



# Colonel Luis Enrique Viera Santamaría

## Army of El Salvador

### Assistant Commandant

#### Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation



Colonel Luis E. Viera Santamaría was born in the city of Azacualpa, Chalatenango in El Salvador, in 1969. He joined the Armed Forces on January 10, 1987.

He has served in the following units and held the following positions: Field Artillery, Section, Battery, and Brigade Commander; Chief, V DIV, CIVIL AFFAIRS and IV DIV, LOGISTICS of the Artillery Brigade Staff, "LTC Oscar Osorio"; Section Commandant, Student Cadet Battalion, and Chief of the Academic Department of the Military School "Captain General Gerardo Barrios"; Company Commander, 61<sup>th</sup> INF BN, 6<sup>th</sup> INF BDE; Founder, Computerized Tactical Training Center (CETAC) and Chief, Logistics and Administrative Support of the same; Military Collaborator, C-1 "PERSONNEL", Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Forces; Department Chief, Protocol and Communications Center (CCP) of the Ministry of Defense; Military Collaborator in the Ministry of National Defense; Chief of OPERATIONS AND TRAINING, 6<sup>th</sup> Military Detachment; Executive Secretary, Office of the Ministry of National Defense; Commandant, Task Force Against Crime "APOLO"; Chief, International Affairs on "POLICY and PLANS" of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces; Executive Secretary, Office of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces; Partner Nation Instructor, Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC), Fort Benning, Georgia.

Colonel Viera Santamaría has also served as: Assistant to the Governor, Central American Olympic Villa, V Central American Games, El Salvador, 1994; Assistant to the Operations Officer, Task Force El Salvador, Allied Forces Peacekeeping Operations Exercise (FAOMP), in Soto Cano, Honduras, 1996; Public Relations Officer, FAOPMP Exercise, San Salvador, El Salvador, 1997; Full and Deputy Member, Honor Tribunal of the Armed Forces of El Salvador; Press and Public Relations Officer, Humanitarian Allied Forces Exercise (FAHUM 2000), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Commandant, Combat Service Support Unit, Cuscatlán BN, X Rotation, Ai Kut, Republic of Iraq, 2008; Delegate of El Salvador to the Conference of Ministers of Defense of the Americas in Perú and in Trinidad and Tobago; Delegate of El Salvador to the High Council of the Central American Armed Forces Conference (CFAC), Dominican Republic and Guatemala; Delegate of El Salvador, First UN Conference of Chiefs of Defense, United Nations, New York; Delegate of El Salvador, 6<sup>th</sup> Military World Games, Mungyeong, South Korea, October 2015. Colonel Viera became WHINSEC's Deputy Commandant on January 8, 2016, in Fort Benning, Georgia.

His military education includes the Cadet Course, in El Salvador, and the Command Course, at the former School of the Americas, Fort Benning, GA, 1987; the 75<sup>th</sup> Basic Airborne Course, El Salvador Air Force, 1989; the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced courses, Artillery BDE "LTC Oscar Osorio", 1990 and 1998; the Military Intelligence Course, Level 1, at the National School of Military Intelligence of El Salvador (ESNACIM), 1999; the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Course, Dominican Republic, 2000; the Command Staff Course, "General Manuel José Arce" Infantry School, El Salvador, 2003; the General Staff Course, Command and Staff College "Dr. Manuel Enrique Araujo", El Salvador, 2004-2005; the US Army Command and General Staff Course, WHINSEC, Fort Benning, GA 2006-2007; the Peacekeeping Operations Seminar, Peacekeeping Operations School, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2006; the Military Protocol and Ceremony Course, International School of Protocol, Madrid, Spain, 2007; the Joint Operations Planning and Execution Seminar, Chilean War Academy, 2012; Level IV Instructor, WHINSEC, Fort Benning, GA; the National Defense Course, College of Advanced Strategic Studies, El Salvador, 2015.

Colonel Viera Santamaría's awards and decorations include the following: The Military Campaign Medal, 1980-1992, El Salvador; United States Army Commendation Medal, for duties performed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Distinguished Service Gold Medal, El Salvador; US Army Commendation Medal, 2010-2012, and The "Antorcha" Medal General Francisco Menéndez for Academic Excellence, December 2015.