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FROM

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

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CONTROLS

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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY (b)(3):10 USC 424

COUNTRY: (U) **ARGENTINA (AR)**.

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 BIOGRAPHIC UPDATE - GENERAL DE DIVISION (MG) **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))**, NEW CHIEF OF STAFF ARGARM (U)

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DO I: (U) 911101.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(1);(b)(3):10 USC 424;1.4 (c)

B. (U) DAILY NEWSPAPER, "CLARIN", BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, 911104 (U), IN SPANISH, LEADING INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER.

SUMMARY: ~~(S)~~ REPORT FORWARDS UPDATE INFORMATION ON MG **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))**, NEW CHIEF OF STAFF (COS) OF THE ARGARM. (b)(1);1.4 (c)

TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ MG **MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))** BECOMES THE THIRD CHIEF OF STAFF ARGARM UNDER THE MENEM GOVERNMENT, FOLLOWING LTG BONNET'S RESIGNATION ON 911030. ON MONDAY 911104 HE WILL BE SWORN IN AS THE NEW COS, IN A CEREMONY CONDUCTED AT THE PATRICIOS, LST INFANTRY REGIMENT, PALERMO, BUENOS AIRES. THE CEREMONY WILL BE

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PRESIDED BY ERMAN ((GONZALEZ)) MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

2. ~~(C)~~ BALZA IS A 57 YEAR OLD ARTILLERY OFFICER WHO HAS DEFINITELY FOLLOWED THE ARGENTINE WARRIOR TRACK. GRADUATED FROM THE COLEGIO MILITAR DE LA NACION (MILITARY ACADEMY) 551217 AS A SUBTENIENTE (2LT), HELD LEADERSHIP POSITIONS AT EVERY LEVEL TO INCLUDE CDR, ARTY GP 3 FROM 791220 - 820729, CDR 6TH MOUNTAIN INF BDE 87 - 88, DIRECTOR INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS 1989, VICE JCS 89 - 90, AND VICE COS ARGARM 9003-911030.

3. ~~(C)~~ HIS IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENTS WERE ALSO COMPLEMENTED BY THE SCHOOLING HE HAS RECEIVED. GEN BALZA IS A GRADUATE OF THE ARGENTINE ESCUELA SUPERIOR DE GUERRA (CGSC) (1971 - 1973), PERUVIAN CGSC, (1976 - 1977), AND THE ESCUELA DE DEFENSA NACIONAL (ARGENTINE WAR COLLEGE 1983).

4. ~~(C)~~ BALZA'S ONLY OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENT TOOK HIM TO THE SUEZ CANAL AS A UN CEASE FIRE OBSERVER FROM 691216-711230. DURING THE TWO YEAR PERIOD HE TRAVELLED THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND EUROPE.

5. ~~(C)~~ BESIDES BEING A PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER, GEN BALZA IS A NATIONALLY KNOWN ATHLETE AND WRITER. AMONG HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ATHLETIC FIELD FIGURE THE SWIMMING RECORDS SET IN ARGENTINA FOR THE 100 AND 200 METER FREE STYLE. AS A WRITER HE HAS PUBLISHED TWO BOOKS. FOLLOWING HIS EXPERIENCES AS A LTC IN THE MALVINAS WAR HE PUBLISHED "MALVINAS - RELATOS DE SOLDADOS" (MALVINAS - STORIES OF SOLDIERS) AND "OPERACIONES TERRESTRES EN LAS ISLAS MALVINAS" (LAND CAMPAIGN IN THE MALVINAS").

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1);(b)(3);10 USC 424

of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act