

Action Ideas

The October Day of Action is our big campaign kickoff, so let's get out there and make some waves! Here are a few ideas for solid, creative actions to mobilize and educate people to join us in the movement to stop U.S. militarization in Latin America!

Direct Action... If you live near a military facility that deploys troops and equipment in the hemisphere, consider having a presence at the gates of the base to educate service members about U.S. intervention in Latin America and protest the deployment of U.S. troops.

Street Theater... Street theater can be a fun and creative way to make a statement against the lawsuits and also tends to draw a crowd, people who can be asked to sign postcards or make calls.

Banner Drops... From a bridge or outside of a downtown office window, hang a large banner that says something like, "U.S. Out of Latin America!"

Call-in Days... Ask people to call the U.S. State Department, at public events, tables or by phoning your supporter list! LASC members and allies are mounting simultaneous actions around the country, which can be a good motivation to raise their voice! (*See the sample phoning script is included in this packet*)

Creative Outreach & Action... Set up some large colorful signs, banners and a table and ask people you meet to take action—by signing a postcard or making a call! Check out the creative slogans section for sign ideas!

For the action guide, I'd like to suggest the following:

"If you live near San Diego, California or Norfolk, Virginia – or another military facility that deploys troops and equipment in the hemisphere – consider having a presence at the gates of the base to educate service members about US intervention in Latin America and to protest the deployment of US troops to Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and other Latin American nations. San Diego and Norfolk are the homes to the USS Makin Island and USS Kearsarge, respectively. These two massive assault carriers, bringing dozens of Blackhawk helicopters and Sparrow missiles and thousands of Marines, are scheduled to be deployed to army-less Costa Rica between now and December, supposedly to fight drug trafficking. Support Costa Ricans who oppose this military invasion by making it visible in the United States and informing the soldiers scheduled to deploy.

Get up to date information on the deployments of the Makin Island (<http://www.public.navy.mil/surfor/lhd8>) and Kearsarge (<http://www.news.navy.mil/local/lhd3/>)."

For resources, it is worth pursuing materials on the site we created for resources on the bases in Colombia (and elsewhere): <http://forusa.org/content/resources-us-military-bases-colombia>

Also, our recent report on the relationship between US military aid and civilian killings by the Colombian army, is a good resource: <http://forusa.org/colombia-report-2010>

