

8-24-1990

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Panamanian President Appoints Interim Chief Of National Police Force

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, August 24, 1990

During an Aug. 22 news conference, President Guillermo Endara announced that Lt.Col. Fernando Quezada has been appointed the interim chief of the National Police. The appointment of a military officer was made, he said, after four civilians turned down the job offer for "personal or professional reasons." Quezada will replace Col. Eduardo Herrera, who retired after holding the position since the national police force was created following the US invasion in December. The force replaced the Panamanian Defense Forces, previously responsible for military and police functions. Quezada was among a group of Defense Forces officers involved in the unsuccessful attempt to oust Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega in March 1988. He was imprisoned until the December invasion. (Basic data from AP, 08/22/90)

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