

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 732

To close the United States Army School of the Americas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 1999

Mr. MOAKLEY (for himself, Mr. SCARBOROUGH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. VENTO, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. MORELLA, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GEJDENSON, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. SABO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. OLVER, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. FORBES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To close the United States Army School of the Americas.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) The United States Army operates a military
6 education and training facility known as the United
7 States Army School of the Americas, which is cur-
8 rently located at Fort Benning, Georgia, and is used

1 to train military personnel of Latin American armed
2 forces.

3 (2) The United States Army School of the
4 Americas has a history of abusive graduates, and the
5 continued operation of the school stands as a barrier
6 to United States efforts to establish a new and con-
7 structive relationship with Latin American armed
8 forces after the Cold War.

9 (3) Closing the United States Army School of
10 the Americas would not prevent the United States
11 from providing appropriate training for military per-
12 sonnel of Latin American armed forces.

13 (4) The United States Army School of the
14 Americas is only part of the United States' extensive
15 training relationship with Latin American armed
16 forces, which includes—

17 (A) the Center for Hemispheric Defense
18 Studies, the United States Air Forces' Inter-
19 American Air Forces Academy, and the United
20 States Navy's Small Craft Instruction and
21 Technical Training School;

22 (B) courses taken by Latin American mili-
23 tary personnel with members of the United
24 States Armed Forces at numerous institutions
25 in the United States; and

1 (C) training with some of the more than
2 50,000 members of the United States Armed
3 Forces who serve on active duty in Latin Amer-
4 ica each year.

5 (5) Graduates of the United States Army
6 School of the Americas include some of the worst
7 human rights abusers in the western hemisphere,
8 including—

9 (A) 19 Salvadoran soldiers linked to the
10 1989 murder of six Jesuit priests and their
11 housekeeper and her daughter;

12 (B) two of the three officers cited by the
13 Guatemalan archbishop's office as suspected in-
14 tellectual authors of the killing of anthropolo-
15 gist Myrna Mack in 1992, as well as three top
16 leaders of the notorious Guatemalan military
17 intelligence unit D-2;

18 (C) one-half of the 247 Colombian army
19 officers cited in the definitive work on Colom-
20 bian human rights abuses, *El Terrorismo de*
21 *Estado en Colombia*, 1992;

22 (D) 10 of the 30 Chilean officers against
23 whom a Spanish judge in 1998 requested in-
24 dictments for crimes of terrorism, torture and
25 disappearance;

1 (E) El Salvador death squad leader Ro-
2 berto D'Aubuisson;

3 (F) Panamanian dictator and drug dealer
4 Manuel Noriega;

5 (G) Argentinian dictator Leopoldo Galtieri,
6 a leader of the so-called "dirty war", during
7 which some 30,000 civilians were killed or dis-
8 appeared;

9 (H) Haitian Colonel Gabetta Hyppolite,
10 who ordered his soldiers to fire on a provincial
11 electoral bureau in 1987;

12 (I) two of the three killers of Archbishop
13 Oscar Romero of El Salvador;

14 (J) 10 of the 12 officers responsible for
15 the murder of 900 civilians in the El Salva-
16 doran village El Mozote; and

17 (K) three of the five officers involved in
18 the 1980 rape and murder of four United
19 States churchwomen in El Salvador.

20 (6) Despite sustained congressional and public
21 pressure, the United States Army School of the
22 Americas has implemented only limited reforms of
23 its curriculum.

24 (7) The continued operation of the United
25 States Army School of the Americas continues to as-

1 sociate the United States with the abuses of its
2 graduates.

3 **SEC. 2. CLOSURE OF UNITED STATES ARMY SCHOOL OF**
4 **THE AMERICAS.**

5 (a) CLOSURE REQUIRED.—Not later than 30 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of the Army shall close the military education and training
8 facility known as the United States Army School of the
9 Americas located at Fort Benning, Georgia.

10 (b) REPEAL OF STATUTORY AUTHORITY.—(1) Sec-
11 tion 4415 of title 10, United States Code, is repealed.

12 (2) The table of sections at the beginning of chapter
13 407 of such title is amended by striking out the item relat-
14 ing to such section.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING ALL OTHER**
16 **TRAINING OF FOREIGN MILITARY PERSON-**
17 **NEL BY THE UNITED STATES.**

18 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
19 gress that, in each training activity undertaken by the
20 United States with foreign security forces, the Secretary
21 of Defense (or any other executive branch official who may
22 be overseeing the training activity) should—

23 (1) substantially increase emphasis upon re-
24 spect for human rights, the proper role of a military
25 within a democratic society, and accountable and

1 transparent management of defense and security
2 policy; and

3 (2) vigorously implement Department of De-
4 fense regulations regarding the screening of foreign
5 candidates for inclusion in the training activity to
6 ensure that the United States does not train individ-
7 uals implicated in human rights abuses, illegal drug
8 trafficking, or corruption.

9 (b) TRAINING ACTIVITY DEFINED.—In subsection
10 (a), the term “training activity” means any activity in
11 which the United States provides military education and
12 training for foreign security forces, whether conducted in
13 the United States or abroad, including international mili-
14 tary education and training under chapter 5 of part II
15 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347
16 et seq.), international narcotics control under chapter 8
17 of part I of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2291 et seq.), activities
18 under section 1004 of the National Defense Authorization
19 Act for Fiscal Year 1991 (10 U.S.C. 374 note), and activi-
20 ties under the major force program for special operations
21 forces of the United States.

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