



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTORATE FOR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND SECURITY REVIEW  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

02 JUN 1998

Ref: 98-F-1287

Mr. Greg Cresci

READING ROOM

Dear Mr. Cresci:

This letter responds to your April 20, 1998, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Drug Enforcement Policy and Support) (ODASD(DEP&S)). As this Directorate is the central point of contact for processing FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, of which the ODASD(DEP&S) is a component, your request was referred here for administrative processing.

The ODASD(DEP&S) staff has provided the enclosed documents as responsive to your request. There are no assessable fees associated with processing your FOIA request in this instance.

Sincerely,

A. H. Passarella  
Director

Enclosures:  
As stated



#931

# DoD COUNTERDRUG ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO

## FY96

- Spent \$3.8 million of Section 1004, NDAA funds

## FY 97

- Spent \$8.0 million of Section 1031, NDAA funds
- Spent \$15.8 million of Section 1004, NDAA funds
  - \$5.1 million was not used specifically for training
  - \$10.7 million was applied against Mexican CD training
- 829 Mexican military personnel received training in approximately 1300 training quotas.
- Breakdown by service:

Marina	281
Defensa (Army)	286
Defensa (AF)	262

## FY 98

- Projected Section 1004 spending \$13 million
- No Section 1031 authorization for FY98
- All but approximately 500K will be expended for Mexican CD training
- Training includes 1017 training quotas (888 for Defensa; 129 for Marina)

## Provision of Equipment

- 20 UH-1H's delivered to Mexico as part of a Section 516, FAA EDA transfer
- Presidential Determination Decision 97-9 authorized "drawdown" valued at \$75 million dollars in FY97 under Section 506 (a)(2) of the FAA.
  - Mexico to receive equipment not more than a value of \$37 million from US Army and US Air Force without reimbursement
    - This included 53 UH-1H helicopters;
    - 2 years' worth of spare parts, ground support equipment, aircrew life support equipment, and aviation maintenance tool kits (unit and intermediate level); and
    - Mexico also received 4 C-26 aircraft from the USAF

# UH-1H HELICOPTER SUPPORT FOR MEXICO

## BACKGROUND:

- The DoD UH-1H helicopter initiative involves the training and equipping of counterdrug (CD) rapid reaction forces and providing these forces with an airmobile counterdrug capability.
- Since November 1996, DoD has delivered 73 UH-1Hs to the Mexican military, 20 as excess defense articles under Section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA), and an additional 53 as part of the President's directed drawdown of U.S. military forces under Section 506 of the FAA.
- To bolster Mexico's long-term ability to maintain the UH-1H fleet, Section 1031 of the 1997 National Defense Authorization Act provided \$8 million in CD procurement support. Mexico uses the funding to purchase UH-1H parts and components.

## DISCUSSION:

1. The Mexican military uses the transferred UH-1Hs to conduct aerial reconnaissance, transport troops and support other CD missions.
  - Mexico and the U.S. completed an End-Use-Monitoring (EUM) agreement that covers the operational use of the UH-1Hs. The agreement ensures that the aircraft are employed only for the purposes they are intended – CD operations.
  - Under the EUM agreement, Mexico must submit regular reports to the U.S. Embassy on a bi-monthly basis and permit quarterly on-site inspections of the UH-1H fleet by U.S. military and State Department officials. Mexico complies fully with all aspects of the EUM.
    - The bi-monthly reports specify the location, hours flown, maintenance status and the activities for which the aircraft is used. The aircraft were used primarily for CD reconnaissance and troop lift missions.
    - The on-site inspection reviews condition and operational use of the UH-1Hs. All aircraft must be examined each year.
2. DoD receives numerous inquiries concerning the use of the UH-1Hs in Mexico:
  - The Mexican military originally planned to deploy the UH-1H aircraft in 10 different military regions – excluding the states of Chiapas and Guerrero.
    - Moreover, Mexico conducted an extensive redistribution of the aircraft in JAN 98 to consolidate its logistics and maintenance support for the UH-1H fleet at fewer locations. Current UH-1H positioning deploys the helicopters even further from Chiapas and Guerrero.
  - Reports stating that GoM UH-1H CD aircraft, transferred by DoD, are operating in Chiapas or Guerrero are not credible. These reports result from the misidentification of other GoM helicopter assets.
    - The Mexican Attorney General's office also operates UH-1Hs and they are flown in support of counterdrug operations with no operational restrictions for their use throughout Mexico.
    - Additionally, the Mexican military also operates the Bell 212 helicopter, which is similar in appearance to the UH-1H, and cannot be distinguished from the UH-1H aircraft by an untrained observer. Since the Bell 212 was purchased by the Mexican military directly from the manufacturer, there are no restrictions to its use in any region of Mexico.
    - Finally, the states of Chiapas and Guerrero are mountainous, where the combination of high altitude and temperature degrade the performance of UH-1H. For matters of safety, as well as avoiding the charge that U.S.-transferred counterdrug helicopters are used to perpetrate human rights abuses, the Mexican military operates its fleet of Russian-built helicopters in these areas.
    - We have no reporting of our own indicating that the helicopters have been used in Chiapas and Guerrero.

**SUBJECT:** U.S. Military Counterdrug Cooperation with Mexico

**BACKGROUND:**

- The historic interaction between Mexico and the U.S. has been marked by distrust and suspicion.
- GoM CD programs, unaided by USG efforts, deteriorated steadily in the last 5 years and were rendered ineffective by failed law enforcement efforts and rapid economic decline.
- No framework existed to manage any aspect of a bilateral security relationship, but rather an ad hoc mix of relationships between U.S. bureaucracies and their Mexican counterparts.
- Until Secretary Perry's historic visit to Mexico City in Oct 95, U.S./Mexico bilateral cooperation on all aspects of national security, including counternarcotics matters, continued without direction.

**DISCUSSION:**

- In 1995, current events forged the re-establishment of U.S. and Mexico collaboration -- none more important than President Zedillo's public proclamation that drug trafficking was the number one threat to Mexico's national security;
- Anticipating a greater climate of cooperation, Sec. Perry was the first U.S. SecDef to visit Mexico.
- Secretary Perry's purpose was to broaden our security relationship with Mexico and he proposed cooperation in five strategic areas: force modernization; training and education; disaster relief; air and sea space sovereignty; *and, to the greatest extent, counterdrug activities.*
- The Department of Defense has established extremely successful counterdrug programs with *Defensa and Marina* representing unprecedented military interaction.
- DoD FY97 counterdrug expenditures approximate \$70 million and will provide specialized equipment, training, and services to Mexican military personnel for the development of an air mobile counterdrug interdiction capability. Specifically:
  1. Transfer of 20 UH-1H helicopters, identified as excess defense articles, to Mex. Air Force.
  2. As part of a U.S. defense drawdown, the transfer of 53 additional UH-1Hs, 4 C-26 aircraft, intermediate- and unit-level aviation maintenance tool kits, ground support equipment, and 2 years of helicopter spare parts.
  3. Under Section 1031 authority, \$8M for additional helicopter spare parts and equipment.
  4. Development of a \$20M, specialized counterdrug training program for *Defensa* and *Marina*.
    - In FY96 and 97, program provides for over ~~1900~~<sup>1580</sup> counterdrug training slots.
      - a) DoD personnel will train helicopter pilots in transition, instructor, instrument, and night vision goggle operations;
      - b) Mexican aviation maintenance personnel will receive training in all aspects of UH-1H systems maintenance, repair at unit and depot levels, crew chief courses and maintenance management;
      - c) Units of elite Mexican soldiers, instructors and cadre will receive training to develop specialized counterdrug skills;
      - d) Other training includes intelligence courses, logistics management, undergraduate pilot training, and maritime counterdrug operations.
- The breadth and depth of this counterdrug program between senior, mid- and lower elements of U.S./Mexican military commands has forged the basis for mutual trust and the highest respect between our two countries.

- Our success in developing and implementing the transfer of equipment and the conduct of training has led to progress in other arenas.
  - DoD personnel are working closely with *Defensa* on a proposal to evaluate Mexico's airspace and maritime requirements for early detecting and monitoring of drug traffickers entering Mexican territory.
  - Additionally, Mexico has accepted USG offer of simulator training for its UH-1H pilot force and will permit a team of a U.S. Army logistics experts to assist in the reception and dissemination of spare parts to Mexican Air force units.

## CONCLUSION:

- *The level of cooperation, from the unit levels of US/Mexico military forces to the involvement of senior government officials, is on an unprecedented scale.*
- Despite the historical and bureaucratic obstacles, the U.S./Mexico bilateral security relationship has made enormous strides in counternarcotic cooperation.
- The long-term benefit to both the United States and Mexico is a substantive reduction and elimination in the trafficking of drugs through the hemisphere and a firm foundation for continued cooperation on other issues significant to Mexico and the United States.

Q & A's for Bacon press briefing concerning Mexican military.

**Mexican Military (Schultz)**

*NY Times*, p.2, Mar 26, 98

***Q: What support does the Pentagon provide Mexico in its counterdrug efforts?***

A: DoD provides counternarcotics training and materiel support to the Government of Mexico with the purpose of enhancing the Mexican military's ability to conduct counterdrug operations. In fiscal year 97, that support amounted to over \$15 million to train Mexican Army, Air Force and Navy personnel for counternarcotics and related purposes. We also transferred four C-26 aircraft and 73 UH-1H helicopters to the Mexicans, and provided \$8 million in spare parts and logistics support. Specifically, we trained 829 Mexicans in skills as diverse as helicopter maintenance, reconnaissance, and riverine operations. This fiscal year our primary support is training; DoD will spend about \$13 million to provide about 1000 counterdrug training course slots for Mexican military.

***Q: What degree of success does the Pentagon believe it has had in stemming the drug flow from Mexico as a result of its efforts in support of the Mexican military?***

A: While it is important to underscore the bilateral and interagency nature of the efforts and the results, we are certain that our military-to-military support is contributing measurably and directly to stemming the flow of drugs to the U.S. According to reliable information, the Mexican military has flown the 73 UH-1H helicopters transferred by the U.S. a total of almost 8,300 hours and, with those aircraft, located over 40,000 narcotics crops, almost 500 clandestine runways, and 20 drug facilities. They were also instrumental in the seizure of over 5,000 kilos of marijuana and more than 400 kilos of cocaine, various firearms, boats, and communications equipment. In addition, soldiers who received U.S. training have helped eradicate record acreage of drug crops in Mexico – more than 40,000 acres of heroine poppy and almost 50,000 acres of marijuana in 1997 alone – and they have assisted in the arrest in Mexico of drug traffickers.

***Q: Any comment on intelligence reports of extensive corruption in the Mexican military?***

A: We consider any report of corruption relating to officials a matter of serious concern. I have not seen that report. We do know that the Mexican military has undertaken the counterdrug mission in earnest and their efficiency and effectiveness is notable. Any specific allegations of corruption are investigated cooperatively and thoroughly.

TAB \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTERNARCOTICS TRAINING FOR MEXICO - 26 FEB 98

### CURRENT NEWS

- "The U.S. Army is providing training to Mexican soldiers for the first time in an effort to create an elite counter-narcotics unit that U.S. officials say has become the leading force in Mexico's fight against international drug trafficking." **Mexican Drug Force is U.S.-Bred**, by Douglas Farah and Dana Priest, *Washington Post*, 26 Feb 98.
- "Since the end of the Cold War, the Army School of the Americas has survived several efforts by opponents to close its doors. Instead, it has emerged with a new mission, training Latin American militaries to fight illegal drug trafficking...." **At School of the Americas**, by Douglas Farah, *Washington Post*, 26 Feb 98

### MESSAGE

- As a result of the ongoing crisis involving drug smuggling which is of increasing concern to both the United States and Mexico, our two nations have developed a cooperative working relationship which includes the training of Mexican military personnel at U.S. military installations in techniques specifically adapted to drug traffic intervention.
- The ground work for this relationship began with the visit of former secretary of Defense William Perry to Mexico in 1995. Subsequent to that time, the United States has provided counternarcotics training to a number of officers.

### BACKGROUND

#### TRAINING PROVIDED

- The Mexican training program commenced in 1996, about 18 months ago.
- The number of Mexican soldiers, airmen, and sailors trained varies annually and includes both officers and enlisted personnel.

- The total number of Mexican military trained is about 1000 each year, with some individuals attending more than one course.
- Last year 829 Mexicans received counterdrug-related training and 215 Mexicans completed other training as part of the International Military and Training (IMET) program. This fiscal year we expect about the same total, with a slight increase of IMET as a percentage of the total.
- A variety of training is provided to select leaders with specialized training in the development of both technical, combat staff and leadership skills in the areas of planning, leading, and executing counterdrug operations. Instruction is also provided in human rights training, psychological operations, and civil-military operations.
- Field training is oriented towards realistic and strenuous field operations in which the student develops counterdrug interdiction operations at the platoon and company level. Training emphasizes staff planning and effective execution against realistic targets and objectives.
- LOCATIONS:
  - Bolling Air Force Base, DC
  - Lackland AFB, TX
  - Randolph Air Force Base, TX
  - Fort Huachuca, AZ
  - Fort Rucker, AL
  - Fort Benning, GA
  - Fort Bragg, NC
  - Fort Eustis, VA
  - Fort Indiantow Gap, PA
  - Fort McClellan, AL
  - Camp Pendleton, CA
  - Norfolk Navy Base, VA

- Pensacola Naval Air Station, FL
  - Rodman Naval Station, Panama
  - Indianapolis, IN
  - San Antonio, TX
  - San Diego, CA
- Technical trainees are receiving a variety of training and professional military education. The training principally includes UH-1H and C-26 aircraft maintenance and pilot training; communication training; intelligence training; maritime counterdrug operations; special operations; public affairs/media training; and human rights training.

### **SIMILARITY TO WARTIME TRAINING**

- The training with the 7th SFG is only one part, but an important part, of a wide range of training we provide the Mexican military. The 7th SFG training for the Mexican officers from units that are known by the Spanish acronym GAFE (Grupos Aeromoviles de Fuerzas Especiales). GAFEs are elite Mexican Army units that have received Special Forces and air assault training for use in counterdrug interdiction operations. DoD has since developed a highly successful training and equipment program for the development of an airmobile, rapid-reaction, counterdrug capability to support drug interdiction efforts in Mexico. It consists of: individual skills, small unit tactics, mission planning, military police training, and human rights training.
- Mexican military students receive training in intelligence collection, operational planning, psychological operations, human rights training, small unit tactics, and counterdrug.

**FOLLOW-UP TO ASSURE NO MISUSE**

- The US Military Liaison Office (MLO) in Mexico monitors how our training is being utilized by the Mexican military. The MLO receives bi-monthly reports from the Mexican military and conducts quarterly on-site inspections at bases in Mexico to assess the effectiveness of the helicopter transfer program. Those inspections include interviews with pilots and mechanics, a review of flight records, and an inspection of equipment. This is a valuable means by which we are determining the results of a big part of our support to date.
- There is no monitoring of units because units are not trained in the US; Mexico sends individuals who, when they return to Mexico, are then integrated into Army, Navy, or Air Force units, to include GAFE units.
- We also have multi-level and frequent military-to-military contact which increasingly is fostering solid relations between our militaries and our governments. It is important to note that the Mexican military joined the drug fight consistent with Mexican law when the President of Mexico identified the threat posed by international drug-trafficking. He then committed the Mexican military, an institution held in exceedingly high esteem in the eyes of the Mexican people, to help in the drug fight.
- In addition, numerous Congressional delegations have been to Mexico and, among other things, have looked at various aspects of our military support to the Government of Mexico.

**COST FROM \$10 MILLION IN 1995 to \$75 MILLION TODAY**

- Fiscal Year 1996 - \$3.8M
- Fiscal Year 1997 - \$23.8M
- Fiscal Year 1998 - \$13.5M

**EQUIPMENT TRANSFERS**

- The estimated values of equipment are:
  - UH-1H      \$11,032,000 (\$151,125 per aircraft, 73 helicopters)
  - C-26        \$4,003,000 (\$1,000,531 per aircraft, 4 planes)

- Frigates \$5,700,000 (\$2.8M for the first: \$2.9M for the second Frigate)

- The first 20 UH-1Hs helicopters were delivered to Mexico in November 1996 and an additional 28 helicopters were transferred in July 1997. The last batch of 28 helicopters was transferred in September 1997. The C-26 aircraft were delivered to Mexico in October 1997. The Knox-class frigates were authorized for transfer in September 1996.

SOURCE: ASD SOLIC; SOA Homepage

A/O: LTC Darley

These vessels purchased by Government of Mexico.  
They were not transferred under FMS "grant" authority.