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FROM
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RLBAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

CONTROLS
CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 02 (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE

COUNTRY: (U) ARGENTINA (AR).
SUBJ: IIR 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

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

TEXT: 1. (O) 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
PRESIDED BY ERMAN ((GONZALEZ)) MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

2. 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.


4. 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. BEIDES 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).