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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FIRE DEPARTMENT THANKS USAID/OFDA FOR ASSISTANCE**

**SAN SALVADOR**– Today, the Fire Department of El Salvador gave a warm reception for U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador, Douglas Barclay, for the constant support the U.S. has provided in the training of firefighters.

For 14 years, the U.S. government, through its Office of Disaster Assistance and the United States Agency for International Development (OFDA/USAID), has facilitated the training of the majority of firefighters in El Salvador.

OFDA/USAID has invested \$358,690 in different training programs, equipment and technical assistance to benefit the Fire Department. Its members have received training in forming search and rescue teams in collapsed structures, first response to hazardous material incidents and advanced first aid, the establishment of an incident command center and training to prevent and control forest fires.

The Fire Department presented the Ambassador with a plaque recognizing and thanking him for the assistance.

“I feel very honored to have received this acknowledgement for the support my country has given to the Fire Department over the years. Thank you for letting us be part of this effort to train such distinguished personnel”, said Ambassador Barclay.

Present at the event were the Vice-Minister of Citizen Security, Astor Escalante; Vice-Minister of Governance, Silvia Aguilar; USAID Director, Mark Silverman; El Salvador Fire Department Director, Major Abner Hurtado; the President of the Fire Department’s Association, Carlos Gómez; firefighters and members of the Academy of Young Firefighters of El Salvador, among others.

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