SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE FOR WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE OF SECURITY COOPERATION

A. SECDEF MSG 171321Z JUL 00, SUBJECT: THE CLOSURE OF THE U. S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (USARSA) AND OPENING OF NEW DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) SPANISH LANGUAGE PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTE.

B. ARTICLE ON SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS IN MILITARY REVIEW, WRITTEN BY LOUIS CALDERA.

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E. SECDEF MSG 121529Z JAN 01 SUBJECT: PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE - ACTIVATION CEREMONY FOR THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION (WHISC).

F. WHINSEC STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN PLAN, DATED 7 APRIL 2002.

1. PURPOSE. TO PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE ONGOING WHINSEC PUBLIC AFFAIRS EFFORT.


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THINGS MOST CRITICIZED BY OPPONENTS, NAMELY MANDATING REQUIRED HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUCTION, ESTABLISHING A FORMAL BOARD OF VISITORS, MANDATING AN ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE INSTITUTE AND ITS CURRICULUM, ADJUSTMENTS TO CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT MECHANISMS FOR THE SCHOOL, AND RELATED REVISED LEGISLATION OF THE STATUTE AUTHORIZING THE SCHOOL.

THE SCHOOL OF AMERICAS WATCH (SOA WATCH), A PROTEST GROUP OF A FEW THOUSAND MEMBERS, SINCE THE EARLY 1990'S HAS OPPOSED USARSA ON THE GROUNDS THAT SOME PAST LATIN AMERICAN (LATAM) GRADUATES OF THE SCHOOL HAVE COMMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST CIVILIANS AND NON-COMBATANTS IN LATIN AMERICA. THE SOA WATCH CONTENTS THAT THE WHINSEC IS STILL THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS UNDER A DIFFERENT NAME AND REFUSES TO ACKNOWLEDGE ITS CHANGES. THEIR WELL-ORGANIZED OPPOSITION CONTINUES TO TARGET WHINSEC AS IT DID USARSA AS A VISIBLE SYMBOL OF WHAT THEY SEE AS A FLAWED U. S. POLICY IN LATAM, AND CALLS

ON SUPPORTERS TO LOBBY CONGRESS AND PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL PROTESTS TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL.

3. PUBLIC AFFAIRS IS ACTIVE.

4. THEMES:

FOR WHINSEC

THEME #1 - WHINSEC FOSTERS FRIENDSHIPS AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE

THEME #2 - WHINSEC SHOWCASES DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

THEME #3 - WHINSEC WAS ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS AND HAS LEGISLATIVE TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT

FOR USARSA:

THEME #1 - USARSA IS CLOSED. WHINSEC IS DIFFERENT THAN USARSA.

THEME #2 - USARSA SERVED ITS PURPOSE GIVEN THE NATIONAL SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND FOREIGN POLICY AT THE TIME. OPPONENTS' USE OF USARSA AS A SYMBOL TO CRITICIZE U. S. FOREIGN POLICY IS MISGUIDED.

5. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1. WHAT IS THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION?

A1. THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY COOPERATION IS A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTITUTE THAT INSTRUCTS CURRENT AND FUTURE

CIVILIAN, MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS FROM THROUGHOUT THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. WHINSEC WAS CREATED BY CONGRESS IN THE 2001 DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT, 10 USC, SEC 2166, AND OPENED ITS DOORS JAN. 17, 2001. ITS GOALS EXPLICITLY INCLUDE STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY, INSTILLING A RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND HONORING HUMAN RIGHTS. IT EDUCATES AN ARRAY OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN STUDENTS TO SOLVE REGIONAL PROBLEMS, INCLUDING PEACEFULLY RESOLVING BORDER CONFLICTS; FIGHTING TERRORISM, THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE AND ORGANIZED CRIME; RESPONDING TO NATURAL DISASTERS; AND SUPPORTING PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS.

Q2. THIS IS A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCHOOL RUN BY THE ARMY. ISN'T FOREIGN POLICY A STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUE?

Q3. DID WHINSEC REPLACE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS?
A3. YES AND NO. SINCE THE END OF THE COLD WAR, LATIN AMERICA HAS

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EVOLVED GREATLY WITH THE SPREAD OF DEMOCRACY AND THE EMERGENCE OF NEW
CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND STABILITY. THE U. S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE
AMERICAS (USARSA), ACTIVATED DURING JULY 1963, FULFILLED ITS COLD
WAR-ERA MISSION AND WAS CLOSED DURING 2000. CONGRESS RECOGNIZED THE
NEED FOR A DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE INSTITUTE THAT WOULD TEACH
DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES TO NATIONS THROUGHOUT THE HEMISPHERE. JUST AS
THE REGION HAS EVOLVED, OUR APPROACHES TO HELPING DEFENSE MINISTRIES
AND MILITARIES IN THE HEMISPHERE TO MEET NEW CHALLENGES HAS CHANGED
AS WELL. ONE SCHOOL CLOSED BECAUSE IT HAD FULFILLED ITS MISSION; A
NEW, BROADER INSTITUTE OPENED TO MEET NEW AND CHANGING NEEDS. SCHOOL
OF THE AMERICAS - OLD SCHOOL, COLD WAR FOCUS; WHINSEC, NEW, 21ST
CENTURY CHALLENGES.

Q4. WHAT WAS THE U. S. ARMY SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS?
A4. FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS, THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A TRADITION OF
COOPERATIVE TRAINING WITHIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THAT TRAINING
AND THE ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTES ALSO HAVE EVOLVED. THE
LATIN AMERICAN TRAINING CENTER - U.S. GROUND FORCES WAS FIRST
ESTABLISHED IN PANAMA DURING 1946. IN 1949 THE LATIN AMERICAN
TRAINING CENTER EXPANDED AND BECAME THE U. S. ARMY CARIBBEAN TRAINING
CENTER WITH THE ADDITIONAL MISSION TO HELP MODERNIZE LATIN AMERICAN

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AND CARIBBEAN MILITARIES. DURING 1963, UNDER PRESIDENT JOHN F.
KENNEDY'S ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS, THE TRAINING CENTER EXPANDED AGAIN
AND WAS RENAMED THE U. S. SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (USARSA). IN 1984,
THE SCHOOL MOVED TO FORT BENNING, NEAR COLUMBUS, GA., UNDER THE TERMS
OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES. MORE THAN 61,000 OFFICERS,
NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND SOLDIERS HAVE GRADUATED FROM OR
ATTENDED COURSES AT THESE NOW-CLOSED U. S. ARMY SCHOOLS.

Q5. HOW IS WHINSEC DIFFERENT FROM THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS?

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A5. WHINSEC IS DIFFERENT IN SEVERAL WAYS. FIRST, IT WAS ESTABLISHED
BY CONGRESS AS A DOD INSTITUTE; ITS SCOPE IS HEMISPHERE WIDE AND NO
LONGER JUST LATIN AMERICA; IT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A MINIMUM OF
EIGHT HOURS OF HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINING TO EACH STUDENT; AND CONGRESS
ESTABLISHED A BOARD OF VISITORS PROVIDING EXTERNAL AND INDEPENDENT
OVERSIGHT.

Q6. IS IT TRUE YOU TEACH COURSES IN TERRORISM?
A6. WE DO NOT TEACH TERRORISM. PROFESSIONAL MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS
IN OUR COUNTRY FIGHT TERRORISM. SINCE THE HORRINIOUS ATTACKS OF
SEPT. 11, 2001, TERRORISM SUDDENLY HAS BECOME A CONVENIENT "BUZZ
WORD" FOR THE INSTITUTE'S DETRACTORS.

Q7. WHAT KINDS OF COURSES DOES WHINSEC OFFER?
A7. WHINSEC'S CURRICULUM IS DIVERSE. SOME COURSES OFFERED INCLUDE:
DISASTER RELIEF, PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS, DEMOCRATIC SUSTAINMENT,
INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONAL LAW, INTELLIGENCE, OVERSIGHT OF THE
MILITARY, SUPPORT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CIVILIAN OPERATIONS,
INFORMATION OPERATIONS, AND ADVANCED COUNTERDRUG OPERATIONS. EVERY
COURSE AT WHINSEC INCLUDES A MINIMUM OF EIGHT HOURS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
TRAINING.

Q8. WHINSEC IS LOCATED IN THE EXACT SAME PLACE AS THE U. S. ARMY
School of the Americas was, using the exact same buildings, training
the same type of Latin American soldiers.

A8. If necessary, WHINSEC could perform its mission from another
location, but the fiscal and political realities of our Nation make
it ill-advised and unrealistic to establish WHINSEC anywhere else but
at Fort Benning, GA. One of the chief advantages of locating the
institute at Fort Benning, an open U.S. Army base, is the forum it
provides for multinational dialogue on professional subjects in an
environment of academic freedom. Fort Benning's training
infrastructure, crucial to a number of courses, is already in place.
Replicating such government facilities would be costly for the tax
payer. Also, Fort Benning has an outstanding relationship with the
neighboring cities of Columbus, GA., and Phenix City, Ala. That
relationship strongly reinforces the positive message of
civil-military relations the institute promotes. Foreign students and
faculty are warmly welcomed and blended into these communities in a
variety of ways including a community-student sponsorship program.

Q9. Who are the WHINSEC instructors?

A9. The WHINSEC faculty includes U.S. military and civilian members
- - sergeants through colonels and their civilian equivalents.

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Additionally, there are invited guest instructors from other U.S.
government agencies, non-governmental organizations and other nations
in the Western Hemisphere who are a part of the diverse faculty.

Q10. How does WHINSEC screen its students?

A10. WHINSEC itself doesn't screen the students, but there is a
thorough screening process in place. Before coming to WHINSEC each
student is "vetted" by his/her nation. This is the same process
followed at all U.S. government schools. Students are first
screened by their own government and then screened by the U.S.
embassy in that country. If there is any hint of wrong doing in the
student's past, the student is not permitted into the United States
to attend WHINSEC. This dual system of checks and balances helps
ensure the selection of only the best-qualified military and civilian
candidates. It is a complex but thorough process.

Q11. How do you keep tabs on former students to know they have not
committed any illegal acts after leaving the institute?

A11. By U.S. law, none of the 150 DoD schools teaching foreign
students may "track" students after they return home. When students
return to their own countries, the U.S. military groups there
maintain ties with them as part of the U.S. military-to-military
engagement plan. We are instituting a volunteer alumni program so
that former students can advise us and anyone else of their
activities and whereabouts.

Q12. What exactly is the Board of Visitors?

A12. WHINSEC's Board of Visitors (BOV), mandated by Congress, ensures
a strong linkage with U.S. foreign policy in the Hemisphere. It
provides external and independent oversight of the institute's
operations. The BOV includes members of the U.S. Congress,
academicians and representatives from the State Department,
Department of Defense, Religious and Human Rights Groups and
nongovernmental organizations. Collectively, they provide oversight
of the curriculum, instruction, physical equipment, fiscal affairs
AND ACADEMIC INSTRUCTION METHODS OF THE INSTITUTE TO ENSURE RELEVANCE
AND CONSISTENCY WITH U. S. LAWS, REGULATIONS, POLICIES, GOALS AND
DOCTRINE. FOLLOWING ITS ANNUAL MEETING, THE BOARD OF VISITORS IS
REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN REPORT TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ON
ITS ACTIVITIES, VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO THE
GOVERNANCE OF THE INSTITUTE.

Q13. WHAT IS WHINSEC’S ANNUAL BUDGET?
A13. ANALYSIS OF THE COSTS AND BENEFITS TO OPERATE WHINSEC FOR ONE

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YEAR SHOWS THAT THE INSTITUTE IS A FOREIGN POLICY BARGAIN FOR THE
UNITED STATES. TO OPERATE THIS COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM, THE INSTITUTE
WILL HAVE AN ESTIMATED OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET OF $3.9
MILLION, AUGMENTED BY APPROXIMATELY $1.2 MILLION IN U. S. STATE
DEPARTMENT SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDS TO FINANCE STUDENT
TUITION AND LIVING EXPENSES. IN COMPARISON, THE COST OF ONE NEW
UH-60 BLACKHAWK HELICOPTER IS ABOUT $6 MILLION.

Q14. IF ALL INSTRUCTION IS GIVEN IN SPANISH, ARE NON-Spanish-SPEAKING
CANADIANS, THOSE FROM THE CARIBBEAN OR AMERICANS PROHIBITED FROM
ATTENDING THE WHINSEC?
A14. NO. ALL NATIONS APPROVED BY THE U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT FOR
STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS MAY SEND STUDENTS. MANY NON-Spanish
SPEAKING NATIONS HAVE LINGUISTS AND POLITICO-MILITARY SPECIALISTS WHO
PARTicipate IN WHINSEC’S UNIQUE, MULTI-NATIONAL, MULTI-DISCIPLINE
ENVIRONMENT AND ITS COURSES. ALL CLASSES CURRENTLY ARE TAUGHT IN
SPANISH. STUDENTS DO NOT HAVE TO BE FLUENT, BUT MUST POSSESS A
MINIMUM PROFICIENCY AS DETERMINED BY THE DEFENSE LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
TEST. THIS IS THE EQUIVALENT OF A FEW YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL OR
COLLEGE SPANISH WITH SOME DEGREE OF ON-THE-STREET PRACTICE. WHINSEC
PLANS TO OFFER COURSES IN ENGLISH BEGINNING IN 2003 AND IN

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PORTUGUESE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

Q15. WHAT DOES WHINSEC DO TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS?
A15. EACH STUDENT RECEIVES AT LEAST EIGHT HOURS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
TRAINING. WHINSEC ALSO OFFERS A HUMAN RIGHTS TRAINER COURSE AND
HOSTS SYMPOSIA TO DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.
WHINSEC STARTED THE SIMON BOLIVAR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD
AND LECTURE SERIES. A SEMI-ANNUAL LECTURE GIVEN BY THE AWARD
RECIPIENT WHO IS RECOGNIZED BY WHINSEC FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN

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PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS, RULE OF LAW, HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION,
HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS, PEACE-KEEPING AND THE VIRTUES OF DEMOCRACY. THE
FIRST RECIPIENT, AWARDED DURING 2002, WAS PERUVIAN DR. JORGE
SANTISTEBA N DE NORIEGA DURING 2002, RECOGNIZING A LIFETIME DEVOTED TO
THE DEFENSE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES, SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC CAUSES AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN BOTH, PERU AND CENTRAL AMERICA. SANTISEVAN
WAS NOMINATED BY THE CARTER CENTER, ATLANTA.

Q16. IS THERE A WHINSEC WEB SITE?
A16. ADDITIONAL DETAILED INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON THE WHINSEC WEB
SITE: WWW.BENNING.MIL/WHINSEC.

6. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION (NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE)
6.A. MEDIA CENTER. A FULLTIME MEDIA CENTER IS NOT REQUIRED.
SPECIFIC PA PLANS MAY CALL FOR A TEMPORARY MEDIA CENTER OR
INFORMATION BUREAU TO BE MANNED AND ACTIVATED DURING THE ANNUAL SOA
PROTESTS AT FORT BENNING SCHEDULED EACH NOVEMBER.

DIRECTORATE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (DAMO-SSR).

6.C. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS: WHINSEC WILL COORDINATE MEDIA ACTIVITIES, SUPPORTED BY HQDA OCPA AS THE COVERAGE MOVES FROM REGIONAL TO NATIONAL. KEEP OASD(PA) INFORMED AS APPROPRIATE.

7. POINTS OF CONTACT:
7.A. OASD (PA): MAJ. RICCOH PLAYER, (703) 695-3895
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7.F. WHINSEC: LEE RIALS, (706) 545-1923

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