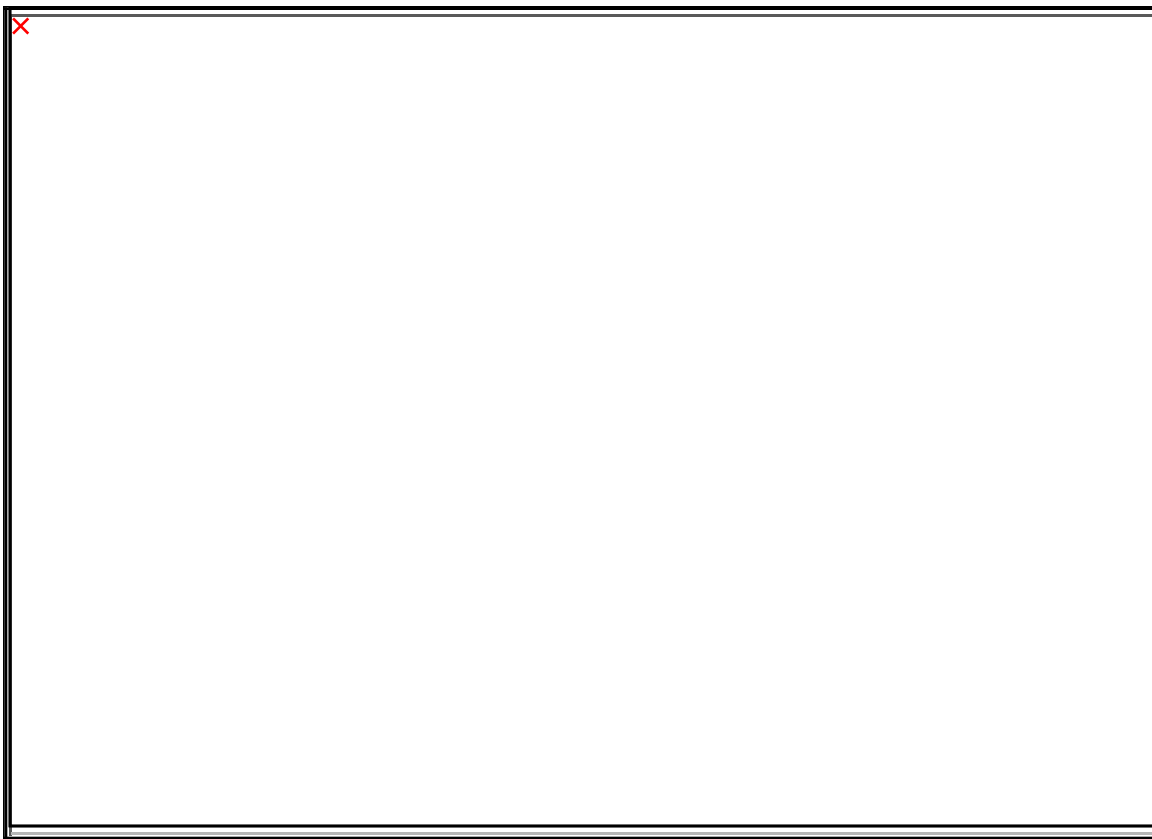


Salvadoran Fellow honored by Army War College, US Southern Command

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El Salvador's Fellow at the Army War College, Lt. Col. Raul Torres, was honored today by

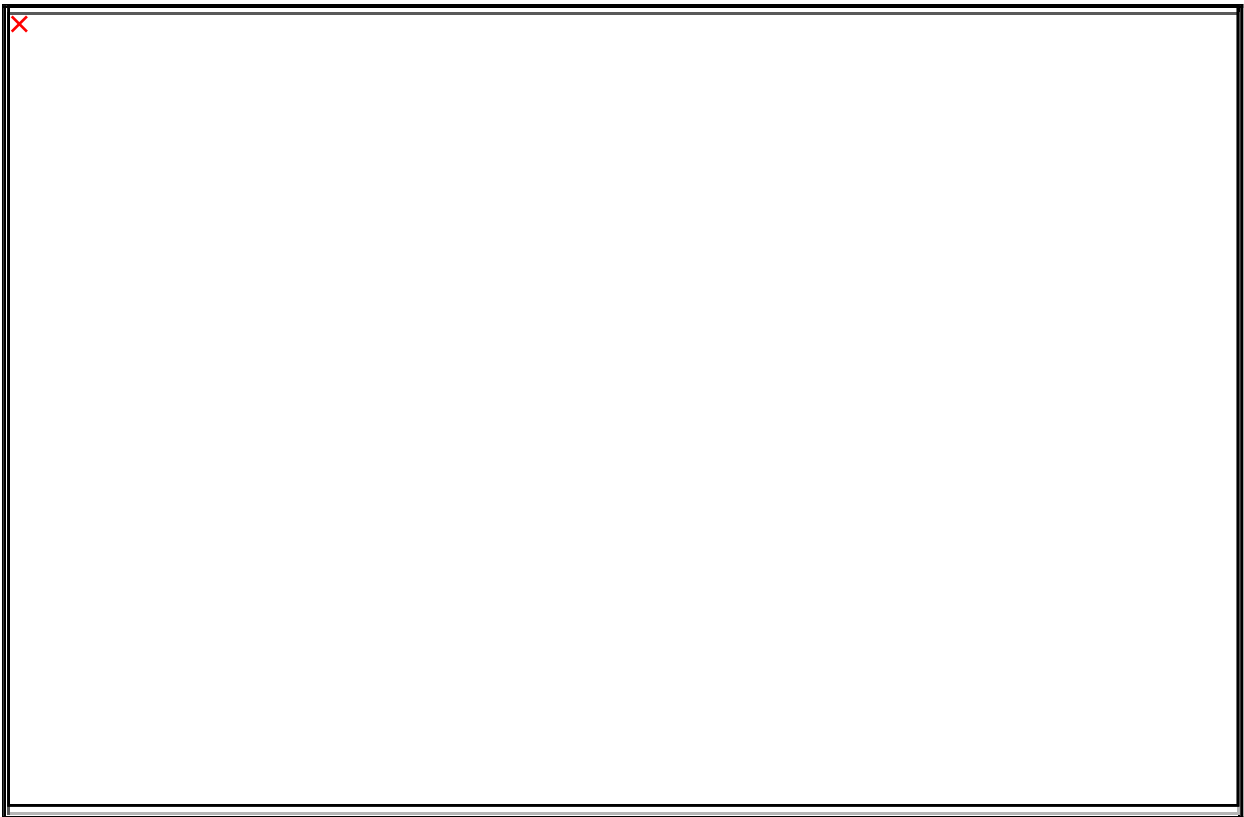
Commandant Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp on behalf of the Commander, USSOUTHCOM, awarding him the Joint Service Commendation Medal at an auditorium packed with Torres's Seminar 24 teammates, colleagues from across the student body, faculty, and family.

Gen. John F. Kelly, Commander of U.S. Southern Command, signed the JSCM for meritorious service by Lt. Col. Jose Raul Torres Ardon of the El Salvadoran Army for duty as the Salvadoran military liaison to the U.S. Military Group San Salvador during the two years prior to his current attendance at the Army War College's School of Strategic Landpower.

USAWC Commandant Maj. Gen. Bill Rapp (l) congratulates Salvadoran Army Lt. Col. Raul Torres upon awarding the U.S. Joint Service Commendation Medal on behalf of the Commander, US Southern Command, for duty as liaison with the US Mil Group, El Salvador.

Details of the award highlighted his active participation in humanitarian exercises, to include BEYOND THE HORIZON and FUERZAS ALIADA HUMANITARIAS. As well, Torres was instrumental in developing the first police-military counter narcotics unit in El Salvador, Joint Task Force Grupo Cuscatlan, a joint unit comprising both Salvadoran tactical military forces and police with investigative/arrest authorities.

Maj. Gen. Rapp noted parallels between his own career and Torres's as he introduced him to the audience: an Engineer in the Salvadoran Army for 24 years, a graduate of his country's military academy and a graduate of the U.S. Command and General Staff College, with



operational experience in Kuwait and Iraq.

Rapp highlighted the presence of Torres' wife, Roxana, and five children, who have accompanied him for his Carlisle year - as did Torres.

"I have been prepared to jump from a plane and do any exercise or operation - but what makes me proud is to have my family with me," said Torres. "Half of this medal should be for my family because they were the ones that suffered the most because I was away from home

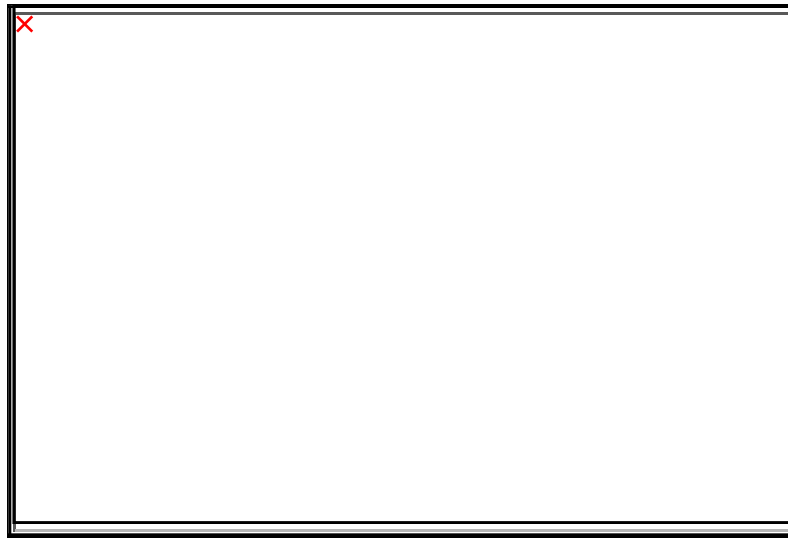
so much."

The Torres Family joins Lt. Col. Raul Torres in celebrating his achievement.

"At the beginning of my tour as LNO in June 2012, the operating environment was tense, as was the relations between both sides," said Torres, after the ceremony, referring to both his Armed Forces and the US MIL GROUP. "The first challenge was to overcome such an environment while compromising neither my mission nor my career, by trying to bring focus on helping to restore and facilitate both sides' communication in order to continue receiving U.S. support for the benefit of my armed forces and for my country.

"After reestablishing good communications and strengthening relationships, close coordination and planning for all the activities of security cooperation become natural, easy and successful, he said."

"I appreciate the lessons from U.S. Army Col. Carlos Figueroa, from June 2010 to August 2013, followed by U.S. Army Col. Robert Wagner. They both were the Senior Defense Officer and Defense Attache, and at the same time they both were the US Military Group



Commander."

Col. Robert Wagner, Senior U.S. Defense Official for El Salvador, related Torres's skills to the quote by Gen. George Marshall about needing to learn new skills when he had reached positions of strategic responsibilities. Torres reflected that ability to work persuasion and diplomacy as he earned the respect

of all those who worked with him, said Wagner. In his liaison role between US and Salvadoran forces, "Raul always spoke his mind, and always pursued unity of effort and overall mission accomplishment," he said. "Lt. Col. Torres probably learned more about operating in a JIIM environment - joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational - than most of his current seminar mates at the War College, suggested Wagner.

Lt. Col. Raul Torres, Salvadoran Fellow in the Army War College resident class of 2015, addresses his colleagues in his seminar and the student body of 385.

Lt. Col. Raul Torres is the International Military Student from El Salvador designated from the Chairman of Defense to study at the US Army War College as part of the International Fellow Program. He has been serving El Salvador Armed Forces for 24 years -- commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1992 and promoted to his current rank in December 2010.

Throughout his military career, he has commanded at platoon, company and battalion level with command of both construction and combat engineer battalions. LTC Torres's last assignment from June 2012 till April 2014, prior to attending U.S. Army War College was as Liaison Officer for the Security Cooperation Office known as the U.S. Military Group in El Salvador.

LTC Torres's operational experience includes deployment as Military Observer for the United Nations for Iraq and Kuwait Mission in Kuwait (UNIKOM), as staff member of an Engineer Argentine Contingent deployed in 2002, and as a Project Purchase Officer for the V Contingent of the "CUSCATLAN" Battalion

in Iraq from August 2005 to February 2006. His operational contributions have been recognized with the Award for 90 days' service in the Mission, monitoring the Demilitarized Zone between Iraq and Kuwait in 2002; the Medal of the Multinational Division Central South's participation in Iraq given by the Armed Forces of Poland in 2005; and the Gold Medal Merit for participation in Iraq given by the Armed Forces of El Salvador, 2005.

Torres is one of 79 International Fellows in the Army War College resident class of 2015, representing 73 allied and friendly countries around the world.

The Joint Award ceremony took place in the College's International Fellows' Auditorium which is a testimony in images and awards of the achievements and contributions of its International Fellows. A major element of the auditorium is a tribute to the graduates inducted into the International Fellows Hall of Fame, honoring those who have risen to highest position in their nation's armed forces, a position equivalent to the highest command position in a multinational organization, and are internationally recognized as having made a significant and enduring military or humanitarian contribution to international peace and stability.