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U.S. Military Intervenes In Panama

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At about midnight local time on Dec. 20, US military forces supported by helicopters, fighter jets and tanks launched a simultaneous attack against the Panamanian Defense Forces (PDF) headquarters in Panama City and other military installations and targets throughout the country. In addition to the 12,000 US troops stationed in Panama, about 11,500 more were flown in from US bases to assist in the intervention. The Bush administration stated that the military operation was justified on the grounds of saving US citizens' lives, and protecting the Panama Canal. (See Central America Update, 12/20/89 for detailed developments. The 12/22/89 edition of the CAU will also feature summarized coverage on Panama.)

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