Panama: Conflicting Reports On Detention Of U.S. Soldiers

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On Jan. 14, deputy National Police director Maj. Dario Arrue told reporters that two US soldiers who were driving a private sports car through Panama City ignored a police checkpoint, fired several shots, and then fled toward Howard Air Base where they were arrested by Panamanian and US security officers. The US Southern Command issued a communique reporting that US security agents arrested two US soldiers who were driving the wrong way down a one-way street in Panama City. The statement said the arrests occurred after the soldiers fled from a Panamanian police patrol and noted that the soldiers would be required to go before a Panamanian traffic court judge. The communique stated that the US soldiers were unarmed, and that the only shots fired originated from Panamanian police officers. (Basic data from Agence France-Presse, ACAN-EFE, 01/14/92)

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