

In this edition we focus on the responses from our sister air forces in the American continent to counteract the catastrophic Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic impacts on our population and economic resources. Our first article provides a senior leader perspective from Gen Ramsés Rueda Rueda, Colombian Air Force (FAC) Commander, on the how the Colombian Air Force was part of Colombia's whole-of-government response to the crisis. He explains how the FAC's military airpower was a critical component of the entire government's strategy to deal with the coronavirus, and how, simultaneously, the FAC continues to protect the lives of Colombians threatened by terrorism and transnational crime, all the while contributing to the security of the hemisphere.


Our next two articles provide a regional perspective on the actions taken by our sister air forces. Col Mario Alberto Rivas Díaz, Dominican Air Force, Deputy Secretary General, System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA), describes how the members of SICOFAA have executed many operations in response to the effects of COVID-19, and how SICOFAA has been a force multiplier as it has implemented virtual environments for member countries' air force commanders to maintain situational awareness. Dr. Evan Ellis tells us how the COVID-19 pandemic has immutably changed the political, economic, and social dynamics of Latin America, including how its people view each other, the world, and their long-term security.

In our last article, we continue with the fifth article in our series on "The War for the Public Mind": "Media Construction of Reality", by Mr. Nuño Rodríguez, Political Scientist and Analyst. In this article, Mr. Rodríguez writes about the relationship of the public with facts—how the experience of the audience with facts is not direct, how the cognitive development of the public can be altered through perception management, and how the repeated exposure to a message can lead an audience to assume it as their reality—so pervasive that it is impossible to avoid and that the effects, while not direct, are long-term and lasting.

In our upcoming editions we will focus on the operational missions that our SICOFAA sister air forces from Brazil and Peru have taken to support the fight against COVID-19, and how China and the US have taken steps under the pandemic to influence our American continent. More importantly, one of our future articles addresses how to apply lessons learned from the pandemic to better prepare us for the future. Additionally, we will address the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency's concept of Mosaic warfare; how civilian control of the military will prove essential in reducing the role of the military in Venezuelan society and increase the likelihood of a democratic transition following President

Maduro's exit from power; and how defeating the criminal insurgency in Central America's Northern Triangle is crucial to hemispheric security, and more!

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone that makes this publication possible: 1) Our production team consisting of Ms. Drina Marmolejo, Assistant Editor and the heart of our operation; Ms. Megan Hoehn, Typesetter and enforcer of our university's standards; and our awesome Illustrators: Mr. Timothy Thomas and Mr. Daniel Armstrong; 2) Our expert translators: Ms. Doris Cabezas, Mr. Luis Pradera, Ms. Dina Scherrer, and Ms. Cecilia Williamson; and 3) Our collaborating editors: Dr. Thomas Stovicek, Mr. Daniel Jimenez, Dr. Stephanie Rollins, Ms. Donna Budjenska, and Ms. Jeanne Shamburger. Finally, I'd like to thank our authors, who without your outstanding and timely contributions, we would not exist.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jorge F. Serafin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jorge" being the most prominent.

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