The estimated cost of this report or study for the Department of Defense is approximately $2,740 in Fiscal Years 2015 - 2016. This includes $0 in expenses and $2,740 in DoD labor.

Generated on 2016Mar01 RefID: C-55E0FBA

**Enclosure 2**

Counter-Drug Plan for El Salvador – Fiscal Year 2016

**Introduction**

This plan for the Department of Defense counter-drug support for the Government of El Salvador in the amount of $2.59 million is submitted in accordance with paragraph (h) of section 1033 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 1998, as amended. This plan was developed by U.S. Southern Command in coordination with representatives of the Federal departments and agencies at the U.S. Embassy in San Salvador, El 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. The U.S. Government estimates that approximately 83 percent of the cocaine trafficked to the United States in the first half of 2014 came through Central America and Mexico. Salvadoran criminal networks provide protection for drugs and other contraband 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. El Salvador was identified as a major transit country for the fourth year in a row in the President’s 2014 report to Congress on Major Illicit Drug Producing and Drug Transit Countries.

The President of El Salvador, Sánchez Cerén, has continued to maintain El Salvador’s historic partnership with the United States on counternarcotics activities. The U.S.-El Salvador Partnership for Growth initiative and the Central America Regional Security Initiative include various programs to improve the security situation in El Salvador, such as enhancing law enforcement, promoting judicial reform, reducing prison overcrowding, cooperation on extradition, and discouraging at-risk youth from engaging in criminal activity. Despite this commitment to shared counternarcotics objectives, Salvadoran law enforcement agencies lack sufficient personnel, training, and equipment to manage the country’s borders effectively and interdict drug shipments. There continues to be a lack of accurate information on the severity of drug trafficking and use in El Salvador.

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

In 2014, Salvadoran authorities seized 1066 kilograms of cocaine; 13 kilograms of heroin; 1,271 kilograms of marijuana; and $617,197 in U.S. currency; and arrested 77 suspected traffickers. Authorities seized approximately $2.5 million in assets related to illicit activities, including drug trafficking.

**(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 Department of Defense counter-drug activities. The Department of Defense coordinates with the Department of State to carry out these responsibilities with respect to the Government of El Salvador. The Department of Defense 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 agency within the Government of El Salvador receiving 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 section 1033, the Ministry of Defense is the participating nation’s authority to certify the terms and conditions 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) Resources (§1033(h)(6))**

The Department of Defense support planned for FY 2016 will focus on providing equipment, operational support, training, and infrastructure to enhance Salvadoran Armed Forces maritime interdiction, ground mobility, communications, reaction speeds, and border security capabilities, primarily through assistance to the Navy and Joint Group Cuscatlán. This plan reflects a gradual application of Department of Defense resources prioritizing areas of greatest immediate need, as well as the ability of counter-drug forces to absorb, utilize, and sustain these additional resources. The Department of Defense support provided under section 1033 includes: nonlethal protective and utility personnel equipment, patrol boats, patrol boat refurbishment, navigation and secure communications equipment.

The Department of State assistance will continue to focus on support to 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 Education and Training funds to improve those governmental efforts. The Department of State is expected to grant approximately $1.9 million in 2016 to El Salvador’s Foreign Military Financing and International Military Education and Training programs. The focus of Foreign Military Financing is to augment maintenance sustainment and provide critical military-specific training on the end-items.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Major Categories of**  **FY 2016 Section 1033 Support** | **Amount Planned** | **Supported Agency** |
| Maintenance and Repair or Upgrade of Equipment | $95,000 | Army |
| Communications Equipment | $1,395,000 | Army, Navy |
| Non-lethal Components and Related Repair Equipment for Aircraft or Patrol Boats | $410,000 | Navy |
| Patrol Boats, Vehicles, and Aircraft | $691,000 | Navy |
| **TOTAL** | $2,591,000 | |

Note: Proposed transfers of defense articles, under section 1033, which 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))**

U.S. Southern Command, in coordination with the partner nation’s lead governmental counter-drug units and U.S. Security Cooperation Office, strives to design holistic programs that cross-cut both section 1004 of the National Defense Authorization Act of 1991, as amended, and section 1033 authorities to build critical partner nation counter-drug capabilities. Beyond provision of equipment under section 1033, complementary section 1004 support, such as infrastructure and training, ensure partner nation counter-drug forces are furnished not only with the means to address short-term materiel gaps, but also to maintain and sustain that materiel over the long-term. The initial objectives of 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 five 37-foot and four 32-foot maritime interceptors, as well as training provided to the Salvadoran Navy and Marines via mobile training teams and exchanges, the Salvadoran military now has the capability to respond to 100 percent of the cues from U.S. forces. 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))**

The 2011 *Department of Defense Counternarcotics & Global Threats Strategy* states that: "Geographic Combatant Commands, Military Departments, and Defense Agencies will design CN&GT program frameworks that convey the implicit cause and effect linkages between Central Transfer Account-funded activities, theater-level objectives, and CN&GT strategic goals." U.S. Southern Command has established mechanisms by 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 monthly with partner nation counter-drug units responsible for conducting measured operations. In addition to these building partner nation program measures, utilization tools such as the Consolidated Counterdrug Database and inputs from similar detection and monitoring programs help provide a holistic picture of the impact of both U.S. Government asset and partner nation contributions to counter-drug operations throughout the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility*.*

**(9) Relation 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 counternarcotics operations of other countries in the region; and
* Reducing the underlying financial and other support that drug trafficking provides to international terrorist organizations.