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Sinaloa Cartel Offensive Posture Against Los Zetas and its Implications to Nuevo Laredo Plaza 21MAY12

05/22/2012

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**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION (CBP)**

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Executive Summary:

(U) Los Zetas Cartel (LZC), Sinaloa Cartel (SC) and Gulf Cartel (CDG) Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) have demonstrated their willingness to dispute the Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Plaza, a highly contentious and lucrative corridor known for narcotic and alien trafficking.

(U) Based on the latest activity in the Nuevo Laredo area, SC in an alliance with CDG is attempting to gain control of the Nuevo Laredo plaza and remove the LZC from the region. Narco banners left at multiple crime scenes state that Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera has begun to rid Nuevo Laredo of the Zetas. The struggle for the plaza has spawned in an increased in violence and other horrific crimes.

Details:

(U) Los Zetas Cartel (LZC), Sinaloa Cartel (SC) and Gulf Cartel (CDG) Transnational Criminal Organizations (TCOs) have demonstrated their willingness to dispute the Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas Plaza, a highly contentious and lucrative corridor known for narcotic and alien trafficking.

(U) Based on the latest activity in the Nuevo Laredo area, SC in an alliance with CDG is attempting to gain control of the Nuevo Laredo plaza and remove the LZC from the region. Narco banners left at multiple crime scenes state that Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera has begun to rid Nuevo Laredo of the Zetas. The struggle for the plaza has spawned in an increased in violence and other horrific crimes.

(U) The following chart depicts a timeline of the significant events highlighting

the equivalent retaliation:

DATE	LOCATION	TCO CLAIMING RESPONSABILITY	INFLECTED CASUALTIES		
			LZC	CDG	SC
20-Sep-11	Boca del Río, Veracruz	Sinaloa Cartel/CJNG	35		
6-Oct-11	Boca del Río, Veracruz	Sinaloa Cartel/CJNG	36		
23-Nov-11	Culiacán, Sinaloa	Los Zetas			26
24-Nov-11	Guadalajara, Jalisco	Los Zetas/Milenio			26
4-Mar-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Sinaloa Cartel	2		
10-Mar-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Unknown	1		
11-Mar-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Unknown	damages to Casino		
15-Mar-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Unknown	2		
19-Mar-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Los Zetas		1	
26-Mar-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Sinaloa Cartel	7		
28-Mar-12	Culiacán, Sinaloa	Los Zetas			5
17-Apr-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Sinaloa Cartel	14		
24-Apr-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	SC/CDG			
3-May-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Unknown	23		
4-May-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Los Zetas		9	
4-May-12	Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas	Sinaloa Cartel	14		
9-May-12	Guadalajara, Jalisco	Los Zetas- Milenio			18
13-May-12	Cadereyta, Nuevo Leon	Undetermined – 49 killed			

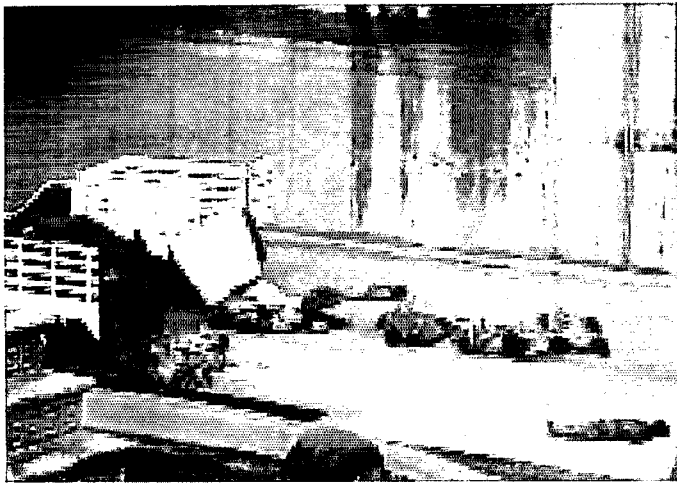
(U) Current Situation

(U) On May 13, 2012, Mexican Police discovered 49 mutilated bodies which highlight the abhorrent brutality transpiring over the control of the coveted Tamaulipas Plaza. According to press reports, the 49 dismembered and naked bodies were missing heads, hands and legs. At least 43 men and half a dozen women were found in plastic garbage bags. The location is approximately 80 miles southwest of the U.S. border.

(U) Based on initial reporting, LZC may be responsible for this act, indicative of a signature narco banner left at the scene. However, between May 15 and 16, several narco banners from LZC were displayed in Zacatecas, San Luis Potosí, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas states denying Zetas affiliation to the murdered of 49 victims.

(U) Background

(U) Fighting between the TCOs intensified after the bodies of 35 alleged LZC members were left beneath an underpass in Boca del Río, Veracruz on September 20, 2011. A narco banner was left at the scene claiming that the victims had been killed for their allegiance to the Zetas.³



(U) The banner's mention of "G.N." is a clear reference to the Gente Nueva, an enforcer gang which has been linked to SC boss Joaquin Guzman Loera, alias "El Chapo." Gente Nueva got their start working as hitmen for Guzman. Like Nuevo Laredo, the city of Veracruz has traditionally been Zetas territory. The murders would appear to be a direct affront to their control of the "plaza".

Los Mata Zetas



(U) On October 6, 2011, 36 bodies were found by the Mexican authorities in three different houses in Boca del Río, Veracruz. Reynaldo Escobar Pérez, Veracruz Justice Attorney General, stepped down and resigned due to the ongoing drug violence. Moreover, 10 more bodies were found throughout the city of Veracruz the day after his resignation. Mexican Secretaria de la Marina (SEMAR) apprehended eight (8) Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) members who were linked to 67 killings in Veracruz. By 9 October 2011, in only eighteen days, the state of Veracruz reported 100 killings.

(U) On November 23, 2011, a total of 26 bodies—16 of them burned to death—were located in several abandoned vehicles in Culiacan, Sinaloa. The killings were allegedly carried out by LZC as a response to the massacres done by the Matazetas (CJNG) in Veracruz on September 20, 2011.

(U) On November 24, 2011, three trucks containing 26 bodies were found in Guadalajara, Jalisco. Reports indicated that LZC and the Milenio Cartel were responsible for the massacre of the 26 alleged SC members.

(U) Nuevo Laredo Timeline

(U) The following events highlight the 2012 attacks conducted by these TCOs which directly impact the stability and security of Nuevo Laredo area:

(SBU) On March 4, 2012, police discovered the mutilated remains of

two bodies inside the trunk of a Chevrolet Malibu which was parked across the street from the Coca Cola distribution center in Nuevo Laredo. Left with the bodies was a narco message, which roughly translated read, "This is going to happen to you, Z-40 [Miguel Treviño Morales] signed El Chapo [Joaquin Guzman Loera], The Real Boss".

(U//FOUO) On March 10, 2012, a dismembered body was discovered in multiple black garbage bags accompanied by a narco banner addressed to Miguel Angel Treviño Morales alias Z-40. The body was discovered behind the HEB grocery store located half a mile south of the U.S. Consulate in Nuevo Laredo.

(SBU) On March 11, 2012, two 40mm grenades detonated in the Amazonas Casino parking lot in Nuevo Laredo, damaging five parked vehicles. The casino is reportedly one of Miguel Angel Treviño Morales' businesses.

(SBU) On March 15, 2012, two bodies were discovered hanging from Gonzalez Bridge in Nuevo Laredo located at Calle Gonzalez 3814 and Avenida Mexico. According to various sources, there was a cartel message similar to the one found at Coca-Cola and H.E.B. areas. The banner was reportedly removed prior to the arrival of the Mexican Military (MexMil). Los Zetas probably removed the manta to avoid panic/demoralization within their ranks.

(U//FOUO) On March 19, 2012, a mutilated body was discovered in Nuevo Laredo. It was found on Reforma and Paseo Colon streets at the Monument for Mothers. According to the message left at the scene, the mutilated body was of a subject known as "El Huele Rico." The message states that Nuevo Laredo belongs to those from Nuevo Laredo. The message is signed by the "Zetas".

(SBU) On March 26, 2012, MexMil found an abandoned vehicle with nine black plastic bags containing seven (7) dismembered male bodies two blocks away from the Secretaria de la Defensa Nacional (SEDENA) General's Office. It was reported that the SC was responsible for killing the suspected Zeta members.

(U) On March 28, 2012, Los Zetas responded to Sinaloa's Cartel leader, "Chapo" Guzman, by leaving five dismembered male bodies in Culiacan, Sinaloa. A narco banner was placed with a message to "Chapo" signed by Z-40.

(SBU) On April 17, 2012, a MexMil patrol discovered an abandoned vehicle parked behind the City Hall in Nuevo Laredo containing 21 black plastic bags with the legs and upper torsos of 14 males. A narco banner was also placed inside the vehicle which was addressed to the citizens of Nuevo Laredo and to Z-40. The banner conveyed a message indicating that the SC is cleansing the "Zetas" out of Nuevo Laredo. It also addressed Treviño Morales in a derogatory manner.

(U) On April 24, 2012, an explosion occurred outside the Tamaulipas Attorney General's Headquarters in Nuevo Laredo. The explosion caused minor injuries to civilians and minor damage to the facilities and several vehicles nearby. This explosion was very likely a response by "Chapo" Guzman following a news conference which denounced SC's presence in Nuevo Laredo.



(U) On May 3, 2012, SEDENA declared that 26 people were killed which included three (3) soldiers during recent gun battles. According to reports, 23 were members of the Beltran Leyva Cartel, whom formed an alliance with LZC and are fighting for control of the SC plaza.

(SBU) On May 3, 2012, a gun battle between the Mexican Policia Ministerial del Estado (PME) and armed individuals took place in Nuevo Laredo. Two males were detained with multiple weapons, ammunition and five bullet proof vests displaying white "CDG" letters.

(SBU) On May 4, 2012, nine people were hung from a highway overpass in Nuevo Laredo alongside a narco banner signed by the Zetas, threatening the Gulf Cartel.

(SBU) On May 4, 2012, 14 decapitated bodies were discovered in an abandoned minivan in the vicinity of the Association of Custom Brokers in Nuevo Laredo. The heads were found later inside coolers in front of the City Hall. A narco banner signed by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman Loera was left at the scene. The banner addresses the SC's presence in Nuevo Laredo, demanding the Mayor, Benjamin Galvan, of Nuevo Laredo to acknowledge his presence. Moreover, the banner threatens the Mayor, the Director of Public Safety Alfonso Olvera and Investigating Prosecutor Victor Almanza for their alleged complicity with LZC.

(U) On May 9, 2012, 18 people were found decapitated and dismembered in Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos, 18 miles south of the center of Guadalajara, Jalisco. State Attorney General Tomas Coronado Olmos said the killings appeared to have been in revenge for the 23 killings on May 4th in Nuevo Laredo. An arrested woman alleged that the killings were "the repercussion for what happened in Tamaulipas," according to Coronado Olmos. The woman said she belonged to a local gang called "Milenio", linked to the brutal Zetas drug gang.

(U) Narcotic Smuggling

(U) SC widely regarded as Mexico's most powerful TCO traffics large amounts of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and marijuana. The below referenced Laredo Sector (LRT) seizure statistics demonstrate an increase in the aforementioned narcotics which may indicate SC smuggling activity in the area:

LAREDO SECTOR								
	FY09	%	FY10	%	FY11	FYTD11	%	FYTD12
METHAMPHETAME (LBS)	46.43	202%	140.38	135%	329.68	183.56	74%	320.05
HEROIN (LBS)	1.68	4852%	83.19	-55%	39.1	10.60	118%	23.16
COCAINE (LBS)	1,766	8%	1,912	-73%	510	234	62%	378
SOURCE: EID via Advanced Adhoc Query (unofficial)								
FYTD = October 1 to May 20 of Respective FY								

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(U) Courses of Action

(U//FOUO) Most Likely Course of Action: Government of Mexico maintains strong presence in disputed areas to pressure TCOs and minimize violent attacks. TCO on TCO fighting will continue until one group takes full control of Nuevo Laredo. Most likely, SC will eventually achieve its goal and the level of violence will decrease. If LZC loses control of Nuevo Laredo, LZC will likely attempt to establish control of the Piedras Negras Plaza in order to have access to a Mexico-U.S. Border.

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(U) The Mexican Presidential elections, scheduled for July 1, 2012, will be a decisive factor in identifying the long term presence of military forces in the Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas states. The newly elected president and his administration will develop a military and national security strategy, prior to December 1, 2012, ensuring security and stability in the region.

(U) Intelligence Assessment

(U) Nuevo Laredo has experienced an increase in TCO on TCO violence since the killing on March 1, 2012 of LZC Nuevo Laredo Plaza Boss Gerardo Guerra Valdez alias "Comandante Guerra / Z-15", and associates Luis Julián Granados Alonso alias "Comandante Pibe" and "Comandante Marco". The killing of the three (3) plaza commandants and ten (10) sicarios by the Mexican Military facilitated the movement of SC's members to Nuevo Laredo.

(U) Mass killings and subsequent display of the dead had been isolated events in Nuevo Laredo until the recent reported SC presence in the area. These events magnify the fear and insecurity in the city and bound to provoke escalating acts of bloodshed. LZC- SC conflict will not be limited but rather expand across LZC controlled territory as they continue to engage in sustained, ongoing conflict over Nuevo Laredo Plaza. Expansion and intensification of LZC- SC conflict would deliver significant increase in instability to the nation as it prepares for a presidential election in July.

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Additional References

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4. [REDACTED] (b)(7)(E)
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ATTACHMENTS:

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Significant Events Highlighting the Equivalent Retaliation 21MAY12.JPG

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Nuevo Laredo 24APR12.JPG

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SUBJECTS:

LOCATIONS (1)

1. Location **Type:** U.S. Address
 Address 1: 207 W. Del Mar Blvd
 City: Laredo
 State: TEXAS
 Postal Code: 78041
 Country: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Description:

United States Border Patrol Laredo Sector Headquarters

Prepared By:

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