



21 COUNTRIES



BRAZIL



CHILE



## 2012 FUERZAS COMANDO

One hundred and sixty-eight of the best soldiers in the western hemisphere gathered in Colombia in May to compete in *Fuerzas Comando 2012*.

The soldiers, representing 21 countries, competed for the title of the best of the best among the special-operations and counter-terrorist forces in the region. The competition, which spanned the course of two weeks, and included a physical-fitness event, rifle and pistol qualifications, distance and FBI "T" shoot, sniper stalk, road march, critical tasks, snags and movers, a field shoot, obstacle course, combined assault, aquatic event, stress tests

and night shoots. There was also a multinational airborne operation on the last day.

"The focus of these competitions is to test the abilities of special forces soldiers. The participants will be tested on things like marksmanship and physical fitness, which are an important part of the training for any special forces soldier," said Colombian Lt. Col. Juan Carlos Vargas Carvajal, operations officer for the Colombian Joint Special Forces Command and officer-in-charge of the *Fuerzas Comando 2012* events.

"After eight days of competition, the participants are physically exhausted," said Maj. Juan Carlos Blanco of the Colombian

Army. "This event really puts to the test the competitors' physical and mental condition."

For Colombian Defense Minister Jaun Carlos Pinzon, whose country not only hosted but also won the competition, it was about so much more.

"I would like to dedicate these games to all who have fallen while conducting their duties," said Pinzon, while addressing the competitors. "We wish them peace in their tombs."

The games were conducted at Fort Tolimaida, Colombia, the home of the Colombian Special Forces Commandos.

"It's truly exciting to be here in the field of green Tolimaida, which represents the

URUGUAY



CANADA



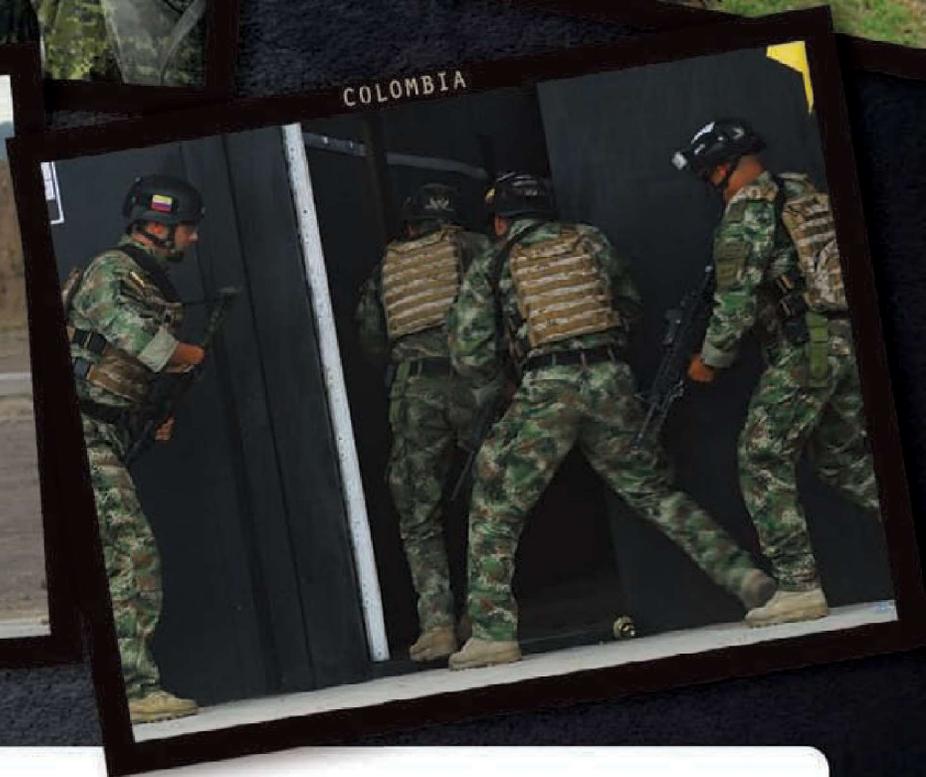
EL SALVADOR



HONDURAS



COLOMBIA



sacred temple of education. It is here the best have been trained," said Pinzon. "These games foster the warrior spirit, build on the relationships that have already been established, as well as giving us a chance to work with and learn from each other."

He added that it was significant that the elite units competing represent some "of the most prepared, capable forces in all the countries," noting that the games are one way that relationships are built among the forces.

"Regional/multinational partnerships are formed from mutual trust and the level of comradeship between these partners and

with those who make an effort to sacrifice for their country," continued Pinzon. "Above the spirit of the competition, more important than the spirit of competition, is that many of our countries are facing threats from criminals who do not know borders. States have borders, criminals don't. So it is necessary to work as a team, to form a brotherhood, a comradeship between the men and women who protect citizens from these criminals. We have to know each other so that we can operate as an integrated force."

The defense minister added that it was because of relationships like those built

through interaction in events like the *Fuerzas Comando*, that his country has moved forward.

"Our Army is an ambassador of our country to the world," he said. "They train our friends and they give their blood and their lives in support of our country. We have made progress in Colombia. We can talk about a future of honor. We can imagine our country when peace arrives because of what happens here." **SW** *comment here*



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JAMAICA



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



GUYANA



MEXICO



BAHAMAS



BELIZE



COSTA RICA



PARAGUAY

