

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: DEC 28 2017

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Argentina

#38

1. Total Security Assistance (\$ thousands)

<u>MAP</u>	<u>Military Training</u>	<u>FMS Credit</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Cost of Mission</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Contributed Currency by Host</u>
-	920	34,000	34,920	1,634	36,554	-

2. External Threat (US Assessment)

None.

3. Independent External Threat Estimate (Argentine Assessment)

[Brazil, because of its size, the size of its military forces, its strong industrial base, and its rapid economic development, is viewed as a vague potential threat in the distant future.]

4. Last Time Engaged in Active Military Hostilities

Argentina has not engaged in active military hostilities during this century. In 1962 Argentina contributed some military aircraft to the Cuban blockade; they also dispatched two destroyers, but the blockade ended before they arrived on station.

5. Aggressor Country

Not applicable.

Office of the Secretary of Defense **5 U.S.C. § 552**
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6. Internal Threat (US Assessment)

[Continuing terrorism and guerrilla warfare that has plagued the country since 1968, became intensive in 1974-1975, and has tied down a regimental-size force in counter guerrilla operations in Tucuman Province since February 1975. The main insurgent groups are the Montoneros (an organization with several thousand hard-core members that is an offshoot of the Peronist movement and has extensive contacts in the parent organization) and the People's Revolutionary Army (ERP - a Marxist-Leninist group with several hundred hard core members, much more active than the Montoneros and with considerable international support)]

7. Independent Internal Threat Estimate (Argentine Assessment)

Same as US assessment.

8. Other Reasons for Providing Assistance

[As the second largest country in South America, and because of its relatively advanced culture and economy, Argentina has important influence in regional affairs. Together with Chile, Argentina geographically dominates the

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strategic ocean routes between the South Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Security assistance to Argentina contributes to that country's modest modernization efforts specifically to improve its counterinsurgency capability, strengthens the US position as the predominant influence on the Argentine military, and reduces the likelihood of the incursion of third powers with interests inimical to those of the US.

9. Reasons for Requesting the Specific Amount of Assistance

Argentina has received no grant materiel assistance since FY68. The grant training funds requested are to provide basic technical training essential to the operation and maintenance of equipment obtained from the US, to sustain the pro-US orientation of the Argentine armed forces, and to contribute to their increased professionalism. The level of FMS credit requested for Argentina for FY76 is to support their program of armed forces modernization, particularly their counterinsurgency capability. The projected FY76 security assistance requirements for Argentina include helicopters and transport aircraft to improve its airmobile capability as a means to respond to internal security threats. Specialized equipment such as infra-red sensors and improved communications items are projected to improve their counterinsurgency capability. In addition, since the armed forces have been actively engaged in counterinsurgency operations, equipment will be purchased to replace attrition losses.

10. Amount of Assistance Requested by Country

Argentina specifically requested \$39 million FMS credits in FY75, \$9 million more than they received. In FY76 they have requested an FMS credit program of about \$50 million and a Foreign Military Training program of about \$1.1 million.

11. Objections from Neighboring Countries

None.

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