IAA QUARTERLY REPORT

U.S.G. Agency: **Department of Commerce**
Country: **Nicaragua**
Report Period: **January 1 – March 31, 2001**
Agency Lead: **Curtis Barrett**

The following discusses Department of Commerce (DOC) activities and accomplishments for the referenced reporting period. The report is organized by county and further broken down by the problem areas identified in the DOC Implementation Plan (*U.S. Department of Commerce's Implementation Plan for Reconstruction Work in Central America*, July 1999). In addition, Result Indicators in this report are the Intermediate Results (IRs) referenced in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Hurricane Mitch Reconstruction Program Tracking System for the Department of Commerce and the Performance Indicators referenced in the DOC Implementation Plan. Where applicable, Mission SpO indicators are provided for reference.

A. DOC Problem Area: Base Infrastructure Reconstruction

Problem Area Objectives:

- Provide a foundation for ongoing reconstruction efforts
- Reconstruct and improve weather forecast and early warning networks
- Promote safe and efficient air and marine transportation
- Provide for a geo-spatial data and water level reference framework
- Ensure that capacity exists to maintain and expand new base infrastructure

B. DOC Activities:

--Reconstruct and improve geodetic networks
--Reconstruct and improve hydrometeorological data collection networks
--Reconstruct and improve tide stations

C. Results/Impact Indicators

OMB Intermediate Result

IR-1: The restoration and development of base geodetic and environmental monitoring infrastructure in Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and El Salvador

DOC Measures of Progress (Ref: DOC Implementation Plan)	Intermediate Result	Accomplished Previous Reporting Period	Accomplished This Reporting Period
Reconstruct and Improve Geodetic Networks	IR-1.1 Number of continuously operating reference stations (CORS) that are installed	N/A	*Future Activity. On schedule*
	IR-1.2 "Train the trainer" sessions held for US private contractors and US and Central America academic institutions	N/A	*Future activity. On schedule*
	IR-1.3 The number of first, Second, third order benchmarks That are installed	N/A	*Future activity. On schedule*
	IR-1.4 Training sessions held for In-country government agencies Responsible for surveys	N/A	*Future activity. On schedule*

Reconstruct and Improve Hydrometeorological Data Collection Platform/Telecommunications Networks	IR-1.5 The number of data collection platforms (DCPs) that are installed IR-1.6 The percentage of telecommunications network installed IR-1.7 The number of connections to other sensors, such as tide gauges, that are established	N/A N/A N/A	
Reconstruct and Improve Tide Gauge Stations	IR-1.8 The number of tide stations installed IR-1.9 Training sessions held for in-country government agencies responsible for operating water level stations, assuring data quality, and providing sea level data.	N/A N/A	*Future Activity. Puerto Corinto station installation re-scheduled for January 2001 and the Puerto Cabazes station installation re-scheduled for February 2001.* *Future activity. On schedule*

Cumulative accomplishments to date are not applicable at this time and will be provided with future quarterly reports.

Nicaraguan Mission Intermediate Results Framework:

	NOAA Activity		
Mission Intermediate Result	Geodetic Networks	Hydromet Networks	Tide Stations
IR 1.1 Agriculture			
IR 1.2 Land Title			
IR 1.3 Infrastructure			
IR 3.1 Environmental Management			
IR 3.2 Preparedness			

Note: Matrix cells marked " " indicate direct support for the mission IR. Matrix cells marked " " indicate a supporting relationship. Blank cells indicate no relationship. In no case does a NOAA activity conflict or interfere with a mission IR.

D. Narrative Report

The key accomplishments during this reporting period include

- Installation and training at Puerto Corinto, Nicaragua
- Tidal Gauge/Meteorological Station Cleared Customs in Nicaragua
- Amendment to MOU with NOAA drafted
- Troubleshooting
- Workshop Planning
- Liase with Colombia, Venezuela, and Costa Rica
- Other Meetings

They are described below in more detail.

Installation and training at Puerto Corinto, Nicaragua
A sea-level and meteorological monitoring and data dissemination system was installed in January by staff from the Organization of American States, the Comité Regional de Recursos Hidráulicos, and the Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (INETER). Data transmission problems, starting upon installation, were resolved in March. The sea-level data is recording on NOS Datum of Tabulation and is successfully being transmitted via GOES and archived on DPAS. Data is being processed on a calendar month basis shortly after the first of each month. INETER personnel were trained on the installation procedures and system operation and maintenance.

Tidal Gauge/Meteorological Station Shipped to Nicaragua
Equipment for the Puerto Cabezas installation cleared customs in Nicaragua.

Amendment to MOU with NOAA drafted
NOAA and the OAS drafted an amendment to the MOU. This provides for additional funds for the extension of the Assistant Technical Coordinator's contract by three months and additional travel funds. It also allocates funds to help defray the expense of counterpart institution travel. The amendment is expected to be signed shortly.

Troubleshooting
The RONMAC Technical Coordinator and Assistant Technical Coordinator performed on-going troubleshooting activities for all of the stations. They were available to address questions and problems presented by the counterpart institutions and NOAA staff.

Workshop Planning
RONMAC will hold a technical workshop and steering committee meeting the week of May 14, 2001 in Antigua, Guatemala. RONMAC staff has been working on the logistical and technical aspects of this meeting.

Liase with Colombia, Venezuela, and Costa Rica
RONMAC staff visited San Andrès, Colombia and discussed with Pablo Leyva, director of the Environmental Studies Institute (IDEAM) of Colombia, the possibility of linking RONMAC with the Colombian tidal network. Staff also has communicated with Rubén Aparicio, University of Cumaná, Venezuela, who is leading the Venezuelan meteorological and hydrological network (VENEHMET) about linking RONMAC with VENEHMET. RONMAC Staff are collaborating with Costa Rican officials on the integration of that country's network into the RONMAC system.

Other Meetings
RONMAC Staff Participated in US Armed Forces Meeting on Humanitarian International Development Aid (San José, Costa Rica, March 01, 2001) and the Consultative Group for the Transformation of Central America (Madrid, Spain, March 2001).

Constraints and Problems
Reconstruct and Improve Tide Stations
RONMAC has encountered that often counterpart institutions do not have the necessary budget for travel to the installation sites. In some cases, RONMAC has provided the funds for per diem, vehicle fuel and road tolls. RONMAC has addressed this problem by setting clear guidelines for limiting the number of people to receive per diem at each installation. Additionally, RONMAC staff will be working with counterpart institutions to help them budget for future installations and maintenance activities.

Implementation and Effectiveness of Environmental/Disaster Mitigation Measures
The station at Acajutla, El Salvador was installed mere weeks prior to the devastating earthquakes that hit El Salvador in January. The stations are not equipped to predict seismic activity. In any case, the earthquakes were clearly recorded in the Station data. RONMAC staff is planning to work with Natural Disaster Agencies to determine in what ways this data can be of use to them.

E. Success stories/Vignettes

As reported above, the installation of a station at Corinto, Nicaragua was successful, thanks to participation of the Organization of American States, the Comité Regional de Recursos Hidráulicos, and the Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (INETER). The sea-level data is recording on NOS Datum of Tabulation. The data was reported to be successfully transmitting data via GOES and archived on DPAS. INETER personnel were trained on the installation procedures and system operation and maintenance.