

No. 21095

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and  
PANAMA**

**Agreement on certain activities of the United States of  
America in the Republic of Panama (with attachment).  
Signed at Washington on 7 September 1977**

*Authentic texts: English and Spanish.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 22 June 1982.*

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**ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE  
et  
PANAMA**

**Accord relatif à certaines activités des États-Unis d'Amé-  
rique au Panama (avec annexe). Signé à Washington le  
7 septembre 1977**

*Textes authentiques : anglais et espagnol.*

*Enregistré par les États-Unis d'Amérique le 22 juin 1982.*

## AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup> ON CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

Taking account of the Panama Canal Treaty<sup>2</sup> and related agreements signed this date<sup>3</sup> by representatives of the United States of America and the Republic of Panama, the two Governments confirm their understanding that, in addition to the activities directly related to the specific purpose of the Panama Canal Treaty, the United States may conduct certain other activities in the Republic of Panama. Such other activities shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

1. The United States may conduct the following activities in the Republic of Panama:

- (a) Tropic testing;
- (b) Telecommunications, meteorological, navigational, and oceanographic activities;
- (c) Activities of the Inter-American Geodetic Survey;
- (d) Humanitarian relief operations, including search and rescue;
- (e) Schooling of Latin American military personnel.

2. In order to carry out these activities, the United States may use installations within defense sites and military areas of coordination, and in such other areas of the Republic of Panama as may be mutually agreed.

3. The Agreement in implementation of article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty<sup>4</sup> shall apply to the conduct of these activities in the Republic of Panama, except as otherwise provided by arrangements between the two Parties:

- (a) Active duty military personnel of the United States armed services assigned to these activities shall be considered to be "members of the Forces" within the meaning of the Agreement in implementation of article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty.
- (b) Employees of the United States assigned to these activities who are nationals of the United States to whom United States passports have been issued or who are nationals of third countries who are not habitual residents of the Republic of Panama shall be considered to be "members of the civilian component" within the meaning of the Agreement in implementation of article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty.
- (c) The spouse and children of persons referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b) above, and other relatives of such persons who depend on them for their subsistence and who habitually live with them under the same roof, shall be considered to be "dependents" within the meaning of the Agreement in implementation of article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 1 October 1979, simultaneously with the entry into force of the Panama Canal Treaty (see note 2 below), in accordance with paragraph 4.

<sup>2</sup> See p. 3 of this volume.

<sup>3</sup> See pp. 79, 201, 297, 305, 311, 319, 327 and 339 of this volume.

<sup>4</sup> See p. 201 of this volume.

(d) Military personnel of other Latin American countries assigned to school duty in the Republic of Panama pursuant to paragraph (1)(e) of this Agreement shall be entitled to the privileges authorized under articles XI and XVIII of the Agreement in implementation of article IV of the Panama Canal Treaty.

4. Changes in the activities listed above may be agreed upon by the two Parties through the Joint Committee created by article III of the Agreement in implementation of article IV.

This Agreement shall enter into force simultaneously with the entry into force of the Panama Canal Treaty, and expire when that Treaty expires; provided, however, that the authority of the United States to conduct schooling of Latin American military personnel in the United States Army School of the Americas shall expire five years after the entry into force of the Panama Canal Treaty unless the two Governments otherwise agree.

DONE at Washington, this 7th day of September, 1977, in duplicate, in the English and Spanish languages, both texts being equally authentic.

FIRMADO en Washington, a los 7 días de septiembre de 1977, en los idiomas inglés y español, siendo ambos textos igualmente auténticos.

For the United States of America:

Por los Estados Unidos de América:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>1</sup>

[Signed — Signé]<sup>2</sup>

For the Republic of Panama:

Por la República de Panamá:

[Signed — Signé]<sup>3</sup>

[Signed — Signé]<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Signed by Ellsworth Bunker — Signé par Ellsworth Bunker.

<sup>2</sup> Signed by Sol M. Linowitz — Signé par Sol M. Linowitz.

<sup>3</sup> Signed by Rómulo Escobar Bethancourt — Signé par Rómulo Escobar Bethancourt.

<sup>4</sup> Signed by Aristides Royo — Signé par Aristides Royo.

## ATTACHMENT

The following is an illustrative description of the manner in which the activities listed in paragraph 1 of the Agreement on certain activities of the United States in Panama are presently conducted:

A. *Tropic Testing*

1. The United States Army Tropic Test Center (USATTC) plans, conducts and reports on tropic environmental phases of development tests and provides advice and guidance on tropic test and evaluations matters to materiel developers, materiel producers, other services, and private industry.

2. Many of the marked climatic, seismic, and biological variations which exist in tropical areas of the world are represented in Panama, providing a singular geographic area in which military hardware can be subjected to tropic environmental extremes.

3. The Center occupies office, barracks, laboratory, maintenance and supply building space, and uses outlying test facilities consisting of 18,868 acres of real estate. These outlying test facilities are: Chiva Chiva test area; Battery McKenzie; Firing Point #6, Empire Range; and Gamboa test area. The latter area consists of approximately 7500 hectares of land located along both sides of the pipeline road from the town site of Gamboa to Gatun Lake, bounded approximately by map coordinates 410085, 355080, 282198, 310217, 375164, 410110. It has been used for developmental tests and for methodology studies which provide background for studying the effects of a tropic environment on men and materiel. Range areas of the 193d Infantry Brigade, Empire Range, Piñas Light Artillery Range and Piñas Beach are also used by USATTC.

B. *Telecommunications, Meteorological, Navigational, and Oceanographic Activities*

1. Military Affiliate Radio Station (MARS): serves as a backup communication capability for the military services. Provides morale, health, and welfare communication for military services. Has capability to link with MARS affiliates in the United States.

2. USSOUTHCOM Mission Radio Station: provides voice communications between USSOUTHCOM elements in Panama and United States Military Groups in Central and South America.

3. Inter-American Military Networks:

a. The Inter-American Military Network (RECIM) Station.

b. The Inter-American Telecommunications System for the Air Force (SITFA) Station.

c. The Inter-American Naval Telecommunications Network (IANTN).

These United States military stations in three international networks provide a rapid means of communications among the military services of Latin America on military matters. Most Latin American countries operate their own station in each of these networks.

4. United States Navy Timation Station: A Navy satellite tracking site sponsored by the Navy Research Laboratory (NRL). The tracking station is part of an overall Department of Defense program called the NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS). The GPS program is directed toward the development and ultimate establishment, by the 1980's, of a system of 24 navigational satellites.

5. United States Army Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory Team: provides meteorological data from Central and South America.

6. Harbor Survey Assistance Program (HARSAP): a United States Naval oceanographic program which assists Western-Hemisphere countries to develop a hydrographic capability by conducting hydrographic surveys of harbors and waters. Data from these surveys are used to produce charts required to support Department of Defense and United States Merchant Marine operations. Additionally, under HARSAP, a new automated hydrographic survey collection and processing system is used to supplement in-country

HARSAP survey efforts. This new system, the Hydrographic Survey and Charting System (HYSURCH), consists of a computer processing van, two boats, one officer, six enlisted personnel, six civilian engineers and technicians, and trainees from the host country.

7. *Foreign Broadcast Information Service: monitors and translates into English reports appearing in the foreign public media.*

C. *Inter-American Geodetic Survey (IAGS)*

IAGS is a regional activity, with headquarters for Latin American operations located in Panama. It is the nucleus for topographical activities conducted by the various Latin American nations. An IAGS cartography school is also conducted for Latin American students.

D. *Humanitarian Relief Operations, including Search and Rescue*

United States military forces in Panama provide humanitarian relief to other Latin American countries in the event of natural disasters and to conduct searches for missing vessels in the waters of various Latin American nations.

E. *Schooling for Latin American Military Personnel*

1. *Inter-American Naval Telecommunications Network Training Facility: conducts a formal course of instruction for operators and technicians of IANTN membership. This facility is supported by the IANTN communication assistance team, whose members are all bilingual.*

2. *The United States Army School of the Americas (USARSA): provides professional military training in Spanish for the armed forces of 17 Latin American states, accomplished through courses based on United States Army doctrine ranging from the Command and General Staff College Course, Advanced and Basic Officer Courses, and the Cadet Senior-year Course, to the Non-Commissioned Officer Leadership Course. In addition to this emphasis on professional training, the School of the Americas provides specialized training in resources management at the national level, small unit tactics, and technical skills. This latter type of skill training is responsive to particular needs of Latin American states.*

3. *Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA): provides professional education in Spanish for officers and technical training in aeronautical specialties for airmen of all the Latin American Republics.*

Technical training in Spanish is provided from the unskilled level through the full spectrum of proficiency to the supervisory level, including transition training in new weapons systems. Approximately five percent of the Academy's 100-member instructor corps is composed of guest instructors who assist United States Air Force officers and airmen in conducting the courses. Specialized transition training is offered in the A/T-37, C-130, and UH-1H.

4. *Small Craft Instruction and Technical Team (SCIATT): provides to the navies of Central America training in the operation and maintenance of small size boats.*