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# RELEASE NEWS

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THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**THE GOVERNMENTS OF AZERBAIJAN AND THE UNITED STATES WILL CO-HOST  
BLACK SEA & CASPIAN SEA MARITIME NONPROLIFERATION CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 12 - 13**

October 11, 2005

On October 12-13<sup>th</sup>, the governments of Azerbaijan and the United States will co-host a Black Sea and Caspian Sea Maritime Nonproliferation Conference in Baku. The overarching goal of the conference is to continue development of close working relationships among maritime law enforcement agencies within the Caspian Sea and Black Sea regions and to facilitate Maritime Domain Awareness through better information sharing.

Participants in the conference will include representatives of Coast Guards, Border Police, Frontier Police, and Maritime Border Services from Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Romania, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.

Lieutenant-General Elchin Guliyev, the head of the Azerbaijan State Border Service, will provide opening remarks, the honorable United States Ambassador Reno Harnish, III will provide welcoming remarks, and Rear Admiral John Currier, United States Coast Guard, will be the keynote speaker.

Individual countries will provide presentations on their efforts at preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction and other illicit trafficking by sea, followed by a tabletop exercise seminar.

The conference will take place in the Guba Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Media are welcome to attend the opening of the conference from 8:45 to 10:30 AM on Wednesday, October 12.