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CHDS Public Affairs

CHDS co-hosts management conference on civil-military relations April 9-11

The Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS) at the National Defense University, together with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs, is holding a unique conference on civil-military relations on April 9-11.

The event focuses on the roles and education of civilians working in ministries of defense throughout the Western Hemisphere who have responsibility for the management of security and defense issues.

The conference will address and analyze the challenges and responsibilities that civilians in the defense sector encounter in their profession. The seminar will entail roundtable discussions with special guests, including representatives from ministries of defense and security, colleges of defense studies, and other members of academia.

Plenary sessions at the conference, which will be held at the [Lansdowne Resort](#) in Lansdowne, Virginia, are to be moderated by CHDS professors.

[Stephen C. Johnson](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, said that the event provides an opportunity to take a critical look at the transformation that is taking place in defense institutions at the end of three decades of consolidation of democratic rule in the region.

“The people participating in this event are leaders with frontline responsibilities to prepare their ministries to meet challenges and threats of the 21st century,” Johnson said. “The opportunity to share on defense organization is key to understanding how civilians and soldiers can work more effectively together.”

[Dr. Richard D. Downie](#), CHDS director, added that the event is one of a series of research-oriented efforts being undertaken by the hemisphere’s premier security and defense education center.

“As we initiate a new round of consultations with our many friends in the region, we look to incorporate their insights and suggestions in further efforts at inquiry by our academic staff, together with the growing network of security and defense professionals with which the Center works,” he said.

For further information about the event, please contact Mr. Mike Borders, CHDS chief of operations and curriculum design and assistant professor of national security affairs, at 202-685-2301 or e-mail: chdsOperations@ndu.edu