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INFO MEMO

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FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense (ISA)

SUBJECT: Aircraft for Colombia

President Uribe requested your support to help upgrade his air capabilities. Here is the state of play of our efforts:

- Colombian Air Force (COLAF) Commander GEN Lesmez requested the loan of 18 A-10s in a letter to GEN Jumper on 21 January 2004.
- USAF studied the request, but determined it would take too long to deliver, would be too expensive, and we need the A-10's ourselves.
- DASD-WHA Pardo-Maurer spoke with GEN Lesmez on February 3, 2004 and suggested he keep working with SOUTHCOM on other options.
- On 8 March, GEN Jumper notified GEN Lesmez that we could not provide A-10's, but suggested we help upgrade Colombia's A-37 fleet instead. GEN Jumper also offered a team of USAF experts to meet with the COLAF to help identify and prioritize its options.
- Additionally;
 - We are upgrading 8 of Colombia's ten OV-10s. The first upgraded aircraft returned to Colombia on 5 March.
 - The FY03 Supplemental included \$12M for UH-60 Blackhawk spare parts.
 - DOD funded a \$9.4M Logistics Support package for the COLAF's C-130s.
 - FY04 legislation includes \$17M for three DC-3's for Colombian National Police and \$32M for new C-130s and/or C-130 maintenance and support.
 - FY05 request includes \$70M for medical evacuation helicopters. (On his last visit President Uribe asked DepSecDef for help with MEDEVAC capabilities.)

CF:
PDASD(ISA)

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