



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Air and Marine Southeast Border Region

FACT SHEET



The Southeast Border Region presents a unique surveillance and interdiction challenge for the Office of Air and Marine (OAM). Similar to the Northern Border Region, the Southeast Border Region is vulnerable due to a lack of low-altitude radar coverage. Heavy aircraft and vessel traffic makes it difficult to sort legitimate activity from illegal activity.

Threats to the U.S. Southeast coast include aviation and maritime smuggling from Cuba, the Bahamas, the Yucatan and the Caribbean. Threats to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands include aviation and maritime smuggling from the Source and Transit Zones, including the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, the British Virgin Islands and South America.

Each of the operating locations in the Southeast Border Region conduct patrol and surveillance operations to interdict drug trafficking. The region also supports operations from partners such as the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Border Patrol, the Office of Field Operations and state and local police. The National Marine Training Center oversees maritime education for OAM Marine Interdiction Agents.

The Caribbean Air and Marine Branch is the only federal law enforcement agency in the Caribbean Basin with a permanently-based airborne radar platform, the DHC-8.

Southeast Border Region at a Glance:

- **Area of Responsibility**
Spans more than 2,000 miles of border. The region is mostly water.
- **Geography/Weather Challenges**
The Southeast Border Region features large areas where it is difficult to maintain comprehensive awareness of low-altitude aircraft or water surface activity. Weather challenges include fog, hurricanes, wind and difficult sea conditions.



Office of Air and Marine vessels and UH-60 Black Hawk near San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico