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COUNTRY: EL SALVADOR

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TEXT: 1.

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[Redacted]

2.

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COMMENT: RECENT ESAF PROGRESS IN MAINTAINING PRESSURE ON INSURGENT FORCES, PARTICULARLY IN CHALATENANGO AND THE GUAZAPA AREA NORTH OF SAN SALVADOR, MAKES MASS DESERTIONS FEASIBLE. THE RECENT ASSIGNMENT OF COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ AS FOURTH BRIGADE COMMANDER IN CHALATENANGO ALSO HAS DEALT A MAJOR BLOW TO INSURGENT MORALE THERE. THERE RECENTLY HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN DESERTIONS.

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THE PRINCIPAL REASON THERE ARE NOT MORE DESERTIONS IS THAT THE WOULD-BE DESERTERS FEAR REPRISALS AGAINST THEIR FAMILIES BY THE INSURGENTS.)

[Redacted]

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