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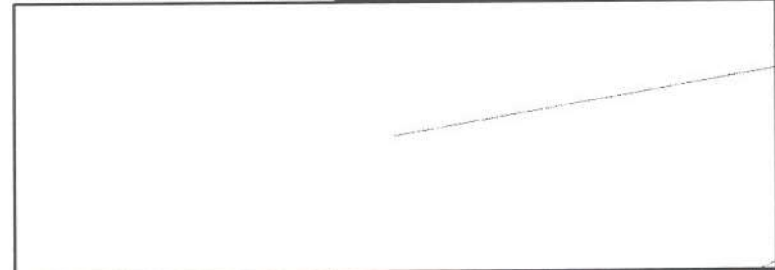
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DATE OF PUBLICATION: 132303Z DEC 13.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE.

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COUNTRY OR NONSTATE ENTITY: (U) Nicaragua (NIC); Russia (RUS).
SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~ Nicaraguan

Army Commissions Fifty New Officers at Annual Ceremony; Ortega Goes Softer on Anti-U.S. Rhetoric

DATE OF INFORMATION: (U) 10 Dec 2013.

CUTOFF: (U) 11 Dec 2013.

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1, BELOW.

SOURCE NUMBER A: (U) Open Source//Ejercito de Nicaragua Website.

SOURCE A: (U) Official public website for the Nicaraguan military, www.ejercito.mil.ni, Spanish. Site provides periodic updates on Nicaraguan military activities. Date of Source: 20131210.

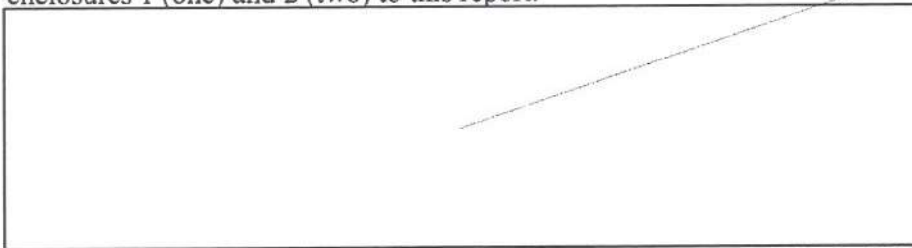
CONTEXT A: (U//FOUO) Nicaraguan Army Website coverage of Cadet Commissioning ceremony. This source reported information in paragraph 3 and provided enclosure 3 to this report.

SOURCE NUMBER B: (U) Open Source//El 19 Digital Website.

SOURCE B: (U) Internet news source, www.el19Digital.com, Spanish. Site fully endorses FSLN activities and maintains close political ties in Nicaragua; first published in August 2008 in support of local municipal elections. Date of Source: 20131210.

CONTEXT B: (U//FOUO) Articles "Cadetes Graduandos del ejercito de Nicaragua "somos el mismo pueblo uniformado" (in English, "Graduating cadets of the Nicaraguan Army "we are the people, in uniform)") and " General Aviles: Nuestro Compromiso es luchar sin descanso para el bienestar de nuestro pueblo" (in English, "General Aviles: our promise is to fight without ceasing for the well-being of our people.") Source provided information in paragraphs 4 (four) and enclosures 1 (one) and 2 (two) to this report.

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TEXT: 1. ~~(S)~~ EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. On 10

December 2013, at the Plaza de la Revolution in Managua, the graduation of fifty (50) cadets of the 18th Class (referred as Promotion of Ladies and Gentlemen Cadets), Center of Superior Military Studies "General Jose Dolores Estrada Vado" (in Spanish, Centro Superior de Estudios Militares - CSEM, U.S. Army Military

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Academy at West Point equivalent), Nicaraguan Army (EN), took place. Nicaraguan President Daniel ((Ortega)) Saavedra and General Julio Cesar ((AVILES)) Castillo, Chief, Head of Defense (CHOD), presided over the ceremony, accompanied by several high-level Government of Nicaragua (GoN) officials. As is the usual norm, Ortega castigated U.S. policies, however, this time softening his rhetoric.

2. ~~(U//FOUO)~~ On 10 December 2013, fifty (50) Nicaraguan cadets were commissioned as new Nicaraguan Army Second Lieutenants or Navy Ensigns. The event took place at the Plaza de la Revolution in Managua, the graduation of the 18th Class (referred as the Promotion of Ladies and Gentlemen Cadets) from the Center of Superior Military Studies "General Jose Dolores Estrada Vado" (in Spanish, Centro Superior de Estudios Militares - CSEM,) was the U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point equivalent for the Nicaraguan Army (EN). Nicaraguan President Daniel ((Ortega)) Saavedra, and General (GEN) Julio Cesar ((Aviles)) Castillo, Chief, Head of Defense (CHOD) presided over the ceremony. Major General (MG) Oscar Salvador ((BALLADARES)) Castillo, EN Chief of Staff, and Brigadier General Adolfo Jose ((ZEPEDA)) Martinez, Inspector General (IG) of the EN were also present, accompanied by several high-level government officials.

3. ~~(U//FOUO)~~ In his brief remarks, Second Lieutenant (EN Communication Corps) John Alex ((Martinez)), the distinguished graduate (first dossier), noted that "the 50 new soldiers, willing to serve with discipline, are the people of this Nation themselves in uniform, fulfilling missions and tasking for the benefit of the Nation." This graduation, said Martinez, is dedicated to Nicaraguan national hero 'Comandante German Pomeran Ordonez,' an example of patriotism, loyalty, valor, charisma and humility.

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4. ~~(U//FOUO)~~ President Ortega's speech was rambling in nature and touched on a broad variety of tangentially-related topics. Ortega used the recent death of Nelson ((Mandela)) to criticize U.S. foreign policy, comparing Mandela to Martin Luther ((King)), who he stated "was killed because the U.S. is a racist country." He stated that in spite of U.S. racism, President Barack ((Obama)) had been elected, and that now the U.S. President was seen shaking hands with the Cuban President at a recent event in South Africa. Ortega then stated that he hoped the U.S. would end its cruel embargo of the suffering Cuban people, an embargo which had been in place since the U.S. had been defeated during the Bay of Pigs invasion. Ortega then stated that much like the sound defeat of Imperialist forces in Cuba, the recent election results in Venezuela showed just how strong the people were. He then congratulated the "Pueblo Hermano" (Brother Society or People) of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, with a pro-Chavez slogan.

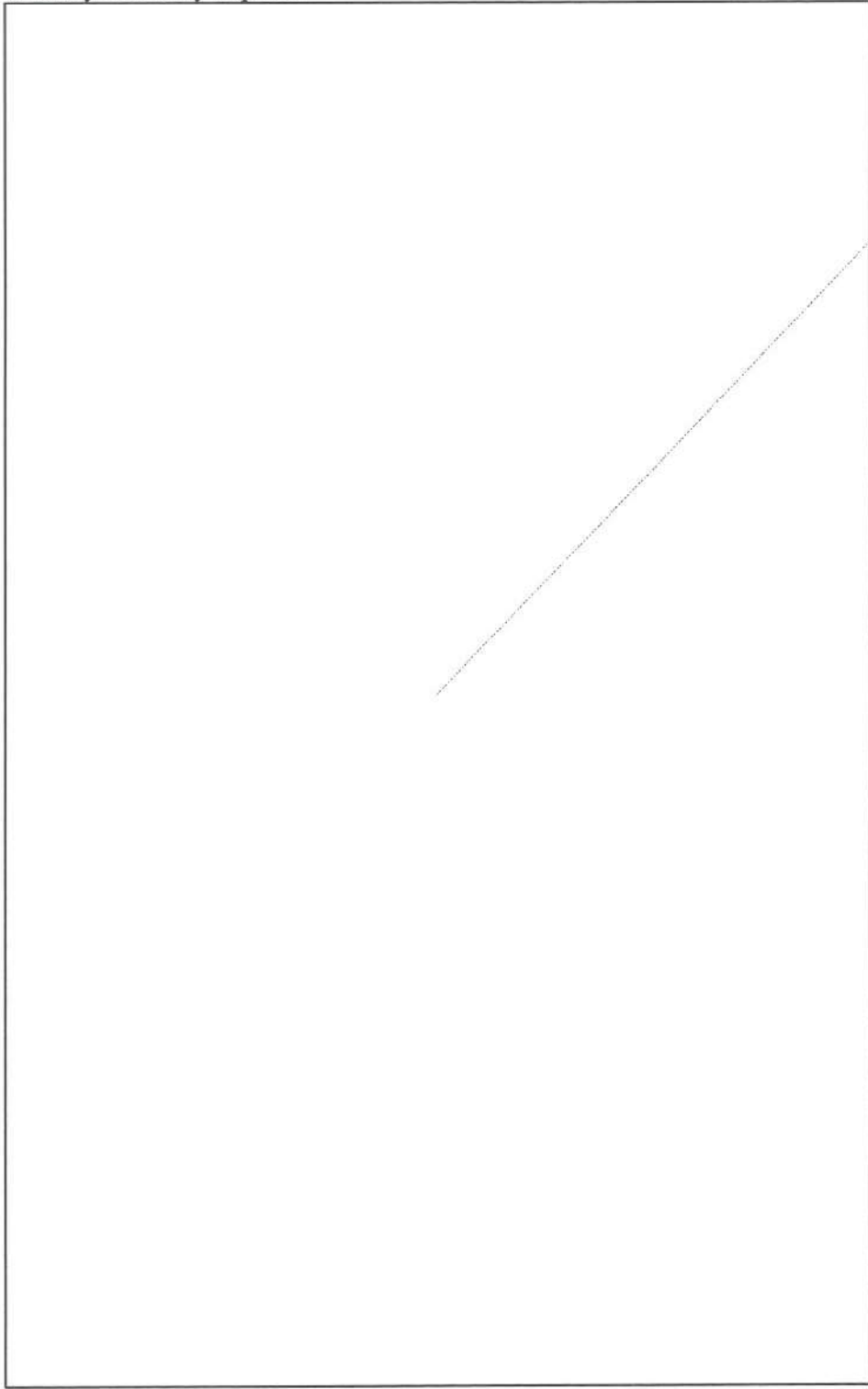
5. ~~(U//FOUO)~~ The Regular Cadet Course (in Spanish, Curso Regular de Cadetes - CRC) is comprised of four (4) years of military training at the EN Center of Superior Military Studies "General Jose Dolores Estrada Vado." Upon graduation, the cadets will receive a bachelor's degree (in Spanish, Licenciado) in Military Sciences, and the rank of Lieutenant. Cadets reportedly have the option of pursuing further

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graduate studies in Nicaragua or abroad. Incentives of housing, pension contributions to the Institute of Social Military Services (in Spanish, Instituto de Prevision Social Militar - IPSM), and medical care for members and family members and other benefits are available. Admitted personnel receive full scholarships during the duration of the course, including room and board, as well as a monthly monetary stipend.



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