

AOSO-SIG-XO

27 DEC 89

MEMORANDUM FOR: PAO

Subject: Information regarding 112th Special Operations Signal Bn (ABN) Participation in Operation Just Cause.

1. In response to your request the following information is provided.

a. The mission of the 112th Special Operations Signal Battalion (ABN) is to provide tactical command and control communications to Joint Special Operations Forces deployed to a Theater of operations. This vital wartime and contingency function allows the Theater SOF commander to communicate with major Army, Air Force and Navy SOF commands as well as liaison communications with other Theater or Department of Defense activities.

b. In keeping with this unique Joint SOF mission the 112th has been a significant player in the security enhancement mission for SOUTHCOM for an extended period of time. As the only Special Operations communications unit in US SOCOM, the 112th represents a key element in establishing interoperable command and control communications for Joint SOF units supporting SOC SOUTH operations.

c. Currently, command and control radio teams from the 112th are actively engaged in supporting communications for SOC SOUTH, Deployed SOF elements and the PSYOP/ Civil Affairs mission. 112th communicators provide the secure communications link to deployed elements that cannot be supported by the existing Theater communications system. In many cases, the 112th provides the only communications lifeline available to deployed Special Operations elements. Officers and NCOs from the 112th are augmenting the SOC SOUTH staff in the management of SOF tactical communications assets.

d. The 112th Special Operations Signal Bn (A) had deployed tactical signal elements to support SOC SOUTH prior to the influx of mission forces. Additional 112th elements have been deployed to meet increased Theater SOF requirements. The 112th Special Operations Sig Bn (A) will continue to support the Theater SOC after the bulk of the combat forces depart.

2. POC is MAJ Kropp, XO, 6-2705.

