



Advocating a U.S. foreign policy that promotes international cooperation, demilitarization and respect for human rights

*The Center for International Policy takes pleasure in inviting you to the inaugural conference of the*

## ***U.S.-Cuban-Mexican Association to Defend Against Hurricanes***

**Hotel Monteleone**  
214 Royal Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana

**Monday, April 9, 2012**  
1:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
*Reception to follow*

Dr. Ángel Ruiz of the National University of Mexico will be the overall conference commentator.

A Q&A session will be held at the end of each panel.

**Please RSVP to Juanita Islas at [cuba@ciponline.org](mailto:cuba@ciponline.org) or [\(202\)232-3317](tel:2022323317).**

**Panels will take place in the Vieux Carre Room.**

### ***1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Panel 1***

- Moderator: **Wayne S. Smith**, senior fellow, Cuba Project director, Center for International Policy.
- Panelists: Association chairman, **General Russel Honore**, who headed U.S. emergency efforts in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina; Association vice chairman, **Joe Jaworski**, the Mayor of Galveston; and Association vice chairman, **Brig Gen (Ret) Joe Spraggins** of Gulfport.
- The panelists will discuss past efforts to defend against hurricanes, including the historic cases of Katrina and Galveston in 1900, and will then indicate how the new Association hopes to bring about increased and more effective international cooperation against today's storms.

### ***2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Panel 2***

- Chairperson: Valerie Cahill, chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans.
- Panelists: Cuba's representative to the Association, **José Rubiera**, Cuba's chief meteorologist; and Mexico's representative to the Association, **Admiral (ret) Alberto Vázquez de la Cerda**.

- The panelists will discuss episodes in which Cuba and Mexico have joined their efforts to those of the U.S. in defense against hurricanes, and how the three efforts can now best be coordinated.

**3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Coffee Break**

**4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Panel 3**

- Chairperson: **Randy Poindexter**, Association representative of New Orleans.
- Panelists: **José Rubiera**, of the Cuban Meteorological Service; **Lixion Avila**, of the Hurricane Center in Miami; and **Dr. Armando Trasviña** of the Center of Scientific Research and Higher Education of Ensenada, Baja California.
- The panel will focus on efforts to track the paths of hurricanes, predict their landfall and intensity and give warning to those in their path, and also on how these efforts can best be coordinated within the association.

**5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Panel 4**

- Chairperson: **Nick Kralj**, Association representative in Texas.
- Panelists: **Lt. Col (Ret) Jerry Sneed**, the Deputy Mayor of New Orleans; **José Rubiera** of Cuba; and **Admiral Alberto Vázquez de la Cerda** of Mexico.
- This panel will focus on measures in the face of hurricanes, such as the evacuation of populations, protection of property and provision of medical attention, and on the readiness of association members to cooperate with one another in those efforts.

**6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Reception in the Riverview Room**

*Please RSVP to Juanita Islas at [cuba@ciponline.org](mailto:cuba@ciponline.org) or [\(202\)232-3317](tel:2022323317).*

If you wish to be a member of the Association, please so indicate and provide your e-mail address when RSVP'ing.

*Interpreting services provided by Jorge A. Lawton, Director, South to North Interpreters & Consultants.*

*The Center for International Policy wishes to express its appreciation to the Ford Foundation, Inc. and to Gulfstream Air Charters for their generous support, which made this conference possible.*