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**The Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS) Announces the Recipients of the 2012 Dr. William J. Perry Awards in Both Individual and Group Categories**

(Washington, DC) Since 2007 the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS) has awarded the Dr. William J. Perry Award for Excellence in Security and Defense Education to individuals and/or institutions to recognize their significant contributions in the fields of security and defense education.

Dr. Richard D. Downie, Director of the CHDS, in close coordination with Dr. Perry, is proud to announce that the Regional Security System (Barbados) and the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation are the 2012 Award recipients in the institutional category. In addition, Canadian Defense Minister Peter MacKay has been named as a recipient of the 2012 Award in the individual category.

Awardees are chosen for their achievements in promoting education, research, outreach, and knowledge-sharing in defense and security issues in the Western Hemisphere, resulting in the enhancement of security and defense capacity, the advancement of a cooperative international security environment, the fostering of effective civil-military relations, and the adherence to CHDS's core values.

The 2012 Award ceremony for the institutional awards, the sixth in a series of presentations, will be held in conjunction with the Center's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on September 20, 2012.

An individual Award will be presented at a special mid-day ceremony to honor Defense Minister MacKay on September 28, 2012.

CHDS, the pre-eminent academic institution for teaching, research, and outreach on defense and security issues affecting the Americas was activated and established in 1997.

The CHDS mission is to conduct educational activities for civilians and the military in the Western Hemisphere to foster trust, mutual understanding, regional cooperation, and partner capacity. Its civilian, military, and security force graduates and partner institutions comprise communities of mutual interest and support that work toward a more cooperative and stable international security environment. In carrying out its work, CHDS supports U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Northern Command, the National Defense University, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The CHDS vision is to remain the preeminent institution for teaching, research, and outreach on defense and security issues affecting the Americas. CHDS is one of five Department of Defense Regional Centers for security studies.

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