

ACTION, INL-00

INFO	LOG-00	EEB-00	AF-00	AID-00	AMAD-00	AOP-00	A-00
	GHFS-00	RPPR-00	CIAE-00	CPR-00	CTME-00	DOTI-00	WHA-00
	DS-00	DHSE-00	AVC-00	OIGO-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00
	FRB-00	OBO-00	H-00	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-00	LAB-01
	L-00	MOFM-00	MOF-00	DCP-00	NSAE-00	ISN-00	NIMA-00
	OPR-00	EPAU-00	MCC-00	GIWI-00	ISNE-00	DOHS-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	SS-00	NCTC-00	FMP-00	R-00	EPAE-00
	IIP-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	ATF-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00
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 FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6813
 INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE
 WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
 DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ASIA WASHINGTON DC
 NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC
 DIR ONDCP WASHINGTON DC
 DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC
 HQ USNORTHCOM
 HQ USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL
 JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
 DEA HQS WASHINGTON DC
 US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION WASHINGTON DC
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SENSITIVE
 SBU
 STATE FOR INL AND WHA/MEX
 TREASURY FOR ENFORCEMENT SECRETARY
 DOJ FOR BSWARTZ/KBLANCO DEP ASSIST
 FBI DIR FOR LA/CU, OC/DB, OIU, CID
 DEA FOR OD, OF, OFC, AO, DO, NPSM
 CUSTOMS FOR LA OPS AND FOR OIA/WHB
 USAID/LAC FOR JCICCARONE/EHOUSTON
 NSC FOR KEVIN O'REILLY

E.O. 13526: N/A
 TAGS: SNAR, KCRM, KJUS, PGOV, PREL
 SUBJECT: NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO MONTHLY REPORT FOR APRIL
 2011

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: NORMAN M BOUTON
 DATE/CASE ID: 18 JUL 2011 201103281

1. (SBU) THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

2. (SBU) CRIME STATISTICS: April started out with a particularly violent weekend in Ciudad Juarez, with 41 homicides over a 96-hour period. The killing spree started on Thursday, March 31 with 10 people killed in a shooting at a bar, and lasted through late Sunday, April 3. Despite this weekend spate of violence, a total of 168 homicides were recorded in Ciudad Juarez during April, the city's lowest monthly total since February 2010. According to Reforma newspaper, between April 2-29, 1,041 people were killed nationwide in drug-related murders, bringing the year's total to 4,203 through April 29. This compares to last year's total of 3,516 at this time.

3. (SBU) MASS GRAVES IN TAMAULIPAS REVEAL AT LEAST 183 BODIES: In early April, authorities discovered a mass grave in the area of San Fernando, Tamaulipas (a "county" which local officials point out is as big as some Mexican states), following reports of abductions of passengers on long-distance buses through the area. Acting on tips, authorities were led to a ranch where they freed five kidnapping victims, captured nine Zeta cell members, and killed four gunmen. Throughout the course of the month, investigators have continued to uncover victims at multiple grave sites, and by the end of April, had found at least 183 bodies. The majority of the victims are believed to have been bus passengers, and evidence shows most were brutally killed by blunt force trauma. San Fernando is the same area where the bodies of 72 Central American migrants were shot to death last August, and lies just 80 miles from the U.S. border. (See Reftel A)

4. (SBU) In connection with the discovery of the mass grave in San Fernando, authorities have arrested 17 of the municipality's 25 police officers, including the police chief. Authorities have arrested a total of 76 suspects, including the local Zeta boss, Martin "El Kilo" Estrada, who is allegedly the organizer behind the homicides.

5. (SBU) MIGRANT RESCUES: On April 25, authorities reported having rescued 51 people, including 6 Chinese and 18 Central American migrants, from a house in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. This came on the heels of a similar rescue the previous week of 68 individuals in

the same city, which is in the state of Central America. Four municipal police officers were arrested in the case of the 68 kidnapping victims. The victims are the latest in a string of kidnappings whereby drug gangs allegedly pull people off

buses or abduct them in bus stations.

6. (SBU) MASS GRAVES ALSO DISCOVERED IN DURANGO: Tamaulipas is not the only state where mass graves were discovered in April. In Durango, the existence of mass graves was revealed in early April when four bodies were found in a car repair shop. To date (April 29), 104 sets of remains have been uncovered in two separate sites. Officials believe the bodies had been buried for at least a year. The graves sites in Durango and Tamaulipas are the largest such discoveries to date. (See Reftel B)

7. (SBU) MORELOS SECURITY CHIEF REMOVED IN WAKE OF SICILIA KILLING: The head of Public Security for the State of Morelos, Gen Gaston Menchaca Arias, was removed from his position in mid-April, two weeks after the prominent murder of seven young people in the state. The killing has had nationwide reverberations because one of the victims was Juan Francisco Sicilia, son of renowned poet Javier Sicilia. Sicilia has since called on the cartels to stop killing civilians and proposed to Felipe Calderon a new strategy for the drug war which includes developing five national pacts on security, drugs, education, culture, and repairing the social fabric. Sicilia also called on the government to name each of the innocents who have been killed in the fight against organized crime. The killing has united civil society and led to marches and vigils in various parts of the county. Eight suspects have been arrested during the investigation.

8. (SBU) CHILD VICTIMS: Children and family members are increasingly becoming victims of drug violence. As cited in an April 10th report in the Washington Post, U.S. and Mexican experts on drug violence have noted an increase in the tendency of competing criminal groups to kill children to terrorize the population. The Child Rights Network in Mexico estimates that 994 people under the age of 18 were killed in drug-related violence between late 2006 and late 2010.

9. (SBU) TIJUANA POLICE COMMANDER KILLED: On April 15, the police commander for the Federal Preventive Police station in San Quintin, Baja California, was killed as he exited his vehicle near the Tijuana International Airport and Otay Mesa border crossing. The victim had been visiting Tijuana from his assigned area of San Quintin (approximately 200 miles away), and was in a marked police vehicle at the time of the shooting. Authorities found eleven 9 mm shells and eleven 40 mm shells at the crime scene. (See Reftel C).

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MERIDA INITIATIVE

10. (SBU) The USG and GOM hosted the Twelfth Bi-national Merida Implementation Meeting on April 14, 2011 at SRE. It was well-attended by all agencies involved in the Merida Initiative (15

GOM and 8 U.S.), and provided an excellent opportunity to bring the Merida group together and discuss a variety of organizational and administrative issues. The quarterly bilateral meetings are now used for general themes pertinent to all Merida participants, while individual agency program reviews cover the details of programs. The tone of the meeting was very positive, with general acknowledgement of the progress to date and satisfaction with the efforts made to improve our processes. (See Reftel D)

11. (SBU) Key issues discussed during the meeting were:

- The \$500 million dollar goal for deliveries in 2011 and strategies for improving implementation capacity.
- Strategies to improve strategic communication about Merida's successes.
- The evolution of Merida from federal to state and local, from equipment to capacity building, and from military to civilian institutions.
- The need for greater GOM presence in the Bilateral Implementation Office (BIO) to facilitate inter-agency coordination, bilateral communication, and greater GOM involvement in the development of requirements for procurement.
- The need for improved metrics to serve both governments' requirements.
- Review of recent improvements in the NAS procurement and contracting system and new IT project planning and analysis tools available at the BIO.
- A proposal to create a joint end-use monitoring system.
- Lessons learned from recent high level visits.
- The progress of program reviews and lessons learned,

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- An agreement to re-convene at this level in July and November 2011.

INTERDICTION

12. (SBU) Major drug seizures during the period:

--04/04 - Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas: 1,037 kg of marijuana.

--04/05 - Unstated location: 18 kg of pseudophedrine.

--04/06 - Reynosa, Tamaulipas: 14,522 pounds of marijuana.

--04/06 - Talayote, Sinaloa: 450 kg of processed crystal

methamphetamine and 4,832 liters of precursor chemicals.

--04/07 - Port of Manzanillo, Colima: 38 tons of ethyl phenyl-acetate.

--04/12 - Reynosa, Tamaulipas: 1,750 kg of marijuana.

--04/12 and 14 - Yucatan Peninsula: 1,640 kg of marijuana.

--04/15 - Saltillo, Coahuila: 2,077 kg of bulk marijuana, 340 kg of packaged marijuana, and 5 kg of cocaine.

--04/19 - Mexicali, Baja California: 30 pounds of methamphetamine.

--04/27 - Nogales, Sonora: 27.06 pounds of methamphetamine.

POLICE PROFESSIONALIZATION & TRAINING

13. (U) During the month of April, the NAS training section coordinated two ILEA courses on intellectual property rights and firearms serial number extraction. They also helped coordinate the Drug Enforcement Administration's COFEPRIS meeting (Chemical Substances Regulations at the Federal Commission for the Protection Against Health Risk) and the firearms identification and E-Trace

program for ATF. The Head of the NAS and Embassy programs in April, including Law Enforcement Professionalization for 29 GOM officials; Incident Command System (ICS) training for Mexican Customs; the International Drug Enforcement Conference (IDEC); and participation in the 34th Annual American Association of Polygraphists for the PGR, CISEN, INAMI, and SAT.

CORRECTIONS SYSTEMS REFORM

14. (U) The third Armed Transportation course began on April 4 at the Colorado Corrections Training Academy with 19 Mexican cadets and two Mexican instructors, and concluded with a graduation ceremony on April 15. Also in April, experts from the American Corrections Association arrived in Mexico City to start an assessment of the Mexican Federal Penitentiary system with the goal of identifying areas for improvement. On April 8, the 15th class of students graduated from the Mexican National Penitentiary Academy, with 132 students. To date, a total of 1,869 students have graduated from this program. Finally, on April 29, the 8th class from the Corrections Instructor course graduated in New Mexico with 36 officers from the SSP; NAS Director Keith Mines was the keynote speaker.

NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION EQUIPMENT

15. (U) On April 21, two contracts were awarded by RPSO with a total of \$27.8 million for the acquisition of two IP6500 VACTS (both for SAT/Customs) and seven M6500 VACIS (five for SAT and two for SSP). With these contracts, a total of \$72.09 million in NIIE has been awarded this year (not including pre-Merida funding).

DEVELOPING TRUSTWORTHY INSTITUTIONS

16. (SBU) Representatives from the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and the American Association of Police Polygraphists (AAPP) traveled to Mexico on April 12-13 to provide training on interview and interrogation of witnesses and informants training to polygraph

operators from the PGR, INAMI, SAT, and SFP Internal Affairs and Control de Confianza units.

IT PROGRAMS

17. (SBU) INAMI: A contract was awarded for INAMI's Mexico-wide biometrics Capacity Building project in April, which will equip central IT infrastructure, a biometric database in Mexico City, biometric gathering and verification kiosks for 39 sites nationally, and the capability to exchange information with both USG and GOM agencies. The ultimate result of the project will be the implementation of a non-refutable identification system for travelers entering Mexico and illegal immigrants held at migratory stations. The project budget is \$40 million, with approximately \$20 million to be delivered in 2011.

18. (SBU) PGR/INACIPE: Following its delivery in January of this year, in May INACIPE will begin utilizing the E-Learning & Virtual Classroom solution. The demand for E-learning has increased since its initial conception and INACIPE has created more than 15 courses to be taught in the coming four months. INACIPE will hold a virtual class with the "Ministerios Publicos" in Campeche during the first weeks of May, and another virtual class with the SIEDO also in May (Subprocuraduria de Investigacion Especializada en Delincuencia Organizada).

19. (SBU) SSP: All biometric equipment for the National Police Registry project to capture biometric information of approximately 620,000 law enforcement personnel at the federal, state and local level was delivered in April for \$5.9 million. Additionally, services to create a web portal site to support the bunker and replace a client server system for the Sistema Unico de Informacion Criminal (SUIC) were delivered in April for \$80,000.

20. (SBU) ANONYMOUS CITIZENS COMPLAINT PROGRAM (ACCP): The ACCP (Anonymous Citizen Complaint Program) made major strides towards beginning operations in Ciudad Juarez in May. The installation of telephonic equipment to upgrade the Ciudad Juarez PBX (public broadcast exchange) system within the municipally and state operated C4 facility to support the use of one number for tip and emergency calls was completed. On May 11, 2011, at 10:00 a.m., the "tip line" project will begin the first phase of its public outreach and education campaign. Officials from Ciudad Juarez and the Chihuahua state will join to announce these changes to the 066 emergency number. The Ciudad Juarez Mayor will headline the press

conference to announce the Anonymous Citizen Complaint Program (ACCP). We want to start small in our public outreach efforts. Furthermore, a training program was developed to deploy via remote learning tools to update call taker skills in working with the modified denuncia system. NAS will train selected NGOs so that they can in turn educate and inform the Ciudad Juarez public on the ACCP, how to make a denuncia, what information is required to make a denuncia, how to make an emergency call, what information is required to make an emergency call, and how the public and the police must work together and communicate with each other in order to reduce crime rates. Finally, significant investment in refining the NGO strategy was developed but has been slow to coalesce due to continuing mistrust in the community; alternative approaches to working with NGOs are being considered.

RULE OF LAW

21. (U) USAID: In April, USAID completed an assessment report of three alternative justice centers in Baja California. The report will be used to tailor mediation trainings and hiring. USAID also assisted the Oral Trials Network to organize the Third Annual Forum Commemorating the Constitutional Reforms of 2008. The forum will take place May 4-5, 2011, and will bring justice sector actors together from across Mexico to discuss the draft New Federal Criminal Procedure Code. The forum will provide a much-needed opportunity to examine the progress achieved by states that are implementing the criminal justice reform. The agenda will include an analysis and discussion of the criminal cases featured in the documentary film Presumed Guilty (Presunto Culpable), which was supported by the Merida Initiative's Rule of Law program (NAS), as well as an examination of the roles of the investigative police and prosecutors in the oral trial system.

22. (U) USAID provided technical assistance to the Technical

Secretariat of the Coordinating Council for the Implementation of the Criminal Justice System (SETEC) on the development of indicators and evaluation of the criminal justice reform. USAID proposed some new indicators and provided recommendations to SETEC on the development of outcome-oriented indicators. USAID also provided guidance on how to monitor and evaluate the reform implementation. Finally, USAID gave a presentation on the results of a field study that monitored the implementation of the reform. USAID has been invited to give the same presentation at two

conferences: the National Conference of State Supreme Courts and the National Conference of State Supreme Courts.

23. (SBU) USAID is assisting the Citizen Participation Council of the PGR to design projects to assist with training of journalists as it relates to judicial reforms, strengthening PGR state commissions, and the coordination of state citizen participation councils and their interaction with the National Public Safety System.

24. (SBU) DOJ/OPDAT: DOJ hosted a study tour to Colombia for 10 Mexican members of congress and three PGR representatives to review Colombia's efforts in Asset Forfeiture. This was designed to inform GOM officials not only of Colombia's experience with a transition to an accusatory system, but also how civil forfeiture procedures can be amended to offer additional tools to combat organized crime.

25. (SBU) With DOJ's assistance, the GOM launched a national AMBER Alert system on April 28. The system is designed to assist missing and exploited children. With the assistance of USAID, two states already have AMBER Alert systems in place - Tamaulipas, and Baja California.

DEMAND REDUCTION

26. (U) A team from the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine conducted its second implementation visit to the sites selected to conduct the pilot phase of a clinical trials program. This Merida Initiative-funded program will establish case management and data processing methodologies as well as treatment protocols to bring Mexico's clinical practice on addiction treatment and prevention up to international scientific standards. The Mexican National Institute of Psychiatry and the Miami team worked together to identify the criteria and main variables for the pilots based on data available at the selected sites. The Merida Initiative will also support acquisition of IT solutions that will be compatible with the standards of the American National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)'s Clinical Trial Network.

CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

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27. (U) NATIONAL STRATEGY INFORMATION CENTER (NSIC): Mexican instructors accredited by NAS partner NSIC prepared trainers from the Mexican Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) to promote a Culture of Lawfulness. In April, NSIC conducted a five-day course for 29 CFE trainers, and over the next two years, these instructors will provide a 20-hour mandatory COL course to over 80,000 CFE employees nationwide. Also in April, NSIC invited the mayor of Pereira, Colombia to meet with the mayors of 13 municipalities in Nuevo Leon and share his experience in developing a city-wide COL program. Mayor Lodono also addressed executives and employees of the major multi-national company FEMSA during his trip to encourage them to adopt COL training for all employees.

28. (U) MEXICO UNIDO CONTRA LA DELINCUENCIA (MUCD): Between February and April 2011, NAS partner MUCD traveled to 20 states across Mexico to conduct site visits and classroom observations where COL education programs have already been adopted. The purpose of the visits was to evaluate the quality of COL education in the public school system and develop recommendations for future improvements. In addition to observing classrooms, MUCD also received feedback via questionnaires from over 5,000 students. MUCD also launched its teacher training program, and through April 15, has trained 122 instructors in four states (Baja California, Chihuahua, Sonora, and Morelos).

CANINE

29. (U) On April 1, the Congressional Notification (CN) for construction and renovation of the Federal Police Canine Academy (SSP), "Las Bombas" (near the D.F.), was cleared. The \$1.8 million project will assist SSP to complete its first canine training facility.

30. (U) On April 15, SSP received a total of 120 leashes and collars, completing the delivery of equipment for the Ciudad Juarez Canine Project.

AVIATION

31. (SBU) NAS Aviation continued training courses for one pilot and thirty technicians at DOD installations at Ft. Rucker, Ft. Eustis,

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and Lackland AFB. In addition, contracting action continued on a number of projects: to extend NG/Bristow UH-60L training in Mexico; to provide IERW training through DynCorp/Bristow for 20 students; and to provide UH-60M training with Sikorsky.

32. (SBU) The document with title transfer conditions for the three UH-60Ms delivered in November 2010 was forwarded to SRE and SSP for their approval and comments. NAS also concluded the title transfer of 28 helicopters to GOM/PGR which had been pending from before the Merida Initiative.

MANAGEMENT

33. (SBU) NAS staff has outgrown the current office space in the BIO, with a number of personnel working in a storage closet and most GOM space having been taken over by NAS. Our space issue will get worse before it gets better with the displacement of some of our personnel in the Embassy anticipated soon during Embassy renovation. NAS Management is working on a full plan for this additional space, with an analysis of projected growth and space needs. This plan will be fully vetted with INL before any commitments are made. NAS Management, Embassy GSO, and Amy LeMar (INL/LP) held a teleconference with OBO on May 9 to discuss the preliminary steps to possibly lease the third floor of the BIO building, pending INL approval.

34. (U) The NAS Acquisition Section had an additional meeting with RPSO last week to further refine and push CY-11 acquisitions, using the Strategic Acquisition Plan (SAP) as its primary tool. INL/RM Tim Henderson will be in Mexico May 16 to help with continued coordination between RPSO and the A Bureau. A/OPE is reviewing Post's proposal to increase NAS's Contracting Officer's Warrant from \$250,000 to \$500,000 per transaction, a critical tool to help us meet our CY-11 goal.

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