

2nd Bn



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
7th SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE), 1st SPECIAL FORCES
FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA 28307-5270



AOSO-SFB-CO

30 March 1990

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group
(Airborne), Fort William Davis Panama, APO Miami 34003

SUBJECT: Promote Liberty Observations

1. During the period 22-26 March 1990, CSM Luthy and I visited units deployed on Promote Liberty. The units in the field are doing well - the discipline is good, appearance overall is excellent, and the troops are highly motivated. They deserve to be complimented on their duty performance. The comments made below are to assist in improvement of operations.
2. The mission of the Special Forces has transitioned during the conduct of Just Cause and our forces have become more FID-oriented. My feeling is that with this gradual shift to FID, we need to do another mission analysis. MAJ Cleveland showed me some slides of the recent MSG mission analysis and their timeliness. With this analysis, now is an appropriate time for the battalion to do another look at requirements and then to have the ODB's and ODA's to do the same. The ODA requirements will vary greatly depending upon location (PZ HQs or outlying areas). This analysis will enable the ODA's to focus their efforts on priority requirements. This analysis should include, at the battalion level, a quantitative method of measuring how well we are doing our job.
3. After the analysis of the mission and tasks to accomplish this mission, ODA's need to plan to include team training in their activities.
4. There is a need to standardize visitor briefings at the ODA level. This was being done at one time but, with the shifting of teams and changing of leaders, this is not being done now.
5. There was a concern expressed in the field that MEDEVAC's for Panamanians were not available during hours of darkness (after 1800). This policy needs to be verified and sent to field.
6. ODB/A's stated that there was a shortage of .38 ammo for training purposes.
7. It seems that a police structure for each province has been determined to include numbers of radios and vehicles. As you know, the ODA's continue to provide the commo and transportation for the PNP in many areas due to shortages of these resources for the PNP. Weapons and uniforms are also in short supply.

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8. The teams were frustrated with the perceived lack of helicopter support and the long approval times for MICON's.

9. An issue that needs to be resolved in the provinces is what kind of rural police unit to conduct operations against criminal elements in the countryside will be developed. Until some capability is developed the police will remain reluctant to operate in rural areas.

10. The reserve police augmentation appeared to be doing well. They provide insight to penal code, justice system, and police operations not fully understood by soldiers. Your idea of getting some police academy training for some personnel in ODA's has merit and we can help coordinate this pending USSOUTHCOM approval.

11. There was concern that the weapons for cash program was to be terminated. The ODA's continue to receive weapons in return for cash. We need to get out of circulation all of the weapons and hand grenades possible. This program needs to continue.

12. During BG Baratto's visit, concern was expressed over PIR and what our collection requirements were. You had done some work in the area but it should be relooked when you relook your mission.

13. The ODB/A's are still involved in Civic Action and could use a CA person at each ODB. Even if the funding of CA projects becomes a USAID responsibility, there are sufficient other CA requirements to keep a CA advisor busy.

Hugh F. Scruggs
HUGH F. SCRUGGS
COL, SF
Commanding

CF:
CDR, SOCSOUTH