



POLICY

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

0 5 FEB 1981

In reply refer to:  
I-20515/81

#2

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Status of Security Assistance Program in El Salvador (U)

(U) Purpose: This memorandum responds to your request of 5 February for a status report on the Security Assistance Program in El Salvador, to include the Military Training Teams (MTTs).

Status of El Salvador Program (Materiel):

- From 1977 until the first quarter of 1980, U.S. security assistance to El Salvador was limited to an aggregate \$300,000 of cash sales of non-lethal items, such as clothing. With the initiation of land reform by the new junta in March 1980, the USG reprogrammed \$5.7 million in Foreign Military Sales Credits (FMSCR) and permitted El Salvador to use this credit for greatly expanded purchases of non-lethal items, such as communications equipment, protective masks, tear gas (CS) grenades, medical supplies, automotive spare parts, commercial trucks, aircraft engines and avionics, and clothing. The FY-1981 program released in December 1980 included an additional \$5 million in FMSCR for non-lethal items only. During the fall of 1980 pilot and maintenance technician training was begun preparatory to leasing El Salvador six UH-1H helicopters under the authority of 10 USC 2667 (lease of property "not for the time needed for public use" when it is in the U.S. interest).

- Following the launching of the guerrilla offensive on January 10, 1981, the President exercised his authority under Section 506 of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) to direct the drawdown of \$5 million in DOD articles and services to respond to "an unforeseen emergency" for which "the requirement cannot be met under the authority of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA) or any other law" except Section 506(a). (Such a drawdown amounts to grant aid (MAP), and the DOD is reimbursed from subsequent foreign assistance appropriations.) The Section 506(a) drawdown includes M16 rifles, small arms ammunition, rifle grenades and launchers, helmets, support for the leased helicopters, and military training teams (MTTs).

- The current status of approval and delivery of security assistance to El Salvador is as follows:

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FY 1980 Program

	<u>Committed</u>	<u>Delivered</u>
IMET (grant training)	\$ .247M	\$ .247M
Cash Sales (FMS)	-	-
Credit Sales (FMSCR)	5.7 M	5.7 M

FY 1981 Program

IMET (grant training)	.44 M	.366M
Cash Sales (FMS)	2.574M*	-
Credit Sales (FMSCR)	5.0 M	1.686M
Section 506 (drawdown)	5.0 M	4.8 M

\*Repair, refurbishment and return of UH-1H helicopters (6) under lease from Army.

Unfunded Requirements

M-16 Rifles (8,000)	\$ 3.9M
5.56mm Ammo (9,000,000 rounds)	2.1M
M79 Grenade Launchers (300)	.1M
M79 40mm HE Grenades (45,000)	4.0M
Patrol Boats (3)	2.3M
Radar Detection System (survey only)	.2M
Upgrade Existing Aircraft and GSE	7.0M
UH-1H Helicopters (grant aid) (4)	4.1M
3.5 inch Rockets (1,500)	.04M
60mm Mortar Rounds (10,000)	1.08M
30 Caliber Ammo, linked (2,000,000 rounds)	.14M
30 Caliber Ammo, with clips (8,000,000 rounds)	.40M
106mm Ammo (500 rounds)	.70M
	<u>\$ 26.06M*</u>

\*This figure does not include packing, crating, handling or transportation costs, and is based on grant aid pricing. If we are required to provide these under FMS, the cost would be approximately \$50M.

Status of USMILGROUP and the Military Training Teams (MTTs):

(S) For nearly a year, the Department of Defense has repeatedly recommended that in-country training of GOES forces is essential to develop the requisite military skills, professionalism, and confidence necessary to meet the insurgent challenge. This recommendation to provide small U.S. military training teams (MTTs) to El Salvador is even more important now. In-country operational training is the only effective way to teach quickly the professional military skills required to defeat the guerrillas and to correct the GOES tactical deficiencies which have been demonstrated during the current offensive.

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(C) US Military Group (MILGROUP). There is a four-man Military Group (MILGROUP) assigned permanently to the U.S. Embassy. The MILGROUP is headed by an Army colonel who has been in-country since February 1980. His tour will end in March, and his replacement is now starting the various courses and briefings to prepare him to assume command of the MILGROUP. There will be a 5-10 day overlap. The mission of this MILGROUP is to manage and coordinate the Security Assistance Program, and the commander functions as the principal military adviser on security assistance matters. In addition to the four members permanently assigned to the MILGROUP, there are 19 U.S. military personnel assigned on temporary duty (TDY) to the MILGROUP. This includes a five-man operations/planning and training team (OPAT), a two-man flight MTT, and a 12-man helicopter maintenance MTT. All are assigned to the capital city of San Salvador.

(C) OPAT. The OPAT is now in its second TDY stint in El Salvador, having arrived on 7 January at the request of the Government of El Salvador. Ambassador White concurred in their assignment. The team, headed by a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, first went to El Salvador on 21 October, and remained for two months. This TDY was generated by the Ambassador's request to assist the Government of El Salvador in protecting the 1980-81 harvest, the destruction of which was viewed as a high priority objective of the guerrillas in order to undermine the economy. The OPAT helped the security forces of El Salvador develop a combined operations center, a joint communications center at the Military High Command headquarters, and developed a plan for the protection of the harvest. The result of their efforts was a greatly improved command and control apparatus within the Salvadoran Armed Forces. The team has continued working with the El Salvadoran security forces to improve their coordination, an area in which the Salvadorans have been especially deficient.

(C) Flight MTT. Because lack of air transport has been a significant drawback for the security forces, the leasing of six helicopters was proposed in February 1980. The provision of the helicopters was withheld by President Carter, on the recommendation of Ambassador White, until the human rights performance of the security forces improved. The launching of the major offensive by the guerrillas on 10 January caused the President to agree to sending the helicopters and associated MTTs. Flight training for three El Salvadoran pilots at Fort Rucker, Alabama, began in November. To accelerate transitional training of additional Salvadoran pilots, a two-man (pilots) flight MTT was assigned to El Salvador on 22 January, and is currently conducting training of El Salvadoran pilots.

- (S) Maintenance MTT. A 7-man (1 military, 6 civilian) quality assurance team arrived with the first two helicopters on 17 January, and remained for initial maintenance until a 12-man maintenance team arrived on 29 January. This team will remain in El Salvador until early summer, when a permanently assigned maintenance team will arrive.

- (S) Future MTTs. Because of the pressing need for training in basic military skills, such as marksmanship, patrolling, tactical communications and counterinsurgency techniques, five 5-man MTTs are being recommended for immediate deployment to El Salvador for 90-120 days to help in the training of uncommitted forces, and to help El Salvadorans reopen their basic training center. Additionally, a five-man augmentation to the MILGROUP is being recommended to assist in the administration of the growing security assistance program. All personnel assigned to the MILGROUP, either in a permanent or TDY status, have been expressly directed to not accompany El Salvadoran forces on military operations. This includes the helicopter-related MTTs.

*Franklin D. Kramer*

Franklin D. Kramer  
Under Secretary of Defense  
for Policy, Acting

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

JAN 16 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: El Salvadoran Helicopter Crews (U)

(S) As you requested, I have reviewed the capability of the El Salvadoran military to operate six UH-1H helicopters. General Nutting and the USMILGP Commander have examined this issue and they report that the El Salvadoran Armed Forces will be capable of providing the necessary crews without US Government assistance other than the temporary flight and maintenance training you approved on January 13.

(S) As you previously authorized, three helicopter associated teams are scheduled for deployment to El Salvador. The first, a Quality Assurance Team (QAT) consisting of one military officer and six DOD civilians, will arrive in El Salvador with the first two helicopters at approximately 1630 local today. This team will assemble and flight check the helicopters prior to turning them over to the Government of El Salvador (GOES) in accordance with the terms of the lease. The QAT will remain in El Salvador temporarily to maintain these helicopters until the arrival of the 12-man maintenance MTT, which will arrive with the additional four helicopters on or about February 1.

(S) The second team, a two-man flight MTT, will conduct necessary flight transition training for El Salvadoran pilots, but will not participate in military operations. The first member of this team will arrive in El Salvador on January 17. Upon acceptance of the helicopters by the GOES, basic flight training will begin.

(S) On approximately February 1, the additional four helicopters will arrive, and a 12-man maintenance MTT will arrive on the same day. The QAT already in country will assemble and flight check the helicopters and upon acceptance of these helicopters by the GOES, the QAT will then return to the United States. The maintenance MTT will remain in El Salvador for approximately 180 days to conduct their training. In mid-summer, a two-man helicopter Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT) will replace the maintenance MTT.

(S) All personnel in the training teams have been, or will be, prior to arrival, specifically briefed on the extreme importance of not becoming engaged in the combat activities. The

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flight MTT in particular will be instructed that they will not participate in any operational missions against insurgent forces and that their sole function will be as flight instructors. All US personnel will be prohibited from accompanying the helicopters on any operational missions.

*Harold Brown*

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