

**CONFIDENTIAL**

USD(P)

**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.

Prepared by: Col (b)(6) USAF, SO/LIC-CN, (b)(6)

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Classified by: André D. Hollis  
Reason: 1.5 (b)  
Declassify On: 8 July 2013

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ACDEF CONTROL #

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UNCLAS

EF-6389

I-03/010799

July 31, 2003

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

TO: Doug Feith

SUBJECT: Air Bridge Denial

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

Thanks.

Attach.

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 007053, R 291919Z JUL 03 *Not Attached*

DHR:dh  
073103-6

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Please respond by 8/8/03

✓ 8/9  
C 8/9  
Sir,  
Response attached.

y/r.  
CDR Nosenzo  
8-8

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COMPLETED

8 Aug 03

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UPON REMOVAL OF ATTACHMENT(S)  
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