



## U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

### Merida Initiative - Information Technology

"Under the Merida Initiative, a program conceived by Mexico and embraced by the United States, we have now committed hundreds of millions of dollars to training and equipping Mexican law enforcement, and strengthening Mexico's judicial system and democratic institutions."

*Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
United States of America*

Since taking office in December 2006, President Felipe Calderon has shown great courage in confronting the organized crime and drug trafficking organizations undermining security in Mexico. Through the Merida Initiative, U.S. and Mexican officials are working together to design programs to diminish the power of Mexican organized criminal groups by systematically capturing and incarcerating their leaders, and reducing drug trade revenues by interdicting drugs and diminishing production.

One of the most critical components of this joint strategy is helping Mexican law enforcement agencies acquire new technologies that will increase their mobility, communications, and tactical capability to effectively confront narcotics traffickers. Merida Initiative programs are providing advanced technologies and secure communications systems that will enable Mexican authorities to improve data collection and storage, share information, and facilitate rapid response by promoting cooperation between agencies and different levels of government.

Merida Initiative information technology projects currently underway:

- Biometric equipment for INAMI delivered to three sites along the southern border.
- A project to strengthen CISEN's secure telecommunications and databases, and provide forensic equipment for its investigators.
- Polygraph equipment and training for Mexican law enforcement agencies to enhance professionalization, facilitate interagency cooperation and increase public trust.
- Software technologies and design expertise for SSP's new Intelligence Center, a secure underground command facility dedicated to maintaining public safety, responding to natural disasters, and carrying out complex law enforcement operations.
- Technical support for PGR's Justicia Efectiva para Todos program – a transition to a digitalized, paperless case management system that will bring new transparency, accountability, and efficiency to Mexico's judicial system.
- Expansion of OASISS, a bilateral anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling program that has already helped manage more than 225 smuggling cases and generated over 30 prosecutions in Mexico.



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