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From: Flynn, Michael D
Sent: 3/24/2010 3:41:32 PM
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Subject: Matamoros Emergency Action Committee; 03/24/2010
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Date/DTG: Mar 24, 2010 / 241941Z MAR 10
From: AMCONSUL MATAMOROS
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE
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TAGS: ASEC, CASC, MX
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Reference: A) 10 MATAMOROS 52
B) 10 MATAMOROS 46
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- 1) (SBU) On March 24, 2010, Principal Officer convened the Matamoros Emergency Action committee in order to discuss post's security posture and review the current Authorized Departure status. In attendance were RSO, ARSO/I, MGT, DEA, and CONS Chief. EAC unanimously agreed that the current security situation warranted continued Authorized Departure status.
- 2) (SBU) RSO briefed EAC on security incidents that have occurred since REFTEL A. On March 18, Mexican military units engaged in a firefight with cartel members in Reynosa, during which three cartel members were killed. Four weapons, two grenades, and over a thousand rounds of ammunition were recovered. On the same day, another firefight occurred in the city of Mier, where one cartel member was killed during an engagement with Mexican military units. On March 19, an armed confrontation occurred in Ciudad Victoria between Mexican military and cartel members. Official reports claim one soldier and three cartel members were killed. On the same day, three police officers in Ciudad Victoria were reported missing, and assumed kidnapped. The officers have still not been located. On March 23, members of the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas engaged in a firefight in Ciudad Mante. Eleven abandoned vehicles were recovered, with multiple bullet holes in each. EAC is awaiting official reports of casualties.
- 3) Ciudad Mante and Ciudad Victoria are approximately 200 miles south of Matamoros, and have been historically calm areas, not experiencing the spikes in narcotics violence seen in Matamoros and other border cities. Recent violence resulted in a wave of rumors that schools in Victoria would be closed, much the same as Matamoros, Reynosa, and Nuevo Laredo experienced in the beginning of March. The spreading of narcotics violence throughout the State of Tamaulipas highlights the wide-spread and mobile nature of the conflict. EAC agreed that, while the city of Matamoros has been relatively quiet, the surrounding area continues to experience a high level of inter-cartel and counter-narcotics interdiction violence, and that there is a high likelihood that Matamoros may be the scene of confrontation in the near future. Matamoros remains the accepted headquarters of the Gulf Cartel, and a high-value target for any future Los Zetas offensive.

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4) (SBU) One family member is currently on Authorized Departure status, while one family is awaiting a response to their request for an alternate safehaven. EAC agreed that the option of Authorized Departure was an effective management tool in working with employees and eligible family member's concerns within the current threat environment, and that the dynamic and unstable security situation justified post continuing to operate under this status.

5) Point of contact for this matter is RSO Michael Flynn, who can be reached at 011-52-868-812-4402, ext. 384.

Signature: BARKIN

Drafted By: MATAMOROS:Flynn, Michael D

Approved By: MATAMOROS:Flynn, Michael D

Released By: MATAMOROS:Flynn, Michael D

Info: MATAMOROS, AMCONSULROUTINE; MEXICO, AMEMBASSYROUTINE;
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