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LAW ENFORCEMENT AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN BELIZE
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Law Enforcement and Regional Cooperation in Belize



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Belize Perspective

- Belize (Central America/Caribbean) is a potentially significant transshipment point for illicit drugs, human trafficking, contraband of goods and ammunitions between Central/South America and North America.
- In addition, Belize continues to cultivate a small amount of marijuana, primarily for local consumption.
- Officials continue to find a number of abandoned suspect boats and airplanes in Belizean waters and in clandestine areas.

Belize Perspective

- Contiguous borders with Guatemala and Mexico, large tracts of unpopulated jungles and forested areas, a lengthy unprotected coastline, hundreds of small cayes (islands), and numerous navigable inland waterways, combined with the country's rudimentary infrastructure, add to its appeal for drug trafficking, human trafficking, and urban warfare

Belize Law Enforcement Agencies

Belize Police Department's

- Jurisdiction encompasses the entire country of Belize, covering 8,867 square miles (22,960 km²) of territory and serving 312,898 people (Belize SIB, 2010 year estimate).
- There are currently over 1055 officers in the department.



Belize Defense Force (BDF)

- The **Military of Belize**, and is responsible for protecting the sovereignty of Belize.
- The regular army numbered over 900, the reserve army 381, the air wing 45 and the maritime wing 36, amounting to an overall strength of approximately 1400.



Regional Cooperation

- Has developed a sustainable infrastructure to combat drug trafficking, illicit movement of persons, and crime, through training of police, Coast Guard, Judiciary, Prosecutors and Immigration and Customs Officials.
- Has encourage the Government of Belize to curb internal corruption, which enables organized criminal activity.
- Has encourage the Government of Belize to pass and implement pending legislation requesting wider authority relative to intelligence collection and electronic intercepts.



- Has Improved interdiction capabilities that has enhanced protection of Belize's country's territorial sovereignty, discouraged criminal activities.



- Has participated and taken advantage of institutional training for capacity building workshops in law enforcement.

- Has increased it's data collection gathering for effective intelligence.



- Protocols and conventions in regards to law enforcement has been signed or ratified.

- Policy development for juvenile delinquency, fire arm position, trafficking persons, gang suppression and extradition.



- Prevention strategies through the incorporation of community base policing.





Law Enforcement / Regional Cooperation

Has it benefited the Region?

- Better south to south collaboration
- International and Regional Organizations have provided the necessary network for effective collaboration among the region's countries. (initiatives are in progress and the results will manifest in time)
- We are in the path of assuring a safer region.



Law Enforcement / Regional Cooperation

Has it benefited Belize?

- Role of the Law Enforcement Agencies has taken a fore front in the reduction of crime.
- Successful raids based on intelligence (Gang Suppression Unit and Anti- Drug Unit
- A nation that is more prepared to combat organized illicit activities nationally and contribute to its regional and international obligations.



Law Enforcement / Regional Cooperation

Recommendations:

- Regional strengthening in Law Enforcement is important however it can not go with out regional investment in Judicial Reform.



Thank You!