

# Intelligence Report

*DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force*

26 October 1995

## The Military Role of the Serbian Interior Ministry in the Yugoslav Conflict

### Summary

*The Serbian Interior Ministry (MUP) has been one of the Serbian Government's primary tools since the beginning of the Yugoslav Conflict to help establish, control, and defend "Greater Serbia." The Serbian State Security Service (RDB) of the MUP has played the leading role through its deployment of elite Serbian Special Police combat units and personnel to both Bosnia and Croatia, the arming and control of Serbian nationalist paramilitaries, and the direct transfer of military supplies to the Bosnian Serb Army (BSA).*

### Organization and Training of MUP Special Police

Organization and Role. The Serbian Interior Ministry is divided into three main sections, the State Security Service (RDB), the Special Police (PJM), and the Public Security Service (SJB)--which includes the regular police and the fire service. The first Serbian Special Police unit was formed in 1978, according to defense attaché reporting. The unit reportedly was formed to combat terrorism, although additional military reporting indicates that all Yugoslav republics began forming Special Police units during this time frame because of a rise in nationalism and civilian unrest.

- In addition to the antiterrorist mission, the Special Police also are tasked to respond to crime, kidnapping, hostage taking, and riot control, according to defense attaché reporting. Beyond these police tasks, the Special Police also conduct combat operations, to include wartime countersabotage/counterinsurgency missions

<sup>1</sup> Military police and Interior Ministry special operations units of all sides have proven to be some of the most capable combat units in the Yugoslav Conflict--acting as elite shock troops--largely because of pre-war countersabotage/antiterrorist missions that resulted in these units receiving advanced infantry training.

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[redacted] These missions appear to be coordinated with "Yugoslav" Army (VJ) border guard and military police antiterrorist units. Special Police units in Kosovo appear to have primary responsibility for conducting weapons and explosive searches, as well as countering any ethnic Albanian paramilitary organizations and deterring any potential uprisings [redacted]

The SJB and Special Police forces are organized on a regional basis, based on a variety of reports. [redacted]

- The SJB has nine regional commands divided into 32 district secretariats (SUP). Each of the commands has a Special Police brigade in support comprised of one active and three reserve battalions. Each battalion is assessed to have 430-600 personnel. The PJM thus consists of 3,900 to 5,400 active personnel and 11,600 to 16,000 reservists for a total of 15,500 to 21,400 Special Police personnel outside of Kosovo. [redacted]
- In addition, the Kosovo area is organized into a separate region with six SUPs and one Special Police brigade of three to four battalions with 1,300 to 2,400 active and reservist personnel. Some of these troops, however, probably are on rotation from Special Police units in Serbia proper. [redacted] in early 1994 the MUP in Kosovo had about 1,770 SJB and PJM permanent personnel, 1,600 SJB/PJM personnel on rotation from Serbia, and approximately 2,950 SJB/PJM reservists. [redacted]
- Overall, the MUP appears to have some 40,000 to 50,000 active personnel and 50,000 to 55,000 reservists organized into the RDB with about 2,500 active personnel and a "few hundred"--possibly some 250 to 500--reservists, the SJB with some 25,000 to 35,000 active personnel and 38,000 reservists, plus the PJM troops noted above [redacted]

This memorandum was prepared by [redacted] Interagency Balkan Task Force. Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to Norm Schindler, Chief, DCI Interagency Balkan Task Force. [redacted]

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Training and Equipment. The Special Police have developed a reputation as elite combat forces because of their rigorous and thorough training as well as their performance in combat operations in Bosnia and Croatia (see below). [redacted]

- Service in the Special Police is voluntary, according to defense attaché reporting. Each volunteer reportedly is given physical, psychological, and medical tests. He then undergoes a year of special training, including basic, specialized, and team/unit training. The volunteers learn a variety of skills, including basic infantry tactics, martial arts, knife fighting, mountain climbing, parachuting, use of explosives, foreign weapons familiarization, and team training for specific missions. [redacted]
- [redacted] the Special Police's training was almost identical to VJ training [redacted] [redacted] the PJM reportedly had increased their training at the VJ's special forces facilities and had included "tank" (probably APC) maneuvers, gunnery, artillery, antiaircraft, parachute, and air assault training. [redacted]
- [redacted] the Special Police were at least as numerous as VJ special forces and some were better trained [redacted] [redacted]
- The Special Police also have attracted a large number of VJ officers. At a Yugoslav Supreme Defense Council meeting in January 1994, it was reported that 30 percent of the VJ's company grade officers had left to join the Special Police where they receive better pay and privileges [redacted] [redacted]
- The Special Police are equipped primarily as light infantry, but they also have a variety of armored personnel carriers--including M-60 tracked APCs and BOV-M and TAB-71/72 wheeled APCs--60mm/82mm mortars, light antitank weapons, and probably light antiaircraft artillery and shoulder-launched surface-to-air missiles. [redacted] [redacted]

Command and Control. The Special Police currently appear to operate under the command of the RDB--at least for operations outside of Serbia, based on a variety of reporting--although it is unclear if this is the official or unofficial chain of command. [redacted]

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[Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]  
Special Police deployed to Banja Luka reported directly to Stanisic,  
[Redacted]
- Special Police units and personnel sent to Sector East in August 1995  
also reportedly operated under RDB command [Redacted]  
[Redacted]
- [Redacted]

**Special Police Combat Operations and Deployments 1991-1995**

The Special Police have been carrying out combat operations in both Croatia and Bosnia since the beginning of the Yugoslav Conflict in 1991. In most cases, their main combat role has been to serve as elite assault infantry to spearhead Bosnian and Krajina Serb Army (KSA) attacks or counter-offensives. They also have conducted reconnaissance, sabotage, and countersabotage missions, and have trained Bosnian, Krajina Serb, and rebel Muslim forces. [Redacted]

Bosnia. The Serbian MUP Special Police appear to have an almost continuous presence in Bosnia, in support of Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) and Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry Special Police operations. These deployments have included sending forces to take part in attacks at Srebrenica and Gorazde in 1993 and 1994, as well as an extensive support program for Muslim separatist leader Fikret Abdic's forces from November 1994 to August 199. (See Annex 1.)

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- Three Belgrade-based MUP Special Police personnel were killed in April 1993 infiltrating Srebrenica as part of a raid [Redacted] [Redacted] **almost certainly in support of the then ongoing BSA counteroffensive to eliminate the Srebrenica enclave.** They reportedly were operating under Serbian MUP direction from a small MUP base outside Srebrenica.

[Redacted]

- A Serbian Chetnik Movement (Serbian opposition leader Seselj's paramilitary group) paramilitary commander claimed publicly in September 1994 that his troops fought alongside MUP "special forces" under the command of an Obrad Stevanovic during the Srebrenica campaign, according to press reports [Redacted]

[Redacted] Stevanovic has been previously identified as a Serbian Special Police commander, and appears to have been commander of the Belgrade Special Police Brigade at the time, according to press reports [Redacted]

- Two 180-man MUP reserve Special Police companies supported the BSA assault on Gorazde in April 1994

[Redacted]

- [Redacted] MUP special units had been operating in Bosnia since at least May [Redacted] [Redacted] The Valjevo MUP unit has been rotating 150-180 personnel into Bosnia since May 1995. Half of these personnel reportedly are rotated monthly. The personnel wear Bosnian Serb MUP uniforms.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

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Most recently, the MUP has deployed Special Police forces to western Bosnia to help restore discipline and stop the joint Croat-Bosnian Army offensive toward Prijedor and Banja Luka. Serbian journalists in Banja Luka claim to have spoken to members of the Serbian Special Police units in October deployed to Banja Luka in September from Kosovo to restore BSA discipline. The journalists reportedly indicate these forces were under the overall command of Franko Simatovic-"Frenki." [redacted]

- According to US diplomats, a variety of sources have reported the presence of Serbian Interior Ministry "Red Berets"--**Special Police**--in Banja Luka in October 1995 attempting to calm the chaotic situation in the town. [redacted]
- [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Milosevic ordered Stanisic to deploy Special Police units from Kosovo to aid the Bosnian Serbs [redacted]  
[redacted]
- [redacted] in late September that 1,500 MUP special forces were deployed to Banja Luka under Raja Bozovic--a senior RDB officer in the "military line" who reports directly to Stanisic [redacted]. The special forces reportedly have taken control of Banja Luka and are organizing its defenses. [redacted]

Croatia. Serbian Special Police operations with the Krajina Serbs have been less extensive than those with the Bosnian Serbs--primarily because the war there has gone on longer--but Special Police combat units have been involved in the region since 1991. [redacted]

- Radovan Stojicic-"Badza", the current chief of the SJB and an Assistant Interior Minister, commanded a Special Police unit in Vukovar during the 1991 war, according to US Embassy reporting. [redacted] In addition, Belgrade Radio reported in December 1991 that Stojicic was also the commander of Slavonian Territorial Defense Forces--local Serb units operating in support of regular Yugoslav Army troops. [redacted]

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[redacted]

- The MUP also redeployed forces to Krajina Serb territory in early 1995, as fears of a Croatian offensive grew. [redacted] [redacted] Serbian President Milosevic authorized the deployment of a special antiterrorist unit to the Krajina, [redacted] RDB chief Stanisic reportedly ordered the unit to depart during the last two weeks of February. The unit was tasked to train Krajina Serb forces in advanced infantry tactics and to take part in combat operations if Croats attacked.

[redacted]

Following the successful Croatian offensive against Sectors North and South in August 1995, Belgrade became concerned that the Croats would also attack Krajina Serb-held eastern Slavonia--UN Sector East. A variety of reporting indicates that the RDB and Special Police were sent to essentially take over the sector--politically and militarily--in order to ensure Belgrade's control and improve the sector's defenses. [redacted]

- The US Defense Attaché observed on 9 August 1995 a MUP Special Police convoy with about 600 personnel cross the border into Sector East from Serbia. [redacted]

[redacted]

- [redacted]

**Arming and Control of Paramilitary Forces**

The Serbian MUP has armed, trained, and commanded a variety of Serbian paramilitary forces since 1990. The three major groups with the MUP supported are described in Annex 2. [redacted]

- [redacted] former Serbian Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic was a key intermediary with Serbian paramilitary groups, including Arkan and Seselj [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] Bogdanovic reportedly was deeply involved in financing and organizing paramilitary forces. [redacted]

- [redacted] in early 1992 Bogdanovic and Assistant Federal Interior Minister Mihalj Kertes were engaged in the formation and training of paramilitary units. [redacted]

### Arms Shipments to the BSA

The MUP also is currently involved in providing military supplies to the BSA, based on a variety of reporting. [redacted]

- [redacted]
- RDB chief Stanasic's assistant, "Franco"--**probably "Frenki"**--was working with a Serbian munitions firm in September 1995 to produce rockets for the RDB to deliver to the BSA [redacted]
- Twice a week 10 trucks leave the Krusik ammunition plant in Valjevo under MUP escort for delivery to the BSA [redacted]

### Box: MUP Support to Krajina Serb and Bosnian Serb Separatists in 1988-91

There are indications that the MUP was involved in organizing and arming Serb separatists in both Croatia and Bosnia prior to the outbreak of war in 1991. [redacted]

- A former [redacted] official stated [redacted] that the Serbian Interior Ministry had an tradition of involvement and interference in the Krajina pre-dating 1990 [redacted]. The official also reportedly stated that any war crimes investigator should look especially at Radovan Stojicic and Franko Stamatovic--**obviously a reference to Franko Simatovic**--who were involved in organizing and arming the eastern Slavonia

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rebellion in 1990 and 1991. [REDACTED]

- A local observer told US diplomats in June 1995 that the Bosnian Government complained of Serbian interference as early as 1988. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] In addition, a Serbian newspaper claimed in June 1995 that then RDB deputy chief Stanisic was the "brain" behind Serbian secret police actions in Bosnia and Croatia before the war and that he organized local secret services, weapons distribution, and coordinated intelligence. Frank Simatovic-"Frenki" also reportedly took part in organizing the uprising in Knin under the nom de guerre "Dragan Simendic." [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED] Martic commanded the Krajina Serb Special Police in the Knin area which constituted some of the first armed resistance to Croatian rule in 1990-1991, according to a variety of reporting [REDACTED] **The RDB through Stanisic and Simatovic almost certainly helped organize and arm these units.** [REDACTED]

- Arkan was arrested in 1990 for smuggling arms to the Krajina Serbs, but reportedly was released because of pressure from Bogdanovic, according to press reports [REDACTED] **The RDB almost certainly was using Arkan to help arm the Krajina Serbs.** [REDACTED]

#### **Box: Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry Special Police**

The Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry is a miniature version of the Serbian MUP, organized into a security service, a public security service, and a Special Police brigade. [REDACTED] The Special Police brigade is one of the most capable Bosnian Serb combat units and appears to operate under BSA command when carrying out combat operations. [REDACTED]

- The brigade is headquartered in Bijeljina and organized into at least nine battalion-sized detachments of about 300-350 troops each. These are regionally stationed throughout Bosnian Serb territory, based upon the eight identified regional MUP commands--Sarajevo, Trebinje, Bijeljina, Zvornik, Doboij, Srbinje (Foca), Banja Luka, and Prijedor. [REDACTED]
- **The brigade detachments primarily act as assault infantry to spearhead BSA attacks or counterattacks. For example, elements of the brigade have**

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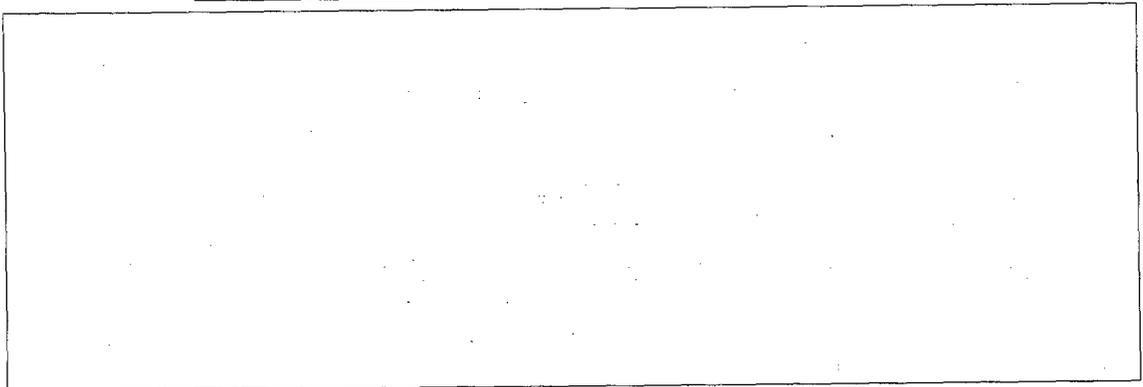
played a key role in retaining the vital road junction of Trnovo and the Stolice radio relay tower over the past year. [redacted]

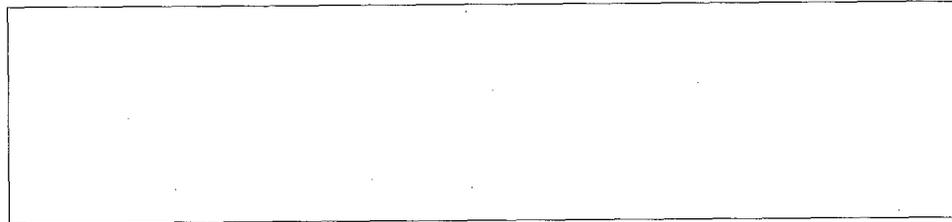
**Annex 1: MUP Support and Control of Fikret Abdic's Forces** [redacted]

The RDB and the Special Police also coordinated an extensive direct military support program--including the deployment of Special Police units--for Muslim separatist leader Fikret Abdic's forces fighting in the Bihac enclave against the Bosnian Army V Corps from November 1994 until August 1995. [redacted]

The RDB and Special Police raised a special unit--designated "Pauk (Spider)"--during fall 1994 to support efforts to recapture ground around Bihac. [redacted] "Pauk" forces operated as an elite assault units and exercised control over Abdic's troops. Regular Krajina Serb Army (KSA) units supported both the special units and Abdic's forces. [redacted]

- The unit reportedly was formed from Serbian and Krajina Serb Special Police, Arkan's paramilitary Serbian Volunteer Guard, Captain Dragan's paramilitary unit, and Muslim separatist leader Fikret Abdic's personal bodyguard unit. [redacted]
- RDB chief Stanasic reportedly visited the unit by helicopter in December 1994. [redacted]
- The unit commander reportedly was General Mile Novakovic, a former Krajina Serb Army (KSA) commander, with RDB official Franko Simatovic as liaison with "Yugoslavia" and a VJ colonel as Simatovic's deputy. [redacted]





The MUP support program is also corroborated by other sources. A senior Yugoslav official [redacted] stated that Abdic's forces were supported by an unknown number of Serbian Special Police [redacted]

[redacted] Some Serbian police commanders reportedly have returned to Serbia and been replaced by Arkan's people. [redacted]

- Another former Abdic soldier claims that special trained troops of the "Yugoslav"--**almost certainly meaning Serbian**--State Security Service were tasked to control Abdic's forces and conduct reconnaissance-sabotage and sniper missions in the Velika Kladusa area [redacted]
- In addition to Novakovic, however, a senior Special Police officer--Colonel "Raja" Bozovic (see below)--appears to have directly commanded the special units and Abdic's troops in Velika Kladusa, based on a variety of press. [redacted]

#### Annex 2: Primary MUP-Backed Paramilitary Groups [redacted]

Arkan's Tigers--The Serbian Volunteer Guard (SVG). The SVG is an elite, well-trained paramilitary unit equipped and controlled by the RDB which allows the Serbian Government to deploy a capable combat force to Bosnia and Croatia in a crisis period without overt Serbian intervention. It operates under the command of Zeljko Raznjatovic-"Arkan." The SVG appears probably numbers between 500 and 1000 personnel. [redacted]

- A Belgian military assessment in November 1993 indicated that the SVG had about 300 troops at Erdut, according to defense attaché reporting. The unit's missions reportedly included ranger/reconnaissance operations, mobile reserve, defense of key



[Redacted]

points, and the maintenance of KSA discipline. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- According to the US Defense Attaché, a video tape of SVG training indicates that they are extremely well-equipped and not a "rag-tag group of independent personnel." [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Reuters reporters visiting the Erdut training center in October 1995 also indicated that the approximately 400 SVG troops they observed were "not the usual rag-tag bunch of men," but that they looked more like professional Western troops. [Redacted]  
[Redacted]
- In addition to the Erdut training camp (see below), Arkan uses the Special Police facility at Ajvalija in Kosovo as a training center, [Redacted] Special Police based at the camp reportedly work alongside Arkan's personnel. [Redacted]  
[Redacted] Many of Arkan's men who fought in the Krajina reportedly were trained at this site. [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

The SVG appears to have been first organized in 1990, following a meeting between Bogdanovic (see above) and Arkan, although Kertes also reportedly played a role in the unit's formation. [Redacted]

- Arkan's Serbian Volunteer Guard was recruited from the Red Star soccer team which is thought to be controlled by the Serbian police, according to US Embassy reporting. The soccer fan club reportedly began offering training in hand-to-hand combat, small arms and explosives in November 1990. [Redacted]  
[Redacted] A Serbian magazine article in March 1993 claimed that Arkan met Serbian Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic at the soccer club in 1990 and offered his services to Bogdanovic. [Redacted]  
[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Arkan served as the SVG commander during combat operations in eastern Slavonia in 1991 with his headquarters in the same facility in Erdut as Stojicic's TDF HQ (see above). [redacted] The SVG formed a training center at Erdut in 1991 with the support of the Serbian secret police--the RDB-- according to US Embassy reporting. [redacted]

- UN forces deployed in UN Sector East report that this training camp continued to operate throughout 1993 in support of the SVG, according to US defense attaché reporting. [redacted]
- Arkan claimed in the spring of 1994 that he was turning the training center back over to the Krajina Serb Army and withdrawing his personnel following a request from Krajina Serb "President" Martić. [redacted] **The KSA special operation unit, however, that remained at the facility almost certainly retained close ties to Arkan--if it was not in fact his unit redesignated.** [redacted]
- During the summer of 1995--following the Croatian capture of UN Sector West--Arkan's force regained prominence in Sector East, according to a variety of reports. **The public re-emergence of his force probably was designed to bolster KSA morale in the Sector and increase Belgrade's influence.** Several sources charged Arkan's unit with having deployed around the Krajina Serb assembly building in July 1995 in order to intimidate its members on orders from the Serbian president, according to press reports. [redacted]
- **After the KSA defeat in Sectors North and South, the SVG probably became part of the RDB campaign to shore up Sector East's defenses.** Arkan claimed publicly in early September that his unit had been reorganized as an official special operations brigade in the KSA's Slavonia-Baranja Corps and that his troops had orders to shoot anyone who withdrew from the frontline. [redacted] [redacted] Other reports indicate that his unit is training Krajina Serb conscripts who escaped from Sectors North and South for incorporation in the corps. [redacted]
- On 11 October--the SVG's 5th anniversary--the group drove journalists from Belgrade to Erdut to attend the SVG celebration, according to press reports. The SVG vehicles reportedly were not halted enroute by any Serbian police and at least some of the SVG vehicles bore Serbian

Interior Ministry registration plates. [redacted]  
[redacted]

In the spring of 1992, the SVG deployed forces into Bosnia, although SVG forces to date have only been positively identified in a few areas, primarily in the Bijeljina area. [redacted]

- An internal Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry report completed in the summer of 1992 indicated that local Bosnian Serb politicians appealed for help to the SVG after Muslim forces took over Bijeljina on 1 April 1992. Local paramilitary forces raised from the TDF and SVG forces reportedly recaptured Bijeljina after several days of heavy fighting. SVG units trained several volunteer units and merged them into the Serbian National Guard under Major Ljubisa Savic--currently the BSA "Panthers" motorized brigade--and then the SVG withdrew [redacted]  
[redacted]

- Another internal Bosnian Serb Interior Ministry study completed in the summer of 1992 indicates at least some personnel associated with Arkan's unit took part in operations in Brcko, reportedly taking over the local Territorial Defense Force headquarters during Serb infighting. [redacted]  
[redacted]

As noted in Annex 1, paramilitary elements associated with Arkan's forces operated as part of a MUP-led composite special operations force acting in support of Abdic's troops in the Velika Kladusa area of the Bihac enclave from November 1994 until August 1995. [redacted]

- [redacted] in spring 1995 that one of Arkan's principals known as "Legion" supposedly was commanding a group of well-paid Serb volunteers fighting with Abdic's forces in the Velika Kladusa area, [redacted] Some of Arkan's personnel had reportedly replaced Serbian Special Police in the area. [redacted]  
[redacted]
- [redacted] former Abdic soldiers identified a small elite unit known as the Black Legion that trained Abdic forces in Krajina Serb-territory and conducted patrols into enemy territory. [redacted]  
[redacted]

[Redacted]

- A Belgian journalist reported to the UN War Crimes Tribunal that he was captured and held by a group of well-armed and well-equipped soldiers in Krajina Serb-held territory near the Bihac pocket on 5 December 1994. The unit commander claimed he as an ex-French Foreign Legion soldier--almost certainly the commander "Legion" noted above-- and several captors told him they were from Belgrade.

[Redacted]

The SVG also may have been involved in the BSA offensive which captured Srebrenica in July 1995. Bosnian Army liaison officers claimed to the UN on 15 July that 300 of Arkan's troops were fighting alongside BSA forces in the enclave, according to US military reporting.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Finally, Belgrade apparently ordered Arkan and SVG forces--in conjunction with Special Police units mentioned above--to deploy to western Bosnia and the Banja Luka area following the September 1995 Croat-Bosnian Army offensive, according to US Embassy reporting. Arkan, however, reported on 21 October that he was redeploying his last battalion of 300 to eastern Slavonia, according to press reports.

[Redacted] The SVG's mission appears to have been to conduct combat operations, restore BSA discipline, and halt population panic which could cause a massive refugee flow into Serbia.

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- US diplomats reported that both Arkan and Mladic appeared to be operating under Belgrade's orders and Belgrade eased the friction

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

between the two. Mladic reportedly threatened to arrest Arkan, but allowed Arkan to continue with his mission after Belgrade issued Mladic orders not to stop him. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

A Serbian magazine article also claims that RDB officials Bozovic and Filipovic reportedly arrived in late September in Bosnia with 300 Arkan troops. [Redacted]

- A variety of press reports have identified SVG troops engaged in combat operations with BSA forces in the Sanski Most, Prijedor, and Kljuc areas during late September and October. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

**Captain Dragan--Red Berets/Alpha Training Center.**

The RDB also organized and supported Captain Dragan's "Red Berets" (real name Dragan Vasiljkovic) and his Alpha Training Center which was located near Benkovac in Serb-held Krajina from at least as early as 1992 until the Croatians overran the area in August 1995. Dragan's troops carried out combat operations in Croatia during the 1991 war and some reports have identified his forces in Bosnia during 1992. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

- A variety of reporting from Western observers indicates that the forces from Dragan's center were well-trained and highly disciplined. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Captain Dragan told a confidant in spring 1993 that he was operating a paramilitary camp in Bratunac, Bosnia--just outside of Srebrenica--under the direction of the MUP and that his superior was "Frenkej," (also spelled "Frenki"-- the nickname for RDB official Franko Simatovic) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

- "Frenkej" also reportedly supported two Dragan training camps in the Benkovac area of Serb-held Croatia. Dragan stated that "Frenkej" also had been his superior and contact with the Serbian Government in the 1991 Croatian war. [REDACTED]
- Dragan also publicly expressed appreciation to former Serbian Interior Minister Radmilo Bogdanovic, according to US embassy reporting, **almost certainly indicating that Bogdanovic probably helped organize or supply Dragan's forces in the 1991 war.** [REDACTED]
- In a November 1993 interview, Dragoslav Bokan, leader of another paramilitary group, the White Eagles, claimed that the "Red Berets"--Captain Dragan's unit"--were Franko Simatovic's people under the command of Mihalj Kertes. [REDACTED]

#### Vojislav Seselj--Serbian Chetnik Movement (SCP).

Vojislav Seselj's Serbian Radical Party (SRS) organized a paramilitary group in 1991 called the Serbian Chetnik Movement (SCP). The RDB identified Branislav Vukic in October 1993 as the Commander of the SCP [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Both Seselj and Vukic have spoken out publicly about their paramilitary forces and their relationship with the MUP. The MUP reportedly broke off cooperation with the SCP after Milosevic and Seselj had a dispute in 1993. [REDACTED]

- The Serbian Government arrested Vukic and 17 other SRS officials in November 1993 on charges of having committed war crimes against civilians and other atrocities, according to US embassy reporting. [REDACTED]

Seselj claimed in a November 1993 interview that the SCP received weapons from both the police and the army, but many more from the police. Seselj stated his volunteers fought in Special Police units under the command of Kertes in eastern Slavonia and in Bosnia under the command of Stojicic, as well as on many battlefields with Frank Simatovic-"Frenki." (Belgrade Borba 221220Z November 1993) [REDACTED]

- Seselj said that his forces cooperation with the MUP dated from immediately before the battle of Borovo Selo in eastern Slavonia during the summer of 1991. [REDACTED]

- Seselj claimed in May 1995 that he was recruiting volunteers for operations in Bosnia and the Krajina, but that he was not receiving the same support from the MUP which his men had previously enjoyed,

[Redacted]

Vakic also gave an extensive interview in September 1994 outlining the cooperation and assistance which paramilitary forces under his command received from the MUP during combat operations in Bosnia in 1993. [Redacted]

- Vakic claimed that his forces operated alongside MUP special forces under the command of Obrad Stevanovic during the Srebrenica campaign in spring 1993 (see above). Following this battle, he stated that the MUP--through "Frenki" invited Vakic to provide additional volunteers to train and operate with MUP forces. Vakic's men trained at Mount Tara in Serbia near Srebrenica and were scheduled to go with MUP "special forces" to Srebrenica or Gorazde if Bosnian Army forces launched attacks. [Redacted]

- Vakic reports that his "Old Serbia Volunteer Unit" received a congratulatory note from the MUP which read "From the War HQ of the Special Units of the MUP of Serbia in Bajina Basta: For successes and cooperation during combat operations in the liberation struggle of the Serbian people in the Serbian Republic" (signed and stamped). [Redacted]

- Vakic claims that his forces' cooperation with the MUP ended after the training at Mount Tara. [Redacted]

Subject: The Military Role of the Serbian Interior Ministry in the Yugoslav Conflict [Redacted]

Requested by: J-2/JCS

[Redacted]

Approved by:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]