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DEPT PASS COMJSCO FT BRAGG NC/J-5

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PINS, EAID, PORS, CO  
SUBJECT: COUNTER TERRORISM ASSISTANCE

REF: STATE 316707

1. (S) ENTIRE TEXT.
2. FOLLOWING IS INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL ON COLOMBIAN COUNTER-TERRORISM UNITS. WHILE THE PROLIFERATION OF MILITARY AND POLICE SPECIAL UNITS SUGGESTS CONSIDERABLE OVERLAPPING OF EFFORT AND POTENTIAL CONFLICTS, IN PRACTICE THE SENIOR LOCAL COLOMBIAN ARMY OFFICIAL HAS ASSUMED COMMAND IN SERIOUS TERRORIST INCIDENTS. AS EXAMPLES, THE COMMANDER OF BOGOTA'S MILITARY INSTITUTES BRIGADE (BIM) TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMBINED SECURITY OPERATIONS AT THE TIME OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC EMBASSY HOSTAGE SITUATION, AND THE COMMANDER OF THE 3RD BRIGADE IN CALI TOOK CHARGE DURING LAST JANUARY'S AEROTAL AIRPLANE HIJACKING IN THAT CITY.
  - A. COLOMBIAN MILITARY COUNTER TERRORIST CAPABILITY

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(1) SPECIAL FORCES UNIT

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- THE COLOMBIAN ARMY HAS A "SPECIAL FORCES UNIT" (UNIDAD DE FUERZAS ESPECIALES) WHICH INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 15 OFFICERS AND 40 NCO'S. THE UNIT CAN BE USED IN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS, AND IS TRANSFERRED TO ANY ARMY BRIGADE UPON REQUEST. THEIR PRIMARY MISSION, HOWEVER, IS COUNTER-GUERRILLA OPERATIONS. EACH SF OFFICER MUST COMPLETE A COLOMBIAN "RANGER" COURSE AS A PREREQUISITE TO PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN. THIS UNIT ALSO RECEIVES UNIT TRAINING PERIODICALLY FROM THE UNITED STATES IN TRAINING INSTALLATIONS IN PANAMA. EACH MEMBER OF THE UNIT IS EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL WEAPONS AVAILABLE TO THE UNIT; THERE ARE NO SPECIALISTS IN SPECIFIC WEAPONS.  
 (2) ANTI-KIDNAPPING AND EXTORTION COMMAND

- THE COMANDO ANTI SECUESTRO Y EXTORCION (CAIS) IS COMPOSED OF FIVE ARMY OFFICERS AND 12 ARMY NCO'S, AND 20 OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT FROM THE NATIONAL POLICE AND DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY. THE UNIT IS UNDER THE DIRECTIVITY OF A MAJOR OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY. THE OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND DAS INCLUDE SPECIALISTS IN EXPLOSIVES DEACTIVATION, TECHNICIANS FOR IDENTIFICATION BY BLOOD TYPE AND FINGERPRINTS, EXPERTS IN PASSPORT AND DOCUMENT FALSIFICATION, AND MALE AND FEMALE SURVEILLANTS. ALTHOUGH ARMY PERSONNEL ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL ARMS AVAILABLE TO THE COLOMBIAN ARMY, POLICE AND DAS OFFICIALS ARE ONLY ASSIGNED AND FAMILIAR WITH PISTOLS, REVOLVERS AND SUBMACHINE GUNS. THIS UNIT HAS NOT RECEIVED SPECIALIZED TRAINING.

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(3) URBAN GUERRILLA UNIT

- EACH ARMY BRIGADE HAS AN URBAN GUERRILLA UNIT, CONSISTING OF TWO OFFICERS, TEN NCO'S, AND 20 TO 25 SELECTED ENLISTED MEN WHO SERVE IN THIS UNIT IN A DUAL CAPACITY. THIS UNIT IS EQUIPPED WITH MACHINE GUNS, RIFLES, M-1 AND M-2 CARBINES, PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, AND SNIPER RIFLES. EACH MEMBER OF THE UNIT IS TRAINED IN THE USE OF EACH WEAPON, AND THE UNIT AS A WHOLE HAS RECEIVED TRAINING IN COMBAT AGAINST ALL TYPES OF

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URBAN GUERRILLA OR TERRORIST INCIDENTS, INCLUDING SEIZURE OF AIRPLANES, SEIZURE OF INSTALLATIONS, AND HOSTAGE SITUATIONS. THE GROUP AS A UNIT HAS NOT RECEIVED TRAINING FROM FOREIGN SOURCES. DURING THE SEIZURE IN 1980 OF THE DOMINICAN EMBASSY IN BOGOTA BY THE M-19 GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION, THE SPECIAL FORCES OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY AND THE URBAN GUERRILLA UNIT FROM THE BIM BRIGADE IN BOGOTA RESPONDED.

(4) THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE HAS A SPECIAL UNIT OF 25-50 OFFICERS AND NCO'S. ITS SOLE MISSION IS TO COUNTER AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS.

B. NATIONAL POLICE

- THERE ARE TWO UNITS WITHIN THE COLOMBIAN NATIONAL POLICE RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPONDING TO TERRORIST SITUATIONS.

(1) GRUPO DE OPERACIONES ESPECIALES (GOES)

- THE NATIONAL POLICE GOES UNITS ARE UNDER THE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE CHIEF OF INTELLIGENCE (F-2) (DIPEC) IN BOGOTA, AND UNDER THE DIRECT CONTROL OF

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THE RESPECTIVE COMMANDERS IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF COLOMBIA. THE GOES PERSONNEL (OFFICERS, NCO'S AND AGENTS) ARE CHOSEN FROM AMONG THE BETTER QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE. THEY ARE EQUIPPED WITH UZI SUBMACHINE GUNS, INGRAMS, G-3 RIFLES, AND GAS AND ANTI-PERSONNEL GRENADES. EACH MEMBER OF THE UNIT IS CAPABLE OF HANDLING ANY OF THE WEAPONS ASSIGNED TO THE UNIT. THE COMMANDERS OF THE GOES UNITS HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTION IN SPAIN, AND THE TRAINING WAS DESIGNED TO PERMIT THEM TO INSTRUCT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GROUP. THE BOGOTA DETACHMENT OF THE GOES CONSISTS OF 15 MEN AND IS PRESENTLY ORGANIZING SIMILAR GROUPS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

- THE NATIONAL POLICE ANTI-EXPLOSIVES UNIT INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 45 SPECIALLY TRAINED TECHNICIANS LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. EACH EXPLOSIVES DEACTIVATION UNIT ROTATES THREE SPECIALISTS FOR 24-HOUR RESPONSE CAPABILITY. THIS UNIT HAS RECEIVED TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES; AND FROM ISRAEL IN BOGOTA. THE LAST COURSE GIVEN BY ISRAELI SPECIALISTS, WHO TRAVELLED TO BOGOTA, WAS APPROXIMATELY IN AUGUST 1982.

- THE NATIONAL POLICE GOES AND EXPLOSIVES DEACTIVATION

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UNITS HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO RESPOND TO TERRORIST INCIDENTS OF ALL TYPES, INCLUDING SEIZURE OF AIRCRAFT, BUILDINGS, BOATS, TRAINS, AND IN HOSTAGE SITUATIONS. THEY HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED AGAINST ACTUAL TERRORIST SITUATIONS WHICH HAVE INCLUDED KIDNAPPINGS AND AIRCRAFT HIJACKINGS, AND THE EXPLOSIVES UNIT HAS DEACTIVATED NUMEROUS EXPLOSIVES OF ALL TYPES.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SECURITY (DAS)

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- THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC ORDER, UNDER THE COMMAND OF RETIRED MAJOR CARLOS GARCIA VARGAS, WAS FORMED OVER TEN YEARS AGO. ITS PRESENT COMPLEMENT INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 100 MEN EQUIPPED WITH HANDGUNS AND SUBMACHINE GUNS (UZI, INGRAM, MP5).

- THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE GROUP (GRUPO DE REACCIONES INMEDIATA), UNDER THE COMMAND OF DR. JUAN MANUEL MEDELLIN, CONSISTS OF APPROXIMATELY 90 PERSONS, AND EMPLOYS 30 ON ACTIVE DUTY FOR 24 HOURS AND OFF FOR 48 HOURS.

- BOTH OF THE ABOVE UNITS WOULD RESPOND TO A TERRORIST INCIDENT, ALTHOUGH THE DAS DOES NOT HAVE A SPECIALLY-TRAINED ANTI-TERRORIST UNIT. IN 1980 DAS PERSONNEL RECEIVED TRAINING IN TERRORIST INCIDENT MANAGEMENT, AND PARTICIPATED IN THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO THE SEIZURE OF THE DOMINICAN EMBASSY BY THE M-19. PERSONNEL WHO RECEIVED THIS TRAINING SUBSEQUENTLY WERE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER POSTS.

3. NONE OF THE UNITS HAS A ROLE IN THE INTERNAL POLITICAL STRUCTURE. WATSON

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