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Deborah Tyroler

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## **Honduran Business Group Recommends Dismantlement Of Several Army Battalions, Sale Of Fighter Planes**

*by Deborah Tyroler*

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On Sept. 20 in San Pedro Sula, members of the Commerce and Industries Chamber (CCIC) submitted several recommendations to the military high command on the reallocation of personnel and financial resources. According to the Chamber, police personnel shortages (Fuerza de Seguridad Publica-FUSEP) could be eliminated via dismantlement of several army battalions. The CCIC also suggested that funds generated through the sale of unnecessary military hardware, mainly fighter planes, could be used to finance specialized training for police, and auxiliary services, such as laboratory facilities. Honduran army troop strength comes to 27,000, including 6,500 FUSEP officers. The Chamber asserted that the police should be subordinate to the judiciary, and not the armed forces. The Honduran air force, which ranks as Central America's largest, is comprised of 12 US-made F5-E and F5-F and 10 French-made Supermystere fighter planes, several UH-1H and Bell helicopters, and four Hercules C-130 transport planes, among other aircraft. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 09/20/91)

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