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Breaking News from Florida's International Volunteer Agency



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**TIES WITH HAITI LEADERSHIP STRENGTHENED, PRIORITIES SET
COSTA RICA TACKLES MONEY LAUNDERING
HONDURAS, GUATEMALA EFFORTS MESHED BY SOUTHCOM, FAVACA,
DENTON FOUNDATION, IMEC
FAVACA DIRECTOR OFFERS BUSINESS, CULTURAL SAVVY
HAITI FOCUS OF USAID EVENT**

TIES WITH HAITI LEADERSHIP STRENGTHENED, PRIORITIES SET. FAVACA's Marc Roger, with FAVACA partner Harry Turner, manager of the [US Southern Command](#)'s Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) and a team of FAVACA volunteers conducted a program development mission to Haiti April 25-29, 2004. Prime Minister Gerard Latortue (himself a former FAVACA volunteer) and Ministers of Planning; Education; Health; Commerce and Tourism; and Interior were briefed on HAP. Mr. Latortue gave his full support for Southcom's Haiti Workgroup and formed an inter-ministerial committee to establish country priorities for HAP. His charge to the committee was to develop humanitarian assistance and other activities that would have an immediate impact on the stability of the country. Geographic priorities target the Northwest and South of Haiti and include sanitation, water wells and distribution of medical and school supplies. May 5-9, 2004 Roger returned with volunteer-consultants to visit these regions to assess facilities and needs to be forwarded to HAP in Miami.

COSTA RICA TACKLES MONEY LAUNDERING. The US Embassy in San José asked FAVACA on behalf of the Costa Rica Office of the Bank Superintendent ([SUGEF in Spanish](#)) for technical assistance in money laundering detection. FAVACA veteran volunteer and board member Antonio Fernandez, Miami, worked with Cecilia Sancho Calvo, general director of private bank supervision and 22 staff April 12-17, 2004 to strengthen supervision under Costa Rican anti-narcotics and banking laws and the international requirements of the USA PATRIOT Act and the Bank Secrecy Act. Fernandez, a retired Florida bank regulator, performed a diagnostic review of the Special Operations Unit, reviewed and analyzed the procedures of SUGEF's Inspection Division, and identified training needs and internship opportunities for SUGEF employees during his consultation.

HONDURAS, GUATEMALA EFFORTS MESHEDED BY SOUTHCOM, FAVACA, DENTON FOUNDATION, IMEC. The United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) offers construction and medical training opportunities for military service members through its Humanitarian and Civic Assistance arm. Building clinics and schools are top priorities for governments and communities. Once the structures are erected, additional human and materiel resources are often needed. That's where FAVACA volunteers come in, offering training and technical assistance. [The Admiral Jeremiah Denton Foundation](#) and [IMEC, the International Medical Equipment Collaborative](#), step up to the plate offering donated materials and supplies. FAVACA's Rebecca Reichert joined SOUTHCOM, Denton and IMEC representatives April 12-17 in a fact-finding/needs assessment mission to San Pedro Sula, LaCieba and El Progreso, Honduras, and Guatemala City and Jutiapa, Guatemala.

FAVACA DIRECTOR OFFERS BUSINESS, CULTURAL SAVVY. Sarasotan Francis O'Connor has joined the FAVACA board of directors bringing a wealth of corporate and international experience. A seasoned FAVACA volunteer, Frank received the Volunteer Outstanding Achievement Award in 1996 for his work with the Salvadoran Association for Rural Health. Much of Frank's corporate career was spent with Kodak, assigned to Lebanon and Malaysia, and serving as manager of Kodak subsidiaries in Puerto Rico and Panama. He capped his career in 1993 as resident manager of the Eastman Kodak Company in Walt Disney World, Orlando. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois and holds a Masters in Area Studies of Latin America from American University, Washington, D.C.

HAITI FOCUS OF USAID EVENT. A USAID Consultative Conference on Rebuilding Haiti, coordinated by FAVACA, attracted 120 Haitian-American businesspeople to Miami's Hotel Intercontinental, May 14, 2004. The objective of the conference was to inform the Haitian-American community about USAID's development programs in Haiti and solicit recommendations on how to remove barriers and facilitate trade, investment and job creation in Haiti. Participants operate businesses in Haiti or hope to establish Haiti enterprises in the near future. Topics included: trade, investment and job creation. Similar conferences will be held in New York, other US cities and Canada this year.

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