

OPBAT- Operation- Bahamas, American, Turks & Caicos

Police Superintendent Prince Charlton of the Royal Bahamas Police Force Nassau, Bahamas. Presently attached to the Maritime branch as chief of Maritime Operations. A 37 year veteran as a Police Officer.





OVERVIEW



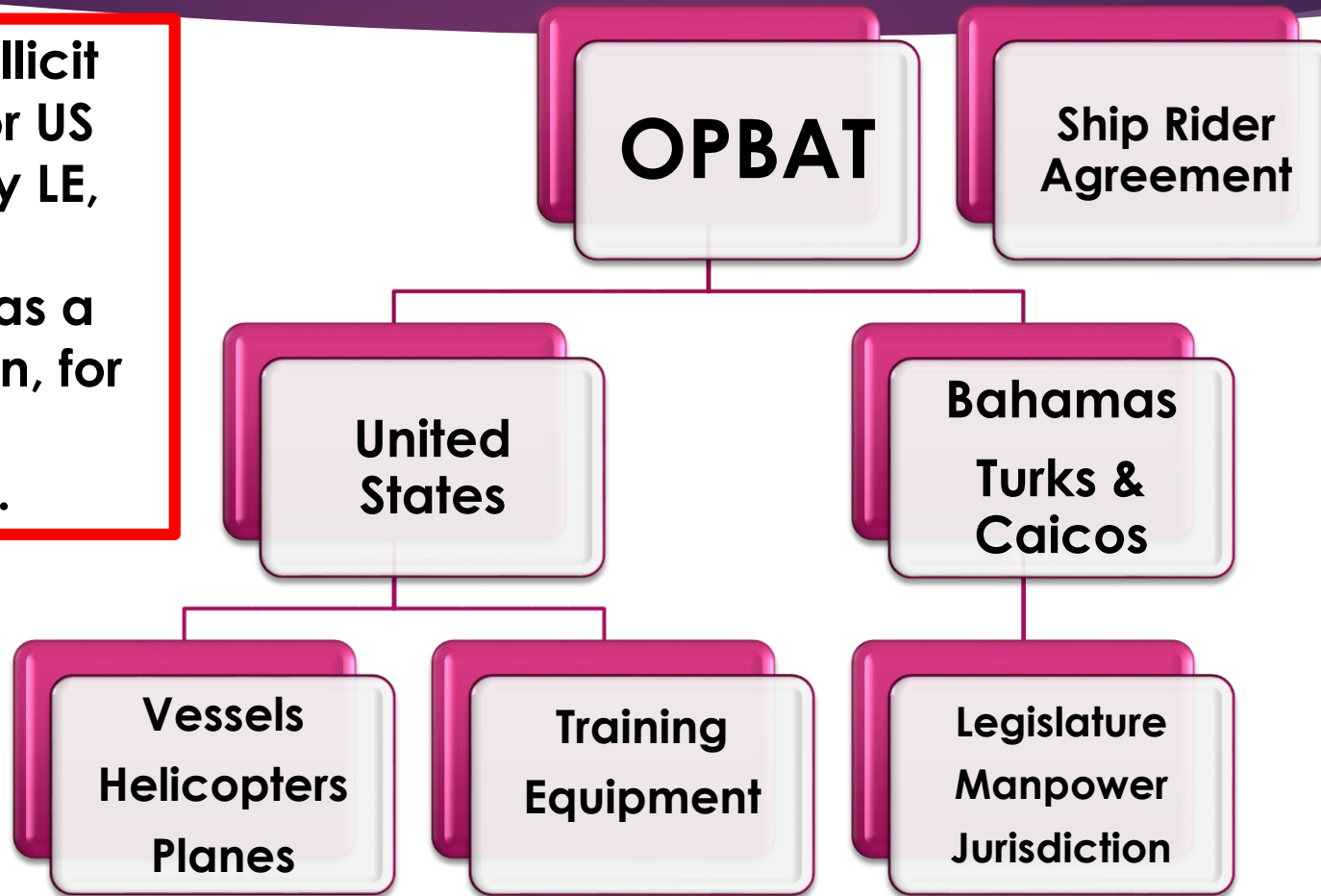
- **OPBAT PARTNERSHIP**
- **MISSION AND VISION**
- **THE BAHAMAS – GEOGRAPHY**
- **OPBAT RESOURCES**
- **DRUG TRAFFICKING ROUTES**
- **CHALLENGES**
- **DRUG INTERDICTION**



OPBAT Agreement ACT 1982

Prior to this, when illicit vessels heading for US were detected by LE, they returned to Bahamian waters as a seeking safe haven, for US vessels had no jurisdiction therein.

Challenges:
Better comms with Cuba & establishing dialogue with Haiti



Allows Bahamian, and Turks & Caicos Law Enforcement to execute searches and arrests on any ships

- ▶ **Operation Bahamas, America, Turks and Caicos (OPBAT) was established 1982 to counter Drug smuggling.**
- ▶ **It is a Tri-Part Agreement that recognizes drug trafficking as a major problem.**
- ▶ **It promotes an international/integrated response;**



ATF



RBDF



DEA



USCG



USCBP



TCI

MISSION:



- ▶ **OPBAT is a cooperative multi-agency, international operation organized to support The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands in thwarting the flow of illicit Drugs to the United States by identifying, targeting, disrupting and dismantling illicit shipments transiting through The Bahamas.**



M/V ISAAC



Inside Fuel Tank

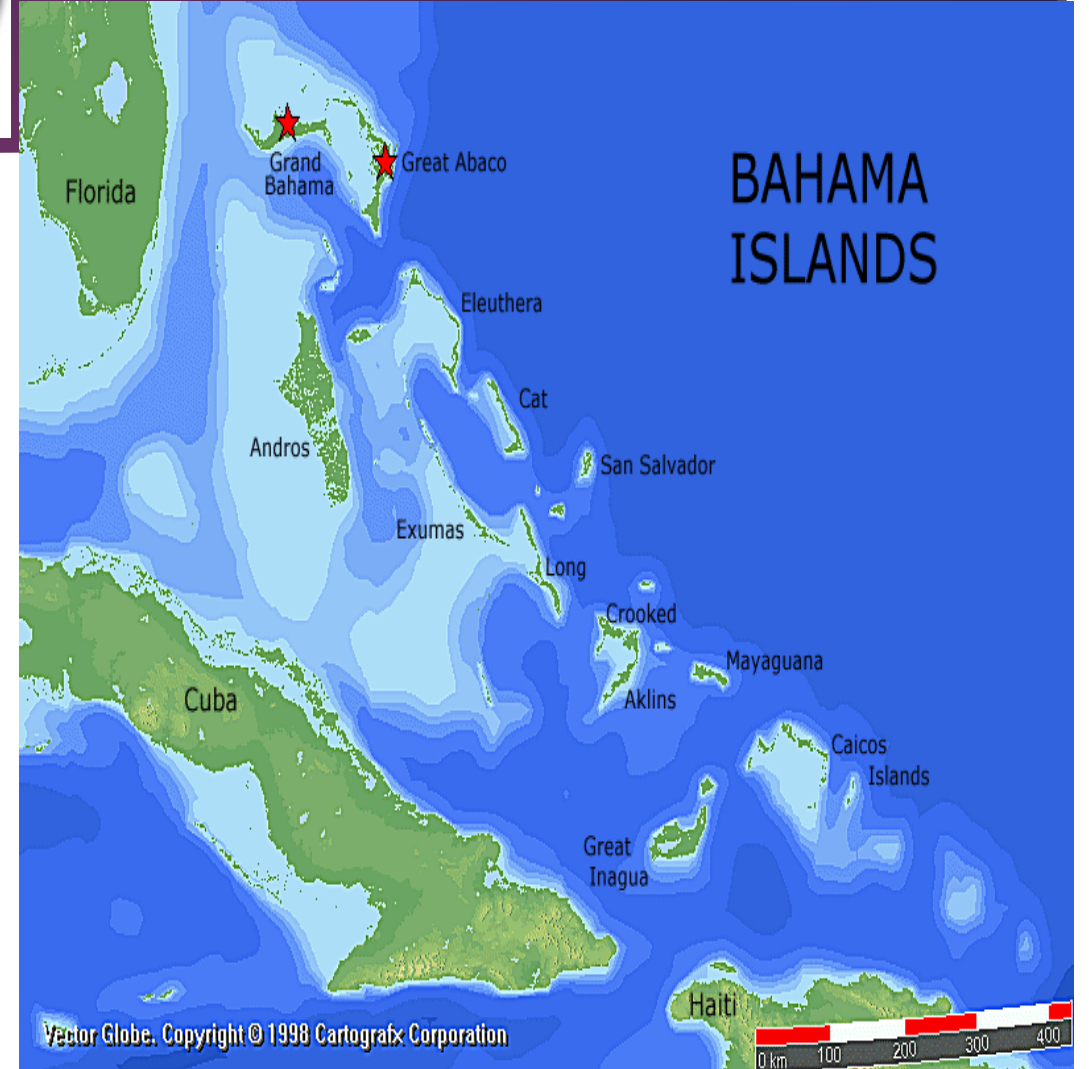


459 pounds of Marijuana

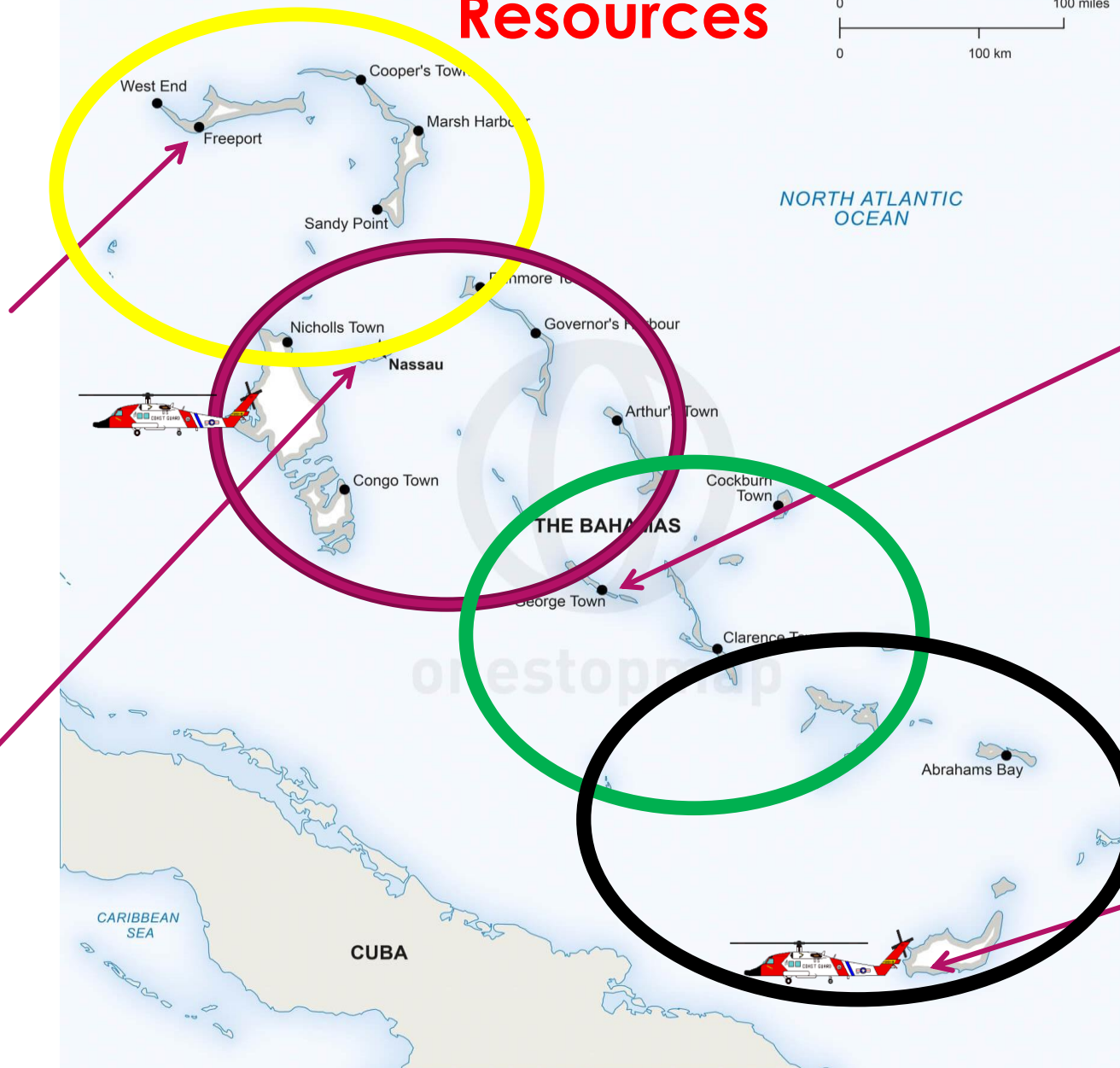
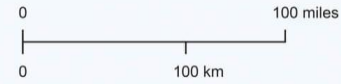
THE BAHAMAS - GEOGRAPHY



- **Abaco to Great Inagua (stretches some 600 miles)**
- **100,000 sq. miles of water**
- **2nd Longest Coast Line in the region**
- **50 miles off the coast of Florida**
- **12 miles off northern Cuba**
- **70 miles off northern Haiti**
- **700 Islands (29 inhabited)**
- **2,000 Rocks & Cays**
- **56 Airstrips (10 international Airports)**
- **80 Marinas**
- **Maritime domain equal in distance of that from Puerto Rico to Trinidad & Tobago or the State of California**



Resources



Container Port Grand Bahama

Container Port - 530 square miles and lies about 56 miles from the state of Florida



Major Drug Routes



US Dept of State Geographer
© 2018 Google
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Google Earth

16th April MSSB, DEU, CUSTOMS and IMMIGRATION SEIZED VESSEL IN Farmer's Cay



Captain [REDACTED] claims he left New York alone, 2 months ago. He picked up a native ([REDACTED]) whom he doesn't know, as company for the long journey to Nassau. Vessel never cleared Customs or Immigration.



Operation of the Island of Andros

03.05.19



CBP

**Go-fast sighted north
bound of Cuba**



USCGC/DEA



MSSB



Smugglers



3 in custody 1,625lbs. of marijuana seized along a vessel



Sometime around 6am on May 3rd, 2019 Marine and DEU Officers, in south west of Andros, arrested three (3) local Bahamians: [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED] from Bimini, [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED] from Lowe Sound Andros and [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED] from mangrove cay, respectively; with 43 bales of marijuana of a total weight of **1,625lbs**. Vessel was also seized by police.



O.P.B.A.T.
OPERATION BAHAMAS/AMERICA/ TURKS & CAICOS
DRUGS SEIZURES
1993 –2018



Drugs	Amount
Cocaine	52,691.20 lbs.
Marijuana	162,570.09 lbs.
Marijuana Plants	707,674 plants
Hashish	584.5 lbs.
Heroin	9.5 lbs.
Ecstasy Tablets	4,610 tablets