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Report to Congress

**Interagency Interdiction Efforts Involving the use of Aerial Assets by the Drug  
Enforcement Administration in Colombia and Afghanistan**

Submitted to the Congress by the Secretary of State  
Pursuant to House Report 110-97 accompanying H.R. 2674

March 2008

Prepared by the U.S. Department of State

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JAMES F COOPER  
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This report is submitted in accordance with House Report 110-97 accompanying H.R. 2674, which states in part:

“The Committee directs the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs at the Department of State to report to the Committee on Appropriations not later than 45 days from the date of enactment of this Act on the use of aerial assets to include fixed and rotary wing aircraft in coordination with and in support to Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) counternarcotics operations in Colombia and Afghanistan.”

The Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) provides limited aerial asset support in coordination with and in support of the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) counternarcotics activities in Colombia and Afghanistan. There are differences in the level of direct support to DEA in the two countries based on the scale and maturity of the counternarcotics programs in the two countries.

## COLOMBIA

In Colombia, DEA principally provides intelligence support to the Government of Colombia's counternarcotics units. DEA does not conduct unilateral counternarcotics operations in Colombia, and, therefore, does not require the direct use of INL aviation assets.

In 2007, a total of 10,292 flight hours were registered on U.S. and Colombian air assets in support of counternarcotics interdiction missions in Colombia, allocated between the Colombian Army (COLAR), the Colombian National Police (CNP), and the Colombian Air Force (COLAF). Most if not all of this activity includes intelligence and related support from the DEA at some point in the interdiction cycle, but is not in direct support of the DEA.

## AFGHANISTAN

The DEA's Kabul Country Office was fully reopened in January 2004, and it has made significant progress under difficult conditions. Working with INL, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNPA), the DEA has established the National Interdiction Unit (NIU), which is comprised of CNPA officers who have been selected to work on major narcotics enforcement operations with DEA teams. DEA also established in 2007 a Sensitive Investigations Unit (SIU) and a Technical Intercept Unit (TIU)

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that target high- and mid-value traffickers through intelligence collection, interception of communications, and the building of case packages. Through continuing assistance, training, and mentoring in intelligence, planning and operations, the DEA has made the NIU capable of conducting independent operations.

During the year 2007, aerial assets assigned to U.S. Embassy Kabul's INL aviation program provided repeated support to counternarcotics operations of the DEA. Specifically, this support included 13 missions, involving 113.4 hours of flight time and providing transportation for 81 passengers and 1,500 pounds of cargo. Missions included logistical passenger and cargo transport, mission training exercises, and insertion and extraction missions including gunship, medevac, and search and rescue.

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