

ROUTINE

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CINC-----	J6-----	WNG-----	JOC <u>1</u> -----	NAVY-----	PAO <u>2</u> ---	COPIES---
D/CINC <u>7</u>	LA-----	SSO-----	JRC-----	CHAP-----	PCC-----	REPRO---
C/S <u>7</u>	TA-----	PAE-----	PSYOP-----	ARMY-----	STHC-----	PITCH---
INTAFF---			CAT-----	AFSO-----	NEODAC---	TCC---

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TO AIG 8777

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BT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 08

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICERS

DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS

SUBJECT: CINCSOUTH NEWS BRIEFING

THE FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF A NEWS BRIEFING BY GENERAL PAUL GORMAN, USA, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND, AT THE PENTAGON, ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1983. THIS TRANSCRIPT IS PROVIDED FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND USE AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE.

A SD/PA CAT TO: THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT GENERAL GORMAN HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO COME AND TALK TO YOU ON THE RECORD. THE BAD NEWS IS HE'S GOING, OF COURSE, BEING CINCSOUTH, TO DO IT IN SPANISH. (LAUGHTER)

GENERAL GORMAN: I'M GOING TO TALK TO YOU FELLOWS ABOUT THE EXERCISE IN HONDURAS THAT WE HAVE CALLED, AS REQUESTED BY THE HONDURAN GOVERNMENT, AHUAS TARA II, BIG PINE II. I WANT TO BEGIN (PAGE 02 RUEKJCS9819 UNCLAS) MY STORY BACK IN MAY WHEN I VISITED TEGUCIGALPA AND DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT SUAZO AND GENERAL ALBAREZ THE COMMANDER OF THE HONDURAN ARMED FORCES, THE SITUATION THAT THEY FACED.

AS THEY SAW THEIR CIRCUMSTANCE THEY WERE CONFRONTED BY A FULLY NEW MILITARY PROBLEM OCCASIONED BY THE INFUSION INTO NICARAGUA DURING THE MONTH OF MAY OF MASSIVE SHIPMENTS OF SOVIETS ARMS. NOW THEY, OF COURSE, DID NOT HAVE ALL OF THE DETAILS ON THAT BUT BASICALLY THE STORY AS THEY PRESENTED IT TO ME WAS FUNDAMENTALLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT WAS GOING ON. YOU WILL RECALL THAT ABOUT 10 DAYS IN MAY, LARGELY THROUGH THE PORT OF PERITO, HERE ON THE WESTERN COAST OF NICARAGUA THE SOVIETS AND THEIR ALLIES INTRODUCED INTO NICARAGUA SIZABLE AMOUNTS OF MILITARY MATERIAL INCLUDING A NUMBER OF ARMORED VEHICLES, ARTILLERY PIECES, AND SOME 100 FIELD KITCHENS WHICH IMPLIED TO THE HONDURANS THAT THE NICARAGUANS WERE ENDOWING THEIR VERY SIZEABLE MILITARY FORCE WITH MOBILITY. AND, AS THEY PUT IT, THAT MOBILITY COULD BE AIMED AT NO ONE OTHER THAN, US THE HONDURANS. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE ARMOR AND ARTILLERY. THEY HAS REPORTS WHICH, AS I SAY, WE CREDIT TO BE

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ACCURATE THAT THE NICARAGUANS HAD MOVED UP HERE TO A TOWN CALLED SOMOTILLO IN NORTHWESTERN NICARAGUA. A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF THE TANKS AND ARTILLERY PIECES THAT THEY HAD ACQUIRED FROM THE SOVIETS AND THAT THESE TANKS AND ARTILLERY PIECES HAD THE CAPABILITY IN THE HONDURAN PERSPECTIVE TO STAB DEEP INTO HONDURAS, FOR example, TO TAKE THE PROVINCE TOWN OF CHOLUTECA, HERE, THEN IN THIS SCENARIO THAT WAS DEVELOPED FOR ME THE NICARAGUANS WOULD STOP: CALL FOR A UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE TO BE DEPLOYED ON THE BORDERS AND THE BORDERS WOULD BE SECURED THEREAFTER BY SOME KIND OF AN INTERNATIONAL FORCE.

THEY POINTED OUT THAT THEY HAD NO ARMOR TO SPEAK OF: THEY HAVE 13 SCORPION ARMORED CARS DOWN IN CHOLUTECA, NO MATCH FOR THE T-55 TANKS THAT ARE OVER HERE. THEY HAVE NO ARTILLERY AT ALL. THEY ARE AN ARMY THAT UP TO NOW HAS BEEN ARMED SOLEY WITH MORTARS AND TO BE CONFRONTED WITH MODERN 122MM SOVIET HOWITZERS INDICATED TO THEM THAT THEY WERE ON THE WRONG END OF THE FIREPOWER EQUATION.

THEY POINTED OUT MOREOVER THAT, UNDER AN ARMED FORCES WHICH CONSISTS OF ABOUT 17,000 OVERALL, WITH NO EFFECTIVE RESERVE SYSTEM WAS OVERWHELMINGLY OUT NUMBERED BY THE NICARAGUANS WHO HAD SOME 25,000 UNDER ARMS IN THEIR REGULAR FORCES AND A RESERVE OF MILITIA

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SYSTEM THAT ENCOMPASSED AT LEAST 61,000 MORE PROBABLY GREATER THAN THAT, BUT MORE ALARMINGLY THEY POINTED OUT DURING MAY THE NICARAGUANS HAD BEEN MOBILIZING ELEMENTS OF THESE RESERVES AND MOVING THEM UP TOWARD THE BORDER HERE. IN BRIEF, THEY SAID OUR SECURITY IS THREATENED: WE NEED HELP.

SO WE BEGAN TALKING ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH WE, THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE HELPFUL. WE HAD LEARNED TOGETHER A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THEIR CAPABILITIES DURING AN EXERCISE THAT WAS CONDUCTED IN FEBRUARY OF THIS LAST YEAR, CALLED AHUAS TARA I, IN WHICH WE PRACTICED WITH THEM, THEIR PRIMARY PLAY--THEIR BREAD AND BUTTER SECURITY PLAY WHICH IS THE MOVEMENT OF INFANTRY UNITS FROM THEIR CENTRAL RESERVES NEAR THE CAPITAL OF TEGUCIGLAPA TO THE THREATENED AREA ON THE BORDER. THE HYPOTHETICAL CASE IN POINT WAS PUERTO LEMPIRA OUT HERE ON THE EAST COAST OF HONDURAS AND SOME OF YOU WILL RECALL WE ACTUALLY PRACTICED THE MOVEMENT OF THOSE BATTALIONS: HELPED THEM DEVELOP THE AIR FIELD AND ACTUALLY BROUGHT IN BATTALIONS. THAT WAS A RELATIVELY SHORT EXERCISE, ABOUT 10 DAYS IN LENGTH OVERALL. BUT IN THE COURSE OF IT WE LEARNED A GOOD DEAL ABOUT EACH OTHER AND WE, THE UNITED STATES FORCES, LEARNED MUCH ABOUT WHAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO ASSIST THEM. THAT LED, TO A SUGGESTION

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FROM THEM THAT WE CONTEMPLATE A SECOND AHUAS TARA II. THAT WAS PRESIDENT SUAZO'S NAME FOR THE EXERCISE. AND WE COMMENCED PLANNING WITH THEM AS OF THAT DATE.

NOW, EXERCISE PLANNING, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, AS MANY OF YOU KNOW FULL WELL, IS A LONG STATEDLY PROGRESSION OF BUREAUCRATIC EXCHANGES THAN NORMALLY CONSUMES MONTHS AND THIS HAS NO EXCEPTION. PARTICULARLY WHEN THE DETAILS HAVE TO BE HAMMERED OUT AND AGREED TO BY A MOTHER NATION AND PARTICULARLY WHERE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

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IN THE CASE OF HONDURAS, A NATION THAT IS OPERATING IN SOME APPREHENSION FOR THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE BORDER AND IS THEREFORE RELUCTANT TO COMMIT FORCES TO EXCLUSIVELY TRAINING ACTIVITIES. IT'S NOT EASY TO GET ALL THE DETAILS PULLED TOGETHER.

Q: GENERAL, EXCUSE ME, WHEN WAS THE DATE OF WHEN YOU SAY YOU COMMENCED PLANNING OR (INAUDIBLE)

A: THESE ARE CONVERSATIONS IN LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE

Q: BEFORE YOU GO INTO THIS, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT CONCENTRATION WHICH THEY MADE REFERENCE TO....

A: TO WHICH THEY MADE REFERENCE TO DOWN HERE IN SOMOTILLO. THAT'S STILL THERE.

Q; HOW BIG A CONCENTRATION?

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D/CINC---	J6-----	WNG-----	JOC-----	NAVY-----	PAO-----	COPIES--
C/S-----	LA-----	SSG-----	JRC-----	CHAP-----	PCC-----	REPRO---
INTAFF---	TA-----	PAE-----	PSYCP---	ARMY-----	MTMC-----	PITCH---
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A: DEPENDING UPON WHOSE REPORT YOU READ IT'S SOMETHING LIKE 18 TO 25 TANKS, A SUPPORTING BATTERY OF ARTILLERY. IN ANY EVENT, THE EXERCISE PLANNING HAS PROCEEDED PRUDENTLY. I THINK WE'RE NOW IN A POSITION WHERE WE CAN LAY BEFORE YOU THE SCHEME OF THE EXERCISE IN SOME DETAIL.

WHAT WE HAVE AGREED TO IS THAT THE EXERCISE WILL TAKE PLACE IN THREE AREAS. THE AREAS THAT I HAVE INDICATED ON THE MAP, AND I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN EACH OF THOSE AREAS ARE WHAT TIME DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXERCISE. LET ME BEGIN, HOWEVER, BY MAKING THE POINT THAT THIS IS NOT AN EXERCISE LIKE AHUAS TARA I THAT HAS A SINGLE SCENARIO THAT BEGAN ON A DAY AND RAN SEQUENTIALLY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS THROUGH A PACKAGE OF TIME AND DAYS LATER. THIS IS RATHER A SERIES OF RELATIVELY UNCONNECTED EVENTS, DISCREET TRAINING UNDERTAKING IF YOU WILL, WHICH DO HAVE

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AS YOU WILL SEE SOME CULMINATING EVENTS. GRADUATION EXERCISES, WHICH ARE INTENDED INDEED TO DEVELOP THE SKILLS OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND BRING THEM TO A POINT WHERE THEY CAN GET THE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OUT OF THE LARGER EVOLUTIONS IN THE COURSE OF THIS DRILL.

TO START WITH THE AREA IN THE NORTH PART OF THE COUNTRY FROM THE ATLANTIC COAST: THESE ARE THE TRAINING UNDERTAKINGS THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE UP THERE. IN EACH CASE I'LL BE TALKING ABOUT TACTICAL TRAINING OR TROOP TRAINING OF SOME KIND OR ANOTHER. I'LL BE TALKING ABOUT INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND I'LL BE TALKING ABOUT HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS.

THE FORCES THAT WILL GO INTO THE NORTHERN AREA INITIALLY WILL BE BY AND LARGE A U.S. ARTILLERY BATTALION, AT CONSTRUCTION BATTALION FROM THE U.S. NAVY, A SEA BE BATTALION, AND SOME U.S. SPECIAL FORCES, OR AS I HAVE MORE ACCURATELY LABELED THEM HERE, SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES BECAUSE THEY WILL INVOLVE TEAMS FROM ALL THE SERVICES FROM OUR SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUPS-NAVY SEALS, MARINE RECONNAISSANCE TEAMS, SPECIAL FORCES AND THEIR AIR FORCE COUNTERPARTS.

UP HERE IN THE TOWN OF LA CEIBA IN THE NORTHERN PART OF HONDURAS THERE IS BILLETED A FOURTH HONDURAN BATTALION. THE

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HONDURANS WOULD LIKE US TO CONDUCT TRAINING WITH THAT BATTALION TO EQUIP IT FOR A ROLE WHICH THEY THEMSELVES HAVE REFERRED TO AS MARITIME INTERDICTION. THE FOURTH BATTALION IN THE VIEW OF THE GENERAL STAFF SHOULD BECOME RESPONSIBLE FOR SECURITY ALONG THIS NORTHERN COAST WHICH HAS VERY PRIMITIVE ROADS PARALLELING THE COAST ITSELF AND COMMUNICATION UP THERE BEING EASIEST IF THE BATTALION WERE ABLE TO USE SMALL BOATS. SO THE NOTION IS IN FACT TO CONVERT THIS OUTFIT TO AN AMPHIBIOUS FORCE AND THEY HAVE ASKED FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRAIN WITH MARINE UNITS FOR THOSE PURPOSES. SO WE WILL START THIS TRAINING AND AS YOU WILL SEE THEN BRING THEM INTO PLAY THE . . . AND AMPHIBIOUS LANDING LATER ON.

WE WILL ALSO COMMENCE TRAINING WITH OUR SPECIAL FORCES FOR TWO INFANTRY BATTALIONS ELSEWHERE IN HONDURAS IN BASIC TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES. I WANT TO STRESS THE WORD BASIC THERE. WHAT WE'PE REALLY WORKING THERE ON ARE PATROLLING, RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP, SMALL UNIT LEADERSHIP, MAP READING, NAVIGATION, OBSERVING AND REPORTING—THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF TACTICAL PROFICIENCY.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE ARTILLERY BATTALION, U.S., WHICH IS A 105 OUTFIT WILL JOIN UP WITH AN ARTILLERY BATTALION, HONDURAN, WHICH ALSO IS GOING TO BE A 105 OUTFIT AND WILL COMMENCE WITH THEM AN

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EXERCISE WHICH WILL WALK 80TH BATALION THROUGH THE FULL CYCLE OF TRAINING THAT A U.S. ARTILLERY BATTALION WOULD GO THROUGH STARTING FROM SCRATCH, CULMINATING IN FIRING EXERCISE FOR CLOSE SUPPORT TROOPS.

THIS OUTFIT WILL BE THEN BE CONJOINED WITH A MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT, THAT'S THIS SAME BATTALION, SEE, FOR A GRADUATION EXERCISE. I WILL SHOW YOU, THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER. THIS OUTFIT HOPEFULLY WILL PARTICIPATE WITH THIS GROUP IN A LARGE EXERCISE AT THE END OF THE SERIES, A FOUR BATTALION COUNTER-GUERILLA OPERATION WILL TAKE PLACE UP HERE IN THESE MOUNTAINS IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE NORTHERN AREA.

Q: HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

A: I'LL SHOW YOU SOME DATA ON THAT IF I MAY.

Q: THIS FOUR BATTALION OPERATION, IS THIS FOUR TOTAL HONDURAN AND U.S. --FOUR--

A: HONDURAN BATTALIONS WITH SPECIAL FORCES A TEAMS WHICH AS YOU KNOW RUN 12 OR 14 GUYS WITH EACH BATTALION. I'LL SHOW YOU THE NUMBERS IF I COULD DEFER TO THAT QUESTION AGAIN.

Q: YOU REFERED TO A GRADUATION EXERCISE.

A: YEA. THIS IS THE MARITIME INTERDICTION DRILLING THAT WILL

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CULMINATE IN A GRADUATION EXERCISE WITH THE MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT, THAT WILL TAKE PLACE IN NOVEMBER. THIS EXERCISE HERE, BASIC TACTICS AND TECHNIQUES AND THE FIRE SUPPORT EXERCISE WILL CULMINATE IN A COUNTER-GUERILLA OPERATION WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER CHRISTMAS.

Q: AND ALL THESE THINGS ARE GOING TO TAKE PLACE AT LA CEIBA

A: NO SIR, LA CEIBA IS OVER THERE, THIS IS WHERE THE UNIT IS BILLETED. THE EXERCISE AREA IS UP IN HERE - THE YELLOW AREA.

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Q: ALL AROUND -
A: IT'S AROUND PUERTO CASTILLA
Q: AFTER CHRISTMAS?
A: YES.
Q: DOES THAT MEAN BEFORE THE NEW YEAR?
A: NO, THAT MEANS AFTER CHRISTMAS AS I'LL SHOW YOU, AS A MATTER
OF FACT IT WILL PROBABLY BE IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, CONCEIVABLY LATER.
AS FAR AS INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IS CONCERNED THE
CONSTRUCTION BATTALION WILL EXTEND AN EXISTING AIR STRIP AT THE TOWN
OF TRUJILLO HERE TO MAKE IT CAPABLE OF RECEIVING C-130 TYPE TRANSPORT
AIRCRAFT, WHICH WILL MAKE IT EASIER FOR US TO SUPPLY U.S. FORCES.

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ACTION-----

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D/CINC---	J6-----	WNG-----	JOC-----	NAVY-----	PAO-----
C/S-----	LA-----	SSO-----	JRC-----	CHAP-----	PCC-----
INTAFF---	TA-----	PAE-----	PSYOP-----	ARMY-----	HTMC-----
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OPERATING DURING THE TRAINING EXERCISE AND WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR THE HONDURANS TO MOVE TROOPS IN AND OUT OF THE EXERCISE AREA ITSELF.

THEY WILL ALSO BE CONSTRUCTING ROADS IN ORDER TO GET ACCESS BACK INTO, THE TRAINING AREAS. THEY WILL WORK ON DRAINAGE IN AND AROUND AREAS AND WATER SUPPLIES FOR THE TROOPS AND NEARBY COMMUNITIES - WELL DRILLING AND SO ON.

MEDICAL! ELEMENTS THAT WILL BE WITH THEM WILL ROUTINELY CONDUCT SICK CALL. NOT ONLY FOR THE PARTICIPATING TROOPS BUT FOR PEOPLE IN THE NEARBY AREA. OUR EXPERIENCE IN HERE IS THAT DOCTORS IN THE RURAL PARTS OF HONDURAS ARE IN VERY SHORT SUPPLY AND THAT IS A VERY MUCH APPRECIATED CONTRIBUTION. IT'S ALSO EXCELLENT TRAINING FOR OUR MEDICS.

Q: ARE THERE HONDURAN MILITARY ...

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A: YES SIR.

IN EACH CASE, I SHOULD STRESS THE POINT HERE, WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS ATTEMPT TO SET UP COUNTERPART ORGANIZATIONS AND IN THE PROCESS OF OUR GUYS GOING THROUGH THEIR MISSION-RELATED TRAINING WE'RE TRYING TO DEVELOP COMPARABLE PROFESSIONALISM ON THE PART OF THE PARTICIPATING HONDURANS. INDEED, WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE HERE IS A TECHNIQUE FOR CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS AND PRESUMABLY STAND IN GOOD STED:

Q: THAT AIRFIELD, THAT'S ALSO THE CENTER OF -

A: REGIONAL MILITARY TRAINING.

Q: SO THAT WILL SERVE THAT AS WELL?

A: THAT'S CORRECT.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: THERE IS AN AIRFIELD AT TRUJILLO. IT'S A SHORT STRIP CAPABLE OF RECEIVING LIGHT PLANES. WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO IS EXTEND THE RUNWAY SO THAT YOU CAN LAND A LARGE MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE.

Q: IS IT THE LOCATION OF THE AIRFIELD, OR ARE YOU EXTENDING IT, OR THERE ARE NO AIRFIELDS IN --

A: THERE IS AN EXISTING STRIP THAT YOU CAN LAND LIGHT AIRCRAFT THEN COME OUT.

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Q: ARE WE TRYING TO TRAIN THE HONDURANS, PURPOSE TWO OF THAT EXERCISE, TO MAKE AMPHIBIOUS LANDINGS OR TO DEFEND AGAINST THEM?

A: WE'RE TRYING TO GET THEM TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO USE THE BOATS ASSOCIATED COMMUNICATIONS AND THE WHOLE NOTION OF GOING FROM POINT A ON THE COAST TO POINT B. THE HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO HERE HAS A GUERILLA FORCE ASHORE AND THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING IN TO FIND THE GUERILLA FORCE, FERRET THE KNOWLEDGE. NOW THAT'S NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE INTERDICTION BUSINESS TO WHICH YOU -

Q: WHEN DO THEY HAVE AN INTERDICTION PROBLEM? IS THAT AN AREA WHERE THEY'VE GOT INFILTRATION PROBLEMS?

A: THEY BELIEVE THEY DO.

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D/CINC---	J6-----	WNG-----	JOC-----	NAVY-----	PAO-----		REPRO---
C/S-----	LA-----	SSO-----	JRC-----	CHAP-----	PCC-----		PITCH---
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Q: WHO FROM?

A: YOU'LL HAVE TO ASK THEM.

Q: IS THIS A SEABORNE INFILTRATION -

A: YES

Q: WOULD WE LEAVE THOSE BOATS, THE AMPHIBIOUS BOATS THERE?

A: NO SIR, THEY HAVE SOME AMPHIBIOUS BOATS AND THEY EXPECT TO GETS OTHERS UNDER THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Q: HOW MANY ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

A: THEY WANT TO BUY THREE LCM-85.

Q: WE AGREED TO SUPPLY THEM, OR THEY HAVE THEM? HOW MANY DO THAY HAVE NOW AND HOW MANY DO THEY EXPECT TO GET?

A: THEY WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO GET CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION TO BUY THEE OF THESE VESSELS.

Q: YOU SAID THEY HAVE SOME NOW?

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A: THEY HAVE SOME SMALL BOATS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'VE GOT.

Q: WOULD WE LEAVE THE 1055 AFTER -

A: AGAIN, THAT'S SOMETHING THEY WOULD HAVE TO ACQUIRE UNDER THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Q: SO JUST FOR CLARIFICATION, WHAT THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT OR WHAT THEY TOLD YOU THEY'RE CONCERNED ABOUT IS A GUERILLA FORCE LANDING ON THE BEACHES AND MAKING THEIR WAY IN. THE PRUPOSE OF THE EXERCISE -

A: YES. LET'S PUT THAT ANOTHER WAY. THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT INSURGENENCIES DEVELOPING WITHIN THEIR COUNTRY THAT ARE SUPPLIED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES.

Q: BY SEA?

A: BY SEAS, WHICH IS IN THEIR VIEW NOT AN UNREALISTIC PROSPECT.

Q: --LCM-8, COULD THESE BOATS BE USED BOTH FOR INTERDICTION AND THEN FOR THE SCENARIO OF LANDING ON A -

A: YES.

Q: WILL THEY BE USED FOR BOTH THINGS?

A: YES.

Q: ARE THERE IN FACT SOME MITIGATING INSURGENT FORCES IN -

A: NO SIR. BUT I THINK THAT THE HONDURANS PERCEPTIVELY ARE

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TRYING TO PREPARE FOR TWO KINDS OF THREATS. ONE OF THEM IS AN EXTERNAL THREAT, THAT IS TO SAY A FORCE LAUNCH FROM OUTSIDE IN - THAT THEY'RE FACING DOWN HERE AND THE OTHER IS THE PROSPECT OF THEIR SUBJECTED TO THE KIND OF TREATMENT THAT THEIR NEIGHBORS OVER HERE RECEIVED.

Q: HAS THAT THE REQUEST FOR THE BOATS GONE TO THE CONGRESS?

A: IN THE '84 CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION DOCUMENT I BELIEVE THAT THE REQUEST FOR THE LCM-85 -

Q: IT JUST HASN'T BEEN APPROVED BY -

A: WE'RE STILL ACTING ON THE '84 PROGRAM

GENTLEMEN, IF I COULD SUGGEST, THE GENERAL IS NOT EVEN HALFWAY THROUGH THIS. IF YOU COULD LET HIM GO ON THROUGH AND THEN PICK UP QUESTIONS, I THINK A LOT OF QUESTIONS WOULD BE ANSWERED FOR YOU.

Q: THE PROBLEM IS YOU GET TO DIFFERENT AREAS AND THEN WE HAVE TO BACKTRACK. IF WE COULD JUST ASK, IF I COULD JUST ASK HIM ONE MORE QUESTION.

THE LANDING OF THE MARINES - IS IT GOING TO BE ACTUAL HONDURAN UNITS THAT'S GOING TO LAND WITH THEM OR - ,

A: YES. THAT FOURTH INFANTRY BATTALION.

Q: THE BATTALION WILL GO ASHORE?

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A: YES, AS PART OF THEIR TRAINING. THIS IS A LAND-BASED OUTFIT. IT HAS NOT BEEN THROUGH ANY KIND OF SMALL BOAT DRILLS. THE IDEA IS TO GIVE THEM SOME KIND OF A FEEL FOR MARITIME MOBILITY.

DIRECTING YOUR ATTENTION NOW DOWN HERE TO AREA C, THIS ACTIVITY WILL CENTER ON AN AIRFIELD NEAR THE TOWN OF COMAYAGUA. IT'S PALMEROLA AIRFIELD. COMAYAGUA IS THE TOWN TO WHICH PRESEIDENT SUADO WAS TAKEN WHEN HE HAD HIS RECENT HEART ATTACK OVER THE WEEKEND. PALMEROLA IS A HONDURAN AIR FORCE BASE WHERE THEY CONDUCT THEIR BASIC.

ON THAT AIRFIELD WE WILL POSITION A U.S. HEADQUARTERS, THE JOINT TASK FORCE, TO HANDLE ALL OF THE SEVERAL U.S. SERVICES. AT THE HEADQUARTERS THERE WILL BE A LIAISON ELEMENT FROM THE HONDURAN GENERAL STAFF. THERE WILL ALSO BE A COMMAND POST OF THE U.S. SUPPORT COMMAND, THE LOGISTICS ENTITY THAT WILL SUPPORT THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXERCISE.

THE U.S. AVIATION SUPPORT FOR THE EXERCISE, REFERRING TO THE HELICOPTERS AND FIXED WING AIRCRAFT THAT WILL BE USED TO SUPPORT THE EXERCISE INSIDE OF HONDURAS. A COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND A FIELD HOSPITAL OF SOME 50 BEDS WHICH WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE MEDICAL CENTRAL LAB AND SO FORTH THAT WILL BE SUPPORTING THE OPERATIONS IN THE OUT-

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LYING AREAS, NORTH AND SOUTH.

THE LOGISTICS UNDERTAKING FOR THE EXERCISE THAT WOULD BE CONTROLLED FROM AREA C WILL DEPEND UPON THREE PORTS FOR MATERIAL BROUGHT IN BY SHIP AND TWO AIRHEADS. ONE HERE AT LA HESA NEAR SAN PEDROSULA IN THE NORTH AND ONE HERE AT TEGUCIGALPA, THE CAPITAL, HERE IN THE CENTER. THIS IS ABOUT AN HOUR AND HALF NORTH OF TEGUCIGALPA BY ROAD.

DOWN IN THE AREA SOUTH WE WILL POSITION AN ENGINEER BATTALION, U.S. ARHY, SOME MEDICAL DETACHMENTS AND SOME SPECIAL FORCES TEAMS.

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THE PRINCIPLE PURPOSE OF THE ENGINEERS WILL BE TO CONSTRUCT AN AIRFIELD NEAR THE TOWN OF SAN LORENZO. SAN LORENZO IS RIGHT UP AT THE HEAD OF THE GULF OF FORSECA AND IT IS THEIR PACIFIC COAST PORT. IT'S THE ONLY DEEP WATER PORT THAT HONDURAS HAS ON THE PACIFIC OCEAN.

THERE IS AN AIRFIELD THERE, IT IS A DIRT STRIP CAPABLE OF RECEIVING LIGHT PLANES ONLY. WHAT THIS ENGINEER BATTALION WILL DO IS BUILD A DIRT STRIP CAPABLE OF RECEIVING C-130S. THE ENGINEERS WILL ALSO HAVE ATTACHED WELL DIGGING ATTACHMENTS AND THEY'LL BE DOING WATER SUPPLY DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION. PARENTHETICALLY IN MAY WE HAD A TEAM OF DOCTORS IN THERE WHO SURVEYED THE AREA, FOUND IT TO BE A MEDICAL WASTELAND, VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE CHILDREN THAT THEY SAW

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ACTION-----							ROUTER---
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G/CJNC---	J6-----	WHG-----	JOC-----	NAVY-----	PAO-----		REPRO---
C/S-----	LA-----	SSO-----	JRC-----	CHAP-----	PCC-----		PITCH---
INTAFF---	TA-----	PAE-----	PSYOP-----	ARMY-----	MTMC-----		TCC-----
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HAD SOME FORM OF DISEASE OR ANOTHER AND MOST OF THEM WERE SEEING DOCTORS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES. THEY SAW 12,000, EIGHT DOCTORS SAW 12,000 PEOPLE IN THE COURSE OF THEIR WORK IN THERE IN THE MONTH OF MAY.

THIS IS THE POOREST PART OF HONDURAS, THE LEAST FAVORABLE CLIMATE. THE HONOURANS IN GENERAL PREFER TO LIVE UP IN THE HIGHLANDS AROUND THE NORTH COAST AND IT IS A PART OF HONDURAS THAT IS THE LEAST WELL DEVELOPED FROH THE POINT OF VIEW OF INFRASTRUCTURE.

HAVING THIS AIRRFIELO THERE WILL BE A MAJOR ASSIST TO THE HONDURAS IN THEIR IMAGINED SCENARIO OF HAVING TO REINFORCE, AGAIN FROM CENTRAL RESERVES TO BACK UP THE 11TH HONOURAN BATTALTION WHICH IS THE INFANTRY BATTALION LOCATED THERE IN THE EVENT THAT THE SITUATION ON THE BORDER SHOULD BECOME MORE THREATENING.

OUR ENGINEERS WILL ALSO WORK WITH THIS 11TH BATTALION ON WHAT

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WE CALL TERRAIN REINFORCMENT, REFERRING TO TECHNIQUES FOR BUILDING ANTI-ARMOR BARRIERS, OBSTACLES AND OTHERWISE FITTING THE TERRAIN BETTER WITH THE ANTI-ARMOR WEAPONRY THAT IS AVAILABLE TO THE 11TH BATTALTION WHICH INCLUDE 106 RECOILLESS RIFLES.

THE SPECIAL FORCES TEAM WILL WORK WITH THE 11TH BATTALTION ON INTERDICTION TECHNIQUES, REFERRING TO PATROLLING TECHNIQUES THAT WOULD BE DESIGNED TO COME TO GRIPS WITH EITHER OVERLAND MOVEMENT OF ARMS OR SUBVERSIVES THROUGH THIS AREA, OR WATER BORNE MOVEMENT CF ARMS OR SUBVERSIVES THROUGH THE AREA. IN THIS PARTICULAR PART OF HONOURAS I CAN TESTIFY OR STATE WITH SOME ASSURANCE THAT I'M RIGHT, THAT THERE IS REASON TO BELEIVE THAT THAT'S REAL, THEY DO HAVE PEOPLE MOVING THROUGH

A LOT OF THE WOVEHENT IS SIMPLY SMUGGLING, THAT IS TO SAY SMUGGLING FOR GAIN, BUT A LOT OF IT IS GENUINELY ASSOCIATED WITH SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES.

Q: THAT'S THE PART OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE WEAPONS FLOW FROM NICARAGUA TO EL SALVADOR?

A: YES

ONE HYPOTHESIS HAS IT THAT THERE ARE WELL DEVELOPED NETWORKS, OVERLAND NETWORKS THAT TRAVERSE THIS LAND NECK UP HERE. YOU RECALL

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IN MARCH THE HONDURANS DID INTERCEPT A GROUP THAT WAS MAKING SUCH A TRANSIT AND CAPTURED WEAPONS AND DOCUMENTS INDICATING THAT THYE HAD BEEN ERECTED ALONG FAIRLY WELL LAID OUT -

Q: THAT'S ALL MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN THERE? ARE THEY MOUNTAIN PASSES? HOW HIGH ARE THOSE MOUNTAINS?

A: THREE - FOUR THOUSAND FEEL. THEY'RE FAIRLY CONSIDERABLE MOUNTAINS. IT IS ROUGH TERRAIN.

Q: SO THE ROUTES OF SUPPLY MUST BE VERY LIMITED I WOULD THINK.

A: WELL, THE PATH THAT THIS PARTICULAR GROUP TOOK COULD ONLY BE DESCRIBED AS TORTUOUS. IT'S NOT AN EASY ROAD. WE GOT THE PRECISE DATA WHERE THEY WERE AT EACH DAY ALONG THE ROUTE.

Q: THERE ARE NO ROADS THERE, RIGHT/

A: THEY WERE MAINLY ON FOOTPATHS, YES.

Q: THESE INFILITRATORS GO FROM NICARAGUA TO EL SALVADOR?

A: YES.

Q: SO THEY STAY IN HONDURAS?

A: THEY MUST HAVE SUPPORTERS IN HONDURAS WITH WHOM THEY'RE DEALING. WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THAT.

Q: WHERE IS THE ANTI-ARMOR BARRIER, AND WHERE ARE THEY GOING TO GO?

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A: THEY WOULD BE DOWN IN THIS AREA HERE. THERE IS A CITY CALLED CHOLUTECA HERE AND THAT IS THE APPROACHED TO CHOLUTECA THE BATTALIONS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN PUTTING THESE -

Q: ON THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY?

A: THEY WILL HAVE PLANS FOR DEALING WITH THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY BUT THE MOST PROMISING APPROACH SWINGS SOUTH OF THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY. IT COMES DOWN FROM A SOMATILA ACROSS FLATT CATTLE GRAZING LAND.

Q: THAT'S THE COASTAL ROAD.

A: RIGHT.

Q: THAT IS, THAT AREA -

A: YES SIR. THE GULF RUNS UP IN HERE. I'M SORRY THAT I'VE OBSCURED THAT.

Q: IN TERMS OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, HOW MANY AIRFIELDS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED HERE DURING THE EXERCISES?

A: I HAVE PLANS TO DO TWO, AND THEN IF I STILL HAVE TIME WITHIN THE EXERCISE FRAMEWORK WE'LL GO ON TO A THIRD. THEY HAVE NOMINATED A NUMBER IN PRIORITY AND WE HAVE AGREED THAT THIS ONE AND THIS ONE ARE MOST IMPORTANT.

Q: THOSE ARE THE SAME ONES THAT -

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A: I'M SORRY. THIS COMAYAGUA. THIS IS LA CEIPA. I'M REFFERING TO TRUJILLO AND SAN LORENZO.

Q: LET ME JUST GET THESE NUMBERS HERE. YOU'VE GOT FOUR PLUS ONE OF THEM THAT YOU'D LIKE TO BUILD. IN OTHER WORDS TWO -

A: WE'RE STARTING ON TWO AIRFIELDS.

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ROUTINE

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Q: TWO AIRFIELDS?

A: ONE UP HERE AT TRUJILLO WHICH IS A RUNWAY EXTENSION JOB. ONE DOWN, HERE AT SAN LORENZO WHICH IS PIONEER AIRSTRIP, A RUNWAY THAT IS CONSTRUCTED OF DIRT, CAPABLE OF RECEIVING A C-130.

Q: COMAYAGUA?

A: COMAYAGUA IS DEVELOPED AIR FIELD. THE U.S. MILCON IS UNDERWAY AT COMELAGUA.

Q: TO EXTEND IT?

A: YES, AND TO BUILD ADDITIONAL RAMPS, ET CETERA.

Q: AND LA CEIBA?

A: AND LA CEIBA IS ANOTHER AIRFIELD AT WHICH THE U.S. MILCON HAS BEEN REQUESTED BUT THE WORK HAS NOT YET BEGUN.

Q: AND THE FIFTH WOULD BE, YOU SAID YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO ANOTHER ONE.

A: THE FIFTH IF WE GET A CHANCE TO DO IT, WE DON'T KNOW HOW

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ROUTINE

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FAST THIS WORK IS GOING TO GO. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A FIELD THAT IS ADOBE. THESE ENGINEERS HAVE NEVER HAD TO COPE WITH THAT KIND OF CLAY SURFACE. IT IS DURING THE RAINY SEASON. WE'RE NOT CONFIDENT HOW MUCH OF A DELAY THAT'S GOING TO ENTAIL. IF WE HAVE TIME WE WOULD GO ON TO ANOTHER AIRFIELD.

Q: WHERE?

A: WE HAVEN'T SETTLED THAT.

Q: THESE SECOND TWO AIRFIELDS, --FOR EXERCISE---

A: YES.

I WANT TO IF I MAY, MAKE THE POINT HERE THAT U.S. ENGINEER BATTALIONS WITH THE MISSION OF CONSTRUCTING AIRFIELDS RARELY GET AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT THEIR MISSION CALLS FOR. THEY ALMOST NEVER GET AN OPPORTUNITY IN THE UNITED STATES AND THIS IS A4 ENGINEER OUTFIT THAT'S COMING OUT OF FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA,

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AND FOR THEM IT IS GOING TO BE A VERY RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT IT ALL TOGETHER AND DO WHAT THEY WERE BROUGHT INTO THE FORCE STRUCTURE TO DO.

THE WELL DRILLING DETACHMENT THAT WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THAT ENGINEER BATTALION HAS BEEN IN THE FORCE STRUCTURE FOR THREE YEARS. IT WAS BROUGHT INTO THE FORCE STRUCTURE AGAINST MIDDLE EASTERN CONTINGENCIES. IT HAS NEVER, ALTHOUGH IT HAS DRILLED MANY A HOLE, BROUGHT WATER UP OUT OF THE GROUND. REASON, IN THE UNITED STATES YOU HAVE TO GET PERMITS, WATER TABLES, AND THE REST OF IT, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS HAVE FORECLOSED THESE GUYS FROM DOING THEIR JOB ALL THE WAY THROUGH. THERE IS GOING TO BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO DO IT AND TO DO IT IN A WAY THAT WILL BENEFIT THEM AND WILL BENEFIT THE HONDURANS.

Q: WHAT IS THE TOAL NUMBER OF U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL THAT WILL BE GOING THROUGH HONDURAS.

A: I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU A CHART THAT DETAILS THAT AT THE END.

Q: COULD I JUST REQUEST THAT WE--

A: LEAD AHEAD TO THAT?

Q: BECAUSE WE HAVE--

A: ALL RIGHT.

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WHAT I'VE DONE HERE IS TO TRY TO BREAK THE PARTICIPANTS APART, THE U.S. ARE IN THE MULTI COLORED BAR. THE BLUE IS HONDURAN PARTICIPANTS. THE ORANGE IS NORTH, THE GREEN IS CENTER, THE BROWN IS SOUTH. I HAVEN'T ATTEMPTED TO DIFFERENTIATE THE HONDURAN PARTICIPANTS, I GET THEM ALL LIMPED TOGETHER, BUT YOU SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT MOST OF THEM WILL BE UP IN THE NORTH.

THE CHARITS TELL YOU TWO THINGS. WE'VE GOT AS IS USUAL IN SUCH EXERCISE, A LOT OF THE U.S. EFFORT ENGAGED IN SUPPORT--AREA CENTER BEING THE PRINCIPLE CONSUMER.

Q: ABOUT HOW MANY HONDURAN TROOPS WILL BE TAKING PART - THEY WILL ALL BE THE SAME?

A: THAT'S PRETTY ACCURATE DEPICTION OF WHERE YOU ARE IN TERMS OF HONDURANS, AND WHEN YOU GET OUT IN THE FOUR BATTALION EXERCISE YOU'RE TALKING SOMETHING LIKE 4,000

Q: YOU SAY ONE EXERCISE MAY NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER CHRISTMAS AND THEN --

A: THAT IS THE BATTALION GRADUATION EXERCISE.

Q: WILL THERE BE A PERMANENT U.S. PRESENCE, A MILITARY PRESENCE, BESIDES THE ADVISERS AND SPECIAL FORCES.

A: YOU'RE REFERRING, I PRESUME TO OUR MILGROUP, WHICH, AS YOU

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KNOW, IS THERE ALL THE TIME.

Q: BESIDES ALL THAT, YOU ARE PLANNING TO LEAVE ANY OF THESE TROOPS IN HONDURAS?

A: NO.

Q: HOW ABOUT THEIR EQUIPMENT?

A: ANY EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS THAT TAKE PLACE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH UNDER THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. THAT IS TO SAY, THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PAY FOR IT. THE BEST OF ALL WORLDS WE WOULD LIKE IN FACT TO HAVE THEM BE ABLE TO BUY THEIR 105 H0WIT2ERS AND PUT THEM INTO THIS EXERCISE, BUT THAT'S CONTINGENT UPON THE CONGRESS ACTING ON THE FY84 BUDGET. WE'D LIKE FOR THEM TO HAVE THOSE LCM-85 AND IF THAT HAPPENS THOSE EQUIPMENTS CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE.

Q: SO YOU HAVE ONE - AMPHIBIOUS UNIT -- INVOLVING MARINES --

A: MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT, YES SIR.

Q: THAT MEANS FIVE MAU SHIPS?

A: FIVE MAU SHIPS PLUS THEIR ASSOCIATED SMALL CRAFT.

Q: WILL THE CARRIER BATTLE GROUPS BE ON EITHER COAST, WILL THEY BE PARTICIPATING AT ALL IN THESE LAND EXERCISES?

A: NOT IN THE SENSE THAT THE GUYS ON THE SHIPS WILL IN ANY SENSE PLAY A ROLE IN ALL OF THIS. THEY WILL IN THE SENSE THAT THE

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HONOURANS WILL CERTAINLY WELCOME THE PRESENCE OF THOSE FORCES OFF THEIR COAST. THEY FIND IT REASSURING. THEY'RE VERY VOCAL ON THAT. AND I THINK FRANKLY WHAT THAT REASSURANCE HAS MEANT IS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN THE MORE WILLING TO TURN FORCES OVER TO THIS EXERCISE, PARTICULARLY PUTTING A LOT OF THEIR FORCE UP HERE ON THE NORTH COAST AT A TIME WHEN THEIR PROBLEMS SEEM TO BE DOWN IN THE OTHER PART OF THE COUNTRY.

ROUTINE

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Q: ...THE 1800 FOR MARINES, THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY COMBAT TROOPS. OF THE REMAINDER OF THE 3500, HOW MUCH OF THOSE WILL BE COMBAT UNITS?

A: WELL, THIS IS A COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION. THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND THE ARTILLERY BATTALION, U.S., WOULD FALL UNDER THAT CATEGORY.

Q: HOW MANY --

A: I THINK WE HAVE TO ADD UP THE SPECIAL FORCES DETACHMENTS, THE NAVY SEALS. THE MARINES, I DON'T KNOW. I'D HAVE TO WORK THAT --

Q: IS THIS ARTILLERY BATTALION FROM FORT CAMPBELL?

A: YES SIR, IT'S THE 319TH.

Q: GENERAL, WILL THE CARRIERS TAKE PART IN THE MARINE LANDING-.

A: WE DO NOT NOW KNOW WHETHER THERE WILL EVEH BE A CARRIER IN

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D/CINC---	J6-----	WNG-----	JOC-----	NAVY-----	PAO-----	REPRO---
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 THE AREA WHEN THAT MARINE LANDING TAKES PLACE AND WE HAVE MADE NO
 PLANS THEREFORE WITH THE WAVY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

Q: (INAUDIBLE)

A: MOST OF THE PUNITIVE COST OF THIS WILL PE ASSOCIATED WITH
MOVING THE TROOPS TO THE AREA - AIR AND SEA MOVEMENT DOWN.

Q: WILL YOU BE WITHDRAWING MONEY FROM THE EXERCISE FUNDS OR WILL
YOU BE ASKING CONGRESS FOR MORE MONEY?

A: WE WILL HANDLE IT WITHIN EXISTING FUNDS.

Q: - AND HOW MANY GREEN BERETS WILL BE THERE?

A: AGAIN, BECAUSE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DETACHMENTS, I HAVEN'T
HEADCOUNTED.

Q: IS THAT MAU ABOUT 100 OR SO?

Q: 100 TO 120 IS MAXIMUM

A: SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

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Q: WHEN ARE THE FIRST UNITS ARRIVING - THE 1,200 IN AUGUST?

A: IN AUGUST, YES. WE WOULD EXPECT SOMETIME AROUND THE 12TH OR THE
15TH.

Q: WHEN WILL THOSE UNITS LEAVE?

A: PROBABLY ADVANCE PART OF THE HEADQUARTERS GOING INTO
COMAYAGUA. PROBABLY ARRIVING BY AIR. LET ME MAKE THE POINT, THE
TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE IS ONGOING. IT'S BEEN MEETING ALL DAY TODAY.
WE HAVEN'T FINALIZED THE SCHEDULE OF MOVEMENTS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW WHICH UNITS THESE WILL BE - -

Q: YOU TOUCHED ON SOME OF THEM, THE 319TH FROM CAMPBELL. WHAT ARE
THE -

A: THE FIRST UNIT GOING IN WILL BE THE ADVANCE PARTY, JOINT TASK
FORCE HEADQUARTERS FROM TAMPA, FLORIDA - U.S. READINESS COMMAND.

Q: -- MOST OF THE TROOPS, AMERICAN TROOPS IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

A: YES SIR.

Q: -- CENTRAL REGION WHAT THEY WILL BE DOING?

A: WELL THESE ARE, AS YOU CAN SEE, THE GUYS THAT PROVIDE SUPPORT
FOR THE PEOPLE THAT ARE IN THE OUTLYING AREAS, IT IS FROM

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THERE THAT ALL THE HELICOPTERS COME. IT IS FROM THERE THAT ALL OF THE FIXED WING SUPPORT COMES. IT IS FROM THERE YOUR DOCTORS ARE NOT ONLY SITUATION THERE IN THE FIELD HOSPITAL, BUT FROM THERE WE WILL DRAW ATTACHMENTS TO GO OUT AND REINFORCE THESE GUYS IN THE OUTLYING AREAS.

Q: WHICH MAU?

A: I BELIEVE IT'S AN OUTFIT OUT OF THE SECOND DIVISION. BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'VE PINNED THE -

Q: -- A FULL COMBAT ENGINEER BATTALION OR -

A: THERE IS A NAVY CONSTRUCTION BATTALION UP ON THE NORTH COAST AND AN ARMY ENGINEER BATTALION FROM FORT RUCKER, ALABAMA. AND AS I UNDERSTAND IT WILL BE A BATTALION TASK FORCE MEANING THAT IT WON'T BE THE ENTIRE OUTFIT, IT WILL HAVE SOME OUTFITS LEFT BEHIND AND OTHERS ADDED TO IT FOR THE JOB.

GENTLEMEN, THE GENERAL HAS BEEN WITH US FOR ALMOST AN HOUR NOW. WOULD YOU WRAP IT UP WITH A COUPLE MORE -

Q: GENERAL, I HAVE ONE QUESTION THAT WASN'T ANSWERED. THAT WAS THIS EXTENSION INTO FEBRUARY. WHERE IS YOUR CUTOFF TIME? IS THERE A CUTOFF TIME?

A: - SECRETARY OF DEFENSE. I THINK THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO LOOK

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VERY HARD AT - AND KEEPING THE MOMENTUM WITHIN THE HONDURAN FORCES. I WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE IT GO BEYOND MARCH, CERTAINLY.

Q: THE SECRETARY IMPLIED IN HIS BRIEFING LAST WEEK, HE SAID JANUARY ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T INDICATE THE END OF THIS. NOW YOU'RE TALKING MARCH AND SIX MONTHS BECOMES EIGHT MONTHS. IS IT REALLY THAT OPEN-ENDED OR ARE YOU -

A: I WOULD INSIST THAT IT'S LESS OPEN ENDED THAN WE'RE TRYING TO FOCUS ON WHAT TRAINING HAS BEEN ABSORBED, WHAT THEY'RE CAPABLE OF DOING. THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING THE HONDURAN ARMY GO OUT AND STUMBLE AROUND FOR A BATTALION COUNTERGUERRILLA OPERATION IF THEY'RE NOT UP TO IT. I WANT THEM WHEN THEY GO OUT TO BE SUCCESSFUL. THEY WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL. I AM DETERMINED TO DO WHAT I CAN TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

Q: HOW FAR FROM THE NICARAGUAN BORDER WILL U.S. FORCES OPERATE, ESPECIALLY DOWN THERE -

A: IN THE CHOLATECA AREA THE CLOSEST POINT IS ACTUALLY THIS LITTLE POINT OF LAND RIGHT HERE, THE CAPE IN NICARAGUA WHERE THE VOLCANO IS - THE GULF AND IT'S ABOUT 25 MILES OVER TO SAN LORENZO WHERE THAT ENGINEER BATTALION WOULD BE.

Q: SO 25 MILES IS THE CLOSEST THEY WILL COME?

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A: THAT'S A REASONABLE DISTANCE. BUT LET ME MAKE THE ADDITIONAL POINT THAT SMALL PARTIES OF MEDICS OR ENGINEERS MAY GO CLOSER IN THE COURSE OF DOING THEIR BUSINESS, BUT WE'RE UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS THAT THEY'RE NOT TO GET WITHIN SITE OF THE BORDER. THEY'LL ALL BE GIVEN VERY CAREFUL MAP BRIEFINGS BEFORE THEY GO OUT TO ENSURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN AND WE'RE DETERMINED NOT TO ACT IN ANY WAY THAT COULD BE CONSTRUED AS PROVOCATIVE OR INCIDENT CREATING.

ROUTINE

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ROUTINE

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Q: AND YOU SAY ALL THE U.S. EXERCISE TROOPS THAT ARE GOING WILL
COME OUT AND NONE OF THEM WILL STAY.

A: THAT'S RIGHT, SIR.

Q: AND IF THEY GO OUT IN INTERDICTION OR PATROL AND TRAINING WITH
HONDURAN UNITS, EVEN IF THEY FIND SOME EVIDENCE OF SMUGGLING OF ARMS,
WILL U.S. TROOPS GET INVOLVED?

A: OUR FOLKS WILL BE INSTRUCTED VEY CAREFULLY TO AVOID ANY
SITUATION THAT MIGHT INVOLVE HOSTILITIES - ANY AND ALL SITUATIONS.

Q: THE FOCUS OF THE WHOLE THING, THE TRAINING OF THE HONDURANS
WILL BE ON INTERDICTION AND ANTI-GUERILLA -

A: I THINK THOSE ARE THE TWO THINGS THAT WILL DOMINATE. DON'T
UNDERWRITE THE IMPORTANT WORK THAT WE'LL BE DOING WITH THE HONDURAN
ENGINEER BATTALION, THE HONDURAN MEDICS, OR THE COMMAND AND CONTROL
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ROUTINE

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C/S-----	LA-----	SSO-----	JRC-----	CHAP-----	PCC-----	REPRO---
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ECHELONS OF THIS BUSINESS. WE ARE TEACHING THESE GUYS TO PLAN.

THANKYOU.

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