U.S. 4th Fleet Commander Strengthens Maritime Partnership During Argentina Visit



Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet, addresses Argentine Sailors aboard MEKO 360H2-class destroyer ARA La Argentina (D 11) during a ship tour at Puerto Belgrano Naval Base, Argentina, May 18, 2026. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Margie Vinson)

By Chief Petty Officer Margie Vinson, May 27, 2026

PUERTO BELGRANO NAVAL BASE, Argentina — The U.S. delegation, led by Rear Adm. Carlos Sardiello, commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet, was hosted by Rear Adm. José Alberto Martí Garro of the Argentine Navy. The U.S.

contingent also included Col. Jeffrey Hammond, Operations Officer for U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South, along with representatives from Joint Interagency Task Force South and Special Operations Command South.

The talks focused on enhancing interoperability, deepening maritime domain awareness, and advancing cybersecurity cooperation to address shared security interests. Key areas of discussion included leveraging upcoming multinational exercises such as UNITAS and Southern Seas to ensure seamless integration and teamwork between the two naval forces.

“Argentina has had a longstanding relationship of cooperation with the U.S.,” said Sardiello. “The foundation of that is interoperability, trust and security. This helps ensure international norms and maritime domain are enforced so that we may respond to any crisis.”

As part of the visit, the U.S. delegation participated in celebrations for the 212th Argentine Navy Day and observed a Joint Combined Exchange Training (JCET) demonstration. The exercise featured the U.S. Army’s 7th Special Forces Group and Argentine Marine Special Operations Forces (Comandos Anfibios), observed alongside U.S. Ambassador Marc Stanley at the Baterias training area. The agenda also included a visit to the destroyer ARA Sarandi (D13) and the presentation of the Legion of Merit to former Naval Attaché Rear Adm. Calafel at the Argentine Navy Headquarters in Buenos Aires.

The event concluded with the signing of minutes by Rear Adm. Sardiello and Rear Adm. Martí Garro, formally documenting the key agreements reached and solidifying a collaborative path forward. Both leaders reiterated their shared commitment to a robust and lasting defense partnership between the United States and Argentina.

A U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet serves as

a trusted maritime partner for Caribbean, Central, and South American maritime forces, working to promote unity, security, and stability throughout the region.