



WASHINGTON SECURITY AND DEFENSE SEMINAR SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Hugo Rodriguez

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central America
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Hugo F. Rodriguez, Jr. became Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs in May 2019. A career member of the United States Senior Foreign Service, Mr. Rodriguez served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Asunción, Paraguay, from July 2016 to April 2019, and as the Embassy's *Charge d' Affaires* from January 2017 to March 2018.

During his career as a Foreign Service Officer, Mr. Rodriguez served as Consul General at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City from July 2014 to June 2015, and as the Mission's Acting Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs from June 2015 to June 2016. While there, he led the effort to document and gain social service access for the estimated 500,000 U.S. citizen children of Mexican parents living in the country. He previously served as Deputy Director of the Office of Mexican Affairs, as Division Chief for the Western Hemisphere in the Bureau of Consular Affairs' Overseas Citizen Services office, and as a Watch Officer and Senior Watch Officer in the Executive Secretariat's Operations Center.

Mr. Rodriguez has also served abroad at U.S. Embassies in Lima, Peru and Rome, Italy. He was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and holds a Master's degree in Business Administration from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Hampden-Sydney College.

John Kreul

*Principal Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy*



John Kreul is the Principal Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs in the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. Prior to joining Western Hemisphere Affairs, John served in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (ASD) for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs from 2012-2014, first as Senior Advisor to the ASD for Regional Strategy and Plans, and then as the Chief of Staff to the ASD. Before those positions, John worked as the USD(P)'s Human Capital Strategy Team Lead, as Director of OSD Policy's Coalition Affairs Office, in the Policy Planning Office, as Director of the Afghanistan Office, and in the Iran and Strategy Offices. He completed an assignment as a Director in the National Security Council's Defense Policy and Strategy Directorate from 2009-2011 and attended the National Defense University's Industrial College of the Armed Forces from 2007-2008. Before coming to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, John worked at the Department of State's Nonproliferation Bureau, where he started as a Presidential Management Intern (PMI) in 2000. While at State, he completed details to the U.S. Mission to NATO in Brussels in 2001 and to the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad in 2003. Prior to joining the government, John worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Association of the U.S. Army. He attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service as an undergrad and the London School of Economics for his Masters.



JUAN CARLOS CORREA CONSUEGRA

Brigadier General, Colombian Army

Director, Exercises and Coalition Affairs (J7/9), United States Southern Command

Brigadier General Juan Carlos Correa currently serves as Director, J7/9 (Exercises and Coalition Affairs), United States Southern Command. His current responsibilities include oversight of U.S. Southern Command's Civil Affairs, Humanitarian Assistance, Interagency Integration, Joint Training and Exercises, Partner Nation Advisors, Public Private Cooperation, and Science, Technology, and Innovation programs throughout Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

Upon graduation from the General José María Córdova Military Academy, Brigadier General Correa was commissioned a Cavalry Second Lieutenant in the Colombian Army on December 1, 1989, and has served in Special Forces and Cavalry units throughout his career.

During his career, Brigadier General Correa held various command positions, including Commander of the 2nd Special Forces Battalion, Commander of the 13th and 28th Cavalry Battalions, Commander of the 28th Jungle Brigade, Chief of Army Planning and Transformation, and Commander of the Army National Training Center. Brigadier General Correa is a graduate of the U.S. Armor School, Intermediate Level Education (ILE) and School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) at the Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. He holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, a Master of Military Arts and Science (MMAS) in Theater Operations from the U.S. School of Advanced Military Studies, a Master of Security Defense from the Colombian War College, and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Webster University. Brigadier General Correa is also a graduate of the U.S. Army Ranger and Pathfinder Schools.



BRIGADIER GENERAL RICHARD J.E. HEITKAMP

Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs (Western Hemisphere)

Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate, The Joint Chiefs of Staff

Brigadier General Richard (Rich) Heitkamp is the Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs (Western Hemisphere), Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate (J5), Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon, Washington, DC. He is responsible for political and military matters in North America, Central America, and South America. Additionally, his portfolio includes policy issues associated with Homeland Defense, Defense Support of Civil Authorities, and Counter-Narcotics. He provides policy recommendations to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff through close coordination with the National Security Council, Department of State, Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Southern Command, and U.S. Northern Command.

Prior assignments include planning and engineering positions: deputy J5, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado; commander, 420th Engineer Brigade, Bryan, Texas; G3, 416th Theater Engineer Command, Darien, Illinois; deputy commander, Transatlantic Division, Winchester, Virginia; Kabul Area OIC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Afghanistan; commander, 12/104th Engineer Battalion and later 1/95th Engineer Battalion, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; assistant S3 and later company commander, 27th Engineer Battalion, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, NC.

He is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), Fort Leavenworth, Kansas and the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. He holds degrees in civil engineering, environmental engineering (water and wastewater treatment), engineering management, military arts & sciences, and strategic studies.



Dr. Hal Brands

*Henry A. Kissinger Distinguished Professor of Global Affairs
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies*

Dr. Hal Brands is the Henry A. Kissinger Distinguished Professor of Global Affairs at the Johns Hopkins SAIS as well as a Senior Fellow at the Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments and the Foreign Policy Research Institute. His listed expertise includes, among a number of topics, Latin American security and diplomacy, grand strategy, history, domestic influences on foreign policy, and nuclear policy and proliferation. He is the author of several books, including *Latin America's Cold War* (2010), *Making the Unipolar Moment: U.S. Foreign Policy and the Rise of the Post-Cold War Order* (2016), and *American Grand Strategy in the Age of Trump* (2018). Dr. Brands received his BA from Stanford University

(2005) and his PhD from Yale University (2009).



Dr. Sarah Sewall

*Executive Vice President for Policy
In-Q-Tel, Center for New American Security*

Dr. Sarah Sewall is the Speyer Distinguished Scholar and Professor at Johns Hopkins' School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC., a Senior Fellow at InQTel, and serves on the boards of the Center for Naval Analyses and Creative Associates.

From 2014-2017, she served as Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights. During the Clinton Administration, she served as the inaugural Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Peacekeeping. Dr. Sewall taught at Harvard for over a decade, where she directed the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy and worked closely

with the U.S. military to advance civilian protection in war.

Dr. Sewall is the author or co-author of a number of publications including *Chasing Success: Air Force Efforts to Reduce Civilian Harm* (Air University Press, 2016); *Mass Atrocity Response Operations: A Military Planning Handbook*, with Raymond, D. & Chin, S. (Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, 2010); and *A Radical Field Manual*, The U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual. (University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Dr. Sewall has taught at the Naval War College and served on the U.S. Secretary of Defense's Defense Policy Board. She graduated from Harvard and received her doctorate from Oxford University, where she was a Rhodes Scholar.



Julie Chung

*Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, U.S. Department of State*

Julie Chung assumed the position of Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs in November 2018. She was previously the Director for Japan in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs and served as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary from February-September 2018. A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, she held positions as the Deputy Chief of Mission in Cambodia and Economic Counselor in Thailand.

Ms. Chung served as the Deputy Political Counselor in Bogota, where she managed the U.S. government's largest extradition program, including paramilitary and narco-trafficking cases. As the United States representative to the G24 in Bogota, Ms. Chung led initiatives focused on demining, labor, and human rights. In Baghdad, she served as Chief of Staff coordinating civilian-military foreign assistance with thirteen agencies and sections, and managed the interagency Emergency Assistance Coordination Team in response to suicide bombings. While working in the Office of Korean Affairs in Washington, she frequently traveled to the DPRK to implement the U.S.-North Korea Agreed Framework. She also served in Guangzhou, Tokyo, and Hanoi as a public diplomacy officer and APEC coordinator.

Ms. Chung is from Huntington Beach, California and joined the Foreign Service in 1996 as the first cohort of the Thomas R. Pickering Fellowship program. She received a B.A. in Political Science from the University of California San Diego and an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University. Her foreign languages include Korean, Japanese, Spanish, and Khmer.



Mauricio Claver-Carone
National Security Council

Mauricio Claver-Carone is the Executive Director of Cuba Democracy Advocates in Washington, D.C., a non-partisan organization dedicated to the promotion of a transition in Cuba towards human rights, democracy and the rule of law. In an independent capacity, Mauricio serves on the Board of Directors of the U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC, the largest, single foreign-policy political committee in the United States. Until November 2003, Mauricio was an attorney-advisor for the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Prior to his work for the U.S. Government, he served on the full-time faculty of The Catholic University of America's School of Law, and as an Adjunct Professor at The George Washington University's National Law Center. *Poder Magazine* recently recognized Mauricio as one of 20 entrepreneurs, executives, leaders and artists under 40 who are shaping the future of the U.S. and the world.



Lieutenant General Charles Hooper
Director
Defense Security Cooperation Agency

Lieutenant General Charles Hooper is the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. A native of Willingboro, New Jersey, he was commissioned in 1979 as an infantryman. LTG Hooper has served in command and staff assignments in the U.S. Army Armor Center, the 25th Infantry Division, the 82nd Airborne Division and the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. His political-military assignments include: Assistant Army Attaché to the People's Republic of China, U.S. Embassy Beijing, China; Deputy Division Chief, War Plans Division, G35, Army Staff; Senior Country Director for China, Taiwan and Mongolia Policy, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Chief, Army International Affairs Division, G35, Army Staff; and as an instructor at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. In 2007, LTG Hooper was promoted to brigadier general and appointed the U.S. Defense Attaché to the People's Republic of China serving from 2007 until 2009. He then served as the Deputy Director for Strategic Planning and Policy, J-5, United States Pacific Command from 2009 to 2011. LTG Hooper was promoted to major general in 2011 and served as the Director of Strategy, Plans, and Programs, J5, United States Africa Command from August 2011 until March 2014. From July 2014 until June 2017, LTG Hooper was Senior U.S. Defense Official/U.S. Defense Attaché and Chief, Office of Military Cooperation, U.S. Embassy Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. LTG Hooper is the senior U.S. Army Foreign Area Officer and has almost 16 years of security cooperation, security assistance and military attaché experience.

LTG Hooper is a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and earned a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree from Harvard University in 1989. While at Harvard, LTG Hooper was awarded the Don K. Price Award for Academic Excellence and Public Service and was selected to give the graduate student address at the 1989 Harvard Commencement. In 2005, he returned to Harvard University as a Senior Research Fellow at the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and the UK Ministry of Defense Chinese Language School, Hong Kong. He has earned the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantryman Badge, Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Army Recruiter Badge and the French National Defense Medal. In addition, LTG Hooper is fluent in the Mandarin dialect of the Chinese language; the national language of China.



Dr. Patrick Cronin
Senior Director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program
Center for a New American Security

Currently at the Center for a New American Security, Dr. Cronin has previously been the Senior Director of the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS), the Director of Studies at the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), and was the Senior Vice President and Director of Research at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). He is a Graduate of International Relations at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, where he received both his M.Phil. and D.Phil. degrees. A couple of his major publication include *Civilian Surge: Key to Complex Operations* and *The Impenetrable Fog of War: Reflections on Modern Warfare and Strategic Surprise*.



Dr. Richard Hooker
Professor of National Security Strategy
National War College

Dr. Richard D. Hooker, Jr. joined the faculty of the National War College in July 2018 after previous service as NDU's Director, Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS). A career Army officer, his military service included combat tours in Grenada, Somalia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, including command of a parachute brigade in Baghdad. His military service also included tours in the offices of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff of the Army. A veteran of three tours with the National Security Council, he previously served as Assistant Professor at West Point, as the Army Chair at the National War College and as Dean of the NATO Defense College in Rome. Dr. Hooker graduated with a B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy in 1981 and holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in International Relations from the University of Virginia. He is a Distinguished Graduate of the U.S. National War College. His areas of expertise include Defense Policy and Strategy, the Middle East, NATO/Europe and Civil-Military Relations.



Sergio de la Peña
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs
United States Department of Defense

Sergio de la Peña is the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs. He is responsible for security, defense, and policy issues in the region, as well as overseeing the funding of defense cooperation programs for U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command. Previously, he was an independent consultant and defense contractor, an instructor of defense, security and leadership courses to government officials and a frequent commentator on Spanish-speaking national and international news media. Now a retired US Army officer he served for 30 years as an Air Defense and Foreign Area officers in a variety of staff and leadership positions. Mr. de la Peña was born in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico and raised near Roswell, New Mexico. He was an ROTC graduate from the University of Iowa, where he earned a B.S. in psychology. While attending the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College he earned a Master of Military Art and Science degree. He attended the Inter-American Defense College with Class of 42.



Rear Admiral Steven D. Poulin
SOUTHCOM Director of Operations
U.S. Coast Guard

Rear Admiral Poulin serves as U.S. Southern Command's Director of Operations, directing U.S. military operations across the Caribbean Basin plus Central and South America. Previously, he was Commander of the First Coast Guard District, where he directed all Coast Guard missions across eight states in the Northeast including over 2,000 miles of coastline from the U.S.-Canadian border to northern New Jersey and 1300 miles offshore. He graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1984 with a Bachelor of Science in Management. He was awarded his Juris Doctor, magna cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law in 1992. Other degrees include: Master of Law (Environmental Law), with highest honors, from the George Washington University Law School in 2002; Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in 2005; and Master of Public Administration from the University of South Alabama in 1989. His military decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (five awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards), and Coast Guard Achievement Medal.



Major General James E. Taylor
Director
Inter-American Defense College (IADC)

Major General James Taylor serves as the Director of the Inter-American Defense College. He has had many assignments throughout his career including most recently, Joint Actions Control Officer Director of the Office Secretariat Joint Staff at the Pentagon, Deputy Director of Plans, Policy, and Procedure at United States Northern Command, Director of NORTHCOM, and Special Assistant to the DARING for Operations, Plans and Strategy. He received a BS and MS in Biochemistry from Iowa State University, an MS in International Relations from Troy University, a MMAS (Military Arts and Sciences) from United States Army Command and General Staff College, and a MS in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University, National War College. Major General Taylor has received numerous awards, among them the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters), the Bronze Star Medal, and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.



Dr. Lawrence (Larry) J Korb
Senior Fellow
Center for American Progress

Lawrence J. Korb is a senior fellow at American Progress. He is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. Prior to joining American Progress, he was a senior fellow and director of national security studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. From July 1998 to October 2002 he was council vice president, director of studies, and holder of the Maurice Greenberg Chair. His areas of expertise include federal budget, military, defense policy, and defense budget. Dr. Korb served as assistant secretary of defense (manpower, reserve affairs, installations, and logistics) from 1981 through 1985. In that position, he administered about 70 percent of the defense budget. For his service in that position, he was awarded the Department of Defense's medal for Distinguished Public Service. Dr. Korb served on active duty for four years as Naval Flight Officer, and retired from the Naval Reserve with the rank of captain. He received his Ph.D. in political science from the State University of New York at Albany and has held full-time teaching positions at the University of Dayton, the Coast Guard Academy, and the Naval War College. Dr. Korb has authored, co-authored, edited, or contributed to more than 20 books and written more than 100 articles on national security issues. His books include *The Joint Chiefs of Staff: The First Twenty-five Years*; *The Fall and Rise of the Pentagon*; *American National Security: Policy and Process*, *Future Visions for U.S. Defense Policy*; *Reshaping America's Military*; *A New National Security Strategy in an Age of Terrorists, Tyrants, and Weapons of Mass Destruction*; *Serving America's Veterans*; and *Military Reform*.



Mark F. Cancian

*Senior Adviser, International Security Program
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*

Mark Cancian (Colonel, USMCR, ret.) is a senior adviser with the CSIS International Security Program. He joined CSIS in April 2015 from the Office of Management and Budget, where he spent more than seven years as chief of the Force Structure and Investment Division, working on issues such as Department of Defense budget strategy, war funding, and procurement programs, as well as nuclear weapons development and nonproliferation activities in the Department of Energy. Previously, he worked on force structure and acquisition issues in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and ran research and executive programs at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. In the military, Colonel

Cancian spent over three decades in the U.S. Marine Corps, active and reserve, serving as an infantry, artillery, and civil affairs officer and on overseas tours in Vietnam, Desert Storm, and Iraq (twice). Since 2000, he has been an adjunct faculty member at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, where he teaches a course on the connection between policy and analysis. A prolific author, he has published over 40 articles on military operations, acquisition, budgets, and strategy and received numerous writing awards. He graduated with high honors (magna cum laude) from Harvard College and with highest honors (Baker scholar) from Harvard Business School.



Douglas Farah

*President of IBI Consultants
Senior Visiting Fellow, National Defense University*

Mr. Douglas Farah specializes in research, writing, and training on transnational criminal organizations and armed groups, and their effects on states and corruption; terrorism, terror finance, and proliferation; and, illicit financial flows, with a particular focus on the Western Hemisphere, Africa, and globalized networks. A veteran investigator with more than 25 years of experience, Mr. Farah is a consultant on these and related issues to numerous U.S. Government departments, agencies, combatant commands, as well as private groups. He also applies his expertise on subjects such as drug trafficking and investigative journalism with leading academic centers in the United States and abroad,

including the World Bank, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, National Endowment for Democracy, Consortium for the Study of Intelligence, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), where he is an Adjunct Fellow. Mr. Farah has testified numerous times before Congress, including the House Committees on Foreign Affairs; Financial Services; Oversight and Government Reform; Homeland Security; and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He is a member of the Princeton Project for National Security.



Dr. Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera

*Associate Professor
Schar School of Policy and Government, George Mason University*

Dr. Correa-Cabrera areas of expertise are Mexico-US relations, organized crime, immigration, border security, and human trafficking. Her newest book is titled *Los Zetas Inc.: Criminal Corporations, Energy, and Civil War in Mexico* (University of Texas Press, 2017; Spanish version: Planeta, 2018). She was recently the Principal Investigator of a research grant to study organized crime and trafficking in persons in Central America and along Mexico's eastern migration routes, supported by the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Professor Correa-Cabrera is now working on a new book project that analyzes the main political, cultural, and ideological aspects of Mexican irregular immigration in the United States and US immigration policy entitled *"Illegal Aliens": The Human Problem of Mexican Undocumented Migration*. She is also finalizing a book titled *An Improvised War: Personal Stories and Political Perspectives of Mexico's Security* (co-authored with Dr. Tony Payan). At the same time, she is co-editing a volume titled *North American Borders in Comparative Perspective: Re-Bordering Canada, The United States of America and Mexico in the 21st Century* (in contract with University of Arizona Press, forthcoming Spring 2020).

Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera is Past President of the Association for Borderlands Studies (ABS). She is also Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Non-resident Scholar at the Baker Institute's Mexico Center (Rice University). She is also co-editor of the *International Studies Perspectives* (ISP) journal.



Tommy Ross

*Senior Associate, International Security Program
Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*

Tommy Ross is a career national security professional and has worked in senior leadership positions in both chambers of Congress, the executive branch, and the private sector. As a senior associate at CSIS, his interests include U.S. security assistance, democracy promotion and institutional capacity building, defense strategy, and congressional national security oversight. Mr. Ross served as the first deputy assistant secretary of defense for security cooperation, in which capacity he led the most significant reforms to Department of Defense security cooperation, resources, and implementation in the department's history. He joined the Defense Department after 12 years as a staff member in Congress. He served as senior

intelligence and defense adviser to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) and as legislative director for Representative David Price (D-NC) and Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD), advising each on national security policy. During his time with Representative Price, he also supported the House Democracy Partnership, a congressional commission working to strengthen institutional capabilities of legislatures in developing democracies. Mr. Ross is a graduate of Davidson College in North Carolina and holds an M.A. in theology and ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York. He is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations and a recipient of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service.



Dr. Craig A. Deare

*Department Chair of Strategic Initiatives and Leadership in the College of International Security Affairs
National Defense University (NDU)*

Dr. Deare has served on the faculty of the National Defense University since January, 2001. Dr. Deare came to the College of International Security Affairs in March 2010 from the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, where he served for nine years as a Professor of National Security Affairs and Dean of Academic Affairs. Dr. Deare served in the U.S. Army for 20 years with a variety of assignments specializing in Military Intelligence and Latin American Foreign Area Officer duties. He earned his B.A. in Political Science from the

University of Arizona; his M.A. in International Relations & International Economics from the School of Advanced International Studies of The Johns Hopkins University; and his Ph.D. in International Relations from SAIS/Hopkins. He is a graduate of the United States Marine Corps Command & Staff College, and earned the Master Parachutist Badge, the Military Freefall Parachutist Badge, and Ranger Tab.



David Becker

*Director for Civil Military Activities Integration
Center for Technology and National Security Policy*

David Becker works to promote cross-cutting research and knowledge sharing between the US military and civilian organizations, from other parts of the US government to non-governmental organizations or international organizations, particularly in the fields of humanitarian and disaster relief, stabilization, or development. As Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University, David Becker continued a long-held interest in "contested development" and multi-disciplinary approaches to foreign assistance. He spent 23 years overseas as a Foreign Service officer in countries with weak governance, active insurgencies and transnational criminal networks.

Eight of those years were supervising large USG-funded security and counter-narcotics efforts in Guatemala (1992-1996) and Colombia (1997-2001). He also served in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Honduras and even Miami (as a senior level advisor to a major telecom company's overseas operations). From 2004-2006 he was the Foreign Policy Advisor to the TRANSCOM Combatant Commander, supporting the command's transformation to new public-private operations in difficult global locations. A 2004 graduate of the National War College Masters program, he has published several articles on counterinsurgency, stabilization and complex and contested development.



Ricardo Zúñiga
Senior Diplomatic Fellow
Woodrow Wilson Center

Ricardo Zúñiga is a Senior Diplomatic Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center Latin America Program. Ricardo is on detail from the U.S. Department of State, where he is a Senior Foreign Service Officer. Ricardo arrived at the Wilson Center after completing a tour as the Director of the International Student Management Office at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. Previous assignments include service as U.S. Consul General in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 2015 to 2018, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs at the National Security Council from 2012 to 2015, and Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil from 2010 to 2012. Ricardo also worked in

the State Department's Office of Cuban Affairs, the U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and as the Desk Officer for Uganda and Tanzania. He served overseas at U.S. missions in Matamoros, Mexico, Lisbon, Havana, and Madrid. Ricardo was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras and has a B.A. in Foreign Affairs and Latin American Studies from the University of Virginia. He and his wife Christina have two daughters, Caroline and Sarah.