

INQUIRE=DOC17D
ITEM NO=00261423

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX088 MCN = 92071/24365 TOR = 920711357
RTTCZYUW RUEKJCS3641 0711359- [REDACTED] -RUEALGX.

ZNY [REDACTED]

HEADER

R 111359Z MAR 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RUETIAQ/MPCFTGEORGE GMEADEMD
RULKNIS/COMNISCOM WASHINGTON DC//NAVATAC//
RUEOGWA/CDRUSARSO FT CLAYTON PM
RUWSMXI/MAC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RUEHC /SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RULKQAN/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 111316Z MAR 92

[REDACTED]
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCJ2//
BT

CONTROLS

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 03 [REDACTED]

SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).
SUBJ: IIR [REDACTED] FIFTH ARTILLERY BN, ORDER OF
BATTLE, GUERRILLA ACTIVITY (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVAL-
UATED INTEL. REPORT CLASSIFIED [REDACTED]

- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 920303.

REQS: (U) [REDACTED]

SOURCE: (U)

SUMMARY: THE FIFTH ARTILLERY BN HAS A THREEFOLD MISSION OF DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY, COUNTERGUERRILLA OPS, AN COUNTERNARCOTICS. THIS REPORT COVERS UNIT DESCRIPTION, COUNTER-DRUG EFFORTS, EQUIPMENT, STAFF, DEPLOYMENT, JURISDICTION, AND BASE SECURITY.

TEXT: 1. THE FIFTH ARTILLERY BATTALION OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY IS LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF SOCORRO, SANTANDER DEPT.

IN ADDITION TO ITS MISSION OF PROVIDING DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY SUPPORT, THE BN CARRIES OUT COUNTERGUERRILLA AND COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN ITS AREA OF JURISDICTION. THESE LAST TWO MISSIONS TAKE UP MOST OF THE UNIT'S TIME.

THERE ARE SIX BATTERIES IN THE BN AMONG WHICH ARE A HQS BATTERY; A LOGISTICS BATTERY; AND AND A NIMROD MISSILE BATTERY WHICH IS ATTACHED TO THE BN BUT NOT ORGANIC.

2. A. EQUIPMENT -

105MM HOWITZERS
120MM BRANDT MORTARS
NIMROD ANTI-TANK MISSILES
75 MM SKODA HOWITZER

ISRAELI M-462 AVIR TRUCKS IN MINT CONDITION.

US 2.5 TON TRUCK
MERCEDES BENZ TRUCK
WILLYS JEEP TYPE MILITARY PICKUP TRUCK
FORD HEAVY FLATBED TRUCK
FORD VAN AMBULANCE
US 2.5 TON-TYPE TRUCK WATER TRUCK
US 2.5 TON-TYPE TRUCK TOW TRUCK
TOYOTA/NISSAN 4 WHEEL DRIVE CIVILIAN VEHICLES

MERCEDES BENZ SEDAN FOR USE BY BN COMMANDER.
OF GALIL RIFLES-MAINSTAY OF THE BN.
OF G-3 RIFLES-VERY FEW OF THESE LEFT AS
THEY ARE BEING PHASED OUT IN FAVOR OF THE GALIL.

[REDACTED]

B. UNIFORMS - THE BN IS VERY LOW IN UNIFORMS. EACH SOLDIER HAS ONLY TWO KHAKI UNIFORMS. THERE ARE ONLY 160 CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS. THESE WERE ACQUIRED THROUGH A BARTERING AGREEMENT WITH A NEIGHBORING UNIT.

3. [REDACTED] DEPLOYMENT - [REDACTED]

THE UNIT IS OUT ON PATROL THROUGH OUT THE AO IN ORDER TO PURSUE GUERRILLAS, DESTROY NARCOTICS FIELDS, OR ESTABLISH A PRESENCE WHICH WILL DENY THE GUERRILLAS AN OPERATING AREA.

[REDACTED]

4. [REDACTED] GUERRILLA PRESENCE - THERE ARE THREE FARC FRONT OPERATING IN THE AREA ALONG THE CUCHILLA DE LOS COBARDES MOUNTAIN RANGE [REDACTED] THE WESTERN LIMIT OF THE BN JURISDICTION. THESE FRONTS ARE- 46, 23, AND 12TH FRONTS. THERE ARE NO KNOWN PERMANENT GUERRILLA BASES.

[REDACTED] AREAS OF CONCERN ARE THE TOWNS OF SIMACOTA AND CHIMA, 14KM AND 35 KM WEST OF SOCORRO BY ROAD.

[REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] COUNTERNARCOTICS UNIT. A COUNTERDRUG UNIT WAS CREATED WITHIN THE BN. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IT IS NICKNAMED "LOS AMAPOLEROS" AS THEY HAVE RECENTLY DESTROYED SEVERAL SMALL OPIUM POPPY FIELDS IN THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE BATTALION'S OPERATING AREA.

[REDACTED] HE GETS NO SPECIAL AID, TRAINING, O FUNDING FOR THE UNIT. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED] OPINIONS ON CUT OF U.S. COUNTER DRUG AID. SEVERAL BN OFFICERS SEEMED AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND THE CUT IN US AID TO THE COLOMBIAN ARMY. THE LOCAL PRESS TERMED THE CUT AS A REACTION TO DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT GUERRILLAS. THE OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT BY FIGHTING THE INSURGENTS THEY WERE FIGHTING NARCOTRAFFICKERS AS THE TWO HAD BECOME TIGHTLY LINKED. THERE WAS A HINT OF RESENTMENT AT BEING LIGHTLY SLIGHTED BY THE U.S., BUT THERE WAS NO REAL NEGATIVE FEELING TOWARDS THE U.S. OR ITS INSTITUTION

7. [REDACTED] POLICE. POLICE UNITS IN THE AREA ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE BN COMMANDER. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THERE ARE 6-8 POLICE DISTRICTS IN THE BN AO, ALL HEADED BY A MAJOR AND EACH WITH APPROX 250 POLICEMEN. GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON THE POLICE STATIONS OR POLICE PATROLS ARE COMMON. THE AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN ARE THE TOWNS OF SIMACOTA AND CHIMA, 14KM AND 35 KM WEST OF SOCORRO BY ROAD. GUERRILLAS ARE KNOWN TO FREQUENTLY ROAM THIS AREA. COMMON CRIME DOES NOT SEEM TO BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CATTLE RUSTLING.

8. [REDACTED] GARRISON SITE. THE BN SPREADS OVER A 54 HECTARE AREA ON THE SW EDGE OF THE TOWN. IT LIES IMMEDIATELY ALONG THE MAIN BOGOTA-BUCARAMANGA HIGHWAY, APPROX ONE KILOMETER IN FROM THE TOWNS SOUTHERN EDGE. THE UNIT PRESENTS A VERY GOOD IMAGE TO THE VISITOR AS IT SEEMS WELL ORGANIZED, CLEAN, AND WELL MAINTAINED. IN ADDITION IT HAS BEAUTIFUL VEGETATION AND A STUPENDOUS VIEW OF THE CUCHIL DE LOS COBARDES MOUNTAINS. BN OFFICERS CLAIM THIS IS AMONG THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF COLOMBIAN ARMY GARRISONS.

[REDACTED]

10. (U) BN STAFF. COMMANDER- LTC LUIS JORGE ((HERNANDEZ EXECUTIVE OFFICER/SECOND COMMANDER - MAJ GUSTAVO ((CASTRO OPS OFFICER(THIRD IN COMMAND) - MAJ GOMEZ NIMROD BATTERY COMMANDER - CAPT PINEDA (FIELD COMMENT - THE FIRST THREE OFFICERS ALL ARRIVED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BETWEEN DEC 91 AND JAN 92. THEY ARE ON TWO YEAR TOURS.)

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED] OVERALL, THE UNIT SEEMS IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MORAL
CONDITION. THERE IS AN AIR OF CONFIDENT RELAXATION. THE
GUERRILLAS DO NOT SEEM TO POSE MUCH OF A PROBLEM. NO ONE
SEEMS TO REMEMBER WHEN THE LAST ENGAGEMENT TOOK PLACE.
HOWEVER, THE UNIT SEEMS AWARE THAT THIS SITUATION MIGHT
CHANGE AT ANY MOMENT.

[REDACTED]

ADMIN

PROJ: (U).

COLL: (U) AB; AC

INSTR: (U) U.S. [REDACTED]

PREP: (U) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ACQ: (U) BOGOTA, COLOMBIA (920303).
DISSEM: (U) FIELD: EMBASSY AT BOGOTA.
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BT

#3641

NNNN

[REDACTED]