

~~SECRET//NF~~

**ENVELOPE**

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

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

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**HEADER**

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FM DIA WASHINGTON DC

INFO

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

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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424

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

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

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

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

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

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**CONTROLS**

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 01 OF 02

(b)(3):10 USC 424

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SERIAL: (U)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

**BODY**

COUNTRY: (U) COLOMBIA (CC).

SUBJ: (b)(3):10 USC 424 COLOMBIAN MILITARY ATTACK FARC  
FORCES IN HATO COROZAL, CASANARE DEPARTMENT ON 990901.  
(U)

//IPSP: (U)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

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

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
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DOI: (U) 990901.

REQS: (U)

(b)(3):10 USC 424

SOURCE: (U)

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

SUMMARY: ~~(C)~~ FARC GUERRILLAS ATTACKED THE TOWN OF HATO  
COROZAL IN THE CASANARE DEPARTMENT, 990831. THE  
COLOMBIAN MILITARY RESPONDED AND CLAIMS TO HAVE KILLED 50  
GUERRILLAS. THE MILITARY OPERATIONS CONTINUE, 990901.

TEXT: 1. ~~(C)~~

(b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec.  
1.4(c)

APPROXIMATELY 400

REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA-FUERZAS ARMADAS  
REVOLUCIONARIAS DE COLOMBIA (FARC) ATTACKED THE COLOMBIAN  
NATIONAL POLICE STATION, THE BANCO AGRARIO (AGRICULTURAL  
BANK), AND APPROXIMATELY 20 OTHER BUILDINGS LOCATED IN  
HATO COROZAL, CASANARE DEPARTMENT, 990831, BY USING GAS  
CYLINDERS AS INDIRECT FIRE WEAPONS (NFI).

2. ~~(C)~~

(b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec.  
1.4(c)

ON 990831 THE 16TH AND THE



18TH COLOMBIAN ARMY BRIGADES, WITH CLOSE AIR SUPPORT FROM THE COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE'S (COLAF) "FANTASMA" FIXED WING AIRCRAFT AND BLACKHAWK AND ARPIA HELICOPTERS ENGAGED THE FARC IN HATO COROZAL AND FORCED THE GUERRILLAS TO RETREAT WITH THE BODIES OF AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF GUERRILLAS KILLED AND WOUNDED DURING THE ENGAGEMENT.

3. (C) (b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c) THE MILITARY OPERATION BEGAN AT "LAS TAPIAS" WHERE THE MILITARY KILLED THREE GUERRILLAS AND SECURED THE ACCESS TO THE HATO COROZAL MUNICIPALITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS. AT THE SAME TIME, AN ADVANCE RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENT ENGAGED A RETREATING GUERRILLA ELEMENT AND KILLED 47 GUERRILLAS IN MONTESUELTO, BETWEEN HATO COROZAL AND PUENTE CABULLA. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, APPROXIMATELY 300 GUERRILLAS RETREATED INTO NEARBY MOUNTAINS (NFI).

4. (C) (b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c) THIS IS THE FOURTH MILITARY OPERATION SINCE 990218 IN WHICH THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY HAS DEALT A HARD BLOW TO THE GUERRILLAS LED BY THE BRICENO BROTHERS (MONO JOJOY AND GRANNOBLES). THE FIRST MILITARY OPERATION, "OPERACION ECLIPSE NEGRO", TOOK PLACE IN ARAUCA DEPARTMENT ON 990118, WITH 112 GUERRILLAS KILLED. THE SECOND OPERATION, "OPERACION NEMESIS Y LIANURA", TOOK PLACE IN THE ARAUCA AND VICHADA DEPARMENTS, WHERE THE FARC FINANCE OFFICER, ALIAS "ESTEBAN" AND 28 GUERRILLAS WERE KILLED, AND 12 LABORATORIES WERE DESTROYED. THE SITE OF THE VICHADA SECRETARIAT WAS ALSO DESTROYED. THE THIRD MILITARY OPERATION, "OPERACION INDEPENDENCIA", TOOK PLACE IN THE VICINITY OF THE DESPEJE AREA (NFI) ON 990700. THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY ESTIMATES 302 GUERRILLAS KILLED.

5. (C) (b)(1); (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c) THE COLOMBIAN MILITARY IS CURRENTLY IN CONTROL OF THE HATO COROZAL AREA. GENERAL FERNANDO ((TAPIAS)), COMMANDER OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES, AND GEN JORGE ENRIQUE ((MORA)) RANGEL, COMMANDER OF THE COLOMBIAN ARMY WENT TO THE AREA OF OPERATIONS TO OVERSEE THE ENGAGEMENT (FIELD COMMENT: THE GENERALS MOVED WITH JOURNALISTS IN TOW).

COMMENTS: 1. (C)

(b)(1); (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(3):50 USC 3024(i); Sec. 1.4(c)

2. (U)

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

3. (U) FOR ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE CONTENTS OF THIS REPORT, CONSUMERS MAY CONTACT (b)(3):10 USC 424

(b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(6)

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4. ~~(C)~~ THE COLOMBIAN ARMED FORCES ARE RIDING HIGH ON THE WAKE OF THEIR RECENT SUCCESSESS AND THEIR NEWFOUND SUPPORT BY THE COLOMBIAN PUBLIC, AS REFLECTED IN RECENT POLLS.

## ADMIN

COLL: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424  
INSTR: (U)  
PREP: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424; (b)(6)  
ACQ: (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424  
WARNING: (U) REPORT CLASSIFIED ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

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

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