



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

5 AUG 1985

Honorable Charles B. Rangel  
Chairman, Select Committee on  
Narcotics Abuse and Control  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

DECLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of July 18 in which you requested information on possible military programs for narcotics control in South America that were conducted without the knowledge of the Drug Enforcement Agency. The U.S. Army, in particular the Special Forces, have not conducted training for South American military counterparts in drug enforcement activities.

U.S. Army Special Forces have conducted military training in Ecuador under an approved Security Assistance program. That course of instruction in special operations was given from February through June 1985 to an Ecuadorian Army unit. Subjects taught included small arms live fire, close combat, and military operations in urban terrain.

Special Forces have also participated in interoperability exercises in Colombia during April and May 1985. Military exercises are scheduled with Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru under the Fuerzas Unidas (United Forces) concept. The purpose of these exercises is to conduct counter-insurgency, survival, and small unit tactics in combined operations to enhance effective regional security teamwork. Each exercise is approved by the United States Southern Command in coordination with the respective Country team and the State Department.

The Department of Defense, together with the State Department and the Drug Enforcement Agency, will support approved Security Assistance programs designed to help South American countries to reduce drug traffic and production.

Sincerely,  
*James M. Weinstein*

cc: Honorable George Bush  
Honorable Jon Thomas, DOS  
Honorable John Lawn, DEA

13-M-5043

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FORCE MANAGEMENT  
AND PERSONNEL

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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DEF SEC

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Correspondence from Congressman Rangel -- ACTION  
MEMORANDUM

Congressman Rangel wrote you on 18 July 1985 stating he had been informed that Army Special Forces in Panama are training military counterparts in narcotic drug enforcement activity -- without the knowledge of DEA (Tab A). He asked for verification of these statements and an explanation why DEA had not been made aware of this initiative.

The Army-prepared response denies the existence of such training and states that our Special Forces have been involved in "... normal, non-drug related, standardization and interoperability exchanges..."

Since Mr. Rangel forwarded copies of his letter to Vice President Bush, State, and DEA, a copy of your letter should also be forwarded to them.

Recommend you sign the response to Mr. Rangel at Tab B.

Jerry L. Calhoun  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(Force Management & Personnel)

Coordination:

ASD(ISA) see attached

ASD(LA) see attached

Attachments

**DECLASSIFIED**

Prepared by LTC O'Connell, x59090

Page determined to be Unclassified  
Reviewed Chief, RDD, WHS  
IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: SEP 29 2015

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

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AND PERSONNEL

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Coordination:

ASD(ISA)

*[Handwritten signature]* ASD/ISA

ASD(LA)

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Attachments

Prepared by LTC *[Signature]* O'Connell, x59090

*[Handwritten signature]*

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IAW EO 13526, Section 3.5  
Date: SEP 29 2016



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ASD(ISA) \_\_\_\_\_

ASD(LA) RAR

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Prepared by LTC <sup>7-10-85</sup> ~~10~~ Connell, x59090 ~~10~~

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Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS

Sincerely,

Date: 29 SEP 2016 Authority: EO 13526+5 U.S.C. § 552

Declassify:  Deny in Full: \_\_\_\_\_

Declassify in Part: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

MDR: 13 -M- 5043

DECLASSIFIED

cc: Honorable George Bush  
Honorable Jon Thomas, DOS  
Honorable John Lawn, DEA

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