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Corporate Author: RAND CORP SANTA MONICA CA

Personal Author(s): Ronfeldt, D


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Abstract: This study examines some operational military issues involving the Caribbean Basin, and it reflects the broader concern that answers to operational military questions should depend heavily on answers to more fundamental questions about why and how the United States should be interested in this complex, unstable region. Based on an
examination of current trends as well as historical experience since promulgation of the Monroe Doctrine, the study advances a conceptual framework that identifies underlying geostrategic principles for guiding U.S. policy in the Basin. The study then proposes specific measures for developing an integrated political, economic, and military strategy that would advance U.S. interests and meet the interests of Basin neighbors.

Descriptors: *Geopolitics, Caribbean Sea, National security, Military strategy, Foreign policy, Conflict, History*

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counterpoint of contrasting textures.