

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

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15. SUMMARY (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. ~~(S)~~ talked to COL Lazaro DE LA VEGA, Mexican Army paratrooper, who was put in charge of the paratroop battalion searching the State of Guerrero for Lucio CABANAS in the fall of 1974. DE LA VEGA is U.S. trained and also received training in Central America (Guatemala and Costa Rica, perhaps). He was also sent to Costa Rica several years ago to provide intelligence information on the El Salvador-Honduras dispute.
2. ~~(S)~~ DE LA VEGA says CABANAS made tape recordings of many of his speeches to the peasants; the speeches were communist-inclined. Some tapes were captured when CABANAS abandoned hideouts hurriedly under pressure from government troops. In the tapes CABANAS told his troops he'd pay them 2,000 pesos each per month. In fact, they received 60 - 80 pesos which caused widespread desertions.
3. ~~(S)~~ CABANAS made a grave tactical error in the selection of terrain in which he tried to hide out, according to DE LA VEGA. The terrain in which he tried to hide out is the best marijuana growing country in the State of Guerrero, and the last thing the farmers wanted was government troops discovering their crops. So, whenever the troops appeared, the farmers gave them the best available information on CABANAS' whereabouts so that the troops would leave the area as soon as possible.
4. ~~(S)~~ CABANAS was killed in an ambush by a 2LT in DE LA VEGAS' battalion. He and others saw the bandits coming thru the underbrush, all armed. The lieutenant put three M-1 bullets into CABANAS from ambush. He didn't know who had killed CABANAS until after the fight when DE LA VEGA identified the body. DE LA VEGA was promoted to full colonel as a result of killing CABANAS.
5. (b)(3):10 USC 424

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(b)(3):10 USC 424

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