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From: Reichert, Amy (Mexico City)
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Subject: NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2011

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Reference: A) 11 MEXICO 1766
B) 11 NOGALES 170
C) 11 MEXICO 1412
Subject: NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2011

1. (SBU) THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

ISSUES FOR WASHINGTON

2. (SBU) Post offers the following issues for consideration:

-- In the coming month, we will provide substantial reporting on the impact of Merida programming on Mexican judicial and security institutions.
-- We intend to move some of the 2010 Supp funding this calendar year, once it becomes available; we welcome continued focus on early completion of LOA clearances in Washington so that we can seek GOM signature soon.
-- The Law Enforcement Training Assessment team is off to a good start and should provide a helpful report to guide our state and local programs.
-- NAS Management clarified Embassy Management's position on the desirability of NAS leasing an additional floor in the 265 Reforma building and has provided information to INL/LP for a decision memo to the INL Front Office. If approved, NAS will need to move rapidly to lease the floor, as the management of 265 Reforma will only keep the option to lease the floor open for a short while longer.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Don Holm, Senior Reviewer

3. (SBU) CRIME STATISTICS: Between April 30 and June 3, 1,414 people were killed in drug-related crimes in Mexico. This brings the total for the year to 5,617 according to Reforma newspaper, with many media outlets now reporting that the total number since 2006 has topped 40,000. Meanwhile, on May 20, Mexico's federal security spokesman, Alejandro Poire, announced that homicides in Ciudad Juarez have dropped from an average of 11 per day in October to 4 per day in April. Poire cited the efforts of thousands of federal police and local prosecutors as contributors to the drop in violence.

4. (U) GUN BATTLE IN NAYARIT KILLS 29: On May 25, 29 men were killed in a gun battle along a highway in the western state of Nayarit. The clash represents one of the deadliest single events in recent years. According to local media, witnesses say rival gangs exchanged gunfire and grenades for over an one hour while by-standers took cover in nearby shops and businesses in the town of Ruiz.

5. (U) VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN MICHOACAN: Gun battles broke out on May 23, which lasted for three days and killed an unknown number of people. The next day, a UH-60M Blackhawk helicopter provided with Merida Initiative funds to the Federal Police was forced to land after suffering damage by gunfire, according to the PGR. Authorities estimate that approximately 2,000 people temporarily took refuge in shelters in Buenavista and Apazingan. It is believed the violence is the result of infighting within the La Familia TCO.

6. (U) RESIDENTS SET UP BARRICADES: In rural Michoacán, indigenous Purepecha people took security into their own hands in May after illegal loggers, who they claim are tied to drug gangs and local police, killed two residents and wounded several others. In the small town of Cheran, residents stormed the local police headquarters, seizing 18 guns, and barricaded the town using sandbags and tires beneath plastic tents as make-shift checkpoints. Illegal logging has affected approximately 80 percent of the local forest according to media reports.

7. (SBU) TOP GULF CARTEL MEMBER CAUGHT: The Mexican Federal Police announced on May 20 that they caught a leading Gulf TCO member, Gilberto Barragan Balderas, in Reynosa, Tamaulipas. Barragan Balderas is the subject of a \$5 million DEA reward, and is wanted on drug trafficking charges in the United States under a 2008 indictment.

8. (SBU) MUNICIPAL POLICE CHIEF SEEKS ASYLUM IN THE U.S.: Marisol Valles Garcia was heralded as "the bravest woman in Mexico" in October 2010 when she took on the job of police chief in the border town of Prazedis G. Guerrero at the age of 21 following the violent murder of her predecessor. She began receiving threats just weeks into her term, and after four months on the job she chose to seek asylum with her family in the United States, according to media reports. She was subsequently fired.

9. (SBU) DURANGO MASS GRAVES: In April, NAS reported the discovery of 104 sets of human remains in mass graves in Durango. That number has now

increased to 219 bodies unearthed in a series of seven graves in and around the city of Durango. Authorities suspect the graves hold remains of rivals from within the Sinaloa cartel, pointing to possible internal rifts, which are atypical of this seemingly well-run operation.

10. (SBU) IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS ARRESTED: In May, seven top officials of the national immigration agency were fired amid allegations that some agents had been involved in the kidnapping of migrants. Immigrants from Central America (namely from El Salvador and Guatemala) accused the immigration agents of pulling them off buses and handing them over to drug gangs in the state of Tamaulipas.

11. (SBU) ORAL TRIALS NETWORK: President Calderón participated in the Third Annual Forum on Security and Justice, using that platform to urge Mexican citizens to engage in the battle against organized crime by more actively supporting the rule of law. The forum, held May 4-5, was organized jointly by USAID and a coalition of local NGOs called the "Oral Trials Network." The event focused on the need to improve local police and judicial capacity throughout Mexico, and in particular support for the new accusatory legal system and related judicial reforms. Calderon praised the federal government for doing its part, and urged states and municipalities to follow suit by strengthening their police forces and public ministries. (See Reftel A).

12. (SBU) MARCH TO THE CAPITAL: In early May, several hundred people marched from Cuernavaca to Mexico City, concluding with a rally for peace on Sunday, May 8 in the Zocalo. The March for Peace was led by poet Javier Sicilia, whose 24-year-old son was killed in March by gunmen. The marchers walked in silence for two days, arriving in the capital city on a Friday night. A similar march was organized in Nogales May 27 following the murders of three students in eight weeks. (See Reftels B and C).

13. (SBU) CISEN DIRECTOR AFFIRMS WIKILEAKS REPORTS: In a private meeting between delegates of Mexico's security entities (SEGOB, PGR, INM, and CISEN), CISEN Director Valdés said that Mexican federal government agencies do not coordinate well, limiting success in the battle against organized crime. El Universal newspaper was present at the meeting and reported Valdés as calling on the GOM's security agencies to set aside their egos and internal disagreements and improve cooperation. Cables leaked from Post during the recent Wikileaks scandal identified lack of internal cooperation among the GOM as a significant hindrance to progress in combating organized crime.

MERIDA INITIATIVE

14. (SBU) CODEL MACK: Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Connie Mack (R-FL) led a congressional delegation to Mexico City May 20-21 to discuss security and the Merida Initiative with Mexican officials. In addition to meetings with President Calderón and Attorney General Marisela Morales, the delegation met with SRE's Undersecretary Julian Ventura at the BIO, and then visited the main SSP police facility in Iztapalapa. There

they toured the aviation hangars, viewed the UH-60M damaged recently by hostile fire in Michoacán, and were briefed on the Michoacán operation against the La Familia TCO last December. They also saw the Intel Center (Plataforma Mexico) and a demonstration by the SSP's GOPES (Special Operations Group).

INTERDICTION

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

- 05/11 - Mexicali, Baja California: 4.2 pounds of methamphetamine and 196 kilograms of marijuana.
- 05/12 - Úrsulo Galván, Veracruz: 1,240 kilograms of methamphetamine, 200 liters of liquid meth, and significant quantities of precursor chemicals.
- 05/14 - Veracruz (city unknown): dismantled a clandestine laboratory.
- 05/21 - Mexicali, Baja California: 153.5 kilograms of cocaine and 50.5 kilograms of marijuana.
- 05/24 - Monclova, Coahuila: 1,000 kilograms of cocaine.
- 05/24 - Gustavo, Diaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas: 886 kilograms of marijuana.
- 05/31 - Chiapas (city unknown): seizure of an active methamphetamine clandestine laboratory.

POLICE PROFESSIONALIZATION & TRAINING

16. (SBU) Two Merida Initiative-supported train-the-trainer courses were held in San Luis Potosí during the month of May. The first session had a total of 47 participants from the SSP, of which 42 graduated. The second course ended with the graduation of 23 police instructors from both Mexican Federal and State law enforcement agencies. Other training courses held this month included a Basic Police Operations course in Ciudad Juarez for 30 officers from the Federal Police, Drug Identification Special Operations Training, Drug Trafficking (a study of methods and strategies), ILEA Law Enforcement Tactical Safety and Survival (LETTS, conducted in El Salvador), document fraud, and basic firearms identification and safety.

17. (SBU) The NAS training team also conducted an assessment visit to Tamaulipas May 12-13. The purpose of the visit was to conduct an initial assessment of the needs of the state for training and other Merida programs. In the absence of a functional academy, Post recommends training be conducted either at San Luis Potosi or another regional training base. The State launched a recruiting campaign in May in an attempt to attract thousands of new state police officers. As with other states, the biggest challenge will be in vetting the new recruits.

CORRECTIONS SYSTEMS REFORM

18. (SBU) Twenty mid-level officials from Mexico's Federal Penitentiary System are attending a seminar on leadership, ethics, and organizational culture presented by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) in Victorville, CA. Participants completed a shadowing assignment with the FBOP officials during the seminar. Six officials from the same organization visited the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) May 16-20. They conducted site visits to two state facilities and the Operations Center and observed California's annual emergency response training. CDCR is set to provide training to 20 Mexican penitentiary officials in September.

NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION EQUIPMENT

19. (SBU) In May, a total of approximately \$7 million was donated to the GOM in the form of two ZBVs for SAT (\$2.1 million), three SBVs for SEMAR (\$3.3 million, pre-Merida funds), and 100 CT-30 detection kits for SAT (\$1.6 million). Training for approximately 30 SAT and SEMAR officers on the use of the ZBVs is being coordinated, and will include hands-on and train-the-trainer instructions. A joint team comprised of SAT, SSP, and NAS officers also completed a project review and observation of systems acceptance of the All-Terrain VACIS at the manufacturer (SAIC) in San Diego. An additional \$18.8 million is expected to be delivered in June.

DEVELOPING TRUSTWORTHY INSTITUTIONS

20. (SBU) In furtherance of the IAA with CBP to support development of Mexican internal investigation capacity, CBP technical experts traveled to Mexico in May to assess the equipment and training support needed by PGR, SSP, and the SFP. An estimated \$1 million in equipment will be disbursed to each entity, as well as possibly the states of Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon, and Chihuahua. A CBP team will travel to Mexico regularly to provide these agencies with technical guidance, supervision, and mentoring through September of 2012.

IT PROGRAMS

21. (SBU) SSP NATIONAL COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTER (The Bunker): The Regional Procurement Support Office (RPSO) awarded to Sarakkhi Associates, Inc. a contract for approximately \$3 million for additional video communications conferencing capabilities for the Bunker. The nine-month project will begin on June 8.

22. (SBU) INAMI: In May, NAS delivered a final version of a case management architecture that defines standard operating procedures for immigration officers to enroll and verify biometric data. [REDACTED]

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23. (SBU) PGR/MULTI-AGENCY: The Phase 1 Analysis contract was awarded this month for the Justicia Efectiva para Todos (JET) project. This \$4.5 million project is key to support the [REDACTED]

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24. (SBU) PGR/INACIPE: INACIPE began utilizing the E-Learning and Virtual Classroom solution in May. The demand for E-learning has increased since its initial rollout and INACIPE has created over 15 courses that will be taught remotely over the next several months, including classes with the Ministerios Públicos in Campeche and with PGR's SIEDO, both held this month.

25. (SBU) SEGOB: On May 17 deliveries of equipment, software, and services began in support of the Security Operations Center Project (SOC), which will provide SEGOB personnel with [REDACTED] capabilities.

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26. (SBU) ANONYMOUS CITIZENS COMPLAINT PROGRAM (ACCP): On May 12, Ciudad Juarez issued a press release alerting citizens to the new single number for tip calls, 066. This was the first step in the ACCP's public outreach campaign. Also this month, a diagnostic report for call center training was delivered to NAS and the SSP. Three levels of government will attend training sessions in Ciudad Juarez in July, providing training for operators, dispatchers, and shift supervisors on how to handle tips.

RULE OF LAW

27. (SBU) USAID: In May, USAID carried out 42 activities including: nineteen technical assistance activities to create standard operating procedures (SOPs), curriculum development, legislative matters and victims' assistance models and training curricula; six training courses; one certificate course; one train-the trainer course and one forum. In addition, USAID conducted six validation seminars for the results of the field study carried out to monitor the implementation of the judicial reform, four grantee monitoring activities, three activities to disseminate information on the CJR, and two activities to develop training materials.

28. (SBU) USAID, along with a coalition of civil society organizations, was a key contributor to the Third Forum Commemorating the Constitutional Reforms of 2008. This event brought together nearly 350 justice-sector actors from across Mexico, and participants had an opportunity to discuss the need to approve the draft of the new federal Criminal Procedure Code (CPC). President Felipe Calderon inaugurated the Forum, and stressed the importance of strengthening key justice sector institutions such as Prosecutor's Offices and police forces. He highlighted the importance of

training personnel who will operate under the new criminal justice system that will be fully implemented by 2016. Perhaps most important, President Calderon expressed his commitment to introducing the CPC to the Congress expeditiously. (See Reftel A)

29. (U) AMBER ALERT: The GOM publicly launched Alerta Amber, which is similar to the Amber Alert system in the United States, at an event in Mexico City in May. This nationwide system will help identify and locate missing children, and is a culmination of efforts by DOJ/OPDAT, the NGO sector, and a number of GOM partners including SEGOB, PGR, SSP, SFP, SRE, and SECTUR.

30. (SBU) CWAG TRAINING: From May 9-13, 38 state prosecutors representing five Mexican states practiced oral trial skills and observed questioning of lay and expert witnesses during a trial at a local superior court in the United States. Video of the program was streamed live to prosecutors in Baja California Norte, Chihuahua, Hidalgo, Sinaloa, and Sonora. CWAG also conducted its first-ever train-the-trainer program in Coral Gables, FL from May 13-15. Trainees included 22 Mexican prosecutors from four Mexican states and 10 American prosecutors under consideration by CWAG as possible future trainers.

DEMAND REDUCTION

31. (SBU) The new Commissioner of Mexico's National Commission Against Addiction (CONADIC), Dr. Carlos Tena Tamayo, made his first official visit to Washington D.C. in his new role. During the trip, he met with ONDCP Director R. Gil Kerlikowske to review the parameters of the proposed binational prevalence study and discuss details of the Binational Drug Demand Reduction conference set for June 22-24 in Mexico City.

32. (SBU) 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 trial program funded by the Merida Initiative. The purpose is to 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.

CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

33. (SBU) NATIONAL STRATEGY INFORMATION CENTER (NSIC): NAS Culture of Lawfulness (COL) program coordinator traveled with the Director of Mexico's National Center for Crime Prevention and Citizen Participation (part of the National Public Security System, SNSP) to Washington D.C. for meetings with NSIC, a key implementing partner for COL activities. The visit was intended to develop the parameters for a multi-sector, municipal-level COL program to be launched in up to five target cities. The program will leverage already

existing programs led by NSIC, integrating SNSP objectives and support.

34. (U) JOVENES EN ACCION: In May a grant for \$300,000 was awarded to the U.S.-based NGO World Learning to implement the student exchange program Jóvenes en Acción. Now in its second year, the program will send 65 non-elite high school students from across Mexico to the United States for five weeks where they will learn leadership skills and develop their own community service projects that they will implement upon their return. The program will introduce students to COL principles, and NAS partner Mexico Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD) will provide COL training during the students' pre-departure orientation. This \$600,000 program is a joint effort between NAS, the Embassy's Public Affairs Section, Mexico's Secretariat of Public Education, and the private sector.

CANINE

35. (SBU) On May 31, NAS CBP Advisor and three senior officials from the State of Puebla traveled to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, GA to showcase the manner in which more than 80 federal agencies from the United States provides training to their officers in one location. FLETC provided an in-depth tour of the facilities and explained how all of the agencies participate in the administration of the academy and the benefits of having a single location to provide basic training to more than 80 federal agencies.

36. (SBU) During the month of May, the USG delivered 160 kennels to the SSP and four thermal cameras, five All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV), and 22 laptops to INAMI, for a total of \$486,626 in deliveries under the Merida Initiative.

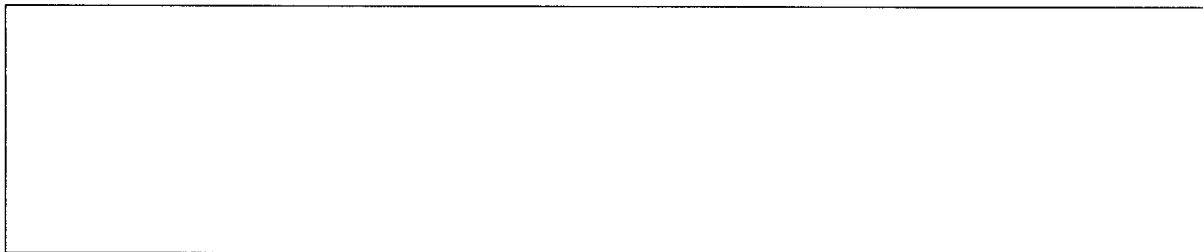
AVIATION

37. (SBU) NAS Deputy Director and Aviation Advisor accompanied SSP Federal Police aviation personnel to the Utility Helicopters International Users Conference May 8-12 in Orlando, Florida. AMCOM and industry representatives provided presentations on the latest updates and innovations to the UH-60 series of helicopters, including a separate Mexico-specific meeting to discuss with the Mexican Federal Police and SEMAR UH-60M acquisitions with AMCOM, INL/A, and contractors.

38. (SBU) NAS staff accompanied a representative of the SSP's International Relations to a review of the ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) aircraft project in Winston-Salem, NC on May 24-25. The aircraft is scheduled for delivery in March 2012. The same group visited AMCOM contractor installations in Huntsville, Alabama on May 26 for a review of the progress on the delivery of the second tranche of three UH-60M helicopters to SSP and viewed the aircraft in the hangars. The next aircraft will be delivered in November 2011 and the last two at the end of February 2012.

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MANAGEMENT

40. (U) Management Officer [redacted] departed Post on June 13. His replacement, [redacted] arrives at Post on August 3. In the interim, WAE [redacted] will be Acting Management Officer with WAE [redacted] continuing to focus on HR issues. Mr. [redacted] will remain at Post until Mr. [redacted] arrives.

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Signature: WILLIAMS

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