**INQUIRE=DOC17D**
**ITEM NO=00261423**

**ENVELOPE**
CDSN = LGX088   MCN = 92071/24365   TOR = 920711357
RTTCZYTW_RUEKJCS3641 0711359—RUEALGX
ZNY

**HEADER**
R 111359Z MAR 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OSCA WASHINGTON DC
RUEENAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUEACMC/CMC WASHINGTON DC
RUEITAG/MPCFT/GOERGE/GMEADEMD
RULKNIS/COMNISCOM WASHINGTON DC/NAVATAC/
RUEOGWA/CDRUSARSO FT CLAYTON PM
RWMSX/IMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL/IN/
RUCQVAB/USCINCSCOC INTEL DPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC/J2/
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
RUEAIU/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RULKQOH/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RUEALGX/SAFE
R 111316Z MAR 92

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
INFO RHLBAAAA/USCINCSCO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM/SCJ2/

**CONTROLS**

**SECTION 01 OF 03**

**SERIAL:** (U) IIR

/************ THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE ************/

**BODY**
COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).
SUBJ: IIR FIFTH ARThILLERY BN, ORDER OF BATTLE, GUERRILLA ACTIVITY (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFO REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
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DOI: (U) 920303.

REXS: (U)
SOURCE: (U)

SUMMARY: THE FIFTH ARTILLERY BN HAS A THREEFOLD MISSION OF DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY, COUNTERGUERRILLA OPS, AND COUNTERNARCOTICS. THIS REPORT COVERS UNIT DESCRIPTION, COUNTER-DRUG EFFORTS, EQUIPMENT, STAFF, DEPLOYMENT, JURISDICTION, AND BASE SECURITY.

TEXT: 1. THE FIFTH ARTILLERY BATTALION OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY IS LOCATED IN THE TOWN OF SOCORRO, SANTANDER DEPT. IN ADDITION TO ITS MISSION OF PROVIDING DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY SUPPORT, THE BN CARRIES OUT COUNTERGUERRILLA AND COUNTERNARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN ITS AREA OF JURISDICTION. THESE LAST TWO MISSIONS TAKE UP MOST OF THE UNIT'S TIME. There are six batteries in the BN among which are a HQS battery; a logistics battery; and a Nimrod missile battery which is attached to the BN but not organic.

2. A. EQUIPMENT -

105MM HOWITZERS
120MM BRANDT MORTARS
NIMROD ANTI-TANK MISSILES
75 MM SKODA HOWITZER
ISRAELI M-462 AVIR TRUCKS IN MINT CONDITION.

US 2.5 TON TRUCK
MERCEDES BENZ TRUCK
WILLYS JEEP TYPE MILITARY PICKUP TRUCK
FORD HEAVY FLATBED TRUCK
FORD VAN AMBULANCE
US 2.5 TON-TYPE TRUCK WATER TRUCK
US 2.5 TON-TYPE TRUCK TOW TRUCK
TOYOTA/NISSAN 4 WHEEL DRIVE CIVILIAN VEHICLES

MERCEDES BENZ SEDAN FOR USE BY BN COMMANDER.

OF GALIL RIFLES—MAINSTAY OF THE BN.
OF G-3 RIFLES—VERY FEW OF THESE LEFT AS THEY ARE BEING PHASED OUT IN FAVOR OF THE GALIL.
B. UNIFORMS — THE BN IS VERY LOW IN UNIFORMS. EACH SOLDIER HAS ONLY TWO KHAKI UNIFORMS. THERE ARE ONLY 160 CAMOUFLAGE UNIFORMS. THESE WERE ACQUIRED THROUGH A BARtering AGREEMENT WITH A NEIGHBORING UNIT.

3. DEPLOYMENT —

THE UNIT IS OUT ON PATROL THROUGHOUT THE AO IN ORDER TO PURSUE GUERRILLAS, DESTROY NARCOTICS FIELDS, OR ESTABLISH A PRESENCE WHICH WILL DENY THE GUERRILLAS AN OPERATING AREA.

4. GUERRILLA PRESENCE — THERE ARE THREE FARC FRONT OPERATING IN THE AREA ALONG THE CUCHILLA DE LOS COBARDES MOUNTAIN RANGE. THE WESTERN LIMIT OF THE BN JURISDICTION. THESE FRONTS ARE—46, 23, AND 12TH FRONTS. THERE ARE NO KNOWN PERMANENT GUERRILLA BASES. AREAS OF CONCERN ARE THE TOWNS OF SIMACOTA AND CHIMA, 14KM AND 35 KM WEST OF SOCORRO BY ROAD.

5. COUNTERNARCOTICS UNIT. A COUNTERDRUG UNIT WAS CREATED WITHIN THE BN. IT IS NICKNAMED "LOS AMAPOLEROS" AS THEY HAVE RECENTLY DESTROYED SEVERAL SMALL OPIUM POPPY FIELDS IN THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE BATTALION'S OPERATING AREA. HE GETS NO SPECIAL AID, TRAINING, OR FUNDING FOR THE UNIT.
6. **OPINIONS ON CUT OF U.S. COUNTER DRUG AID.**
SEVERAL BN OFFICERS SEEMED AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND THE CUT IN US AID TO THE COLOMBIAN ARMY. THE LOCAL PRESS TERMED THE CUT AS A REACTION TO DIVERSION OF EQUIPMENT TO FIGHT GUERRILLAS. THE OFFICERS EXPLAINED THAT BY FIGHTING THE INSURGENTS THEY WERE FIGHTING NARCOTRAFFICKERS AS THE TWO HAD BECOME TIGHTLY LINKED. THERE WAS A HINT OF RESENTMENT AT BEING LIGHTLY SLIGHTED BY THE U.S., BUT THERE WAS NO REAL NEGATIVE FEELING TOWARDS THE U.S. OR ITS INSTITUTION.

7. **POLICE.** POLICE UNITS IN THE AREA ARE UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE BN COMMANDER. **[Redacted]** THERE ARE 6-8 POLICE DISTRICTS IN THE BN AO, ALL HEADED BY A MAJOR AND EACH WITH APPROX 250 POLICEMEN. GUERRILLA ATTACKS ON THE POLICE STATIONS OR POLICE PATROLS ARE COMMON. THE AREAS OF GREATEST CONCERN ARE THE TOWNS OF SIMACOTA AND CHIMA, 14KM AND 35 KM WEST OF SOCORRO BY ROAD. GUERRILLAS ARE KNOWN TO FREQUENTLY ROAM THIS AREA. COMMON CRIME DOES NOT SEEM TO BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CATTLE RUSTLING.


10. **(U) BN STAFF.** COMMANDER- LTC LUIS JORGE (HERNANDEZ)
EXECUTIVE OFFICER/SECOND COMMANDER - MAJ GUSTAVO (CASTRO)
OPS OFFICER(THIRD IN COMMAND) - MAJ GOMEZ
NIMROD BATTERY COMMANDER - CAPT PINEDA
(FIELD COMMENT - THE FIRST THREE OFFICERS ALL ARRIVED
2. OVERALL, THE UNIT SEEMS IN GOOD PHYSICAL AND MORAL CONDITION. THERE IS AN AIR OF CONFIDENT RELAXATION. THE GUERRILLAS DO NOT SEEM TO POSE MUCH OF A PROBLEM. NO ONE SEEMS TO REMEMBER WHEN THE LAST ENGAGEMENT TOOK PLACE. HOWEVER, THE UNIT SEEMS AWARE THAT THIS SITUATION MIGHT CHANGE AT ANY MOMENT.