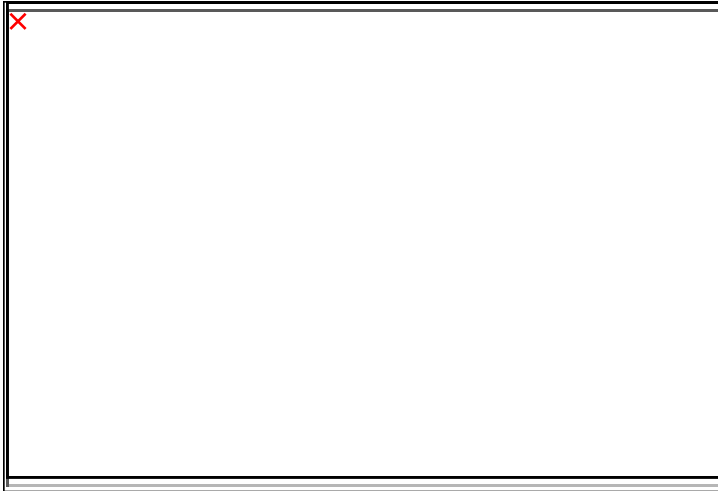


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Feb. 11, 2014 -- The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces of El Salvador joined many other notable Army War College graduates in the International Hall of Fame as its 46th inductee.

The War College leadership, staff, faculty, students and distinguished visitors honored

Maj. Gen. Rafael Melara Rivera, a USAWC 2007 graduate, with induction to the International Fellows Hall of Fame on Feb. 11 in Bliss Hall.

“Major General Melara has exemplified the tenets of the Army War College through his leadership of his nation’s armed forces and, in doing so, has greatly honored his alma mater,” said Col. John Burbank, director of the International Fellows Program. Melara was also honored with a congratulatory letter from New Hampshire Governor Maggie Hassan, presented by the state’s Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. William Reddel. El Salvador has been the New Hampshire National Guard's state partner since 2000.

Melara’s military career began when he was accepted into the Military Academy General Geraldo Barrios in 1981, graduating in 1983 commissioned as a second lieutenant in field artillery. Later he attended the Captain’s Career course at Fort Benning, Ga. Melara’s success as a company and field grade officer was recognized as he was selected to command El Salvador’s Special Forces group as a lieutenant colonel. He deployed as Deputy Commander of the 5th rotation of the Cuscatlán Battalion in to Iraq in 2005, his unit earning distinction and recognition from the multinational commander.

The Hall of Fame, established in 1987, recognizes graduates who have held the highest positions in their nation’s armed forces or an equivalent position by rank or responsibility in a multinational military organization.

Nineteen of Melara’s International Fellow classmates are presently general officers, with four already

having been nominated for the Hall of Fame. Melara is only the second general officer from his class to be inducted into the international hall of fame and the first member from El Salvador.

He thanked the War College for the honor and reminded students to take full advantage of their year here, which he called the best of his life.

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