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## PRESS RELEASE

## Minister of National Defence and Border Security Meets with US Military Officials

Belmopan. April 22, 2021. 5:40 p.m.

Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., Minister of National Defence and Border Security, hosted Captain Rebekah Malone, the current bilateral affairs officer for the Security Cooperation Office of the United States Embassy in Belize, and Major Anissa Johnson, the incoming bilateral affairs officer.

During the meeting, Minister Marin and the officers committed to promoting a spirit of goodwill through cooperation and strengthening existing good relations through the State Partnership Program. In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the State Partnership Program between the Belize armed forces and the Louisiana National Guard, Captain Malone presented a gift and a letter to the Minister from the Adjutant General of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Major Johnson is presently on an orientation visit in preparation for taking up her post on June 3, 2021. Present at the meeting were Brigadier General (Ret'd) Dario Tapia, CEO in the Ministry, and Admiral John Borland, chief of defence staff.

## **Ends**