

# ++ Sumemos

**Bulletin: Let's Join Forces for Our Veterans  
Strategic Alliances Bulletin for the Benefit of  
Colombia's Veterans.**



Summit Without Limits: expedition  
to Nevado del Tolima by eight  
veterans of the Public Force.

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# Let's Join Forces for our Colombian Veterans

In 2025, veterans of the Public Force provided us with valuable experiences and heroic lessons, once again demonstrating that limitations exist only in the mind.

Thus, a group of eight veterans with disabilities, some of them with a leg amputation, accomplished the feat of reaching the summit of Nevado del Tolima on November 11. This marked the first time that such a large group of people with disabilities had crossed this impressive snowcapped mountain, overcoming harsh weather conditions and challenging terrain.

These eight men are a clear example of the great potential of veterans from the Armed Forces and the National Police who choose to overcome their limitations and fears. Their resilience serves as an inspiration for many who seek strength and motivation.

These achievements stem from the sports and artistic training programs of the Directorate of Veterans and Inclusive Rehabilitation (DIVRI) of the Ministry of National Defense, whose objective is to provide veterans with tools to develop skills and design a new, inclusive life project within society.

However, this effort would not be possible without the sponsorship and support that allow these talents to shine in different settings and competitions. For this reason, DIVRI manages resources through allied entities, organizations, and companies so that veterans, both with and without disabilities, can showcase their abilities, reach their goals, and contribute meaningfully to society.

One such organization is the Invictus Games Foundation, which sponsors Colombian veteran athletes who are emerging talents in adaptive sports across various activities and competitions at both national and international levels. Its guiding principle is that rehabilitation achieves better results through physical activity and through the exchange of experiences with veterans with disabilities from other countries.

Among the sports training programs promoted by DIVRI is sitting volleyball, in which the Armed Forces team — made up of active-duty personnel and veterans with disabilities — achieved its greatest international success this year. Veterans in wheelchair fencing and paratriathlon have also stood out, leading these disciplines at the national level.

Nevertheless, some of these athletes are still awaiting sponsorships that would allow them to represent their country in national and international competitions. It is important to note that the talents of Public Force veterans are not limited to sports, as DIVRI has also fostered significant artistic development.

For example, in the music workshop offered by DIVRI, veterans with and without disabilities came together to form the musical band “Veteranos Show Orchestra,” which blends Latin and traditional rhythms to create captivating melodies.

Likewise, the oil painting workshop has empowered veterans and beneficiaries with disabilities who possess outstanding artistic talent. Their works have been featured in several traveling exhibitions across museums in Bogotá.

In addition, thanks to DIVRI’s writing workshop, veteran writers have been nurtured and are now seeking sponsorship so that their memoirs or fictional works can be published and made available in print.

For these reasons, DIVRI invites Colombian private companies, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions to join and support these initiatives. Ultimately, beyond individual or team achievements, this means delivering well-being to those who once wore the uniform to defend the nation and who, through great sacrifice, provided security for us all.

**Major General (R) Gustavo Adolfo Ocampo Nahar**  
Director, Directorate of Veterans and Inclusive  
Rehabilitation

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## **Sports: One of the Great Allies in Inclusive Rehabilitation**

# **Invictus Games Foundation: A Key Player in the Recovery of Veterans with Disabilities**

One of the care pathways offered by the Directorate of Veterans and Inclusive Rehabilitation (DIVRI) within its inclusive rehabilitation program is physical activity, which has become the gateway to high-performance sports.

Within this pathway, several sports training programs are available, such as sitting volleyball, wheelchair fencing, powerlifting, taekwondo, para-swimming, among others. These programs empower active-duty members and veterans of the Public Force with disabilities, transforming them into competitive athletes.

In this regard, the Invictus Games Foundation has become a key supporter and promoter of veteran athletes since Colombia joined the Invictus Community in 2022. This alliance aims to promote their physical, social, and emotional well-being through sports activities around the world.



# **Eight Veterans with Disabilities Did the Unthinkable: They Climbed the Nevado del Tolima**

Thanks to the sponsorship of the Invictus Games Foundation, Public Force veterans made history by becoming the first group of eight people with disabilities to climb Nevado del Tolima. The activity served as a powerful experience of emotional rehabilitation, resilience-building, and collective growth for these veterans, who live with various disabilities.



# Veterans Excelled in the Allianz Race

On October 19, veterans who are part of DIVRI's running club participated in the Allianz 15-kilometer race held in Bogotá, thanks to the support and sponsorship of Allianz Colombia.



# DIVRI: A Global Example of Inclusive Rehabilitation

During the second half of 2025, DIVRI received visits from various national and international stakeholders interested in learning about the comprehensive care model implemented for Public Force veterans with disabilities, as well as exploring opportunities for cooperation.

DIVRI offers four inclusive pathways, which veterans voluntarily join according to their interests and preferences. Through workshops and diverse activities, these pathways help participants develop skills and design a new life project.

These pathways include: social inclusion (which integrates physical activity and life skills); productivity (which includes employability and entrepreneurship); educational management; and art, leisure, and free time, which features artistic training programs such as oil painting and music workshops.

As part of these distinguished visits, on September 9, the Directorate of Veterans welcomed Minister Counselor Chong-geon Lee, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Colombia. He toured the facilities and presented a recognition to the Director of DIVRI, retired Major General Gustavo Adolfo Ocampo Nahar.





» Similarly, on September 11, DIVRI received a delegation from the Blackthorn Rally, an initiative led by veterans of the United Kingdom's Armed Forces that has organized annual sports- and solidarity-focused expeditions since 2021. Thirty-five British military veterans, ahead of their Moto Rally experience through Colombia, learned about DIVRI's inclusive rehabilitation programs and participated in exploratory activities related to adaptive sports and veteran well-being.



» Finally, during the second half of 2025, DIVRI hosted members of the Association of Defense, Military, Naval, Air, and Police Attachés accredited in Colombia. They attended various activities, such as the Book Fair "Trazos de Pluma: Historias que Transforman" and the launch of the documentary "Los Colores del Tiempo", starring veterans with disabilities.



» Additionally, on November 18, a meeting was held with the Association of Attachés to strengthen existing alliances with different nations. The group, composed of military attachés from Peru, Brazil, Chile, the United States, and Mexico, toured the facilities and concluded their visit with an engaging sitting volleyball match and an exchange of commemorative items.

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# Working with Allies to Create Employment

DIVRI's coordinated work with organizations, companies, and institutions has also focused on providing employment solutions for veterans.

One such alliance was established with the multinational company LONGPORT, through which a recruitment process was carried out to identify and nominate veteran profiles with operational experience and specific competencies.

At the same time, DIVRI conducted a mass recruitment process in coordination with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the U.S. Embassy, aimed at identifying candidates for job opportunities in specialized sectors. This process included profile submission, information verification, and data consolidation.



» *Workers of the Longport company.*

# Culture Also Generates Well-Being

Colombian veterans who survived the Korean War and represented the country in that international conflict 75 years ago also continue to receive support through the efforts of DIVRI.

One such initiative involves support for a historical memory project in collaboration with the Korean World Legacy Foundation (KWLF), an international organization dedicated to preserving and promoting the legacy of Korean War veterans. The organization conducted interviews with some of these veterans, collecting their testimonies for the creation of educational and outreach materials.

Likewise, the U.S. Embassy invited Colombian veterans who survived the Korean War to attend the country's Veterans Day commemoration ceremony on November 11. The U.S. Ambassador prepared a special space and tribute for these veterans, reaffirming historical ties and once again honoring the heroes of the nation.

In relation to Veterans Day in the United States, a county in Miami invited a group of Colombian veterans to be honored and to commemorate the security alliance between the two countries.



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On December 3, the Ministry of Equality held a ceremony recognizing four Public Force veterans with disabilities who participated in the Invictus Games held in Canada in February 2025, highlighting the importance of sports and support as fundamental elements of rehabilitation and comprehensive well-being.



» Veterans decorated for Miniguality.

# Three Colombian Veterans of the Korean War Reunited with the Country They Defended

Seventy-four years have passed since Luis Antonio García Velandia, Luis Fernando Silva Fernández, and Víctor Manuel González Vergara lived through the most extreme moment of their lives, when—alongside five thousand other Colombian soldiers—they fought in the Korean War in the early 1950s.

Their memories of a brutal war in a poor Asian peninsula more than 14,000 kilometers away, at a time when they were barely adolescents, were contrasted

with the modern and cosmopolitan Korea they encountered. This was one of the reasons the Korean government invited them back in mid-November—to witness firsthand how the country they helped defend in the mid-20th century has become a global power.

For these three surviving veterans of the conflict, it was deeply moving to see how, thanks to the service they rendered in Korea, they helped shape the powerful nation it is today.



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# **Employability: Companies Joining the Initiative for Public Force Veterans**

By 2025, several public and private sector companies had joined the effort to promote the employability of Public Force veterans. In conjunction with DIVRI (Directorate of Veterans Affairs), job openings were announced for veterans with and without disabilities in operational, logistical, and administrative roles.

Looking ahead to 2026, we continue to invite various sectors to join this initiative, fostering the inclusion of the men and women who served their country and recognizing the diverse capabilities, skills, and values they can contribute to organizations.



**BREAD ART**



**LONGPORT**



**COORDINADORA**

### ***A Note of Gratitude***

We extend heartfelt thanks to the businesses and donors who, through their generosity, contribute to the well-being, recognition, and honor of Colombia's Public Forces veterans and their families.

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