

Prevention and Suppression of Transnational Organized Crime

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Co Chair, Distinguished Delegates Good Morning. First, let me thank the organization of this meeting for the opportunity to present to this international audience a how transnational crime is being treated by my country and indeed in the Eastern Caribbean. I was asked to present this topic from a T&T perspective. However, I wish to suggest a broader sub regional view with T&T providing some examples. Distinguished Delegates, for a small developing countries such T&T is and the rest of the Caribbean islands are, transnational organized crime presents unique challenges for the authorities, especially where there are several small states, some of them less capable than others to implement appropriate policies and to apply suitable technologies to manage the threats on their own but where they all face the same type and level of threat. So in presenting this topic, the T&T perspective really reflects the region or sub-regional situation and strategies for dealing with this phenomenon. It could be described as an island perspective but I must add that for small islands in many instances the threats span both land and sea.

PRESENTATION STRUCTURE

- Geography
- Threats
- Vulnerabilities & Challenges
- Strategies

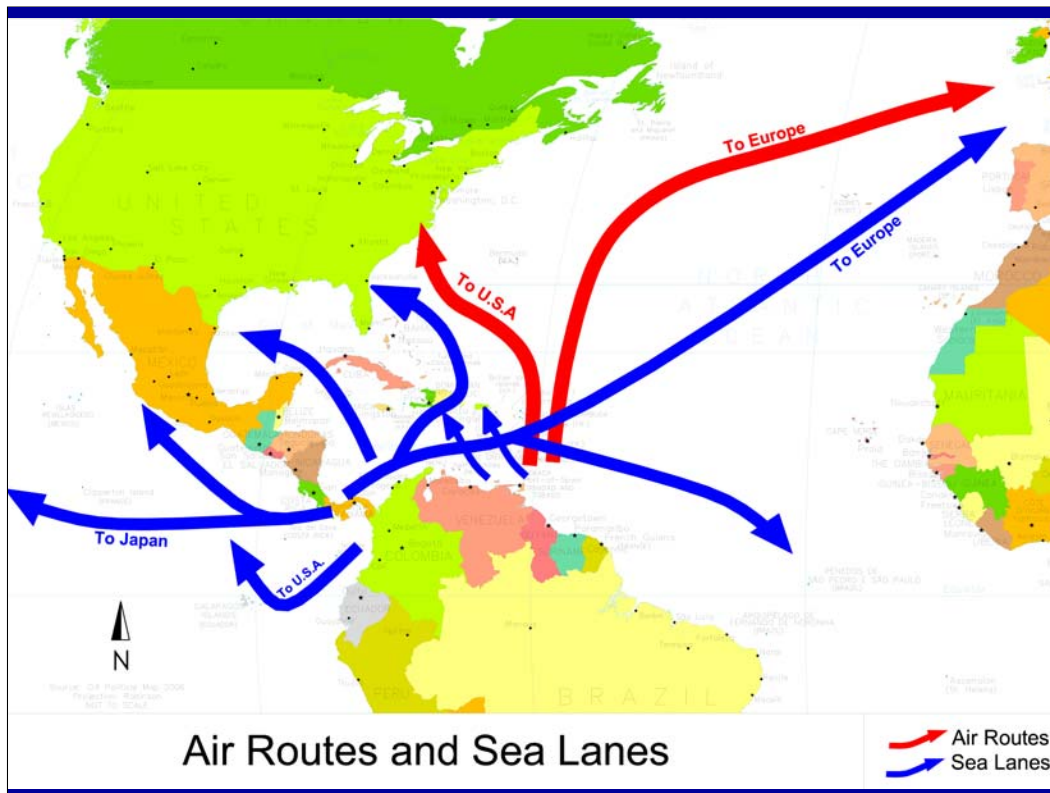
Therefore this Presentation is structured along the following lines: – I will look at the geography of the region and T&T, the threats, Vulnerabilities & Challenges, and the Strategies employed or proposed.

Next - Geography



Geography - In simplest terms the Caribbean is the archipelago that links north and South America. It has also been described in security terms as the porous third border of the USA. T&T is the southernmost country of the Eastern Caribbean chain of islands. All islands have overlapping maritime zones. The threats of transnational crime are common to all island states, the vulnerabilities are in many respects similar, and the strategies applied and to be applied must take a regional approach. Nevertheless, the overall level of threat to the security of the Region is assessed by security officials to be **LOW**.

NEXT – AIR & Sea Routes



The Caribbean straddles important air and sea routes linking east and west, north and south hemispheres. The Panama Canal provides that vital link between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and attract much of the world's shipping.

While the states in the region are trying to foster greater economic growth via these air and sea linkages, these same lines of communications and transmission have become very useful for international crime as they offer significant opportunities for globalization of crime. This problem must be factored into the strategies for dealing with transnational crime.

NEXT – GEOGRAPHY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



T&T is the southernmost state. 5128 sq. km with a population of 1.5 million persons. It is primarily an industrialized nation whose economy is energy based particularly from marine fields and its down stream industries ashore. It is the worlds second largest producer of methanol and the largest exporter of natural gas to the eastern seaboard of the USA.

T&T have clearly defined jurisdictional zones under the LOS Convention. It is an archipelagic state with some defined delimited boundaries: for example between EEZ and Continental shelves between T&T and Venezuela and T&T and Barbados.

Trinidad lies very close to the South American mainland. In fact at its nearest point it is 6 miles from Venezuela. This proximity provides excellent conditions for cross border criminal activities.

Because the island of Trinidad lies just on the southern edge of the hurricane belt, the yachting industry is thriving with large and small foreign yachts visiting and laying up for very extended periods. Several yachts have been arrested for drug smuggling.

Next – Threats to Maritime Security

THREATS TO MARITIME SECURITY

- Narcotics Trafficking and Arms Trafficking
- Organised Crime
- Criminal Deportees
- Irregular Migration
- Terrorism
- Money Laundering

Threats to Maritime Security

Narcotics Trafficking is by far the main threat but it brings with it arms trafficking and money laundering. Criminal Deportees are included on the list because some of them bring with them a transference of criminal expertise and their foreign contacts. They develop networks to use merchant shipping for movement of illegal goods.

Irregular migration has brought human suffering at sea leading to loss of life. We have seen the tragic results of the use of unsafe vessels by Haitians and Cubans who attempt to reach USA by sea.

However, the region is primarily a transit zone for narcotics and irregular migrants, and it suffers as a result of activities in the source and destination countries.

NEXT – COUNTRY THREAT RELATIONSHIP

COUNTRY - THREAT RELATIONSHIP

- **Source Countries** – Illegal Firearms, Drugs
- **Consumer Countries** – Drugs and Deportees
- **Transit Countries** – Illegal Firearms, Drugs and Irregular Migration
- **Influence Countries** – Gangs and related Violence and Organised Crime

There is a relationship between the threats and the countries. From the source countries come drugs that pass through for the consumer countries. The consumer countries have also become source countries for deportees who form a major part of transnational organized crime. Drugs are usually accompanied by firearms. As drugs pass through the Transit countries such as some of those in South America irregular migration adds to the problems for the region.

NEXT – (THREAT) – THE MARKET

Markets

- Illegal drugs market in the Caribbean generates an income of estimated US \$ 3.3 bn
- Cocaine US \$3 bn accounts for 85% of the market. This represents 2% of global market.
- More than 90% (approx 240 tonnes) of the cocaine that enters the Caribbean continues its journey to consumer countries (North America and Europe)

(CCM Report on illicit drug Markets)

During the last decade Cocaine share in the drug market in the region increased from 72% in the 1990s at the expense of cannabis

Heroin and amphetamines represent 1% of the regional drug market.

Caribbean is the transshipment area for 10% of the total drug production of cocaine out of Colombia which is approx 5.5% of the US heroin market

Narcotics Trafficking

The joint Inter Agency Task Force of US Southern Command identified 212 maritime narcotic smuggling events in 2007. They projected for 2008 Cocaine Movement Jan – June 2008 – 564 metric tonnes including western caribbean to be moved by sea . Of this 172 tonnes to transit through the island chain to North America and Europe.

NEXT – TRANSIT MAP (CLICK TWICE)



This represents the trends for movement through the region for the distribution of drugs. Observe the source zones in yellow, the transit zones in orange (note T&T) and the arrival zones in green

NEXT – TRANSIT ROUTE THROUGH TRINIDAD

Typical Drug Route



This shows the typical drug routes from Columbia . Note that T&T is in the direct path of the route, thus accounting for the increase in drugs and guns in the country and the associated increase in crime in the island.

NEXT – EXAMPLE OF INTRA-REGIONAL SMUGGLING



Intra regional movement of drugs is also a challenge. In the region Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and St Vincent are large producers of cannabis and this is smuggled throughout the region even for export to the developed countries abroad.. This is a new trend discovered last year. An example of how some was shipped from another Caribbean country to Trinidad. Many times the master of the vessel is complicit in this type of activity. Thus negatively affecting the confidence in merchant shipping which is the life blood of trade in the region

NEXT – DRUGS AND ARMS LINK

COUNTER NARCOTICS AND FIREARM INTERDICTION



Drug Bust Drugs for guns links (TT & EC - Venezuela Guyana Overseas gang links
- merchant shipping)

NEXT – THREAT – IRREGULAR MIGRATION

THREAT - IRREGULAR MIGRATION

“as a region of origin, transit and destination, the Caribbean is beset by complex irregular migration flows.”

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
- FORCED LABOUR
- DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

HUMAN SMUGGLING

The threat of Irregular Migration

According to an Exploratory Assessment of Trafficking in Persons in the Caribbean published by the International Organization for Migration – the Migration Agency (IOM) in 2005,

“as a region of origin, transit and destination, the Caribbean is beset by complex irregular migration flows.” two forms of irregular migration are **Human Trafficking** and **Human Smuggling**. Trafficking and smuggling are rooted in the problems of **poverty lack of opportunity marginalisation and violence**

The IOM asserts that the consequences of these irregular migration flows are often devastating, both for irregular migrants and for the larger society.

Human trafficking results in sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude. The immigration authorities in Trinidad have found the following

NEXT – CHART ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Irregular Migration – Human Trafficking

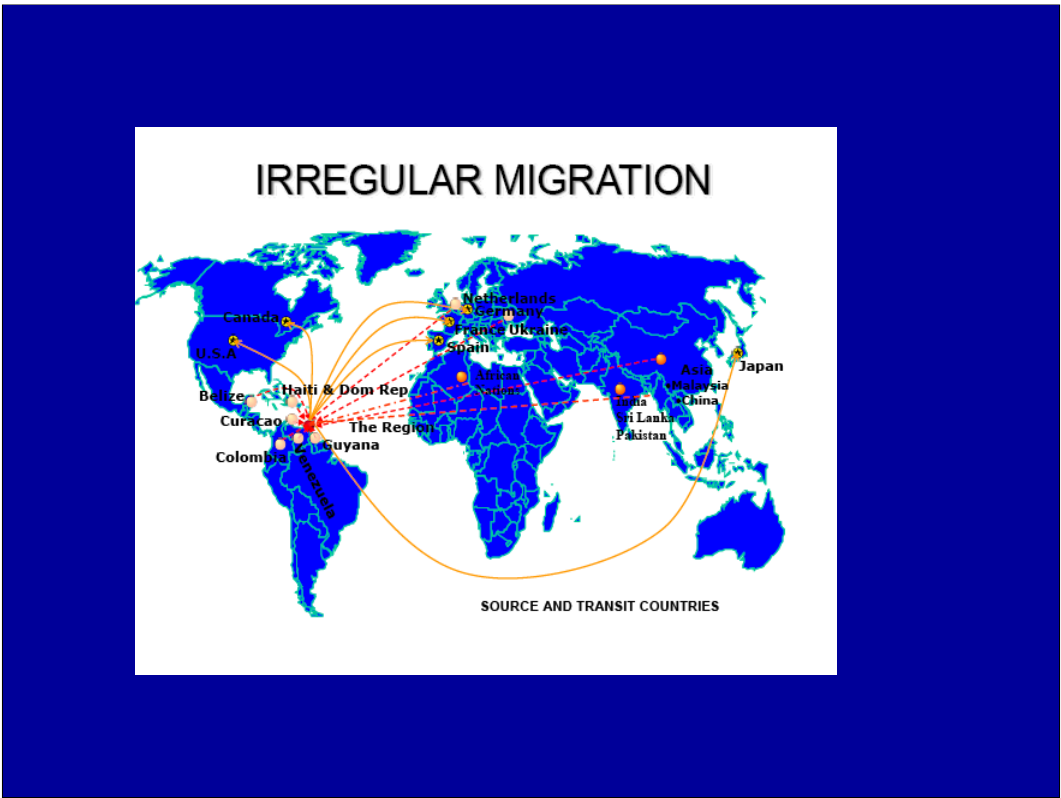
- **Source Countries**

- COLOMBIA
- VENEZUELA
- CHINA
- UKRAINE
- RUSSIA
- NETHERLANDS
- BELIZE
- SANTO DOMINGO
- GUYANA
- CURACAO

<u>Destinations</u>
Germany
JAPAN
SPAIN
FRANCE
THE USA
CANADA

<u>Transit Countries</u>
VENEZUELA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MAP ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Again emphasizing the transit zone status of the Caribbean particularly Trinidad and Tobago

NEXT – TERRORISM

- THREATS

- TERRORISM
- ARMS SMUGGLING

T&t HAD A LITTLE EXPERIENCE

Concerns about potential threats

- *Acts of sabotage and terrorism against economic targets within the maritime space.*
- *Acts of Terrorism within the maritime space, including hijacking of cruise ships or yachts.*
- *Disruption to major coastal facilities and near-offshore installations*
- *Underwater EOD/IED incidents targeting cruise ships or ships with volatile cargo.*

Because the economy is fully dependent on gas exploitation in our offshore fields especially those out near the extremity of our economic zone, there is concern. Perceived acts may include, but not be limited to: Concerns about potential threats

Acts of sabotage and terrorism within the maritime space.

Acts of Terrorism within the maritime space, including hijacking of cruise ships or yachts.

Disruption to major coastal facilities and near-offshore installations

Underwater EOD/IED incidents targeting cruise ships or ships with volatile cargo.

NEXT – CONCERNS ABOUT POTENTIAL THREATS

Terrorism

- **2006 – Extradition and imprisonment in USA of Lance Small** -1990 Insurrection
- **On June 2- 4 2007, the arrest of 4 individuals, inclusive of 2 nationals of Trinidad and Tobago for alleged conspiracy to attack New York's John F Kennedy International Airport.**

After the episode in the history of T&T in 1990 it was discovered that through international criminal linkages arms to facilitate the attempted coup were shipped into Trinidad from the USA. The result is that persons are now incarcerated in the USA including the T&T mastermind. More recently although it is not a maritime threat there are persons arrested for conspiracy to attack Kennedy airport. These show that transnational criminal activity does exist in the region

NEXT - VULNERABILITIES

Vulnerabilities

- **Porous borders**
- **Legislative Challenges**
 - Terrorism, Intercepts etc
 - Weakened and vulnerable Criminal Justice systems
- **Information & Intelligence**
 - Inadequate liaison and information sharing from external partners
- **Physical and Human Resources**
 - Limited capabilities of law enforcement and security agencies
- **Corruption**
- **Deportees**

Vulnerabilities

Legislative Challenges

- Porous borders
- Information & Intelligence

- Physical and Human Resources

Porous borders

Limited capabilities of law enforcement and security agencies

Inadequate liaison and information sharing from external partners

Growing overlap between foreign relations and security cooperation

Corruption

Weakened and vulnerable Criminal Justice systems

Legislative Challenges (Terrorism, Intercept etc)

Deportees is presenting a particular challenge for the region

NEXT - DEPORTEES

- DEPORTEES
- Jamaica (1990-2007) – 39,256
- Trinidad & Tobago (1990-2005) – 3255
- Guyana (2000-2007) – 1455
- Antigua & Barbuda (1998-2007) – 337
- TOTAL- 44303 persons

“Beyond Boundaries –A Comparative Study on Criminal Deportee in the Region”,
Annmarie Barnes, Ph.D

The deportation policy of the USA, Canada and UK has had severe negative impacts on the countries in the Caribbean region. The challenge for the region is how to integrate them into society. Most of them no longer have families on the islands and must now make new connections to survive. Many of them re-established their foreign linkages from their shared prison spaces in the US UK and Canada and developed formidable criminal alliances both locally and abroad particularly with narcotics smuggling. They develop networks within the region and even assist by moving wanted criminals by sea from one island to another when law enforcement officials are closing in on them.

A further concern is what of those hardened criminals who may now be indoctrinated extremists – leading to terrorism

NEXT - STRATEGIES

Strategies

Multilateral and extra regional engagement



Regional dialogue, information sharing and common practices



IMPACS

Adoption of International Best Practice into local law



Anti Terrorism Bill of 2004

Strategies – In 2007 the Caribbean hosted the cricket World Cup. Security arrangements for that event including maritime security left the region with some important security systems in place and which are being improved upon. Cricket World Cup provided the opportunities for the islands to come together to face the crime phenomenon in the region. It made economic and security sense.

Apart from great cricket facilities, it left Legacy systems

Next - Legacy systems.

Legacy Systems

Beyond Cricket World Cup 2007...

Improved legislative support for intra-regional cooperation (Treaties, MOUs, SOFAs)

Upgraded security architecture (policies, systems, structures, mechanisms, SOPs etc)

Closer regional collaboration among Law Enforcement, Military and Civilian Agencies

The Single Domestic Space



The development of a single domestic space whereby travel was made easy within parts of the region but also security was common (Theme – One space . one Caribbean) Development of the Maritime and Air Space security arrangements as a CARICOM instrument.

CARICOM Lead Organisations

- Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)
- CARICOM Operational Planning and Coordinating Staff (COPACS)
- Regional Intelligence Committee (RIC)
- Regional Sub-Committees (Police, Military)

Organisations were developed for security much of which deals with maritime security

CARICOM Lead Organisations - Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

- CARICOM Operational Planning and Coordinating Staff (COPACS)
- Regional Intelligence Committee (RIC)
- Regional Sub-Committees -Police and Military Chiefs

Immigration

Customs

Health

Disaster Preparedness

Information technology

Regional Security Mechanisms

Strengthened Border Security System

- Advanced Passenger Information Security System (APIS)
- Joint Regional Communication Centre (JRCC)
- CARICOM Common Visa Issuance System
- Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS)
- CARICOM Travel Card

Regional Security Mechanisms

- Intelligence Sharing System
 - Regional Intelligence Committee (RIC)
 - CARICOM Intelligence Sharing Network (CISNET)
 - Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre (RIFC)
 - CARICOM Watchlist System (CAWS)

Regional Security Mechanisms

Security Assistance System

- Security Assistance Treaty
- CARICOM Operations Planning and Coordinating Staff (COPACS)

Legislative Framework

- Framework for enabling implementation of Regional Security Strategy

Legislation To Facilitate Regional Security Cooperation

- Establishment of COPACS, ROCC, ROC, JTFs
- Regional legal instruments to incorporate:
 - Civil Police
 - Customs
 - Immigration
 - Health Officials
 - Specialist teams
- Command relationships (regional-national)
- Operational issues such as:
 - Use of force
 - Powers of arrest/search/detention

Establishment of COPACS, ROCC, ROC, JTFs

Regional legal instruments to incorporate:

- Civil Police
- Customs
- Immigration
- Health Officials
- Specialist teams

Command relationships (regional-national)

Operational issues such as:

- Bearing of arms and the use of force
- Powers of arrest/search/detention

COPACS' ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

- Identifying operational capacity gaps in conjunction with the host nations and rectifying these through resource acquisition and coordination efforts
- Planning and implementing a Resource Mobilisation Plan
- Coordination with the International Community on special requirements
- Activating (agreed-upon) mechanisms for responding to incidents

Other Agreements

- Extradition Treaty between T&T and USA in 2003
- Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal matters between T&T and USA in 1996

What is T&T doing?

International Response

- Ratification of International Treaties and Agreements; such examples are : United Nations transnational organized crime Convention and the Inter-American Convention on terrorism.
- Regional Commitments such as, the Inter-Governmental Task Force on Drugs.
- Bilateral Cooperation; examples are: Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, Extradition Treatise , Agreement regarding the sharing of confiscated or forfeited assets.

What is T&T doing?

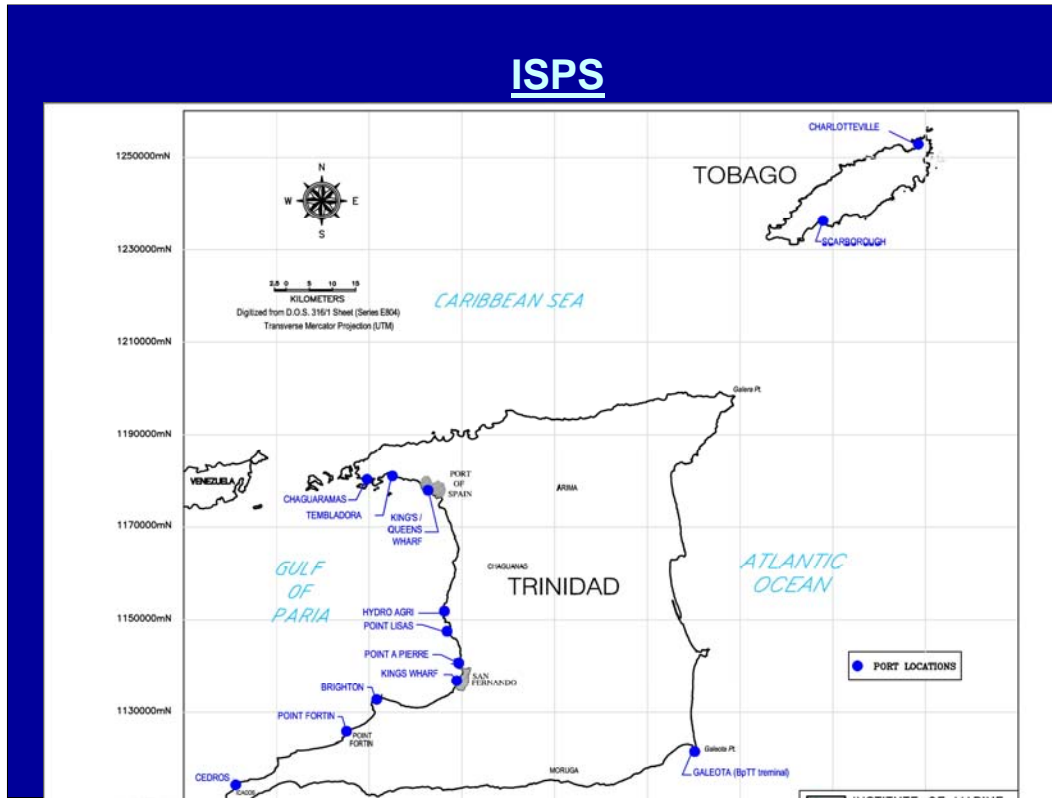


- Coastal Radar Surveillance System
- 3 OPVs
- 6 FPBs
- 6 Helicopters
- Assisting in the acquisition of Coastal Radar for St.Vincent, Grenada
- Leadership role in regional maritime security

NATIONAL COASTAL SURVEILLANCE RADAR CENTRE



ISPS



- **The Border Management System (T&T)**

- A passport information system
- Some ports are connected to the BMS

Some ports are connected to the BMS.

All the ports with the exception of Cedros, Charlotteville and Point-a-Pierre are said to be directly connected to the BMS.

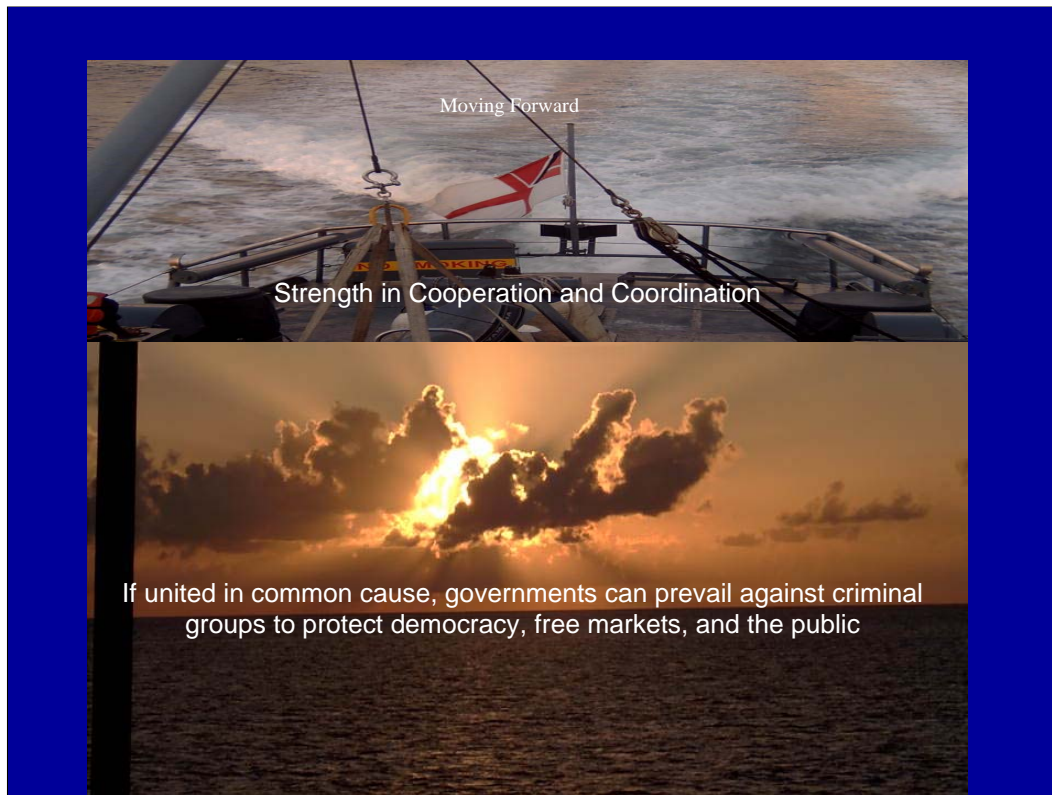
DRUG INTERDICTION 2003-2007

YEAR	DRUG	WEIGHT (kgs)	ESTIMATED STREET VALUE TT\$	ESTIMATED TOTAL COST USD
2003	Marijuana	254.5	\$ 3 M	\$1M
	Cocaine	7	\$ 2.8 M	
2004	Marijuana	1,000	\$12 M	\$2 M
2005	Heroin	6	\$38,000	\$117.5M
	Marijuana	49	\$591,000	
	Cocaine	1749	\$ 734 M	
2006	Marijuana	2115	\$25.38M	\$44M
	Cocaine	6.5	\$2.613M	
2007	Marijuana	983	\$11.8M	\$2M
	Cocaine	2.5	\$1M	

This is a profile of the drug interdiction effort in T&T. What it does show is that the efforts and strategies are having some effect since 2005. This is the result of acquisition of equipment and the establishment of improved surveillance and enforcement organisations

- Strength in Cooperation and Coordination at the political, intelligence and enforcement levels

What does all this show us ? It is that there is strength in cooperation and coordination



The new-found strength that organized crime has gained through international alliances is also its weakness. Networks of these enterprises are brutal, but fragile. Though groups may exploit gaps in legislation and enforcement abroad, they can also be severely weakened when law enforcement and prosecutors in many nations coordinate their efforts and strategies. If united in common cause, governments can prevail against criminal groups to protect democracy, free markets, and the public.