

In integral part of the duties of the USMILGP to Colombia's Army Section Advisors is that of making periodic visits to Colombian Army units throughout the country. These visits are made on the average on every two weeks, the other week being spent in Bogota on operational, administrative, and training duties as well as visiting Army units and schools within the city.

One such normal advisory visit was made recently to four posts by the USARSEC

ANDREW L

Mechanized Cavalry Advisor, LTC ~~and~~ J. Wetherington, and the Infantry Advisor, MAJ LTC Wetherington is also the OIC of Military Assistance Program Training.

Felix Vega. Along with his assistant, MAJ Vega, this job involves the annual sending of from 100 to 150 Colombian Army EM and Officer-students to the Canal Zone and the ~~United States~~ ^{US Army School of the Americas}

(Ref DCS 300-4/67, 1st shipment). The four-day tour took the two Advisors to the cities of Popayan, Cali, Pasto, and Ipiales. Travel utilizes ~~xxxx~~ ARSEC, AFSEC, and

Navy Section aircraft, as well as Colombian aircraft and Colombian commercial airlines. *military & civilian ~~set~~ land transportation.* *Arriving in Panama, the two Officers were received by the Commanding Officer of*

Arriving in Popayan, the two Officers were greeted by the Commanding Officer of
the Junin Battalion, LTC Florentino Diaz Villate, and the Bn S-1, Captain Guillermo
A. Quinones Delgado. 14

The purpose of these visits ~~exceeds~~ is to discuss with ~~battalion~~ commanders their operational and maintenance problems covering MAP-supplied equipment and

spare parts as well as Colombian equipment. ²⁸ The party went directly from the airport ^{3rd.}

to a briefing conducted by LTC Diaz and attended by ~~all~~ his company commanders *and staff.*
as stated the ^{Mr. Lewis} *Rebuplican* *is in control* *and* *no* *such* *MLA* *was* *in* *the* *adjutant* *officer* *in* *the* *army* *in* *the* *area*.

The Junin Battalion is infantry, and as such MAJ Vega is the advisor. The

battalion is part of the 3rd ~~Brigade~~ ^{Brigade}, headquartered in Cali. ~~It~~ consists of

two companies currently on an "Orden Publico" (Public Order, or counter-guerrilla

operation) some 25 kilometers south of Popayan, and two basic training companies

and an administrative company at the post. It is a MAD unit supported unit, as are

all the four posts visited on this trip. While there, the Advisors visited

the battalion motor pool. In their talks with unit commanders, they try to cover

areas where the ARSEC can be of help, such as in co-ordinating requisitions for material parts and training problems on MAP material, and supply procedures.

... was Balí headquarters, the 3rd Inf Bde and the Pichincha

Jeff Bn
Pechiney

Bn. Here, the two Officers made a ~~private~~ visit to the brigade Commander, COL

Bernardo Sanchez Salazar and his Executive Officer, COL Jaime Sarmiento Sarmiento.

Though the visit was ~~of a protocol nature~~, problems in general involving the ~~covered~~ ^{short} ~~infantry~~ ^{infantry and mechanized} ~~units~~ ^{units} ~~infantry~~ brigade were discussed. This discussion/such areas as the pending re-organization of the Grupo Cabal (Ipiales) to ~~make~~ better utilize forthcoming MAP equipment (certain equipment had been cancelled), as well as the Commanders hope of seeing the early arrival of support vehicles for the Group to make it more self-sustaining ~~while on~~ ^{during} field operations.

The ~~Calizkheadquarters~~ 3rd Inf Bde ~~has~~ is headquarters for three infantry battalions in Popayan, Pasto and Cali; one artillery bn in Buga; one cavalry group in Ipiales; and one engineer bn in Palmira. Geographically, it covers roughly from the 4 degree latitude north, 76 degree longitude west, to the Pacific coast. *DyB*

From Cali, the two Advisors ~~journed~~ flew to Pasto, home of the ~~Boyaca Battalion~~, where they met, ~~with~~ and toured the nearly empty post with Rear Company Commander, ^{the} Captain Ernesto Arteaga L. ~~Currently, the post is home to the battalion minus~~ ^{the} training and administrative detachment and a training company is on Orden Publico ~~with the 4th~~ ^{with the 5th} ~~brigade~~ assignment in southern Colombia. Here, the visitors watched some of the 126 new recruits in part of their training and they inspected the motor pool as part of their duty to check on MAP equipment maintenance.

From ~~Cali~~, ^{Pasto} A Colombian staff car took the Officers south to the 3rd Mechanized ^{one of the units} Cavalry Group in Ipiales/to which LTC Wetherington is advisor. ~~Advising~~ ^{Advising} ~~The~~ ^{The} ~~Group~~ ^{Group} Commanding Officer (LTC Hugo Alfonso Gamboa Ramirez) conducted a briefing for the visitors. Discussion here ranged over problems in operations, training, MAP

equipment maintenance as well as the current disposition of the unit and support problems, ^{and other needs.} ~~and other needs.~~ ^{subject:} The commanding Officer was told the USARSEC would give as much emphasis as possible to the earliest delivery of support vehicles. As MAP equipment ^{from} arrives in Colombia, ARSEC Chief and his advisors, in co-ordination with the Colombian ^{from} Army Commander and staff, make recommendations as to distribution of such materiel. ^{date} ^{to}

These ~~distri~~ recommendations are based on the Public Order situation in the country at the time.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

The briefing was also attended by USARSEC Ordnance Supply Advisor, SFC Fermin in

Apodaca who was in Ipiales ahead of the Officers to gather lists of needed MAP

supplies and parts. This is accomplished in meetings with motor sergeants and ~~also coordinates~~ ^{also coordinates} ~~actions~~ ^{actions} ordnance supply sergeants. SFC Apodaca ~~is also responsible~~ for signal supply when ~~Signal~~ the Advisor (OSS) ~~is not available~~ ^{is not on the trip} is not available.

Following the briefing, the three US Army advisors were invited to attend what is called a 'Carousel'. This is a sort of jeep rodeo and/or demonstration of driving skill. This was followed by a demonstration of field expedient ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ wheeled vehicle recovery.

From there, LTC Gamboa and LTC Wetherington went on to review and watch some other demonstrations. The first ~~one~~ was a ~~vehicle inspection~~, again part of the MAP equipment maintenance inspection.

As SFC Apodaca returned to the motor pool, the three officers reviewed a lineup of ~~combat-dressed~~ ^{of the group} troops and their vehicles set up on the battalion parade ground. This, again, was part of the inspection of MAP equipment maintenance.

Later that day, LTC Gamboa conducted an additional tour for LTC Wetherington. The two officers first visited a firing range on the post where they watched a demonstration of the unit's capability to apply rapid fire in case of ambushes or during route control patrols. The jeeps and machine guns are MAP supplied.

The next, and last stop of the four-day trip, and the Ipiales visit, was a drivers training class, including concurrent training ~~in basic jeep mechanics~~ ^{on the Carburetor}. This class was conducted by a civilian mechanic. One of the aims of USARSEC in Colombia is to eliminate the requirement for hired civilians through the use of MAP courses in the Canal Zone and the states and by advisor efforts to integrate such courses into the Colombian Army school system. This goal is ~~nearing~~ ^{on its way} completion.

When it becomes necessary for USMILGP, USARSEC Advisors to meet with commanders of Colombian Units in different locations throughout the country, the Army ~~x~~ sections airplane is put to good use because of its flexible schedule.

On April 12th, three USARSEC Officers made a one-day trip to hold the first of a series of meetings designed to initiate cross-training, with US Advisor involvement, between two Colombian Army schools. The Officers making the short trip were the US Army Section Chief, COL William H. Niland; USARSEC Airborne Infantry and Ranger Advisor, MAJ Frank T. Rievera; and USARSEC Personnel Advisor, CPT Charles H. Cagle.

USARSEC Aviator MAJ Anthony R. Miklinski first flew the group to the town of Melgar, some 50 miles south-west of Bogota where they picked up ~~Colombian~~ LTC Carlos E. Leano, Commander of the Colombian Army Ranger School which is located in the Tolemaida Military Post. From there, the party flew directly east to the small community of Apiay, in the Department of Meta. Apiay is about 50 miles south-east of Bogota and is the home base of the Colombian Airborne Battalion. The Airborne Bn. is adjacent to the Gomez Nino AFB.

In the ~~Battalion~~ headquarters building, the visiting party met with the Battalion Commander, LTC Gustavo Moura R. to discuss the purpose of the visit: that of getting the two Colombian Battalion commanders together to co-ordinate training and operations programs and to initiate cross-training between the two units. (The ABn Bn is in the Colombian Army 7th Brigade area, the Ranger School is in the 6th Brigade area.) The Airborne Battalion is ~~extremely~~ supported fully Military Assistance Program (MAP) supported while the Ranger school is supported (by MAP) only to the point of Advisor Assistance, Training Aids, and a few pieces of materiel.

O COL. McLanahan, William
Chief, USASCE
O COL. Mowre

LTC
Leano O

O Maj. Revera
Frank T.
Abn. Ranger Adv.
O Capt. Eagle
Charles H.
Personnel Adv.

Maj. Anthony L. Miklinski
Dir. Sec. ~~Dir. Sec.~~ Director
Aerials

N# 35

shots around post

36

same

N# 37

Aerials of post
last two times
centered on Bn. Barracks

"purpose - get col. Abn adv
Ranger / Abn com
to co-ord train &
operations etc programs

Melgar - Col Señor ^{Tolima} (Tolimaida)

~~Apicay~~ Apicay - Dept of
Meta

Zomey Rino - AFB met
by ~~at~~ Lt Col. & several
other officers

to initiate cross training
between the two.

Abn Abn
in 7th Bde Area
- Ranger sch in 6th Bde area

~~obn on~~
P&P - fully supported

Ranger - only for Adv
Ass't Tr. Aids, few
material

==

ALSEC plane to get meeting
together

==