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Subject: NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2011

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Subject: NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO MONTHLY REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2011

1. (SBU) THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUES FOR WASHINGTON

2. (SBU) Post offers the following issues for consideration:

-- We appreciate the services of WAE management officer who is completing a full review of delivery projections. We will soon have a more complete picture of what projects will hit the system over the coming 10 months which will allow us to collectively ensure timely deliveries.
-- As we begin training programs in different parts of Mexico where we do not have a Consulate, security will be a growing concern. We are working on a full review of our security posture and will keep INL fully informed of our plans and requirements as we move forward.
-- We are engaging in a review of the proposal for a procurement study and will have a recommendation within a week. We appreciate INL/LP's proactive posture on this proposal which we believe could be helpful to our and other's understanding of where the weaknesses in the procurement chain lie.
-- We look forward to the arrival of the Integrated Assessment and Planning Team and will work closely with them to develop a compelling product for strategic planning and metrics.

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Don Holm,
Senior Reviewer

-- With the surge in training programs we will need several scope of work writers and sub-program coordinators to develop new programs and ensure all projects are moving forward in a timely fashion. We will work closely with INL to shape this requirement.

MANAGEMENT

3.(U) NAS Management is developing a new MOU with USAID to allow transfer of six to ten Fully Armored Vehicles (FAVs) from USAID to NAS. The FAVs were purchased by USAID with Merida Initiative funds, in 2009. USAID's operations do not warrant keeping the vehicles and NAS needs the FAVs to support training and other operations throughout Mexico. NAS also plans to hire the five trained drivers currently being paid by USAID in Juarez and train additional drivers.

4.(U) Management, in coordination with the Embassy, is exploring the possibility of renting an additional floor in the 265 Reforma building (BIO). NAS has expanded to approximately 125 staff members and the BIO was rented when the initial plan was for 70 staff. Currently there is a floor available in 265 Reforma, and with lessons learned from the initial BIO build-out NAS should be able to cost effectively add a floor quickly. Because of staff growth, we have had no alternative but to intrude on GOM space in the BIO and this additional space would return us to a more equitable arrangement.

5.(U) NAS is working with the Embassy Management Section, the RSO, the Legal Bureau, WHA and INL to develop a Chief of Mission (COM) Security Policy. The shooting of the two ICE Officers in San Luis Potosi brought urgency to the need for a clear COM Security Policy for all staff associated with the Embassy, whether direct hire, local staff, contract staff or contractors and grantees. The draft policy will be presented to the Front Office after full clearance.

6.(U) INL/RM Tim Henderson and WAE Drew Oltyan, worked with the Logistics/Acquisition Section to finalize input into NAS's Strategic Acquisition Plan. The Acquisition Plan will provide a new tool to help RPSO, RM, and State AQM determine how to divide up procurements to allow NAS to meet its goal of delivering \$500 million in CY-11.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS

7. (U) CRIME STATISTICS: Between January 28 and February 25, there were 928 drug-related killings in Mexico according to Reforma newspaper. Closing out the month, 28 people were killed across Mexico the weekend of February 26, including nine in Coahuila, five in Ciudad Juarez, and 14 in the pacific states of Guerrero, Nayarit, and Michoacán.

8. (SBU) ICE AGENT KILLED: Two U.S. ICE agents were ambushed on February 15 in the state of San Luis Potosí, leading to the death of Jaime Zapata later

that day. The case remains under investigation. The Embassy held a commemoration ceremony on the 18th to honor both Zapata and his colleague, Victor Avila, who survived the attack. Zapata is the first law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty in Mexico since DEA special agent Enrique Camarena was kidnapped and tortured by drug gangs in 1985. The case remains under investigation.

9. (U) In a nationwide sweep, authorities across the United States directed a crackdown that led to some 500 arrests in the week following Zapata's death. The operation resulted in the seizure of USD4.5 million in case, over 235 pounds of cocaine, 300 pounds of marijuana, and at least 37 guns.

10. (U) VIOLENCE NEAR MEXICO CITY: On February 13, an incident involving a group of suspected local drug dealers left seven people dead in Chimalhuacan in the State of Mexico. Authorities believe the attack was in retaliation for an incident in January in nearby Nezahualcoyotl that killed eight. What is notable about these cases is that they both occurred just miles outside of Mexico City proper, which has been relatively sheltered from drug violence to date.

11. (U) GUERRERO REMAINS A FOCAL POINT: Numerous violent incidents occurred in February in Guerrero related to drug trafficking. Over the weekend of February 19-20, arson attacks on cars and shootouts in Acapulco left 13 dead. At least 11 more people were found slain on Tuesday and Wednesday (February 22-23), also in Acapulco. Violence in Acapulco caused organizers of the Mexican Open professional tennis tournament to advise players to arrive as late as possible to the event and leave as soon as they were eliminated, and stay close to their hotels. Meanwhile, the LPGA (Ladies' Professional Golf Association) canceled an annual tournament slated to be held in Morelia in April.

12. (U) Also in February, Mexican marines found 72 sticks of commercial synthetic explosives at an armed camp in Guerrero state near the border with Michoacán, as well as rifles, grenades, ammunition, and a small amount of marijuana. On March 1, authorities discovered a mass grave containing at least 17 bodies in the town of San Miguel Totlapan, Guerrero.

13. (U) FORMER MEXICAN GENERAL KILLED: Just 33 days after taking office as the new police chief in Nuevo Laredo, Gen. Manuel Farfan was killed on February 2. The ex-army general was one of eleven former military men recruited by the new governor of Tamaulipas, Egidio Torre, to take charge of government offices in troubled areas in the state. Torre is the brother of Rodolfo Torre, who was killed during his own gubernatorial campaign in June of 2010. Egidio took his brother's place with a pledge to crack down on the criminal groups responsible for his death.

14. (U) CHILDREN KILLED IN JUAREZ: On February 23, gunmen opened fire on six children playing in the yard of a Ciudad Juarez home, killing three girls aged 12, 14, and 15. The other three children were not hit by the bullets. Authorities suspect that two of the victims were the daughters of a man involved in drug dealing.

15. (U) U.S. TEEN CHARGED IN KILLINGS: Mexican prosecutors filed homicide charges in February against a 14-year-old U.S. citizen who allegedly acted as an assassin for a drug trafficking organization. [REDACTED] reportedly confessed to killing four people whose bodies were hung, beheaded, from a bridge in Cuernavaca. Because he was charged as a juvenile, [REDACTED] faces a maximum sentence of three years in prison if convicted.

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16. (U) MARIJUANA ERADICATION DOWN: According to a report in Reforma (8 February 2011), as marijuana consumption in Mexico continues to rise, the average annual eradication figures reported by SEDENA are lower than those reported during either the Fox or Zedillo administrations. From 1995-2000, an average of 19,523 hectares of marijuana were eradicated per year, compared with 25,800 from 2001-2006, and 17,014 from 2007-2009. Meanwhile, the latest National Addiction Survey in 2008 showed that 4.2% of individuals between 12-65 years of age use marijuana, up from 3.5% in 2002. Another Reforma article on February 6 cited that in 2009, 18.3% of students in high school or college had tried some kind of illegal drug.

MERIDA INITIATIVE

17. (U) With the Merida Initiative now in full swing, NAS and our GOM partners have started a new strategy to track progress on Merida-funded projects. Instead of large, monthly bilateral meetings, we have started a series of one-on-one program reviews with each of the major GOM ministries that receive Merida assistance. In February we held program reviews with the PGR, SSP, and SAT. On March 1, we hosted a Control de Confianza program review, and additional reviews are scheduled in March to cover Demand Reduction, CISEN, INAMI and UIF.

18. (SBU) The Program Reviews have been particularly helpful in identifying programs that are stuck, and in identifying pockets of funding that are not actually supporting projects. GOM counterparts have been extremely active in the Reviews and they have shown the success to date in forming truly Bi-National project teams. In advance of the reviews SRE interlocutors identified several common themes and concerns that emerged from the GOM's internal reviews--
--they noted occasion U.S. unilateral redistribution of funds.
--they expressed frustration that in certain areas such as training, coordinators sometimes cannot deliver what was requested, so substitute something in its place.
--in some cases equipment deliveries are so delayed that they have filled in with their own funding, then experience further delays when the funding is re-directed.
--they note that in the first few years of Merida there was always a lead agency. Now with the advent of the multi/other category many programs are not being monitored by a federal agency. They would like a federal partner for every program, citing Culture of Lawfulness and Bar Associations as examples.
--They would also like to clarify which GOM federal agency is overseeing support to the states.

INTERDICTION

19. (SBU) Major drug seizures during the period:

--02/06 - Diaz Ordaz, Tamaulipas: 3,214.9 kilograms of marijuana
--02/07 - Zapopan, Jalisco: 50 kilograms of marijuana
--02/11 - Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua: 240 packages of cocaine (282.8 kg), 16 packages of white heroin (19.9 kg), three packages of black tar heroin (3.55 kg), and 207 containers of methamphetamine (147.3 kg).
--02/16 - Zapopan, Jalisco: 5 tons, 284 kilograms of marijuana.
--02/18 - Campeche: 549 kilograms of cocaine.

POLICE PROFESSIONALIZATION & TRAINING

20. (U) Training programs funded by the Merida Initiative that were executed in February include OTEP-Special Police Tactical Operations (SSP), Advanced VIP Training (SIDEPOL and SSP), Advanced Marksmanship (SSP), Chemical Diversion (PGR, sponsored by DEA), E-Trace (PGR and state-level experts), and Domestic Violence and Child Crimes. Other training programs supported by the NAS training section in February include Drug Court Training, Central American Intelligence Program Training, and FLEAT training for CENAPI vetted units at Quantico. In total over 150 people received training supported either directly or with logistical support from the NAS training section.

CORRECTIONS SYSTEMS REFORM

21. (U) The graduation ceremony for the 7th Corrections Instructor Course was held on February 25th at the New Mexico Corrections Academy. Commissioner Eduardo Gomez was the keynote speaker at the event, which was composed of 14 cadets from Mexico and 14 from Honduras. On February 22, NAS Corrections Program Coordinator was the guest speaker at the Northwest Regional Penitentiary Conference at the request of Mr. Patricio Patiño, President of the Penitentiary Conference.

22. (U) Construction at the Xalapa Academy continues. The first dormitory is expected to be completed by the end of March, and NAS and SSP are already working on the requirements for the equipment needed for the facility once the expansion is complete. All of the biometric equipment (USD \$2.7 million) is in the procurement and purchasing process. This equipment will support the GOM in the positive inmate identification and registration process.

NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION EQUIPMENT

23. (U) On February 3, eight (8) Z Backscatter Vans for SAT were imported and distributed throughout Mexico. Additionally, an X-Ray pallet for SAT was delivered on February 19, which will be deployed in Tijuana, Baja California. Both the ZBVs and the X-Ray pallet will be used to conduct customs and tactical-surprise operations at checkpoints in order to combat the illicit drugs and weapons trade.

24. (U) An order of thirty-two (32) CT-30 Detection Kits for \$596,000 was contracted in February and is expected to be delivered between May and June 2011.

25. (U) Almost \$50 million in NIIE purchases requests were submitted to RPSO and NAS expects to award the contracts by March 2011 in order to be able to deliver the equipment by the end of 2011. The \$50 million includes seven M6500 X-Ray VACIS for \$21 million; two IP6500 for \$6 million; five X-ray minivans for \$800,000; ten All-Terrain trucks VACIS for \$13 million and five Portal FullScan VACIS for \$8.4 million.

DEVELOPING TRUSTWORTHY INSTITUTIONS

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27. (U) NATIONAL POLICE REGISTRY (NPR): Equipment worth \$4.3 million was delivered this month to the SSP for the National Police Registry project. Merida Initiative funding is contributing to the project with the objective of consolidating every public security employee's information in Mexico. This information will support the SSP in applying sanctions to public service employees engaging in illicit, illegal or corrupt activities. NAS is working with the Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública (SNSP) and the SSP to ensure all 620,000 law enforcement agents' biometric data is captured according to SNSP guidelines.

IT PROGRAMS

28. (U) MULTI-AGENCY TECHNICAL TRAINING: This NAS sponsored training was geared to improve on-the-job performance of GOM IT professionals and increase the effectiveness of the Merida IT investments. Such training is critical for the success of the ongoing expansion of the GOM IT and data systems projects under the Merida Initiative. A contract was awarded for Phase 1 analysis with the project being delivered over a twelve month period.

29. (U) PGR/JET (Justicia Efectiva para Todos): The JET project has an overall implementation cost to the PGR of approximately \$240 million, of which the Merida Initiative injected approximately \$27 million for Software (Oracle, VmWare, Red Hat, Citrix, and Microsoft). To secure the entry and extraction of data NAS has awarded a contract which will supply the complementary infrastructure with date/time stamp capabilities. The D/T Stamp portion of the project has a scheduled delivery date of May 2, 2011.

30. (U) PGR/CENAPI: Proposed Digital Content Management software and hardware will be used as one of the indispensable tools by analysts at the PGR to streamline the information flow for CENAPI's reporting requirements, allowing requests to be met within statutory deadlines. It would also impact the overall effectiveness of results sent to requesting authorities. The contract for Phase 1 analysis has been awarded with overall project delivery expected by September 23, 2011.

31. (U) Additionally, the implementation phase of a complex 20-month project to overhaul CENAPI's datacenter was initiated late 2010. The second delivery of \$1M in hardware/software services has been made. The third portion of this three part delivery is on schedule for full rollout in May 2012.

32. (U) ANONYMOUS CITIZENS COMPLAINT PROGRAM (ACCP): In February, a \$100,000 software upgrade to the Sistema de Denuncia Ciudadana and user community training was delivered. An audit of the Ciudad Juarez call management system started, which will culminate in the installation of a voice portal that will enable one number for the public relations campaign. The U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez hosted a program review involving GOM and DOS officials to determine next steps for working with non-governmental organizations based in Ciudad Juarez, creating a publicity campaign, and evaluating program impact were agreed upon. Decisions were made using guidance resulting from a meeting on February 14 between Ambassador Pascual and SSP Secretary Garcia Luna. The program is working towards a spring 2011 launch date.

33. (U) DATA LINK ANALYSIS (CRUCES): This \$9.4 million dollar project was delivered on February 28. The objective of the CRUCES project is to provide a quantitative analysis tool for temporal and spatial correlations to analyze large volumes of information (over 120 databases and nearly one billion records) in Plataforma Mexico, including information indexing, search capacity, generation and elaboration of categories for searches, and perpetual searches.

RULE OF LAW

34. (U) NAS has been designated as the Chair of the Rule of Law Working Group (ROLWG), comprised of DOJ, USAID, and other post entities with equities in rule of law programming. The primary function of the ROLWG will be to coordinate Merida Initiative rule of law programming, resolve inter-agency issues, and provide overall programmatic guidance. The ROLWG began streamlining performance metrics across Merida-funded rule of law efforts and will in the future seek cross-agency consistency in performance metrics. NAS will also take the role as primary USG partner with INACIPE. As such, when CWAG's current USAID-managed funding expires, NAS will directly fund and manage CWAG and its training and development activities in Mexico. CWAG is the Conference of Western Attorneys General.

NAS received two funding requests from the State of Chihuahua Attorney General's office. The first request is for computer equipment to be used in digitizing case files, as well as virtual classroom equipment. The second request is for comparison microscopes for Chihuahua's ballistic section. The funding was approved and will come from the Institution Building and Rule of Law line item.

INACIPE: To date, eight courses in "Crime Scene Preservation & Chain of Custody" have been provided to 151 SEDENA/SEMAR personnel. There have also been four courses in "The Police in the New Accusatorial Criminal Justice System," three in "Forensic Expert Participation in the Accusatorial Criminal Justice System" and four in "Criminal Investigations." INACIPE is working on a proposal for future training for Mexican Military attorneys in the new oral advocacy criminal justice system.

FORENSICS

35. (U) DOJ continues to work with the PGR to help them achieve ISO accreditation for their new forensics lab in Mexico City. In February, an ICITAP forensic anthropology expert met with the PGR Forensic Anthropology section to conduct a needs assessment. Based on the results of the assessment, the advisor will develop a training plan, which may include sending the PGR staff to Colombia for training and consultations.

36. (U) DOJ is also working with the SSP to develop their forensics lab, and an ICITAP Senior Forensic Advisor in February conducted a visit to the SSP lab. During the visit, the USG and GOM jointly created a ten-step workflow for the genetics laboratory and a sample procedure was created as a guide for protocol development. The advisor also toured and inspected the completed space for the genetic laboratory and provided feedback on quality issues and proposed solutions.

37. (U) To conclude the month, eight representatives from the PGR forensics lab and one representative from the SSP attended the American Academy of Forensic Science Meeting in Chicago, IL. Participants participated in a series of forensic workshops throughout the week and exchanged information with leading forensic scientists from around the world.

38. EQUIPMENT: PGR is in the process of defining requirements for the main PGR forensics labs. The procurement process for INACIPE's forensic lab equipment is also on hold, and PGR Servicios Periciales has asked NAS to stay the process until a determination is made as to who will receive this equipment. A contract was awarded for three additional IBIS Stations, which should arrive in the coming months. With these, all of Mexico's northern and southern border states will have IBIS capability. Also in February, a formal request was submitted for over 700 equipment items for SSP's new forensic laboratory. An acquisition plan is in development. Once finished, it will be submitted to SSP for approval.

USAID

39. (U) USAID: In February, USAID carried out 58 activities which included: 17 coordination meetings; 22 technical assistance interventions; 10 training courses; three grantee monitoring trips; three events for the dissemination of results; two activities for the development of training material; one conference; and one invitation for the inauguration of a justice center in Morelos. More specifically, USAID trained 132 people in eight training courses, including one certificate course. There were three courses for the Attorney General (PGR) in Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Victim Restitution. USAID also continued delivering a certificate course in TIP and law enforcement in February, with four modules taught over eight days. Training courses were also held on the following themes: perceptions and realities of criminal justice reform in Mexico, oral trial hearings for prosecutors, defense during the investigation, facilitation and consensus-building.

DEMAND REDUCTION

40. (U) A group of five judges and prosecutors from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, traveled to San Diego, CA to attend the 17th Annual Drug Court Training Conference, organized by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals. The course, taught entirely in Spanish, was the group's first full training on US-style drug court oral advocacy. Monterrey's judiciary is Mexico's pioneering drug court program, and DOS-NAS will provide support for expansion both in Nuevo Leon and other states.

41. (U) A team from the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine visited Mexico City to conduct initial meetings with Mexico's National Institute of Psychiatry, its partner in the NAS-DOS-supported Clinical Trial Program. The University of Miami will transfer methodologies used in the implementation of randomized clinical trials on drug addiction treatment and prevention protocols. This program calls for the adoption of the U.S. Clinical Trial Network methodologies in the Mexican environment. The team had the chance to visit and evaluate the sites selected by its Mexican partners for the pilot phase of the program.

CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS

42. (U) NATIONAL STRATEGY INFORMATION CENTER (NSIC): NSIC held strategic planning meetings in February with four Border State program directors for police culture of lawfulness (COL) education - Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, and Nuevo Leon. Each state has now started to provide CoL education to cadets and current members of their police forces, and plans to reach all state police by 2012. The city of Tijuana held a day-long conference to secure the support of 30 civil society and government leaders for a city-wide initiative. With NSIC guidance, participants formulated specific CoL proposals for the Mayor to incorporate into the 2011 - 2013 Municipal Development Plan now under consideration.

43. (U) JÓVENES EN ACCIÓN: NAS is currently working with the Embassy's Public Affairs Section to support Jóvenes en Acción, a five-week exchange program for non-elite Mexican youth (high-school age). The students will travel to the United States where they will learn leadership skills and design their own community service projects that address issues related to violence, substance abuse, and other related topics. With NAS support, a COL element will be incorporated into the program, and students will be introduced to COL principles. An RFP was posted in February requesting proposals from NGOs to manage the program. Merida funding will contribute an estimated \$300,000-500,000 in 2011 for the program, with additional funding coming from the Mexican Ministry of Education (SEP) and the private sector.

CANINE

44. (U) SAT: On February 4, thirteen Mexican Customs Agents from SAT graduated from CBP's Federal Law Enforcement Training Academy. The training is part of an ongoing effort between CBP, NAS and SAT under the Merida Initiative to train trainers from SAT in different courses for duplication at their academies. The curriculum for the training consists of, but is not limited to Questioning and Professionalism, Elements of Report Writing, Anti-Terrorism Overview, Non Intrusive Inspection Equipment Overview, Processing and Examining land/air/sea conveyances, Analyzing

Documents, Personal Safety and Protection.

45. (U) AFI: On February 23, NAS received the delivery of two dogs from Cobra Canine at the Mexico City Airport. The two dogs are part of a larger delivery of five dogs that were returned to Cobra Canine due to medical conditions in November 2010.

46. (U) SSP: On February 24-25, NAS received four dogs from Cobra Canine at the Mexico City Airport. The four dogs are part of a pack of nine that were returned to Cobra Canine due to medial and training problems. The medical problems were due to skeleton issues that did not appear in the original x-rays that Cobra Canine provided with the dogs. The training problems are due to the lack of drive and search methodology by the dogs. The issue was brought to RPSO and Cobra Canine in order to resolve the issue but unfortunately at this time it has not been resolved.

47. (U) On February 28, CBP Advisor to NAS and the Federal Police (SSP) met to discuss pending issues regarding the Ciudad Juarez K-9 project, as well as the construction/renovation of the Las Bombas K-9 Academy in Mexico City. During the meeting, SSP raised their concerns regarding the Las Bombas projects and pointed out that March 2011 will mark one year since the project was first presented to NAS. The Ciudad Juarez project is moving along with the procurement of equipment such as mobile kennels, pseudo, training equipment, and vehicles. All items should be delivered by the end of July 2011.

AVIATION

48. (U) A meeting was held in Winston-Salem in February to continue working through issues related to the ISR aircraft currently slated for delivery to the SSP in late 2011. Few resolutions were achieved, but NAS continues to track progress and inform the GOM of its status.

Signature: PASCUAL

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