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**DTG**

**241436Z SEP 97**

**FROM**

FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

**TO**

TO RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC (b)(3):10 USC 424

**CONTROLS**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 05 (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) ARGENTINA (AR).

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

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 BIOGRAPHIC REPORT - ARGENTINA,  
MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA)), GENERAL, CHIEF OF STAFF,  
ARGENTINE ARMY (U)

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DO I: (U) 970910.

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

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

SUMMARY: (C) REPORT FORWARDS BIOGRAPHIC UPDATE DATA  
ON GENERAL, MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA)). ENCLOSURES.

TEXT: (C) THE FOLLOWING BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION IS IAW

(b)(3):10 USC 424 DATED 28 MARCH 1988.

1. NAME OF COUNTRY (U) ARGENTINA
2. DATE OF INFORMATION (U) 970910
3. DATE OF REPORT (U) 970911
- 4A. FULL NAME (U) MARTIN ANTONIO ((BALZA))
- 4B. NAME(S) BY WHICH INDIVIDUAL PREFERS TO BE ADDRESSED
- 4B(1) IN OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE (U) TENIENTE GENERAL D. MARTIN ANTONIO BALZA
- 4B(2) ORALLY AT OFFICIAL GATHERINGS (U) MI GENERAL

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5. RANK (U)

5A. ENGLISH LANGUAGE (U) GENERAL

(b)(3):10 USC 424 "TENIENTE GENERAL" TRANSLATES LITERALLY IN ENGLISH TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL. HOWEVER IN THE ARGENTINE ARMY IT IS A FOUR STAR RANK, I.E., FULL GENERAL, EQUIVALENT. THE ARGENTINE ONE STAR RANK IS THAT OF SENIOR COLONEL, FOLLOWED BY A TWO STAR RANK OF "GENERAL DE BRIGADA" (LITERALLY BRIGADIER GENERAL), AND A THREE STAR RANK OF "GENERAL DE DIVISION" (DIVISION GENERAL). TO PLACE ARGENTINE ARMY FLAG RANKS INTO U.S. EQUIVALENT (BOTH BY INSIGNIA AND BY RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR POSITION) TENIENTE GENERAL IS THUS EQUIVALENT TO A U.S. FULL GENERAL RANK, GENERAL DE DIVISION TO A U.S. ARMY LIEUTENANT GENERAL, GENERAL DE BRIGADA TO A U.S. ARMY MAJOR GENERAL, AND COLONEL MAYOR TO A U.S. BRIGADIER GENERAL.)

5B. NATIVE LANGUAGE (U) TENIENTE GENERAL

6. DATE OF RANK (U) 911220

7A. PRESENT POSITION (U) CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY

7B. MILITARY ADDRESS (U) AZOPARDO  
250 1328 BUENOS AIRES

7C. DATE ASSUMED POSITION (U) 911104

7D. DATE OF DEPARTURE (U) TBD

7E. NAME OF PREDECESSOR (U) TENIENTE GENERAL MARTIN ((BONNET))

7E(1) PREDECESSOR'S RANK (U) GENERAL

7E(2) PREDECESSOR'S BRANCH OF SERVICE (U) ARMY

7E(3) DATE PREDECESSOR ASSIGNED (U) 900300

8. BRANCH OF SERVICE (U) ARTILLERY

9. SPECIALTY/OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (U) MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING

10. DATE OF BIRTH (U) (b)(6)

11. PLACE OF BIRTH (U) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

12. SEX (U) MALE

13. HOME ADDRESS (U) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

14. TELEPHONE NUMBER

14A. HOME (U) (b)(6)  
14B. WORK (U)

(b)(6)

- 15. MARITAL STATUS (U) MARRIED
- 16. CITIZENSHIP (U) ARGENTINE
- 17. ETHNIC GROUP (U) CAUCASIAN
- 18. NATIONALITY (U) ARGENTINE
- 19. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION
- 19A. NAME (U) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

- 19B. PRACTICING OR NON-PRACTICING (U) (b)(6)

- 20. TITLES, HONORIFICS (U) GENERAL STAFF OFFICER

- 21. HIGH ORDER DECORATIONS (U) DECORATIONS WORN ON HIS UNIFORM INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

(LISTED IN ORDER FROM TOP OF UNIFORM)--

- MOUNTAIN TROOP BADGE,
- U.N. MEDAL FOR DUTY AS A MILITARY OBSERVER IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
- CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL RECOGNIZING COMBATANTS IN THE FALKLANDS/MALVINAS WAR,
- MEDAL OF MILITARY MERIT,
- MEDAL OF MERIT OF THE ARTILLERY,
- SERVICE RIBBON FOR DUTY IN MILITARY TRAINING INSTITUTIONS,
- COMMAND RIBBON,
- YEARS OF SERVICE RIBBON (45 YEARS),
- MILITARY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVE RIBBON,
- MILITARY MOUNTAIN CLIMBER RIBBON,
- MILITARY SKIER RIBBON,
- RIBBON FOR YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE SOUTH OF ARGENTINA,
- RIBBON FOR APPLIED APTITUDE FOR COMBAT,
- DECORATION FROM SPAIN,
- DECORATION FROM ITALY,
- LEGION OF MERIT (U.S.),
- DECORATION FROM FRANCE,
- MEDAL OF MILITARY MERIT (PARAGUAY),
- HONDURAN DECORATION,
- PERUVIAN DECORATION,
- COLOMBIAN DECORATION,
- BOLIVIAN DECORATION,
- ECUADORIAN DECORATION,
- MALVINAS CAMPAIGN RIBBON (WORN ON RIGHT SIDE OF

UNIFORM),

-BADGES FOR GENERAL STAFF OFFICER, NATIONAL DEFENSE SCHOOL, PERUVIAN C&GSC, AND ARGENTINE JOINT WAR COLLEGE COURSE.

22. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

- 22A. FACIAL HAIR (U) NONE
- 22B. TEETH (U) YES
- 22C. HARD OF HEARING (U) NO
- 22D. GLASSES (U) YES
- 22E. COLOR OF EYES (U) BROWN
- 22F. BALD (U) NO
- 22G. COLOR OF HAIR (U) GRAY
- 22I. POSTURE (U) ERECT
- 22J. HEIGHT (U) 77 INCHES
- 22K. WEIGHT (U) 200 LB
- 22L. BUILD (U) MEDIUM

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24. PREFERENCES (U) DRINKS

(b)(6)

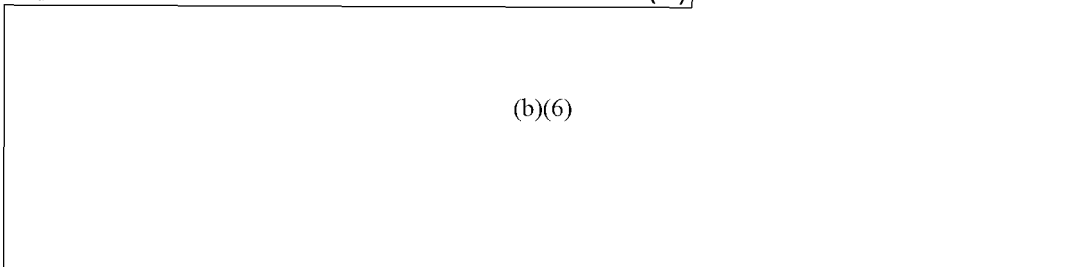
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25. PUBLISHED WORKS (U) GENERAL  
BALZA HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES IN THE ARGENTINE ARMY'S EQUIVALENT OF MILITARY REVIEW MAGAZINE AND IN ARTICLES IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE EDITION OF THE U.S. ARMY MILITARY REVIEW MAGAZINE; IN 1996 HE PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE TITLED "CHANGING ARGENTINE MILITARY CULTURE" IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF JOINT DEFENSE QUARTERLY; HE COORDINATED THE COLLECTION OF ARTICLES IN THE BOOK "MALVINAS - SOLDIERS' STORIES" AND HE WAS THE COAUTHOR OF THE BOOK "LAND CAMPAIGN IN THE MALVINAS." HIS MOST FAMOUS PUBLICATION WAS MADE IN APRIL OF 1995 WITH A NEWSPAPER WHICH PUBLISHED HIS "AUTO CRITICISM IN WHICH HE PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ARMY HAD COMMITTED EXCESSES DURING THE "DIRTY WAR" AGAINST SUBVERSION IN THE 1970'S AND 1980'S.

27. LANGUAGES (U) SPANISH -

NATIVE; ENGLISH - FAIR.

28. INTERNATIONAL TRAINING/TRAVEL (U)



29. PHOTO SUBMITTED (U) YES

30. DATE OF PHOTO (U) 970909

31. MILITARY SERVICE (U)

ASSIGNMENTS--

520216 ENTERED THE MILITARY ACADEMY

551217 GRADUATED FROM THE ACADEMY AS A 3LT ("SUB-TENIENTE") IN THE ARTILLERY BRANCH AND

- ASSIGNED TO THE LST MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY GROUP

581231 PROMOTED TO 2LT

590109 ASSIGNED TO THE LST MOTORIZED FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP (LIGHT)

601201 ASSIGNED TO ARGARM ARTILLERY SCHOOL

611201 ASSIGNED TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY

631231 PROMOTED TO LLT

650407 COMPLETED HUMAN RELATIONS COURSE 660

117 ASSIGNED TO THE 3RD ARTILLERY GROUP

670421 COMPLETED THE ARTILLERY OFFICER ADVANCED COURSE

671219 ASSIGNED TO THE ARGARM ARTILLERY SCHOOL

671231 PROMOTED TO CPT

691216 ASSIGNED TO DUTY WITH THE U.N. AS A MILITARY OBSERVER IN THE SUEZ CANAL

710101 ASSIGNED AS A STUDENT IN THE ARGARM C&GSC

721231 PROMOTED TO MAJOR

731200 COMPLETED THE 3-YEAR C&GSC

731213 ASSIGNED TO HQ, IX INFANTRY BRIGADE

750110 COMPLETED FINANCE COURSE

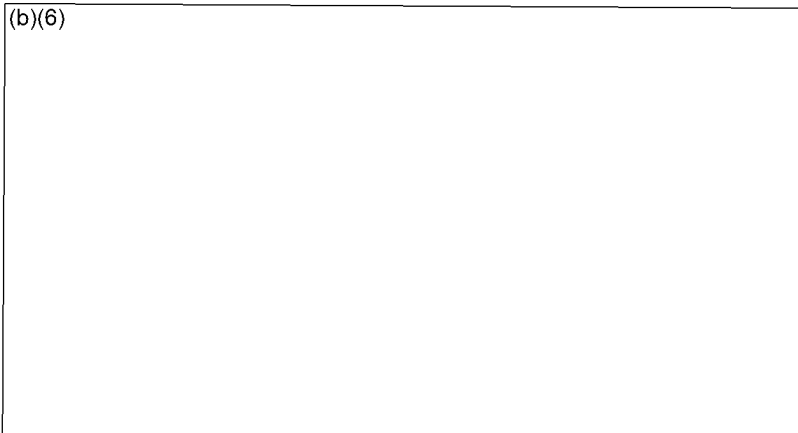
750917 ASSIGNED TO ARGARM GENERAL STAFF (DUTY IN PERU)

751217 COMPLETED THE STAFF OFFICER - COMMAND AND ADMINISTRATION COURSE IN THE PERUVIAN WAR COLLEGE

771205 ASSIGNED AS A STAFF OFFICER IN THE ARGARM  
ARTILLERY SCHOOL  
771231 PROMOTED TO LTC  
780000 CHIEF OF THE TRAINING DEPARTMENT OF THE  
- ARTILLERY SCHOOL  
790328 STAFF OFFICER, ARTILLERY HQS  
791220 ASSIGNED AS COMMANDER OF THE 3RD ARTILLERY  
- GROUP  
820729 INSTRUCTOR IN THE ARGARM C&GSC  
821231 PROMOTED TO COL  
830201 COMPLETED ADVANCED NATIONAL DEFENSE COURSE  
131122 ASSIGNED TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY AS COMMANDER  
- OF THE CORPS OF CADETS  
841221 SUBDIRECTOR AND CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE  
- MILITARY ACADEMY  
861231 ASSIGNED AS THE INSPECTOR OF ARTILLERY  
870423 ASSIGNED AS COMMANDER TO THE VI MOUNTAIN  
- INFANTRY BRIGADE  
871231 PROMOTED TO "GENERAL DE BRIGADA"  
881223 ASSIGNED AS DIRECTOR, ARGARM TRAINING  
- INSTITUTIONS COMMAND  
890719 ASSIGNED AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE  
- ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF  
900326 ASSIGNED AS VICE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE  
- ARMY.  
901231 PROMOTED TO "GENERAL DE  
- DIVISION" (THREE STAR EQUIVALENT)  
911100 ASSIGNED AS THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY  
911220 PROMOTED TO "TENIENTE GENERAL" (FOUR STAR  
EQUIVALENT)

32. FULL NAME OF SPOUSE (U)

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

33. NAMES OF CHILDREN (U) 4  
CHILDREN--

(b)(6)

34. SIGNIFICANCE ~~(S)~~ GENERAL

BALZA IS THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARGENTINE ARMY AND THE MOST RESPECTED MILITARY FIGURE IN THE COUNTRY. HE WILL ATTEND THE 1997 COMMANDER'S CONFERENCE OF THE CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN ARMIES IN ECUADOR.

35. POLITICS ~~(S)~~

NATIONALISTIC, BUT IN A MODERATE WAY, GENERAL BALZA DOES NOT DESCRIBE HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF ANY POLITICAL PARTY OR FACTION. HE HAS BEEN MENTIONED SEVERAL TIMES AS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR POLITICAL OFFICE BUT HAS DENIED HAVING POLITICAL AMBITIONS.  BELIEVES THAT THE ONLY POLITICAL OFFICE THAT CURRENTLY INTERESTS HIM WOULD BE THAT OF MINISTER OF DEFENSE.

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36. MILITARY REPUTATION ~~(S)~~ VERY

PROFESSIONAL; A COMBAT VETERAN WHO ABLY COMMANDED AN ARTILLERY GROUP AGAINST THE ENGLISH UNTIL ORDERED TO SURRENDER BY HIS SUPERIOR COMMANDER; RESENTED BY SOME OLDER RETIRED ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE FLAG GRADE OFFICERS FOR BRINGING CHANGE TO THEIR DISCREDITED INSTITUTION AND FOR CRITICIZING PAST ABUSES OF MILITARY GOVERNMENTS; KNOWN AS A HARD BOSS WHO DEMANDS ONE HUNDRED PERCENT PERFORMANCE; FAMOUS FOR CONDUCTING SURPRISE INSPECTIONS/VISITS OF SUBORDINATE COMMANDERS.

37. CHARACTER

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

(b)(1);1.4 (c)

MOST TRUSTED BY THE AVERAGE ARGENTINE. VERY STRONG WILLED, HE HAS THE MORAL COURAGE TO TAKE UNPLEASANT DECISIONS AND TO STICK TO THEM, EVEN WHEN OLD ARMY FRIENDS CRITICIZE HIM FOR TURNING AGAINST TRADITION AND FOR NOT CLOSING RANKS AGAINST THE CIVILIANS. HE IS A PROGRESSIVE, WITH A VISION OF WHERE HE WANTS THE ARMY TO GO AND ABLE TO TAKE A LONG TERM VIEW. HE DOES NOT LET HIMSELF GET BOGGED DOWN OR SIDE TRACKED BY ROUTINE TROUBLES OR PRESSURES, OF WHICH THERE ARE MANY. EXTREMELY SMOOTH WHEN DEALING WITH THE PRESS AND IN PUBLIC OCCASIONS.

39. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS ~~(C)~~ HIGHLY DISCIPLINED, HE TAKES DAILY PHYSICAL EXERCISE

(b)( )  
TO KEEP HIMSELF FIT AND ALERT UNDER VERY LONG WORK DAYS AND INTENSE POLITICAL/INSTITUTIONAL PRESSURE. A TALL IMPOSING FIGURE HE INSPIRES RESPECT IN PUBLIC GATHERINGS. IN PUBLIC MEETINGS HE TALKS IN A SLOW MEASURED WAY WITH A VERY SOFT PRONUNCIATION - RESULTING IN EVERYONE HANGING ON HIS WORDS AND PAYING VERY CLOSE ATTENTION TO WHAT HE SAYS. HE NORMALLY DISPLAYS A RELAXED, EASY-GOING MANNER IN PUBLIC SITUATIONS, AND EXHIBITS A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO MAKE JOKES POKING MILD FUN OF HIMSELF. HE CAN ENDURE PRESSURE AND PROBING QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS WITH GREAT PATIENCE AND TACT (b)(3):10 USC 424  
ONLY SEEN HIM LOOSE PATIENCE AND SHOW FRUSTRATION WITH THE PRESS ON ONE OCCASION. WHEN HE IS IN A MILITARY ORIENTED WORK SITUATION HE IS, JUDGING FROM COMMENTS FROM HIS SUBORDINATES, VERY DEMANDING AND HIGHLY FOCUSED.

41. EVALUATION ~~(C)~~ GENERAL  
BALZA HAS THE MOST RESPECT, PRESTIGE, AND SENIORITY OF ANY UNIFORMED OFFICER SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN ANY OF THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES. HE IS A PUBLIC FIGURE, ONE WHOM THE PRESS SEEKS OUT LIKE BEES SWARMING AROUND A HIVE FULL OF HONEY.

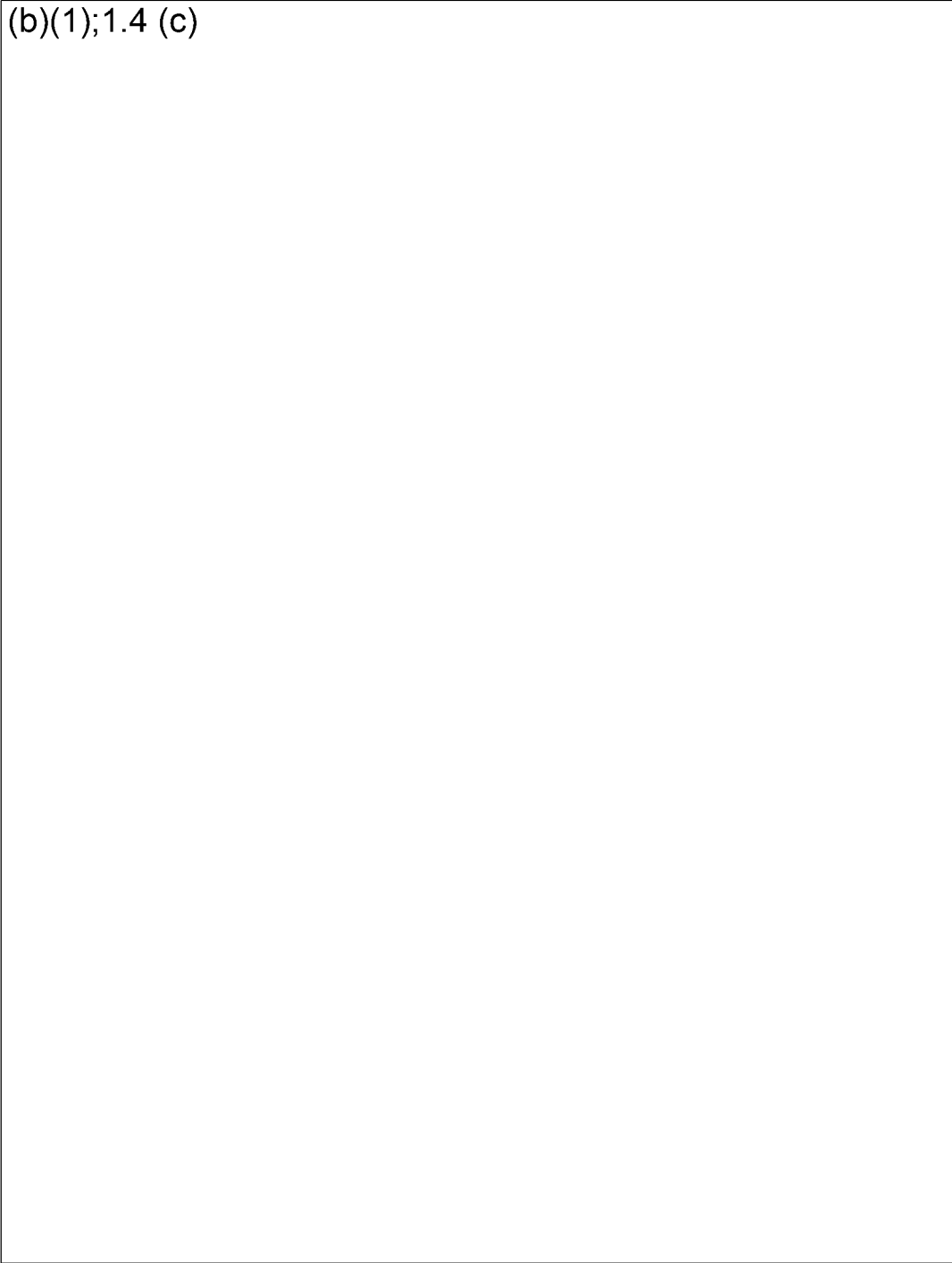
COMMENTS: 1. (b)(1);1.4 (c)

(b)(1);1.4 (c)



ABUSES, HIS SIX YEARS ON THE JOB AS CHIEF OF STAFF, AND HIS PROTAGONIST ROLE IN STEERING THE ARMY THROUGH DOWNSIZING AND RESTRUCTURING (INCLUDING A CHANGE TO AN ALL VOLUNTEER FORCE), GENERAL BALZA HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF AN INSTITUTION IN AND OF HIMSELF.

(b)(1);1.4 (c)



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Withheld pursuant to exemption

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of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act

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