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DISPATCH NO. ~~HUL-W-218~~



APR 12 1954

TO Chief of Station, Lincoln

DATE

FROM Chief, WH

SUBJECT { GENERAL
 { SPECIFIC Military Attache Reports

RYBAT/PBSUCCESS

REF: LINC 564, LINC 1126, LINC 1752

1. Attached per your request are Guatemalan Military Attache reports R-112-53 and R-56-53. R-31-52 will be forwarded in a subsequent pouch as soon as the attachments have been reproduced.

2. Headquarters regrets the delay in complying with your request, but these reports had to be obtained through [] channels with ODIBEX.

[]
OLIVER G. GALBOND

12 April 1954

Distribution:

2 - LINCOLN
Att.2 - Lincoln

1 - 1954



To: 9.7
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9.0

BID NO. _____		CONFIDENTIAL <small>Security Information</small>	COUNTRY: <u>Guatemala</u>
MIG NO. _____			L. D. NO. <u>1171359</u>
REPORT NO. <u>B-56-53</u>	WORLDWIDE INTELLIGENCE REPORT		
SUBJECT: <u>Visit to Military Base at San Jose</u>			
FROM: <u>QAIPA Guatemala</u>	REFERENCES: <u>A-18-52; R-4-53; QAIPA Guate IR-47-52; IR-145-52</u>		
EVALUATION: <u>A-1</u>	DATE OF INFORMATION: <u>13 April 1953</u>	DATE OF REPORT: <u>17 April 1953</u>	
INCL. <u>1</u>	PREPAID BY: <u>A. E. McCormick</u>	SOURCE: <u>Personal Observation</u>	

SUMMARY OR SID REPORT:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. General | 9. Supply |
| 2. Organization | 10. Training |
| 3. Personnel | 11. Medical Care |
| 4. Weapons | 12. Utilities |
| 5. Ammunition | 13. Combat Effectiveness |
| 6. Transportation | 14. Comments |
| 7. Communications | |
| 8. Food and Messing Facilities | |

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Visit to Military Base at San Jose on 13 April 1953.

1. General - The Military Base at San Jose is located just off the main Guatemala City-San Jose road, approximately two miles from the Port of San Jose, on the air base that was constructed and occupied by our Air Force during World War II. Driving time in an automobile is one hour and 45 minutes. The reservation which the Base occupies covers an area of approximately fifty manzanas (86.15 acres--one manzana equals 1.723 acres). For a description and photograph of this air field, see OAIRA Guatemala IR-145-52.

The commander of this Base is directly responsible to the Chief of Staff of the Army. His area of responsibility includes the entire Department of Escuintla, exclusive of the Port of San Jose. All troops of this Base are stationed on the reservation.

At the Port of San Jose, there is a Colonel Alvarez MARTINEZ Lopez, who is the Captain of the Port; a Lt Colonel Filadelfo CASTILLO Mansilla, who is the Assistant Captain of the Port, and six enlisted men who assist these officers in performing the duties of immigration authorities and controlling traffic in and out of the Port. The Captain of the Port of San Jose and his assistant are completely independent of the Base commander and report directly to the Minister of Defense. The only time that the Base commander would take authority over the Port officials would be in the event of an emergency or specific orders from higher authority.

The quarters are situated just west of the landing field in a well-shaded area that is protected by palm and large ceiba trees. All of the buildings are one-story, frame and screened. They are those which our Air Force constructed during World War II. Quarters are provided for families of married officers.

2. Organization - Same as that reported in IR-47-52 except that the battery of 50 caliber anti-aircraft machine guns exists only on paper. There were no 50 caliber machine guns.

3. Personnel

a. Key Officers were:

Colonel (Inf) Alfredo ~~LEPUS~~ Anador - Commandant
Lieutenant Colonel (Art) Jose Maria ~~QUARTE~~ Lora - Executive
Major (Inf) Manuel de J. ~~LUNA~~ Acevedo - S-1
Major (Inf) Balvino ~~LOPEZ~~ Pastor - S-2 and S-3
Major (Cav) Hector ~~Real~~ ~~ARROYAVE~~ King - Commandant of A.A. 50

Caliber Battery

Captain (Cav) Manuel Salvador ~~TEJAZA~~ - Commandant of Rifle Company
Captain (Inf) Apolonio ~~AMBRINO~~ Rocha - Executive of A.A. 50

Caliber Battery

Captain (Inf) Miguel Angel ~~VILLAFORO~~ Sandoval - Executive of

Rifle Company

Captain (Art) Gabriel ~~SALAZAR~~ Argueta - Commandant of Second

Platoon, A.A. 50 Caliber Battery

Captain (Inf) Luis Alfonso ~~MORALES~~ C. - S-4

Captain (Assimilated) Dr. Leon ~~BAEZ~~ y Saenz - Commandant of

Military Sanitation Section

1st Lieutenant Jose Guillermo ~~LEPUS~~ CH. - Commandant of 1st

Platoon, Rifle Company

1st Lieutenant Arturo ~~CHUR~~ del Cid - Commandant of 3rd Platoon,

Rifle Company

1st Lieutenant (Assimilated) Julio ~~MONTERROSO~~ - Chief of

Communications Center

2nd Lieutenant (Inf) Jose Francisco ~~SOBZALEZ~~ Echeverria -

Commandant of 2nd Platoon, Rifle Company

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b. Total Strength

(1) The commandant said it was the same as given in R-18-52, i.e., 15 officers and 208 enlisted men. About 60% of the troops are recruits.

(2) Four officers were absent due to sickness and leave.

c. Appearance - The appearance of the officers and men at this Base was average by Guatemalan and poor by our standards. Only one soldier appeared without shoes. Uniforms were dirty and ill-kept. All weapons appeared to be in fair condition and the quarters were above average in appearance. All enlisted men had steel cots with mattresses and blankets.

d. Morale - Appeared to be good. Proximity of the Port of San Jose and the town of Ixtapa, popular week-end resort places for Guatemala City, apparently provides sufficient diversion and recreation for enlisted men. Although our visit was unannounced, all officers and enlisted men went about their duties in a quiet and orderly manner. Due to the fact that all married officers (only two are bachelors) have quarters on the post, they consider themselves extremely fortunate to be able to have their families with them and, for that reason, appear to be quite satisfied with the garrison life at the Base.

4. Weapons - All enlisted men were armed with a 7mm Mauser. This changes the figure reported in OADR Guatemala IR-47-52 to 208 7mm rifles. In addition, there was one U.S. 30 caliber carbine for instructional purposes only. All officers were armed with a pistol or revolver.

5. Ammunition - All enlisted men had 100 rounds of 7mm ammunition and no other ammunition was in evidence. There was no ammunition for the 30 caliber carbine.

6. Transportation - Transportation consisted of two jeeps and a commercial sedan.

7. Communications - The Base was equipped with direct telephone communication to the Capital (believed to tie in with the commercial telephone system) and a combination telegraph-radio transmitter and receiver of commercial design-- appeared at least ten years old.

8. Food and Messing Facilities - This Base had the neatest kitchen and dining room facilities of any we have seen outside of Guatemala City. The enlisted men had their own screened-in dining room, with tables and benches. However, they ate out of messkits. The kitchen was equipped with the usual wood-burning stoves and rations appeared to be average, both in quality and quantity.

9. Supply - The Base is supplied by trucks directly from Guatemala City. In emergencies, supplies can be flown in by the Guatemalan Air Force.

10. Training - The Base follows the training schedule prescribed by the General Staff (see R-4-53). Approximately four hours of military training consisting primarily of alphabetization, familiarization with weapons, agricultural subjects and school of the soldier are accomplished each day. A long break is given between 11 o'clock in the morning and 3 o'clock in the afternoon due to the intense heat in this area. The remainder of the working day is taken up with necessary housekeeping and guard duties. Approximately 70 men are required at all times for overhead activities.

11. Medical Care - Probably because of the fact that this Base has its own resident medical officer, there was practically no sickness at the time of this visit. The commandant reported that in general their casualties due to sickness are extremely few and there is almost no malaria or other common types of tropical diseases.

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12. Utilities

a. This Base has its own diesel fuel generator for providing electric current of 220 volts (inherited from our Air Force).

b. It has two wells which are operated by gasoline pumps and provide a more than adequate water supply for the entire encampment (inherited from our Air Force).

c. The Base was equipped with its own ice-making plant and refrigeration unit which provides sufficient refrigerated storage space for all of the perishable supplies required by this garrison (inherited from our Air Force). Typically, there were only a few old vegetables on the floor of this unit.

13. Combat Effectiveness - Since troops are equipped only with rifles and are devoid of transportation, they would not be effective against a modern-equipped unit of equal strength. However, they appeared to be adequately-trained and armed to preserve order in their area of responsibility, providing the necessary transportation is furnished.

COMMENTS:

1. See inclosed photographs with accompanying index.

2. Colonel LEWIS, the commandant, is a man of about 40 years of age, on the plump side, friendly and easy to talk to. He appears to be efficient and capable in a quiet and reserved manner. He is a graduate of the Escuela Politecnica. He did not volunteer any information concerning the operation of his Base but willingly answered all questions pertaining to it. He is probably one of the favored group, in view of the assignment he enjoys.

Lt Colonel Jose Maria SUAREZ, a slim, neat and clean-appearing individual, seemed to be slow and sickly in his attitude. He also is a graduate of the Escuela Politecnica. Major Manuel de J. LUNA Acevedo, likewise slow and sickly in appearance, seemed to lack force and energy. Major Hector Paul ANHOYAVE King, Commandant of the 50 caliber anti-aircraft battery and drill-master, is tall and heavy-set, as can be seen from the inclosed photographs. He appeared to be the sparkplug of this particular unit; he had considerable drive and energy and, in spite of his disheveled appearance, was enthusiastic and pleasant. He is a graduate of the Escuela de Aplicacion. The first Sergeant of the Company was 22 years old and had two years' service. He was clean-cut, alert; he indicated that he was starting on his second two years of service and enjoying the assignment with which he was charged.

Both Colonel MARTINEZ and Lt Colonel CASTILLO implied displeasure with their present assignments. Apparently, both had fallen out with the authorities in power and this assignment is considered one of more or less punishment for the individuals concerned. Colonel MARTINEZ had previously held responsible positions as zone commander and governor of a Department. Lt Colonel CASTILLO had previously been the S-3 of the Base Militar in Guatemala City.

3. On this visit, which was made with Colonel HANFORD, Chief of the Army Mission, we were accompanied by Colonel Oscar SAGASTUME Perez, a member of the G-2 Section of the General Staff. He, like Colonel RUIZ Garcia, is a foreign relations officer for the General Staff. He is approximately 5'7"; slight build; energetic; friendly and attempted to do everything in his power to facilitate our visit. He is a graduate of the Escuela Politecnica but has never attended any of the United States service schools. He is married and has three children. He explained that the Guatemalan Army was extremely poor and that anything we could do to help them procure badly-needed equipment would be appreciated.

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Upon being questioned as to why it was that the various zone and base commanders appeared to be rotated within those positions and other full colonels were not given an opportunity to assume command functions, he explained that this was due primarily to the fact that the President and Chief of the Armed Forces desired to keep their intimate and reliable friends in the key positions of responsibility. For example, when asked if the transfer of Colonel Jorge H. CRUZ Salazar from Jutiapa to Quiche (see R-15-53) indicated a change in assignment from a position of greater to that of lesser responsibility, Colonel SAGASTUME answered in the affirmative. He volunteered that Colonel CRUZ had become involved in some difficulties with the higher command, which necessitated this change.

At the end of the trip, apparently because of the variety of subjects which had been covered and, presumably, because of the discussion of Colonel CRUZ's case, Colonel SAGASTUME requested that Colonel HANFORD and I not discuss this information with other Guatemalans, stating that he was just giving us his personal opinion and would not desire it to go any further. This may or may not be true. It is difficult to understand how an officer in the G-2 Section could permit himself to be indiscreet on a mission of this type, and since he is scheduled to accompany Colonel HANFORD and me on at least one additional trip in the near future, it may be that he was attempting to gain our confidence in order that we might confide in him later.

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A. E. MCCORMICK
Colonel, GS
Army Attache

1 Inclosure

Photographs with accompanying index (to G-2 only)