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HEADER

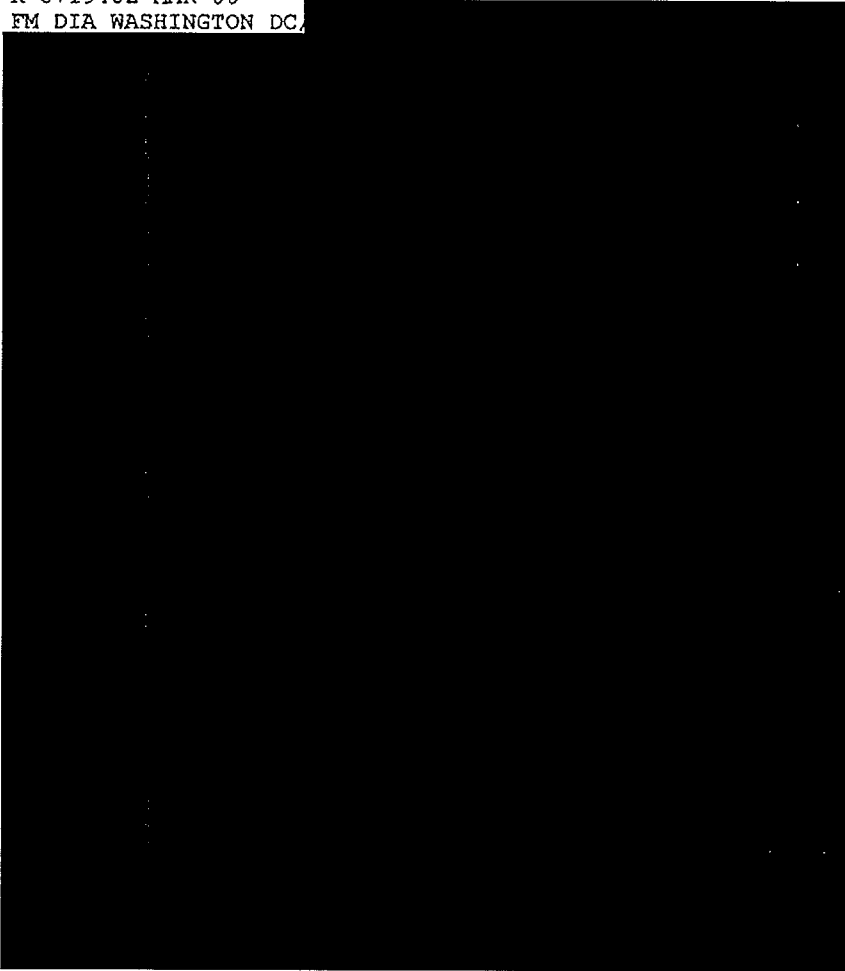
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RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC/ [REDACTED]

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RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC [REDACTED]

MACDILL AFB FL/ [REDACTED]

RUWSMXI/USCINCTrans [REDACTED]

SCOTT AFB IL/ [REDACTED]

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BT

CONTROLS

~~SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

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SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

TEXT

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).

IPSP: (U) [REDACTED]

COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJ: IIR [REDACTED] / COLOMBIANS MARINES SUCCEED AGAINST PARAMILITARIES NEAR ZAMBRANO, BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT, NORTHERN COLOMBIA. (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 2000025.

REOS: (U)

SOURCE: A. ~~(S)~~

B. ~~(S)~~

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SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ COLMAR FORCES BEGAN RECEIVING REPORTS OF TERRORIST ACTIVITY IN SUCRE DEPARTMENT ON 20000215. VARIOUS DISCOVERIES OF AND CLASHES WITH PARAMILITARIES FOLLOWED, CULMINATING WITH A BATTLE ON 20000222, IN WHICH 2 PARAMILITARIES WERE KILLED AND 11 CAPTURED. ENCLOSURES. TEXT:

1. ~~(S)~~ - ON 20000215 AT 0900 (ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL) THE FIRST COLOMBIAN MARINE (COLMAR) INFANTRY BRIGADE (BRIM-1) HAD THREE COMPANIES OF RIFLE BATTALION 5, SIX COMPANIES OF COUNTER GUERRILLA BATTALIONS 31 AND 33 AND THE RIVERINE BATTALION 60 (BAFLIM-60 - WHICH IS BASED IN YATI, BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT) POSITIONED AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN SUCRE AND BOLIVAR DEPARTMENTS AND ALONG THE MAGDALENA RIVER. AT THAT TIME, COLMAR RECEIVED REPORTS THAT 400 HEAD OF CATTLE HAD BEEN STOLEN FROM THE AREA BETWEEN TOLU AND SAN ONOFRE

-THIS AREA IS HOME TO THE 35TH AND 37TH FARC FRONTS, INITIALLY IT WAS THOUGHT THESE THEFTS COULD BE INTENDED AS SUPPLIES FOR THEM). COLMAR THEN RECEIVED REPORTS OF POSSIBLE FARC 35TH AND 37TH FRONT ATTACKS AGAINST THE TOWNS OF ZAMBRANO AND CORDOBA

TWO RIFLE COMPANIES WERE DISPATCHED TO THE CATTLE THEFT AREA AND ANOTHER WAS SENT TO CORDOBA.

2. ~~(S)~~ ON 20000216 AT 0900 AN UNIDENTIFIED, ARMED CIVILIAN HELICOPTER WAS SEEN FLYING OVER THE CORDOBA AREA. COLMAR REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM THE FAC AT BARRANQUILLA TO DETAIN THIS HELICOPTER. THE HELICOPTER REFUSED TO IDENTIFY ITSELF TO FAC OR TO COLMAR. THE FAC AIRCRAFT FORCED THE HELICOPTER TO LAND NEAR

FOUR MEN DISEMBARKED, SET THE HELICOPTER ON FIRE AND FLED ON FOOT. COLMAR BELIEVES THE MEN WENT TO PLATO. COLMAR PERSONNEL FOUND BOXES OF M-60 AMMUNITION AND M-60 TRIPODS ABOARD THE DESTROYED HELICOPTER.

3. ~~(S)~~ ON 20000216 SUBVERSIVES SET UP A ROADBLOCK ON THE CHALAN-OVEJAS ROAD IN THE VICINITY OF

A SMALL TRUCK WAS STOLEN DURING THIS ROAD BLOCK. A COLMAR COUNTER-GUERRILLA COMPANY MOVED INTO THE AREA AND THE SUBVERSIVES TOOK

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SERIAL: (U) [REDACTED]  
COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).  
IPSP: (U) [REDACTED]

(b)(2)

SUBJ: [REDACTED] COLOMBIANS MARINES SUCCEEDED AGAINST PARAMILITARIES NEAR ZAMBRANO, BOLIVAR DEPARTMENT, NORTHERN COLOMBIA. (U)  
FLIGHT TO THE NORTHEAST. APPROXIMATELY 60 PARAMILITARIES SET UP ANOTHER ROADBLOCK BETWEEN CORDOBA AND ZAMBRANO NEAR [REDACTED] SEVEN PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN THIS ROADBLOCK.

4. (C) ON 20000217 COLMAR RECEIVED INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE ATTACKS AT CARMEN DE BOLIVAR [REDACTED] AND OVEJAS. FIRST BRIGADE UNITS WERE PLACED ON ALERT AT THIS TIME. LATER THAT DAY 13 CIVILIANS WERE REPORTED DEAD IN:

EL SALADO [REDACTED]  
FLOR DEL MONTE //GEOCOORD:0930N/07509W//,  
SAN RAFAEL [REDACTED]  
AND CANUTAI [REDACTED]  
TWO COUNTER GUERRILLA COMPANIES WERE DISPATCHED FROM THE NORTH INTO THE CARMEN DE BOLIVAR AREA AND TWO MORE WERE MOVED FROM THE WEST INTO THE AREAS WHERE THE DEATHS WERE REPORTED. THE PARAMILITARIES FLED TO THE NORTHEAST FROM THE CANUTAL, FLOR DEL MONTE AREA [REDACTED] -THIS AREA IS VERY HILLY AND IT IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO PURSUE CRIMINALS THROUGH THIS LANDSCAPE).

5. (C) ON 20000218 AT 1800 ONE COUNTER GUERRILLA COMPANY WAS SENT SOUTH TO EL SALADO WITH ANOTHER COMPANY ACTING AS REARGUARD. ANOTHER COUNTER GUERRILLA COMPANY WAS SENT TO EL SALADO FROM THE SOUTHWEST, A FOURTH WAS SENT TO FLOR DEL MONTE FROM THE NORTHWEST AND A FIFTH WAS SENT TO EL 46 [REDACTED]

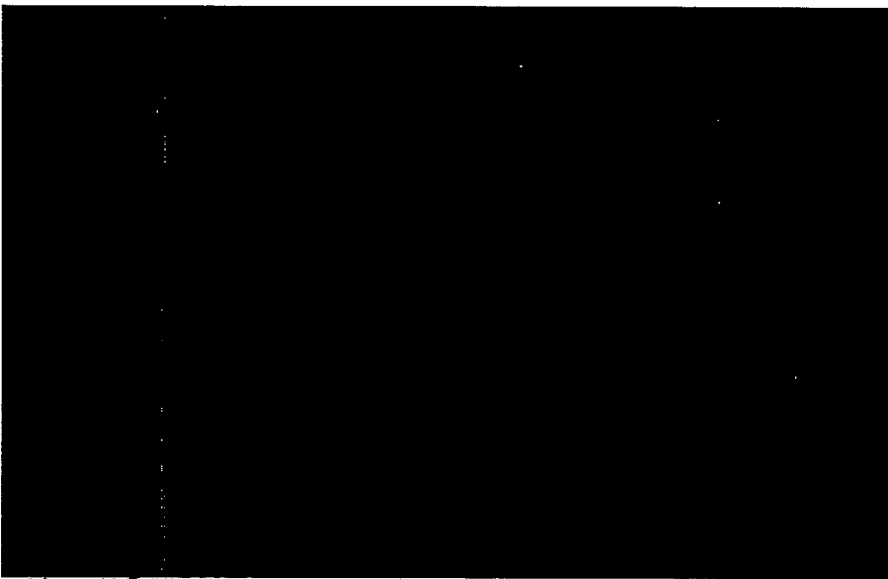
[REDACTED] AND EL SALADO. AT THIS TIME THE COLMAR ALSO ADVISED VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AND NGO ENTITIES (POLICE, GOVERNOR, OTHER MILITARY, RED OTHER ELEMENTS OF BAFLIM-60 WERE DEPLOYED TO BLOCK A RIVER ESCAPE. THE CAPTURED PARAMILITARIES WERE TAKEN TO THE COLMAR RIVERINE POST AT YATI, THEN TO CARTAGENA WHERE THEY WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FISCALIA FOR PROCESSING AND EVENTUAL PROSECUTION.

8. (C) AS OF 20000225 MARINES OF THE FIRST BRIGADE WERE STILL LOOKING FOR OTHER PARAMILITARY TROOPS IN THE AREA. IN A COLOMBIAN TELEVISION NEWS INTERVIEW, COL ((QUINONEZ)), THE COMMANDER OF THE FIRST BRIGADE, STRONGLY DENOUNCED THE MASSACRES BY THE PARAMILITARIES.

9. (S) THE FOLLOWING ARE THE NAMES AND ID (CEDULA) NUMBERS OF THE CAPTURED/KILLED PARAMILITARY MEMBERS:  
KILLED:

[REDACTED]

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(b)(6)

10. ~~(S)~~ IN ADDITION TO THE ARMS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE SEIZED:  
ONE FIBERGLASS BOAT, WHITE WITH YELLOW STRIPE. TYPE "DESLIZADOR" (NFI) WITH A 200HP YAMAHA OUTBOARD, SERIAL 705915.

FOUR WALLETS AND CONTENTS:

1) WALLET WITH ID CARD FOR [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 2 VOTING CARDS FOR THE SAME MAN, 1 CELLULAR PHONE CALLING CARD FROM CELCARIBE ISSUED TO [REDACTED]

2) WALLET WITH THE NAME [REDACTED] TOOLED INTO LEATHER. ID CARD FOR [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] MILITARY CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OR EXEMPTION ISSUED TO [REDACTED]

3) WALLET WITH ID CARD FOR [REDACTED]

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SERIAL: (U) IIR [REDACTED]

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).

IPSP: (U) [REDACTED]

4) WALLET WITHOUT ID DOCUMENTS.



COMMENTS: 1. ~~(S)~~



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2. (U)  
3. (U)

4. (U)

5. (U)

6. (U)

(b)(2)

7. (U) [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT MANY OF THE CAPTURED PARAMILITARIES WERE WEARING COLOMBIAN MILITARY UNIFORMS. [REDACTED] POSTULATED THAT MANY OF THE PARAMILITARIES ARE EX-MILITARY MEMBERS, OR THAT THEY OBTAIN THE UNIFORMS FROM MILITARY OR EX-MILITARY MEMBERS.

ADMIN

COLL: (U) [REDACTED]

INSTR: (U) U.S. NO.

PREP: (U) [REDACTED]

ENCL: (C) [REDACTED]

ACQ: (U) [REDACTED] (20000225).

DISSEM: (U) FIELD: [REDACTED]

WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~SECRET~~

DRV FROM: [REDACTED]

~~DECL: X1~~

END OF MESSAGE

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