

XV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas
Ad-Hoc Working Group on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response
February 16 – 17, 2022
Hyatt Centric Arlington
1325 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22209

I. Background Information

- A. The Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, henceforth referred to as CDMA, is a biennial 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 the exchange of ideas and experiences in the area of defense and security.
- B. During the XIV meeting of the CDMA, held virtually by Chile on December 3, 2020, the Ministers agreed in the “Declaration of Santiago” that during the 2021 – 2022 cycle of the conference there would be Ad-Hoc Working Groups hosted by various participating countries. These groups would serve to discuss different issues of importance to the hemisphere related to:
 - a. Cyber Defense and Cyberspace for the security and defense of the hemisphere.
 - b. The inclusion of Gender Perspective as a crosscutting issue in the Defense and Security policies in the hemisphere, with the purpose of reaching gender equality and eradicate any kind of discrimination based on gender in the Defense and Security Forces.
 - c. Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR) and Cooperation and Coordination with special emphasis on Member States’ defense institutions’ pandemic response to the corona virus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and discussing lessons learned, best practices, and maintaining the readiness of Member States’ forces.
 - d. In coordination with the CDMA Pro Tempore Secretariat, the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) will facilitate an annual tabletop exercise in the area of HA/DR.
- C. In the case of this Ad-Hoc Working Group, in Article 14.i., the Ministers agreed to analyze the topic of the cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief as:

“Continue operation of the “Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HA/DR)” Ad-Hoc Working Group as a permanent theme, and welcoming the offer of the United States to host this Working Group during the first semester. The Working Group is to place special emphasis on Member States’ defense institutions pandemic response to COVID-19 and discuss lessons learned, best practices, and maintaining the readiness of Member States’ forces.”

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- D. In Article 15 of the Declaration of Santiago, the Ministers agreed to “their continued commitment to participate in the Ad-Hoc Working Groups planned for the 2021 – 2022 cycle and to establish arrangements allowing for greater cooperation and coordination amongst the Member States, in contributing to the success of the XV CDMA.”
- E. 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 HA/DR in preparation for the XV CDMA in Brasilia, Brazil.

II. Participating Delegations:

A. Representatives of the United States

Working Group Secretariat:

- 1. Daniel Erikson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) for Policy, Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)
- 2. Ellie Kitt, OSD Policy, Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. DoD
- 3. Kidd Manville, OSD Policy, Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. DoD

Working Group Host:

- 4. Frederick S. Rudesheim, Director, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, U.S. DoD
- 5. Fabiana Perera, Assistant Professor; William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, U.S. DoD

B. CDMA Pro Tempore Secretariat

- 6. Antonio Cesar da Rocha Martins, Executive Secretary of the XV Conference of Defense Ministers of the Americas, Brazil Ministry of Defense
- 7. José Rubens Marques, CDMA XV Coordinator, Brazil Ministry of Defense
- 8. Jorge Luis Clemente de Medeiros, Assistant to the Executive Secretariat of the XV CMDA, Brazil Ministry of Defense

C. Country Delegations

Argentina

- 9. Claudia Miriam Chiminelli, National Director of Articulation of Municipal Policies for Prevention and Assistance in Emergencies, Secretariat of Military Coordination in Emergencies
- 10. Ignacio Gutierrez Brondolo, National Director of International Defense Policy, Secretary of International Affairs for Defense

Bahamas

- 11. Sonia Natasha Miller, Disaster Management Officer

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12. Sidney Maxwell Whyms, Assistant Squadron Commanding Officer

Barbados

- 13. Krystle Harvey, Force Operations and Training Officer
- 14. Carlos Lovell, Military Advisor to the Chief of Staff

Brazil

- 15. Ciro de Oliveira Barbosa, Manager of the Inter-American Organizations Section of the Ministry of Defense
- 16. Mauro Ido, Coordinator of the Inter-American Organizations Section of the Ministry of Defense

Canada

- 17. Michael Carter, Director, Directorate of Western Hemisphere Policy, Department of National Defence
- 18. Derek Wessan, Military Advisor, Directorate of Western Hemisphere Policy, Department of National Defence

Chile

- 19. Sergio Larraín, Specialist in International Programs and Operations, Department of International Cooperation

Colombia

- 20. Luis Eduardo Contreras Meléndez, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Planning
- 21. Fabian Andrey Castro Suárez, Coordinator of the Environment and Disaster Risk Management Group, Public Security Directorate

Dominican Republic

- 22. Frank Mauricio Cabrera Rizek, CDMA Delegate
- 23. Nelton Baralt Blanco, Director of Organization, Doctrine, and Training

Ecuador

- 24. Nilo Estrada, Chief of Staff, Air Defense Command
- 25. Gustavo Iturralde, Delegate to the Inter-American Defense Board

El Salvador

- 26. Jorge Alberto Miranda Martínez, Director of Defense Policy
- 27. Juan Ricardo Palacios Garay, Commander of COSAM

Grenada

- 28. Edwin Martin, Commissioner of Police, Head of the Royal Grenada Police Force

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29. Tafawa Pierre, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit

Guatemala

30. Osman Roel Gaitán Monzón, Director of Civil – Military Relations of the EMDN
31. Erikson de Jesus Garcia Santandrea, Humanitarian and Rescue Battalion S1/S4

Guyana

32. Kester Romero Craig, Director General Civil Defence Commission
33. Kenlloyd Roberts, Inspector General Guyana Defence Force

Haiti

34. Gerard Jerry Chandler, Director of Civil Protection
35. Dr. Jean Ronald Cadet, Haiti Ministry of Public Health and Population

Honduras

36. Rita Maria Medina Sevilla, Director of Military Health (C-8)
37. Wilson Roldan Paz Mejia, Directorate of Logistics (C-4)

México

38. José Carlos Luna Loaeza, Director of Strategic Analysis, Strategic Planning and Coordination Unit, General Staff of the Mexican Navy
39. Iván Navarrete Torres, Subsection Chief of Civil Protection of the Secretary of National Defense

Panama

40. Jonathan Anier Riggs Tapia, General Secretary
41. José de Jesus Rodríguez, Advisor, Office of the Minister (Superior Office Advisor)

Paraguay

42. Marcial Arturo Rivas Maidana, Director General of Policy and Strategy of the National Ministry of Defense
43. Christian Saturnino Centurión Giménez, Deputy of the Directorate of Cooperation and International Relations

Peru

44. Augusto Cabrera Rebaza, Director General of International Relations
45. Miguel Angel Peña Castro, Specialist of the Directorate of Multilateral Affairs and International Cooperation

Suriname

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- 46. Jerry Slijngard, Commander of the National Coordination Center for Disaster Management
- 47. Krisnadath Mangal, Chief of Staff for the Surinamese Armed Forces

Trinidad & Tobago

- 48. Jason Hills, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force
- 49. Atiba Briggs, Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force

United States

- 50. Ashley Pixton, Country Director, OSD Policy, U.S. DoD
- 51. Andre Sekowski, OSD Policy, U.S. DoD

D. Observer Institutions

Organization of American States

- 52. Anthony Phillips-Spencer, Chairman of Committee on Hemispheric Security, Organization of American States
- 53. Giovanni Snidle, Hemispheric Security Policy Coordinator, U.S. Department of State

Inter-American Defense Board

- 54. Leonardo Mangrich, Inter-American Defense Board

International Committee of the Red Cross

- 55. Michael Pymble, International Committee of the Red Cross

III. Development of the Event

- A. Opening Ceremony.** DASD Erikson provided opening comments to the CDMA Member States and encouraged participants to engage in the discussion and share national perspectives on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in defense and security. He highlighted the change in how we all operate since the COVID-19 pandemic and recognized the outsized role nations' defense and security organizations played to deliver food, medicine, and other basic needs to populations across each country. DASD Erikson provided regional context and highlighted some of the recent challenges that have, and will continue to confront, armed forces in the region, particularly climate change and natural disasters. He noted the commitment to this topic made by Ministers at the XIV CDMA by making humanitarian assistance and disaster relief a permanent theme at the CDMA. DASD Erikson recognized that "the strength of our relationships, and our ability to work collaboratively to respond to future challenges, requires recognition that the preservation of democracy is the basis for ensuring our mutual security." LTG (ret) Frederick Rudesheim, Director of the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, provided introductory remarks. On the second day of the

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Working Group, Rear Admiral Rocha Martins provided welcoming remarks on behalf of the CDMA Pro Tempore Secretariat. He remarked that this Conference has become the principal multilateral forum for our continent. Rear Admiral Rocha Martins added that because of this, the CDMA plays an important role contributing to regional cooperation and strengthening of international security. He noted that Brazil would host the CDMA Preparatory Meeting in March virtually. Rear Admiral Rocha Martins also announced that the CDMA scheduled for July 24-29, 2022, would be in-person.

B. Group Photo

C. Sessions. The Member States received briefings and participated in a series of discussions related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The purpose of the sessions was to build upon the delegates' academic, strategic, and operational perspectives on the theme of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in defense and security.

a. Ready to Respond to Ongoing Regional Challenges: Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Defense Readiness

Objectives: To realize the intent of the Ministers' statement in the Declaration of Santiago to discuss defense institutions' COVID-19 pandemic response and to share best practices for maintaining defense readiness. To consider options for enhancing regional preparedness and capacity to prepare for and respond to global pandemics to minimize the loss of lives and the consequent economic impacts. To recognize the outsized and unprecedented role the Hemisphere's armed forces played in providing pandemic relief to citizenries.

Moderator: Mariano Bartolomé, Inter-American Defense College

Panelists:

- Maj Gen Carlos Alberto Rincón, Colombia
- Colonel Iván Navarrete, Mexico
- General Carlos Yáñez, Peru

b. Ready to Respond: Weather-related Events and Natural Disasters

Objectives: To discuss effective internal response operations and the provision of assistance by hemispheric partners when responding to weather-related events and natural disasters. To gain a better understanding of weather-related and natural disasters trends and the impact of these patterns on the role and responsibilities of the armed forces. To encourage Western Hemisphere partners to cooperate and collaborate to minimize the impact of weather-related events and natural disasters on populations across the region.

Moderator: Pablo González, Organization of American States

Panelists:

- General (R) Oscar, Estuardo Cossío Cámara, Guatemala

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- Brigadier Markland Lloyd, Jamaica
- Steve Recca, United States

c. Ready to Act: HA/DR Tabletop Brief from the Inter-American Defense Board

Objectives: To receive the IADB's brief on the recent HA/DR tabletop exercise. To establish procedures for the organization, execution, evaluation, and validation of the Disaster Cooperation Mechanism of CDMA (DICOME) process through a tabletop exercise. To allow the IADB to share lessons learned from the exercise and provide a report to the CDMA Executive Secretariat for a possible update to the framework document.

Moderator: Lieutenant Commander Alexa Pereyra, Inter-American Defense Board

Presenter: Colonel Leonardo Mangrich, Inter-American Defense Board

d. Ready to Respond to Future Challenges: Implications of Climate Change on Missions of Security and Defense Institutions in the Region

Objectives: To build regional consensus that climate change will influence the role of defense institutions and their missions, and will require fiscal and workforce investments to build climate resilience. To strengthen commitments to respond to climate change, build climate resilience, and invest in environmental protection. To consider opportunities for multilateral engagements to discuss national and regional readiness to respond to climate change, including hosting a regionally-focused tabletop exercise.

Moderator: Dr. Fabiana Perera, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies

Panelists:

- Michael Carter, Canada
- Marcelo Palma, Chile
- Dr. Annalise Blum, United States

IV. Conclusions

The Working Group discussed a range of topics and shared perspectives on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. Delegates discussed ways in which their armed forces respond to natural and manmade disasters, and how they foresee the evolution of this mission changing as climate change threatens their nations' national security. The Working Group (under the judicial and regulatory framework of each Member State):

- A. Considered ways to enhance regional preparedness and capabilities to prepare for and respond to global pandemics to minimize the loss of lives and the consequent economic impacts, to include accounting for the role and capabilities of the armed forces in providing pandemic aid and seeking ways to work in a bilateral and multinational manner.

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- B. Acknowledged the critical role of armed forces for building the trust and confidence of nations' citizenries to comply with public health measures. Further recognized the impact the COVID-19 pandemic had on societal mental health and morale in the armed forces as a side effect of quarantine and isolation measures. Agreed that mental health resources should be available to military members acting as first responders, as well as to their families.
- C. Acknowledged the challenge of responding multilaterally or as combined forces during the pandemic, cognizant that Member States adhere to different COVID-19 protocols. Agreed to discuss the potential for developing COVID-19 protocols, which participating Member States would agree to.
- D. Noted the armed forces' use of innovative technology and resourcefulness to maintain mission readiness when responding to emergent challenges in a resource-constrained environment. Recognized the need to adapt to a virtual environment to maintain mission readiness.
- E. Recognized the importance of defense and security forces' support to civilian organizations in humanitarian assistance and disaster response events, and committed to sharing best practices and lessons learned, particularly as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic response.
- F. Gained a better understanding of weather-related and natural disaster trends in the Western Hemisphere and the impact of these patterns on the roles and responsibilities of the armed forces.
- G. Agreed to discuss ways to cooperate and collaborate bilaterally and multilaterally to minimize the impact of weather-related events and natural disasters on populations across the Western Hemisphere.
- H. Agreed to continue to provide the IADB reliable and releasable information regarding capabilities for disaster response in the region and information regarding past contributions for use in the OAS Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM).
- I. Supported and reaffirmed the continuation of the annual IADB-hosted HA/DR tabletop exercise using the DICOME framework to collect best practices and lessons learned captured during the exercise to revise the framework.
- J. Acknowledged that climate change will influence the role of defense institutions and their missions, and considered that responding to climate change, building climate resilience, and enhancing environmental protections will require Member States to reinvigorate regional cooperation and collaboration.

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- K. Considered opportunities for multilateral engagements to discuss national and regional readiness to respond to climate change, to include hosting a regional-focused tabletop exercise. Encouraged CDMA Member States to work together to *harmonize* resources to address climate change and to build resilience.
- L. Discussed the value of bilateral and multilateral information-sharing agreements related to climate change and natural disasters. Supported additional measures to encourage fluid and timely exchange of science, data, tools, and approaches to tackling climate change.

V. Recommendations

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

1. Recommend that the Ministers reaffirm the importance of continuing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief a permanent theme, with emphasis on climate change impacts, for the future CDMA's.
2. Recommend that the countries of the CDMA continue to share best practices and lessons learned about the topics discussed in this Ad-Hoc Working Group, especially as they pertain to the role of the armed forces in supporting HA/DR missions.
3. Recommend that the IDB assist in capturing and cataloging HA/DR best practices, lessons learned, and reliable information regarding existing disaster response capabilities in the region and ensuring the information is accessible on the OAS INDM for the benefit of OAS Member States, disaster management partners, and the natural disaster community as part of their mission to preserve the institutional memory of the CDMA. Further, recommend that the IADB lead the studies necessary for DICOME, as described in the annex of the Declaration of Santiago.
4. Reaffirm armed forces' support to civil response agencies and restate the importance of a regional response to natural or manmade disasters.
5. Recognize the unique regional geography that requires civil and military responses to perennial natural disasters. Acknowledged that remote areas may lack communications infrastructure and other government services, possibly compounding civil and military responses challenges.
6. Recommend that the Joint Declaration acknowledge that climate change will influence the role and missions of the region's defense institutions and that the Member States

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should strengthen their commitments to respond to climate change, build climate resilience, and invest in environmental protection.

It is recognized that at 1445, on February 17, 2022, the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the topic of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief has concluded with the signature of this Acta. As a matter of record, the CDMA Executive Secretariat will distribute digital copies of this document to the Member States in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

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XV CDMA General Secretary

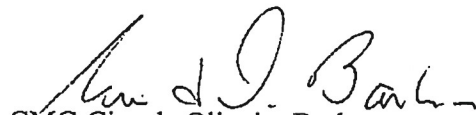
Rear Admiral Antonio Cesar da Rocha Martins

Argentina Delegation



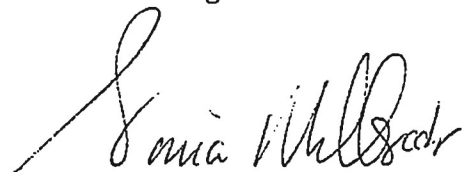
Ignacio Gutierrez Brondolo
National Director for International Policy
for Defense Argentina Ministry of Defense

Brazil Delegation



CMG Ciro de Oliveira Barbosa
Manager of Inter-American Organizations
Section Brazil Ministry of Defense

Bahamas Delegation



CDR Sonia Natasha Miller
Disaster Management Officer
Royal Bahamas Defence Force

Canada Delegation



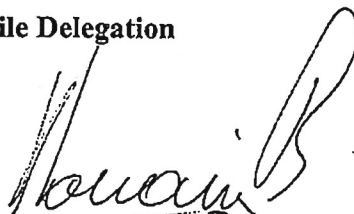
Michael Carter
Director, Western Hemisphere Policy
Department of National Defence Canada

Barbados Delegation



Lt Col Carlos Lovell
Military Advisor to the Chief of Staff
Barbados Defence Force

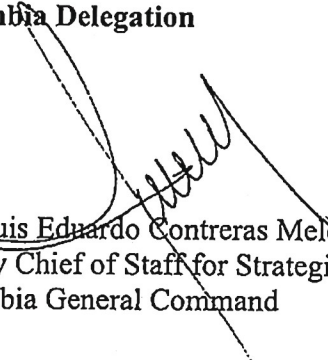
Chile Delegation



Sergio Larraín
Programs Specialist & Int'l Operations
Chile Ministry of Defense

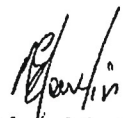
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Colombia Delegation



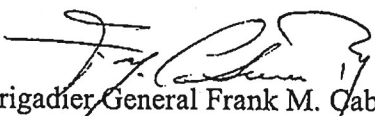
MG Luis Eduardo Contreras Meléndez
Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Planning
Colombia General Command

Grenada Delegation



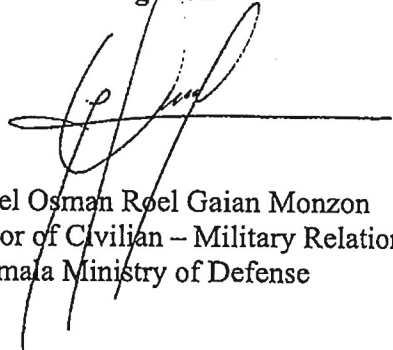
Edwin Martin
Commissioner of Police
Royal Grenada Police Force

Dominican Republic Delegation



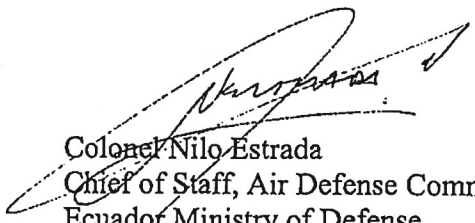
Brigadier General Frank M. Cabrera Rizek
Delegate of the Ministry of Defense
Dominican Republic Ministry of Defense

Guatemala Delegation




Colonel Osman Roel Gaian Monzon
Director of Civilian – Military Relations
Guatemala Ministry of Defense

Ecuador Delegation



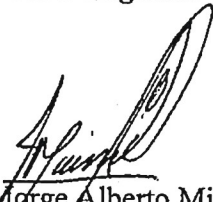
Colonel Nilo Estrada
Chief of Staff, Air Defense Command
Ecuador Ministry of Defense

Guyana Delegation



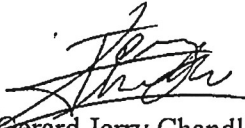
Kenlloyd Roberts
Inspector General
Guyana Defence Force

El Salvador Delegation



Colonel Jorge Alberto Miranda Martinez
Director of Defense Policy
El Salvador Ministry of Defense

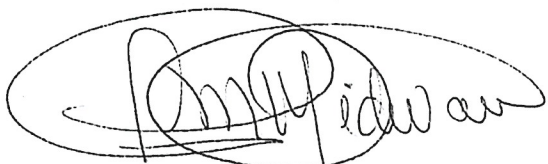
Haiti Delegation



Dr. Gerard Jerry Chandler
Director General
Civil Protection for Haiti

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Honduras Delegation



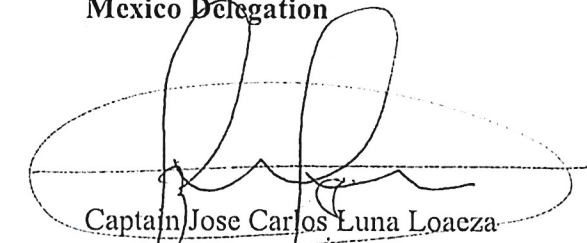
Colonel Rita Maria Medina S.
Director of Military Health
Honduras Ministry of Defense

Peru Delegation



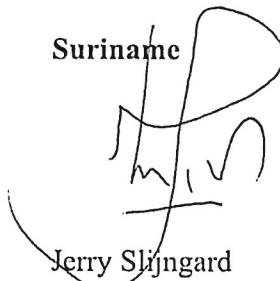
Minister Augusto Cabrera Rebaza
Director General, International Relations
Peru Ministry of Defense

Mexico Delegation



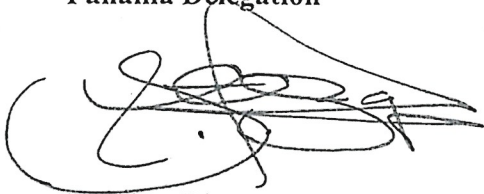
Captain Jose Carlos Luna Loaeza
Director, Strategic Analysis
Mexico Secretariat of the Navy

Suriname



Jerry Slijngard
Commander, NCCR
Cabinet of the President

Panama Delegation



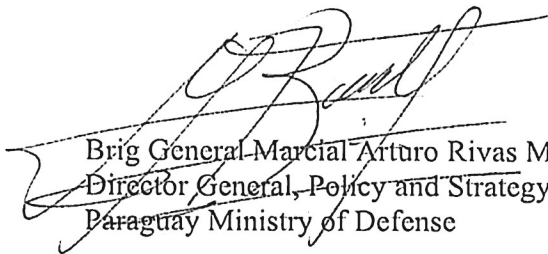
Jonathan Riggs
General Secretary
Panama Ministry of Public Security

Trinidad and Tobago Delegation



Lt Col Jason Hills
Deputy Commanding Officer
Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force

Paraguay Delegation



Brig General Marcial Arturo Rivas Maidana
Director General, Policy and Strategy
Paraguay Ministry of Defense

United States Delegation



Ashley Pixton
Country Director, OSD Policy
U.S. Department of Defense