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On U.S. Military Personnel & Bases Abroad

by Deborah Tyroler

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According to a recent report by the Pentagon, the US maintains 500,000 soldiers and 450,000 civilians on 375 major bases and hundreds of small installations in 35 countries. Troops stationed permanently abroad during peace-time, plus personnel stationed in the US waiting to be sent into combat outside the country, account for 70% of US military outlays. Washington's military spending bill exceeds \$200 billion per year. A report distributed by the Center for Military Information said that in US military bases abroad, there are approximately 4,500 nuclear warheads. In West Germany, 249,441 persons are permanently stationed at 224 installations; in South Korea, 45,501 at 41 installations; Japan, 49,600 at 31 bases; and, Britain, 28,497 at 19 bases. The largest concentrations of US military personnel in Latin America are found in Panama and Honduras. Prior to the US invasion of Panama on Dec. 20, there were approximately 12,000 US soldiers stationed permanently at the Southern Command. The Command is in charge of coordinating all US military operations in Latin America, as well as US military aid programs to governments in the region. The US Army's training center for jungle operations and the inter-American air force academy are also located in Panama. These training institutions are not connected with defense of the Canal. The US military presence in Honduras began to escalate in 1983, when the two nations initiated a series of ongoing joint military maneuvers. Close to 7,000 US soldiers are permanently stationed in Honduras. (Basic data from Notimex, 01/15/90)

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