

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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 DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS, 193d INFANTRY BRIGADE (PANAMA)
 FORT CLAYTON, PANAMA

05 OCT 1981

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SUBJECT: Commander's Semi-Annual SITREP, 1 April 1981 - 30 September 1981

Commander in Chief
 United States Southern Command
 ATTN: SCJ3
 Quarry Heights, Panama

1. (U) Personnel:

a. (C) Total military strength (including tenant activities) rose from 95.4% to 103% during the period 1 April 81 - 30 September 81. During that same period, the personnel strength in the 193d Inf Bde (Pan) Roll-up readiness reporting units varied between 79-89%.

b. (C) Currently, the Brigade is at 105% of its authorized strength, readiness Roll-up units are at 89%.

c. (U) The current strength posture has risen due to a reduction in tour curtailments while tour extensions and newly arrived personnel have risen dramatically. MILPERCEN and the local assignment authority have taken steps to selectively reduce Brigade strength. The Brigade should be nearing the 98% FORSCOM window (auth/asgn) by April 1982.

d. (U) FORSCOM ODP of Brigade Officer strength is at 96% of authorizations. Currently the Brigade commissioned officer strength is at 91% of this ODP. Projections thru June 1982 indicate the Brigade will rise to 99% of ODP.

(U) 3d Special Forces Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Abn).

a. (U) Since the 3/7th SF was being considered for inactivation during CY80, adequate Special Forces personnel fill was not programmed for assignment to the Brigade. Because of the long training time involved in producing qualified personnel, the Brigade has been short since December 80 and is still critically short of SF personnel.

b. (C) Current projections indicate that the 3/7th SF will be at 95% to 100% of qualified enlisted personnel by the January - March 1982 time frame, and an increase in officer strength from the current 60% of ODP to 78% of ODP by March 1982. MILPERCEN continues to provide new officers in the company grade level but the unit will experience a shortfall at the major's level. It is imperative that our ODP support for CY82 include an increase for majors. Current overall strength is 82%.

CLASSIFIED BY: Cdr, 193d Inf Bde (Pan)
 DECLASSIFY ON: 30 September 1987

EXTENDED BY: Cdr, 193d Inf Bde (Pan)
 REASON: Para 2-30k, DOD 5200.1-R

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c. (U) Mission capabilities continue to be seriously affected by extreme personnel shortages. There is an impact on mission capabilities. However, the unit is currently able to meet all mission requirements. As personnel fill continues on the upswing, it is anticipated that this deficiency will be totally eliminated.

2. (U) Intelligence:

a. (C/NOFORN) Past Six Months: Overshadowing every other event of the past six months was the 31 July death of Omar Torrijos in a plane crash. The disappearance of the enigmatic, unpredictable strong man, who had ruled Panama (PN) for almost thirteen years, surprisingly, has been taken in stride by Torrijos' successor as Commandant of the Guardia Nacional (GN), Col Florencio Florez; and Aristides Royo, the ambitious young lawyer-politician whom Torrijos installed as President in 1978. Despite predictions in some quarters of an immediate power struggle within the GN, and the ouster of Royo by the GN General Staff, no such developments have taken place or appear imminent at least in the short run. Royo has tried, unsuccessfully, on several occasions in the past, to break away from the image of a puppet president by speaking or acting tough - unfortunately at the wrong time. He is still widely regarded as a man who will be tolerated in the presidency only until the time sufficient excuse for his removal has accumulated to justify the risk of this move by the GN.

b. (C/NOFORN) Outlook for Next Six Months: Relations between the Government of Panama (GOP) and the US are expected to remain correct if not too friendly, against the background of continual complaints of US Treaty violations by PN and pressures to modify the hated US treaty-implementation legislation. The GOP is not expected to act in the same forceful and arbitrary manner in the conduct of its foreign policy as it did under Gen Torrijos. President Royo, the new GN Commandant Col Florencio Florez, and the GN General Staff together do not have the international political recognitions, connections, prestige and leverage that Torrijos possessed. In addition, new weaknesses exist in the GOP. For instance, there are many unanswered questions concerning the future role of Torrijos' leftist advisers, the recently-franchised Communist party in PN (the People's Party), and the durability of the Royo-GN honeymoon. The promised 1984 presidential elections are serving to curb attempts by anti-Torrijos forces to restore democracy in PN by means other than ballots. The three months remaining in '81 will see the 505-man rubber-stamp legislature (Assembly of Community Representatives) convening on 11 Oct (13th anniversary of the Torrijos Revolution) for their annual month-long session. PN's national holidays take up the first four days of Nov. The remainder of the year, encompassing the holiday season, is normally a peaceful time. The first three months of '82 will be the final months for the Panama Canal Commission (formerly Canal Zone) police and the US courts on the Isthmus. The phase-out of these two institutions is certain to produce a psychological trauma of sorts, especially among US workers and

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long time residents in the former Zone. There may be increased departures of US nationals from the area, in anticipation of the complete take-over of police and court functions by PN, and possibly incidents produced by individuals oversensitized to events or unsure of their new responsibilities or status.

3. (U) Operations:

a. (U) Tactical Operations Center (TOC) Activations:

(1) (U) The TAC CP was activated 1-11 April for a Brigade Tactical Field Exercise (TFE) for those companies not evaluated during the January TFE.

(2) (U) The TOC and TAC CP were activated 19-29 July for the July Field Training Exercise (FTX) for the Brigade units.

(3) (U) The TOC was activated 14-16 September for the Command Post Wargame (CPW) Cutting Edge Five.

(4) (U) G3 Operations conducted a Brigade Seminar on emerging doctrine as outlined in draft FM 100-5 to include presenting a concept on the extended battlefield in Panama.

b. (U) Contingency and Disaster Relief:

(1) (U) On 21 April, a USAF O2A aircraft crashed in the Bay of Panama and the pilot was killed. The 3/7 SFG(A) and the 210th Combat Aviation Battalion assisted in the recovery operations.

(2) (U) BG Omar Torrijos-Herrera, Commander of the Panamanian National Guard, was killed 31 July when his aircraft crashed near Ola, Panama. 193d Infantry Brigade (Panama) supported the funeral and subsequent activities by providing Class I supplies. EOD support was furnished for the visiting US dignitaries who arrived for the services by the 36th EOD Detachment.

(3) (U) A four man team from 36th EOD deployed to Mexico on 31 July and returned 5 August. Their mission was to provide EOD support for the Secretary of State's visit.

(4) (U) A four man team from 36th EOD deployed to Mexico on 14 September and returned 19 September. Their mission was to provide EOD support for the Vice President's visit.

c. (U) Mobile Training Teams: The following MTTs were provided during the period 1 April 1981 - 30 September 1981.

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(1) (U) OAS support in El Salvador (three WO, two EM, and one UH-1H helicopter) and Honduras (two WO, one EM, and one UH-1H helicopter) ended 1 July after four years. Our crews returned 5 July.

(2) (C) El Salvador: Aviation Maint MTT completed 22 July (one SM). Medical MTT Survey deployed 15 June and returned 21 June (two SM). SUT/OPAT/C&C MTT's which commenced 8 March were completed with seven personnel returning 20 August and the remaining fifteen personnel returning 27 August. A MILGP assistant deployed 1 July and remains there. Medical MTT deployed 1 August and is scheduled to return 31 December (four SM). UH1H Phase Instruction MTT deployed 20 August and returned 17 September (three SM). UH1H Production Control MTT deployed 6 September and will return 4 November (one SM).

(3) (U) Honduras: Ordnance Disposal MTT Survey deployed 22 June and returned 29 June (two SM). Arms Interdiction Liaison MTT deployed 6 July and returned 29 September (two SM). Arms Interdiction MTT deployed 10 July and returned 29 September (six SM). Intel/Photo MTT deployed 10 July and returned 13 August (one SM). Airborne Operations MTT deployed 30 August and returned 19 September (three SM). Parachute Rigger Survey departed 13 September and returned 19 September (two SM).

(4) (U) Costa Rica: Ordnance Disposal MTT Survey departed 1 June and returned 7 June (two SM). Patrolling Instruction Survey deployed 22 June and returned 28 June (two SM). Small Arms Maintenance and Security Accountability MTT deployed 19 July and returned 15 August (three SM). Ammo Maintenance and Storage MTT deployed 30 August and returned 12 September (one SM and one civilian).

(5) (U) Ecuador: Combat Ops (HALO) Survey deployed 28 July and returned 2 August (two SM). Combat Ops (HALO) MTT deployed 25 August and returned 27 September (seven SM).

(6) (U) Jamaica: Marksmanship MTT Survey deployed 16 August and returned 22 August (two SM). Marksmanship MTT deployed 6 September and returned 22 September (two SM). Ranger School Establishment Survey deployed 6 September and returned 12 September (two SM).

(7) (U) Barbados: Medical MTT Survey deployed 16 August and returned 22 August (two SM).

4. (U) Training:

a. (U) Projected Partnership: Efforts during ACSAT 53d SIB (25 April-9 May 1981) FLARNG; 92d SIB, PRARNG (27 June-11 July 1981); JOTC training for 1-296 Inf (92d SIB) and 1-124 Inf (53d SIB) were publicly recognized by Cdr, 1st Army, General Forrest.

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b. (U) Combined Operations: US/GN participation in May, (AQUI ESTA LA RAYA) was followed by participation of one GN Company (PROV) in the FTX (19-29 July 1981) and CPW (14-16 September 1981). OPS Seminar 15-17 July 1981, included many of the same participants as the exercise control headquarters for "AQUI ESTA LA RAYA." This staff and collective training was in addition to joint weapons training in June (M203).

c. (U) FORSCOM Commander's Company Level Marksmanship Competition (FCCLMC): 1st iteration completed 30 June 1980. Average score 32.5%; high unit 3-7 SFG with 69.5%. Average low unit, HQ Cmd with 16.5%.

d. (U) Battalion Training Management System (BTMS): Sustainment phase entered new era with the hiring of a civilian primary instructor (CTC). System provides better instruction, QA/QC, and a standardized product. Current plans are to expand BTMS, training program to maintain at least 80% of all leaders trained at all times.

e. (U) Unit Schools Program:

(1) (U) Implementing FORSCOM Commander's Unit Schools Program has focused command attention on "fixing what needs fixing."

(2) (U) Once identified, problems are corrected by training the trainers. This is done by focusing the attention of the command on specifics and simultaneously reinforcing the chain of command.

f. (U) Jungle Operations Training Center (JOTC): During the 3rd and 4th Quarter FY81 five BN, two SIB BN, and one USMC Div trained at JOTC.

5. (U) Communications:

(U) Communications-Electronics factors which affect the operational readiness of the Brigade:

(1) (U) This summary updates SITREP input from the last report. Since the last report, there has been significant progress in improving secure long haul communications for contingency operations. Current availability date for the AN/PRT 250's in country in December 1981. Upon the arrival of PRT-250's, there will be an ongoing coordination with the personnel training.

(2) (U) Shortage of communications secure equipment. 193d Inf Bde (Pan) is tentatively scheduled to receive additional NESTOR equipment in late 83.

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6. (U) Logistics:

a. (S) PWRS:	<u>DOS</u>	<u>S-RATING</u>
Class I (Subsistence)	50	S-1
Class III (Bulk)		
MOGAS	600	S-1
JP5	100	S-1
DFM	250	S-1
JP4	33	S-1
Class V (Ground)	50	S-1
Class VIII	24	*S-4

*Ratings in Class VII are hampered by shortages in lines which cannot be stored because they cannot be effectively rotated. Additionally, the Panama Canal Treaties of 1977 have required US Army MEDDAC-Panama to move from their warehouse in Curundu. Their new warehouses in Corozal have reduced storage capacity. The full impact is not yet known, but will be the subject of a special report on status of Class VIII PWRS before the end of this calendar year.

b. (S) Operational Projects for this command are as follows:

AFZ-X-03-76-Z (PZZ) - Supports OPLAN 6501-80.

AFZ-X-01-76-A (PDQ) - Supports OPLAN 6501-80 and CONPLAN 6101-80.

c. (U) With the exception of the Class VIII status, there are no logistical problem areas which can be expected to deter accomplishment of assigned mission of the 193d Inf Bde (Pan).

7. (U) Force Development: During the period 1 Apr 81 - 30 Sep 81, FD actions affecting unit readiness follows:

a. (U) The manpower survey conducted by HQ, FORSCOM caused adjustments in the FY82 TDA manpower. The results are as follows:

(1) (U) Manpower Requirements: Difference of minus 24 Off, 4 WO, 153 Enl, and 291 Civ. A total difference of 472.

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(2) (U) Manpower Authorizations: Difference of no change (NC) Off, NC WO, Minus 82 Enl, and NC Civ. A total difference of 82.


b. (U) The foregoing After-Survey figures reflect approved FY82 structure as of 31 Aug 81. However, if current FORSCOM plans are implemented, civilian authorized strength may be reduced by 250 manpower spaces.

c. (U) The Brigade's three infantry battalions and the 1097th Transportation Company (Med Boat) underwent MTOE changes effective 16 Sep 81. The infantry battalions gain one WO Physician Assistant authorization and the boat company loses four authorizations. The changes were for standardization and consolidated change table actions.

d. (U) Effective 16 Jul 81 the Logistics Support Command (Provisional) was established to provide a more efficient logistics operation in both peacetime and combat. This also involved detaching the 475th Transportation Company (Med Truck) and the 1097th Transportation Company (Med Boat) from the 193d Combat Support Battalion, and the 528th Maintenance and Supply Company, the 95th Ordnance Detachment and the 601st Medical Company from Headquarters Command. These four companies were attached to the Logistics Support Command (Provisional).

e. (U) FORSCOM has submitted to DA a request for a name change for Panama and Alaska. If approved, the 193d Infantry Brigade (Panama) will become US Army Forces, Panama, and the 193d Infantry Brigade (Sep).

FOR THE COMMANDER:


E. L. STEVENS
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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