

(State Department response to Questions for the Record from legislative staff, acquired via WOLA communication with legislative staff, May 26, 2016)

Question:

Please provide a list of Guatemalan, Honduran, and Salvadoran military and police units receiving \$50,000 or more in assistance in FY 2016, or likely to receive that amount in FY 2017. This should include local police units in municipalities receiving community policing support. (Amounts for each unit not necessary).

Answer:

For El Salvador, the list of police units includes: Transnational Anti-gang Unit (TAG)

Grupo Especial Anti-Narcoticos (GEAN)

Grupo Conjunto Cuscatlan (GCC)

Transnational Criminal Investigative Unit (TCIU)

Anti-Narcotics Division (DAN)

GOPE (Police Special Operations Group)

Unit of Analysis and Processing of Information (UCATI)

Scientific and Technical Police Division (DPTC)

Central Division of Investigation (DIN)

Anti-Extortion Division (containing both anti-extortion task forces)

For Guatemala, the list of police units includes:

Dirección General de Inteligencia Civil (DIGICI)

Dirección de Información Policial (DIP)

División Métodos Especiales de Investigación (DIMEI)

División de Armas y Explosivos (DIDAE)

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Fuerzas Especiales Policiales (FEP)

Sub-Dirección General de Prevención del Delito

Fuerza Especial Naval (FEN)

División de Fuerza Especial (DIFEP)

Bike Patrol Unit

Crime Prevention Unit

Sensitive Investigations Unit (SIU)

Transnational Ant-gang Unit (TAG)

Transnational Criminal Investigation Unit (TCIU)

For Honduras, the list of police units includes:

Inter-Agency Special Security Response Unit (TIGRES)

Special Operations Tactical Group (GOET)

Violent Crimes Task Force (VCTF)

Criminal Structures Unit (formerly National Anti-Gang Unit-NAGU)

Sensitive Investigations Unit (SIU)

Transnational Anti-Gang Unit (TAG)

Transnational Criminal Investigations Unit (TCIU)

Government of Honduras directorates or equivalent (not a unit):

Investigations Directorate (DPI)

Police Education System (SEP)

Telecommunications Directorate

Question:

How much assistance in the FY 17 request for Mexico would support efforts, whether security, institution-building, or economic development, in Mexico's southern border zone near Guatemala and Belize?

Answer:

Under the Merida Initiative, the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement (INL) works with the Government of Mexico to create a 21st century border, one that facilitates legitimate commerce and movement of people while stemming the illicit flow of drugs, people, arms, and cash. INL programs aim to strengthen security at southern and northern border crossings, points of entry, and internal checkpoints throughout the country through the provision of training, equipment, and technical support.

The FY 2017 budget request includes \$18 million in International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (INCLE) funding to continue current border security programs, which includes strengthening Mexico's southern border. Funding will support Mexico's efforts to create an interagency biometrics system, technical assistance for the National Migration Institute (INM), and the creation of a multi-agency secure communications system for the southern border.

To date, in addition to the broad support INL has provided for ongoing programs that strengthen border crossings with the United States, other points of entry, and internal checkpoints, INL has delivered approximately \$20 million in training, equipment, and advisory support to strengthen Mexico's southern border with Guatemala and Belize. Of the \$20 million, approximately \$2 million has been provided to Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM) for training and equipment, \$3.5 million has been spent on mobile kiosks to collect biometric data, and another \$13.4 million has been used to purchase Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment (NIIE) for use throughout the southern border zone. Additional funding is being devoted to create canine teams in southern states bordering Guatemala and Belize.

Question: Foreign Military Financing for Colombia: The Foreign Military Financing request for Colombia increases from \$25 million in FY 2016 to \$38.525 million in FY 2017. What would these increased funds pay for?

Answer:

The additional Foreign Military Financing requested will be used to train, expand, and enhance the Colombian military's engineering capabilities so the Colombian government can project the state's presence into previously inaccessible areas, enabling it to deliver security, justice, and other critical public services to conflict-affected municipalities. Establishing a state presence in these areas will also facilitate Colombian demining efforts, a critical post-accord priority. In the post-accord period, the Government of Colombia will need to quickly fill the security vacuum created by the FARC's demobilization to prevent other illegal armed groups and narco-traffickers from expanding their influence; increased funding for counternarcotics battalions and aviation support increases the reach of the Colombian armed forces to address this issue. In these austere environments, Colombian military engineers will be needed to construct new

bases, police stations, and related infrastructure. The Colombian authorities will undertake these construction projects with Colombian funding, but U.S. assistance will catalyze Colombia's efforts by strengthening their military engineering capacity.

Question:

How much of the FY 17 INCLE request for Colombia would support manual coca eradication? Is there a target amount of hectares to be eradicated in FY 2016 and FY 2017?

Answer:

The FY 2017 INCLE request for the manual eradication program is \$16 million. The FY 2016 target is 16,000 hectares, an increase over the 10,600 hectare target for FY 2015. The FY 2017 target will be subject to a variety of factors, including progress toward the FY 2016 goal, the ongoing peace negotiations, and the resulting provisions of an anticipated peace accord relating to coca eradication. In light of the ongoing negotiations, INL has developed a flexible budget plan that will allow us to respond to unforeseen developments while still prioritizing programs that will continue independently of a peace agreement. The FY 2017 request level was determined by estimating the amount of U.S. assistance that would be appropriate if or when the Government of Colombia chooses to utilize manual eradication as a major element of its nationwide peace implementation plan, which includes a new counter narcotics strategy.

Question: Mexico and Guyana Remediation: DRL Assistant Secretary Malinowski said recently that military units in Mexico and Guyana, whose aid was frozen under the Leahy Law, were "remediated" last year, and are now receiving aid again, after it was determined that effective steps were taken to hold the abusers accountable. With the new Leahy remediation policy in place, does the Secretary expect many new remediations in the coming year in the Americas (or worldwide)?

Answer:

Thus far there have been five successful remediation cases: one in Mexico, one in Guyana, one in Georgia, and two in Afghanistan. We are in the process of remediating another case in Mexico, which will be notified to Congress in the near future. There are currently no other remediation cases under review, but we anticipate that others will arise on a periodic basis.

The ultimate purpose of both the State and DoD Leahy law is to promote accountability for human rights violations. To that end, both the DoD and State Leahy laws contain provisions that allow the resumption of U.S. assistance to ineligible units if their government is taking appropriate remediation measures. These may include impartial and thorough investigations; as appropriate, impartial and thorough prosecutions or administrative actions; and appropriate and proportional sentencing or comparable administrative actions.