

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**EL SALVADOR: Reaction to Military Shakeup**

[REDACTED] says the officer corps has reacted positively to recent command changes. [REDACTED] indicated the changes have strengthened the authority of Defense Minister Vides and have encouraged him to try to eliminate the death squads. Vides and his deputy [REDACTED] considering ways to investigate and neutralize rightwing terrorists. [REDACTED]

*Comment:* The recent transfers of more competent—but hardline rightist—officers to key line units may improve combat performance and help reduce internal dissatisfaction with the military hierarchy. Nevertheless, most officers probably are unwilling at this point to turn against colleagues engaged in illegal activities. As a result, Vides's ability to move against the death squads remains questionable. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Approved for Release

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