



Colombia Progress Info Sheet

Nov 2004 Update

UNCLASSIFIED

• An ELN fortress in El Tambo, Cauca containing camps, labs, and plants to make explosives and weapons was dismantled. The DAS and the Army detonated 85 explosive cylinders. The place was surrounded by air-raided bunker systems, trenches, training camps, and underground tunnels as much as 400 meters long. Other facilities included a factory used to make uniforms and a lab with the capacity to produce a ton of cocaine every month. According to the DAS, some 300 guerrillas were housed inside the fortress.¹



• An underground arsenal found by "Cordova" Battalion troops during operation "Emperador," after a clash with the FARC's 19th Front in Rios Piedras, Aracataca Municipality (Magdalena) included 54 rifles (Galil, AK-47, R-15 and Falil), 400 60-mm & 81-mm mortar grenades, 17 shotguns, 5 carbines, 9 short-range weapons, 4,500 rifle cartridges and materiel to manufacture landmines. The weapons had been greased to protect them from rust and had been covered with black plastic. General Mario Montoya noted that finding brand new rifles in the cache indicated the FARC were short on manpower.²

Source: ¹ Bogotá *Caracol Television*, 5 Oct 04; ² Barranquilla *El Heraldo*, 20 Oct 04.

Overall Crime Reduction Results

	Jan-Sep 03 ¹	Jan-Sep 04 ¹	% CHG
Homicides	17981	15608	-13%
Massacre Events	69	39	-44%
Massacre Victims	379	220	-42%
Kidnappings (Total)	1827	1052	-42%
Extortive Kidnappings	1217	535	-56%
Illegal Road Blocks	70	26	-63%
Road Block Kidnappings	279	75	-73%
Highway Robberies	1196	684	-43%
Bank Robberies	142	75	-47%
Residential Robberies	12472	11287	-10%
Commercial Robberies	9799	8783	-10%
Personal Theft	24578	21257	-14%
Motorcycle Thefts	8176	6724	-18%
Vehicle Thefts	10841	8177	-25%

Source: ¹ COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 8 Oct 2004, http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_septiembre_2004.pdf

Counter Narcotics Results

Seizures	Jan-Sep 03 ¹	Jan-Sep 04 ¹	% CHG
Cocaine (Kg)	78200	123000	+57%
Heroin (Kg)	343	602	+76%
Marijuana (Kg)	98203	124360	+27%
Traffickers	35541	50987	+44%
Drug Labs	992	1581	+59%
Weapons	270	936	+247%
Ammo (rnds)	4750	24233	+410%
Vehicles	483	952	+97%
Boats	133	226	+70%
Airplanes destroyed	4	16	+300%
Poppy Sprayed (ha)	2530	2774	+10%

• Govt of Colombia launched a new counternarcotics strategy where it will offer rewards for information that leads to the seizure of liquid and solid chemicals and narcotics. It will pay up to 400M pesos (US\$160K) for each metric ton (MT) of heroin that citizens help to seize. For each MT of cocaine that citizens help to seize by providing information, 100M pesos (US\$40K) will be paid out as a reward, and 50M pesos (US\$20K) per MT of coca base. The rewards will be prorated by kilo. There will also be rewards for each kilo or gallon of processing chemicals that citizens help confiscate.²

Source: ¹ COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 8 Oct 2004, http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_septiembre_2004.pdf; ² Cali *El Pais*, 18 Oct 04.

Counter Terrorism Results

Terrorists	Jan-Sep 03 ¹	Jan-Sep 04 ¹	% CHG
Captured	7683	8785	+14%
KIA	1674	1977	+18%
Demob/Deserters	1601	2124	+33%
Firearms Seized	4581	6428	+40%
Grenades Seized	5694	9222	+62%
Boats Seized	37	69	+86%
Terrorist Attacks on:			
Electric Pylons	266	111	-58%
Commo Towers	19	2	-90%
Towns	5	1	-80%
Bridges	28	6	-79%
All Terrorist Attacks	960	608	-37%

• 110 antipersonnel mine detectors were delivered 5 Oct to the Armed Forces, the Police, and the Administrative Department of Security, DAS. The donation came from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and was presented by Ambassador William Wood.²

• Since President Uribe took office (Aug 02), the AUC paramilitaries captured has increased by 280%. Between 2000-2002, a total of 1,864 paramilitaries were captured, whereas the numbers for Aug 2002-Aug 2004 show 7,078 captured. The number killed increased 210% over the same periods, per a defense ministry study.³

Source: ¹ COL Min Nat Def, "Public Forces Results-Violence, Criminality & Terrorism", 8 Oct 2004, http://alpha.mindefensa.gov.co/descargas/Resultados_Operacionales/resultados_septiembre_2004.pdf; ² Medellín *El Colombiano*, 6 Oct 04; ³ Bogotá *Caracol Colombia Radio*, 25 Sep 04.

Economic & Other Results [US\$1 ≈ 2500 COL pesos]



• A new mobile river base is a made-in-Colombia design similar to a large armor-plated houseboat (measuring 12 by 25 meters). Its mission will be to patrol the 286 km border with Venezuela. Able to withstand attack by artillery, it sleeps 60 sailors, has berths for 4 piranha launches, cooking facilities and state-of-the-art solid waste disposal aboard.¹



• Drug-sniffing dogs at El Dorado Airport in Bogotá discovered 2 kg of cocaine hidden inside 40 pairs of false teeth that were being shipped to Madrid Spain by a shipping service.²

• DIAN [National Customs and Tax Directorate] reported contraband seizures between January and September this year are 28.5% higher than the same period last year, going from 89B pesos (US\$35.6M) to 114.5B pesos (US\$45.8M). The contraband was primarily vehicles and cars parts, followed by textiles and garments, and electrical appliances. At the airports, DIAN has seized US\$6.98B and 1.8M Euros that were being illegally smuggled into the country. This is 140% more dollars than in 2003.³

• Govt of Colombia (GOC) collected 19.5T pesos (US\$7.8B) in taxes Jan-Jun 2004, 19% more than a year ago. On June 30, the deficit was 6.2T pesos (or 2.5% of GDP), 425B pesos (US\$170M) less than a year ago. GOC spending totaled 26.5T pesos (US\$10.6B), with 6.2T pesos corresponding to interest payments and 16T to operating expenses.⁴

• A Bogotá specialized court has ruled that 104 properties formerly belonging to drug trafficker Leonidas Vargas, alias 'El Viejo,' shall be turned over to the state. The properties are assessed as being worth over 60B pesos (US\$24M).⁵

• Colombia received US\$1.438B in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first half of 2004, \$607M more than a year ago. Most of the FDI went into mines and quarries (\$601M) and oil (\$502M). Colombian investment overseas, meanwhile, totaled \$47M. Colombia had a trade surplus of \$221M, \$94M more than a year ago.⁶

• 590 families signed contracts on 6 October to join the Forest Ranger Families program, bringing the number of program families to 1,500 in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region. The families are paid to keep their lands free of drug crops and to conserve the environment.⁷

• Israel will import Colombian beef in 2005 with an initial order of 400-500 tons worth US\$7.5M a month. Veterinary and religious officials from Israel will visit in the second half of November, particularly Cordoba, Sucre, and Magdalena.⁸

• Colombia exported 125.7 GWh (Giga-Watt-hours) of electricity to Ecuador in September for US\$12.8M. Colombia in turn imported 4.5 GWh from Ecuador for \$83,000.⁹

• National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE) reports industrial output, not including coffee, rose 8.87% in August, while sales went up 7.13% and jobs 0.87%. These figures are the highest since August 2000, and brings Jan-Aug growth to 5.34% in output and 4.28% in sales.¹⁰

Source: ¹ Bogotá *El Tiempo*, 4 Oct 04; ² Medellín *El Colombiano*, 28 Sep 04; ³ Medellín *El Colombiano*, 29 Sep 04; ⁴ Bogotá *Portafolio*, 29 Sep 04; ⁵ Bogotá *El Tiempo*, 29 Sep 04; ⁶ Bogotá *Portafolio*, 5 Oct 04; ⁷ GOC News SNE, 5 Oct 04; ^{8, 9, 10} Bogotá *La Republica*, 26 Oct 04.