

Activities of US military personnel in Venezuela, 11-14 April 2002

22 April – OSD PA receives inquiry from the French Press Agency asking what role two US military personnel (identified by name) played during the events in Venezuela from 11-14 April, and why they remained overnight Friday and Saturday (12-13 Apr) at Fort Tiuna. Response was DOD had absolutely no role, and in fact discouraged any unconstitutional acts. Subsequently, informed our DIA liaison representative of the inquiry.

23 April – "Pentagon to Investigate Its Role in Venezuela" appears in the NY Times. Contacted (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 Venezuela regarding this and the previous press inquiry. He responded that neither he nor the other officer named spent the night at Fuerte Tiuna. Also, with the exception of a couple hours on Saturday, 13 April, they were in their offices at the US Embassy during the period 11-14 April. On Saturday (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 attempted to contact the Venezuelan Army Commander via telephone for information on what was occurring (this is typical). However, he could not get through and therefore drove to Fuerte Tiuna to meet personally with the Commander. At no time did he meet or engage with the interim President, Mr. Pedro Carmona. I also learned that the (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 provided the embassy an exhaustive timeline of all the activities during the period 11-14 April.

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424

24 April – Subsequent to my request for additional information and in an effort to be provided a copy of the timeline (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 advises me that he cannot pass anything directly to me without (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 approval. OSD DIA representative informed.

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424

25 April – (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 Venezuela contacts me and advises me to "Please do not continue to contact (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 direct WRT information regarding the events of 20020411. Please use the established chain for releasability beginning with DIA, including the DIA Public Affairs Office and individuals listed above, if you need information contained in our exhaustive SITREPs and resultant published IIR's. We, as always, will respond to DIA cleared requests for information." OSD DIA representative informed of response.

(b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424

29 April – Our DIA representative informs me that any questions related to the activities of personnel in (b)(2),(b)(3):10 USC §424 in Venezuela during the period 11-14 April must be directed to the Director, DIA.