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U.S. ARMY TRAINED 170 LATIN CHIEFS

School in the Canal Zone Seeks Good Relations

By DREW MIDDLETON
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PANAMA CITY — Scattered across South America and the Caribbean are more than 170 graduates of the United States Army School of the Americas who are heads of governments, cabinet ministers, commanding generals, chiefs of staff and directors of intelligence.

The school has graduated 29,000 officers and enlisted men since its establishment here in 1949. The Inter-American Air Forces Academy, the Navy's Small Craft Instruction and Technical Team, the Army school and Army and Air Force programs for nation building, relief and welfare are key elements in the United States Army Southern Command's program to maintain good relations and influence in Latin America.

The Chilean military, which took over control of that country last month, had six graduates of the Army School of the Americas in higher ranks.

They were the director of intelligence and the commanding officers of the Second Infantry Division and the Support Division at Santiago, the Third Infantry Division on Concepcion, the Engineer School at Tejas Verdes and the Paratroop and Special Forces School near Santiago.

Panama's Chief a Graduate

Gen. Omar Torrijos Herrera, the chief of Panama's Government, the deputy commander of the National Guard, the chief of staff and four deputy chiefs of staff are all graduates.

Four members of Argentina's command were graduated from the Canal Zone school, and 19 other senior officers have attended military schools in the United States.

"We keep in touch with our graduates and they keep in touch with us," said Col. William W. Nairn, the commandant.

The school offers 38 sep-

arate courses, all of them conducted in Spanish. Last year about 1,750 officers, cadets and enlisted men from 17 countries attended courses.

Latins on Faculty

The staff and faculty consist of Army officers and enlisted men, at present, 23 officers and 15 non-commissioned officers from Latin America.

The school's four instructional departments deal with command, combat operations, technical operations and support operations.

This year the school is offering new courses in urban counterinsurgency and counterinsurgency tactics. But there is a wide variety of other courses ranging from industrial management to brake

reining.

The school is located at Fort Gulick on the Atlantic side of the Canal Zone.

Selecting an Informer

In one classroom 12 students dealt with an intelligence problem: the selection of an industrial informer. In another class a United States sergeant was briskly instructing students in the methods of protecting leaders from assassination in a crowd.

Graduates of the Inter-American Air Forces Academy total 11,577 in ten years. Col. Joseph Villa, the commandant, said that because many of its graduates enter civil aviation after completing their military service, they play an important role in improving aircraft maintenance and airline management in Latin America.

The academy's mission is to provide professional advancement courses and technical training to students who return to their air forces to become top rank technicians and instructors.

One of the problems is that Latin American air forces fly 110 different types of aircraft, 40 of them of European manufacture. Few of the United States types are still in service with the United States Air Force.

Mostly Enlisted Graduates

The majority of the graduates are enlisted men and non-commissioned officers. There are 53 Chileans in the present class of 201.

The United States Navy's role in Southern Command is the smallest of the services, but its Small Craft Instruction and Technical Team, located on the Pacific side of the isthmus, trains officers and men in engine maintenance, electricity, damage control, basic seamanship, voice communications procedures, operations and navigation.

The Jungle Operations Training Center at Fort Sherman schools Army personnel in the elements of jungle warfare emphasizing survival. Approximately 10,700 men will attend the school in fiscal 1973.

Drink Chicken Blood

The instruction is hot for the squeamish. A company from the 82d Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, S. C., one recent morning watched a captain demonstrate how to catch, kill, dress and cook a boa constrictor.

The captain also demonstrated how to kill a chicken silently, stretching and biting through its neck. A volunteer from the 82d drank the chicken's blood, which "has lots of vitamins," the captain said.