

INFO MEMO

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JUN 10 11:27  
USD(P) *[Signature]*  
I-03/007597 P&S  
JUN -6 2003  
(211)

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Marshall Billingslea, PDASD for SO/LIC *[Signature]* 6/3/03

SUBJECT: Colombian Air Bridge Denial (ABD) Program - Update

- On May 30, 2003, the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia certified to the Secretary of State that Colombia ABD operations are ready for a Presidential Determination to re-initiate the program. (TAB A)
- The ABD program is designed to stop aerial drug trafficking. (b)(3):10 USC §130c  
(b)(3):10 USC Colombian interceptors rendezvous with suspect aircraft and direct them to land. If they fail to comply, the Colombians may fire warning shots. As a last resort, the suspect aircraft could be forced to land or shot down.
- The April 2001 Peruvian Air Force shootdown of a U.S. missionary aircraft led to the suspension of ABD Programs and related assistance to both Peru and Colombia.
  - The State Department-led interagency investigation of the Peru shootdown concluded that language barriers, safety procedure lapses, and training problems needed to be remedied if a program is reinitiated.
- During their May 2003 meeting, President Bush told Colombian President Uribe that the United States will re-start the ABD program as soon as possible with enhanced safety procedures.
- All participants will be certified for participation in the ABD program by an USG Interagency team.
- The US - Colombia agreement requires State to provide ground safety monitors at key command and control locations as well as airborne safety monitors on tracking aircraft.
- Joint Interagency Task Force - South (JIATF-S) is tasked to exercise tactical control of USG aerial assets involved in ABD.
- The next step is for the State and NSC to prepare a Presidential Determination for the President's signature.

Attachment: As stated.

Coordination: None.

Copy Provided: ASD (ISA)

Prepared by: (b)(6) OASD SO/LIC Counternarcotics, (b)(6)

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**TAB**

**A**

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ZNR UUUUU

P 301140Z MAY 03

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 6801

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC

INFO RUEANHA/FAA WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

RHEHOND/DIRONDCP WASHDC

RUEAWJC/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC

RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL

RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

RUERMOO/DIRJIATF SOUTH KEY WEST FL

RUEAHLA/HOMELAND SECURITY WASHDC

RUEPINS/HQ BICE INTEL WASHINGTON DC

RUEABND/DEA WASHDC

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC

RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA 0410

RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY QUITO 0446

RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ 5741

RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 2776

RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA 4477

RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0757

BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 004921

BUENOS AIRES FOR DCM

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, PREL, MOPS, CO

SUBJECT: AIR BRIDGE DENIAL (ABD): CERTIFICATION  
SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

1. THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARAGRAPH 7.

2. SUMMARY. BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE INTERAGENCY ABD CERTIFICATION TEAM, THE AMBASSADOR CERTIFIES THAT THE ABD PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA IS READY FOR OPERATIONS AND REQUESTS PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION TO INITIATE THE PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, WE REQUEST A) INTERAGENCY POLICY BE ESTABLISHED ON STANDARD PARTICIPATION OF USG ABD ASSETS, B) REVIEW THE USE OF THE DATA FROM THE GROUND-BASED RADARS IN ABD, AND C) USG SUPPORT THE ACTIVATION OF THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE WESTERN SPECIAL ZONE OF AIR CONTROL (ZECA). END SUMMARY.

3. THE AIR BRIDGE DENIAL CERTIFICATION TEAM REPORTED ON MAY 16, 2003, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA (GOC) 'HAS ADEQUATE PROCEDURES IN PLACE TO PROTECT AGAINST INNOCENT LOSS OF LIFE IN THE AIR AND ON THE GROUND IN CONNECTION WITH INTERDICTION, WHICH SHALL AT A MINIMUM INCLUDE EFFECTIVE MEANS TO IDENTIFY AND WARN AN AIRCRAFT BEFORE THE USE OF FORCE DIRECTED AGAINST THE AIRCRAFT' (PER 22 USC SECTION 2291-4, AS AMENDED). THE TEAM ALSO REPORTED THAT THE JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE-SOUTH (JIATF-SOUTH), EMBASSY BOGOTA, AND THE INL ABD SUPPORT CONTRACTOR ARE READY TO SUPPORT ABD OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA. THE FOLLOW-ON

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CERTIFICATION TEAM REPORTED ON MAY 29, 2003, THAT THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT OFFICE OF AIR AND MARITIME INTERDICTION (BICE/AMI) AND THE U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND HAVE ESTABLISHED TRAINING PROGRAMS, CONFORMING TO THE ABD PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENT, FOR BICE/AMI P-3B AEW AIR CREW MEMBERS AND USSOUTHCOM HOST NATION RIDER ESCORTS, AND THAT THESE ELEMENTS SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED PROFICIENCY IN ABD PROCEDURES DURING A CERTIFICATION EXERCISE CONDUCTED IN COLOMBIA ON MAY 28, 2003.

4. THE ABD CERTIFICATION TEAM WAS LED BY AMBASSADOR JIM MACK AND HAD REPRESENTATION FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE, JUSTICE, TRANSPORTATION (FAA), HOMELAND SECURITY/BICE, AND DEFENSE (OSD, USSOUTHCOM, AND JIATF-SOUTH). THE FOLLOW-ON CERTIFICATION TEAM WAS COMPRISED OF INL, JIATF-SOUTH, USSOUTHCOM, AND BICE/AMI. POST THANKS THE CERTIFICATION TEAMS FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND PROFESSIONALISM IN COMPLETING THIS CRITICAL TASK.

5. ACCORDINGLY, POST CERTIFIES THAT THE GOC, THE JOINT INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE-SOUTH (JIATFSOUTH), THE BICE/AMI P-3B AEW AIRCRAFT ELEMENT, USSOUTHCOM HOST NATION RIDER ESCORTS, EMBASSY BOGOTA, AND THE INL ABD SUPPORT CONTRACTOR ARE READY TO REINITIATE ABD OPERATIONS IN COLOMBIA.

6. IN ADDITION, POST REQUESTS INTERAGENCY RESOLUTION OF THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

A. FOLLOW-ON STANDARDIZATION OF USG PARTICIPANTS. IN THE PROCESS OF CERTIFYING THAT THE BICE P-3B AEW'S ELEMENTS TO THE ABD PROCEDURES, POST BECAME AWARE OF SEVERAL UNRESOLVED OPERATIONAL POLICY ISSUES THAT WILL REQUIRE INTERAGENCY REVIEW AND RESOLUTION. THESE INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

(1) THE ROLE OF THE AIR SAFETY MONITOR ON USG AIRCRAFT CURRENTLY INVOLVED (P-3B AEW), OR ANTICIPATED TO BE INVOLVED, IN ABD OPERATIONS

(2) LANDING/BASING OF USG ABD ASSETS IN COLOMBIA

(3) DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OPERATING PROCEDURES OF VARIOUS USG ABD PLATFORMS (E.G. MINIMUM ALTITUDE FLOORS).

B. GROUND BASED RADAR DATA. THE GOC BELIEVES THAT IT 'OWNS' THE DATA FROM THE USG-PROVIDED AND SUPPORTED, BUT GOC OPERATED, GROUND-BASED RADARS IN COLOMBIA, BASED ON THE EXISTING AGREEMENTS ON THE RADARS. THE FOLLOW-ON CERTIFICATION TEAM HAS COPIES OF THE VARIOUS MEMORANDA OF

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 004921

BUENOS AIRES FOR DCM

E.O. 12958: N/A

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UNDERSTANDING (DATING FROM 1989) ON THIS SUBJECT. A THOROUGH LEGAL REVIEW OF THOSE DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THE USG POSITION ON WHO OWNS THAT DATA, OR IF THERE ARE RESTRICTIONS ON ITS USE.

C. SOUTH-WEST SPECIAL ZONE OF AIR CONTROL (ZECA) ISSUE. RESOLUTION OF THE STATUS OF THE CURRENTLY INACTIVE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE WESTERN ZECA IS VERY IMPORTANT TO THE RESUMPTION OF AN EFFECTIVE ABD PROGRAM. AS REQUIRED BY THE ABD AGREEMENT, AN EMBASSY-MOD WORKING GROUP ON THE SOUTH-WEST ZECA ISSUE HELD ITS FIRST MEETING ON MAY 28. THE GOC TEAM, HEADED BY MAJOR GENERAL ARCESIO BARRERA (DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS OF THE GENERAL COMMAND), PRESENTED ITS INTELLIGENCE EVALUATIONS OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN THE SW ZECA. (THE GOC EVALUATION IS BEING FORWARDED TO JIATF-SOUTH FOR REVIEW AND INCLUSION IN ITS RECOMMENDATION ON THE ISSUE.) WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTERAGENCY WILL BE IN A POSITION TO FORWARD ITS DECISION REGARDING ACTIVATION OF THE SW ZECA TO THE GOC DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 9. WE NOTE THAT THE ACTIVATION OF THAT ZONE IS A TOP OPERATIONAL AND POLITICAL PRIORITY FOR THE GOC. WE STRONGLY URGE ACTIVATION OF THE SW ZECA.

7. ACTION REQUEST: POST REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT/NSC:

-- PREPARE A RECOMMENDATION FOR A PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION IN ORDER TO INITIATE THE ABD PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA. ONCE THE DETERMINATION IS SIGNED, PLEASE INFORM POST SO THAT WE CAN NOTIFY THE GOC TO OFFICIALLY INITIATE ABD; AND

-- RESOLVE THE INTERAGENCY ISSUES OUTLINED IN PARAGRAPH 6. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT RESOLUTION OF THESE ISSUES SHOULD DELAY THE PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION.

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