



FAX NEWS

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Commander of the U.S. Southern Command to visit Bolivia

General John Craddock, Commander of the United States Southern Command is to visit Bolivia on April 26 and 27, as part of a familiarization tour in several countries of the region after he assumed command of the United States Southern Command on November 9, 2004.

During his official visit, General Craddock will hold meetings with Bolivian Ministry of Defense General Gonzalo Arredondo and the commanders of the Armed Forces to discuss the ongoing support of the U.S. Southern Command to the Bolivian Armed Forces and specific military projects for the construction of social development works and the provision of humanitarian healthcare relief for low income populations. He will also share common perspectives about the situation of the region.

In a March 10 speech on the importance of creating a secure environment throughout the hemisphere, General Craddock noted that a "secure environment will bring about mutually beneficial trade opportunities, encourage foreign investment, reduce poverty, and create opportunities and progress toward a better future."

The Southern Command is one of the five geographic commands under the U.S. Defense Department and it is responsible for all military activities of the U.S. The area of responsibility of the Southern Command includes 32 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

General Craddock was commissioned as an Armor officer upon graduation from West Virginia University. His initial tour of duty was with the 3rd Armored Division in Germany, followed by an assignment at Fort Knox, Kentucky, as an armor test officer for the U.S. Army Armor and Engineer Board.

In 1993, General Craddock graduated at U.S. Army War College and then assumed command of the 194th Separate Armored Brigade at Fort Knox. In June 1995 was assigned as the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, for III Corps at Fort Hood, Texas.

In 1996, General Craddock was reassigned to the Joint Staff in the Pentagon as an Assistant Deputy Director in J-5 (strategic plans and policies). In August 1998, he joined the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Germany as the Assistant Division Commander for Maneuver. In September 2000, General Craddock assumed command of the 1st Infantry Division (Mechanized) – the "Big Red One". Since August 2002, General Craddock has served as the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

General Craddock has attended numerous Army schools and training programs and holds a Master's degree in Military Arts and Sciences. His decorations include the Valorous Unit Award, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Defense Superior Service Medal w/ 1 Oak Leaf Cluster, Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Bronze Star.