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PRESS RELEASE

Belize attends the XVI Conference of the Defence Ministers of the Americas in Mendoza, Argentina

Belmopan, October 22, 2024.

Hon. Florencio Marin Jr, Minister of National Defence and Border Security, along with Hon. Oscar Mira, Minister of State; Colonel Anthony Velasquez, Deputy Commander of the Belize Defence Force; and Lieutenant Commander Alma Pinelo, Acting Vice Commandant of the Belize Coast Guard, has returned from the XVI Conference of Defence Ministers of the Americas, held in Mendoza, Argentina.

From October 13-16, Belize's Delegation joined representatives from 23 countries to discuss and strengthen cooperation on regional security, peace, and mutual support. Led by Hon. Florencio Marin Jr., the delegation reinforced Belize's commitment to UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, which promotes the active role of women in the Belize Armed Forces.

The team also emphasized Belize's focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in the region, stressing the importance of environmental protection as a vital part of national security. Additionally, Belize reaffirmed its determination to combat transnational organized crime, working closely with regional partners, advancing the use of modern technology, and expanding collaboration with CARICOM and the OAS.

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