

From: **Lynn Northcutt Vega** <lynnvega1963@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Oct 1, 2026 at 3:01 PM
Subject: DACOR LAC Group on Hemispheric Security
To: Lynn Northcutt Vega <LynnVega1963@gmail.com>, FRANK ALMAGUER <frankalmaguer@aol.com>

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The next meeting of DACOR's Latin America and Caribbean Discussion Group will be held on Wednesday, October 14, from 11:45 a.m. noon to 2:00 p.m. We will have an in-depth conversation on the evolving security landscape across the Western Hemisphere. **Dr. Paul Angelo** will host and moderate the discussion. He will be joined by **Rear Admiral Douglas Fears, USCG (Ret.)** and **Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown**.

This session will build on the discussion that took place during DACOR's Annual Conference, North America in Transition, which will include the panel Securing the Continent: Border Security, Organized Crime, and Strategic Threats.

The LAC Discussion Group session will take the conversation further, looking more broadly at the changing security environment across the Americas and the increasingly complex mix of traditional and nontraditional threats facing the region.

The discussion will examine how conflict, transnational criminal networks, illicit economies, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies, and political and institutional pressures are reshaping security across the hemisphere. It will also consider the implications of the U.S. Government's America First policy and recent U.S. military actions in the region, as well as the evolving role of the United States in addressing hemispheric security challenges.

We hope you will join us for what promises to be a timely, candid, and forward-looking discussion about the security challenges confronting our hemisphere and how the United States and its partners can better anticipate and respond to them.

Registration is required for all participants. The DACOR cash bar opens at 11:45 a.m. and lunch will be served promptly at 12:30 p.m. This will be a hybrid event, with both in-person and virtual participation options. You can get more information about the event and register here:

REGISTER HERE <https://www.memberleap.com/Calendar/moreinfo.php?eventid=67760>

About the Moderator and Panelists

Dr. Paul Angelo — Host and Moderator

Paul Angelo is Managing Director for Northern Latin America at McLarty Associates and a Senior Fellow for Human Rights and U.S. Foreign Policy at Harvard Kennedy School's Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights. He previously served as Director of the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies at National Defense University and is a U.S. Navy veteran and Reserve foreign area officer. He has extensive experience working on security, defense, governance, and U.S. relations across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Rear Admiral Douglas Fears, USCG (Ret.) — Panelist

Douglas Fears is a Senior Adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Chief Operating Officer of Artis International. He previously served at the White House as Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Adviser and Acting Deputy National Security Adviser. During a distinguished 40-year Coast Guard career, he also led Joint Interagency Task Force South, coordinating U.S. agencies and international partners to address security threats across the Western Hemisphere.

Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown — Panelist

Vanda Felbab-Brown is a Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution, Director of its Initiative on Nonstate Armed Actors, and Co-Director of its Africa Security Initiative. A leading expert on international and internal conflict, organized crime, illicit economies, and other nontraditional security threats, she has conducted extensive field research throughout Latin America and around the world.

We look forward to seeing you on October 14.

Lynn Northcutt Vega

Career Foreign Service Officer (ret.)

Board Member and Trustee, DACOR and DACOR Bacon House Foundation

Member, National Security Leaders for America

Member, The Steady State

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