced support for land interdiction to stem traffickers' abilities to utilize Central American territory – including ungoverned spaces – as trafficking routes.

Impact of Program:

These funds will contribute to U.S. efforts to help improve the Central American land and maritime security, which is threatened by transnational crime. The goal is to enhance the interoperability and interdiction capabilities of regional forces so that they can stem trafficking throughout the region.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 1.1: Break Power/Impunity of Criminal Organizations

Program Name: Regional Maritime Interdiction: Maritime Assistance

Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$4,000,000 (FMF)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$17,000,000 (FMF)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$3,375,000 (FMF)

El Salvador: \$400,000
Guatemala: \$1,375,000
Honduras: \$725,000
Nicaragua: \$175,000
Panama: \$700,000

FY 2010 Program Description:

FMF funds will be used to support maritime security in Central America, particularly with respect to the ongoing regional maritime security program. Funding will be used to refurbish existing patrol and interdiction boats; provide radios, radio spares packages, communications equipment, and related training; and provide maritime operations and maintenance training to El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Key objectives include: enhanced levels of information sharing regarding possible threats traveling through the region; and bolstering the capabilities of nations to control their sovereign waters in accordance with international and domestic laws. The program will enable the establishment of protocols and standard operating procedures for collective action should a threat arise.

- El Salvador: Funding for El Salvador will be used to provide spare parts, repair, maintenance, and training support for El Salvador's existing boats in order to maintain a maritime patrol capability.

Guatemala: Funding for Guatemala will be used to provide radios, radio spares, and other communications equipment; interdiction boat refurbishment and boat spares; and maritime operations and maintenance training.

- Honduras: Funding for Honduras will be used to provide radios, radio spares and other communications equipment; boat spares; interdiction boats refurbishment; and maritime operations and maintenance training.
- Nicaragua: Funding for Nicaragua will be used to provide radios; radio spares; and boat spares.
- Panama: Funding for Panama will be used for sustainment of the capability acquired through the regional maritime security program and to support the provision of EDA boats, boat spare parts and maritime security-related training.

Impact of Program:

This on-going regional maritime security program is at the center of U.S. efforts to help improve the maritime security and stability of the Central American region threatened by transnational trafficking and crime. The goal is to enhance the interoperability and interdiction capabilities of regional forces so that they can better control their national waters and work together against common maritime threats. In doing so, it will also allow the governments in the region to better control the southern approaches to the United States and deny those approaches to such transnational threats as arms smugglers and drug traffickers. Enhancing maritime security in the region is essential to meeting our CARSI goals.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 1.1: Break Power/Impunity of Criminal Organizations

Program Name: Extending Effective Government Control of National Territory and Domain – Preserving Sovereignty

Funding: FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$3,625,000 (FMF)

Belize:	\$200,000
Costa Rica:	\$325,000
El Salvador:	\$600,000
Guatemala:	\$400,000
Honduras:	\$650,000
Nicaragua:	\$750,000
Panama:	\$700,000

FY 2010 Program Description:

Enhance the capabilities of partner nations' Air Forces and Armies to control their national territory in order to extend effective government control to remote regions within their boundaries and deny use of sovereign territory by transnational criminals and potential terrorists. The assistance provided to the CARSI countries varies based on different tactical and operational requirements in each country.

- Belize: Funding will be used to acquire weapons for the Belizean Defense Force to support efforts to control its national territory by deterring and resisting transnational threats.
- Costa Rica: Funding will be used for maintenance support and flight crew safety equipment for Costa Rica's air surveillance unit to support a variety of missions, including counterdrug and search-and-rescue.
- El Salvador: Funding will be used to provide vehicle sustainment, including spare parts and maintenance, to support border and territorial control, and disaster relief; and communications equipment to upgrade joint services communications capability to strengthen border security.

- Guatemala: Funding will be used to provide aircraft spares/upgrades. This equipment will help to strengthen Guatemala's ability to control its national airspace against transnational threats, including drug trafficking.
- Honduras: Funding will be used to provide equipment for a unit assigned to the La Mosquitia region of Honduras, including weapons, NVGs, vehicles, vehicle spares and radios. This equipment will help to strengthen Honduras' ability to control its national territory against transnational threats, including drug trafficking.
- Nicaragua: Funding will be used to provide maritime patrol aircraft spares. This equipment will help to strengthen Nicaragua's ability to control its national airspace against transnational threats, including drug trafficking.
- Panama: Funding will be used to provide support, including communications, vehicle spares, boat spares, weapons, NVGs, GPSs, individual equipment, and training for border/frontier units working along the Colombian and Costa Rican borders. This equipment will help to strengthen Panama's ability to control its national borders against transnational threats, including drug trafficking.

Impact of Program:

The assistance provided to the CARSI countries varies based on different tactical and operational requirements in each country. Panama requires support for its Frontier Force for operations along its borders with Colombia and Costa Rica, while Honduras needs assistance to better control its remote Mosquito Coast. FMF assistance to Nicaragua and Costa Rica will be used to support to aerial operations to improve control over remote regions and support maritime interdiction. While the equipment provided is different for these countries, it -- as well as our assistance to Belize and El Salvador -- shares the common goal of extending the reach of our partner nations' security forces.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 2.1: Operational Control of Borders and Ports

Program Name: Central America Firearms Interdiction, Training and Destruction²

Funding: FY10 Appropriation: \$1,100,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

- *Firearms Interdiction Training:* Will provide law enforcement training in Central America in areas such as firearms serial number restoration, Spanish language eTrace implementation and training, firearms investigative training, and support for host nation firearms interdiction activities.
- *Regional Firearms Advisor:* Will continue to support the presence of a Regional Firearms Advisor to enhance the capacity of the seven governments in the Central American region to combat arms trafficking in the region. The Advisor will continue to manage a program of assistance to police, and other justice sector entities involved in reducing firearms crime and violence. Such funding will also support the deployment of U.S. federal law enforcement agency personnel to the region on a temporary duty basis to support the emerging firearms trafficking needs of the region.
- *Stockpile Management and Destruction:* Will provide stockpile management training to nations in Central America whose small arms stockpiles do not meet international standards for safety and security as the diversion of weapons from national stockpiles poses a serious threat to security in the region. The activity will also support the destruction of excess government weapons that serve no national security purpose, as well as confiscated small arms used by criminals.

² This activity consolidates prior FY 2008 and FY 2009 activities in the following areas: Firearms Interdiction Training (FY 08 Supp: \$462,000 NADR; FY 09: \$500,000 INCLE), Regional Firearms Advisor (FY 08 Supp: \$1,000,000 NADR; FY 09: \$750,000 INCLE), Stockpile Management and Destruction (FY 08 Supp: \$1,295,000 NADR; FY 09: \$500,000 INCLE).

Impact of the Program: These programs will collectively enhance the capacity of the seven governments of the Central American region to combat arms trafficking, interdict trafficking rings and networks, enhance the security of host nation weapons stockpiles, and facilitate the destruction of outdated and surplus at risk for theft and transfer to the illicit firearms trade. These activities will continue to support the presence of a U.S. law enforcement Regional Firearms Advisor in the region, and to provide additional assistance to permit the temporary duty travel and assignment of relevant U.S. federal law enforcement personnel in the region. Ongoing programming will seek to provide host nation law enforcement personnel, including customs, police and court officials, with capacity in the areas of firearms investigative techniques, firearms tracking and forensics, assistance in developing complex national and transnational firearms investigations, and closer coordination with other CARSI-funded initiatives, such as ICE and DEA vetted and sensitive investigations units, and the FBI-led Transnational Anti-Gang Units.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 2.1: Operational Control of Borders and Ports

Program Name: Improved Borders and Ports (Equipment, Training, Borders, Port and Container Security)

Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$2,143,000 (NADR)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$3,700,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$3,550,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 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 Central American isthmus, including drugs landed from boats transiting the Pacific and Caribbean corridors. As drug traffickers shift routes from the high-seas to Central American land and territorial waters, enhanced support is necessary to improve border and port security.

FY 2010 CARSI funds will provide equipment, training, mentoring, and other border and port assistance to key transit points that have significant traffic in narcotics, improperly documented individuals, bulk cash, and other contraband.

On-site operational assistance may be provided by DHS officers. This assistance may include formal presentations on the identification of hidden compartments, fraudulent document interdiction, techniques for intercepting smuggled narcotics, weapons, bulk cash, and other contraband. The program may also include the temporary embedding of DHS officers at checkpoints and with mobile units to provide operational assistance and training.

Impact of the Program:

The program will strengthen border security and the detection of smuggling in all seven Central American nations. Since many border ports of entry are not actually at the border, but are instead located internally within the countries (often

on the Inter-American Highway), this program will enhance border security and improve detection of contraband smuggling in Central America.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.3 Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform

CARSI Strategy Objective 4.1: Curtail Gang Activity/Diminish Demand for Drugs

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

Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$1,500,000 (INCLE)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$1,500,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$700,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 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 of 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 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.

FY 2010 CARSI funds will continue efforts to introduce FBI and international fingerprint identification standards by moving beyond the basic systems and supporting additional remote stations. The funds will complete installation of CAFÉ in Costa Rica and Honduras. Funds will provide technical assistance on AFIS technology and facilitate the regional networking of criminal fingerprint records.

Impact of the Program:

Automating the fingerprint identification capabilities within the region will facilitate the interchange of information about criminals, establishing true identities and linking them to crimes. It will also provide USG law enforcement at the federal, state, and local level with much wider access to international biometric criminal identification data, the analysis of which will be shared with host country law enforcement. The enhancement to the CAFE initiative will provide training, resources, maintenance and infrastructure to enable countries to operate on a similar level and to conduct significant and viable fingerprint analysis and identification.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.4 Counter-Narcotics

CARSI Strategy Objective 1.2: Modernize/Enhance Law Enforcement/Intelligence

Program Name: Central American Vetted and Special Investigative Units (SIU)

Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$4,000,000 (INCLE)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$6,000,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$5,400,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

Sensitive Investigative Units and vetted units are groups of host country investigators who are polygraphed, trained and equipped to conduct complex multinational investigations. FY 2010 CARSI assistance will continue support to vetted units guided by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), support DHS sponsored host-nation vetted investigative and enforcement units, and support ongoing INL programs.

Vetted units 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 and office equipment, and training for host nation investigative and enforcement units. FY 2010 CARSI assistance will continue programs initiated with FY 2008 Merida Initiative funding in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama, as well as support the Special Investigative Unit (vetted unit) established in Belize with FY 2009 Merida Initiative funds.

FY 2010 assistance will support similar operating costs, investigative equipment, and training for DHS-sponsored host-nation vetted investigative and enforcement units in El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, and Guatemala. These vetted units will conduct complex multinational and multidiscipline investigations in areas such as firearms and narcotics trafficking, bulk cash smuggling, and money laundering.

Funds will also support ongoing logistics and equipment needs for INL programs in El Salvador.

Impact of the Program:

This funding is vital to the continued development of these specialized law enforcement units. Without this assistance, host nations cannot afford to actively participate in bilateral investigations and enforcement/interdiction operations in the transit zones that are essential to addressing the flow of drugs and arms to the United States. The enhancement of existing vetted drug task forces within Central America will contribute to overall stability within the region, encourage cooperation among law enforcement agencies, and add to ongoing initiatives associated with judicial reform and the rule of law. By enhancing their ability to conduct investigations, these units will more effectively target, disrupt, dismantle, and prosecute the highest level drug traffickers and trafficking organizations that operate in the Central American region and impact the United States. Since DEA does not conduct unilateral investigations in any foreign country, the success of DEA's international investigations continues to be based on its partnerships with SIUs and vetted units.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.4 Counter-Narcotics

CARSI Strategy Objective 4.1: Curtail Gang Activity/Diminish Demand for Drugs

Program Name: Demand Reduction

**Funding: FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$1,000,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$330,000 (INCLE)**

FY 2010 Program Description:

Drug abuse remains a problem throughout Central America, in particular among gang members. FY 2010 CARSI assistance will support training and education programs to combat drug abuse in Central America. The funds may continue the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) programs in Central America. These programs complement on-going OAS-CICAD efforts in the region.

Impact of the Program:

With increasing movement of drugs throughout the Central America region, drug prevention and treatment programs are key to combating the potential for rising drug abuse. Therefore, as law enforcement and justice sector institutions increase their pressure on drug traffickers, this program will concomitantly provide training on resisting drugs and improve administration of treatment efforts.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.5 Transnational Crime

**CARSI Strategy Objective 1.3: Strengthen Law Enforcement
Professionalization/Modernization**

Program Name: Capacity Enhancement (In-Service Training,
including Anti-Gang/Transnational Anti-Gang Units)

Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$3,400,000
(INCLE)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$5,175,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$7,150,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

FY 2010 CARSI support will enhance the capacity of operational level law enforcement and justice sector actors throughout Central America through in-service training and anti-gang support. In-service training on investigation, operations, officer safety, community policing, and other courses, will be provided. The training will complement the management-level training provided by ILEA and will introduce concepts that are taught to new recruits in the academies.

This program will also enhance the Transnational Anti-Gang (TAG) program that was initially supported through FY 2008 Merida Initiative funding 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, augmenting their investigative and operational capabilities. The funding will also support polygraph expenses and officer exchange.

Anti-gang training at the operational police, prosecutor, and community level will be provided to complement managerial level training offered at ILEA. U.S. personnel managing anti-gang programs and host country counterparts will review current programs and their results, and identify additional training needed. The courses will take into account lessons learned and best practices for policing programs, including those developed by the Villa Nueva community policing project in Guatemala, the planned program in Honduras, and the TAG program. The training will include street level police and mixed units of police, prosecutors, and prevention workers. While some training may only include one partner

country, most will be regional, to maximize sharing of information on approaches. Between 14 and 21 courses will be conducted.

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 outcome results 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. The pilot program is currently based upon a partnership between the FBI, the Los Angeles City Mayor's Office, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD), the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the Policia Nacional Civil (PNC) of El Salvador. Ultimately, the program will expand throughout the Central American region and offer exchange opportunities throughout the United States for participating foreign officers. Funding will be extended to both foreign and domestic agencies participating in the Foreign Officer Exchange Program to encourage diversity and to allow for the greatest number of participants.

Impact of the Program:

This program will enable the United States to contribute its significant expertise to address criminal gangs and build operational-level law enforcement and justice sector capacity in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Peace and Security

1.5 Transnational Crime

CARSI Strategy Objective 4.1: Curtail Gang Activity/Diminish Demand for Drugs

Program Name: U.S.-SICA Dialogue - Technical Coordination Consultations and Vice-Ministerial Engagement

Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$252,000 (INCLE)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$50,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$50,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

Merida Initiative funds will support Technical Coordination Consultations and Vice-Ministerial U.S.-SICA Dialogue meetings to collaboratively address the transnational threats of criminal gangs, drugs and arms trafficking that plague the region.

Impact of the Program:

Funding will allow for the institutionalization of the Dialogue, as well as greater coordination and follow-up implementation of agreements with meetings of the technical working body of the U.S.-SICA Dialogue as well as vice-ministerial meetings.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights

**CARSI Strategy Objective 3.1: Improve Justice System
Efficiency/Effectiveness**

Program Name: Justice Sector Reform

Funding: FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$5,182,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 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.

FY 2010 CARSI funds will support technical assistance that will address justice sector administration, case management and tracking systems. Support will also continue efforts started in FY 2008 to provide technical assistance to strengthen the capacity of the region's prosecutors and encourage cooperation between the prosecutors, judges and police in Central America. Funds will build the capacity of police, judicial investigators, and prosecutors to address cases related to narcotics and transnational crime. Programs may support targeted technical assistance and training to police, prosecutors, and judicial investigators, as well as assistance to enhance coordination between the entities.

FY 2010 CARSI funds will support technical assistance to develop strategic regional plans with long term goals for juvenile detention, including the development of coordinated programs outside of detention facilities to help host governments with their planning for:

- Rehabilitation and Treatment: job skills and vocational training, drug and alcohol treatment and education, development of literacy skills and achievement of minimal education standards;
- Alternatives to Incarceration: operationalizing alternative sentencing, establishing juvenile drug courts and intensive probation programs; case management for juvenile offenders; community service, court supervision and/or probation, supervised early-release;

- Reintegration Support: workforce development, employment readiness, micro credit and programs of personal development, tattoo removal, follow-on medical and mental health treatment programs.

Impact of the Program:

This program will enhance the ability of criminal courts to secure convictions and protect human rights. The transparency and accountability of security sector institutions will be increased. This program will have a significant positive impact on the security of the Central American region and the United States by enhancing the ability of regional law enforcement agencies and personnel to effectively investigate and prosecute violent and organized crime. Moreover, it will encourage coordination and cooperation among law enforcement agencies within each country, throughout the region and with the United States. Over time, this project will contribute to lowered levels of corruption and enhanced access to justice. This program will strengthen and increase public confidence and accountability of the Central American juvenile public sector institutions. It will improve professional capacity and overall management capabilities within the institutions by developing internal structures within the organizations combined with periodic training of staff.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights

**CARSI Strategy Objective 3.1: Improve Justice System
Efficiency/Effectiveness**

Program Name: Forensics

Funding: FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$200,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$1,500,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

While each of the Central American countries would like to have their own advanced forensic laboratory capacities, it is neither practical nor cost effective at this time. In addition, police and prosecutors sometimes maintain separate forensic laboratories that do not communicate with each other on evidence processing. FY 2010 CARSI funds will build off of an assessment launched with FY 2009 Merida Initiative funds intended to determine current forensic laboratory capabilities throughout the Central American region and to develop a plan for sharing existing facilities to avoid expensive duplication.

Impact of the Program:

This program will help ensure law enforcement entities are provided with adequate facilities, training, and equipment to conduct efficient and effective investigations using forensics.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights

CARSI Strategy Objective 3.2: Bolster Rule of Law/Human Rights

Program Name: Community Policing

Funding: FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$4,600,000 (INCLE)

FY 2010 Program Description:

For law enforcement to be effective, communities must be willing and able to report crime and engage law enforcement. FY 2010 funds will support efforts to build the capacity of Central American police units to become a more modern, community-based police service that works within communities to effectively police and lower crime, while combating serious crimes such as drug trafficking, gangs, and money laundering. Efforts will also strive to increase local support and confidence in the police and improving police structures and policies. Funds will be used to bring instructors and advisors to provide oversight and training to the police in community style policing, executive police decision making, and institutionalization of a community police-based philosophy. Additional training, mentoring, and equipment as identified will be provided, to include criminal investigations and tactical training for special groups to combat growing crime and gang problems.

Impact of the Program:

This program will complement other community-based efforts by providing law enforcement with community policing methodology and other community-oriented techniques that will ultimately strengthen the credibility and legitimacy of law enforcement within the community.

Foreign Assistance Program Area: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights

CARSI Strategy Objective 3.3: Sever Influence of Incarcerated

Program Name: Improved Prison Management

**Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$3,000,000 (INCLE)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$3,000,000 (INCLE)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$1,100,000 (INCLE)**

FY 2010 Program Description:

Prisons in much of Central America have come under the control of gangs and other criminals, who also utilize them as bases from which to consolidate their 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 program will build on Phase I and Phase II improved prison management activities started under the Merida Initiative. The funds will continue to extend training, including train-the-trainer and management training for prison directors and decision makers, and work with senior officials on strategic planning for the prison systems. Teams of experienced prison advisors/mentors will oversee vetting of foreign government personnel, procurement and installation of necessary equipment and repairs/modifications and implement training, including training of trainers.

Impact of the Program:

Improved prison management will improve public security of all countries in the region and the U.S. by preventing crimes from being committed from prisons via proxies. Reasserting government control of prisons will eliminate the influence of criminal leaders in prisons. Separating out youthful offenders will protect them from pressures to become violent members of gangs and provide opportunities for rehabilitation.

Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights

CARSI Strategy Objective 3.2: Bolster Rule of Law/Human Rights

Program Name: WHA Rule of Law Regional Fund

**Funding: FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$6,000,000 (ESF)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$2,500,000 (ESF)**

FY 2010 Program Description:

The Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, in coordination with its inter-agency partners and Embassies in Central America, will manage the disbursement of \$2,500,000 in Regional Economic Support funds. Funding will support regional capacity enhancement and rule of law initiatives, such as community action and youth programs, anti-corruption activities, crime victim assistance, witness protection programs, neighborhood/local/precinct-level crime reduction programming, etc. The disbursement of these funds will both complement existing CARSI activities and address gaps in our planned programming, while simultaneously providing the Department with the ability to respond to emerging threats in the region as identified by our Embassies and host nation partners.

Funded programs and initiatives will be short-term in duration (typically, tasks which can be achieved within one year from the disbursement of funding to an implementing partner or Embassy), narrow in scope to address a clearly defined requirement, and will directly support a critical host nation or Embassy requirement for which funding has not already been allocated under another CARSI capacity enhancement or law enforcement assistance program.

Impact of the Program:

The disbursement of assistance from the WHA Regional ESF fund will provide the Department and inter-agency community with a critical resource to address emerging issues which threaten the stability of host nations, represent challenges to citizen security, or to provide assistance in eliminating gaps in host nation capabilities.

Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.1 Rule of Law and Human Rights

CARSI Strategy Objective 3.2: Bolster Rule of Law/Human Rights

Program Name: Community Policing

**Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$2,250,000 (ESF)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$1,700,000 (ESF)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$3,100,000 (ESF)**

FY 2010 Program Description:

To promote good governance within Central America, the program will strengthen the credibility and legitimacy of local governments through improved collaboration between the police and the community. Assistance will focus both on community organizations and the police, and on joint activities. Training, technical assistance, and grants will 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 will 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 crime and gang prevention and community action fund activities to ensure maximum impact and effect.

Impact of the Program:

Results of the program include undermining gang effectiveness and recruitment, successful arrests of gang members and greatly improved cooperation and trust between the police and the community.

Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.2 Good Governance

CARSI Strategy Objective 4.1: Curtail Gang Activity/Diminish Demand for Drugs

Program Name: Community Crime and Gang Prevention

**Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$8,200,000 (ESF)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$8,300,000 (ESF)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$6,550,000 (ESF)**

FY 2010 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.

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, and 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.

- Regional activities under gang prevention will involve funding to strengthen cities to take a bigger role in crime prevention through the following types of activities: a) exposing municipal authorities to violence prevention strategies through conferences, training programs, and exchanges with counterparts in the region and U.S.; b) strengthening coordination and policy dialogue among government authorities (e.g. police, public ministries, forensics) and between national police with local government authorities, and assist in the decentralization of social funds and community-policing to target violence prevention strategically; and c) fostering regional peer and knowledge networks. Other regional funds under this component will be used to conduct special sample surveys in communities (both communities where Merida activities will be conducted and control communities) to gauge the impacts of our programs; these surveys will involve citizen perceptions of security, community violence, and citizen safety. A third component of our regional funds will involve using media and innovative partnerships to reach at-risk youth and extending funding to support donor coordination efforts by the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence.

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 may also include smaller amounts for countries with emerging gang problems.

Impact of the Program:

The Central America Gang Prevention program will increase security by helping communities and the private sector better integrate at-risk-youth, thereby reducing gang recruitment, crime and violence in the region. The program will also build the capacity of communities and governments to prevent gang recruitment and enhance law enforcement efforts. These programs support the prevention pillar of the U.S. Strategy to Combat Gangs.

Objective: Governing Justly and Democratically

2.2 Good Governance

CARSI Strategy Objective 4.1: Curtail Gang Activity/Diminish Demand for Drugs

Program Name: Community Action Fund

**Funding: FY08 Supplemental Appropriation: \$9,550,000 (ESF)
FY09 Omnibus Appropriation: \$6,000,000 (ESF)
FY10 Omnibus Appropriation: \$10,850,000 (ESF)**

FY 2010 Program Description:

Among the root causes of gangs and organized crime are a 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. The Community Action Fund will work with and complement the community crime and gang prevention and the community policing programs. Wherever possible, corporate and business sponsorship will be sought for community action fund activities to supplement or mitigate the need for dedicated USG assistance.

Successful, innovative solutions will be examined for replication in the 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 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 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.

Impact of the Program:

The Community Action Fund will increase security by providing at-risk youth in targeted areas with positive education, training, and job opportunities, thereby reducing gang recruitment, crime and violence in the region. The program will also build the capacity of communities and create an enabling community environment.