

INTER AMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE



ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

MARCH - JUNE



2025



Dear IADC Alumni and Friends,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this year's edition of the IADC Alumni Newsletter. This publication continues to serve as a bridge between the College and our exceptional alumni, faculty, and strategic partners who play a vital role in advancing security and defense across the Americas. At the Inter American Defense College, we are proud of the enduring connection we share with our alumni community. Your ongoing leadership, service, and collaboration embody the principles of strategic insight, international cooperation, and lifelong learning that are at the core of the IADC mission.

In this edition, we're pleased to highlight recent milestones, share alumni accomplishments, and provide updates on our programs—including the recent International Field Study Trip to Chile and Peru. During this academic engagement, Class 64 students explored regional security dynamics firsthand and strengthened ties with key institutions across both countries, further enriching their strategic perspectives and cross-cultural understanding.

We invite you to continue participating in alumni initiatives, sharing your perspectives, and contributing to the ongoing dialogue that strengthens our network. Your active engagement remains fundamental to the College's success in shaping the next generation of strategic leaders. Thank you for your continued support. I hope to reconnect with many of you at future events and to celebrate the extraordinary impact you continue to make in the field of defense and security.

La Mejor!

Major General Richard J. Heitkamp
Commandant and Director, Inter American Defense College

GUEST SPEAKER WORLD SITUATION CONFERENCE



Lieutenant General (Retired) Raul Oswaldo Jarrín (Class 28) – Ecuador

The Inter American Defense College (IADC) recently had the honor of hosting Lieutenant General (R) Raúl Oswaldo Jarrín, a distinguished graduate of Class 28 and a prominent member of the Ecuadorian alumni chapter. His visit was a special occasion that reaffirmed the bonds of camaraderie and commitment that unite our academic and professional community.

General (R) Jarrín participated as a guest speaker at the World Situation Conference, addressed to the students of Class 64. His presentation was particularly enriching, providing valuable strategic perspectives based on his extensive experience in hemispheric defense and security. The students and faculty deeply valued his analysis and regional vision.





In addition to his participation in the conference, General (R) Jarrín held a meeting with Major General Richard Heitkamp, Commandant and Director of the Inter American Defense College. During this meeting, both leaders exchanged views on current challenges in hemispheric security and defense, thus strengthening the strategic dialogue between generations of leaders across the continent.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to General (R) Jarrín for his visit, his leadership, and his continued support of the College's mission, as well as for his active participation in the Ecuadorian Alumni Chapter.



GUEST SPEAKER ADMIRAL (R) FELIPE SOLANO ARMENTA (CLASS 41) - MEXICO



The Inter American Defense College had the privilege of welcoming retired Admiral (R) Felipe Solano Armenta, former Director of Mexico's National Customs Agency (ANAM) and distinguished graduate of Class 41, who visited our facilities to share his experience and knowledge with the students of Class 64.

During his visit, Admiral (R) Solano gave a keynote address entitled "Strategic Vision of the National Customs System, Maritime Security, and Inter-Institutional Cooperation." His presentation addressed key topics related to the integration of efforts between national and international agencies to strengthen maritime and customs security, highlighting the importance of inter-institutional cooperation in the context of hemispheric security.



He also held a meeting with Major General Richard Heitkamp, Commandant and Director of the Inter American Defense College, during which they exchanged perspectives on current regional security challenges and the strategic role of customs in border protection and international trade.





ADMIRAL (R) FELIPE SOLANO ARMENTA'S INDUCTION INTO THE IADC HALL OF HONOR

One of the most significant moments of Admiral (R) Solano Armenta's visit was his induction into the IADC Hall of Honor, an award reserved for alumni who have demonstrated an exemplary record of service to hemispheric security and cooperation.

This recognition highlights his leadership, institutional commitment, and outstanding contribution to strengthening regional defense and security capabilities.

To celebrate the award, Major General Heitkamp organized a convivial gathering in his honor with members of the IADC Leadership Council, the College staff, and the Mexican students of Class 64, reaffirming the bonds of brotherhood and collaboration between Mexico and the College's academic community.

We deeply thank Admiral (R) Solano for his valuable academic contributions and his continued support of the College's mission.



HALL OF HONOR

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LIEUTENANT BRIGADEIRO RAIMUNDO NOGUEIRA LOPES, CLASS 51

Within the framework of the Conference on the Hemispheric Situation, the Inter American Defense College had the honor of welcoming Lieutenant Commander Raimundo Nogueira Lopes, distinguished alumni of Class 51. During his visit, the senior officer shared a valuable presentation with the students of Class 64, entitled "Geopolitical Challenges in the Amazon: A Case Study of Operation Yanomami," in which he addressed in depth the strategic, environmental, and security challenges facing this key region of the continent.

His presentation offered a unique perspective based on his vast professional experience, highlighting the importance of regional cooperation and respect for Indigenous communities in the protection of the Amazon. The students actively participated in the exchange, enriching the academic dialogue with questions and reflections on contemporary challenges in the region.

In a special ceremony, Lieutenant Brigadeiro Nogueira Lopes was inducted into the prestigious IADC Hall of Honor in recognition of his distinguished professional career and his commitment to the values of hemispheric cooperation and excellence in service. This distinction highlights his legacy as a military leader and his continued contribution to strengthening security and defense in the Americas.

The Inter American Defense College proudly celebrates this well-deserved recognition and deeply appreciates the visit of Lieutenant Brigadeiro, whose example inspires future generations of strategic leaders in the hemisphere.



HALL OF HONOR

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ADM. (RET.) JULIO CÉSAR PESCINA ÁVILA, CLASS 45

The Inter American Defense College is proud to highlight the exemplary career of Admiral (Ret.) Julio César Pescina Ávila, distinguished graduate of Class 45, "La Mejor," who during his recent visit to the Inter American Defense College was honored with induction into the IADC Hall of Honor.

This recognition adds to more than four decades of outstanding service in the Mexican Navy. A native of Veracruz, the Admiral has held key positions such as Undersecretary of the Navy, Commander of the Gulf Naval Force, and Rector of the Naval University.

Since October 2024, he has served as Advisor to the Citizen Admiral Secretary of the Navy, contributing his vast experience to the strategic leadership of the institution. Upon his return to the IADC, he gave a keynote address to Class 64 as part of the lecture series on the Hemispheric Situation.

With advanced studies at CESNAV, the University of Salvador (Argentina), and the IADC itself, Adm. (R.) Pescina has promoted regional cooperation and the modernization of naval education.

His leadership has been recognized with multiple awards, such as the Exceptional Perseverance Decoration and the Argentine Navy Medal of Merit.

His example embodies the values of integrity, leadership, and hemispheric service that distinguish our alumni community. His legacy inspires current and future generations of military leaders committed to the peace and security of the Americas.



HONORIS CAUSA

AMBASSADOR LUZ ELENA BAÑOS RIVAS – MEXICO



The Inter American Defense College is proud to have awarded the IADC Honoris Causa medal to Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas, a graduate of Class 46, "La Mejor." This tribute was personally presented by the Commandant and Director of the College, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, in recognition of her outstanding professional career, her commitment to hemispheric security, and her valuable work as Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organization of American States since 2019.

Throughout her diplomatic career, Ambassador Baños Rivas has steadfastly promoted inter-American democratic values, leading important multilateral forums such as the Governing Council of the Inter-American Agency for Development Cooperation, the Committee on Hemispheric Security, and the Committee on Migration Issues, where her strategic vision has been widely recognized.



HONORIS CAUSA

AMBASSADOR LUZ ELENA BAÑOS RIVAS – MEXICO



In addition to her distinguished diplomatic work, Ambassador Baños Rivas has also successfully ventured into law, teaching, journalism, and cultural promotion, consolidating a comprehensive career serving the hemisphere and civil society.



Her commitment to professional excellence and social sensitivity have simultaneously made her a regional leader for new generations.



The Inter American Defense College proudly celebrates the presentation of this distinction to an exemplary graduate, whose legacy continues to inspire leaders committed to cooperation and strengthening peace throughout our hemisphere.

Congratulations to Ambassador Luz Elena Baños Rivas!



IADC EL SALVADOR CHAPTER ALUMNI EVENT

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On March 13, 2025, during the official visit of the Commandant and Director of the Inter American Defense College, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, a significant meeting with Salvadoran alumni was held in San Salvador.

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Shannon Heitkamp, Executive Director of the Inter American Defense College Foundation (IADCF), and Ms. Rebeca Rivas, Chief of Strategic Communications and Protocol for the IADC.

It was an opportunity to strengthen ties, share ideas, and reaffirm the commitment to the College's values and mission.

During the event, the intention to carry out future activities in El Salvador was expressed, and concrete ways in which alumni of the El Salvador Chapter can continue supporting the College were discussed.



IADC EL SALVADOR CHAPTER ALUMNI EVENT

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One of the highlights of the evening was the induction ceremony into the prestigious IADC Hall of Honor of three distinguished Salvadoran alumni: Major General Otto Alejandro Romero, former Minister of National Defense; Air Force General Ricardo Ábrego, former Deputy Minister of National Defense; and General José Campos Rivas, former Deputy Chief of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



The meeting was characterized by cordiality, a deep spirit of collaboration, and a sense of belonging expressed by those present.



The alumni expressed their willingness to continue actively participating in the College's initiatives and, in particular, expressed interest in sharing their experience through lectures for current IADC students, a proposal that was enthusiastically received by all present.

This meeting not only reaffirmed the ties between generations but also opened new doors to further strengthen the IADC Alumni network in El Salvador, building together a future of academic and professional cooperation at the service of the hemisphere.

Congratulations to El Salvador Chapter!



IADC PANAMA ALUMNI CHAPTER EVENT: CONNECTION, PRIDE, AND COMMITMENT

P A N A M A



On April 11, 2025, a meeting of the IADC Panama Alumni Chapter was held at the Hilton Hotel in Panama City, chaired by Major General Richard J. Heitkamp. The meeting was attended by Police Commissioner Oriel Ortega (Class 54), president of the chapter and member of the Panamanian National Police, and his distinguished colleagues from Panama. This gathering brought together alumni from different generations in an atmosphere of authentic camaraderie and institutional pride.

During the event, participants shared experiences, reaffirmed their commitment to the College's values, and highlighted the strategic value of these spaces in maintaining a sense of belonging to the IADC community. These gatherings represent a unique opportunity to strengthen the network of hemispheric cooperation beyond the classroom.



IADC PANAMA ALUMNI CHAPTER EVENT: CONNECTION, PRIDE, AND COMMITMENT

P A N A M A



Among the topics discussed, the Panama Chapter's interest in organizing an official visit to the College stood out, as well as the opportunity to participate as guest speakers in academic activities for the current class. These initiatives underscore the Alumni's firm commitment to developing new generations of hemispheric leaders.

The success of this meeting confirms that the spirit of the IADC remains alive and well in all its alumni. The connection between generations, institutions, and countries is the foundation upon which we continue to build a strong, supportive advocacy community with a shared vision for the future of the Americas.





**DR. CAROLINA RAMÍREZ HERRERA
CLASS 51 ALUMNI**

Dr. Carolina Ramírez Herrera returns to the IADC to share her experience and receive a high distinction.

The Inter American Defense College (IADC) had the privilege of welcoming Dr. Carolina Ramírez Herrera, distinguished graduate of Class 51, to a memorable event that combined academic reflection, intellectual contributions, and well-deserved recognition of her career. Dr. Ramírez was cordially received by Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, Deputy Director of the IADC; Colonel (R) Ricardo Lebrón, Director of External Relations; and other distinguished directors of the College.

During her visit, Dr. Ramírez participated as a keynote speaker in the Defense, Security, and Media Workshop, where she shared her perspective on the role of strategic communication in hemispheric security contexts. Her presentation was praised for its clarity, analytical depth, and relevance to the current challenges facing defense institutions in the region.



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One of the event's highlights was the official launch of her book, "Personal Security for the Clueless," a work that combines academic rigor with practical advice for personal protection in complex urban environments. The book was enthusiastically received by the IADC academic community, who appreciated its accessible approach and usefulness for diverse audiences.

During the final part of her visit, Dr. Ramírez Herrera was honored in recognition of her outstanding professional career and her ongoing contribution to the College's ideals, being inducted into the prestigious IADC Hall of Honor. This distinction celebrates not only her academic and professional achievements, but also her commitment to hemispheric cooperation and the development of strategic leaders.

The IADC is proud to count among its alumni figures such as Dr. Ramírez Herrera, whose example continues to inspire new generations of students and strengthen the bonds of collaboration among the nations of the continent.



FAREWELL CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION OF THE HONORIS CAUSA MEDAL TO GENERAL ABEL MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA- MEXICO



The Inter American Defense College (IADC) bid farewell with immense gratitude and nostalgia to the distinguished Wing General Abel Martínez García of Mexico. For the past two years, he has served as the IADC's Chief of Studies, standing out for his outstanding ability, dedication, and dedication to the task of educating the hemispheric leaders of the future.

His outstanding work leaves an indelible mark on our academic community, having significantly contributed to the fulfillment of the IADC's academic objectives.

During his emotional farewell ceremony, held in the IADC's Kennedy Hall, General Abel Martínez García was awarded the IADC's highest institutional honor, the Honoris Causa Medal.

Present at the event were the IADC's leadership, faculty, staff, and students, as well as General Martínez's family and friends. As a sign of the profound respect and admiration he earned during his time at the institution, he was presented with the prestigious IADC Honoris Medal in recognition of his invaluable contributions to the College and to hemispheric security.



PRESENTATION OF THE HONORIS CAUSA MEDAL TO GENERAL ABEL MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA



This medal is a lasting testament to the IADC's gratitude toward General Martínez García and, at the same time, a symbol of the utmost admiration and respect, in recognition of his leadership, commitment, and the excellence he has demonstrated since the beginning of his tenure at the College, in the service of regional defense and security.

The Inter American Defense College, today more than ever, is pleased to have counted within its ranks figures of the stature of General Martínez García, whose example and influence will continue to pave the way for future generations of leaders.

Thank you very much, Wing General Abel Martínez García, for your brilliant service at the Inter American Defense College. The IADC Honoris Causa Medal is the perfect finishing touch to close your magnificent tenure at the institution, with the respect and solemnity it deserves.



INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY 2025



Reinforcing its commitment to strategic, hemispheric education, the 64th Class of the Inter American Defense College (IADC) successfully conducted its much-anticipated International Field Study to Chile and Peru. Led by the Commandant and Director of the IADC, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, alongside the College's leadership and academic team, this initiative stood out as a pivotal learning experience within the institution's international academic program.

Throughout the tour, students engaged deeply with the political, economic, social, military, and cultural dynamics of both host nations. Through lectures, institutional briefings, and visits to iconic historical sites, participants gained firsthand insight into the region's primary challenges and opportunities, enhancing their analytical abilities from a multidisciplinary perspective.

One of the trip's most meaningful moments was the presentation of the Honoris Causa medal to Dr. Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile (2006–2010 and 2014–2018) and alumni of IADC Class 37. This tribute to her distinguished professional trajectory underscored the hemispheric leadership championed by the institution and the pride of counting among its alumni such impactful figures committed to defense, human rights, and regional development.

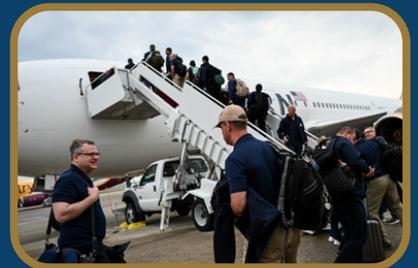
The International Field Study also strengthened bonds among current students and alumni through traditional reunions held in both countries. These gatherings fostered valuable exchanges of experiences and ideas in a spirit of camaraderie, enriching the collective and strategic vision shared across the hemisphere.

This international experience reaffirmed IADC's commitment to an educational approach grounded in critical thinking and the pursuit of cooperative, consensus-driven, and comprehensive solutions to shared hemispheric challenges. Students demonstrated strong capabilities in identifying complex defense and security issues, assessing institutional responses, and applying cross-sector tools—solidifying key competencies for future strategic leaders of the region.

Thank you to everyone who made this successful field study possible!



INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY 2025 - CHILE



INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY ALUMNI EVENT

On April 28, during the annual OCONUS-2025 study trip, the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) held a moving and meaningful Alumni Reunion with members of the Chilean Chapter at the elegant facilities of the Chilean Air Force Officers' Club (FACH).

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The meeting was chaired by the Commandant and Director of the IADC, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, accompanied by Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, IADC Deputy Director, and Wing General Abel Martínez García, Chief of Studies.

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The Chilean Chapter was represented by its president, Colonel (R) Germán Celedón Abarca (Class 54), who offered a warm welcome to the College leadership and all his fellow Alumni present.

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One of the most significant moments of the evening was the official induction of three new members of the Chile Chapter into the prestigious IADC Hall of Honor, in recognition of their outstanding professional careers. Those honored were Air Brigade General (R) Gonzalo Opazo Druillas, Brigade General (R) Jorge Lecanda Ricalde, and the Undersecretary of Defense, MSc Ricardo Ignacio Montero Allende.

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The day was marked by shared anecdotes and a wonderful spirit of camaraderie, fond memories, and gratitude for the bonds forged at the College. Local alumni from different classes shared memorable moments with the IADC leadership, the academic faculty, and the College staff, reaffirming their sense of belonging to this unique hemispheric educational community.

Of particular note was the participation of the new lifetime members of the Inter American Defense College Foundation (IADCF), Class of 64, who attended their first official Alumni event with evident enthusiasm and commitment.

Their presence reaffirmed the fraternal ties that bind them to the IADC and demonstrated our students' strong support for the College's institutional mission, a fact that fills us with pride.

Thank you very much, Chilean Chapter!



INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY ALUMNI EVENT

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PRESENTATION OF THE HONORIS CAUSA MEDAL TO THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE, DR. MICHELLE BACHELET



As part of the International Field Study of Class 64 to Santiago, Chile, the Inter American Defense College (IADC) had the distinct honor of presenting the Honoris Causa medal to the Honorable Dr. Michelle Bachelet, former President of the Republic of Chile and distinguished alumni of IADC Class 37. This recognition highlights her extraordinary professional trajectory and unwavering commitment to democratic values, regional cooperation, and the defense of human rights. The award was personally presented by the Commandant and Director of the IADC, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, during a ceremony of deep institutional significance.

A physician by training, with studies in public health and military strategy, Dr. Bachelet has held some of the highest offices in both national and international arenas. She was the first woman to serve as President of Chile, holding office for two terms (2006–2010 and 2014–2018), and also served as Minister of Health and Minister of Defense—pioneering roles for women in Chile. Globally, she was the first Executive Director of UN Women and, more recently, served as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights from 2018 to 2022.

As an IADC alumni, Dr. Bachelet has embodied the institution's core principles: strategic leadership, critical thinking, and a steadfast commitment to hemispheric peace. Her political and humanitarian legacy has made a decisive impact on democratic governance, gender equity, and regional integration, inspiring generations of civilian and military leaders across the Americas.

The presentation of the Honoris Causa medal to Dr. Bachelet not only celebrates her distinguished career but also reaffirms IADC's commitment to developing leaders who promote mutual understanding, dialogue, and lasting peace throughout the Western Hemisphere.



INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY 2025 - PERU



PRESENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD MEDAL TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF PERU WALTER ASTUDILLO CHÁVEZ, ALUMNI CLASS 47



During its official visit to Lima, as part of the 2025 International Field Study, the Inter American Defense College (IADC) had the distinct honor of presenting—by mandate of the Inter American Defense Board (IADB)—the IADB Medal to the Honorable Minister of Defense of Peru, Walter Astudillo Chávez, in recognition of his exemplary professional career and meaningful contributions to the values upheld by the institution.

The awarding of the medal was unanimously approved during the 1,472nd Regular Meeting of the Council of Delegates, held on February 25, 2025. In that session, Minister Astudillo was recognized as one of the external individuals deemed worthy of receiving this important honor granted by the IADB.

A graduate of the Chorrillos Military School (1983), Minister Astudillo holds a master's degree in Strategic Planning and Decision-Making from the Peruvian Army War College and a Doctorate in Administration from Alas Peruanas University. His distinguished military service includes senior leadership roles such as Chief of the 2nd Army Division, Director of the Central Military Hospital, Chief of the Secretariat for Security and Defense (SEDENA), and Director of the Center for Higher National Studies (CAEN).

An alumni of Class 47 of the IADC, Minister Astudillo, has consistently championed hemispheric cooperation, strategic leadership, and democratic governance. His lasting commitment to regional security and international understanding underscores the influential role IADC alumni play across the Americas and reinforces the historic ties between the IADB and Peru.



INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY ALUMNI EVENT

On May 7, 2025, the Inter American Defense College enthusiastically held its traditional Alumni Reunion – Peru Chapter, as part of the annual OCONUS study trip. The emotional gathering took place at the prestigious facilities of the Peruvian Air Force Aeronautical Center (CAFAP) in Lima and was chaired by the Commandant and Director of the IADC, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, along with the Vice Director, Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, and the Chief of Studies, Wing General Abel Martínez García.

During the event, a tribute was paid to Vice Admiral (R) Jorge Montoya Manrique, Congressman of the Republic of Peru and President of the IADC Peru Alumni Chapter. He was honored with the IADC Honoris Causa medal in recognition of his professional career, leadership, and commitment to the College's institutional values.

Likewise, the opportunity was opportune to officially induct a group of distinguished graduates from the Peru Chapter into the IADC Hall of Honor, the largest to date in a single ceremony. This was a great pleasure for the IADC leadership.

Vice Admiral (R) Montoya Manrique, in addition to receiving the Honoris Medal, was also inducted into the prestigious IADC Hall of Honor, along with his colleagues: Retired Major General José Daniel Williams Zapata, Retired Major General César Torres Vega, Retired Major General Luís Howell Ballena, Retired Lieutenant General Carlos Samamé Quiñones, Retired Vice Admiral Gonzalo Ríos Polastri, and Ambassador María Cecilia Rozas Ponce de León.

The event was a magnificent opportunity to strengthen ties between different generations of IADC Alumni. Members of the Peru Chapter also had the opportunity to share views, anecdotes, and reflections with the new Life Members of the Inter American Defense College (IADC) Foundation, Class of 64, who joyfully participated in their second Alumni Event.

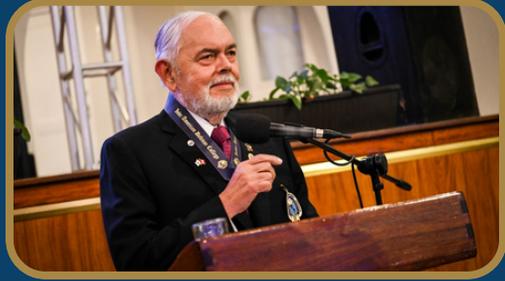
The cordial and relaxed atmosphere that prevailed throughout the evening was the ideal setting to further strengthen the inter-American spirit that characterizes our educational community. This vibrant event confirmed that International 2025 far exceeded our initial expectations, demonstrating the positive and lasting impact that these types of spaces for Inter-American reunion and collaboration have. We thank all the members of the Peru Chapter for their commitment to their hemispheric Alma Mater and for continuing to make the IADC a vibrant and constantly growing regional family.

Thank you very much, Peru Chapter!



INTERNATIONAL FIELD STUDY ALUMNI EVENT

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CLASS 64 GRADUATION

On June 17, 2025, the majestic Hall of the Americas of the Organization of American States (OAS) was filled with solemnity and joy to celebrate the Graduation Ceremony of Class 64 of the Inter American Defense College (IADC). Surrounded by flags, history, and purpose, each student crossed the threshold of an indelible stage in their lives.

The ceremony was presided over by the Commandant and Director of the IADC, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, and was attended by the institutional leadership, the Faculty, Seminar Leaders, staff members, their families, and distinguished officials from the Inter-American community.

The occasion was honored by the presence of Major General César Macedo García, President of the Council of Delegates of the Inter American Defense Board, and was enhanced by the keynote speaker, Lieutenant General Carlos Antonio Fernández Onofre, Minister of Defense of the Dominican Republic, who offered a powerful message of service, regional commitment, and shared strategic vision.

His firm yet warm words resonated in the hearts of all present as a call to exercise leadership with humility, courage, and hemispheric collaboration.

During the ceremony, two highly symbolic figures received the College's highest academic distinction: the Master's Degree in Inter American Defense and Security, *Honoris Causa*, presented by our Director, Richard J. Heitkamp, to His Excellency Albert Ramdin, Secretary General of the OAS, for his extraordinary career serving democracy, regional understanding, and security; and to Vice Admiral (R) Julio Juan Bardi, a graduate of the historic Class 5 and the oldest IADC alumni from the Argentina Chapter, for a lifetime of exemplary dedication to leadership, education, and international cooperation. In addition to their degrees, both received the heartfelt applause of a community that recognized them as beacons of inspiration.

The Class of 64 not only completed a demanding academic program but also built deep connections, shared ideas, forged bridges between cultures, and reaffirmed the collective vocation to work for peace and security in the Americas. Each of its members graduates with the IADC seal of excellence and an inescapable responsibility: to be agents of dialogue, solutions, and unity in a hemisphere that needs them more than ever.

At the close of the ceremony, Major General Heitkamp invited everyone present to the College grounds, where a moving reception was held in honor of the recent graduates.

There, amid hugs, photographs, and promises of reunion, the celebration took place not only of the end of an era, but also of the birth of a new generation of leaders with a hemispheric vision, forged in the spirit of the IADC. The Class of 64 is now part of a larger story: that of an Inter American community united by shared values, common challenges, and an unwavering commitment to a more just and secure future for all.

Congratulations, Class 64 !LA MEJOR!



CLASS 64 GRADUATION



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Within the framework of the graduation ceremony of the 64th Class of the Inter American Defense College (IADC), the institution had the HIGH honor of conferring the honorary degree of Master in Inter-American Defense and Security to His Excellency Albert Ramdin, current Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS).

The degree and corresponding insignia were presented by the Commandant and Director of the IADC, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, in recognition of Secretary General Ramdin's outstanding professional achievements and exceptional contributions to hemispheric security.

His Excellency has held important positions representing the Government of Suriname, including that of Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and International Cooperation.

Throughout his diplomatic career, he has championed inclusion, sustainable development, democratic renewal, and regional integration, principles that closely align with the academic and strategic mission of the College.

Secretary General Ramdin has had a positive impact on the Inter-American community through his leadership, dedication to democratic values, and the promotion of mutual understanding among the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

His continued service and statesmanship serve as a model of excellence for current and future hemispheric leaders.

By bestowing this honorary title, the IADC proudly recognizes an exemplary individual whose professional legacy strengthens our collective commitment to peace, dialogue, and the cooperative defense of security in the Americas.



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In a ceremony filled with emotion and symbolism, held during the graduation of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) Class 64, Vice Admiral (R) Julio Juan Bardi—a graduate of Class 5, a member of the IADC Argentina Alumni Chapter, and the oldest IADC alumni—received the Master's Degree in Inter-American Defense and Security Honoris Causa medal.

The distinction was presented by the Commandant and Director of the College, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, in recognition of a life dedicated to service, leadership, and inter-American strategic knowledge.

Vice Admiral (R) Bardi served in high-level operational, administrative, and diplomatic roles, including his role as Argentine Naval Attaché in Peru and Commander of the Argentine Navy's Marine Corps. He was decorated by various governments, including Peru, Venezuela, and Spain.

In retirement, he continued his dedication to service as Minister of Social Welfare and Health of the Argentine Republic, president of the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange, and president of the Argentine Foundation for Quality of Life. In the academic field, he holds a PhD in International Relations and is the author of the book *Risk Management in Disasters and Complex Emergencies*.

Currently, just one month away from his 100th birthday, he continues his distinguished work as a Full Professor at the University of El Salvador in Buenos Aires (UNISAL), teaching "Disaster Risk Management and Reduction."

With this distinction, the Inter American Defense College not only celebrates his achievements but also pays tribute to a living legacy that has spanned generations. His presence at the ceremony was much more than recognition; it was a warm embrace of the history of the IADC, an act of profound gratitude, and a heartfelt ovation for an example of life and hemispheric service.

Thank you, Vice Admiral (R) Bardi, for being a pioneer, for paving the way for future generations, for keeping the flame of knowledge and shared duty burning, for reminding us that the vocation for the defense of our nations has no retirement date.

Your legacy is etched in the heart of the Inter American Defense College. Thank you for coming and sharing your wonderful energy with us!



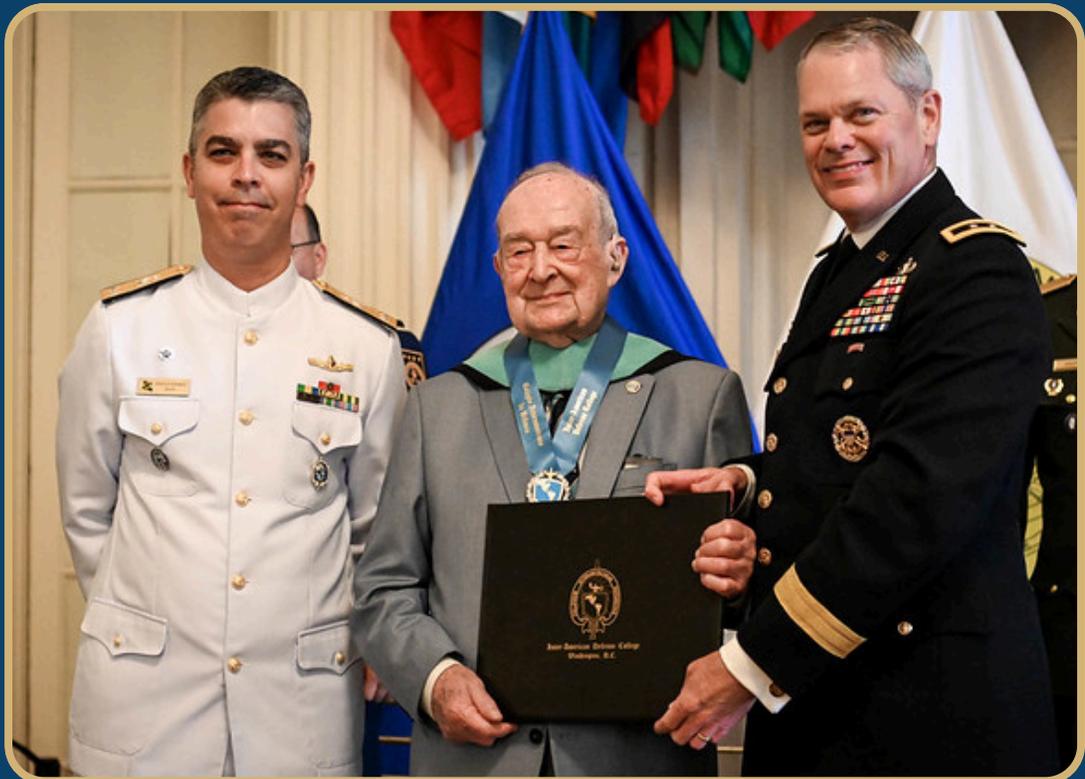
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BRIGADIER GENERAL (R) HECTOR LOPEZ, A CLASS OF 46 ALUMNUS, WAS INDUCTED INTO THE U.S. ARMY QUARTERMASTER CORPS HALL OF HONOR.



The Inter-American Defense College proudly congratulates Brigadier General (R) Hector Lopez, Class 46, on his induction into the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps Hall of Fame. This honor, the logistics corps' highest recognition, highlights his legacy of excellence and leadership in military sustainment operations and hemispheric cooperation.

General Lopez has a solid academic background that includes degrees from American University, Notre Dame, Central Michigan, and the Army War College, among others. He was a pioneer as the first Hispanic to command the 94th Training Division, served as a General in Korea, and led brigades at Fort Bragg and Iraq.



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His leadership was instrumental in humanitarian and combat missions, from the earthquake response in Haiti to the establishment of Cedar Logistics Base in Iraq. As an innovative leader, he spearheaded important Army Reserve initiatives such as the culinary certification program and the unified One Army School System.

Under his command, more than 46,000 Soldiers were trained in critical logistics roles, elevating the operational readiness of the total force. His vision also strengthened doctrinal integration across Army components and enhanced structures such as the Regional Support Groups.

After his retirement from active duty, General Lopez has continued to contribute to the defense sector from the civilian sector. He currently serves as the Logistics and Acquisition Manager in support of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) missions. Recognized with multiple decorations and a member of three Halls of Fame, his career exemplifies the values of excellence, service, and innovation that the Inter-American Defense College promotes and celebrates.





IADC FOUNDATION



On June 17th, the IADC Foundation proudly hosted a special pre-reception for all Lifetime Members in celebration of Class 64's graduation. This meaningful gathering provided an opportunity to honor the accomplishments of the graduating class while connecting with fellow alumni and Foundation supporters.

As a token of appreciation, each Lifetime Member received a commemorative bottle of wine from Peru, symbolizing the successful completion of the International Field Study.

We are grateful to our members for their continued commitment and support of the College's legacy.



2ND ALUMNI CHAPTER PRESIDENTS MEETING

The Alumni Program successfully held the Second Meeting of IADC Alumni Chapter Presidents from across the Hemisphere on April 10, 2025, in a virtual format.

This new opportunity for communication and exchange not only strengthened the connection between the Alumni Chapter presidents and the IADC but also provided a space to share important updates on the College's activities and exchange views on future activities.



At the same time, it allowed for the collection of comments, opinions, and ideas from our esteemed Chapter leaders, which the College channels internally to provide an official response and facilitate the requests received.

Likewise, the presidents also take advantage of these meetings to take note of the information gathered and subsequently share it with their colleagues.

Thanks to these interactions, the Alumni Program strengthens its cohesion with the various Chapters and more effectively directs its efforts, aligning them with the concerns of our leaders, seeking to maintain synergy to continue being "La Mejor!"

We will soon announce the date for the "Third Meeting of IADC Alumni Chapter Presidents from across the Hemisphere."



SAVE THE DATE!

THERE'S LESS AND LESS TIME LEFT. SECURE YOUR SPOT AT THE
"FIRST HEMISPHERIC SECURITY AND DEFENSE CONVENTION"
IN MADRID, SPAIN, ON SEPTEMBER 18 AND 19, 2025

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Alumni Program

Dear IADC Alumni and Friends,

Since the last edition of the Alumni Newsletter, we have organized so many activities that we are truly pleased and excited to have shared them with you in this new edition, showcasing the main alumni activities we have carried out during this time.

We are proud of the results we have achieved, but more than anything, we are immensely happy for the incredible interaction we have achieved with you. Our ties have grown and strengthened exponentially, thanks to You - our Alumni. We appreciate that you always respond to the call of the College and actively participate in the events we lovingly organize and coordinate for you. We want to express our gratitude for your continued commitment.

It has been a true pleasure for the IADC Alumni Program to provide you with everything within our reach so that you feel embraced by your College and that, in addition, each Alumni Chapter in the IADC has the same opportunity to be visible through this communication space created and conceived by our distinguished Commandant and Director, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, especially for you.

We hope you enjoyed this Newsletter's content, which covers alumni activities from March to June 2025, as much as we did. But if you're interested in more information about IADC, we invite you to follow us on all our social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. To see the complete photo albums of each of our events, you can go directly to Flickr and download the photos of your choice for free using the following link:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/iadc/albums/>

As always, we invite you to stay in touch through our institutional communication channels. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Alumni Program, part of the IADC External Relations Department, by contacting its Director, Colonel (Ret., US Army) Ricardo Lebrón, at ric.lebron@iadc.edu, The Alumni Program Officer, Lieutenant Colonel (MEX) Cuauhtémoc Ceceña at cuauhtemoc.cecena@iadc.edu, or the Outreach and Alumni Coordinator, Zoraya Alas (Civil - Paraguay), at zoraya.alas@iadc.edu.

We look forward to sharing the next edition of the IADC 2025 Newsletter with you very soon.

We send you a warm hug and remember that each and every one of you is:

LA MEJOR!

