

ACTION WHA-00

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RELEASED IN PART

1.4(B),B1,B7(D),B7(E),B7(F),B7(C),1.4(D)

DECONTROLLED

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Oscar Olson, Senior Reviewer

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 000336

SENSITIVE

PLEASE PASS TO USAID/LAC/CAM EROIG AND USAID/LAC/CAM EHOUSTON

E.O. 13526: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, KCRM, KJUS, EAID, GT

SUBJECT: Embassy Guatemala: February 2011 CARSI Report

REF: A) 09 STATE 114752; B) GUATEMALA 286;

1. (U) In response to ref A, Post submits the information
 below detailing Embassy Guatemalas

CARSI activities for February 2011.

Internal Developments

Classified by MGräfeld, DAS, A/GIS, DoS ~ Class: UNCLASSIFIED ~ Reason:
 1.4(B), 1.4(D) ~ Declassify on: 03/10/2031

2. (SBU) On March 1, the driver of a school bus carrying 20
 students from the Vista Hermosa Bilingual school was shot. The
 incident, which occurred only a few blocks away from the Embassy,
 appears to have been the result of road rage between the bus driver
 and the motorcyclist who shot him. Ambassador McFarland went to the

scene of the incident and expressed his support for the victim (who is currently in the hospital) and his concern for Guatemala's serious security situation. [REDACTED]

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3. (SBU) On February 24, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] the Guatemalan Public Ministry (MP, or Attorney General's Office), the National Civil Police (PNC) and the Guatemalan Army Special Forces (GEIR), executed 28 search warrants throughout Guatemala in locations associated with the Los Zetas drug trafficking organization (DTO). [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The operation generated a considerable amount of national press and senior government officials are calling it a major blow to the Los Zetas DTO operating in Guatemala.

4. (U) On February 15, [REDACTED] and MP authorities seized 367,000 Quetzales (approximately \$47,209) and arrested 18 people for their roles as part of an organized group of M18 extortionists and assassins. Forty search warrants were executed

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at the conclusion of a seven-month investigation. According to press reports, at least 16 of those arrested are women. Several bank accounts belonging to M18 members have been frozen. The investigation was a nationwide effort linking a series of extortions that were conducted in four departments including the capital city, Escuintla, Suchitepequez and Quetzaltenango. The Mayor of Quetzaltenango visited [REDACTED] to personally thank them for the results of this investigation and to pass on congratulations from the Governor. [REDACTED]

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5. (U) GOG officials expressed broad support for USG security and rule of law initiatives during INL A/S Brownfield and WHA PDAS Jacobsons February 6-8 visit to Guatemala (septel).

Implementation Activities

USAIDs Crime Prevention Program

Planning for potential USAID-supported municipal level intervention in Guatemala City:

6. (SBU) USAIDs Crime Prevention Program (CPP) has initiated discussions with the Municipality of Guatemala on potentially supporting the Barrio Seguro (Safe Neighborhood) program. This local level program, coordinated with the Ministry of Governments Vice Ministry for Community Support, would strengthen neighborhood security committees and promote community-based policing, gang prevention activities and revitalize public areas and police stations.

USAID-supported municipal level intervention in Alta Verapaz:

7. (SBU) USAIDs CPP has provided technical assistance to municipal commissions in Tactic and Tamahu to develop their crime prevention work plans. In addition to providing opportunities for at-risk youth, the prevention plans now incorporate local economic development priorities such as tourism, textiles, and agriculture.

Support to the Mancomunidad Chorti in Crime and Violence Prevention Efforts:

8. (SBU) The Mancomunidad Chorti is a legal association of four municipalities in the Chiquimula Department in Eastern Guatemala. As part of its local economic development strategy, the association with technical assistance from USAID has established a Technology Institute for the area. The Institute will increase and diversify socioeconomic opportunities for youth. USAIDs CPP will provide equipment to the Institute and provide vocational training for students interested in working in IT or as auto mechanics and electricians. The afternoon vocational training complements the formal education morning training, which is part of the curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education. To date, 125 young people have registered for classes in the formal program. Grupo Ceiba, a Crime Prevention Partner, will transfer its vocational training methodology to the Institute.

USAID-supported at-risk youth activities:

9. (U) The third Citizens Fair, held on February 20, 2011, is a part of the [REDACTED] 7,421 people participated in the fair, which was located in El Mezquital, a

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crime-affected neighborhood in Villa Nueva. [] promotes values and messages of non-violence for at-risk youth through forums and cultural activities.

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10. (SBU) With USAID support, the Central American Institute of Studies for Social Democracy (DEMOS) is producing and airing a radio program called Nuestra Onda. Youth have discussed issues such as hip hop, violence, and views about the government-sponsored Open School (Escuelas Abiertas) program. The radio program promotes awareness on crime and violence prevention for youth, and is aired every Tuesday from 7:00 PM until 8:00 PM on Radio Punto (90.5 Mhz). The national radio station reaches approximately 106,813 people and has a Facebook page.

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[] from the Canadian government to help assist in the administrative set-up of the commission. NAS and USAID plan to meet with Police Reform Commissioner Helen Mack in early March to identify short-term goals that the commission can strive to complete within the next six months to a year.

12. (SBU) Gangs: []

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[] The Regional Gang Seminar was held in Antigua February 9-11 with participants from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and INL Washington. Implementation and planning issues were discussed. El Salvador and Honduras requested that Guatemala send [] and MP Organized Crime prosecutors to speak with police and prosecutors in their countries about how to conduct inter-agency gang investigations that target entire gang cliques. Guatemala presented its Model Police Precinct program (MPP) as a method for improving police investigation skills and community

involvement. El Salvador and Honduras requested that Guatemala coordinate with the Mayor [redacted] -- where the second MPP is working

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-- to speak with the mayors in their respective countries to discuss the importance of the police working closely with local community leaders to improve security.

13. (SBU) Prisons: The Organized Crime Prosecutor directed the removal of all illegal buildings that had been constructed in front of the entry to the prison facility in zone 18. Barricades were subsequently installed to control both foot and vehicular access to the prison. The structures have been a problem for a long time because much of the drugs and cell phones entering the prison passed through these facilities prior to being smuggled into the prison by visitors or prison guards. The Director of Prisons, Eddy Morales, was the victim of a drive-by shooting when he exited the Prison School Building in Zone 9. Neither Morales nor any of the prison school personnel were injured but his vehicle was hit by multiple bullets. Information obtained after the shooting indicated that the leader of the M18 in Guatemala, El Abuelo, a prisoner, was the person that contracted the shooting because of all of the restrictions that are being imposed by the prison system director.

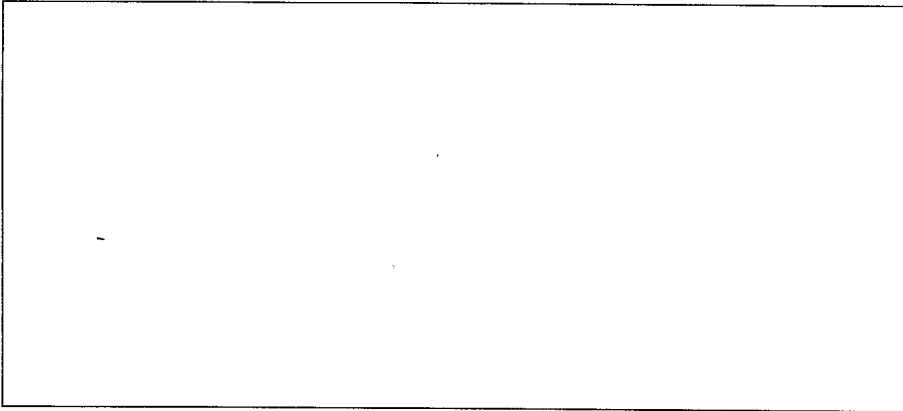
14. (SBU) Fingerprints: On February 7, INL Assistant Secretary Brownfield commemorated the culmination of four years of work between the MOG, MP, DIGECAM (arms and munitions registry), the Penitentiary System, National Autonomous Forensics Laboratory (INACIF), and USG to develop an integrated system for the capture and analysis of fingerprints. [redacted]

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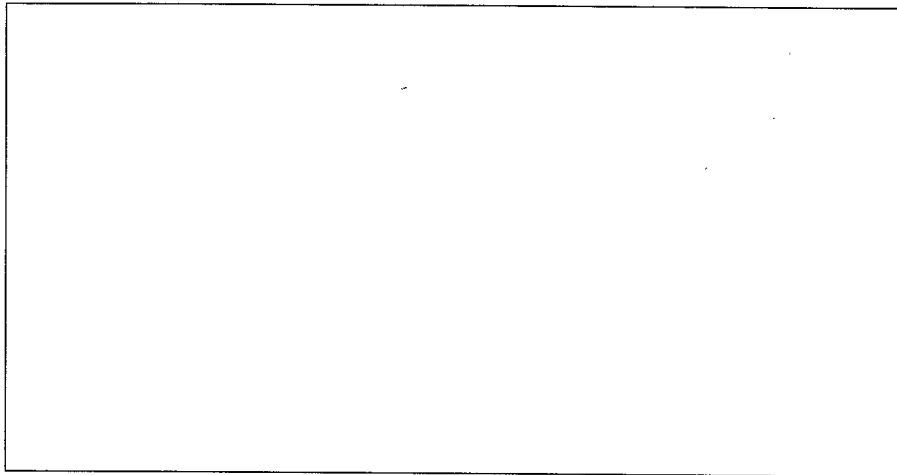
15. (SBU) Counter Narcotics: On February 12-19, Guatemalan authorities successfully eradicated 682 hectares of poppy in the San Marcos department (ref B). On February 24, as part of its quarterly program meeting with Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz, Minister of Government Carlos Menocal, and the Assistant Executive Secretary of SECCATID (drug prevention agency), NAS discussed the recent manual eradication mission. [redacted]

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18. (SBU) Asset Seizure Law: NAS continued providing technical advice in the drafting of the implementing regulations for the Asset Seizure Law. Advisors met with the GOGs inter-agency technical team to explain some parts of the law and review the roles of the different GOG agencies that have warehousing premises and authorities.

19. (U) Gambling and Counterfeit Medicines: NAS continued providing technical legal support to the congressional committee drafting a law to regulate gambling. Efforts focused on creating a Superintendence of Gaming to regulate and supervise gambling in Guatemala. Currently, the sector is not regulated, therefore posing a large risk for money laundering. NAS also provided technical legal support of a law to strengthen controls against counterfeit medicines. Areas examined included the inspection powers of the Ministry of Health, the procedure for the seizure of counterfeit medical products, and a review of crimes generated by this illicit activity.

20. (U) Ethics: NAS sponsored an Ethics Seminar from February 2-4 that drew over 150 Guatemalan participants from the PNC, MP, courts, Office of the Controller General, and ethics officers from multiple institutions. A delegation from Puerto Rico was invited to share their experiences regarding ethics in government operations that was led by Jenniffer Gonzalez, President of the Chamber of Representatives; Guillermo Somoza Colombani, Secretary of the

Department of Justice; Comptroller Yesmin M. Valdivieso; Zulma R. Rosario Vega, Director of Ethics Office for the Government of Puerto Rico; and the Mayor of Aguadilla, Carlos Mendez Martinez. Prior to the conference, the Puerto Rican delegation met with President of Congress Roberto Alejos, Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz, Minister of Government Carlos Menocal, Mayor of Mixco Amilcar Rivera, the National Commission for Transparency, Vice President of Guatemala Rafael Espada, and the Guatemalan Bar Association. The seminar and visits were well received and a letter of agreement for mutual assistance was signed between the Comptrollers of Guatemala and Puerto Rico. The technical support provided by the delegates from Puerto Rico helped the MP draft an Ethics Code Manual and start an

Ethics Program, and also helped the Supreme Court to develop an ethical code of conduct for judges.

21. (U) Demand Reduction: NAS and Guatemalas National Secretariat on Demand Reduction (SECCATID) agreed to concentrate this years efforts in three main areas: school-based programs, strategic information and program evaluation, and community work. NAS met with SECCATIDs Deputy Secretary and the Drug Observatory Director to discuss the terms of reference for a planned update of the national drug-use survey. NAS also met with officers from the regional office of the U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) to discuss potential methods for updating of the national drug-use survey as well as potential CDC technical assistance during the surveys design and analysis phases. NAS reviewed implementation of the police-led drug prevention program DARE with Vice Minister of Government for Community Relations Guerra. NAS discussed the potential of developing community anti-drug coalitions in Santa Catarina Pinula and Mixco with officials from the Community Anti-Drugs Coalitions of America (CADCA). NAS reviewed the first quarterly financial and program report submitted by the Center for Development Initiatives (CIDES) for its youth-prevention program that is being executed with CARSI small grant funds. The first phase of the program successfully identified 100 families, provided at-risk youth and parents with training, and took the youth away during their summer vacation to provide them with a safe place to learn. The second phase of the program started in February and it works with the youth in their home communities and schools to build risk-avoidance skills.

22. (SBU) Aviation: On February 9, NAS Director met with Minister of Defense General Valenzuela, Chief of the National Defense General Ruiz, and Chief of the Air Force General Noriega to discuss nationalization of the aviation program. Minister Valenzuela appointed General Ruiz as the lead for the Ministry of Defense (MOD) and General Noriega met with NAS technical staff later the same day to obtain a briefing on the items that the GOG must complete to comply with the terms specified in the Letter of Agreement. On February 25, NAS Director met with General Ruiz, General Noriega, and Vice Minister of Government for Administration Davila, who is leading the MOGs team on nationalization. Ruiz and Davila asked their technical groups to get together the first week of March to discuss pending issues and develop recommendations. During the month, five new pilots were provided with night vision goggle training. The unit deployed two helicopters to Retalhuleu on February 13 in support of

ground eradication operations in San Marcos.

23. (U) From February 14 to 18, [REDACTED] hosted a Small Arms Trafficking and Basic Post-Blast Investigation training class. Forty Guatemalan law enforcement students attended from [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Highlights of the week-long training included tabletop team exercises where students reconstructed exploded devices and made presentations to the class on their findings. Students also traveled to [REDACTED] and received hands-on training on handling firearms and extracting the pertinent information necessary to trace firearms. The students were enthused and the training was well received. [REDACTED]

24. (SBU) [REDACTED] assisted Guatemalan authorities in preparing for testimony at a detention hearing for the bomb maker Danilo Perez Rodriguez, 28, who allegedly constructed bombs used in various bus bombings. Guatemalan authorities used information gathered by [REDACTED] in response to the January 3, 2011, bus bombing in which nine people were killed. On February 18, as a result of the combined investigative effort, Rodriguez was held without bail.

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25. (SBU) [REDACTED]

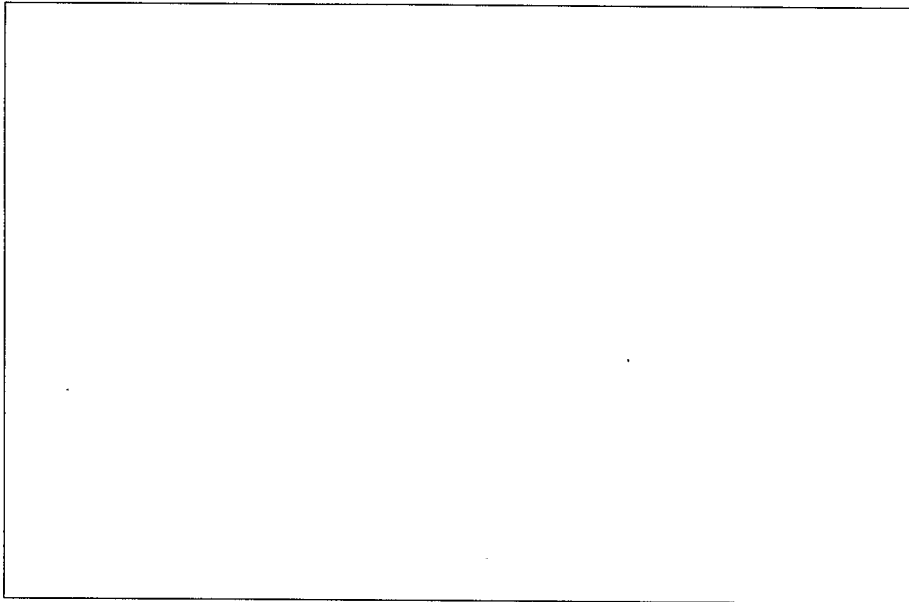
[REDACTED] is not a police investigative body, it does not have the authority to release any information on active cases until the case has been adjudicated and the information becomes public. [REDACTED] also requested ATF Guatemala support in purchasing a laser engraving machine to ensure that all firearms registered in Guatemala carry the GUA mark. (Note: Any newly registered firearm receives the GUA mark at time of purchase or importation.) [REDACTED]

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27. (SBU) As part of laying the groundwork for the Model Police Precinct [REDACTED] the Vice Minister of Government for Security agreed to provide [REDACTED]

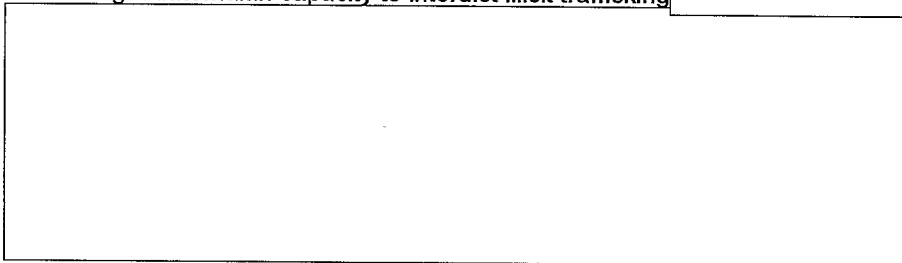
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U.S. Military Group Support to CARSI Efforts



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29. (SBU) The U.S. Military Groups (MILGP) Section 1033 and 1004 plans and funding, focused on Counter Narcotics/Counter Illicit Trafficking (CIT), continue to move forward in partnership and in complement with CARSI programs. Equipment and infrastructure financed with FY 10 Section 1033/1004 funding is due to arrive or complete construction between March and July 2010. As with FY 2011 plans, FY 2010 funding is in full support of CARSI and is targeted at enhancing Guatemalan capacity to interdict illicit trafficking [REDACTED]



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30. (SBU) FY 2011 plans are well under way. Architectural design for key infrastructure in Champerico and Tecum Uman is complete and is under review. Pending funding approval, construction could begin late in calendar year 2011 or early 2012. Equipment procurement is also moving forward. For the FY 2011 plan, MILGP and SOUTHCOM are working closely together to carefully review the type, quantity, and support packages required to field equipment to the Guatemalan military and police that will provide a significantly enhanced security capability. [REDACTED]



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[REDACTED] Training plans are also moving forward. MILGP has coordinated with US Army South and Special Operations Command South to both schedule and provide leader and unit training to new and existing Guatemalan military/police units (Inter-agency Border Unit, GEIR, FEN). This training will commence in June 2011 and will continue through next year. The training will include courses on

small unit leadership, tactical planning, mounted maneuver, small boat operations, maintenance, communications and important training on human rights and military discipline. MILGP expects that pending final approval of FY 11 Section 1033 and 1004 funding, both existing and new units supported by these programs will begin to appreciate the full capability of this U.S. support by summer of 2012.

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seizures/arrests in February 2011:

- February 2 Villa Nueva, Guatemala: 7 kilos of cocaine seized
- February 8 Guatemala City International Airport: 60,000 pseudoephedrine tablets seized valued at \$120,000
- February 10 Guatemala City International Airport: \$87,230 in cash seized
- February 11 Guatemala City International Airport: 125,000 pseudoephedrine tablets seized valued at \$250,000
- February 12 Chimaltenango, Guatemala: 18 kilos of cocaine seized and two people arrested
- February 16 Escuintla and Siquinala, Guatemala: 40 kilos of cocaine seized and two people arrested
- February 17 Guatemala City International Airport: 60,000 pseudoephedrine tablets seized valued at \$120,000
- February 21 Guatemala City International Airport: 30,000 pseudoephedrine tablets seized valued at \$60,000
- February 22 Suchitepequez, Guatemala: 90 kilos of cocaine seized and two people arrested
- February 23 Guatemala City International Airport: 4 kilos of cocaine seized and one person arrested
- February 24 Huehuetenango, Guatemala: 7 people arrested

The Month Ahead

32. (SBU) Below are posts planned activities for March 2011:

- Inauguration of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS)
- March 14-18 manual eradication mission

- March 14-25 ATF Post-Blast Class

- USAID has been coordinating closely with Vanderbilt University in order to begin a baseline study for the Crime Prevention Program. The baseline study will be carried out in Tactic in Alta Verapaz, the municipality of Guatemala, and the municipality of Esquipulas in Chiquimula. The study, which includes a crime victimization survey and focus groups, will be conducted in 12 treatment and 12 control communities. This same study will be conducted at the end of the program to measure the impact of USAIDs interventions in the treatment communities.

McFARLAND

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