



VOLUNTEERS FOR INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

vida

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**VIDA USA and Peruvian Navy unite in delivering \$2.2 Million in Medical Supplies to Peru**

Emeryville, CA- June 25, 2009 - The B.A.P. Mollendo set sail today for Lima, Peru - a 30 day voyage filled with donations from VIDA-USA (Volunteers for Inter-American Development Assistance) amongst others. The 20 tons of diverted viable medical supplies and equipment will make a huge impact in the province of Lima. The total value of the four containers was well over \$2 million.

A large portion of these medical supplies will be allocated to a program that helps young people with diabetes.

This outstanding effort was made possible by generous support from the Peruvian Navy who sponsored the shipping costs.

Built by the Peruvian Navy's Maritime Industrial Services, the B.A.P. Mollendo was commissioned on May 25, 1972. Currently the B.A.P. Mollendo is part of the 2nd Surface Flotilla. The 504-foot long ship, run by Cmdr. Gonzalo Carrera, has a crew of 376, including 35 officers and 139 enlisted Sailors. Nearly 200 cadets from the Peruvian Army, Air Force, Merchant Marine and National Police, as well as other Midshipmen and officers from such allied nations as Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador and Republic of Korea are also on board. The Midshipmen are led by Commandant Cmdr. Gerardo Indacochea.

VIDA is a non-profit organization that provides dual service to both Latin America and the San Francisco Bay Area by collecting surplus medical supplies and equipment from health institutions, diverting them from landfills, and shipping them to Latin American hospitals and clinics that rely on such donations for the ability to provide basic health care.

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