



The IDARM Program continues Spanish Language instruction for regionally tailored Defense Acquisition and Contract Management course

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By Alexander Salah & Jimi Fordyce

"It is important for us to exchange information with other countries so we can all learn from our experiences. All of the information we have received so far in this course on Defense Acquisition and Contract Management has been very important to my career." - Ms. Jenny Maritza Ortiz Ulloa, Accountant, Colombia's Ministry of Defense

"I think acquisition planning is a strategic issue and in our countries, this is difficult to do because of the scarce resources. Hearing about other countries experiences has been very important, although each country does things differently, there are many things we share in common, specifically our needs and requirements." -Captain Mario Arquimedes Caceres Mejia, Budget Section, El Salvadoran Navy

"This course has been important for me to learn about contract management because I work in the acquisitions department in Honduras and this course has helped me to understand more terms of reference with relation to contracts and acquisition procedures." - Colonel Manuel De Jesus, General Inspector, Honduran Army

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The International Defense Acquisition Resource Management (IDARM) Program completed its third iteration of "Principles of Defense Acquisition and Contract Management" during 16-27 July, 2018 at the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in Monterey, California. This regionally tailored in-residence course is taught with Spanish and English simultaneous interpretation. "Offering an in-residence course with Spanish language instruction has allowed IDARM to host and teach more international military students from Latin America. Exchanging concepts and ideas with other countries to improve existing defense acquisition management processes is at the heart of our mission, so it is very rewarding to expose more countries to our work," Ms. Brooke Love Adame, IDARM Program Associate and team lead for Latin American course coordination.

16 military officers and government officials from Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Perú, Panamá, and Uruguay attended the two-week short course. Participants possessed a broad range of experience including management, accounting, legal, and contracting. Course participants engaged in daily working group exercises to apply the key concepts discussed in lectures and to prepared and presented both a national presentation and working group presentations.

IDARM faculty were joined by guest lecturers from the NPS Graduate School of Business and Public Policy (GSBPP), the Defense Resource Management Institute (DRMI), the U.S. Air Force, and the private sector. Course participants will apply what they have learned throughout this course to improve and engage in the process of defense acquisition and contract management in their respective countries.

Field Study Program (FSP) activities enhanced the curriculum by fostering interpersonal relationships and providing the international military students a better understanding of American culture. Students toured Monterey, San Francisco, and the Point Lobos State Reserve. Additionally, students continued a tradition from the previous cohort by sponsoring a BBQ for IDARM as a way to extend their appreciation of their experience.

The next course will be offered during 17-28 June, 2019. All course programming is managed through the Security Cooperation Offices (SCOs) and the Naval Education Training and Education Assistance Activity (NETSAFA) using MASL P179623. If countries are interested in programming this course please email badame@nps.edu.

