

## **Agenda – Updated 10/16/09**

### **Drug Trafficking, Violence and Instability in Mexico, Colombia and the Caribbean: Implications for US National Security**

October 29 – 30, 2009  
Schenley Ballroom  
Holiday Inn  
100 Lytton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Co-sponsored by:  
University of Pittsburgh  
Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies (GSPIA and UCIS)  
The Center for Latin American Studies (UCIS)  
The Office of the Provost  
and  
The Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College

The conference focuses on a national security challenge which has hitherto been contained but is taking dramatically new and dangerous forms. The emergence of “new criminal groups” in Colombia, increased violence in Mexico and the possible spread to Cuba and other Caribbean islands create new instabilities which could result in one or more strategic shocks, in an area which is both the backyard and soft underbelly of the United States. Even if this does not occur, Mexico and the Caribbean will clearly demand greater attention in the future. Hitherto, Mexico has been seen as simply a border problem. As the trafficking organizations continue to defy authorities, undermine governance, and escalate the violence, however, Mexico has become much more of a national security challenge. Several Caribbean states could fall into the same category. This conference will offer an important opportunity to assess these threats, and to consider what can be done to counter them.

**DAY ONE: Thursday, October 29, 2009** – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast – Schenley Ballroom – Holiday Inn

#### **Panel One: Setting the Scene: Globalization, Transnational Threats and Borders**

**Phil Williams**, Director, Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies,  
Chair and Discussant

**Vanda Felbab-Brown**, Fellow, Brookings Institute,  
“Drugs, Violence and Instability: A Global Perspective”

**Nate Freier**, Senior Fellow in the International Security Program at CSIS; Visiting  
Research Professor at the United States Army’s Peacekeeping and Stability Operations  
Institute,  
“The Changing Strategic Environment and Strategic Shocks”

**Panel Two: Perspectives on Drugs, Violence and Stability in Colombia**

**Steve Metz**, Research Professor and Chairman, Regional Strategy Department, US Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute  
Chair and Discussant

**Roman Ortiz**, Grupo Triarius, “FARC: Insurgents, Drug Traffickers?”

**Gustavo Duncan**, Doctoral Candidate, Northwestern University, “The Paramilitaries in Colombia”

**Andres Saenz**, Grupo Triarius, “Drug Trafficking Organizations: Current Trends and Developments”

**Luncheon Keynote Address:**

**“What Can the Mexican State Do to Combat Organized Crime?”**

**Bruce Bagley**, Professor and Chair, Department of International Studies, University of Miami and Director, University of Miami’s Center of Latin American Studies (CLAS)

**Panel Three: Perspectives on Drug Trafficking and Stability in Mexico**

**Kathleen DeWalt**, Director, Center for Latin American Studies and Professor of Anthropology and Public Health, University of Pittsburgh,  
Chair and Discussant

**Carlos Flores**, Associate Professor at the Center for Research and Higher Studies in Social Anthropology (CIESAS)

“Drug Trafficking, Violence, Corruption and Democracy in Mexico”

**John Sullivan** Senior Research Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies on Terrorism (CAST); Lieutenant, Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department, Emergency Operations Bureau  
“Post-Modern Social Banditry: Criminal Violence or Criminal Insurgency?”

**Angelica Duran**, Doctoral Candidate, Brown University

"Does illegality breed violence? Drug Trafficking and State-Sponsored Protection Rackets"

**Panel Four: Further Perspectives on Drug Trafficking and Stability in Mexico**

**Dallas Owens**, Chairman, Strategic Research and Analysis Department, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College  
Chair and Discussant

**Luis Astorga**, Researcher, Institute of Social Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico  
"Mexico: Drug Trafficking, Violence and Political Change"

**Paul Kan**, Associate Professor of National Security Studies, US Army War College,  
"Why Mexico is not Colombia"

**Louis Casale**, Senior Intelligence Analyst, National Drug Intelligence Center, SPU  
"Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization Presence in the United States and Their Ties to U.S. Based Gangs"

**Dinner Keynote Address** – 6:30 p.m. Schenley Ballroom – Holiday Inn

**"The Drug War in Mexico: Dilemmas and Options"**

**Jorge Chabat**

Professor/Investigator

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)

**DAY TWO: Friday, October 30, 2009** – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast – Schenley Ballroom – Holiday Inn

Panel Five: Perspectives on the Caribbean

**Taylor Seybolt**, Director, Ford Institute for Human Security  
Chair and Discussant

**Lilian Bobea**, Latin American Social Science Faculty, Santo Domingo  
"Private Vices, Without Public Benefit: The Dominican State versus Organized Crime"

**Desmond Arias**, Associate Professor of Political Science, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
"The Structure of Criminal Organizations in Kingston, Jamaica, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil"

**Anthony Maingot**, Professor Emeritus and National Security Scholar-in-Residence, Florida International University  
"Sovereign Sensibilities and Small Caribbean State Capacity in the Face of a Changed Geopolitical Environment"

Panel Six: Assessment and Responses

**William "Trey" G. Braun, III, (COL)** Deputy Director, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College  
Chair and Discussant

This will consist of a round-table of U.S. officials who will offer their perspectives on the challenges and how the United States might respond more fully and effectively to the challenges of drugs, violence and instability in Mexico, Colombia, and the Caribbean. The panel includes: **Rita Koch** (Joint Military Information Support Command-USSOCOM), **Agnes Schaefer** (RAND), **L. Bradley Hittle**, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and **Robert Mandel** (Lewis & Clark College) who will provide the framework for discussion of U.S options.

Luncheon--Concluding Remarks

End of Conference