

# CNO, Uruguay Navy Chief Discuss Maritime Peace and Security



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WASHINGTON – Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday hosted Commandant in Chief of the National Navy of Uruguay Adm. Jorge Wilson at the Pentagon for an office call on Sept. 1, the CNO's public affairs said in a release.

The two leaders discussed their shared vision to advance the bilateral relationship between the two navies, Uruguay's long-standing partnership in the U.S. Global Peace Operations Initiative, ways to foster innovation and experimentation and the importance of supporting the international rules-based order.

"Through our like-minded values and professionalism, our relationship with the Uruguayan navy continues to grow," said Gilday. "This visit is an important opportunity to discuss ways to strengthen and advance our cooperation and interoperability."

During his trip to the Washington area, Wilson attended a ceremony in Baltimore where three former U.S. Coast Guard cutters were reflagged as Uruguayan navy ships, the culmination of a government-to-government agreement finalized in December 2021.

Recently, U.S. and Uruguayan naval forces have worked closely

together to conduct peacekeeping operations, assist with disaster response and develop professional education and training. In August, the Uruguayan navy sent maritime planners to participate in PANAMAX 2022 as part of the Combined Force Maritime Component Command Staff hosted by U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/U.S. 4th Fleet in Mayport, Florida. PANAMAX 2022 is a U.S. Southern Command-sponsored exercise that focuses on security and stability operations to ensure free flow of commerce through the Panama Canal.

Later this month, both the U.S. Navy and the Uruguayan navy will operate together as part of UNITAS LXIII, hosted this year by Brazil. UNITAS strengthens maritime partnerships, enhances proficiency and improves interoperability of the participating forces. This year marks the 63rd iteration of the longest-running, multinational maritime exercise in the world.

This was the first meeting between the two heads of navy.