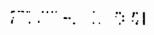
CONFIDENTIAL



INFO MEMO

I# 03/010799-ES

FOR: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

FROM: Thomas W. O'Connell, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict

SUBJECT: Restarting Colombia's Air Bridge Denial (ABD) Program (U)

- (U) You asked: "What is the 'air bridge denial program' about that is referenced in this cable?"
- (U) Under this program, Colombian Air Force aircraft intercept suspicious narcotrafficking aircraft and, if necessary, compel them to land at a location where Colombian law enforcement personnel can take control. Deadly force is used only as a last resort.
- (C) This program should be restarted before your visit to Colombia.
 - (U) In April 2001, the U.S. suspended all ABD-related assistance to Colombia and Peru, after the Peruvian Air Force shot down a civilian aircraft in Peru, killing two Americans.
 - (U) Since then, we have worked diligently with Colombia to develop new ABD Program protocols that stress safety and the presumption of innocence.
 - (U) The Government of Colombia has assumed operational responsibility for this program. The U.S. provides assistance with intelligence, radar data, and safety monitors.
 - (C) On August 4, 2003, Secretary Powell recommended that the President approve the resumption of U.S. support to Colombia's ABD Program.

(b)(6)	V6)	(b)(6)
Prepared by: Col	USAF, SO/LIC-CN,	
	CONFIDENTIA	t <u>t</u>

Classified by: André D. Hollis

X04724 /03

Reason: 1.5 (b) Declassify On: 8 July 2013

In reply refer to: EF-6389 & I-03/010799

July 31, 2003

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Doug Feith

SUBJECT: Air Bridge Denial

What is the "air bridge denial program" about that is referenced in this cable?

Thanks.

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 007053, R 291919Z JUL 03 Not ATTACHED

DHRxh 073103-6

Please respond by 8/8/03

8 May 03

UNCLAS

UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENT(S) DOCUMENT RECOMES LINCLASSIFIED

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