



# Fact Sheet

## Combating Violence in Juarez

Mexico and the United States have developed a joint pilot program in support of Mexico's efforts to confront and reverse the violence that has plagued Ciudad Juarez while establishing a culture of lawfulness in the community. This pilot program draws from bi-national team meetings held in Juarez and El Paso in January and February of 2010. It supports the Government of Mexico's plan for Ciudad Juarez through training, equipment, professional exchanges, and information sharing targeted in these areas:

### Achievements:

#### **I. Public Security Plan**

- SSP/Federal Police have detailed 5,600 police officers to Ciudad Juarez, including the first investigative units to prosecute crimes. The Federal Police have been tasked to coordinate the work of federal, state, and municipal police and to coordinate with the military. The military has been asked to play a supporting function to assist the federal police.
- Joint Task Force-North, the planning and coordinating mission established to support law enforcement agencies counter the flow of illegal drugs into the U.S along the Southwest border, hosted the Ciudad Juarez / El Paso Planning Initiative, a working group attended by members from U.S. local, state, and federal governments and Mexican federal and state government representatives, to establish the ways, ends, and means in developing a common assessment, approach, and execution structure to enhance public security.

#### **II. Intelligence**

- SSP/Federal Police has assumed responsibility for the Emergency/Immediate Reaction Center (CERI) and have installed standard, software-driven applications and processes to improve emergency call management and responses, as well as citizen complaints.
- U.S. intelligence specialists from the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) and their Mexican counterparts in Juarez have established daily coordination procedures and information exchanges. These investigations have extended into the organized crime cartels and gangs, resulting in significant arrests on both sides of the border.
- EPIC is providing CERI with mapping products and other analytical support.

#### **III. Prosecutions**

- Approximately 200 U.S. law enforcement agents are deployed to El Paso to support Mexican investigation into three murders associated with the U.S. Consulate in Juarez.
- Five sets of biometric data collection equipment have been delivered to SSP en Juarez for the collection digital fingerprints and photographs.

#### **IV. Institutionalization of Public Security Models**

- Police Continuing Education- In June 2009, Chihuahua state investigative police were trained in a three week anti-kidnapping and anti-extortion training conducted by the Colombian National Police. Select representatives trained in three states (Chihuahua, Baja California Norte, and Morelos) and the Federal SSP were later sent in February 2010 to Colombia to observe anti-kidnapping and anti-extortion operations by Colombian officials.

### Future Directions:

#### **I. Unity of Effort**

Objective: Develop and implement the mechanisms and protocols for GOM ensure unity of effort needed to improve public security, significantly reduce homicides and serious crimes, and restore public confidence in the public security organizations in Juarez.

- Mechanisms and protocols will be developed in the areas of 1) intelligence, 2) public security operations, and 3) investigations. Similarly, mechanisms and protocols will also be developed to improve prosecutions (prioritization of cases, coordination of investigations, and coordination of prosecutions across the Mexican levels of government.)

- Mechanisms and protocols will also be developed and implemented to improve coordination between Mexican authorities and US authorities involved in cross-border operations and investigations.

## II. IT and Communications Upgrades

Objective: Upgrade the information management/technology and communications systems that support public security operations in the Juarez region. The following projects will be funded by DOD in support of the Mérida Initiative and administered by NAS Mexico City:

- **Ciudad Juarez Emergency Telephone Tip Line:** Deploy the automated emergency and anonymous telephone tip line pilot system that includes the standardized 220 categorized events and associated training whereby citizens can place direct time-sensitive telephone calls to Mexican security forces (SSP) for immediate action against narcotics gangs, traffickers, and incidents. This pilot system is ready to be deployed and tested at the Ciudad Juarez CERI.
- **Encrypted Communications for Ciudad Juarez Police Forces:** Develop a communications system in Ciudad Juarez that includes up to 1,000 secure and encrypted, GPS-equipped radios for Mexican federal and local police (500 for vehicle installation and 500 for foot patrols) that is interoperable or compatible with the existing system used by the Federal Secretary of Public Security forces and the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA).
- **Cross Border Communications:** Enable secure radio communications between Mexican and U.S. security entities using encrypted microwave links along 10 northern border cities.

## III. State and Municipal Police Training

Objective: Expand state and municipal police development through a new police training model, starting with a pilot project in Chihuahua and Juarez.

- **New Police Training Model:** Create a new national standard curriculum for state and local police departments by adapting the SSP basic police training curriculum. The national police model curriculum would consist of two primary tracks:
  - **Basic Police Officer: Operations/Patrol** with emphasis in community policing and ethics. Prerequisite: High School graduate; completed new vetting process.
  - **Basic Police Officer/Specialist Tracks:** Prerequisite: University graduate; completed new vetting process.
- **State and Municipal Training:** Provide training, equipment, and advisors to state and local police and security forces. Training will be conducted in both the U.S. and Mexico.
- **Major Crimes Task Force:** Provide training, equipment, and advisors to the Government of Mexico for formation of major crimes task forces at state and federal levels.
- **Advanced Programs:** Develop training modules for mid- and senior-level State and Municipal police officers. Provide intermediate and advanced training for SSP officers assigned to Juarez as well as on the job operational training for SSP operational units. Develop the SSP's capacity to implement all basic and advanced police training programs.

## IV. State and Municipal Corrections Reform

Objective: Expand SSP/Federal Penitentiary System (SSP/SPF) capability to reform corrections systems and train state and municipal Corrections Officers throughout Mexico, starting with a pilot project in Juarez and Chihuahua.

- **Classification System:** Assist SSP and SPF in refining the objective classification model that will become the standard for all Mexican corrections systems (Federal/State/Municipal). Establish the model classification system at the Juarez penitentiary facility (CERESO Productivo). Vet and train Classifications Specialists to Mexico's federal standards.
- **Training and Development:** Develop operating manuals and standard operating procedures for state and municipal levels. Assist SSP/SPF to vet and train Juarez and Chihuahua Corrections Officers at the SSP/SPF National Penitentiary Administration Academy in Xalapa to meet Mexico's federal standards. Develop training modules for mid- and senior-level State and Municipal Corrections Officers.

## V. Intelligence

Objective: Strengthen the Government of Mexico's information and intelligence gathering capacity and cross border ties through Mexico and U.S. inter-agencies to maximize real time information to guide Mexico's strategic and tactical operations.

- **Intelligence Dominance Model:** Assist Mexico in developing a model of tactical intelligence collection and analysis to produce actionable intelligence targeting narco-trafficking, extortion, kidnapping, and other organized criminal activities in Juarez. Key components include:

- Senior experts to guide the project, and a full-time technical advisor from the U.S. in Juarez.
  - Specialized training (provided by the U.S. for each of the elements of the model: Case Officer, Area Analyst, Interviewer, and Technical Intelligence Officer.
  - Establish direct links with the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) to increase Mexico's capacity to utilize all information sources, guide operations, and sustain an informed profile of cartel and gang operations.
- **Air Surveillance:** SSP is examining options to expand intelligence collection capabilities and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, as well as other technical intelligence support systems. One Mérida-funded ISR aircraft is in production for SSP. SSP is also considering additional capabilities, possibly Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

#### **VI. Internal Controls/Anti-Corruption Plan (*Control de Confianza*) for Ciudad Juarez**

Objective: Assist all Mexican state, local, and federal security forces and judicial organizations in Ciudad Juarez to develop an internal controls system which guards against corruption, ensures integrity among the forces, and raises the level of trust between security and judicial organizations while enhancing the image of the security forces among the citizenry.

- **Polygraph Capacity:** Establish an office in El Paso for Mexican polygraph specialists complete with polygraph machines and assistance from U.S. quality control supervisors.
- **Background Investigations:** Establish El Paso office where 10-15 Mexican background investigators can work and store investigative files. Training and advice will be available from U.S. experts. Develop programs to effectively categorize current employees into high, medium, or low categories for potential corruption and establish a plan to quickly address the high risk subjects.
- **Internal Affairs Units:** Train, advise, and equip newly formed internal affairs units in state and local security forces and judicial agencies.

#### **VII. Justice Sector Reform (Prosecutions/Investigations/Judicial)**

Objective: Assist judicial and law enforcement authorities with training in the new accusatory system to adequately address the volume of crimes in Ciudad Juarez. Provide capacity building and equipment as needed to assist with evolving judicial needs.

- **Forensics:** Provide forensic advisors to work with Ciudad Juarez state and federal crime lab experts. Implement DNA training for hair strand analysis.
- **Judicial Training:** Provide training in trial advocacy in accusatory system for federal prosecutors, federal police, and federal investigators working in Ciudad Juarez. Provide training for both federal and state court judges. Implement money laundering training for Mexico's Office of the Deputy Attorney General Against Organized Crime (SIEDO) prosecutors in Ciudad Juarez.
- **Evidence Preservation:** Implement crime scene preservation and chain of custody training for Mexico's Attorney General prosecutors, federal police, and federal investigators working in Ciudad Juarez.

#### **VIII. Canine Program**

Objective: Increase the capacity of Federal Police canine units with additional trained dogs and handlers to detect drugs, weapons and ammunitions in strategic points throughout Juarez.

- **New Canine Units:** Provide 60 additional canines trained to detect drugs, cash, and weapons along with 32 vehicles to transport the canine teams. Provide training tools and equipment including leashes, transport kennels, and pseudo aromas used in training.