



Fact Sheet

Law Enforcement Achievements

“We face a defining moment. In our hands is the decision whether we continue with inertia or whether we push for deep changes to transform our country.”

*Felipe Calderon
President of Mexico*

“At a time when the Mexican government has so courageously taken on the drug cartels that have plagued both sides of the border, it is absolutely critical that the United States join as a full partner in dealing with this issue, both through initiatives like the Mérida Initiative, but also on our side of the border, in dealing with the flow of guns and cash south.”

*Barack Obama
President of the
United States*

The Mérida Initiative is an historic program of cooperation that acknowledges the shared responsibilities of the United States and Mexico to counter the drug-fueled violence that has threatened citizens on both sides of the border. The U.S. Congress has funded the Mérida Initiative with wide bipartisan support, appropriating over \$1.5 billion to Mexico. In supporting the goals of Mérida, the U.S. is currently providing technical expertise and assistance to Mexico for police professionalization, judicial, and prison reform.

Among the major successes against organized crime, by each state and with bi-lateral support, are the following:

- **Removal of Key Narcotraffickers** – As a result of increased coordination and information sharing between the US and Mexico, many of the world’s most dangerous narcotraffickers have been captured and brought to justice, including:
 - Death of Arturo Beltran Leyva, leader of the powerful Beltran Leyva Cartel, who was killed during attempted arrest in December 2009.
 - Arrest of Eduardo Teodoro “El Teo” Garcia Simental of the Arellano Felix Cartel in January 2010. His arrest crippled the Arellano-Felix drug trafficking organization which had ruled Tijuana for 20 years.
 - Arrest of “El Teo’s” brother, Jose Manuel Simental-Garcia (or “Chiquilin”) in February 2010.
 - Arrest of Raydel Lopez-Uriarte, alias “Muletas”, in February 2010. These men were responsible for thousands of murders in and around the Tijuana area, often placing bodies in barrels of acid. Violence has decreased in and around Tijuana as a direct result of these arrests.
 - Arrest of Jose Vasquez-Villagrana, or “Javal”, in Mexico City in February 2010. Javal was indicted for smuggling 50 caliber Barrett Anti-Aircraft machine guns from the US into Mexico, and the smuggling of multiple tons of cocaine from South America into the US and Mexico.
 - Extradition of Miguel Angel Caro-Quintero, the brother of Rafael Caro-Quintero, who was responsible for the kidnapping, torture, and murder of a DEA Special Agent in 1985. Caro was sentenced to 16 years in prison.
 - Extradition of Alfonso Escajeda, responsible for hundreds of murders in the Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua area. Escajeda is pending trial.
 - Death of Ignacio “Nacho” Coronel of the Sinaloa cartel in July 2010.
 - Capture and arrest of Edgar Valdez Villarreal, alias “La Barbie,” a top leader of the Beltran Leyva cartel. Captured in August 2010, “La Barbie” was one of the most savage drug capos in Mexico, responsible for countless murders, acts of violence, and trafficking tons of cocaine.
 - Capture of Sergio Villarreal Barragan in September 2010, another top Beltran-Leyva cartel leader.
 - Death of Antonio Ezequiel Cardenas Guillen, alias “Tony Tormenta” (Tony the Storm) in November 2010, responsible for gruesome acts of violence and drug trafficking as head of the Gulf Cartel.
 - Capture and arrest of Arturo Gallegos Castellon, alias “El Famera”, responsible for thousands of murders in the Ciudad Juarez area including the death of two US citizens associated with the US Consulate office.
 - Arrest of Julian Zapata Espinoza, or “El Piolin”, identified as the Los Zetas cartel cell leader behind the murder of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Agent Jaime Zapata.

- **Money Laundering** – Because financial gains are at the heart of all organized crime, disrupting the ability to move and launder money is critical to curtailing the flow of cash and power to drug trafficking organizations in Mexico and the United States. Through information sharing and joint investigations, together Mexico and the US can identify drug trafficking organizations. Enforcement agencies in both countries are cooperating to create programs and develop strategies that will improve investigations and prosecutions, bulk cash seizures, and the reduction of money laundering activities among criminal organizations on both sides of the border. (See additional Arms Trafficking fact sheet).

■ **Extraditions** – Bilateral cooperation has led to a record number of extraditions. Mexico extradited 107 fugitives to the United States in 2009, exceeding 95 in 2008. Through this process criminals are held accountable and a strong message is sent that fleeing across the border does not mean fugitives will escape justice.

■ **Control de Confianza** – US authorities have assisted Mexico in developing centralized training, policies and procedures for administering polygraph tests for the vetting of Mexican law enforcement authorities, a crucial part of the Control de Confianza program designed to address corruption within the Mexican government and restore confidence in law enforcement.

■ **Precursor Chemicals** – With analysis provided by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) that 90% of the chemicals imported into Mexico from US companies were being diverted for illicit uses, specifically the manufacturing of methamphetamine (meth), Mexico has aggressively regulated the importation of precursor chemicals, specifically those used to produce meth. As a result, the price of meth in the US doubled and end purity decreased. The price of 50 pounds of bulk pseudoephedrine in Mexico went as high as \$250,000 from \$40,000, and over sixty-four (64) labs have been seized in Mexico.

■ **Spanish e-Trace** – ATF and Mexico have deployed Spanish e-Trace, a web-based system that allows Mexican investigators to trace weapons known to originate in the US. As requested by the Government of Mexico, ATF will provide e-Trace training to CENAPI personnel in each Mexican state. ATF and Mexico are also working to link tracing data to Mexico's criminal justice data system, "Plataforma Mexico." These programs serve to reduce arms traffickers' incentive to obtain firearms in the United States to sell to Mexican criminal organizations for their use as "tools of the trade" in criminal activity. (See additional fact sheet on Combating Arms Trafficking).

■ **Culture of Lawfulness** – The Secretariat of Public Security (SSP) has committed to stamping out corruption by implementing a Culture of Lawfulness program to reach all 32,000 members of its force. A 40-hour course for recruits has already been taught to 5,000 new officers since its inception in May 2009.

■ **Penitentiary Reforms** – Mexico is committed to increasing the capacity and security of its Federal Penitentiary System. As of November 2010 Mexico had already increased the number of federal facilities from six to eight with a plan for 22 operational federal corrections facilities by the end of 2012. Penitentiary reforms will improve the ability of the Mexican prison system to more effectively manage violent, disruptive offenders and members of criminal networks. US assistance has provided equipment, technical assistance, and training designed to professionalize federal penitentiary staff.

■ **Equipment and Training** –To date, \$404 million in equipment and training has been delivered to Mexico, with an estimated additional \$500 million programmed for delivery by the end of 2011. Of this amount, \$85 million has been dedicated to assisting Mexico's effort to increase capacity in key governmental institutions, and \$277 million has been used to purchase equipment including:

Equipment:

Polygraph units

- The US has supplied 318 polygraph machines to Mexico worth a total of \$2.4 million.

Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment (NIIE)

- 38 ZBV Backscatter X-Ray Vans and accompanying Forward Scatter Trailers have been delivered. The vehicles inspect light commercial and private vehicles for weapons, drugs, explosives, chemicals and laundered money (23 under Merida and 15 pre-Merida)
- 45 handheld ion scanner vapor tracers were provided to the Mexican Army by the US in September 2009 for \$1.1 million. Ion scanners detect vapor traces from recently fired weapons and other illicit materials in commercial and private vehicles at highway and off-road checkpoints throughout Mexico (30 under Merida and 15 pre-Merida)
- 10 mobile X-Ray inspection minivans were provided to the SSP in December 2009 for \$1.2 million. The vans are used at checkpoints and during special operations to detect contraband found in commercial buses, light trucks, and private vehicles along Mexican highways.
- 2 Railroad Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System (VACIS) machines worth \$3.5 million were delivered September 2010 to Mexican Customs. This equipment is used to detect weapons and drugs in cargo containers transiting ports of entry. This equipment is based on the most advanced gamma-ray technology and allows trained technicians to view the contents of rail cars while they remain in motion, allowing them to detect contraband, weapons, explosives and ammunition, or people without disturbing passengers, animals, products, or other contents.

Aviation

- An essential tool in providing surveillance and support to law enforcement operations on the ground, aircraft are also used to capture and transport High Value Targets (HVTs), interdict weapons, drugs, and bulk cash, and provide law enforcement with rapid response capabilities and accessibility to remote and hard to reach areas.
- Mexico's Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA)- eight (8) Bell 412 helicopters have been delivered
- Mexico's Secretariat of Public Security (SSP)- three (3) Black Hawk UH-60M helicopters were delivered in November 2010 and three (3) more will be delivered in December 2011. Additionally, one (1) ISR Donier 328-JET aircraft contract is underway.
- Mexico's Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR)- four (4) CASA 235 maritime surveillance aircraft are being procured. Additionally, three (3) UHC-60M Black Hawk helicopters will be delivered in 2011.

Corrections Vans

- Ten Corrections transportation vans have been delivered to the SSP.

Automatic Identification System (AIS)

- The AIS provides the ability to detect and see contacts. AIS has significantly increased maritime awareness for SEMAR. To date, 14 of 23 SEMAR sites have been installed.

Training:

- **Clandestine Laboratory Training** – 70 soldiers from SEDENA have been trained and certified in clandestine laboratory operations through the Basic Clandestine Laboratory Training program operated by the DEA. The course provides training on how to safely and properly investigate, dismantle, and dispose of laboratory chemicals, hazardous waste and paraphernalia and teaches soldiers how to contain a lab site, how to take and monitor samples, and how to utilize respirators and self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA).
- **Federal Police Training** – 4,500 students have completed the Basic Investigation Techniques course in criminal investigative techniques, evidence collection, crime scene preservation, and ethics and are deployed throughout Mexico. International law enforcement professionals from the US, Colombia, Spain, Canada, and the Czech Republic teach the course.
- **Arms Trafficking, Intelligence, Cybercrime, Police Management, and Forensics and Technology Training** – In October 2009, 243 high-potential, mid-level officers were selected to participate in a week long Arms Trafficking, Intelligence, Cybercrime, Police Management, and Forensics and Technology training led by US experts. The session was part of a larger 16-week course that included international participation by Canada, Chile, Colombia, Spain and Italy designed to include each nation's best practices in management and supervisory skills, case studies and networking with counterpart agencies.
- **Special Operations Training** – A six-month training program designed by the U.S. State Department's Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) with the Grupo de Operaciones Especiales (GOPES) includes training in explosives, tactical training, tactical surveillance and will expand to offer specialized training in negotiations, rural operations and medical subjects. Mexico's Federal Investigative Agency (AFI) is designing an additional training program for 500 investigators to focus on investigations, security personnel, forensics technicians and judicial personnel.
- **Training Programs for Judicial Sector** – NAS has conducted training evaluations in homicide investigations, document fraud, sexual assault, narcotics investigations, digital photography and presentation of evidence in oral trials with cooperation from Mexico's Attorney General's (PGR) office.
- **Anti-Kidnapping Squads** – Mexican authorities have established anti-kidnapping units in every state made up of state police. Trained by FBI agents, squads of 15 undergo three weeks of extensive coursework including crime scene preservation, interview and interrogation techniques, crisis negotiations and ethics. To date, the FBI has trained seven anti-kidnapping squads from seven Mexican states, with training for two additional states planned for the future. Federal police and officials from the Attorney General's office are scheduled to receive training as well.
- **Mexican Military Training** – SEDENA and SEMAR personnel have been trained in Initial Entry Rotary Wing to build their helicopter pilot cadre to combat DTOs. To date 24 have been trained by Bristow Academy, 24 in Colombia at the Colombian Escuela de Helicoptero de Fuerzas Publica, and 21 at the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence at Fort Rucker, AL .