



# 2021 US-CARICOM Security Cooperation Outlook Brief

## "Accelerating Recovery and Advancing Resilience"



### Overview

The 2021 US-CARICOM Security Cooperation Outlook is inspired by a combination of established instruments, platforms and existing opportunities

*The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the imperative for a multidimensional approach to enabling Caribbean countries, in particular the smaller states of CARICOM, to overcome their range of vulnerabilities, by simultaneously accelerating recovery and advancing resilience, with the support of security cooperation and international development partners, like the US.*



### Established Instruments/Platforms

These reconfirm US commitment to strengthening Caribbean-US partner engagement, such as: P.L.114–291 - the United States Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act of 2016; the Caribbean-US Security Cooperation Dialogue, ongoing since 2010, and last convened in October 2020; the new US-Caribbean Resilience Partnership; and the Caribbean-US security cooperation flagship, the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative (CBSI)

### Existing Opportunities

For both legislative action by the 117th US Congress, such as: approval of pending appropriations in H.R.7703 – the CBSI Authorization Act; allocation of appropriations for implementation of P.L. 114 – 291; and, reported NDAA provisions “to strengthen engagement in the Caribbean consistent with the objectives of the 2018 National Defense Strategy and the State Department’s Caribbean 2020 Strategy” (Congressional Research Service, Jan, 2021); and, also for innovative executive action by the Biden-Harris Administration to implement P.L.114-291 through: the proven CBSI platform; the Caribbean Energy Security Initiative (CESI); and the new US-Caribbean Resilience Partnership.

### Objectives

Specifically, the strategic objectives for 2021 US-CARICOM Security Cooperation are:

#### ENDS:

1. Strengthened Maritime, Airspace, Border, Cyber and Energy Infrastructure Security Cooperation with the US within the framework of the CBSI.
2. Strengthened US-CARICOM Disaster Resilience Cooperation in the framework of the US-Caribbean Resilience Partnership.

#### WAYS:

1. CBSI FMF funding for CARICOM Strategic Security Capability Asset Acquisition.
2. CBSI INCLE funding for CARICOM Security Institutional Capacity-Building, for: CARICOM IMPACS, CDEMA, and RSS.

#### MEANS:

1. NDAA funded support for CARICOM Joint Force, Inter-Agency and Multinational Operations & Maintenance in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean, including for: RIFC, JRCC, and RSS.
2. NDAA funded support to upgrade the existing Joint Force, Inter-Agency and Multinational operational frameworks in the Northern Caribbean, e.g., OPBAT.

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