



## U.S. - Mexico At a Glance

### Merida Initiative - Control de Confianza: Fighting Corruption

“Above all I exhort you not to permit organized crime to penetrate your ranks. That you don’t tolerate complicity or dishonesty among yourselves because we have lost 137 of your companions during this administration.”

*Felipe Calderon  
President of Mexico*

“President Calderón has demonstrated great courage and dedication. The criminals and kingpins spreading violence are trying to corrode the foundations of law, order, friendship and trust between us. They will fail.”

*Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
of the United States*

President Calderon has vowed to stamp out corruption across every level of Mexican law enforcement. The Merida Initiative is assisting these efforts by helping the Mexican government refine and enhance its *Control de Confianza* system, a system designed to detect and deter potential corruption among Mexican police.

#### **How does *Control de Confianza* work?**

*Control de Confianza* works two ways. It uses a variety of tools and processes to vet recruits before bringing them onto police forces. While most vetting focuses on past behavior, often a leading indicator of future corruption, background checks also look for ties to organized crime. Both steps are combined to screen applicants out of the hiring process. Additionally, *Control de Confianza* employs an internal investigations function that scrutinizes law enforcement officials already on the job. The function helps assure that police who enter the force free of corruption stay that way.

#### **How is the Merida Initiative Helping?**

The Merida Initiative is providing both funding and expertise to help Mexico improve its existing *Control de Confianza* system. Examples of how include:

- \$2.4 million is being used to purchase state-of-the-art polygraph machines as well as supporting software and hardware.
- Merida Funding is helping add advanced bio-metric data to the Mexican National Police Registry. The Registry is being developed to track public security personnel and will eventually have files on every Mexican law enforcement and security officer. One of the major goals of the Registry is to prevent the hiring by one agency of a police officer who was fired for cause by another agency.
- Merida Initiative funding has brought polygraph experts from various U.S. law enforcement agencies to Mexico to certify GOM polygraph specialists.

#### **What’s ahead?**

Looking ahead, the Merida Initiative will help fund the training and technology necessary to help Mexico develop a world class *Control de Confianza* system. Funding will help train investigators in sophisticated investigative techniques, purchase high-tech hardware to assist internal investigations units, and allow the U.S. to be a long-term partner to Mexico by sharing its expertise and experience fighting corruption within its own law enforcement agencies.



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