# Continuing Promise 2027 Set to Begin



MAYPORT, Florida – The U.S. Navy Mercy-class hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) will deploy from December 2026-February 2027 to the U.S. Southern Command area of operations as part of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet's Continuing Promise 2027 mission. After several months of detailed planning, USNS Comfort is scheduled to visit Panama, Peru, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Colombia during the over two month-long mission.

Continuing Promise 2027 marks the 17th mission to the region since 2007 and the ninth aboard USNS Comfort. The mission will foster goodwill, strengthen existing partnerships with partner nations, and encourage the establishment of new partnerships among countries, non-federal entities, and international organizations.

The focus during each mission stop will be working alongside partner nation medical personnel to provide direct patient care and technical expertise in community clinics to improve medical readiness, strengthen partnerships, and enhance the combined capabilities of the U.S. Navy and partner nations to respond to public health disasters and humanitarian crises.

"Continuing Promise reflects the United States' enduring commitment to our allies and partners throughout the Western Hemisphere," said Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet. "Through transparent cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and sustained engagement, USNS *Comfort* will help build capable, self-sustaining partnerships that improve lives, reinforce shared values, and leave a lasting legacy of goodwill across the region."

The Continuing Promise team also includes a U.S. Army veterinary element from the 43rd Medical Detachment (Veterinary Service Support), which will collaborate with host nation colleagues to provide direct public health education and animal care at local veterinary
organizations in-country. U.S. Navy Seabees from Navy Mobile Construction Battalion 133 will assist in host nation led community engineering projects. U.S. Navy experts will host seminars and training exercises with host nation civilian officials and military professionals covering disaster preparedness and response. These exchanges aim to support host nation facilities, improve readiness, and support local and national officials' emergency preparedness and response planning.

"Working alongside our partner nations, teammates at U.S. Embassies, and military partners, each Continuing Promise stop is meticulously planned to deliver world-class medical care," said Capt. Daniel Reiher, U.S. Navy, commodore Destroyer Squadron 40 and Continuing Promise mission commander. "USNS *Comfort* also provides a vital mobile platform to strengthen expeditionary logistics, command-and-control, and medical-surge readiness—ensuring our joint and partner forces are prepared to respond effectively to disasters, medical emergencies, and contingencies across the spectrum of operations."

Continuing Promise will feature bands from respective countries' State Partnership Program, to include Missouri, Arkansas, West Virginia and South Carolina National Guards. The bands will conduct classes at community schools, collaborate with military and civilian musical organizations in partner nations, and entertain local communities with concerts at each mission stop. This cultural exchange aims to strengthen community ties and foster goodwill.

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*By Commander, U.S. Fourth Fleet Public Affairs, Nov. 21, 2026*