

# INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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“The College and the IADCF: two sides of the same coin.

Strengthening Strategic Leadership and Partnerships in the Americas and  
Beyond”

**Dr. Marian Caracuel Raya**

President of ADESyD

Director of SWIIS

I am deeply grateful for inviting me to be a **member** of the Inter-American Defense College Foundation (IADCF), thanks to the support of Ms. Joanna Esty, President Emeritus.

Let me introduce myself.

I am a graduate of Class 47 (**2007-2008**) of the Inter-American Defense College (IADC), “*la mejor e insustituible*”, whose motto is **ARF**, Armonía, Reciprocidad y Fraternidad / *Harmony, Reciprocity and Fraternity*.

Studying at the IADC was an **exceptional experience** on a personal and professional level, and the time has come **to put into practice this motto even more** as director of the IADCF, president of the Spanish Association of Graduates in Security and Defense (ADESyD) and director of Spanish Women in International Security (SWIIS), created under its auspices in 2011.

As the following pictures show, both the College and the Foundation have been a **part of my everyday life** in my workplace over the years.

Particularly, I have strongly supported **three main ideas** to different colleagues and friends in Spain and abroad.

- **First, the value of the Institution:** In my opinion, the **College** promotes a truly multidimensional vision of hemispheric security, the exchange of knowledge and learning, the promotion of civil-military relations and a multicultural academic experience.

In this sense, the College contributes to an atmosphere which promotes **values**, such as respect and critical thinking; thus, contributing to confidence building and having plural mindsets aimed at dealing with difficult and complex security challenges as well as opportunities for collaboration in this domain.

The result of **this experience** was my Thesis on *“Las concepciones de Seguridad y Defensa de la OEA/JID, OTAN y UE: perspectivas de cooperación triangular para el Siglo XXI”*.



- **Second, both the College and the Foundation promote strong bonds among the students and alumni.** The leadership during my IADC Course of Admiral Moira Flanders (2007-2011), the first female Director of the IADC, was really impressive.

I still remember our meeting when I was invited to celebrate **the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College** in Washington D.C.



Moreover, the College has also supported a **gender perspective** on security and defense issues. The meeting with **Michele Bachelet** and College graduates was very inspiring and led me to write a paper to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325, published by the Center for Hemispheric and Defense Studies (CHDS), on the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda**.



Later on, with a group of friends, I decided to create **ADESyD** and **SWIIS**, an international affiliate of WIIS Global, whose headquarter is in Washington D.C. On September, we will celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



- **Third, the role of partnerships and collaborative efforts across the hemisphere and beyond, particularly Spain, both at institutional and social levels.** An important milestone was the celebration of the First Hemispheric Convention on Security and Defense in Madrid, organized by the IADCF, the Association of Spanish Graduates in Security and Defense Issues (ADESyD) and ASOCID-Ecuador, with the support of the Spanish Center for Advanced National Defense Studies (**CESEDEN**). I would like to underline the role of Director **Ambassador Cecilia Ponce de León** in the organization of this event, who also represented the Foundation in Madrid.

Moreover, we organized visits to the **Congress of Deputies** and the **Army Headquarters**, which were highly appreciated by our guests.

According to the College's newsletter, the Fist Hemispheric Convention underlined the **importance of international cooperation on defense, security and hemispheric diplomacy** across the Atlantic Community of Nations and our commitment to **democratic values and respect** for a rules-based international order.



This event had a great impact on **social media** (YouTube, X, LinkedIn), thanks also to the support of WIIS-Global, as well as different public institutions and private sponsors.

Thus, the IADCF, ADESyD and ASOCID-Ecuador took the first step to promote a **whole of society approach triangulation**, considering the International Community demands regarding involving citizens in security and defense issues. especially within our regional areas.

In my opinion, **networking people** in security and defense issues is the best way to **promote a “strategic culture”**, both at home and abroad of our Nations to better understand the tendencies of a very complex international scenario, as we are facing today in different regions of the world.

Moreover, it can also **complement international compromises of our Nations** with a multidimensional and an integrated approach to security, whose main component is the defense of **our societies** from different threats and challenges.

The IADCF has a very **important role to play** and I will collaborate with the President, the Executive Director and Directors of the Board to contribute to this important endeavor by **strengthening the bonds** that unite us and the alumni!!!

Madrid, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026