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CDS

(b)(3):10
USC 424;(b)
(3):50 USC
3024(i)

(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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(b)(3):10 USC 130c;(b)(3):50 USC
3024(i)

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HEADER

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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

TO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO

RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL

(b)(3):10
USC 424;(b)
(3):50 USC
3024(i)

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC/

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(b)(3):10
USC 424;(b)
(3):50 USC
3024(i)

RUCBCLF/CINCLANTFLT NORFOLK VA//N2/N3//

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC/ (b)(3):50 USC

RUEABND/DEA WASHDC/ 3024(i)

(b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(7)(E)

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC

(b)(3):10 USC 424

RHEFLGX/SAFE WASHDC

(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

RUCXONI/ONI WASHDC

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CONTROLS

~~SECRET~~ SECTION 01 OF 08 (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

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

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CO).

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

SUBJECT: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT ANTI-AIRCRAFT THREAT TO U.S. FORCES
IN COLOMBIA (U)

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DOI: (U) 20030905.

REQS: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 42

(b)(3):10
USC 424;(b)
(3):50 USC
3024(i)

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

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

(1);1.4 (c);1.4 (d)

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(b)(1);1.4 (c);1.4 (d)

D. (U) TERRORIST AND CRIMINAL GROUPS DEFEND TERRAIN AGGRESSIVELY. CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS POSE THE MOST LIKELY IMMEDIATE THREAT TO AIRCRAFT OPERATING OVER COCA CULTIVATION AREAS; COCAINE PROCESSING FACILITIES; TERRORIST CAMPS (ESPECIALLY WHERE HOSTAGES ARE HELD); TERRORIST MOBILITY CORRIDORS AND ILLEGAL NARCOTICS SHIPPING ROUTES; OR OTHER TERRORIST FACILITIES, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS.

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

B. (U) ON 25 AUGUST 2003, PRESUMED FARC INSURGENTS FIRED ON A POLICE HELICOPTER CARRYING DEPUTY POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL HECTOR ((DARIO)) CASTRO AND TOLIMA POLICE COMMANDER COLONEL WILSON ((PRADA)) BLANCO. THE AIRCRAFT WAS HIT TWICE WHILE FLYING BETWEEN IBAGUE // (b)(3):10 USC 424 AND RONCESVALLES // (b)(3):10 USC 424 IN TOLIMA DEPARTMENT. THE ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED ALLEGEDLY BY FARC TERRORISTS AS THE HIGH LEVEL POLICE OFFICIALS WERE ON THEIR WAY TO INAUGURATE A NEW POLICE STATION.

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

(b)(1);1.4 (c);1.4 (d)

5. (U) FORCE PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS.

A. (U) INTELLIGENCE PREPARATION OF THE BATTLEFIELD (IPB) REMAINS THE BEST METHOD FOR CONCEPTUALIZING, UNDERSTANDING, AND PLANNING FOR THE THREAT POSED IN ANY TACTICAL FLIGHT OPERATION. PRIOR TO ANY AIR MISSION, PILOTS AND CREW MUST OBTAIN ADEQUATE INTELLIGENCE TO INCORPORATE INTO FORCE PROTECTION PLANNING. PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO LOCATIONS OF THREAT FORCES, COCA CULTIVATION AREAS AND PROCESSING FACILITIES, ENEMY KEY TERRAIN, KNOWN WEAPONS SITES, OR HOSTILE NEIGHBORHOODS AND FIELDS ADJACENT TO RUNWAYS OR APPROACHES. ADJUST RUNWAYS AND APPROACHES, IF REQUIRED, AT ANY AIRFIELDS WHERE FLIGHT PATHS TAKE AIRCRAFT OVER POTENTIALLY HOSTILE AREAS, INCLUDING SHANTY TOWNS LOCATED NEXT TO AIRFIELDS.

B. (U) PILOTS SHOULD AVOID MANEUVERS, WHEN POSSIBLE, THAT REQUIRE THEM TO LOITER AND HOVER WHEN CONDUCTING OPERATIONS OVER POTENTIALLY HOSTILE AREAS. THESE TYPES OF MANEUVERS, PERFORMED AT LOW SPEED AND LOW ALTITUDE, CAN DRAW THE ATTENTION OF INSURGENTS, WHO CAN THEN ENGAGE. IF FLYING AT LOW ALTITUDE, FLY AS FAST AS SAFELY POSSIBLE AND USE EVASIVE FLIGHT TECHNIQUES TO DENY INSURGENTS TIME TO ACQUIRE AND ENGAGE.

C. (U) IF THE THREAT SITUATION APPEARS DANGEROUS AT PARTICULAR AIRFIELDS, COORDINATE IN ADVANCE WITH COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES TO DEPLOY PATROLS TO SECURE AIRFIELDS AND HELICOPTER LANDING ZONES PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF U.S. AIRCRAFT OR HOST NATION AIRCRAFT FLYING U.S. PERSONNEL.

D. (U) COORDINATE WITH GROUND FORCES TO CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE OF HELICOPTER LANDING ZONES AND APPROACHES TO AIRFIELDS, ESPECIALLY TO DISCOVER AND DISARM ANTI-AIR MORTARS, DIRECTED EXPLOSIVES, OR TO INTERDICT WEAPONS CACHED FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGAGING FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT.

E. (U) COORDINATE WITH THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OF THE LOCAL

OR TARGET AREA MILITARY OR POLICE COMMAND FOR ENEMY FORCES DISPOSITION AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT CAPABILITIES IN THE OPERATIONAL AREA AND/OR FLIGHT CORRIDOR.

F. (U) PRACTICE OPERATIONAL SECURITY (OPSEC) TO SAFEGUARD INFORMATION THAT COULD BE USED AGAINST AIRCRAFT, AIRFIELDS, OR AIR OPERATIONS. DO NOT DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF MISSIONS ON UNSECURE PHONES OR OTHER COMMUNICATIONS DEVICES, ESPECIALLY CELLULAR PHONES.

G. (U) USE MULTIPLE LANDING ZONES AND FLIGHT CORRIDORS IN THE PLANNING AND SUPPORT OF AN OPERATION TO DECEIVE OR FOOL THE ENEMY.

H. (U) LOW ALTITUDE, HIGH SPEED, DIRECT MANEUVER TO THE OBJECTIVE IS, IN SOME CASES, THE MOST SECURE WAY TO DENY THE ENEMY THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUIRE AND ENGAGE FRIENDLY AIR ASSETS. ENEMY GUNNERS SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE TIME TO SEE OR HEAR FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT, AND THEN SHOULDER THEIR WEAPONS IN TIME TO ENGAGE ACCURATELY. EVIDENCE IS INCONCLUSIVE THAT HIGH ALTITUDE FLIGHT WOULD BE THE ONLY SECURE MEANS OF MANEUVER IN ALL SITUATIONS. PILOTS ARE TRAINED TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, THEIR CREWS, AND THEIR AIRCRAFT BY EMPLOYING AERIAL MANEUVER. ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES EXIST REGARDLESS OF WHETHER AN AIRCRAFT IS FLYING AT LOW OR HIGH ALTITUDE. THE FACTORS DICTATING TACTICAL MANEUVER VARY FROM ONE SITUATION TO ANOTHER. MISSION, ENEMY, TERRAIN, TIME, AND WEATHER MUST BE CONSIDERED BY PILOTS.

I. (U) USE COVERING AIRCRAFT FOR SECURITY AND COMBAT SEARCH AND RESCUE (CSAR), AND HAVE ESCAPE AND EVASION PLANS, ADEQUATE COMMUNICATIONS, LAND NAVIGATION, AND FOOD AND WATER SUPPLIES IN CASE OF FORCED LANDINGS.

COMMENTS: (b)(1);1.4 (c)

SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT REFLECTS THE INCREASING THREAT TO AVIATION ASSETS IN COLOMBIA AND SUMMARIZES RECENT REPORTS CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT CAPABILITIES BY TERRORISTS.

2. (U) (b)(3):10 USC AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER EXPLOITATION.

3. (U) DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS IIR TO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424

ADMIN

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

INSTR: (U)

PREP: (U)

ENCL: (U) TO FOLLOW - 3 ENCLOSURES.

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

~~ACQ: (U)~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424

~~DISSEM: (U)~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424

~~SENT TO:~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424

~~WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED SECRET -- NOT RELEASABLE
TO FOREIGN NATIONALS.~~

~~DRVD FM:~~ (b)(3):10 USC 424;(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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