

A regular advisory visit to a Colombian Army unit is sometimes combined with a special survey as was the case
USMILGP, USARSEC Advisors often combine regularly scheduled advisory visits to certain Colombian Army units with the conducting of a special survey requested by ~~the~~ USARSEC or the host country army

Special surveys are often conducted in conjunction with regularly scheduled ~~advisory~~ visits by members of USMILGP to Colombia, USARSEC Advisors ~~this~~ was the case when three ~~advisors~~ ^{advisors} paid a recent visit to northern, ~~near-coast~~ near-coast Army posts. The trip was made by a LTC Thomas J. Fox, Signal Advisor, LTC Andreul J. Wetherington, Armored Cavalry Advisor (and Assistant Operations and Training Officer), and SFC (E7) Maximiliano H. Gonzalez, Assistant (radio repair) Signal Advisor. They visited Barranquilla, home of the 2nd Brigade Headquarters, Santa Marta, headquarters of the Cordoba Inf Bn, and Grupo Rondon, an Armored Cavalry ^{regularly scheduled advisory} unit located near San Juan de Cesar (close by the Venezuelan border). The ~~visit~~ ^{visits} ~~was~~ was combined with a request from the Colombian Army Commander that they study existing means of communications and determine what additional Military Assistance Program (MAP) communications equipment ~~needed~~ ^{improve the} is needed to ^{implementation of} implement a detailed coastal surveillance plan in the 2nd Brigade area (which covers the ~~entire~~ Colombian Atlantic Ocean coast).

Following a conference with Brigade Commander, COL Jesus Valasquez and his staff in Barranquilla, the visitors flew to Santa Marta where they went to the Cordoba Bn and into immediate conference with its Commander, LTC Rafael Martinez D. The discussion, as part of the requested survey, concerned his responsibilities ^{coastal} and necessities in order to implement his portion of the overall ^{surveillance} plan.

The Commander and his visitors then reviewed the communications shop and a Contact Team shop van (from Bucaramanga, some 300 miles south of Santa Marta). The visitors discussed repair parts and materiel problems with the Bn communications sergeant and the Contact Team members. Later, they reviewed MAP vehicles on the post.

At Grupo Rondon, the team was met by the Commander, LTC Fabio Hugo P., who escorted them to a display of MAP vehicles which were lined up for a practice parade. The vehicles were those normally ~~assigned~~ ^{assigned} to the recon troop.

The team also visited the Supply Warehouse ~~which~~ which houses signal equipment and spare parts ~~for MAP vehicles and generators~~ for MAP vehicles and generators for field operations of the Groups maintenance operations. Again, the visitors met with communications and motor sergeants in a discussion of parts and maintenance problems. The next day, the team returned to Bogota to report its survey and 'regular visit' findings to ^{the} ~~the~~ USARSEC Chief, COL William H. Miland.

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