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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: SEP 0 8 2012

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
JCS MESSAGE CENTER

ROUTINE ZYUW RUENGTA1284 3042345
R 3123332 OCT 85
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TO DIA WASHDC//JSI-4A/DB-3C2//
[redacted] SECTION 01 OF 03 GUATEMALA GT 11284
[redacted]
SERIAL: (U) IIR [redacted]
PASS: (U) DIA PASS TO AIG 11888
COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT); MEXICO (MX).
SUBJ: IIR [redacted] MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MZ #18
- SAN MARCOS (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.
DOI: (U) 851022
REQS: (U) M-4RX-43177; Z-SCH-GT001; Z-SCH-GT015.
SOURCE: (U) PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS
-
SUMMARY: <##> ON 851022, [redacted] MZ #18, SAN MARCOS AND WAS BRIEFED BY THE MZ COR AND MZ S-3 ABOUT THE MILITARY SITUATION THERE.
-
TEXT: 1. <##> GENERAL SITUATION: [redacted] THE SITUATION IN MZ #18, MUCH THE SAME AS IT HAD BEEN DURING VISIT THREE MONTHS EARLIER. FORCES FROM THE GUERRILLA GROUP ORPA ARE STILL ACTIVE IN THE DEPARTMENT AND THE MILITARY IS CONTINUING OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS TO KEEP THEM F BALANCE DURING THE ELECTORAL PERIOD. THE MILITARY FORCES APPEAR TO HAVE OVERALL CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT WHILE THE GUERRILLAS CAN MOUNT SUCCESSFUL, LIMITED OPERATIONS AT TIMES AND PLACES OF THEIR CHOOSING.
2. <##> CURRENT OPERATIONS:
- A. MILITARY OPERATIONS: THE MZ IS CURRENTLY OPERATING TWO FACILITIES IN SAN MARCOS, AT LEAST THREE REMOTE DETACHMENTS, AND A COMBAT FORCE ENGAGED IN AN OFFENSIVE OPERATION. THE OLD MZ HEADQUARTERS CURRENTLY HOUSES ONLY THE S-2 AND S-6 SECTIONS AND SOME SECURITY FORCES. THE COMMANDER AND THE REST OF HIS STAFF ARE OCCUPYING THE NEW BASE FACILITIES NEAR THE AIRSTRIP. CONSIDERABLE CONSTRUCTION IS STILL UNDERWAY THERE AND [redacted] CONSTRUCTION AS 70 PERCENT COMPLETE. THE REMAINING BUILDINGS APPEARED TO BE PREDOMINANTLY BARRACKS FACILITIES. THE THREE FORWARD DETACHMENTS NOTED [redacted] WERE LOCATED IN EL PORVENIR //GEO COORDS: 1450N0215W//, EL FERROL //GEO COORDS: 1462N0150W//, AND FINCA MAVIDAD //GEO COORDS: 1502N0204W//.
- B. ONGOING OPERATIONS ON 851022 INCLUDED A COMPANY SIZED RAID ON A SUSPECTED GUERRILLA CAMP AND SWEEPS ALONG THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY RUNNING EAST-WEST. THREE PLATOONS WERE ATTEMPTING TO CONVERGE ON THE SUSPECT CAMP LOCATED TO THE EAST OF TAJUMULCO VOLCANO. THE COMBAT SWEEPS WERE BEING CONDUCTED BY FORCES IN THE PROCESS OF ROTATING TO THE DETACHMENT OUTPOSTS. AN ESTIMATED BATTALION MOVED OUT FROM SAN MARCOS AND WAS REPORTEDLY MOVING EAST TO WEST JUST NORTH OF THE PAN AM HIGHWAY. AS IT REACHED A DETACHMENT LOCATION IT WAS TO LEAVE THE REPLACEMENT UNIT THERE AND CONTINUE TO THE WEST. THIS WOULD CONTINUE TO FINCA MAVIDAD, THE MOST DISTANT LOCATION. IT APPEARED THAT THE RELIEVED UNITS WOULD THEN SWEEP WEST TO EAST ALONG THE HIGHWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE UNTIL THEY RETURNED TO SAN MARCOS.
- C. MZ #18 CONTINUES TO OPERATE A LOCAL TRAINING CENTER AT OR NEAR FINCA MAVIDAD. ACCORDING TO THE MZ COR THE TROOPS UNDERGO MODIFIED RANGER (RANGER) TRAINING THERE. THEY ARE THEN GIVEN THREE DAYS OF R AND R A T THE BEACH. AFTER THE VACATION AT THE BEACH THEY RETURN TO COMBAT. THE COR FEELS THIS HAS BOOSTED MORALE AMONG THE TROOPS.
- D. IN THE SOUTHERN SECTOR OF SAN MARCOS, ALONG THE BORDER WITH QUETZALTENANGO, MZ #17 QUETZALTENANGO WAS OPERATING FOUR DETACHMENT OUTPOSTS SO THAT MZ #18 COULD CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS IN THE CRITICAL AREAS OF TAJUMULCO AND ALONG THE PAN AM HIGHWAY.
- E. SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS: ACCORDING TO THE MZ S-3 THERE ARE STILL TWO ACTIVE FRONTS OF ORPA OPERATING IN SAN MARCOS. THE COMANDANTE MANUEL FRONT IS BASED AROUND TAJUMULCO BUT HAS REPORTEDLY SHIFTED THE EMPHASIS OF ITS OPERATIONS SOUTH TOWARD THE POPULATION CENTERS ALONG THE PAN AM HIGHWAY. THE LUIS IXMATA FRONT OPERATES SOUTH OF THE HIGHWAY AND HAS ALLEGEDLY INCREASED ITS ACTIVITIES THERE. THEY ARE SAID TO BE VERY ACTIVE IN THE COFFEE BELT OF SOUTHERN SAN MARCOS.
- F. IT APPEARS THAT, IN SAN MARCOS, ORPA HAS INCREASED ITS POLITICAL ACTIVITY. [redacted] TOLD THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHING ROADBLOCKS AND ENTERING VILLAGES AND FINCAS. AT GUNPOINT THE SUBVERSIVES THEN DELIVER THEIR POLITICAL MESSAGE THAT THE ELECTIONS WILL BE MEANINGLESS AND THAT THE CITIZENRY SHOULD NOT PARTICIPATE. IN ONE CASE SOME "SUBVERSIVES" INDICATED THAT THE PEOPLE SHOULD VOTE FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PT

DIA 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(3);
10 U.S.C. 424

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Office of the Secretary of Defense
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Date: 18 SEPT 2012 Authority: EO 13526
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Reason: _____
MDR: 11-M-2472-A1

7258

ACTION JSI-4B(*) (U,8,7,F)
INFO CJCS(*) NIDS(*) JS(*) JAD:CSD(*) SECDEF:(*)
SECDEF(*) USDP(**) ASD:PA&E(*) USDP:DSAA(*) DI-1(*)
NMIC(*) NTS-2B(1) NMS(*) AT-5(*) DIO(*) DE-3(*)
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+AIG 11888
SECTION(1)

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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ROUTINE ZYUW RUENGTA1284 3042346
R 312330Z OCT 86
[redacted]
TO DIA WASHDC//JSI-4/DB-3C2//

[redacted] SECTION 02 OF 03 GUATEMALA GT 11284

[redacted]

SERIAL: (U) IIR [redacted]

PASS: (U) DIA PASS TO AIG 11888

COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT); MEXICO (MX).

SUBJ: IIR [redacted] MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MZ #18 PARTY (DCG). IF THE ARMY HAPPENS ON THE SCENE AS OCCURRED AT FINCA EL PERU //GEO COORDS: 1453N0201W// ON OR ABOUT 13 OCT 86, THE GUERRILLAS LEAVE A DETACHMENT IN CONTACT WHILE THE OTHERS FLEE. IN THE CASE OF EL PERU, THE SUBVERSIVES ATTEMPTED TO BURN THE FINCA. IT WAS DAMAGED BUT WAS IN OPERATION ON 861022.

- G. SUBVERSIVE WEAPONRY IS SAID TO INCLUDE M40 MACHINEGUNS, M60 MACHINEGUNS, FAL RIFLES, M-16'S, AR-15'S, AND GALIL RIFLES. CAPTURED SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENTS IMPLY THAT THEY HAVE A 80-MM MORTAR, ALSO, BUT THEY HAVE NOT EMPLOYED IT IN SAN MARCOS SINCE AN APRIL 1986 ATTACK ON THE MZ HEADQUARTERS. THEY ALSO USE HOMEMADE CLAYMORE MINES, ESPECIALLY AS PERIMETER SECURITY FOR THEIR CAMPS.

- H. SUBVERSIVE DOCUMENTS PROVIDE LENGTHY DETAILS ABOUT THE USE OF SUBTERRANEAN BASE CAMPS. OFFICERS IN MZ #18 BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE SUCH FACILITIES IN SAN MARCOS. THEY HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT SUCH BASES EXIST BUT THEY HAVE BEEN THUS FAR UNSUCCESSFUL IN UNCOVERING ANY SUCH LOCATIONS.

- I. RECENTLY (NFI) A CIVIL DEFENSE PATROL IN WESTERN SAN MARCOS HAD DISCOVERED A CACHE OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT FOR FOUR PERSONS ALONG THE MX-GT BORDER. THE CIVIL DEFENSE PATROL FOUND TRACKS AND FOLLOWED THEM TOWARD THE MX BORDER. JUST INSIDE GT TERRITORY AT //GEO COORDS: 1505N0920415W// THEY FOUND LOOSE DIRT. THEY FOUND FOUR WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT BURIED THERE [redacted]

3. [redacted] PERSONALITIES:

- A. COL JORGE RENE ((ISAACS)) RODRIGUEZ: CONTINUES AS THE MZ CDR. HE IS A VERY FRIENDLY OFFICER AND APPEARS TO BE PRO-U.S. HE IS NOT BOISTEROUS ABOUT HIS COMMAND BUT HE APPEARS TO BE QUIETLY CONFIDENT ABOUT HIS ABILITY AND THE CAPABILITIES OF HIS COMMAND. DURING SOME FOUR VISITS TO MZ #18 [redacted] ALWAYS FOUND HIM POSITIVE AND UPBEAT DESPITE THE LACK OF NOTEWORTHY SUCCESSES AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS. COL ISAACS IS CONVINCED THAT THE ARMY CONTROLS MOST OF SAN MARCOS AND THAT MOST RESIDENTS ARE PRO-GOVERNMENT AND ANTI-SUBVERSIVES. COL ISAACS IS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO HOLDING SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS IN SAN MARCOS. HE VIEWS DEMOCRACY AS ESSENTIAL TO THE NATION AND AS A BENEFIT TO THE ARMY IN ITS FIGHT AGAINST SUBVERSION.

- B. LTC GUILLERMO ((PORTILLO)) GOMEZ: IS NOW THE SECOND COMMANDER IN MZ #18 SAN MARCOS. HE HAD JUST ARRIVED IN SAN MARCOS ON 861022 AND HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN THE 2D CDR IN MZ #13 SUCHITEPEQUEZ. LTC PORTILLO WAS VERY FRANK AND OPEN IN CONVERSATIONS [redacted] AND OTHER MZ OFFICERS PRESENT. LTC PORTILLO HAS A REPUTATION AMONG OTHER GT OFFICERS AS AN ALMOST FANATIC ANTI-SUBVERSIVE. LTC PORTILLO ENJOYS RUNNING TO STAY IN SHAPE.

- C. CPT JOSEPH ARTHUR ((GONZALEZ)) CABRERA: IS THE S-3, OPERATIONS OFFICER, FOR MZ #18. CPT GONZALEZ HAD ONLY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM AN EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN THE U.S. HE SPENT ONE YEAR AS AN ASSISTANT S-3 IN AN AIRMOBILE INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE 101ST AIRB DIVISION, FT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY. HE WAS SCHEDULED TO SPEND TWO YEARS THERE BUT THE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP DUE TO THE UNFAVORABLE EXCHANGE RATE FORCED HIS EARLY RETURN. CPT GONZALEZ WAS BORN IN TEXAS AND SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH. HE APPEARS TO BE PRO-U.S. AND VERY MUCH ENJOYED HIS STAY IN THE U.S. CPT GONZALEZ REPLACED MAJ ALVARO GABRIEL ((RIVAS)) CIFUENTES AS THE S-3. MAJ RIVAS IS THE S-2 OF THE AIRBORNE BDE AT SAN JOSE.

- D. COL OSCAR RENE ((GUZMAN)) ALVARADO: WILL REPORTEDLY DEPART MZ #18 WHERE HE WAS SERVING AS 2D CDR. WHOM AND IT THAT HE WOULD GO TO MZ #13 TO REPLACE LTC PORTILLO AS THE 2D CDR. COL GUZMAN, AN ENGINEER OFFICER, WAS PROMOTED TO COLONEL ON 1 OCT 86, AND FULL COLONELS ARE ONLY RARELY USED AS 2D CDRS. GIVEN A RECENT UPSWING IN GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES IN MZ #13, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE POSITION HAS BEEN UPGRADED TO MERIT A COLONEL.

COMMENTS: 1. [redacted]

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ROUTINE ZYUW RUEHGTA1284 3042347
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TO DIA WASHDC//JSI-4A/DB-3C2//

[redacted] SECTION 03 OF 03 GUATEMALA GT 11284

[redacted]

SERIAL: (U) IIR[redacted]

PASS: (U) DIA PASS TO AIG 11888

COUNTRY: (U) GUATEMALA (GT); MEXICO (MX).

SUBJ: IIR[redacted]MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MZ #18

FREELY AND TRUTHFULLY. MZ CDR HAS STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT HE WILL PROVIDE ANY AND ALL INFO REQUESTED.
2. [redacted] ASSESSING THE OVERALL BALANCE IN SAN MARCOS IS A BIT DIFFICULT. THEY MAINTAIN A SOLID OPERATIONAL CONCEPT THERE BUT SIGNIFICANT RESULTS AGAINST THE GUERRILLAS HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED. THEY ALWAYS SEEM TO HAVE A MAJOR COMBAT OPERATION IN PROGRESS AND [redacted]EXPECTS TO HEAR A "BODY COUNT" A FEW DAYS LATER. THE NORM SEEMS TO BE FOR THE GUERRILLAS TO ESCAPE AND [redacted]IS UNSURE WHY. DESPITE [redacted] IT SEEMS THAT THE MILITARY IS MAINTAINING OVERALL CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT. THE STATUS QUO OF MILITARY CONTROL WITH ISOLATED GUERRILLA SUCCESSES IS LIKELY TO PREVAIL FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.
3. (U) COL ISAACS' IMPLEMENTATION OF AN R AND R PROGRAM IS INTERESTING. OFFICERS ARE TYPICALLY GIVEN A THREE-DAY WEEKEND EVERY TWO WEEKS BUT [redacted] NO SUCH PROGRAM FOR THE TROOPS. COL ISAACS' NOVEL APPROACH MIGHT AID IN MAINTAINING HIGH MORALE IN MZ #18.
4. [redacted] THE "CHOPPING" OF A SOUTHERN SECTOR TO MZ #17 IS NOTEWORTHY AS AN OPERATIONAL TACTIC. [redacted] HEARD SEVERAL COMMENTARIES THAT SUBVERSIVES HAVE BEEN USING MIL ZONE BOUNDARIES AS SAFEHAVENS BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULTY IN COORDINATION BETWEEN MIL ZONES. BY PERIODICALLY CHANGING OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES THIS PROBLEM CAN BE AVOIDED.
5. [redacted] THE DISCOVERY OF A CACHE ON THE MX-GT BORDER CONFIRMS RUMORS PREVIOUSLY HEARD THAT GUERRILLAS HIDE THEIR EQUIPMENT IN GT AND THEN ENTER MX AS UNARMED "REFUGEES".
PROJ: (U) NONE
//IPSP: PGM2310//
//CONSUBJ: 11//
INSTR: (U) US MO
PREP: (U) [redacted]
APPR: (U) [redacted]
EVAL: (U) NO
WARNING: (U) NO RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS
DECL: (U) OADR BY

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