

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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MESSAGE CENTER

DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: Oct 17, 2018

VZCZCMLT589ILN367 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

39610

MULT

ACTION DIA:

DISTR CJCS DJS J3:(04) J5(0) MCC NMIC SECDEF: ASD:ISA(10)

8DIA(15) SWS(01)
SECSTATE WASH DC

C I A

NSA

WHITE HOUSE WASH DC

MCCC CMC

CNO WASH DC

CSA WASH DC

FILE(1)

~~NOFORN~~
~~NOFORN~~

(033)

TRANSIT/121205Z/121306Z/001101TOR3161304

DE RUESBAA #1107 3161210

ZNY 00000

P 121205Z NOV 75

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC

INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

RUEFHQA/CSAF WASH DC/IN//

RULPAPA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ

BT

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L / N I N T E L / N O F O R N - 1107 NOV 75~~

THIS IS (b)(3):10 USC 424

1. AR
2. ARGENTINE AIR FORCE FINALLY GETS INTO THE WAR (U)
3. N/A
4. 1975, NOV 6
5. 1975, NOV 8; BSAS, ARGENTINA
6. A-1
7. NEWSPAPERS, AAF OFFICERS, TELEVISION
8. (b)(3):10 USC 424
9. 1975, NOV 10
10. N/A
11. (b)(3):10 USC 424
12. [Redacted]
13. [Redacted]
14. [Redacted]

15. 1. (U) IN ITS FIRST BELLICOSE PARTICIPATION IN THE COUNTER-GUERRILLA WAR IN TUCUMAN PROVINCE, THE ARGENTINE AIR FORCE BOMBED AND STRAFED A SUSPECTED GUERRILLA BASE CAMP IN THE MOUNTAINS NEAR

306301
306302
374100/AR
371225

NOV 12 2 20 AM '75

RECEIVED OS-40

321

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THE TOWN OF FAMAILLA (27033-0524W) ON 6 NOV 70. THE ATTACK WAS MADE BY A-4B'S OF THE V AIR BRIGADE AT VILLA REYNOLDS (33438-0523W), AND WAS LED BY THE BRIGADE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (EQUIVALENT TO A USAF WING DO) COMODORO "CACHO" GIOSA.

2. (U) WEATHER DURING THE STRIKE, WHICH BEGAN AT 1300Z, WAS 500 METERS BROKEN AND DID NOT INTERFERE WITH VISUAL TARGET ACQUISITION. FRAGMENTATION BOMBS WERE DROPPED AND THEN STRAFING PASSES WITH 20MM CANNON WERE MADE UNTIL AMMUNITION WAS EXHAUSTED. STRIKE COORDINATION INVOLVED PRE AND POST STRIKE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY, PRE-STRIKE TARGET MAKING WITH SMOKE, AN AIR COORDINATOR ON THE GROUND AND AN AIRBORNE ON-SITE COMMANDER.

3. (C) THE GUERRILLA BASE CAMP ATTACKED, WHICH WAS LOCATED IN A HEAVILY FORESTED BOX CANYON, HAD BEEN UNDER OBSERVATION BY PATROLS OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY'S V INFANTRY BRIGADE, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COUNTER-GUERRILLA OPERATIONS IN THE TUCUMAN PROVINCE. ONE SOURCE REPORTED THAT THE PATROLS HAD OBSERVED STRUCTURES AND PERSONNEL, HEARD MOTORS RUNNING (PROBABLY POWER GENERATORS) AND HAD WITNESSED CONSIDERABLE ACTIVITY AROUND CAVE ENTRANCES IN THE CANYON WALL. CONVINCED THAT IN THIS UNPOPULATED AREA THAT A GUERRILLA BASE CAMP HAD BEEN DISCOVERED, AND THAT ASSAULT ON IT BY GROUND FORCES WAS NOT FEASIBLE BECAUSE OF THE TERRAIN, THE ARMY REQUESTED THE AIR FORCE STRIKE. NO POST STRIKE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT IS YET AVAILABLE.

4. (U) GAPS IN THE FOREGOING INFORMATION ARE AS FOLLOWS: TYPE OF PHOTO-RECCE AIRCRAFT, TYPE OF TARGET MARKING (FAC) AIRCRAFT, SIZE OF FRAG BOMBS USED, NUMBER OF ATTACK AIRCRAFT USED.

5. COMMENT (C) (INTEL AND ORDN) SINCE THE ARMY'S COUNTER-GUERRILLA OPERATION, DUBBED "OPERATION INDEPENDENCE," WAS LAUNCHED IN FEB 75, THE AIR FORCE HAS BEEN ITCHING TO PARTICIPATE. UNTIL THE SUBJECT STRIKE, THEY HAVE ONLY PROVIDED AIR LOGISTIC SUPPORT TO THE ARMY IN TUCUMAN WITH C-130'S. WHEN THE GUERRILLAS BLEW UP A C-130 IN TUCUMAN IN SEPTEMBER, AIR FORCE DESIRE FOR RETALIATION ROSE TO A BOIL. DURING THE ANNUAL ASADO (BAR B QUE) HELD BY THE AAF CG FOR FOREIGN AIR ATTACHE'S UN 8 NOV 75,

SENIOR OFFICERS WERE EXHUBERANT. ONE SOURCE [Sec 3.3(b)(1)] STATED THAT MORE STRIKES ARE PLANNED, BUT DID NOT ELABORATE. SOURCE STATED HOWEVER, THAT THE USE OF OTHER ORDNANCE IS BEING CONSIDERED. HE THEN ASKED ADVICE, [(b)(3):10 USC 424] ABOUT THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OTHER ORDNANCE, PARTICULARLY NAPALM. SOURCE CONCLUDED [(b)(3):10 USC 424] BY OBSERVING THAT NOW THAT THE AIR FORCE HAD STRUCK, THEY EXPECTED TERRORIST RETALIATION IN THE FORM OF ASSASSINATIONS AND ATTACKS ON AIR FORCE UNITS. THIS MSG HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY. #888-8

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PAGE 2
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