

SouthCom: Washington Develops its Operations in Soto Cano Airbase in Honduras

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According to [a November 17 press release](#), Harris Corporation, an international communications and information technology company, was awarded the U.S. Southern Command (SouthCom) Command, Control, Communications and Computer Systems operations and maintenance program for Joint Task Force (JTF) Bravo at Soto Cano Air Base in Honduras. This five-year task order contract has a base year plus four one-year options and is valued at \$38 million — including all options.

This critical infrastructure program supports the Commander of JTF-Bravo — the Commander of all U.S. military operations in Central America in the execution of SouthCom’s strategy to build Partner Nation Capacity. It is intended to bolster security, stability and prosperity in the Americas. This responsibility, according to the press release, encompasses:

- Advancing new visions of the U.S. Government and institutions of the region.
- Reducing sources of conflict and tension.
- Promoting partnership in times of need.
- Empowering initiatives to thwart narcotics trafficking and other transnational threats.

Harris is an international communications and information technology company serving government and commercial markets worldwide. Headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, the company has approximately \$5 billion of annual revenue and more than 15,000 employees — including nearly 7,000 engineers and scientists.

As the Honduran people are developing their struggle to boycott the fraudulent November 29 elections and in favor of a Constituent Assembly, Washington is already arrogantly stepping up its post-November 29 program. For imperialism, it is business as usual, irrespective of the positions, sacrifices and feelings of the vast majority of people in Honduras.

This latest decision under the Obama Administration provides the people an opportunity to see once again what constitute the “new visions of the U.S. Government and institutions of the region”. They are not new, but the same imperialist vision of domination and interference by the US in the entire hemisphere south of the Rio Grande. The only thing that

is new is the appearance with the goal of having the peoples of the region and the world accept the old policies but disguised in new rhetoric.

As far as the above-stated goal of “reducing sources of conflict and tension”, if the US was really interested in this, President Zelaya would have been reinstated a long time ago; the repression by the US trained military in Honduras and Micheletti would not only have been stopped, but the guilty would have been tried and punished for the crimes committed against the people of Honduras.

However, after all, this is the same Washington which recently concluded the agreement with Columbia for the establishment of the seven military bases there.

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