1-17-1992

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U.S. Military Continues War Games In Honduras

by Deborah Tyroler

Category/Department: General

Published: Friday, January 17, 1992

According to a Jan. 8 press release by the Honduran army, US and Honduran troops had commenced "Ahuas Tara 92" joint military maneuvers in Valle department, southern Honduras. [The annual Ahuas Tara ("Big Pine") war games were initiated in the early 1980s.] Ahuas Tara 92 consists of five phases, scheduled to take place between Jan. 4 and April 15. Most Honduran participants, said the statement, are army engineers who will be "trained in use of heavy equipment." On Jan. 13, President Rafael Callejas told reporters that the US military base at Palmerola would be maintained in the foreseeable future. Next, Callejas said his government plans to develop new military aid programs in cooperation with the US government. About 1,200 US troops are currently stationed at the Palmerola base, established in 1982. Palmerola facilities include a fleet of helicopters, sophisticated radar, and a hospital, among other facilities. In a Jan. 14 communique, the Honduran air force reported that US and Honduran troops had commenced "Fuertes Caminos 92" joint military exercises in Yoro department, northern Honduras. The statement said 700 US troops will participate in the maneuvers, including active duty Air Force personnel, and members of the US National Guard and the Air National Guard. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 01/08/92, 01/13/92, 01/14/92)

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