



COLLEAGUES FOR THE AMERICAS SEMINAR SERIES  
"Conversation with SOUTHCOM's Commander"

September 23, 2003

**Featured Guest:** **General James T. Hill, U.S. Army**, Combatant Commander, U.S. Southern Command, Miami, Florida

On September 23, INSS hosted the eighth 2003 "Colleagues for the Americas" seminar, featuring Gen. James T. Hill, Combatant Commander, U.S. Southern Command. The seminar, titled "Conversation with SOUTHCOM's Commander," focused on General Hill's mission, priorities, concerns, and the Command's activities in the Americas. Following are the talking bullets from General Hill's slide presentation.



## First Year Priorities

War on Terrorism

Joint Task Force - Guantanamo

Colombia

Awareness of Area of Responsibility (AOR)

Quality of Life

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## First Year Themes

"Terrorists" vs "Insurgents"

Regionalization

Colombia is a regional problem.

Drugs/ Narcoterrorists/ Islamic Radical Groups links

Win battle in Colombia, lose war in rest of AOR.

Expanded Authority

Patience / steadfast support in Colombia

Transformation to meet modern threats

AOR appropriately not a top priority

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## First Year Progress

### Colombia

- Presidential Determination
- Expanded Authority
- Established AOR understanding of Colombia as a Regional Problem
- Increased regional cooperation & support for Colombia
- Commando Battalion
- Counter Narcotics Brigade
- Colombian SOCOM
- Human Rights Institutionalization
- NCOES & Military Professionalization
- Narcoterrorist KIAs and Captures up
- Desertions Climbing
- Infrastructure attacks down
- Murders, Kidnappings & Violence Down
- Economy & Foreign Investment growing
- Public Approval of Uribe above 60%

### War on Terrorism (WOT) and AOR

- Protected U.S. National Interests in the AOR while nation's attention was focused elsewhere
- Tri Border Region: Increased visibility of logistics cells
- AOR Coalition Partners' participation in Iraq
- Central America Integration
- Ecuador-Colombia Cooperation
- PANAMEX (Panama Exercise) - Multilateral for 1st time: Panama, U.S., Chile
- Regional Peacekeeping Operations cooperation
- Joint Interagency Task Force - South:

Interagency & Multinational Coordination of Counterdrug Operations in the Transit Zone

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The INSS Colleagues for the Americas Seminar Series is a program of monthly meetings that commenced in 1994 to further research on hemispheric security and defense issues and to contribute to the professional education of United States and foreign practitioners.

The opinions, conclusions and recommendations expressed or implied within this report are those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense or any other agency of the Federal Government.

The next meeting in the INSS Colleagues for the America Seminar Series will be [date]. For more information, please contact Janie Hulse, NDU-INSS, (202) 685-3849, email: [hulsej@ndu.edu](mailto:hulsej@ndu.edu). For more information about this report or the "Colleagues for the Americas" program, please contact Mr. John Cope, tel.: 202-685-2373, e-mail: [copej@ndu.edu](mailto:copej@ndu.edu).

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