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Panama: Evacuations Of U.S. Employees &amp; Dependents

by Deborah Tyroler
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On the evening of May 16, 276 Defense Department employees and dependents were evacuated from Panama. Earlier in the day, the Defense Department offered immediate evacuation to any of the 14,000 military dependents in Panama. Evacuation of hundreds more was expected within the next few days. In the past week, US officials have said that offices of the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Customs Service and the Departments of Justice and Commerce in Panama were to be closed or all but eliminated. Officials told the New York Times that the staff of the US Embassy, which was reduced from 250 two years ago to about 100 at the beginning of April this year, will be cut to about 45 people by the end of May. (Basic data from AP, 05/17/89; New York Times, 05/20/89)

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