Colombian

Self-Defense Groups, Private Militias & Criminal Groups
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Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

History
Paramilitary History

• **Colonial Period (1810 - 1930)**
  • More than 50 armed conflicts
    • Caudillos (strongmen)

• **New Political Ideologies (1930 - 1947)**
  • Caused by rivalries among the caudillos
  • Turn of the 19th century
  • At least 100,000 deaths

• **“La Violencia” (1948 - 1957)**
  • Conflict between liberal and conservative caudillos
  • Approximately 200,000 deaths

• **National Front (1958 - 1974)**
  • Ended “La Violencia”
  • Formation of elite factions of the liberal and conservative parties
  • Alternated government leadership every four years
  • Alienated far left groups
    • Took up arms
    • Modern insurgent groups of today
Paramilitary History

  - Formed in response to insurgent activity
  - Conivirs
    - Convivir Law of 1964
      - An effort to rein in the paramilitaries
      - Provide protection against insurgents
      - Designed to cooperate with the military and provide information on insurgents and their activities
    - Not intended to be armed combatants
    - Set up similar in concept to a neighborhood watch group
    - Law was re-affirmed in 1978
    - Due to increased links between drug-traffickers, illegal paramilitary groups, and the conivirs, the convivir law was rescinded in 1989
Paramilitary History

- Did not develop as a monolithic group
- Arose spontaneously and simultaneously
Colombian Self-Defense Groups’, Private Militias’, & Criminal Groups’

Definitions
Paramilitary Definitions

- **Paramilitary**
  - A catch-all term referring to various groups of right-wing self-defense groups, private militias, criminal organizations, and others. Technically, it is a misnomer.

- **Self-Defense Groups**
  - Formed by small towns and villages to defend against insurgents and Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs).

- **Private Militia Groups**
  - Formed by large land owners, businesses, ranchers, or mine owners to defend against insurgents and DTOs and to remove people from their own small farms in order to increase the size of their respective interests.

- **Criminal Organization Groups**
  - Formed by DTOs and other criminal organizations to further their own interests and to defend themselves from the CNP/COLMIL and guerrillas and possibly other paramilitaries. Largely responsible for offensive operations.
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Self-Defense Groups’, Private Militias’, & Criminal Groups’
Composition
Colombian Self-Defense Groups’, Private Militias’, & Criminal Groups’ Organizational Profiles
AUC (Autodefensas Unidas del Colombia)

- United Self-Defense Groups of Colombia
- National Organismo not officially recognized by the GOC (Government of Colombia)
- Founder and Leader is Carlos Castano

History:
- Charter approved in March 1996
- Endorsed in late April 1997 at the 1st Annual Paramilitary Summit
- Founded as a “National Counter-Guerrilla Coordinating Board”
- Described as a “political-armed organization, anti-subversive, and civilian in nature”
- The Body is made up of 2 representatives from the ACCU and 1 from each of the other allied organizations
- Divided into two organizations
- Loose confederation of member organizations based on cooperation and military goals
- Political organization formed to voice their political agenda and platform

- AUC (Alianza Unidad para Colombia), United, Alliance for Colombia
Organizational Profiles

→ ACMM (Autodefensas Campesinas de Magdalena Medio)
  → Self-Defense Group of Middle Magdalena
  → AKA: Self-Defense Groups of Ramon Isaza
  → Leader is Ramon Isaza
  → Oldest of the current paramilitary groups
  → Member organization of the AUC

→ ACLLO (Autodefensas Campesinas de Los Llanos Orientales)
  → Peasant Self-Defense Groups of the Eastern Plains
  → AKA: ACLLO or Bloque Llano
  → Member organization of the AUC
ACCU - Autodefensas Campesinas de Córdoba y Urabá

- Peasant Self-Defense Groups of Córdoba and Urabá
- Founders were Fidel and Carlos Castano. Fidel was later killed.
- Leader is Carlos Castano Gil (aka “Alex”, “Alex Adalfo”)

- Member organization of the AUC
- Formed in mid to late '80s
Organizational Profiles

→ AC (Autodefensas de Cundinamarca)
  → Self-Defense Group of Cundinamarca
  → (AKA: Luis Eduardo Citrante Group)
  → Formed like a militia (i.e., they report in the event of an emergency)
  → Member organization of the AUC
  → Area of operations is primarily the Cundinamarca Department
  → Loosely organized in 1987
  → Reportedly part of a "gasoline cartel"—stealing gasoline and reselling it to finance paramilitary activity

→ ACDEA (Autodefensas Universidad de Antioquia)
  → Self-Defense Group of the University of Antioquia
  → Leadership is unknown
  → Member organization of the AUC
Organizational Profiles

AUSAC (Autodefensas Unidas de Santander y Cesar)
- Self-Defense Groups of Santander and Cesar
- AKA: Self-Defense Groups of Santander and Southern Cesar
- Member organization of the AUC
- Camilo Arielo Morantes (ex-leader) was reportedly killed in Cesar.

APB (Autodefensas de Puerto Boyaca)
- Self-Defense Group of Puerto Boyaca
- Leader: "Botafon"
- Member organization of the AUC
Organizational Profiles

- AUA (Autodefensas de Casanare)
  - Self-Defense Group of Casanare
  - Number of combatants is unknown
  - Member organization of the AUC

- AS (Autodefensas de Simiti)
  - Self-Defense Group of Simiti
  - Number of combatants is unknown
  - Member organization of the AUC
  - No further information

- AVC (Autodefensas de Victor Carranza)
  - Self-Defense Groups of Victor Carranza
  - Founder: Victor Carranza (alias)
    - Emeril Barrios
    - Current leader: [redacted]
  - Number of combatants is unknown
  - Member organization of the AUC
  - Involved in human trafficking operation
Organizational Profiles

- **Black Serpent Paramilitary Group**
  - Leader: 
  - Operate in the Meta Department
  - No Further Information

- **Colambia**
  - "Colombia Without Guerrillas"
  - Leader: 
  - Very little is known of this organization
  - They have claimed responsibility for a number of security assassinations in Arauca and Casanare Departments

- **Los Charnizos**
  - Leader: 
  - The FARC report the leaders as: 
  - Very little is known of this organization
  - Heavily involved with the trafficking of drugs
Organizational Profiles

- "Los Boteros"
  - Leader: [Redacted]
  - Involved in drug trafficking protection

- "Los Mendez"
  - Leader: [Redacted]
  - Involved in drug trafficking protection

- "Robo Afa"
  - Leader: [Redacted]
  - Consists of approximately 100 individuals
  - Involved in drug trafficking protection

- "Musela"
  - Leader: Unknown
  - Consists of approximately 10 individuals
  - Involved in drug trafficking protection
- **"Chepe Barrera"**
  - Leader: [Redacted]
  - Consists of approximately 15 individuals involved in drug trafficking protection.

- **"Los Rojas"**
  - AKA: Adam Rojas Ospina Group
  - Leader: [Redacted]
  - Operates in Magdalena Dept
  - Involved in drug trafficking protection.

- **"Los Castanos"**
  - Leader: [Redacted]
Colombian Self-Defense Groups’, Private Militias’, & Criminal Groups’

Line and Block Charts
Peasant Self Defense Groups of Cordoba and Uraba

- Northern Bloc
  - Salvatore Mancuso
  - La Gabarra Front
    - Camilo
- Metro Bloc
- Western Bloc
  - Choco Front
  - Uraba Front
- Southern Bloc
  - Caqueta Front
    - "Jose Maria" or Quito Front
  - Putumayo Front
  - Tolima Front
- Mobile Training Center
- Plains Bloc
  - Guaviare Front
Colombian
Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

Leadership Biographical Profiles
Leadership Biographical Profiles

Carlos Castaño Gil

- Full name: Carlos Castaño Gil
- D.O.B.: 15 May 1966 in Amalí, Antioquia
- Commander of the Autodefensas Campesinas de Córdoba y Uraba (AUC)
  - Peasant Self-Defense Groups of Córdoba and Uraba
- Founded in mid-1980s
- Co-founder of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC, the political wing of the AUC)
- United Self-Defense Groups of Colombia
- United Alliance of Colombia
- Second youngest of twelve children (approximately four have been killed by the FARC/ELN)
- Religious Affiliation: Roman Catholic Church (considers himself to be a conservative Catholic)
- Dropped out of high school in eleventh grade
- Father (Jesús Castaño) was kidnapped by the FARC in 1980 and demanded a $50,000 ransom, the family was only able to raise $150,000, which the FARC took and then killed the father anyway
- Marital Status: Married with 2 children (1 girl born about 1986, 1 boy "Cristóbal" born 1988 April 15)
- Height: 5'9"
- Described as being short and thin, very ordinary looking individual able to blend into a crowd
- Interests:
  - Weapons, sociology, and politics
  - avid reader of the Old Testament from Genesis to Malachi
  - avid reader of Pablo Neruda's poems
- Admits that had been bound by father's influence, he would probably have become a member of the FARC or ELN
- Convinced that the escape from the FARC was the best decision for his family
- Considered a key leader of "Transmilenio" and very influential Colombian leader
Ramon Isaza

- Full name: Ramon Maria Arango Isaza
- Commander of the Autodefensas Campesinas de Magdalena Medio (ACMM)
- AKA: Self-Defense Groups of Ramon Isaza
- Group is oldest of modern-era paramilitary groups
- Founded in 1978
- Co-founder of the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC)
- Reportedly second in command of the AUC
- DOB: About 1940
- Two sons have been killed by enemies; one in 1991 and another in 1993
- Wanted for drug-trafficking charges
- 500 million peso reward for his capture
- Owns a cattle ranch, “Las Mercedes”, in the Doradal area of the Magdalena River valley area.
Leadership Biographical Profiles

Victor Carranza

- Self-Defense Groups of Victor Carranza
- AKA: [Redacted]
- Co-founder of the AUC
- Reportedly a drug-trafficker
- Considered an "emerald magnate"
- Large scale emerald smuggler
- 2nd grade education
- Owns a ranch in Casanare Department
Leadership Biographical Profiles

Salvatore Mancuso

Full Name: Salvatore Gomez Mancuso

A.K.A.: [Redacted]

DOB: 17 August 1964 in Monteria, Cordoba

From a well-respected and well-known family on the Atacrice coast

Descended from one of the founding families of Cordoba

Attended primary school and high school at the La Salle School in Monteria, Cordoba.

Studied Engineering in Bogota

Height: 6'2" (1.87 meters)

Appearance is more European than Colombian

A.K.A.: ACCU Northern Bloc Leader

Considered the number two man in the ACCU

Rescued Carlos Castano from a FARC attack in Nudo de Paramillo region of the

Antioquia Dept during Christmas 1998. (The ACCU had declared a cease-fire for the holidays)

Commander of paramilitary forces in the Caucaumbo region of Norte de Santander Dept.

Co-owner of "Mancuso Brother's" car dealership in Monteria, Cordoba.

Current address is Calle 57, #6024, Interior 10, Monteria, Cordoba.

National Identification number is 6892628.
Colombian Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups' Equipment
Colombian Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups' Transportation (Lines of Communication)
Colombian Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

Communications
Capabilities / Vulnerabilities
Colombian
Self-Defense Groups’, Private Militias’, & Criminal Groups’
Logistics Sustainment Capability
Colombian
Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

Center of Gravity
Colombian
Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

Impact on Bordering Countries
(Ecuador / Panama / Venezuela)
Colombian
Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

Peace Process
Colombian Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

Possible Military Relations
Colombian
Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups'

1999 Activities
(Reporting from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999)

(Composite)
Colombian
Self-Defense Groups’, Private Militias’, & Criminal Groups’

1999 Activities
(Reporting from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999)

(by Month)
Colombian Self-Defense Groups', Private Militias', & Criminal Groups’ Courses of Action