First ever US Naval vessel arriving for military, civilian Exchange
Saturday, 28 August 2010 - Demerara Waves

After ensuring that Port Georgetown is deep enough, the United States Naval High Speed Vessel (HSV) Swift is Sunday expected to arrive in Guyana on Sunday August 29, to exchange expertise with Guyanese military and civilian authorities.

The vessel is expected to dock arrive on the south end of the Guyana National Shipping Corporation dock at 10 a.m, the US embassy here said.

"Sailors and Marines from the ship will exchange expertise with members of the Guyanese navy, coast guard and civilian services," the embassy said in a statement.

By the time the vessel would have departed on September 10, its members would have delivered humanitarian assistance items and assist in a community relations event.

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Part of a hemispheric security partnership, the HSV Swift's visit marks the first time that the U.S. naval vessel or vessel under contract to the U.S. Navy is going to moor pier-side in Georgetown, Guyana.
The embassy said the Guyana visit is part of Southern Partnership Station 2010, a major component of the partnership of the Americas maritime strategy from USSOUTHCOM with the goals of ensuring theater security and strengthening relationships among regional partners.

U.S. Embassy spokeswoman, Charlotte Hu told Demerara Waves that experts aboard the naval vessel have already conducted soundings of the depths of the waters of the port and off the coast of Guyana "to know if the ship could dock here." The Swift is 103 meters long and less than 15 feet draft. During its five-month deployment that began on May 5, the HSV Swift has been also deployed to visit Barbados, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, and Panama during this deployment.