The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately $1,640 for the 2015 Fiscal Year. This includes $0 in expenses and $1,640 in DoD labor.

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**Enclosure 2**

Counter-Drug Plan for El Salvador – Fiscal Year 2015

**Introduction**

This plan for the Department of Defense counter-drug support for the Government of El Salvador in the amount of $3.45M for fiscal year (FY) 2015 is submitted in accordance with paragraph (h) of Section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1998, as amended. This plan was developed by United States (U.S.) Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) in coordination with representatives of the Federal departments and agencies at U.S. Embassy San Salvador.

**(1) Security Assessment (§1033(h)(1))**

El Salvador is a major transit country for illegal drugs headed to the United States from source countries in South America. Salvadoran criminal networks provide protection for drug shipments, weapons, and human trafficking transiting the country. Traffickers in El Salvador use “go-fast” boats and commercial vessels to smuggle illegal drugs along the country’s coastline. The Pan-American Highway is the primary land route, with traffickers using buses and tractor-trailers to smuggle shipments. Drug trafficking organizations continue to use this key shipment corridor to facilitate movement of illicit drugs, arms, contraband, and people into the United States.

The Salvadoran police and justice system are notoriously undermanned, poorly trained, and ill- equipped to handle the current problems of crime and narcotics trafficking. Faced with insufficient numbers of effectively trained police and a lack of funds to augment the size, and quality of civilian police forces, former President Funes ordered the El Salvadoran Armed Forces to increase its participation in joint patrols with police units. These Salvadoran military units, however, often lack resources to effectively conduct operations to control the country's territory effectively. That shift also creates a significant realignment of military intelligence assets toward domestic security threats. Counter-drug operations in El Salvador are principally conducted by units of the Salvadoran National Civilian Police, supported by the Salvadoran Armed Forces. Department of Defense (DoD) support focuses on assisting the Government of El Salvador's ability to halt the flow of illegal drugs and drug money within and across its littorals and borders via support to these units.

**(2) Evaluation of Counter-Drug Operations (§1033(h)(2))**

Throughout 2013, Salvadoran authorities seized 664 kilograms of cocaine, approximately double what was seized over the same period in 2012. Additional seizures included two kilograms of heroin,, 908.4 kilograms of marijuana,, 23 vehicles, and, $2.7M in assets, and 88 suspected smugglers were arrested. In July 2013, 460 kilograms of cocaine were seized from a tractor-trailer that entered El Salvador from Costa Rica. Salvadoran authorities continued investigating the importation of precursor chemicals used to manufacture synthetic drugs. The efforts of the Attorney General’s office enabled the destruction or proper disposition of nearly 80 percent of a large stockpile of precursor chemicals seized in the port of Acajutla in 2011. The Attorney General’s office continues to seek solutions for proper destruction of remaining chemicals, which are toxic and potentially explosive.

**(3) Monitoring of Past and Current Assistance (§1033(h)(3))**

The Government of El Salvador has established adequate procedures to ensure all equipment provided under this section of law will be used for the purposes intended. The U.S. Government will have access to the equipment provided to ensure appropriate use of such assistance.

**(4) Centralized Management and Coordination (§1033(h)(4))**

The U.S. Ambassador to El Salvador is responsible for U.S. activities conducted within El Salvador, including the development and implementation of this plan and coordination among U.S. Government departments and agencies carrying out counter-drug cooperation with the Government of El Salvador. The Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Counternarcotics and Global Threats is responsible for providing oversight and guidance on policy, resource allocation, and coordination of all DoD counter-drug activities. DoD coordinates with the Department of State to carry out these responsibilities with respect to the government of El Salvador. DoD coordinates with U.S. law enforcement agencies that are responsible for counter-drug activities.

**(5) Roles, Missions, and Coordination (§1033(h)(5))**

The Ministry of Defense is the principal Government of El Salvador agency that will receive assistance under this program. The Ministry of Defense, in coordination with the Security Cooperation Office and the Department of State, developed a support plan for the military. Under the provisions of section 1033, the Ministry of Defense is the participating nation’s authority to certify the terms and condition of the bilateral understanding with the United States. In addition, the Ministry of Defense will report to the Security Cooperation Office the status of the use, storage, and conservation of the equipment. The Ministry of Defense is fully supportive of the plan and sees this support as an opportunity to integrate efforts and improve the quality and quantity of El Salvador's counter-drug activities.

**(6) Department of Defense and Department of State Resources (§1033(h)(6))**

DoD’s planned support for FY 2015 will focus on providing equipment, operational support, training, and infrastructure, intended to enhance the Salvadoran Armed Forces maritime interdiction, ground mobility, communication, and border security capabilities, primarily through assistance to the Navy and Joint Group Cuscatlan. This plan reflects a gradual application of DoD resources that prioritizes areas of greatest immediate need, as well as the ability of counter-drug forces to absorb, utilize, and sustain these additional resources. DoD’s support provided under section 1033 includes nonlethal protective and utility personnel equipment, patrol boat refurbishment, and navigation and secure communications equipment.

The Department of State’s assistance will continue to focus on supporting governmental efforts to strengthen the rule of law, lower homicide rates, and deny traffickers safe haven. Programs such as the Central American Regional Security Initiative are integrated with International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Funding, Foreign Military Financing, and International Military Educations and Training funds to improve those governmental efforts. The Department of State is expected to provide approximately $2.6M in 2015 and $2M in 2016 to El Salvador’s Foreign Military Financing and International Military Education and Training programs. The focus for Foreign Military Financing is to augment maintenance sustainment and provide critical military specific training for the end items.

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| **Major Categories of**  **FY 2015 section 1033 Support** | **Amount Planned**  **($K)** | **Supported Agency** |
| Non-lethal Protective and Utility Personnel Equipment | $80 | Interagency Task Force/Navy |
| Communications Equipment | $600 | Interagency Task Force/Navy |
| Non-lethal Components and Related Repair Equipment for Aircraft or Patrol Boats | $800 | Air Force/Navy |
| Patrol Boats, Vehicles, and Aircraft | $700 | Navy |
| Night Vision Systems and Repair Equipment | $70 | Navy |
| Detection, Interdiction, Monitoring and Test Equipment | $1,200 | Interagency Task Force |
| **TOTAL** | **$3,450** | |

Note: Proposed transfers of defense articles, under section 1033, that are also on the U.S. Munitions List, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, will also comply with export control laws and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations and will be carried out in compliance with the Act.

**(7) Establishing and Sustaining the Program (§1033(h)(7))**

USSOUTHCOM, in coordination with the Government of El Salvador’s counter-drug units and U.S. Embassy San Salvador, strives to design holistic programs that cross-cut authorities to build critical partner nation counter-drug capabilities. Beyond the provision of equipment under section 1033, complementary section 1004 support, such as infrastructure and training, ensures that partner nation counter-drug forces are able to address short-term equipment and infrastructure gaps, as well as maintain and sustain that equipment and infrastructure. The initial objectives of section 1033 support were to increase the Salvadoran Navy's high-speed maritime intercept capability; improve command, control, and communications; and assist the integration of Salvadoran Marines and Army operations. With the arrival of four 37-foot and four 32-foot maritime interceptors and training provided to the Salvadoran Navy and Marines via mobile training teams and exchanges, the Salvadoran military maritime operational capability has increased to the point that the Navy responds to 100 percent of cueing information it receives from the United States. Similar advances have been made by the Mountain Commandos, who trained extensively with U.S. military and law enforcement teams. Sustainment of support to these units will further increase operational effectiveness throughout the country.

**(8) Reporting Measures of Effectiveness (§1033(h)(8))**

USSOUTHCOM has established mechanisms through which each country's Security Cooperation Office reports relevant building partner nation program measures. In order to collect data for and verify accuracy of reported measures, the Security Cooperation Office will coordinate with partner nation counter-drug units responsible for conducting measured operations.

In addition to these building partner nation program measures, utilization of tools such as the Consolidated Counterdrug Database and inputs from similar detection and monitoring programs will strive to provide a holistic picture of the impact of both U.S. Government and partner nation contributions to counter-drug operations throughout the USSOUTHCOM area of responsibility.

**(9) Relationship to the U.S. National Drug Control Strategy (§1033(h)(9))**

This counter-drug plan supports the U.S. National Drug Control Strategy by:

* Reducing the level of illicit drug production and trafficking in key source and transit nations;
* Disrupting the activities of major drug trafficking organizations;
* Strengthening the democratic and law enforcement institutions of partner nations threatened by illegal drugs;
* Encouraging and promoting the counter-narcotics operations of other countries in the region; and
* Reducing the underlying financial and other support that drug trafficking provides to international terrorist organization.