

**GEN (ret.) Carlos Ospina Ovalle**  
Distinguished Professor of Practice

Gen (Ret) Carlos Alberto Ospina Ovalle is the former Commander of the Colombian Armed Forces, serving as Colombia's top military officer until his retirement in 2006. At that point, he became the Chief of Defense Chair and Professor of National Security Affairs at the Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS) located at the National Defense University (NDU) in Washington, DC. Since 2014, he has served as a Distinguished Professor of Practice at the College of International Security Affairs (CISA).



Commissioned in 1967 from the Colombian Military Academy, he steadily rose, commanding at every level, to include 2d Mobile Brigade (BRIM), 4th Brigade (Medellin), 4th Division, and the Colombian Army (COLAR) itself. His combat performance was unparalleled, and he emerged as one of Colombia's most decorated combat soldiers, having been wounded in action while commanding 4th Brigade. As a Major, he had been decorated when a small jungle tracking unit he commanded, less than a squad, assaulted more than a hundred M19 guerrillas who had landed on the southwestern coast of Colombia, an action which led to their complete neutralization once reinforcements arrived. Simultaneously, General Ospina came to be regarded as the brain trust of the Colombian military, playing a key role in the crafting and implementation of the approach that turned the tide of the counterinsurgency and restored the strategic initiative – which Colombia still holds. Together with Generals Tapias and Mora, he is credited with reversing what was seen as a hopeless situation and doing so in a manner which won the respect of his soldiers and his country.

***Books Published in 2014***

- **Ospina Ovalle, Carlos. *Los años en que Colombia recuperó la esperanza : Cómo la aplicación coordinada de política y estrategia logró la recuperación social, económica y de seguridad de la nación colombiana, Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, 2014.***
- **Ospina Ovalle, Carlos. *Batallas No Contadas: La Derrota Militar del M-19. Editorial Oveja Negra, October 2014***