

**Mexico Mérida Movement**  
**Week of March 15 - 19, 2010**

- **Control de Confianza:** During the week of Mar 15-19, 2010, DACA/CBP representative conducted advanced polygraph training in adjudication at CISEN, consisting of a presentation of strategic polygraph issues for CISEN executives, and a review of CISEN and PGR polygraph procedures.
- **Culture of Lawfulness:** Formal procedures and criteria have been established for accrediting two different levels of police culture of lawfulness instructors to ensure quality and consistency in rule of law integrity instruction. The first level is for instructors, the second, more advanced level is for instructor trainers. This accreditation approach is being applied in the Federal Police Culture of Lawfulness/Integrity Education program and the northern border state-level Regional Police COL Educational Initiative.
- **Ciudad Juarez:** NAS, DOJ and USAID representatives went to Ciudad Juarez last week to meet with authorities in the justice sector and explore further opportunities to support the state of Chihuahua in its fight against organized crime. During the visit, Chihuahua state authorities provided a tour of the state prosecutor's office, judicial center and forensic lab. Embassy representatives met with judges who described Chihuahua's transition from the inquisitorial to the accusatorial system detailing both the successes and the challenges that still exist. State judges offered to assist in training judges from other Mexican states as each state begins to transition to the new system.
- At the state forensic lab, embassy reps saw the lab's new IBIS machine in action. This machine was purchased by NAS and donated to the PGR who, in turn, donated it to Ciudad Juarez due to the high local demand for ballistic technology. Lab technicians demonstrated their use of the machine and highlighted the effectiveness of the technology in processing ballistic evidence. The Lab Director made a specific request for mitochondrial DNA training, explaining that the lab has the equipment to conduct the analysis but did not have trained experts in this particular technique. DOJ and NAS promised to explore the possibility of sending Ciudad Juarez lab experts to the U.S. for training in this area.
- **Judicial Reform - 2<sup>nd</sup> Trial Advocacy Training Course:** The second two-week training program began March 15. This course in Puebla, is expected to train over 60 PGR prosecutors, along with their investigators and forensic specialists. The 2-week intensive trial advocacy course will incorporate suggestions and needs identified by the Mexican participants during the initial course. The course will focus on specific aspects of an oral trial, including topics such as evidence, opening and closing statements, direct and cross examination, and objections. It will also focus on "chain of custody" and preservation of evidence.