

perimeter, and called for reinforcements. The reinforcements arrived three hours later. The 46th Commandancia received the wounded Sinchi troops. After repairing the vehicles, the Sinchi moved back to the ambush site and reconnoitered the kill zone. They found one dead SL guerrilla who was the regional political officer of the Boca Sapito area. In an inspection of one of the Caspir armored vehicles involved in the ambush, over 200 penetrations from small arms fire were found.

On 19 January, Major Casada of the 48th Commandancia led a patrol back into the Sapito area to try to find more SL bodies. The head and fingers of the political officer killed in the 14 January ambush had been cut off making identification impossible. The Sinchi patrol found another body in a ditch. *A villager informed the patrol that the SL were in her village demanding medicine, water, and money. Villagers also told the patrol that about 30 SL, carrying five wounded and two dead, had just left the village in the direction of the Rio Pangoa.* (Emphasis added)