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## **Panama: Three U.S. Soldiers Detained For Using Foul Language**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Aug. 15, three US soldiers were arrested and held briefly by Panamanian Defense Forces troops in Colon for using foul language, according to a report appearing in the afternoon newspaper, La Republica. The newspaper said sergeants Ralph Kerley and Russell Lawaray and private David Farris were arrested while traveling in an army vehicle, and after they were stopped and interrogated by a PDF patrol. La Republica quoted PDF sources as saying the soldiers were disrespectful and insulting when questioned about their presence in the area. They were arrested, and released a few hours later. According to the AFP, the Southern Command headquarters in Panama City said it knew nothing of the incident. The Command staged another exercise called "Cold Duck" on Aug. 15, in which helicopter-deployed troops took up defensive positions inside the US embassy grounds and US Ambassador Arthur Davis' residence in Panama City. The PDF was notified of the maneuvers 30 minutes in advance. (Basic data from AFP, 08/15/89)

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