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# Regular visits made assassins' task easier

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A U.S. Navy officer killed by Salvadoran guerrillas in 1983 made himself a target for assassination by regular visits to a local university, a top-ranking defector has told authorities.

Lt. Cmdr. Albert A. Schaufelberger III, the first U.S. adviser killed in El Salvador, was shot in the head several times on May 25, 1983, as he waited in his car for a friend in front of the University of Central America in San Salvador.

The defector, Napoleon Romero Garcia, has told intelligence officers in El Salvador that leaders of the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) did not know exactly who Cmdr. Schaufelberger was or what his official duties were when they ordered him killed.

A detailed description of information Mr. Romero has provided over the last several months has been made available to The Washington Times by an informed source.

But, Mr. Romero said, Cmdr. Schaufelberger's "regular visits to the university ... made him vulnerable." He said the FPL military high command ordered the assassination as "an act of political propaganda aimed at the U.S. policy of intervention in El Salvador."

Mr. Romero's version of the slaying apparently rebuts suggestions made at the time by some U.S. officials that Cmdr. Schaufelberger had drawn attention to himself by interviews he had given the U.S. press, including one in which he said military advisers were "perfect targets" for assassination.

A Pentagon spokesman said yesterday that "there has always been the policy" for defense department officials on duty in foreign countries where "hostile actions have been known to take place" to "avoid patterns."

"The policy is the avoidance of patterns — not frequenting the same restaurant ... changing church services ... changing taverns, and not frequenting those places where actions have taken place," the spokesman said. "Personnel are pretty well briefed about the types of

places to avoid, but definitely [you would] alter patterns, just as a military unit going on patrol would alter its patterns so that you wouldn't offer yourself up as a target."

The spokesman said he did not know whether Cmdr. Schaufelberger's visits to the university were frequent enough to have established a pattern, but said "three or four trips to the same place would be a pattern."

Mr. Romero — who is also known by his nom de guerre of Miguel Castellanos — was a highly respected "comandante," or commander, of the FPL before his cap-

ture last April. Since then, he has willingly given officials an extensive picture of guerrilla operations, including details on so-called urban commando operations and left-wing death squads.

The FPL is considered to be one of the more radical of the left-wing rebel groups allied under the umbrella of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FLMN). Its leadership has denounced Mr. Romero as a turncoat and rejected his charges as lies.

"The most difficult aspect" of plan-

ning an assassination or kidnapping is "obtaining enough information" on the potential target, according to Mr. Romero. In addition to putting potential targets under surveillance, he said, rebel groups also develop contacts at places frequented by the targets and try to turn their female companions into informers.

Mr. Romero said he doesn't know who actually carried out the Schaufelberger murder, but he named at least 10 FPL officials as having been involved either in planning or support for the murder. He said the FPL military commanders considered the assassination to be a "select"

operation, and implemented it without informing their political counterparts.

According to Mr. Romero, Salvadoran Air Force pilots have the highest priority as targets for assassination. Foreign military advisers have a lower priority but are nevertheless designated as "permanent" potential targets, along with Salvadoran government officials, military officers and members of the security forces. He said U.S. diplomats and Agency for International Development officials have not been designated as such targets.

Mr. Romero said that earlier this year the FLMN adopted a policy of kidnapping, or assassinating the newly elected mayors of Salvadoran towns who refuse to cooperate. He said the procedure is for the FLMN to send a letter to a mayor first, asking for money or permission for guerrillas to enter town. If the mayor refuses, he may be kidnapped or murdered.

Mr. Romero said he disagreed with the policy because the mayors aren't military personnel, and frequently aren't members of the upper or middle class, but lower-class party operatives with wide local followings.

Other actions carried out by FPL "urban guerrillas" include sabotage of electrical and telephone facilities, ambushes of military and security patrols, robberies and kidnappings. Mr. Romero said a shortage of trained personnel bars most sophisticated operations, and that the guerrillas concentrate on destroying telephone junction boxes so that the armed forces will be forced to use radio communications, which the rebels can intercept.