



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Medical Readiness Exercises United States Military Group

Jutiapa, Guatemala
September 2006



During the month of September 2006, the United States Military Group organized a Medical Readiness Exercise to benefit the village of Tiucal, Asunción Mita, in the department of Jutiapa.

Medical Readiness Exercises - Facts:

Medical readiness exercises (MEDRETEs) allow the United States Southern Command to provide humanitarian assistance to needy families while at the same time training soldiers in their emergency response skills.

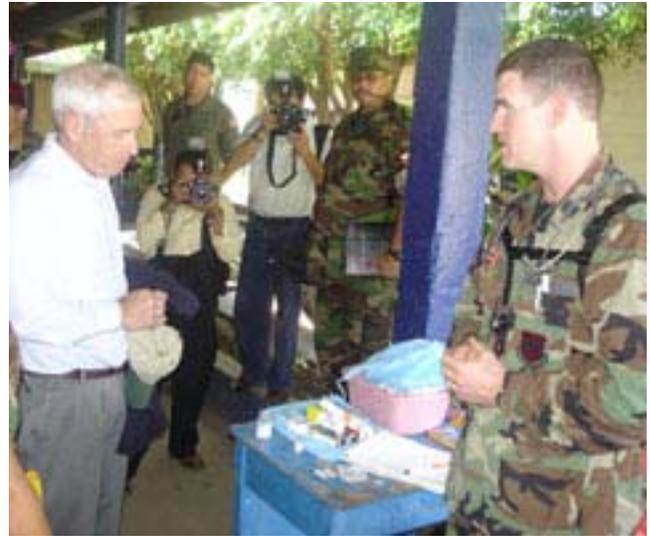


A MEDRETE of this nature costs around \$80,000. Half of this amount is the cost of medicines distributed during the exercise.

Usually between 800 and 1,000 patients are examined daily (15,000 are seen during the 10-day trip). All consultations and medicines are given to the patients at no cost.

During 2006, SouthCom has sponsored four medical excursions to: Poptún, Retalhuleu, San José and Jutiapa.

These medical excursions are conducted with the collaboration of the Guatemalan ministries of Public Health, Education, and Defense.



In each community, free medical and dental care is provided to all comers. All medicines and treatment is free of charge.

Many of the American soldiers that participate in these exercises are top doctors, dentists, veterinarians and nurses from the United States Army.