



BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Medical Readiness Exercises United States Air Force

Escuintla, Guatemala

April 23 – May 4

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. \$40,000 of this is spent on medicines. This does not include labor costs for the approx. 23 doctors / nurses / dentists that come to work here. All treatment and medicine is free of charge.

US Southern Command will sponsor four Medical Readiness Exercises (MEDRETEs) in 2006. Exercises will be held in:

Poptún	Completed
San José	(Today's Visit)
Retalhuleu	July
Jutiapa	September





MEDRETE locations were chosen by Guatemalan Ministry of Defense in consultation with Ministries of Salud Pública and Education.

During this MEDRETE (23 Apr – 4 May), 20 US airmen and women, working with Guatemalan doctors from the Ministries of Defense and Health, will work in three communities in the area of Escuintla.



In each of these communities we are offering free medical and dental care to all comers. All medicines and treatment is free of charge. We generally see between 800-1000 patients per day (15,000 for a 10 day MEDRETE).

Many of the American Soldiers participating in this exercise are active duty doctors and nurses from Travis AFB, California. Several have served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.