

The National Security Archive

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TO: Friends of the Archive

FR: Thomas S. Blanton, Executive Director

RE: **Document of the Month** -- The rock'n'roll assault on Noriega. *US SOUTHCOM Public Affairs After Action Report Supplement, "Operation Just Cause" Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990.*

You may have noticed a hiatus of sorts in the Document of the Month Club, and for an explanation, I will point you to the new address at the top of this memo. In January, after two years of negotiation and months of preparation, the intrepid Archive staff moved nearly ten years of accumulated documents and detritus from our quarters at the Brookings Institution annex to new space on the top floor of the Gelman Library at the George Washington University. The Archive is maintaining its fiscal and legal independence from GWU, but both we and GWU are excited about the synergies from this new relationship, for research, education and electronic dissemination of the Archive's extraordinary collections.

As the move was about to commence, the enclosed document arrived, as the result of a Freedom of Information Act request by Research Assistant Ian Stevenson and former Intern Jon Bildner, continuing the Archive's Panama documentation work started by former Visiting Fellow John Dinges for his book on Noriega. This particular item ran to more than 220 pages, of which Ian pulled three pages -- the very first document to grace the walls of our new space, and now the first Document of the Month for the new year.

As a type, after action reports tend to be among the most valuable historical documents produced by the military, since they often pull together the most complete set of contemporaneous materials available, in addition to providing extensive summaries of what officially happened. Since two key public relations aspects of the December 1989 invasion of Panama -- the handling of the media and the reports of civilian casualties -- became the most controversial aspects of that action, the public affairs staff of the U.S. Southern Command wound up producing both an after action report and a supplement which covered the on-going uproar. We have included here the table of contents for the supplement in order to give a sense of the very serious issues involved.

But looking at pages 209-211, we laughed out loud. You probably also remember that after General Noriega took refuge in the Papal Nuncio's residence in Panama City, American troops directed loudspeakers his way in an attempt to blast him out. Here, SouthCom Network (SCN) radio actually included the playlist of the rock'n'roll anthems requested by the troops for this purpose.

There are a few mistakes in the list, apparently. I'm told by our resident rock critic (and Senior Librarian) Pamela Morgan that, for example, the "Flesh and Fantasy" recording referred to is by Billy Idol (not David Bowie), and "If I Had A Rocket Launcher" is a Bruce Cockburn (not Cochran) song. I think you'll agree with the Archive staff that humor is not only useful for survival in wartime, but also to survive the usually grim regime of national security studies. SouthCom has not yet produced a Noriega Compact Disc of these songs, so you'll have to dig them out of your personal music library, if you can. Enjoy your reading.



US SOUTHCOM

United States Southern Command

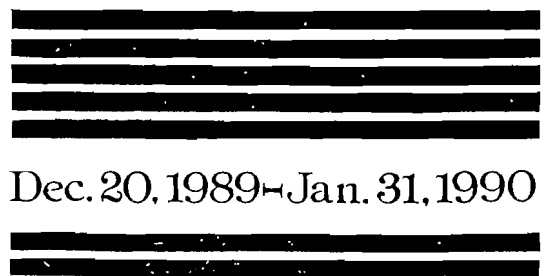
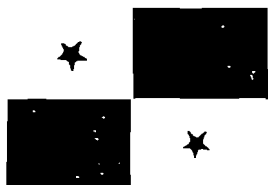
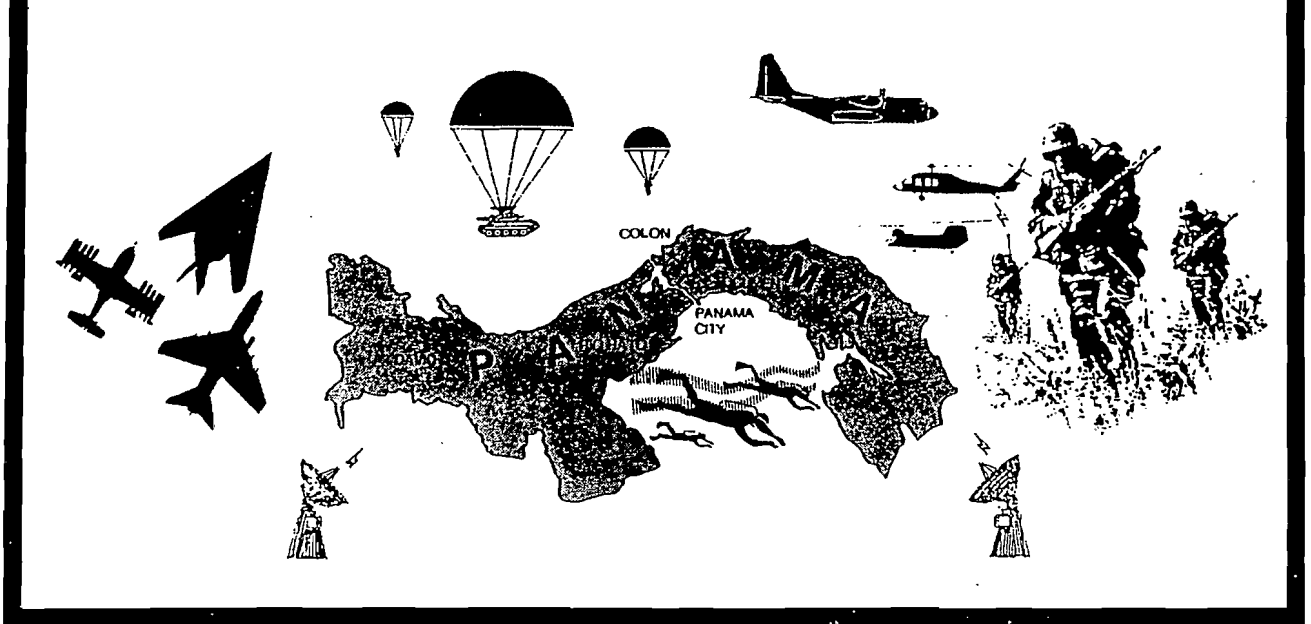
Public Affairs

AFTER ACTION

Report

Supplement

"OPERATION JUST CAUSE"



Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990

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MUSIC REQUESTS DURING THE PANAMA INVASION

It is not uncommon for SCN radio to play requests on our live programs. We went live at approximately 0430 20 December 1989. At 0620 we joined an ABC news report in progress, followed by SCN TV audio at 0710--which was airing on CNN. At approximately 1500 we began airing all the 5 minute newscasts sent by AFRTS-BC and filled with music and information. We did not take any requests 20 December so we would not tie up phone lines. We told the audience not to use the phone unless it was an emergency or official business.

We opened the request line 21 December. Requests were light until late in the day and Friday when they started picking up. At first we received requests from kids stuck at home and a few military units. When the troops started coming in from the field, the requests became quite imaginative. Canine handlers called asking for David Bowie, "Flesh for Fantasy", the Marine Corps Combat Security Company called saying they were going on a mission and needed a song to pump them up. The song was "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns and Roses, a song which had been requested many times already. The Special Forces Combat Divers Team asked for several songs by the Doors, "Strange Days", "People Are Strange", "The End". The 82nd called from the Marriott Hotel, but not for a song. They did not have a phone book and needed a number on Albrook. We played a lot of songs with the word "jungle" in it as well as such songs as "God Bless the U.S.A." by Lee Greenwood, and "We're Not Gonna Take It" by Twisted Sister.

On 25 December we played Christmas music. The only requests we took were for Christmas music.

On 26 December the requests remained much the same as before the 25th. On 27 December someone who identified himself as a member of the PSYOPS team from Fort Bragg called to tell us what they were doing with their loud speakers. We already had reports on radio news as to what was happening. We had been receiving requests with a "musical message" for Noriega either by the words or the song title, but as soon as the media picked up on the story, those types of requests increased dramatically.

Here is a list of some of the songs requested:

(You've Got) Another Thing Coming, Judas Priest
50 Ways to Leave Your Lover, Paul Simon
All Over But the Crying, Georgia Satellites
All I Want is You, U2

Big Shot, Billy Joel
Blue Collar Man, Styx
Born to Run, Springsteen
Bring Down the Hammer
Change, Tears for Fears
Cleaning Up the Town, The Bus Boys
Crying in the Chapel, Brenda Lee
Dancing in the Streets, David Bowie
Danger Zone, Kenny Loggins
Dead Man's Party, Oingo Boingo
Don't Look Back, Boston
Don't Fear the Reaper, Blue Oyster Cult
Don't Close Your Eyes, Kix
Eat My Shorts, Rick Dees
Electric Spanking of War Babies, Funkadelics
Feel a Whole Lot Better (When You're Gone), Tom Petty
Freedom Fighter, White Lion
Freedom, No Compromise, Little Steven
Ghost Rider, The Outlaws
Give It Up, K.C. and the Sunshine Band
Gonna Tear Your Playhouse Down, Paul Young
Guilty, Bonham
Hang 'Em High, Van Halen
Hanging Tough, New Kids on the Block
Heavens on Fire, Kiss
Hello It's Me, Todd Rundgren
Hello, We're Here, Tom T. Hall
Helter Skelter, Beatles
I Fought the Law and the Law Won, Bobby Fuller
If I Had A Rocket Launcher, Bruce Cochran
In My Time of Dying, Led Zeppelin
Ironman, Black Sabbath
It Keeps You Running, Doobie Brothers
Judgement Day, Whitesnake
Jungle Love, Steve Miller
Just Like Jesse James, Cher
Mayor of Simpleton, XTC
Midnight Rider, Allman Brothers Band
Mr. Blue, The Fleetwoods
Naughty Naughty, Danger Danger
Never Gonna Give You Up, Rick Astley
Never Tear Us Apart, INXS
No Particular Place To Go, Chuck Berry
No More Mister Nice Guy, Alice Cooper
No Alibis, Eric Clapton
Now You're Messin' With a S.O.B., Nazareth
Nowhere Man, Beatles
Nowhere to Run, Martha and the Vandelas
One Way Ticket, George Thorogood and the Destroyers Panama,
Van Halen
Paradise City, Guns and Roses

Paranoid, Black Sabbath
 Patience, Guns and Roses
 Poor Little Fool, Ricky Nelson
 Prisoner of the Highway, Ronnie Milsap
 Prisoner of Rock and Roll, Neil Young
 Refugee, Tom Petty
 Renegade, Styx
 Rock and a Hard Place, Rolling Stones
 Run To The Hills, Iron Maiden
 Run Like Hell, Pink Floyd
 Screaming for Vengeance, Judas Priest
 She's Got a Big Posse, Arabian Prince
 Shot in the Dark, Ozzy Osborne
 Stay Hungry, Twisted Sister
 Taking It to the Streets, Doobie Brothers
 The Party's Over, Journey
 The Race is On, Sawyer Brown
 The Pusher, Steppenwolf
 The Long Arm of the Law, Warren Zevon
 The Star Spangled Banner, Jimi Hendrix
 The Secret of My Success, Night Ranger
 They're Coming to Take Me Away, Henry VIII
 This Means War, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts
 Time is on My Side, Rolling Stones
 Too Old to Rock and Roll, Too Young to Die, Jethro
 Tull
 Voodoo Child, Jimi Hendrix
 Wait For You, Bonham
 Waiting for a Friend, Rolling Stones
 Wanted Dead or Alive, Bon Jovi
 Wanted Man, Molly Hatchet
 War Pigs, Black Sabbath
 We Didn't Start the Fire, Billy Joel
 We Gotta Get Outta This Place, The Animals
 Who Will You Run To?, Heart
 You Send Me, Sam Cooke
 You Shook Me All Night Long, AC/DC
 You Hurt Me (and I Hate You), Eurythmics
 You Got Lucky, Tom Petty
 Your Time is Gonna Come, Led Zeppelin
 Youth Gone Wild, Skid Row

We continue to get and play requests for regular "pop", "soul" and "country" music.

At 0705, 29 December we stopped playing requests and started counting down the top 40 songs from Billboard's Top 100, Black 100 and Country 100 Charts. This was done to get a better mix of music for our listeners. We continue to receive phone calls for requests to play for Noriega, but we explain to each caller that we are no longer taking requests and thank them for calling.