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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE



WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

09 FEB 1981

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Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: AUG 27 2019

POLICY

In Reply Refer to:
I-20516/81

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EL SALVADOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Military Training Teams (MTTs) and Other US Military Programs for El Salvador -- INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

(U) In response to your request of 6 February, we have consolidated the following information concerning current and proposed US Military Training Teams (MTTs) and other US military programs for El Salvador:

- Current MTTs. In addition to the four members permanently assigned to the MILGROUP, there are 19 US military personnel assigned on temporary duty (TDY) to El Salvador. This includes a five-man operations/planning assistance team (OPAT), a two-man flight MTT, and a 12-man helicopter maintenance MTT. All are assigned to the capital city of San Salvador.

-- 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. The team, lead by a US Army lieutenant colonel, first went to El Salvador on 21 October and remained for two months. 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 MILGROUP commander has requested the extension of this team for a full 180 days (through 7 July 1981). It has been funded from current programs.

-- Flight MTT. 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. They will be in-country approximately 180 days and the team was funded by Section 506(a) authority.

-- Maintenance MTT. A 12-man maintenance team arrived on 29 January. This team will remain in El Salvador until early summer, when a two-man one-year technical assistance field team will arrive to take its place. These teams were funded by the 16 January Section 506(a) determination.

- Proposed MTTs. The deployment of additional MTTs will be the most timely and effective means for addressing the Salvadoran military's most pressing operational deficiencies. The proposed MTTs have been designed to provide positive role models, nurture unit cohesion, and fine-tune uniform standards of instruction to individual skills and unit needs. * Initial MTTs, 18-M-2202 judged to be most essential at this time are:

OSD CEN

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SEC DEF CONTR NO. X-12754
* Less politely, the El Salvadoran military is poorly trained in tactics and lacks...
...to this world is unnecessary combat

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-- Operational Training MTTs. These 5 five-man training teams would be deployed to some or all of the regional headquarters in El Salvador and would address the long-standing basic individual/small unit training needs of Salvadoran forces (basic individual training, weapons proficiency, code of conduct, border surveillance/control, tactical intelligence, patrolling, communications, weapons operations, and maintenance). These teams will be deployed from USSOUTHCOM assets and are available for deployment 15 days after tasking. They will be in-country for approximately 90 days. Cost of this program will be approximately \$210,000 from the current Section 506(a) authorization.

-- Naval MTT. This six-man team would teach the Salvadoran Navy basic techniques of coastal interdiction and would emphasize training in the use of detection and interdiction equipment. They will assist in the overhaul of Salvadoran patrol boats and maintenance of inoperable current equipment. The team will be deployed from US Navy assets and must be prepared to initiate deployment on or about 1 March 1981. They will be in-country for approximately 90 days. Cost for this training will be approximately \$37,000 which must be obtained from new authorization.

-- Zonal Operational Assistance Teams (OPATs). These 5 five-man teams would extend the work accomplished by the OPAT attached to the High Command in San Salvador to the country's five military zone headquarters. They would facilitate the effective operational planning of the Salvadoran regional commands and assist in improving overall effectiveness of GOES forces through the development of an enhanced command and control system. They will also assist in reducing security force abuses through the extension of US influence into the interior of the country. These teams will be deployed from USSOUTHCOM and FORSCOM assets and will be available for deployment 30-45 days after approval. They will remain in El Salvador for approximately 90 days. Depending on source of personnel, this program will cost \$300,000 to \$462,000 which must be made available from new authorization.

-- Information and Public Relations MTT. This three-man team would instruct Salvadoran forces in how to counter recent insurgent psychological operations success.

The team is programmed for deployment in March and will be in-country for approximately 60 days. The cost of this training, which must be made available from new authorization, will be \$26,000.

-- Civic Action MTT. This three-man MTT would work with the High Command to instill an appreciation for the relationship of military civic action and population support to insurgent defeat and to establish a Salvadoran instructional cadre for more widespread training throughout the country. This team will be in-country approximately 60 days and should be deployed by April 1981. It will cost approximately \$26,000 which must be funded from new authorization.

-- Augmentation of USMILGROUP. The current level of security assistance to El Salvador has greatly overtaxed the present four-member MILGROUP. There is a requirement to increase the MILGROUP's manning level from four to six, and we have recommended that State support DOD efforts to seek legislative authority to increase the manning level to a total of 10. As an interim measure, the MILGROUP should be immediately augmented for 180 days with a five-man MTT; its costs have been incorporated into the costs of the operational training MTTs above.

OSD 3.3(b)(5)(6)

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-- (S) Additional MTTs. Last week, the MILGROUP commander requested the provision of a five-man medical MTT of approximately two months duration. This request has not been programmed as yet, and as the military situation develops, other requirements will also emerge. (For example, more than one civic action MTT will probably be required before the end of FY82 and additional operational/tactical training requirements are likely to be developed following initial MTT deployment.) These unknown requirements are impossible to fund at this time, but some leeway has been built into proposed funding levels to accommodate these and similar unprogrammed requirements.

- (S) Equipment and Materiel Support.

Current. The FY81 FMS program for El Salvador included \$5 million in FHSCR for non-lethal items only. During the fall of 1980, pilot and maintenance technician training was begun and six UH-1H helicopters were leased to El Salvador in January 1981 under the authority of 10 USC 2667 (lease of property "not for the time needed for public use" when it is in the US interest).

-- (U) On 16 January 1981, the President exercised his authority under Section 506(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) to direct the drawdown of an additional \$5 million in DOD articles and services to respond to "an unforeseen emergency." 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).

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

<u>FY80 Program</u>	<u>Committed</u>	<u>Delivered</u>
IMET (Grant Training)	\$.247M	\$.247M
Cash Sales (FMS)	-	-
Credit Sales (FHSCR)	5.7 M	5.7 M*

*Including 75 commercial 2½ ton trucks which will be delivered during March 1981.

<u>FY81 Program</u>	<u>Committed</u>	<u>Delivered</u>
IMET (Grant Training)	.44 M	..366M
Cash Sales (FMS)	\$2.574M**	-
Credit Sales (FHSCR)	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.

Proposed. The Salvadoran Minister of Defense has just identified more than \$50 million of additional military requirements which must be reduced and prioritized.

-- (S) This preliminary estimate of the GOES military requirements, which will likely change as the situation develops, is about equal to the total of all FY81 FMS assistance program for Latin America. Such a major reequipment effort will go far beyond resources presently available for reprogramming.

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- **W** Short term requirements identified include:
 - M79 Grenade Launchers
 - Ammunition
 - Assorted Vehicles
 - Machine Guns and Other Small Calibre Weapons
 - 81mm Mortars
 - Fuel Tanks
 - Initial Radar Detection System Components
 - Additional Training

- **W** Mid-term (late FY81) requirements include:
 - Assorted Naval Equipment and Training
 - Additional Vehicles
 - Follow-on Radar System Components
 - Assorted Weapons
 - Training

- **W** Long term (FY82) requirements include:
 - Radar System Components
 - Naval Patrol Boats
 - Assorted Weapons
 - Upgrade of Salvadoran Air Force
 - Communications Equipment
 - Vehicles
 - Engineer Equipment
 - Assorted Ammunition
 - Individual Equipment

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W With all of the assistance under the \$5 million 506(a) determination, the FY81 FMS loan of \$5 million and the current FY81 IMET allocation of \$440,000 already committed, this increased assistance will require additional resources. To this end, the interagency working group currently reviewing US policy options has recommended two funding options.

- The first would divide the \$50 million program into two parts; the first half to be funded during FY81 by an additional Section 506(a) determination of \$20 million and reprogramming of \$5 million FMS credits. The \$25 million balance would be provided from FY82 programs.

- A second option would obtain the \$50 million in funding via a supplemental appropriation.

- DOD staff position has been to adopt the first option.

W All of these training and materiel proposals are being incorporated into the interagency study of US policy options for El Salvador currently being prepared jointly with State. There is general consensus on the materiel requirements (although there is some debate over whether the use of another 506(a) determination for \$20 million is preferable to a supplemental request for the entire \$50 million program) but there remains considerable debate over the acceptance here and in El Salvador of in-country MTTs. (A copy of the current draft summary of the security issues portion of the study is attached for your information.)

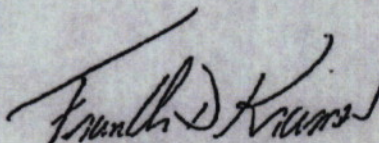
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④ The American Embassy has pointed out that President Duarte is very sensitive to accusations that US military advisers have been involved in combat operations. According to recent Embassy reporting, President Duarte has told them that he would like to keep the US military presence inside El Salvador to a bare minimum. However, the Military High Command has requested operational training on an urgent basis, and they report that Duarte supports this training. Obviously, this conflict must be sorted out before proceeding and Fred Chapin has been asked to address this issue promptly on his arrival in San Salvador this week. Presumably, we will have his response available before finalization of the Interagency study.

④ While all of the above programs have been based on detailed input (from the US Embassy, the MILGROUP commander, SOUTHCOM, and the Joint Staff), they should be recognized as only our best preliminary estimate of what is required. Until we are able to get some trainers in on the ground, we won't really know the exact kinds of training required; equipment and resupply requirements may well change as the situation develops. The program outlined above does, however, represent a fair reflection of our assessment of the magnitude of the problem. We will keep it under close review to insure that changes in requirements are reflected in actual programs.

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Franklin D. Kramer
Under Secretary of Defense
for Policy (Acting)

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