

Inter American Defense College



Alumni Newsletter



**July - September
2025**



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We appreciate your commitment to strengthening the bonds of knowledge, cooperation, and hemispheric defense that united us!





Dear IADC Alumni and Friends,

It is a distinct honor to present the July–September 2025 issue of the IADC Alumni Newsletter. This publication continues to serve as a bridge for strengthening the bonds that unite the College with our esteemed alumni, and strategic partners—whose dedication and leadership are key to advancing security and defense efforts across the hemisphere.

This quarter, the College launched the 2025–2026 academic year for Class 65, “La Mejor” (The Best), with numerous academic and institutional engagements that underscored our commitment to excellence and cooperation.

Key highlights included the Class 65 convocation ceremony and induction of new staff members, who, together with their spouses, participated in an orientation program tailored to help them integrate into life at the College.

In terms of academic and international collaboration, noteworthy initiatives included a field study visit to New York City, meetings with the Inter-American Defense Board, and visits from several ambassadors, who gave lectures that prompted enriching dialogue.

These endeavors reaffirm our dedication to international collaboration, academic distinction, and strengthening the Inter-American defense community. We sincerely appreciate the active engagement of our graduates, partners, and colleagues, whose steadfast support remains fundamental to the College’s prominence and success.

La Mejor!

Major General Richard J. Heitkamp
Commandant and Director of the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College celebrates the promotion of Major John Collier to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel

The promotion ceremony for Major John Collier, Chief of the College's Resource Management Area, was held in Kennedy Hall at the Inter-American Defense College (IADC). He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army.

The promotion ceremony was presided over by Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, IADC Director and Commandant, in a wonderful event attended by family members and members of the College's academic community.

During the ceremony, now Lieutenant Colonel John Collier was accompanied by his wife Grace, his father Lieutenant Colonel (R) William Collier, his mother Pam Collier, and his son John "Jack" Collier, who proudly shared in this momentous achievement.

Also in attendance were his brother, Captain (R) Will Collier, and sister-in-law Karen Collier, who also kindly prepared the cake that was shared at the end of the ceremony, in an atmosphere of camaraderie and celebration.

A native of Centreville, Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Collier has dedicated the last 16 years of his career to the United States Army, where he has served as an officer in the Corps of Engineers, distinguishing himself for his professionalism, leadership, and commitment to public service.

He holds a bachelor's degree in civil and environmental engineering from the Virginia Military Institute and a master's degree in Transportation Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. His academic background and professional experience have contributed significantly to his performance at the Inter-American Defense College, where he currently leads the Resource Management area with dedication and excellence.

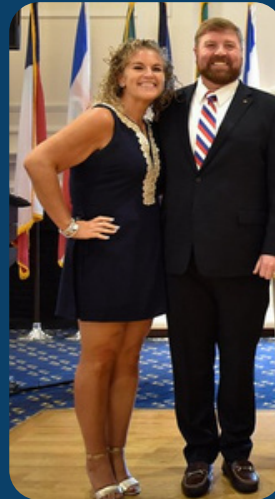
The Inter-American Defense College community congratulates Lieutenant Colonel John Collier on this well-deserved promotion, which reflects his outstanding career and commitment to the values of leadership, responsibility, and service.

This achievement represents not only another step forward in his military career, but also a source of pride for those of us who work alongside him and share his example of professionalism and dedication.

Congratulations, Lieutenant Colonel Collier, on this important recognition of your hard work and dedication to service!



July 3, 2025



Meeting with IADC Mexico Chapter Alumni: A time to remember and connect

The Commandant and Director of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, on his official visit to Mexico, met with the Mexico Chapter of IADC Alumni, at an important meeting held at the Center for Advanced Naval Studies (CESNAV) in Mexico City.

The meeting, which was marked by an atmosphere of camaraderie and institutional pride, served as a valuable opportunity to strengthen ties between IADC leadership and members of this distinguished academic community dedicated to cooperation and hemispheric security.

Vice Admiral José Orozco Tocaven, Director of CESNAV and President of the Mexico Chapter, hosted the evening event, and offered a warm welcome to attendees, highlighting the role that IADC graduates play in various areas of public service and defense in the region.

One of the highlights of the event was the induction of three distinguished Mexican graduates into the IADC Hall of Honor: General Javier Sandoval Dueñas (Class of 1955), Dr. Oscar Aparicio (Class of 1955), and Admiral Raúl Pérez Vázquez (Class of 1951). This recognition symbolizes the ongoing commitment to excellence, leadership, and values that characterize IADC alumni.

Major General Heitkamp expressed how pleased he was to meet with the Mexican alumni community and underscored the importance of regional cooperation and the strategic role that IADC-trained leaders play in promoting hemispheric security and mutual understanding. He also emphasized the Inter-American spirit that guides the College and continues to inspire its members to work toward a more united, secure, and prosperous continent.

The day's events concluded with participants sharing their experiences and reflections, all of which reaffirmed the role of the Inter-American Defense College as a space for dialogue, collaboration, and collective growth. Beyond the classroom, the brotherhood forged at the IADC remains alive and well, guiding graduates in their mission to serve the Americas with leadership, integrity, and a shared vision.



July 8, 2025



CESNAV Institutional Visit to the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College was honored to host a delegation from Mexico's Center for Advanced Naval Studies (CESNAV), comprised of staff from the Doctoral Program in Defense and National Security.

Upon arrival at the College, visitors received a warm welcome from IADC authorities and academic staff. The program began with formal greetings and an official photograph, symbolizing the cooperation and academic ties between the two institutions.

Captain Luis Alejandro Ochoa Demuner of Mexico then gave a presentation on the IADC, highlighting its academic mission, multinational composition, and contribution to strengthening hemispheric security and defense.

A highlight of the visit was a conference delivered by Dr. Mark Hamilton, entitled "The Influence of Inter-American Actors on Hemispheric Security and Defense Policy: An IADC Perspective." Dr. Hamilton addressed key strategic issues concerning the challenges and opportunities of defense cooperation throughout the Americas.

The academic exchange allowed for an enriching dialogue between CESNAV representatives and IADC leadership, promoting a comparative analysis of educational experiences and approaches in the field of international security.

At the conclusion of the academic visit, gifts were presented in recognition of the friendship between the two institutions. Afterward, visitors enjoyed lunch and a guided tour of the College's facilities, where they learned more about IADC's history.

CESNAV's visit to the Inter-American Defense College reaffirms both institutions' shared commitment to higher education in defense and security, and to academic and military cooperation among the nations of the Americas.

These types of exchanges strengthen mutual understanding and promote a shared vision of the challenges facing the hemisphere in terms of peace, stability, and development.



July 9, 2025



Admiral Arthur Fernando Bettega Corrêa visits the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) was honored to receive a visit from the Chief of the General Staff of the Brazilian Navy, Admiral Arthur Fernando Bettega Corrêa, who was accompanied by a distinguished delegation of senior Brazilian Navy officers assigned to the Office of the Brazilian Naval Attaché to the United States of America and the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

The purpose of the visit was to strengthen institutional and academic ties between the Brazilian Navy and the Inter-American Defense College and share perspectives on current challenges in hemispheric defense and security.

Upon arrival, Admiral Bettega and his delegation received a warm welcome from IADC authorities. This was followed by an official photograph, symbolizing the two institutions' shared commitment to cooperation and friendship.

The day continued with a presentation by Rear Admiral Paulo Ozorio, who offered a comprehensive overview of the mission, academic structure, and hemispheric scope of the Inter-American Defense College.

After the presentation, visitors took a guided tour of the College campus, where they learned about the academic facilities and diversity of nations represented in the College's academic program.

The visit concluded with an official luncheon, offering which provided an opportunity to strengthen ties and encourage constructive discussions on shared interests in defense and international cooperation.

Admiral Bettega Corrêa's presence at the Inter-American Defense College underscores Brazil's firm commitment to the values of integration, cooperation, and joint training that characterize the Inter-American defense system.

This meeting reaffirms the importance of the IADC as a space for academic and professional dialogue where the Armed Forces of the Americas share experiences, strengthen ties, and work together for peace, security, and regional stability.



July 16, 2025



IADC Recognizes Excellence: Second Quarter 2025 awards

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) held its Second Quarter 2025 Performance Awards ceremony to recognize the dedication, commitment, and professional excellence of its members.

College leadership, faculty, and administrative staff met in the Ceremonial Hall to pay tribute to those who have distinguished themselves through their outstanding work and contribution to the institution's success.

The ceremony was presided over by Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, Deputy Director of the IADC, and General Rogelio Jorge Amador Mendoza, Chief of Studies, who personally congratulated the award winners and highlighted their valuable contributions to the mission and values of the College.

During the ceremony, awards were presented to the following staff members:

- Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Ramos from the Studies Department.
- Sergeant José Saquicili from Operations.
- Sergeant Gabriel Baptista from Operations.
- Dr. Zoraya Alas from External Relations.

Each of the awardees was selected for their exemplary performance, leadership, commitment to IADC values, and for serving as role models for the College's entire academic and professional community.

In their remarks, the authorities highlighted the importance of effort, discipline, and excellence, which are pillars of institutional success, underscoring that IADC's mission depends on the collaborative efforts and commitment of all its members.

The spirit of camaraderie and pride that characterizes the IADC community was on display at this memorable event. Family, friends, and colleagues came together to applaud awardees' achievements and celebrate their positive impact inside and outside the classroom.

Congratulations to all the winners for their well-deserved recognition and for continuing to be examples of IADC professionalism and dedication!



July 18, 2025



The Inter-American Defense College welcomes new staff members

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) warmly welcomed new staff members who joined the institution for the 2025–2026 academic year and will be assuming administrative, logistics and academic duties at the College.

The purpose of this event was to offer newcomers a comprehensive overview of IADC's mission, structure, and operations, and underscore that they have an important role at this international academic institution dedicated to training civilian and military leaders committed to hemispheric cooperation in defense and security.

During presentations by experienced staff members, the new staff learned firsthand about the principles that guide the College's work, its organizational structure, and the impact of its educational work within the Organization of American States (OAS). The orientation helped them better understand their role on the team and their contribution to the institution's success.

Following several briefs, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, Commandant and Director of the Inter-American Defense College, and his wife, Mrs. Shannon Heitkamp, hosted an informal reception at their residence to welcome the new staff members.

Refreshments and wine were served at the reception, and guests enjoyed the opportunity to exchange experiences and build relationships with other members of the IADC community. It was a warm and collegial gathering, reflecting the respect, teamwork, and professionalism that distinguish the College.

With this event, the IADC reaffirms its commitment to welcoming and fully integrating its professional staff into the life of the College, since their skills and dedication are critical for achieving the objectives of the 2025–2026 academic cycle and the IADC mission.

Welcome to the IADC Family!



July 22, 2025



Convocation for Class 65 of the Inter-American Defense College

In a formal and distinguished setting, the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) held a Convocation Ceremony for Class 65, extending an enthusiastic welcome to the recently arrived military officers, civilian officials, and diplomats who will begin their studies at this prestigious Inter-American institution. The event, held in Kennedy Hall, brought together the students and their families, as well as College authorities, department heads, Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) delegates, and distinguished guests.

The convocation began with the entrance of the authorities who presided over the ceremony, which was conducted in Spanish, English, and Portuguese with the support of a team of interpreters. Next, Lieutenant Colonel John Sneed, Chaplain of the new class, gave the invocation and asked for blessings and wisdom for students as they embark on this new academic and professional challenge.

Major General Richard Heitkamp, Commandant and Director of the Inter-American Defense College, then offered a warm welcome, highlighting the College's importance as a space for multinational cooperation, where cultural and professional diversity enrich learning and strengthen Inter-American ties.

The College's academic staff, led by Dr. Mark Hamilton, Dean of the College, also participated in this important event.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, new students were invited to take the official photograph with College and IADB authorities. Afterward, attendees proceeded to a reception, where College leadership, students, and their families gave a toast to mark the occasion.

This moving event symbolized the beginning of a new stage in the lives of the members of Class 65, and a steadfast Inter-American educational institution that, for more than six decades, has trained civilian and military leaders who today serve with distinction in key positions in defense, security, and diplomacy throughout the continent.

The Inter-American Defense College reasserts its dedication to academic excellence, international collaboration, and a well-rounded educational program for individuals who promote peace, security, and mutual understanding among the nations of the hemisphere.



August 6, 2025



Welcome and Orientation for Class 65 Spouses and New IADC staff

The Inter-American Defense College conducted a successful Welcome Session and Orientation for Class 65 spouses and new IADC staff members, a key initiative aimed at strengthening the academic community and family members that make up this institution.

The purpose of the full-day event was to facilitate family members' transition to life at the College by providing information, tools, and support to ensure a productive and enriching academic year for both students and their loved ones.

During the orientation, spouses had the opportunity to meet members of IADC leadership and support staff, who expressed their enthusiasm in welcoming the attendees and highlighted the important role that families play in the academic and personal lives of students.

Throughout the day, attendees participated in various presentations and activities designed to promote understanding of and full engagement in the IADC community through:

- Overview of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC).
- Academic calendar and main activities for the year.
- Introduction to the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) and the Organization of American States (OAS).
- Presentations by the "Circle of Friends" and the IADC Foundation, organizations that promote camaraderie and mutual support among families.

Over lunch, participants made new friends in a warm and collaborative atmosphere, reflecting the school's multicultural and inclusive spirit.

The afternoon session focused on services and resources available both on base and in the local community, including programs for family welfare, health, transportation, and volunteer opportunities. A tour of the College and its library were also provided.

Thanks to this initiative, Class 65 spouses and family members are starting the year with a strong sense of belonging, armed with valuable resources and ideas for ways to engage in this Inter-American community.



August 8, 2025



Colombian War College visits the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) welcomed a distinguished delegation from Colombia's General Rafael Reyes Prieto War College (ESDEGUE) as part of an academic conference to strengthen cooperation and increase understanding of hemispheric defense and security issues.

The visit was led by General Omar Yesid Moreno Sandoval, Commander of the Special Forces Division. When he arrived with his delegation, IADC leadership offered some welcoming remarks and then an official photograph was taken to mark the occasion.

Colonel Petronio Segarra then gave a presentation outlining the IADC mission, vision, and academic programs, and underscoring the institution's role in promoting strategic exchange among the countries of the Americas.

Another highlight of the visit was the presentation given by Major Sergio Baudin Cruz of the Colombian Air Force, entitled "Satellite Cybersecurity: Machine Learning to Preserve the Integrity of GPS Signals in Aircraft." In his address, he spoke about how artificial intelligence and machine learning can be used to protect critical infrastructure, and he emphasized the importance of technological innovation in contemporary defense environments.

Next, Captain Luiz Antonio Dos Santos of Brazil gave a lecture entitled, "A Multidimensional Approach to Addressing Hemispheric Defense and Security Challenges," in which he emphasized the need for cooperation, adaptability, and strategic thinking among the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

The meeting concluded with a session in which the visiting officers and IADC faculty to exchange ideas and reaffirmed their commitment to educational excellence, regional integration, and the need for a place to build hemispheric security through trust and cooperation.

The ESDEGUE visit to the Inter-American Defense College once again reflects the value of academic dialogue and joint academic programs for educating leaders who can tackle the security challenges of the 21st century.



August 11, 2025



The Inter-American Defense College bids farewell to Officers from Mexico's Secretariat of the Navy

In a moving ceremony held in the IADC ceremonial hall, tribute was paid to Captain Juan Arturo Tiburcio Azcuaga and Lieutenant Alfonso Flores Rojas, both members of the Mexican Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR), who successfully completed their assignment at this prestigious international academic institution and are returning to Mexico.

The event was presided over by Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Osorio, Deputy Director of the Inter-American Defense College, accompanied by Chief of Staff Colonel Bill Saba, who recognized the outstanding work of the Mexican officers during their stay at the institution.

In his remarks, Rear Admiral Blanco Osorio emphasized the importance of SEMAR representatives' participation in building a common understanding of hemispheric security and defense.

The master of ceremonies was Commander Julio García, also a member of SEMAR, who proudly conducted the solemn ceremony, highlighting the commitment, professionalism, and dedication that characterized the work of his compatriots during their time at the College.

Family members of the retiring officers also attended the event, and they were visibly moved as they witnessed this significant professional milestone. College leadership, faculty, and colleagues from various nations in the IADC academic community also attended.

In their farewell remarks, Captain Juan Arturo Tiburcio Azcuaga and Lieutenant Alfonso Flores Rojas expressed their gratitude to the College and the Secretariat of the Navy for the opportunity to represent their country, reiterating their commitment to continue serving the nation with honor, loyalty, and dedication.

With this ceremony, the Inter-American Defense College recognizes and thanks those who demonstrated commitment, professionalism, and dedication in every academic and strategic activity. Their work and dedication strengthened the bonds of cooperation between the nations of the hemisphere and left a lasting mark on the institution, proudly reflecting the spirit of service that characterizes SEMAR.



August 12, 2025



The Carabineros of Chile visit the Inter-American Defense College

Reflecting the brotherhood and shared values that unite the nations of the continent, the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) received an official visit from a delegation led by General Director of the Carabineros de Chile, Marcelo Araya Zapata. The purpose of the visit was to reaffirm the institutions' collaborative efforts and pay solemn tribute to those who have given their lives in defense of freedom and hemispheric security.

The Chilean delegation included General Juan Pablo Díaz, Director of Education, Doctrine, and History; Colonel Evelyn Ehrenfeld, Police Attaché at the Chilean Embassy in Washington, D.C.; and a group of 30 Carabineros officers.

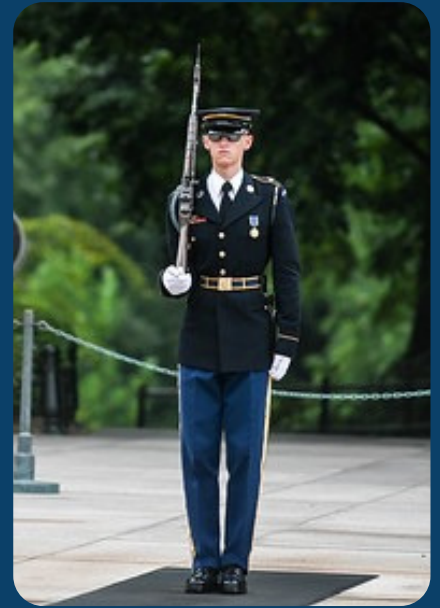
The day began with the delegation traveling to Arlington National Cemetery, where, together with the Commandant and Director of the Inter-American Defense College, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, representatives from both institutions participated in a military ceremony honoring the fallen, in tribute to men and women who gave their lives to the service of peace and freedom.

The formal ceremony included the appropriate honors, followed by an official photograph, which memorialized the meeting between the Carabineros de Chile and the Inter-American Defense College at one of the most emblematic sites in the United States. This moment, laden with symbolism, also reflected the spirit of brotherhood that characterizes the relations between Chile's security forces and the defense institutions of the hemisphere.

After the ceremony at Arlington Cemetery, the delegation moved to the Inter-American Defense College, and toured the campus. There was also an institutional presentation given by Captain Alejandro Demuner, who outlined the IADC mission, vision, and training programs, highlighting its role as an academic institution that brings together the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS).



August 13, 2025



The Carabineros of Chile visit the Inter-American Defense College (Continuation)

The highlight of the day took place in the IADC Academic Auditorium, where General Marcelo Araya Zapata gave a lecture entitled, "The Strategic Role of the Carabineros de Chile in National Defense and Security: Challenges and Responses."

During his presentation, General Araya provided insight into how the Carabineros de Chile have evolved into a modern, professional institution committed to citizen security and democratic stability. He addressed current trends facing the institution—such as organized crime, cybersecurity, and international cooperation in civil defense—emphasizing the critical role of education and doctrine in tackling 21st century challenges.

The meeting concluded with a time for sharing experiences and perspectives about areas for academic collaboration between the Inter-American Defense College and the Carabineros de Chile. Both institutions agreed on the importance of spaces for ongoing dialogue and joint educational programs to develop leaders in security and defense.

Afterwards, the IADC Director hosted a reception at his residence, and the Carabineros' spouses were also invited to attend, which fostered closer ties among those who accompany and support the professionals assigned to both institutions.

The Carabineros de Chile visit to the IADC reaffirmed both countries' commitment to Inter-American cooperation, institutional integration, and the strengthening of professional capacities focused on preserving peace, justice, and security in the Western Hemisphere.

Upon leaving, General Araya thanked the College for its hospitality and highlighted the value of academic exchange as a tool for consolidating a community of nations united by common ideals. As the event drew to a close, participants reaffirmed the friendly, collaborative relations that reflect values that have driven the Inter-American Defense College since its inception and central to its mission to provide future leaders with a comprehensive understanding of the ingredients for a more secure and united hemisphere.



August 13, 2025



Family Day at IADC: A Joyful Gathering

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) enjoyed a day full of camaraderie, fun, and family spirit during its big event, Family Day.

The celebration brought together leadership, faculty, staff and students from Class 65, along with their families and special guests from the Inter-American Defense Board and several embassies of OAS member countries accredited in the United States.

The ceremony began with remarks by the Commandant and Director of the IADC, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, who highlighted the importance of having families involved in the College's academic and multicultural mission.

The program continued with Master of Ceremonies Sergeants Michael Camacho and Christina Barrera, who gave the traditional blessing for the event, marking the beginning of a day full of smiles, fun, and camaraderie.

From the early hours, attendees enjoyed cotton candy, popcorn, and shaved ice, while the little ones had fun on the water slides and bouncy castle.

For lunch, there was a delicious roast pork station, accompanied by fresh salads, and a refreshment and beer stand that offered options for all tastes.

Creativity and healthy competition were on display in traditional games such as musical chairs, sack races, and egg-and-spoon races, among others. The afternoon's festivities wrapped up with the eagerly awaited piñata, which produced an explosion of color and treats, and squeals of joy from the little ones.

The Inter-American Defense College's "Family Day" was not just a party: it was a real demonstration of unity, cooperation, and institutional spirit.

Thanks to everyone's enthusiastic participation, this event cemented itself as a celebration of the values that distinguish the wonderful IADC family—diversity, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to the College's educational and hemispheric mission.



August 22, 2025



Ecuador's Joint Military Defense Academy visits the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) received an official visit from the Joint Military Defense Academy of the Armed Forces of Ecuador (ADEMIL), as part of an international academic tour aimed at strengthening geostrategic understanding and promoting cooperation in hemispheric defense and security.

The delegation was led by Colonel Luis Fernando Pillajo García, Director of ADEMIL, and included prominent Ecuadorian authorities and representatives of international organizations. Among them were Dr. Guillermo Moncayo, Assistant Secretary of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the OAS Secretariat for Multidimensional Security; Dr. Mónica Real, Alternate Delegate of Ecuador to the Organization of American States (OAS); and Colonel Rober Gaona Abad, Permanent Delegate of Ecuador to the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB).

The day began with a welcome ceremony and official photograph, followed by an institutional presentation by Colonel Petronio Segarra, who gave a detailed overview of the mission, vision, and academic structure of the Inter-American Defense College, as well as its role in training strategic leaders within the Inter-American system.

This was followed by a lecture entitled "IADC Response to Multidimensional Defense and Security Challenges in the Hemisphere," given by Brigadier General (R) Juan Carlos Gómez, who addressed current challenges in regional security, including transnational threats and civil-military cooperation.

This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Guillermo Moncayo, Assistant Secretary of CICTE at the OAS, entitled "The OAS and its Role in the Western Hemisphere: a System of Alliances and International Cooperation." In his presentation, he highlighted the importance of multilateralism and strategic alliances in addressing common challenges.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the ADEMIL delegation and IADC leadership exchanged ideas and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen academic cooperation between the institutions. There was also an opportunity to share best practices in teaching, research, and developing multidimensional security strategies, which reaffirmed IADC's role as a space for dialogue, research, and leadership training in the hemisphere.



August 25, 2025



Class 65 Study Trip to West Point and New York City

Class 65 students at the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), accompanied by leadership, faculty, and staff, took a field trip to West Point and New York City as part of their academic program.

The main objective of the trip was to broaden students' understanding of political, economic, social, and cultural aspects of the United States through direct immersion in some of the country's most emblematic and representative places.

The visit began on Monday, August 25, at the United States Military Academy at West Point, a prestigious institution for training U.S. military leaders.

On Tuesday, August 26, the agenda focused on diplomacy and international economics. The day began at the United Nations (UN) and was followed by a presentation on the financial sector in Manhattan.

Wednesday, August 27, was dedicated to cultural outings. In the morning, participants visited Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, symbols of immigration and freedom in the United States.

On Thursday, August 28, students attended a panel on emergency management in a megacity, where local specialists addressed the challenges and strategies for responding to crises in a complex urban environment.

On Friday, August 29, the group visited the 9/11 Museum, where they paid tribute to the victims and reflected on the resilience of the American people in the face of adversity.

This field trip was much more than an academic excursion. It was an experiential learning opportunity that strengthened intercultural understanding, international cooperation, and provided the hemisphere's future leaders in security and defense with strategic perspectives on a variety of issues.

The tour of West Point and New York City allowed Class 65 to connect theory and practice, experience the diversity of American society, and enrich their professional training with a broader understanding of the world's challenges and opportunities.



August 25-29, 2025



Regular Meeting No. 1477 of the Inter-American Defense Board at the IADC

The 1477th Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) was held in Kennedy Hall at the Inter-American Defense College (IADC).

The session was chaired by Major General César Augusto Macedo García of the Peruvian Air Force, in his capacity as Chairman of the IADB Council of Delegates.

Also participating were Major General Reinaldo Salgado Beato, Director General of the IADB General Secretariat, and Brigadier General Eduardo Villegas Velásquez, Vice Chair of the Council of Delegates.

The guest of honor and keynote speaker was Ambassador Luis Ernesto Vargas Silva, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the Organization of American States (OAS), who gave a presentation on “The Impact of Organized Crime on Human Rights.”

The day began with a reception for guests and a welcome coffee, followed by the regular meeting of the Council. Attendees then took a short break before Ambassador Vargas Silva's keynote address, which sparked a spirited exchange about contemporary challenges facing the states of the hemisphere in terms of transnational crime and human rights protections.

After the conference, there was an official photo, followed by a general presentation on the mission and academic programs of the Inter-American Defense College. Next there was a buffet lunch, with dessert and coffee.

To conclude the day, delegates and guests toured different parts of Fort Lesley J. McNair, headquarters of the IADC, where they were given a historical overview of the fort and its relevance to hemispheric cooperation in defense matters.

Regular Meeting No. 1477 reaffirmed the Inter-American Defense Board's commitment to promoting cooperation, dialogue, and leadership training in security and defense in the Western Hemisphere, and in strengthening institutional ties between member states and the OAS.





Canadian Ambassador to the OAS visits the Inter-American Defense College

Within the historic walls of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), a day of diplomacy and camaraderie was enjoyed with the visit of Ambassador Stuart Savage, Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization of American States (OAS).

The Ambassador was welcomed by Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, Director and Commandant of the College, Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, Deputy Director, and Major General Rogelio Jorge Amador Mendoza, Chief of Studies. The reception, marked by a cordial atmosphere, underscored the spirit of cooperation that characterizes the IADC as a meeting place for the nations of the hemisphere.

During the visit, Ambassador Savage learned firsthand about the College's academic mission, its strategic training programs, and the role it plays in promoting security and collective defense in the Americas.

The day began with official photographs and a formal visit to General Heitkamp's office, followed by the signing of the Distinguished Visitors Book, a symbolic act that demonstrated Canada's commitment to the ideals of hemispheric cooperation.

As a token of appreciation, College leadership presented Ambassador Savage with an institutional sweatshirt bearing the slogan "La Mejor" (The Best), a memento symbolizing the bond of friendship between the Canadian representative and the IADC.

The visit concluded with a message of mutual admiration and shared purpose. For the Inter-American Defense College, Ambassador Savage's presence reaffirms the value of dialogue and international collaboration as pillars of security, education, and peace in the Americas.



September 8, 2025



U.S. Ambassador to the OAS visits the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) was honored to receive a visit from Mr. Lee Lipton, Acting Permanent Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS), in a day that strengthened ties of cooperation and reaffirmed a shared commitment to strategic education in the hemisphere.

Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, Director and Commandant of the Inter-American Defense College, welcomed the distinguished visitor at the main entrance and then accompanied him to his office, where they held a cordial and productive meeting.

At that meeting, they discussed various topics of mutual interest, including the importance of multilateralism, regional cooperation on defense and security, and the fundamental role of the IADC as an academic institution of the OAS dedicated to training civilian and military leaders in the Americas.

As part of institutional protocol, Mr. Lee Lipton signed the College's Distinguished Visitors Book, a symbolic gesture that records his visit and his recognition of the educational and diplomatic work of the IADC.

This was followed by an exchange of gifts between the two officials, reflecting the bonds of friendship and respect that unite the College with the United States and the Organization of American States.

The visit concluded with the an official photograph, in which Mr. Lipton and Major General Heitkamp posed with other members of the staff. This image will remain as a testimony to a significant occasion that reinforces the close collaboration between the institutions and their commitment to promoting peace, security, and hemispheric cooperation.

The Inter-American Defense College is proud to have welcomed Mr. Lee Lipton, whose visit highlights the IADC's fundamental role as an academic and diplomatic bridge serving the Americas, promoting excellence, leadership, and regional integration through education.



September 9, 2025



Visit of Admiral Francisco Hernando Cubides Granados to the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College was honored to welcome Admiral Francisco Hernando Cubides Granados, Commander General of the Colombian Armed Forces, who paid an official visit to this Inter-American academic center, and who shared his knowledge and experience with Class 65, "La Mejor" (The Best).

The visit began with a formal meeting between Admiral Cubides and the College authorities, during which they discussed topics of common interest related to regional security, military education, and challenges in hemispheric defense.

As a central part of the visit, Admiral Francisco Hernando Cubides Granados gave a keynote address to the students of Class 65, entitled: "Colombia in the Fight against Drug Trafficking."

During his presentation, the senior officer shared a comprehensive analysis of the Colombian government's sustained efforts in the fight against drug trafficking, highlighting the evolution of security strategies, advances in international cooperation, and the crucial role of the Armed Forces in protecting the country's sovereignty, institutions, and peace.

Afterward, the authorities shared a working lunch in an atmosphere of open and fraternal dialogue, highlighting the cooperation that unites Colombia and Inter-American institutions.

Following an IADC tradition, Admiral Cubides signed the Distinguished Visitors Book, expressing his gratitude for how the IADC has contributed to strengthening military integration and strategic education on the continent. This gesture symbolizes the importance of collaboration and mutual respect among the nations that comprise the Inter-American defense system.

The visit by the Commander General of the Colombian Armed Forces reaffirms Colombia's commitment to the values of cooperation, democracy, and hemispheric security promoted by the Inter-American Defense College.

The IADC was tremendously grateful for Admiral Francisco Hernando Cubides Granados' visit, and acknowledged his leadership, career, and contribution to hemispheric defense and security.



September 10, 2025



IADC Honors the Victims of September 11 with the "Never Forget, Never Forgotten Challenge"

In a moving ceremony filled with respect, unity, and remembrance, the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) held the "Never Forget, Never Forgotten Challenge," an activity designed to pay tribute to those who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The event brought together leadership, faculty, staff and students from Class 65, who ran through the school's facilities in a symbolic tour that recalled the courage and sacrifice of the firefighters, police officers, paramedics, and civilians who risked their lives to save others during that tragedy.

The ceremony was presided over by Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, Deputy Director of the IADC, and General Rogelio Jorge Amador Mendoza, Chief of Studies, who reaffirmed the College's commitment to the values of service, solidarity, and historical memory shared throughout the hemisphere.

The event also featured the special participation of Commander Roberto Concepción of the U.S. Coast Guard, who offered a few commemorative words highlighting the spirit of unity that emerged after the attacks.

This was followed by a minute of silence in honor of the victims, followed by a blessing given by Lieutenant Colonel John Sneed, United States Army Chaplain, in a moment of deep emotion.

Instructions for the tour were given by Captain Gerardo Gómez García of the Mexican Navy, who organized the participating teams. Some of the group members carried firefighting equipment, symbolizing the effort and courage of the first responders who faced danger that day.

The Never Forget, Never Forgotten Challenge was not only a display of physical discipline, but an act of collective remembrance of the fact that, beyond borders and nationalities, heroism and compassion are universal values that define the dedicated service of all IADC members.

"We wil never forget. They will never be forgotten"



September 11, 2025



Ambassador Ana Irene Delgado visits the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) was honored to receive a visit from Ambassador Ana Irene Delgado, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Panama to the Organization of American States (OAS), in a day marked by dialogue, camaraderie, and the strengthening of hemispheric ties.

Upon her arrival, Ambassador Delgado was welcomed at the College's main entrance by Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, Commandant and Director of the IADC; Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, Deputy Director; and General Rogelio Jorge Amador Mendoza, Chief of Studies. The warm welcome reflected the spirit of cooperation and respect that characterizes the relationship between the IADC and the OAS member states.

The delegation then moved to the Academic Auditorium, where students from Class 65 awaited the ambassador. She shared her professional experiences and her views on the importance of leadership, multilateral diplomacy, and regional cooperation in promoting peace and security in the hemisphere.

The students actively participated in the exchange, asking questions and offering reflections that enriched the dialogue. At the conclusion of the lecture, Ambassador Delgado received a symbolic gift from the students of Class 65, in gratitude for her time, her inspiring message, and her valuable contribution to their education.

Later, Ambassador Delgado and her delegation were invited to lunch at the residence of Major General Heitkamp, where they continued their conversations in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

As a token of appreciation and in recognition of her visit, Major General Heitkamp presented Ambassador Delgado with a sweatshirt from the Inter-American Defense College, which symbolized the esteem that the College has for this distinguished guest, who represents values of commitment, leadership, and international service.

The Inter-American Defense College expresses its sincere gratitude to Ambassador Ana Irene Delgado for her visit and for the experience she shared with the IADC academic community, strengthening the bond of cooperation that unite Panama, the OAS, and institutions dedicated to defense and security in the Western Hemisphere.



September 12, 2025



Meeting with Panama Chapter IADC Alumni: Strengthening Ties

In an atmosphere of camaraderie and shared pride, the Panama Chapter of Inter-American Defense College (IADC) Alumni held a special meeting attended by the Commandant and Director of the College, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, at the Cava 15 Bar at the JW Marriott Hotel Panama.

The meeting brought together distinguished Panamanian graduates from different IADC classes, who shared experiences, anecdotes, and reflections on the role of the College in training hemispheric leaders in defense and security matters.

The following alumni participated:

- Oriel Oscar Ortega Benítez, Class 54 and President of the Panama Chapter.
- Carlos Arjona Vergara, Class 25.
- M. Renato Pereira, Class 25.
- Jorge Hernán Miranda Corona, Class 37.
- David Ríos Durán, Class 56.
- Luis Carlos Trejos Castillo, Class 56.
- Erly Estela Miranda Saldaña, Class 56.
- Alfredo Almír Córdoba Guerrero, Class 57.
- Osvaldo Aníbal Ureña Vargas, Class 58.
- Armando King, Class 59.
- Ascanio Isaías Ellis Saldaña, Class 63.

During the evening, alumni took the opportunity to hear from Major General Heitkamp about academic advances and new initiatives at the Inter-American Defense College, an institution that, since its founding, has fostered cooperation, mutual trust, and understanding between the armed forces and civilians of the nations of the Western Hemisphere.

The reunion highlighted not only the sense of belonging and pride that IADC Panamanian graduates feel, but also the enduring bonds that unite all international IADC alumni. The event ended on a fraternal note, with expressions of renewed commitment to strengthening the alumni network, which contributes to regional peace and security in various fields.

Congratulations to the Panama Chapter for its engagement and commitment!



September 16, 2025



First Hemispheric Convention on Security and Defense held in Madrid, Spain

On September 18 and 19, 2025, the Spanish Center for Advanced National Defense Studies (CESEDEN), based in Madrid, hosted the First Hemispheric Convention on Security and Defense, an event that marked a milestone in international cooperation on defense, security, and hemispheric diplomacy.

The event was organized by the Association of Former Advisors and Graduates of the Inter-American Defense College of Ecuador (ASOCID-Ecuador) General. Leopoldo Aurelio Mantilla Ante; the Inter-American Defense College Foundation (IADC Foundation); and the Association of Spanish Graduates in Security and Defence Issues (ADESyD), represented by Brigadier General (S.P.) Dr. Miguel O. Moreno V., MBA, resident of ASOCID-Ecuador; Joanna Esty, Vice President of the IADC Foundation; Ambassador María Cecilia Rozas Ponce de León, Director of the IADC Foundation; Dr. Marian Caracuel Raya, President of ADESyD and Director of Spanish Women in International Security (SWIS).

The Convention brought together high-level civilian and military figures, as well as experts, academics, and institutional representatives from the international arena. Lieutenant General Dr. Miguel Ballenilla y García de Gamarra, Director of CESEDEN. The event was sponsored by INDRA, ACK3 and the donation of a US citizen.

The convention focused on promoting a "whole of society approach," which seeks to integrate citizens into security and defense issues, responding to the international community's growing demands for a participatory and inclusive model of governance.

The debates revolved around the common challenges faced by the nations of the Inter-American System and the Atlantic Community of Nations and reaffirmed the groups' commitment to democratic values and respect for a rules-based international order.

The First Hemispheric Convention on Security and Defense – Madrid 2025 not only served as an academic and professional forum, but as a space for strategic convergence where the Americas and Europe reaffirmed their willingness to cooperate in the face of an increasingly complex, volatile, and uncertain international environment.

The event laid the foundations for a renewed hemispheric alliance, where knowledge, diplomacy, and defense converge in favor of peace, stability, and the development of democratic societies in the 21st century.

Congratulations to the organizers and participants of this event!



September 18-19, 2025



Dreamers & Makers visit the Inter-American Defense College: Young Leaders Transforming the Future

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) enthusiastically welcomed members of the Dreamers & Makers program of the Innovation for Development Foundation (I+D) for a day dedicated to exchanging ideas, exploring opportunities for collaboration, and promoting shared values in leadership, innovation, and sustainable development.

Mrs. Shannon Heitkamp and College authorities welcomed the delegation with formal greetings, followed by an official photo, symbolizing the strengthening of ties between the two institutions. Colonel Ricardo "Ric" Lebrón then gave a presentation on the College, outlining the IADC mission, vision, and academic programs, as well as the role the College plays in training strategic leaders committed to hemispheric security and cooperation.

During the visit, young people from the One Young World organization participated. One Young World is a global youth leadership movement that seeks to empower and develop young leaders to build a more just and sustainable future. Its work focuses on inspiring, training, and raising the profile of young people who promote meaningful social change in their communities.

These leaders shared concrete examples of their work, such as projects to reduce poverty, addiction treatment programs, and the construction of drinking water systems in vulnerable areas, all of which demonstrated their commitment to social welfare and human development.

The day concluded with an emotional exchange of gifts and expressions of mutual gratitude, highlighting the value of collaboration between the academic sector and the new generation of social leaders.

This meeting reaffirmed IADC's stance that education, innovation, and international cooperation are essential pillars for building more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable societies. The visit by Dreamers & Makers and One Young World to the College not only strengthened institutional ties but left a mark of inspiration and hope in the shared commitment to training leaders who dream of a better future for the Americas and make it possible.



September 18, 2025



General (R) Francisco Bermúdez Amado's visit to the Inter-American Defense College: Honoring Legacy

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) was honored to receive a visit from General (R) Francisco Bermúdez Amado, distinguished former Minister of National Defense of Guatemala and a prominent figure in the region's military and academic circles. The event, held at the College, was a tribute to General Bermúdez Amado's career, and celebrated how he has contributed to hemispheric defense and strengthened collaboration between alumni and the IADC.

When General (R) Bermúdez Amado arrived, accompanied by his beloved wife, daughter, son-in-law, and grandson, IADC authorities gave him a warm welcome on behalf of the Director and highlighted the importance of his visit as a testament to continuity and commitment to the values that characterize the institution.

The program continued with Colonel Ricardo "Ric" Lebrón giving a presentation on the IADC, in which he highlighted the latest updates at the College and ongoing projects that seek to engage alumni have them involved current training activities.

General (R) Bermúdez Amado and his family then participated in a guided tour of campus, which allowed them the opportunity to see the renovations made in recent years and to speak with students about current challenges in regional security and defense.

The event concluded with a cordial luncheon, which provided an opportunity to reflect on the importance of leadership, education, and international cooperation as pillars for building a more secure and united hemisphere.

As part of the closing ceremony, institutional gifts were presented and the guest book was signed, to memorialize General Bermúdez Amado's important role in the pages of IADC history.

General (R) Francisco Bermúdez Amado's visit reaffirms the Inter-American Defense College's commitment to training leaders of integrity, exchanging knowledge, and preserving the legacy of those who have dedicated their lives to the service of peace and defense. His example continues to inspire new generations of officers and academics who find in his career a guide to excellence, discipline, and dedication to service.



September 19, 2025



IADC participates in a Conference at the Center for Strategic and International Studies

Class 65 of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) participated in an academic conference at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C., one of the world's most renowned institutions for its work in international security analysis, foreign policy, and global cooperation.

Representing the College's leadership was Rear Admiral Paulo Roberto Blanco Ozorio, Deputy Director of the IADC, who accompanied students throughout the day, reaffirming the institution's commitment to academic excellence and stronger ties with high-level think tanks.

During the event, members of Class 65 actively participated in working groups focused on "Perspectives on Global Order with IADC." Discussions focused on the main challenges facing the current international system, including competition among major powers, the role of multilateral organizations, emerging threats in the field of security, and challenges arising from issues related to climate change, technology, and global governance.

The event also served to strengthen institutional ties between the Inter-American Defense College and CSIS, promoting academic collaboration and joint understanding of defense, security, and international cooperation issues.

The meeting culminated over a friendly luncheon, which facilitated informal exchanges between IADC members and CSIS representatives, strengthening professional relationships and consolidating networks for collaboration between civilian and military leaders from different countries in the hemisphere.

The CSIS event was a valuable learning opportunity for Class 65 and was yet another example of the multidimensional approach that characterizes IADC. Through these types of activities, the College continues to strengthen its mission of training leaders with a comprehensive understanding of hemispheric and global affairs, capable of contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.



September 22, 2025



26th Conference of Directors of Ibero-American Defense Colleges

From September 22 to 26, 2025, the city of Asunción, Paraguay, hosted the XXVI Conference of Directors of the Association of Ibero-American Defense Colleges (ACDIA), organized by the Institute of Higher Strategic Studies (IAEE). This meeting brought together representatives from defense institutions in different countries, consolidating itself as one of the main academic and strategic forums for cooperation in the Ibero-American sphere.

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) participated and reaffirmed its commitment to hemispheric cooperation and its mission to promote academic dialogue among the nations of the continent. The delegation was led by Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, IADC Director and Commandant, accompanied by General Rogelio Jorge Amador Mendoza, Chief of Studies, and Professor Dr. Mark Hamilton, Dean of the Faculty.

During the conference, Major General Heitkamp gave an outstanding presentation entitled "Regional Cooperation and Joint Responses to Transnational Threats: Some Reflections from the Inter-American Defense College." In his remarks, he emphasized the importance of strengthening coordination mechanisms among defense academies to address global challenges, noting that "hemispheric security requires a shared vision based on trust, knowledge, and cooperation among our institutions."

The IADC team also participated in various bilateral meetings with representatives from Latin American military academies, promoting new initiatives for academic exchange and institutional cooperation. These activities underscored the College's role as a strategic bridge between defense communities in the Western Hemisphere.

Through its active participation in this meeting, the Inter-American Defense College reaffirmed its commitment to promoting strategic education, academic diplomacy, and multilateral cooperation in support of hemispheric peace and security. The exchange of ideas, experiences, and best practices strengthens ties between nations and contributes to the development of a more integrated hemispheric community capable of facing the challenges of an increasingly complex global environment.





Meeting with the Paraguay Chapter of IADC Alumni: Celebrating Legacy

The meeting of the Paraguay Chapter of IADC Alumni was held at Churrasquería O Gaúcho, located in Asunción, Paraguay. The evening brought together a distinguished group of Paraguayan alumni and IADC leadership, consolidating the academic and professional ties that unite this hemispheric community.

Rear Admiral (R) Cíbar Benítez Cáceres, a graduate of Class 36 and President of the Paraguay Chapter presided over the meeting. Other distinguished alumni of the Inter-American Defense College attended the event: Flavio Alcibiades Abadie Goana (Class 20), Fructuoso Mendoza Vega (Class 30), Federico A. González Franco (Class 35), Julio César Arriola (Class 36), Andrés Duarte Amarillas (Class 37), Juan Carlos Benítez Frommerz (Class 39), Marilyn Victoria Rejala Altemburguer (Class 48), Hernán Ricardo Galeano Bogado (Class 53), Ángel Julián Chamorro Monzón (Class 56), and Zoraya Rosanna Alas Candia (Class 63).

Representing the College authorities were Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, Commandant and Director of the IADC; General Rogelio Jorge Amador Mendoza, Chief of Studies; and Dr. Mark Hamilton, Dean of the College. Their presence reflected the College's firm commitment to the alumni community, and the importance of maintaining an ongoing dialogue between the IADC and its graduates throughout the hemisphere.

One of the highlights of the evening was the induction of Rear Admiral (R) Cíbar Benítez Cáceres into the Hall of Honor of the Inter-American Defense College, a recognition that distinguishes those who have made outstanding contributions to strengthening security and cooperation among the countries of the Americas. This tribute highlighted his exemplary career, marked by leadership, dedication to service, and commitment to hemispheric integration in defense matters. His induction into the Hall of Honor is also a source of pride for Paraguay and all IADC graduates.

The Paraguayan alumni community reaffirmed its willingness to continue actively participating in the academic and professional spaces promoted by the IADC, contributing to the exchange of knowledge and the building of a shared vision of hemispheric security.

Congratulations to the Paraguay Chapter on this significant achievement and its renewed commitment to hemispheric defense and security!





United States Air Force Officers visit the Inter-American Defense College

The Inter-American Defense College (IADC) was honored to receive an institutional visit from two senior officers of the United States Air Force, Colonel Pedro Matos and Lieutenant Colonel Carl Corvin, who spent a day touring the College's facilities and learning about its work.

The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen academic ties and collaboration between the IADC and the U.S. Air Force. The visitors were received by the college's leadership and academic staff, who offered them a warm welcome on behalf of the IADC community.

The program began with an official reception and formal photograph. Colonel Ricardo “Ric” Lebrón then gave a presentation on the institution, highlighting the College’s mission, vision, and multinational structure, as well as its role in training civilian and military leaders in hemispheric defense and security.

The guests then took a guided tour of the IADC facilities, where they were able to see the academic and administrative spaces up close, as well as the diversity of nations represented among the student body and management, administrative, and teaching staff.

The day concluded with an exchange of institutional gifts, symbolizing the camaraderie and cooperation between the two institutions.

The visit by senior officers from the United States Air Force reaffirms the Inter-American Defense College's commitment to strengthening academic collaboration and exchange and promoting a shared vision of security and defense in the Western Hemisphere.



September 23, 2025



IADC Class 65 Participates in the 2025 AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference

Class 65 of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) participated as a guest at the Air & Space Forces Association (AFA) 2025 Air, Space & Cyber Conference, one of the most prestigious events in the field of international defense and security.

Organized by the AFA, the conference took place from September 22 to 24, 2025, bringing together defense industry leaders, senior military officials, and experts in technological innovation under the central theme "Achieving Decisive Advantage in an Age of Growing Threats."

During the event, members of Class 65 had the opportunity to attend keynote speeches, panel discussions, and technology exhibitions that addressed key topics such as the evolution of aerospace power, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence applied to defense, and strategies for maintaining operational superiority in complex environments.

This experience allowed IADC students to enhance their understanding of contemporary international security dynamics and exchange perspectives with military and academic leaders and specialists.

Class 65's participating in the 2025 AFA Air, Space & Cyber Conference reflects IADC's commitment to academic excellence and continuous learning, by providing its members with a comprehensive overview of emerging challenges in the air, space, and cyber domains.

The Inter-American Defense College was proud to have Class 65 represent it at this world-class event, reaffirming its role as a leading institution in training strategic leaders in hemispheric defense.



September 24, 2025



Defense Attaché of the Republic of Argentina visits IADC

The Inter-American Defense College was honored to receive a visit from the Defense Attaché of the Republic of Argentina in the United States, Brigadier General Alejandro Guillermo Liberatori, who came to the College to strengthen institutional relations, promote academic cooperation, and coordinate future activities between the IADC and the Argentine diplomatic corps.

When the distinguished guest arrived, after formal greetings and an official photo, symbolizing the two institution's friendship and collaboration, a friendly and professional meeting ensued.

During the office call with General Liberatori, topics of mutual interest were discussed, especially those related to the upcoming International Studies trip that will include academic activities in Argentina. The conversation highlighted the importance of exchanging knowledge and experiences in hemispheric defense and security.

IADC representatives also provided General Liberatori with a presentation about the College, which offered a comprehensive overview of its mission, academic programs, and strategic objectives. This presentation made it possible to explore areas for potential collaboration in the future, given both institutions' commitment to promoting international cooperation in education and security.

The visit concluded with the presentation of institutional gifts and the signing of the guest book, which symbolized the strengthening ties between the College and the Argentine delegation.

The Inter-American Defense College expresses its sincere gratitude to Brigadier General Alejandro Guillermo Liberatori for his visit and continued support of the educational and diplomatic mission that unites the nations of the hemisphere in the pursuit of peace, cooperation, and joint development.



September 30, 2025



The Inter-American Defense College Foundation: Strengthening Inter-American Ties

Established in 2004, the Inter-American Defense College Foundation (IADCF) operates as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity dedicated to advancing and supporting the international engagement initiatives of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC).

From July to September 2025, the Foundation served as a key contributor to multiple College events, further solidifying its role as a vital partner in advancing both institutional and community development at the IADC.

In August 2025, Major General Richard J. Heitkamp conducted an official visit to Argentina, during which Ricardo Vanella, President of the Foundation, facilitated and participated in a meeting that culminated in the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Inter-American Defense College and the National Defense University (UNDEF).

At the IADC's annual Family Day on August 22, 2025, the Foundation served as an event sponsor and hosted a tent featuring commemorative merchandise, membership enrollment options, and informational materials about its programs and initiatives.

The Foundation also took part in the First Hemispheric Security and Defense Convention, which was convened in Spain in September 2025. Ambassador María Cecilia Rozas, a director of the Foundation, delivered a keynote address emphasizing the significance of academic dialogue and cooperation across the hemisphere.

The Foundation actively participated in the WHINSEC/CID 2025 High-Level Alumni Seminar, which took place in the Dominican Republic in September 2025. Ms. Shannon Heitkamp delivered a comprehensive presentation detailing the Foundation's initiatives and oversaw the creation of testimonial videos, where alumni discussed their experiences and insights regarding the IADC.

Due to its continuous dedication to the College and in support of inter-American fellowship, the IADC Foundation formally invites all members of the Inter-American Defense College community to participate as active members.

Becoming a member of the Foundation facilitates a direct contribution to sustaining academic excellence and reinforcing the values of cooperation and solidarity that are hallmarks of the Inter-American Defense College.







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Message from the IADC Alumni Program

Dear IADC alumni and friends:

We are delighted to collaborate on the production of a new edition of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) Alumni Newsletter. Since our last publication, we have conducted numerous activities and meetings that reflect the commitment, energy, and community spirit that characterize our great Inter-American family.

We are proud to share with you the achievements made during this period, but above all, we are deeply gratified by the extraordinary interaction we have maintained with our alumni. We appreciate your continued commitment and active involvement, which have greatly contributed to reinforcing our collaborative relationships.

This newsletter, developed under the guidance of Major General Richard J. Heitkamp, Commandant and Director of the IADC, is dedicated to maintaining the strong sense of connection that characterizes our community.

The July-September 2025 edition has been meticulously prepared by the IADC Alumni Program team, consisting of Colonel (Ret.) Ricardo “Ric” Lebrón, Director of the External Relations Department (USA); Lieutenant Colonel Cuauhtémoc Ceceña (Mexico), Alumni Program Officer; and Dr. Zoraya Rosanna Alas Candia (Paraguay), Outreach and Alumni Coordinator.

We remain committed to supporting you and strengthening this valuable professional and personal network in collaboration with you.

We invite you to stay connected with the IADC through our official Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn accounts, and to visit our Flickr page to access the complete photo albums of each event: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iadc/albums>

Thank you for continuing to be an active part of this community that transcends borders, and we hope to see you again very soon in the next edition of the IADC Newsletter.

With appreciation and gratitude,

The IADC Alumni Program Team

