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Listing Of U.S. Military Maneuvers & Training Exercises In Honduras: October 1981-may 1987

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Since 1981, the United States has sponsored and financed almost continual military maneuvers and training in Honduras. The military buildup in that country, in terms of installations, equipment and personnel, has been quite "impressive," to say the least. At present, there are 10 airbases in Honduras, constructed largely or exclusively with US assistance. The airbases are located at Cucuyagua, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, Trujillo, Puerto Lempira, Mokoron, Aguacate, Danli, Palmerola, and San Lorenzo. The US maintains with personnel and funding a communications/air traffic control center at San Lorenzo, and four radar stations. The radar stations are located on the island of Ruatan, off the Honduran Caribbean coast; near Tegucigalpa; on Tiger Island, in the Gulf of Fonseca; and, in southwestern Honduras, in close proximity to the Nicaraguan border (Cerro Bonillas on the Nicaraguan side). Military maneuvers and training exercises in Honduras involving US troops since October 1981 are summarized below. The format is as follows: Date/s. Name and location of exercises. Activities realized during exercises. Nationality and number of troops participating, military hardware involved. October 6, 1981. Falcon's Eye, Puerto Cortes. Naval and land maneuvers. 130 US and 170 Honduran soldiers; unspecified number of jet planes. July 26-August 5, 1982. Combined deployment, Durzuna (Gracias a Dios department). Construction of Honduran airstrip, transport of 5th Honduran Infantry Battalion to new base. 1,500 Honduran soldiers; indeterminate number of US pilots based in Panama; two C-130 transport planes; UH-1H helicopters. August 1982. Civic Action, La Mosquitia. Civic action with local population. Indeterminate number of US troops. August 1982. Rescue maneuvers, San Pedro Sula. Security and rescue maneuvers. Indeterminate number of US pilots. February 2, 1983. Ahuas Tara I, La Mosquitia. Support unit on operations, improve Honduran defense capacity. 1,600 US infantry, naval and air force troops; 4,000 Honduran troops (Cost: \$5 million). August 1983-February 1984. Ahuas Tara II, La Mosquitia, Colon, Olancho, Gulf of Fonseca. Counterinsurgency techniques, amphibious maneuvers, airport construction (San Lorenzo) and El Aguacate military base. 6,000 US, and 4,000 Honduran troops; transport planes, helicopter battalion. March 19-29, 1984. Emergency Deployment Readiness, Palmerola. Rapid troop deployment. 40 US and 140 Honduran soldiers. May 24-26 1984. Kilo Punch and Lightning I, Palmerola and San Lorenzo. Combined air transport and assault exercise. 350 US soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division; 130 Honduran troops. April 1-June 30, 1984, Granadero I-II, Cucuyagua and Jamastran. Construction of two airports; helicopter attack operations; counterinsurgency operations on Salfvadoran border. 2,500 US troops from the 193 Infantry Brigade and 82nd Airborne Division; 1,200 Honduran and 1,300 Salvadoran soldiers. April 13, 1984. Lightning II, Aguacate (Olancho). Parachutist launch in ground-air attack; counterinsurgency operations. 120 US troops; 170 Honduran soldiers from 10th Infantry Battalion. April 26-May 7 1984. Kings Guard, Gulf of Fonseca (close to Nicaragua). Practice in boat detection and information transmission. Two US Navy destroyers, support ships; 500 US, 75 Honduran, and 100 Salvadoran troops. July 23-August 6, 1984. Operacion Lempira I, Marcala and Comayagua. Counterinsurgency exercises; parachutist launch; helicopter attacks. 200 Green Berets from Fort Bragg, NC; indeterminate number of Honduran troops from 10th Infantry Battalion. August 20-

September 31, 1984. Operacion Lempira II, close to Comayagua. Counterinsurgency exercises in mountainous areas, parachutist launching. 200 Green Berets from Fort Bragg; two Honduran battalions. September 28-31, 1984. Operacion Lempira III, La Paz and Comayagua. Nocturnal counterinsurgency operations. Indeterminate number of US Special Forces troops from Fort Gulick and Fort Bragg; 7th, 10th and 12th Honduran Battalions. September 22-27, 1984. Crown Dragonfly, San Pedro Sula and Palmerola. Bomb launching practice. Four US and eight Honduran planes; indeterminate number of US and Honduran troops. October 8, 1984. Emergency exercises, Copan, Santa Barbara and Valle. Activities unknown. Indeterminate number of US and Honduran troops, Salvadoran officers. October 17, 1984. Naval maneuvers, Puerto Lempira. Activities unknown. Indeterminate number of US Marines, headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia. October 19, 1984. Training exercises, Puerto Castilla (Colon). Air exercises. Indeterminate number of US troops from 75th Ranger Regiment and 75th Infantry Battalion. September-December 1984. Army preventative medicine exercises. Medical techniques, Palmerola. 24 US soldiers. October 29-November 17, 1984. Air force exercises, Palmerola, La Mesa, San Lorenzo. Air attack training. Indeterminate number of A-37 fighter aircraft from the Pennsylvania National Guard, and Panamanian observation planes; indeterminate number of troops involved. November 7-10, 1984. Medical exercises, Palmerola. Indeterminate number of US soldiers. November 8-26, 1984. Engineering exercises, Palmerola. Road and airstrip repair. 120 US Army engineers from Fort Bragg. November 7-20, 1984. Patrolling exercises, Palmerola. Indeterminate number of US infantry soldiers from Fort Hood, Texas. November 8-19, 1984. Kings Guard, Gulf of Fonseca. Naval interdiction techniques. One US Navy ship, several hundred soldiers from US, Honduras and El Salvador. December 3, 1984. Law Light Antitank, Choluteca. Anti-tank combat. Indeterminate number of US and Honduran soldiers involved. January 27-February 15, 1985. Lempira 85, indeterminate location. Counterinsurgency exercises. Indeterminate numbers of Green Berets from Fort Bragg, and Honduran soldiers from various battalions. February 11-April 21, 1985. Ahuas Tara III phase I, southern, central and western regions. Improve airstrips at Palmerola and Cucuyagua, establishing infrastructure for phase II. Indeterminate number of US and Honduran soldiers. April 8-13, 1985. Ahuas Tara III, phase II Scorpion, San Bernardo (Choluteca), 5 km. from Nicaragua. Anti-tank fighting. 2,500 US troops, 4,500 Honduran troops, 17 M-60 tanks. April 15-22, 1985. Ahuas Tara III, phase III Chicatio, Yoro department. Counterinsurgency against supposed guerrilla group. 3,000 US and 300 Honduran soldiers. April 12, 15, 1985. Universal Trek 1985, Puerto Castilla. Amphibious disembarkation similar to that realized in Grenada; Acclimation of US troops to Central America. 7,000 US and 300 Honduran troops. May 13-23, 1985. Tiro Grande (Big Shot), Zambrano valley (Francisco Morazan). Heavy artillery practice, acclimation of US troops. 110 US soldiers, Honduran soldiers from 2nd Battalion. June 7-September 11, 1985. Cabanas 85, 1st phase, Jocon (San Lorenzo, Yoro). Highway construction between Jocon and San Lorenzo. 900 US military engineers. August 26-31, 1985. Cabanas 85, 2nd phase, Alto Aguan (Yoro). Counterinsurgency practice. 2,500 Honduran soldiers from 2nd and 4th Infantry Battalions; support from Honduran Air Force, indeterminate number of US troops. January 2, 1986. Terencio Sierra 86, 1st phase, Yoro. Construction of 21 kilometers of highway. 200 Hondurans from 1st Engineering Battalion; 500 US National Guard from Missouri, Alabama, Illinois and Maryland. February 13-June 10, 1986. Terencio Sierra 86, 2nd phase, Yoro and Francisco Morazan. Continue highway construction and artillery practice. 4,000 US National Guard, and Honduran Engineering Battalion. (Approximate cost of two phases: \$12 million) February 25-March 21, 1986. Operacion Lempira, 1st phase, Atlantida. Counterinsurgency. Indeterminate number of Green Berets and Honduran battalions. March 11, 1986. Operacion Lempira, 2nd phase, El Paraiso, Cortes, La Paz, Comayagua. Counterinsurgency. Indeterminate number of Green

Berets and Honduran Battalions. March 3, 1986. Cabanas 86, 1st phase, Olancho and Gracias a Dios. Construction of airport at Durzuna. 500 troops from Honduran Engineering Battalion; indeterminate number of US troops. June 5-23, 1986. Cabanas 86, 2nd phase, Olancho and Gracias a Dios. Parachutist launching; troop and heavy equipment transport on Nicaraguan border. 1,480 US parachutists from 2nd Ranger Battalion of 75th Regiment, Fort Lewis; C-141 transport planes. March 31, 1986. Puesto de Mando, close to Nicaraguan border. Military procedures practice. Honduran soldiers of the 101st Brigade and 4th Battalion; indeterminate number of US soldiers. March 15-May 15, 1986. General Tosta, land and coastal border with Nicaragua. Practice of US response to Nicaraguan attack against Honduras. 2,000 US soldiers, indeterminate number of Honduran troops. May 20, 1986. Redeye, Comayagua Valley, Palmerola. Training of Honduran Air Force in managing anti-aircraft Redeye missiles. Indeterminate number of US soldiers from Fort Steward, California. July 16-29, 1986. Guardianes del Rey y del Caribe. Gulf of Fonseca, Ulua and Chamelecon Rivers. Internal patrol operations and coastal interdiction; training of Honduran navy. 100 members of US Navy, Honduran and Salvadoran naval personnel. July 14-September 17, 1986. Lempira 86, phases I and II, Tamara, La Venta, La Ceiba, Marcala Ojo de Agua. Counterinsurgency. 150 Green Berets, Fort Bragg. August 7-30, 1986. Medical practices. Palmerola. Medical training in rural areas. 30 National Guard from Iowa. October 20-November 7, 1986. Training exercises, Mocerón. Training in jungle warfare, reconnaissance, land and air navigation during daylight and night-time hours; practice with 105 mm. artillery. 500 Rangers from Hunter airbase. October 25-December 1986. Training exercises, Pinalejo and Tamara. 105 mm. artillery practice. 300 National Guard from Florida and Oklahoma. November 30-December 13, 1986. Bravo-Blazing Trails, Ojo de Agua. 105 mm. artillery practice. 100 National Guard from Florida; Honduran Battalion from Las Mesas. December 27, 1986-March 30, 1987. General Vicente Tosta or Ahuas Tara 87, 1st phase, Jamastran valley (El Paraiso) and San Lorenzo (Valle). Engineering training, infrastructure construction, highway and airport repair. 1,100 US soldiers from the 27th Engineering Battalion, Fort Bragg; four Honduran battalions. April 15-30, 1987. Second phase, Palmerola. Commando, control and communications exercises. 2,000 US soldiers. January 10-May 30, 1987. General Terencio Sierra 87, between Jocon and Puentecita (Yoro). Engineering exercise in opening up five km. roadway. 3,500 US reservists, and 1,000 National Guard from several states; 150 Honduran soldiers from the 1st Engineering Battalion. February 12-28, 1987. Assorted training exercises, Marcala, Cucuyagua, Zambrano and Tamara. Parachuting, target, mountain terrain and patrol training. 750 US soldiers from 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg; indeterminate number of Honduran soldiers from 2nd, 4th, 7th, and 1st artillery battalions. [Principal source: Summary compiled from US and foreign media reports, in "Honduras: 19a intervencion militar de Estados Unidos en Centroamerica," GRANMA, June 28, 1987.]

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