



U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

Professionalization and Institution Building

“Mexico’s New Police Model will return to Mexican society the safety and tranquility it deserves and demands. We cannot postpone this effort and must persevere in changing the perception of lack of security and safety now held by society. We must regain the confidence of society.”

*Ing. Genaro Garcia Luna
Nuevo Modelo Policial
SSP*

“We want the new Mexican Federal Police to plant seeds of hope for a better Mexico. A police force that is strong, prepared, honest, and one with the technical and operational capabilities it needs to complete its mission: to protect and serve the people.”

*Felipe Calderon
President of Mexico*

Over the last several years, Mexico has taken great steps to reform its judicial systems and police forces. These efforts are continuing as the country builds and reinforces the institutions it needs to successfully disrupt and curtail the power of organized crime.

How is the Merida Initiative Helping?

The Merida Initiative is providing the funding, trainers, and technical assistance to train thousands of law enforcement and legal professionals – federal and state police, judges and lawyers, forensic and polygraph investigators, even canine handlers. Where practical, a train-the-trainer approach is being employed to impart skills and knowledge to Mexican instructors to allow them to both accelerate the pace of training and carry on these programs into the future.

Below are several examples of Merida Initiative-funded activities:

- Nearly \$9 million has been obligated to train Federal Police Investigators. Training is provided by US federal, state and local police as well as international instructors. Through January 2010, over 4,300 new officers have graduated from the newly-designed training program.
- 243 hi-potential mid-level officers from the Federal Police (SSP) were trained in Arms Trafficking, Intelligence, Cybercrime, Police Management, and Forensics and Technology in October 2009.
- Merida funds are being used to help the SSP develop standardized policy and procedures manuals. The first 120 priority manuals will document critical SSP subject matter, processes, and procedures.
- A wide range of justice sector activities are taking place including prosecutor training, judicial exchanges, forensic lab training, knowledge sharing on trafficking in persons, and anti-corruption best practices to strengthen the judicial sector.

What’s ahead?

Additional training and knowledge sharing activities will be critical to future professionalization and institution building activities. Activities such as train-the-trainer will be emphasized and new approaches such as distance learning will be explored in order to train more officials, more quickly in the most effective manner possible.



U.S. Embassy Mexico City • 5080-2000
Public Affairs Section (PAS)
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