“Defense to Civilian Authorities Support Operations”

In the realm of homeland security and emergency response, one of the major points of consideration is state rights and the obligation the governor has as the primary and sovereign responsibility to prepare for and respond to natural and man-made disasters/emergencies within their borders. The 10th amendment of the US Constitution reinforces the power of states rights and responsibilities by stating that powers not granted to the federal government nor prohibited to the states by the Constitution of the United States are reserved to the states or the people. An important and valuable partner in disaster response is the National Guard forces assigned to each state.

The panel will discuss recent Defense to Civilian Authorities (DSCA) support operations in the state of Colorado in which the National Guard and civilian first responders worked closely together in response operations. Examples from the 2008 Democratic National Convention (DNC), 2012 Wildfires, 2013 Wildfires and subsequent flooding will help attendees better understand how this critical support can be brought into play during any type of disaster.
Biographies

**Dr. Mark Riccardi** is an associate professor and faculty director in the School of Security and Global Studies at American Military University. More than half of his 21-year Army career was spent in DSCA operations and commanded an emergency response team during the 2008 DNC whose actions served as the model for the 2012 DNC and RNC.

**Dr. Robert Redding** is a part time graduate instructor in the School of Security and Global Studies at American Military University. He is currently an active duty National Guard officer responsible for coordinating DSCA operations within the state of Colorado. He was heavily involved in the 2012 and 2013 wildfires in Colorado.

**Dr. John Dolan Redding** is a part time graduate instructor in the School of Security and Global Studies at American Military University. John spent close to 30 years in the Army and helped coordinate DSCA operations during both the DNC and the 2012 wildfires.