



XIII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas
Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Evolving Role of the
Armed Forces in Defense and Security
22 March 2018, National Defense University
Washington, DC



The Ad Hoc Working Group “The Evolving Role of the Armed Forces in Defense and Security” was hosted by the United States Department of Defense, at the National Defense University in Washington, DC. Originally planned for March 21-22, 2018, the events had to be condensed into a single working day due to inclement weather. The Ad Hoc Working Group met on 22 March 2018.

What follows is a record of the discussion and activities carried out during the event:

I. Background information.

- A.** The Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, henceforth referred to as CDMA, is a biannual multilateral political meeting of the Defense Ministers of the Americas, sanctioned by the governments of the participating countries. CDMA is the foremost meeting of the defense sector in the hemisphere. According to Article 2 of its regulations, the goal of CDMA is to promote mutual understanding, analysis, debate, and exchange of ideas and experiences in the area of defense and security.
- B.** During the XII meeting of the CDMA, held in Trinidad and Tobago in October 2016, the Ministers agreed in the “Declaration of Port of Spain” that during the 2017-2018 cycle of the conference there would be ad hoc working groups in various participating countries. These groups would serve to discuss different issues of importance to the hemisphere related to:
 - a. The Development of Mechanisms of Cooperation and Coordination on Search and Rescue.
 - b. A Policy of Hemispheric Defense and Security Cooperation: Emergency Humanitarian Assistance.
 - c. The Role of Defense and Security Forces regarding Environmental Protection and Climate Resilience.
 - d. The Progressive Incorporation of Gender Perspective as a Cross-Cutting Axis of Defense Policy.
 - e. The Evolving Role of the Armed Forces in Defense and Security.
- C.** In the case of this Ad Hoc Working Group, in Article 13 the Ministers agreed to analyze the topic of the evolving role of the Armed Forces in defense and security as:

“Their agreement to the establishment of an Ad-hoc Working Group, which will be constituted by the host country of the current Conference and the host country of the XIII CDMA and any other interested Member States during the first half of 2017, to examine and exchange experiences on the evolving role of the Armed Forces in defense and security, the result of which will be reported to the XIII CDMA in 2018.”

- D.** To achieve these objectives, the Ad hoc Working Group set the following as its goal: to establish a productive dialogue among the countries of the region about the topic of the evolving role of the Armed Forces in preparation for the XIII CDMA.

II. Participating delegations:

A. Representatives of the United States.

Working Group Secretariat:

1. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Sergio de la Peña, OSD-Policy Western Hemisphere Affairs.
2. Major Kip M. Chojnacki, OSD Policy Western Hemisphere Affairs.
3. Ms. Fabiana Perera, OSD Policy Western Hemisphere Affairs.

Working Group Facilitators:

4. LTG (ret) Frederick S. Rudesheim, Director, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies.
5. Professor William Godnick, Ph.D., William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies.
6. Ms. Georgina Crovetto, Assistant Registrar, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies.

B. CDMA Representatives.

7. Brigade General David Rivera Medina, General Secretary of the XIII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas.
8. Group General Sergio Sotelo Bustos, Executive Secretary of the XIII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas.
9. Major Josafat Daniel Lara Rodríguez, Chief of Protocol of the XIII Conference of the Defense Ministers of the Americas.

C. Country delegations.

Bolivia

10. Fernando Yáñez Céspedes. Air Attaché. Embassy of Bolivia in the United States.

Brazil

11. Ricardo Gonçalves Lins. Coordinator of Joint Operations. Brazil Ministry of Defense.

12. Ernesto Primo Aragão Barros. Coordinator of the Interamerican Organization Section. Brazil Ministry of Defense.

Canada

13. Steven Guilbault. Military advisor. Canadian Department of National Defence.

14. Andrew Tunstall. Directorate of Capability Analysis. Canadian Department of National Defence.

Chile

15. Andrés Villar Gertner. Chief of Multilateral Affairs. Chile Ministry of Defense.

16. Rodolfo González. Head of International Cooperation and Agreements. Chile Ministry of Defense.

Dominican Republic

17. Frank Mauricio Cabrera Rizek. Delegate of the Ministry of Defense of the Dominican Republic to the CDMA.

Ecuador

18. Adolfo Salcedo Gluckstadt. Under Secretary of Planning. Ecuador Ministry of Defense.

19. Washington Buñay. Under Secretary of National Defense. Ecuador Ministry of Defense.

El Salvador

20. Carlos Jaime Mena Torres. Vice-Minister of Defense. El Salvador Ministry of Defense.

21. Carlos Alberto Ramírez Hernández. Director of Defense Policy. El Salvador Armed Forces.

Guatemala

22. Juan Carlos Alemán Soto. Assistant Air Attaché. Embassy of Guatemala in the United States.

23. David Méndez Guevara. Commander of the Regional Command for Peacekeeping Training. Guatemala Ministry of Defense.

Guyana

24. Joseph Harmon. Minister of State. Guyana Defence Board.
25. Patrick West. Chief of Staff. Guyana Defence Force.

Haiti

26. Jean Marc Bernard Elie. Director of HNP School. Haiti National Police.

Honduras

27. Germán Velásquez. Commander of FUSINA. Honduras Ministry of Defense.

Jamaica

28. Steve Batchelor. Policy Director, Organised Crime and Defence. Jamaica Ministry of National Security.

Mexico

29. Homero Edmundo Blanco Lozada. Head of International Affairs S-5 (Strategic Plans.) Mexico Ministry of Defense.
30. Juan Casillas Marroquín. Head of Analysis and Statistics. Mexico Ministry of Defense.

Panama

31. Javier Castillo Morales. Advisor to the Minister of Public Security. Panama Ministry of Public Security.
32. David Ramos Villa. Advisor to the Minister of Security. Panama Ministry of Public Security.

Peru

33. David Málaga Ego-Aguirre. General Director of International Relations. Peru Ministry of Defense.
34. Jorge Mendoza Willis. Director of Strategic Policy and Planning for Defense. Peru Ministry of Defense.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

35. Colin John. Commissioner of Police (Ag.) Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force.
36. Kenneth John. Superintendent of Police. Royal St. Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force.

Suriname

37. Mitchell Labadie. Permanent Secretary of Defense. Suriname Ministry of Defense.
38. Johnny Ricardo Antonius. Head of Defense Strategic Planning and Education. Suriname Ministry of Defense.

Trinidad & Tobago

39. Anthony Phillips-Spencer. Ambassador. Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago in the United States.

United States

40. John Kreul, Principal Director, OSD Policy Western Hemisphere Affairs.

41. Kidd Manville, OSD Policy Western Hemisphere Affairs.

D. Observer institutions.

Inter-American Defense Board

42. Pedro José López Madero. México.

43. Jose Polanco. United States.

ANEPE

44. Andrés Avendaño. Chile.

CREES/ESDEGUE

45. Dr. Jesús Mora. Colombia

46. Nicolas Antonio López Pulgarin. Colombia

CAEE

47. Fredi Sánchez. El Salvador.

CAEN

48. Dr. Jorge Cardich. Peru.

III. Development of the event.

A. Opening ceremony. LTG (ret) Frederick Rudesheim, Director of the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies provided introductory remarks. Major General Rivera provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the CDMA Secretariat. General Sergio Sotelo Bustos provided a summary of CDMA activities to date and an update on upcoming events.

B. Group photo.

C. Sessions. The following sessions were presented. The purpose of the sessions was to enhance the delegates' academic, strategic, and operational perspective on the theme of the evolving role of the Armed Forces in defense and security.

a. The Role of the Armed Forces in Efforts to Neutralize Organized Crime and Support Public Security.

Moderator: Dr. David Spencer, Perry Center

Panelists:

Professor Celina Realuyo, Perry Center.

Cor. Nicolás López. Colombia.

Cor. Juan Casillas. México.

b. The Role of the Armed Forces in Cyber Defense and Security.

Moderator: Dr. Alejandra Bolaños, Perry Center.

Panelists:

Dr. Boris Saavedra, Perry Center.

Gen. Washington Buñay. Ecuador.

Dr. Andrés Villar, Chile.

c. Efficient Ministries: Improving Outcomes.

Moderator: Professor Alex Alemán, Perry Center.

Panelists:

Amb. Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Trinidad & Tobago.

Mr. John Kreul, United States of America.

Mr. Javier Castillo Morales. Panama.

Cor. David Méndez, Guatemala.

d. Other Areas Where the Armed Forces May Play a Role: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response; Civic Action; Environmental.

Moderator: Professor Patrick Paterson, Perry Center.

Panelists:

Cor. Homero Blanco Lozada, México.

Gen. (ret) Rodolfo González, Chile.

IV. Conclusions.

The working group discussed a range of topics and shared perspectives on the evolving role of the Armed Forces across a number of domains.

- A. With regard to the role of the Armed Forces in efforts to address organized crime and support public security the delegates recognized that the security and defense forces of each country operate in a legal environment that defines and limits their role. Further, participants recognized that the Armed Forces in accordance with domestic laws and regulations may be called to work in this area when the capacity of the organized crime organizations surpasses that of law enforcement agencies and/or when only the Armed Forces have the capacity to carry out activities in remote and inaccessible areas.
- B. As to the role of the Armed Forces in cyber defense and security, participants from member countries recognized that cyber security is a national security concern and that as such the legal framework for addressing challenges in this domain should be clearly defined. Participants further recognized that this is an area with great potential for international cooperation.
- C. Regarding efficient ministries participants agreed that ministries with purview over national security and defense sectors need to perform several functions efficiently and in

a coordinated manner. These include understanding the strategic environment, aligning security and defense forces' operational capacity requirements, and engaging in continual internal evaluation and reform in line with each country's development strategy.

- D. As to the discussion of other areas where the Armed Forces may play a role, for example in humanitarian assistance and disaster response, civic action, or the environment, meeting participants agreed that this is an ongoing issue of interest to the countries of the CDMA, as evidenced by the existence of other Ad Hoc Working Groups on these specific areas. Participants further discussed the need to strengthen regional mechanisms including SICOFAA to better address these challenges.

V. Recommendations.

In recognition of the interdependence of the hemisphere, as it relates to the topics presented during this event, and in accordance with the different circumstances and capacities of each country, we make the following recommendations for the consideration of the Ministers:

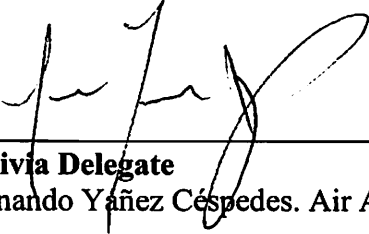
- A. Recommend that a discussion of the evolving role of the Armed Forces be adopted as one of the themes for this and the following Conference of the Defense Ministers of the Americas.
- B. Recommend that the countries of the CDMA continue to share best practices and lessons learned with regard to the topics discussed in this Ad Hoc Working Group, especially as they pertain to the role of the Armed Forces in supporting law enforcement missions. The participants recommend that the Inter American Defense Board assist in this effort as part of their mission to preserve institutional memory.
- C. Recommend that the countries of the CDMA develop a compendium of best practices in the hemisphere regarding approaches to securing cyber space. To this end, the participants recommend the creation of an Ad Hoc Working Group on Cyber Defense for the XIV CDMA.

VI. Signatures



CDMA Delegate

Brigade General David Rivera Medina, General Secretary of the XIII Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas.



Bolivia Delegate

Fernando Yañez Céspedes. Air Attaché. Embassy of Bolivia in the United States.



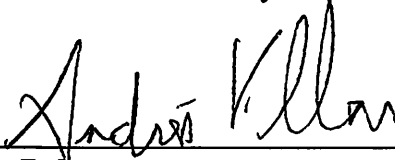
Brazil Delegate

Ricardo Gonçalves Lins. Coordinator of Joint Operations. Brazil Ministry of Defense.



Canada Delegate

Steven Guilbault. Military advisor. Canadian Department of National Defence.



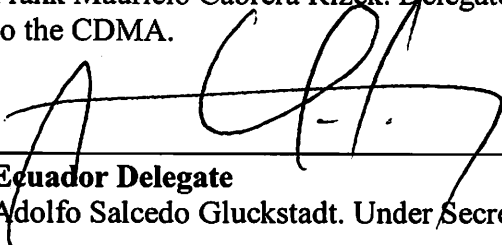
Chile Delegate

Andrés Villar Gertner. Chief of Multilateral Affairs. Chile Ministry of Defense.



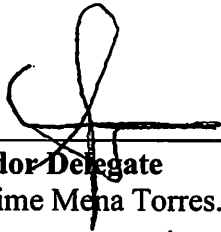
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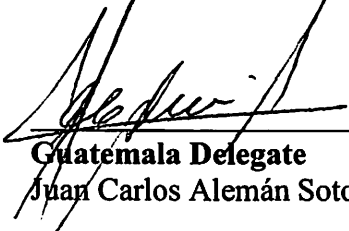
Ecuador Delegate

Adolfo Salcedo Gluckstadt. Under Secretary of Planning. Ecuador Ministry of Defense.



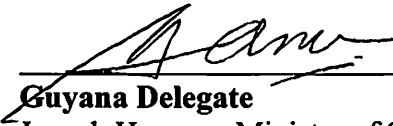
El Salvador Delegate

Carlos Jaime Mena Torres. Vice-Minister of Defense. El Salvador Ministry of Defense.



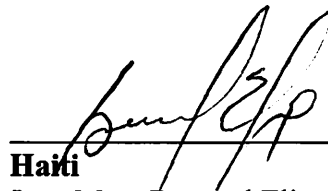
Guatemala Delegate

Juan Carlos Alemán Soto. Assistant Air Attaché. Embassy of Guatemala in the United States.



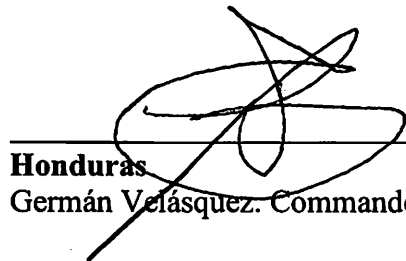
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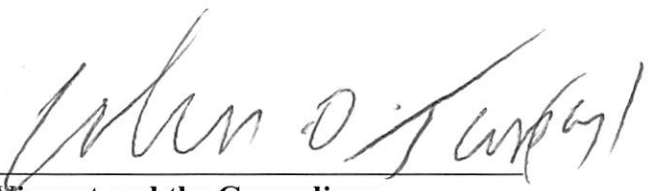
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