

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
National Defense University
Release No. 11-040
November 3, 2011

**DIVISION GENERAL JUAN JOSÉ RUÍZ MORALES INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL
DEFENSE UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL HALL OF FAME
University Celebrates Distinguished Alum**

(Washington, D.C) National Defense University (NDU) is pleased to announce the induction of Division General Juan José Ruíz Morales into the International Fellows Hall of Fame. General Ruíz is the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Guatemala and a 2004 graduate of the United States National Defense University.

The induction ceremony, hosted by Vice Admiral Ann E. Rondeau, USN, President of the university, took place on Tuesday, October 25, 2011, at Marshall Hall, Fort Lesley J. McNair. It was attended by a visiting delegation from the Guatemalan Embassy, including Ambassador Julio Armando Martini Herrera, university leadership, and current NDU international students.

In his remarks, as the newest member of the Hall of Fame, Division General Ruíz acknowledged the significant role his NDU experience played in his career: “We need to have this NDU opportunity. What I learned at NDU I put it into practice as Chief of the Air Force. I put it into practice as Chief of the Joint Staff, and now I put it into practice as Minister of Defense.”

General Ruíz is the NDU’s 32nd alumnus to be inducted in to the International Fellows Hall of Fame. His picture will be permanently displayed in the International Hall of Fame area of Marshall Hall. The International Fellows Hall of Fame was established in May 2000 to recognize former International Fellows who achieve the highest positions of service in their nations’ Armed Forces or government.

General Ruíz holds a Bachelor’s degree in Technology and Resource Management from Galileo University, Guatemala; a Post-graduate degree in National Defense Resource Management from the Defense Resource Management Institute, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California; a Master’s degree in National Resource Strategy from NDU, and a Diploma in National Strategic Studies from the Strategic Studies Center, Guatemala.

During his 32 years of service to the Guatemalan Armed Forces he has received military training in Guatemala and overseas with exceptional results. After graduating from Guatemala’s Officer Military Academy, “Escuela Politécnica”, he has held a number of key positions within the military institution. He successfully completed the Special Forces Courses “Airborne” and “Kaibil”. Later, he transitioned to the Guatemalan Air Force and has since recorded 6,200 helicopter flight hours. Over his stellar armed forces career, he has received the following superior distinctions: Flight Instructor, Three Presidential Citations for outstanding actions, Three Stars on Combatant Plaque, and Bronze Star for distinguished services. General Ruíz also authored the current Operational Strategy of the Guatemalan Army.

###

The National Defense University is the nation's premier center for joint professional military education. The university is an accredited graduate-level institution that provides an educational and research environment to prepare future leaders of the armed forces and civilian agencies for high-level policy, command, and staff responsibilities. For more information about the National Defense University, please contact: Dave Thomas, Public Affairs Officer, at 202-685-3140 or ThomasD2@ndu.edu; or visit www.ndu.edu.