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RELEASED IN PART

B1, 1.5(B), 1.5(D)

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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	INL-01
	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02
	OIG-03	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	DTC-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	PRM-01	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/014W

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R 262318Z JUN 00
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5754
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
JOINT STAFF WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
COMSOUTH ROOSEVELT ROADS PR//SOCOSO-J3//
DEA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 005571

E.O. 12958: DECL: 6/20/10
TAGS: PHUM, PGOV, MARR, MASS, CO
SUBJECT: PART OF 1ST CN BATTALION DEPLOYED TO SOUTHERN PUTUMAYO;
LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM 24TH BRIGADE

REFS: A) STATE 72824 B) BOGOTA 3972

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR CURTIS W. KAMMAN REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

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2. (C) POST HAS LEARNED THAT ONE OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY'S FIRST COUNTER-NARCOTICS BATTALION'S THREE COMPANIES, BRAVO COMPANY CONSISTING

OF APPROXIMATELY 180 MEN, HAS BEEN DEPLOYED TO SOUTHERN PUTUMAYO WHERE IT IS OPERATING WITH THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY 24TH BRIGADE (BASED IN SANTA ANA, PUTUMAYO). ACCORDING TO MEMBERS OF THE 1ST COUNTER-NARCOTICS BATTALION (WITH WHOM POLOFF SPOKE ON JUNE 17), BRAVO COMPANY HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THE 24TH BRIGADE'S AREA OF OPERATIONS SINCE MAY 11, AND WILL REMAIN THERE INDEFINITELY. IT HAS BEEN PERFORMING COUNTER-NARCOTICS OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN PUTUMAYO AT THE RATE OF APPROXIMATELY ONE OPERATION PER WEEK. WHEN NOT CONDUCTING OPERATIONS IN THE FIELD, BRAVO COMPANY IS BEDDING DOWN AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE 24TH BRIGADE'S 31ST BATTALION (WHICH HAS BEEN TASKED TO PROVIDE BRAVO COMPANY WITH LOGISTICAL SUPPORT).

MILGROUP REPORTS THAT COLOMBIAN BRIGADIER GENERAL MARIO MONTOYA URIBE,

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COMMANDER OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE SOUTH (JTF-S) AT TRES ESQUINAS AIR FORCE BASE, DEPLOYED BRAVO COMPANY TO THE 24TH BRIGADE'S AO IN ORDER TO

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MAXIMIZE THE USE OF THE FORCES UNDER HIS COMMAND (NOTE: THE 1ST COUNTER-NARCOTICS BATTALION'S LACK OF HELICOPTERS HAS SEVERELY LIMITED BOTH THE NUMBER AND SCOPE OF OPERATIONS IT CAN PERFORM. END NOTE). MILGROUP FURTHER UNDERSTANDS THAT, AT LEAST UP TO NOW, OPERATIONAL CONTROL REMAINS WITH JTF-S. THE 24TH BRIGADE WOULD PROVIDE ANY QUICK REACTION FORCE NEEDED TO REINFORCE BRAVO COMPANY SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

3. (SBU) POST VIEWS THIS DEPLOYMENT AS WHOLLY CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH THE BATTALION WAS VETTED, BUT, GIVEN THE QUESTIONED VETTING STATUS OF THE 24TH BRIGADE, WISHED TO NOTE THIS DEPLOYMENT FOR THE RECORD. POST NOTES THAT BOTH THE 1ST COUNTER-NARCOTICS BATTALION

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AND THE 24TH BRIGADE ARE UNDER THE COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE JOINT TASK FORCE SOUTH. PER A BRIEFING BY GENERAL MONTOYA TO CODEL REED ON JUNE 17, THE FOLLOWING UNITS ALSO COME UNDER THE COMMAND OF JTF-S: THE COLOMBIAN ARMY'S 12TH BRIGADE, THE COLOMBIAN ARMY'S 49TH JUNGLE BATTALION, THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE'S AIR GROUP SOUTH (GASUR), AND THE COLOMBIAN NAVY'S NAVAL FORCE SOUTH (FUERZA NAVAL SUR). THE PROPOSED 2ND AND 3RD COUNTER-NARCOTICS BATTALIONS WOULD ALSO EVENTUALLY COME UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE JTF-S.

4. (SBU) ACCORDING TO POST'S RECORDS, THE FOLLOWING UNITS OF THE JTF-S HAVE BEEN VETTED TO RECEIVE USG ASSISTANCE: THE 1ST COUNTER-NARCOTICS BATTALION, THE 12TH BRIGADE, THE JTF-S HEADQUARTERS (INCLUDING THE COLOMBIAN JOINT INTELLIGENCE CENTER OR COJIC), THE AIR GROUP SOUTH, AND

THE NAVAL FORCE SOUTH. THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS BRIGADE STAFF VETTING IS PENDING WITH THE DEPARTMENT. WHILE AWARE OF THE DEPARTMENT'S SUSPENSION OF THE 24TH BRIGADE AS A VETTED UNIT (REF A), POST AWAITS THE DEPARTMENT'S REVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE 24TH BRIGADE BASED

ON INFORMATION PROVIDED IN REF B.

KAMMAN

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