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ACTION WHA-01

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-01
	ANHR-01	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	UTED-00	H-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01	L-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	DTC-01
	IIP-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	MR-00
	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/016W				

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3144
INFO SECDEF WASHDC//OASD/SOLIC/ISA//
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
DEA WASHDC

UNCLAS BOGOTA 000993

STATE FOR WHA/AND, DRL, INR

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, MARR, MASS, CO
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW OF UNIT PROPOSED UNDER END-USE
MONITORING AGREEMENT: COLOMBIAN ARMY JTF-S ("JOINT TASK
FORCE SOUTH") COMMAND ELEMENT

1. (U) THIS IS AN ACTION REQUEST. SEE PARA 2.
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2. (U) POST REQUESTS DEPARTMENT INITIATE DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW
OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY JTF-S ("JOINT TASK FORCE SOUTH" OR
"FUERZA DE TAREA CONJUNTA DEL SUR") COMMAND ELEMENT FOR
PURPOSES OF CERTIFICATION AS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE USG
ASSISTANCE UNDER THE AUGUST 1, 1997 END-USE MONITORING
AGREEMENT.

3. (U) THE MEMBERS OF THE JTF-S, ALL ARMY PERSONNEL, ARE:

- BRIGADIER GENERAL MARIO MONTOYA URIBE
- COLONEL LUIS FERNANDO RICARDO PERDOMO
- LT. COL. HUGO MANUEL BENITEZ ORDONEZ
- MAJOR RAUL HERNAN MURIEL BOTERO

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-- MAJOR JUAN CARLOS PARDO RODRIGUEZ
-- MAJOR JUAN GUILLERMO ROJAS ORTIZ
-- CAPTAIN MARIO ALVAREZ MARQUEZ.

4. (U) THE JTF-S, BASED IN TRES ESQUINAS, CAQUETA, HAS OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE 12TH BRIGADE, THE 24TH BRIGADE, THE "BRIM-2" (2ND MOBIL BRIGADE), THE COUNTERNARCOTICS BATTALION NO. 1, AND THE COJIC (COLOMBIAN JOINT INTELLIGENCE CENTER). ALL OF THESE SUBORDINATE UNITS, EXCEPT THE BRIM-2 HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT AS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE ASSISTANCE UNDER THE EUM.

5. (U) POST HAS ALREADY/ALREADY COMPLETED VETTING AND PRESENTLY HAS NO/NO CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS BY ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS IN THE JTF-S.

6. (U) FOR THE RECORD, AND DUE TO THE HIGH PROFILE NATURE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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THE PROPOSED USG ASSISTANCE, POST NOTES THAT THERE ARE PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE AGAINST GENERAL MONTOYA (DATING FROM 1978-1979) AND COLONEL RICARDO (DATING FROM 1982-1983), MADE BY THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS NGO PAX CHRISTI AND WHICH HAVE BEEN REPEATED VERBATIM BY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS WATCH. POST HAS BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ALLEGATIONS, NOR DETERMINE WHETHER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD AMOUNT TO A "GROSS VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS" IF PROVEN.

7. (U) DAO COMMENT: THIS OFFICE HAS INVESTIGATED THE "PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS" MADE BY DUTCH NGO PAX CHRISTI AGAINST BRIGADIER GENERAL MONTOYA AND FOUND THEM TO BE BASELESS. THE NGO DOCUMENT --"STATE TERRORISM IN COLOMBIA"--HAS NO BIBLIOGRAPHY AND FEW REFERENCES. THE DOCUMENT MAKES MANY UNSUPPORTED ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CURRENT AND FORMER MILITARY OFFICERS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE SERIOUS CHARGES MADE IN ITS ALMOST 600 PAGES OF TEXT. END DAO COMMENT.

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