

**Minutes for the Annual Board of Visitors Meeting  
Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation  
November 5, 2015  
Fort Benning, Georgia**

**1. Summary.** The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) Board of Visitors (BoV) conducted its annual meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2015, at the WHINSEC Campus on Fort Benning. As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App §2), the meeting was open to the public and announced in the Federal Register. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), Mr. Dan Klippstein, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Agenda items included an update from the WHINSEC Commandant; briefings from the Department of State, U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command; and the Public Comments session.

**2. Attendance:**

COMMITTEE POSITION	NAME	ATTENDANCE	REPRESENTATIVE/ PROXY
<b>Board Members</b>			
Chair SECDEF Appointee	Dr. Johanna Mendelson-Forman	Present	
Vice Chair SECDEF Appointee	Dr. Louis Goodman	Present	
SECDEF Appointee	Amb. Swanee Hunt	Present	
SECDEF Appointee	Amb. John Maisto	Present	
SECDEF Appointee	Dr. Joseph Palacios	Present	
SECDEF Appointee	Hon. Dan Trimble	Present	
SASC, Ex-Officio	Sen. John McCain	Not Present	
SASC, Ex-Officio	Sen. Harry Reid	Present/Proxy	Ms. Maggie McNamara
HASC, Ex-Officio	Rep. Austin Scott	Not Present	
HASC, Ex-Officio	Rep. Loretta Sanchez	Present/Proxy	Ms. Annie Yea
Department of State, Ex-Officio	Mr. Alex Lee	Present	
USNORTHCOM, Ex-Officio	ADM Bill Gortney	Present/Proxy	MGen Michael Loh
USSOUTHCOM, Ex-Officio	GEN John F. Kelly	Present/Proxy	LTG Joseph DiSalvo
TRADOC, Ex-Officio	GEN David G. Perkins	Present/Proxy	BG John Kem
<b>Designated Federal Officer</b>			
DFO	Mr. Dan Klippstein	Present	
Alternate DFO	Mr. Joseph Drach	Present	
Alternate DFO	Mr. Alex Sonski	Present	
Acting Secretary	Mr. Richard Procell	Present	

### 3. General.

HQDA G-35 is the action agent for SECARMY Executive Agency responsible for WHINSEC; Deputy Director, G-35, Mr. Klippstein, opened the meeting in his capacity as Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the BoV. He called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Agenda items included an update from the WHINSEC Commandant; briefings from the Department of State, U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command; and Public Comments period. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Johanna Mendelson Forman. All Board members/representatives required by 10 USC 2166, WHINSEC's founding legislation, attended with the exception of two Congressional members. Mr. David Sobyra, Chief of Staff OSD-Policy WHEM, represented the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Dr. Rebecca Chavez. There were no attendees from the public even though the meeting was announced in the Federal Register one month ahead. Board members had ample opportunity to interact with students, staff, and faculty at an evening reception the day prior and during lunch following the official meeting. New board members received a guided tour of the campus before the evening reception. Highlights of the presentations and key recommendations from Board members are detailed below.

**Review of the Board's 2014 Meeting Recommendations.** As the first order of business, MAJ Hector Fernandez listed the Board's recommendations captured during the November 2014 Annual meeting and a brief status on actions taken:

- Continue to support the objectives of the Combatant Commanders with courses that are relevant and consistent with U.S. policy. Status: Courses remain in line with current NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM priorities, lines of effort and intermediate military objectives.
- Increase outreach efforts to get more interested members of the public to visit WHINSEC throughout the year and not only during the BoV and School of the Americas Watch vigil. Status: (1) Public Interest in the controversy over School of the Americas is declining; (2) Interest in WHINSEC among the countries of the hemisphere is increasing; (3) WHINSEC continues to publish PAO articles articulating school objectives; and (4) Public interest and use of the WHINSEC Facebook page is increasing.
- Increase the training opportunities in the areas of peacekeeping, crisis management, disaster relief and support to civil authorities. Status: (1) Increased collaboration with the United Nations Headquarters, resulting in the WHINSEC Peacekeeping Operations Course incorporating into its curriculum a visit to both the U.S.-UN Mission and the UN HQ in New York City—a class visit is planned for Feb-Mar 2016; (2) Increased Civil Affairs Course offerings to three times per year in the new semester system vice 1-2 times per year previously.
- Continue to work with the Training and Doctrine Command's Combined Arms Center to carry out an evaluation of the history and current operations of WHINSEC. Status - Defer to Dr. Jim Martin, Associate Dean of Academics at the US Army Command & General Staff College; (TRADOC lead).

- Work with the Combined Arms Center to identify an individual with the appropriate authority to participate in the working group reviewing National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP on WPS). Status: (1) Conducted NAP on WPS Roundtable event at WHINSEC on July 30, 2015; and (2) Coordinated with SOUTHCOM and NORTHCOM for future events regarding the National Action Plan.
- In the areas of ethics and morality, assess not only if concepts are learned, but also internalized by students once they return to their countries. Status - SJA recently attended ethics refresher training at JAG School, will brief faculty and staff on updates.
- Army Operating Concept translated into Spanish. Status - Concept has been translated and is in use.
- Work with NORTHCOM, SOUTHCOM and partner nations to increase the number of female students and WHINSEC faculty. Status: (1) NORTHCOM and SOUTHCOM Commanders and staff actively include this as part of their messaging during regional visits; and (2) WHINSEC communicates this desire during partner nation leader visits to the institute and visits overseas.

**WHINSEC Commandant.** In his presentation, COL Keith Anthony underscored the value of WHINSEC to national and regional security, and outlined his priorities for the coming years. He stated that in order for WHINSEC to remain relevant, it needed to continue to be responsive to SOUTHCOM and NORTHCOM. This included the continued support to U.S. Forces in the region and helping increase partner nation capacity through enhanced integration and interoperability. He also envisioned a set of outreach strategies that included exploring academic partnerships with universities in the region, seeking increased student and faculty participation of currently underrepresented countries, and institutionalizing a WHINSEC Alumni program. WHINSEC is staffed to support roughly 1250 students per year and they expect about 1900 students this academic year. WHINSEC is clearly the school of choice among Latin American armies, but Russia and China are seeking to compete as an alternate source of military training and education. TRADOC will re-accredit WHINSEC during 2016—this takes place every three years.

**Department of State.** Mr. Alex Lee indicated that the U.S. strategic objectives of inclusive economic growth and prosperity, improved education and innovation, citizen security, better governance, and respect for human rights are values shared across the Americas. He also said that the relationships formed at WHINSEC strengthen the bonds of trust and cooperation among nations in the hemisphere and foster mutual understanding, transparency, and the democratic values and human rights that compliment other regional efforts to achieve those stated strategic objectives.

**NORTHCOM.** MGen Michael Loh stated that WHINSEC is critical to NORTHCOM's hemispheric engagement strategy. He provided an update on the Command's priorities, activities, and the collective threats posed by transnational organized crime. He also laid out a

framework for how the institute can continue to facilitate the Command's progress toward strategic objectives within their theater campaign plan.

**SOUTHCOM.** LTG Joseph DiSalvo indicated that USSOUTHCOM continues to operate in a challenging environment and that it needs to be ready to meet a vast array of resultant challenges, from natural disasters and the historical threat of mass migration, to the difficult circumstances brought on by poverty, corruption, and weak governance. He said that not all countries are afflicted with staggering poverty and corruption but that the challenges are widespread enough to present serious regional security concerns. Networked groups conducting illicit trafficking across international boundaries are taking advantage of the challenging security situation to move drugs, weapons, bulk cash, and migrants into or out of the United States. Additionally, the expansion and violence of transnational gangs poses a security threat in several Latin American countries, with some organizations attacking large groups of civilians to extort money and even specifically targeting high-level police and military officials. SOUTHCOM is extremely active collaborating with regional partner nations in combating these threats, conducting training and exercises to enhance counter transnational organized crime, helping create knowledgeable and trained forces that are able to detect, disrupt and detain illicit trafficking across the region.

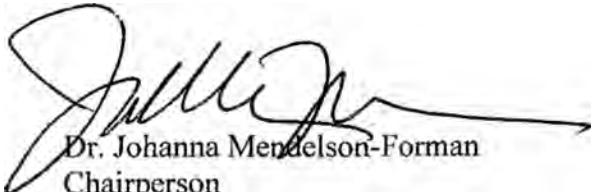
#### **4. Key Topics, actions and recommendations:**

- Judge Trimble moved that the Board adopt the plan recommended by TRADOC (submit proposal for RAND to conduct the WHINSEC history study) and that Dr. Martin, assume lead of the project under the direction of the Board's Subcommittee on Education. The RAND proposal would be submitted for consideration in the upcoming budget cycle that funds such studies, pending SECARMY/SECDEF endorsement. As an alternate option, LTG Joseph DiSalvo indicated that, if needed, he also would seek funds through USSOUTHCOM for the research required to complete the study. The Board adopted the motion without objection. Action: U.S. Army TRADOC (Dr. Jim Martin). Oversight: Subcommittee on Education.
- Ambassador Hunt commended the WHINSEC leadership and faculty for their efforts in identifying areas where current courses were already supporting objectives under the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security objectives. The ambassador recommended that the institute host an annual workshop to review progress and to ensure efforts are well integrated and synchronized in support of the DoD implementation plan. Action: Subcommittee on Outreach. Assist: WHINSEC (MAJ Hector Fernandez).
- Dr. Goodman recommended continued work to carry out an assessment of the following elements of the Academic Program of the Command and General Staff Officer Course: Student Selection (including vetting best practices), Faculty Selection, Staff Selection, Curriculum Quality, Co-curricular Activities, and Alumni Performance. Dr. Martin suggested that the USACGSC could assist with this request, as it maintains academic governance over this program. The Board suggested that the Subcommittee on Education take under consideration and report findings back to Board. Action: Subcommittee on Education. Assist: U.S. Army TRADOC (Dr. Jim Martin).

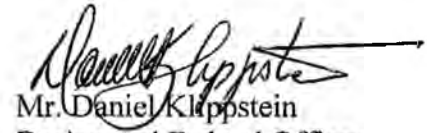
- The DFO proposed that instead of holding a vote every year on the Board's designated Chair and Co-Chair (based on SecDef designation) that the Board only 'reaffirm' the current appointments through their respective terms and once their terms expire the Board can again call for a vote of new Chair and/or Co-Chair. (Dr. Mendelson Forman's term ends 3 December 2017; Dr. Goodman's term ends 23 April 2018). The Board adopted the motion without objection. Action: Designated Federal Officer.

**5. Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held in the fall of 2016, date be coordinated with Board members.

We hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.



Dr. Johanna Mendelson-Forman  
Chairperson  
Board of Visitors, WHINSEC



Mr. Daniel Klippstein  
Designated Federal Officer  
Board of Visitors, WHINSEC