

ACTION WHA-00

INFO LOG-00 EEB-00 AID-00 CTME-00 INL-00 DODE-00 DS-00
EXIM-01 E-00 VCI-00 DIAS-00 FRB-00 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-00 L-00 CAC-00 ARMY-00 MOFM-00 MOF-00 VCIE-00
NSAE-00 ISN-00 NSCE-00 OCS-00 OIC-00 OMB-00 PA-00
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FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0215
INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
CDR USNORTHCOM PETERSON AFB CO IMMEDIATE
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
FBI WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
DEA WASHINGTON DC DIVISION OFFICE IMMEDIATE
CIA WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

RELEASED IN PART
B1,B7(D),B7(E),1.4(D),B7(F),B7(C),B6

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTERREY 000091

DECONTROLLED

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/05/21
TAGS: ASEC, KCRM, SNAR, PHUM, PGOV, SOCI, CASC, ECON, MX
SUBJECT: CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT OUTMATCHED BY THE CARTELS; THE
PUBLIC FRUSTRATED IN THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

REF: 10 MONTERREY 164; 10 MONTERREY 43; 10 MONTERREY 154
10 MONTERREY 71; 10 MONTERREY 208; 10 MEXICO 295; 09 MONTERREY 435

CLASSIFIED BY: Bruce Williamson, Consul General; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (C) Summary: Violence in the Monterrey metro area continues as the warring Gulf Cartel and Zeta drug trafficking organization (DTO) expand their Northern Mexico war to the city. While the military remains active, scoring a spectacular weapons haul during a raid on a Zeta training camp in Nuevo Leon

[redacted] - 165 out of approximately 1,000 state police have been dismissed in recent months due to ties to DTOs. The Monterrey metro area has registered new homicide and carjacking records the past two months.

B1
1.4(D)

[redacted] Both industry and the public, aware that the public security apparatus has been compromised, are reaching for [redacted] solutions, [redacted]

[redacted] End
summary.

Classification Extended on : 09/10/2013 ~ Class: CONFIDENTIAL ~ Authority: DSCG
11-1 ~ [] Declassify on: 05/20/2031

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Adolph Eisner, Senior Reviewer

Police Function Degraded - The Case of Monterrey

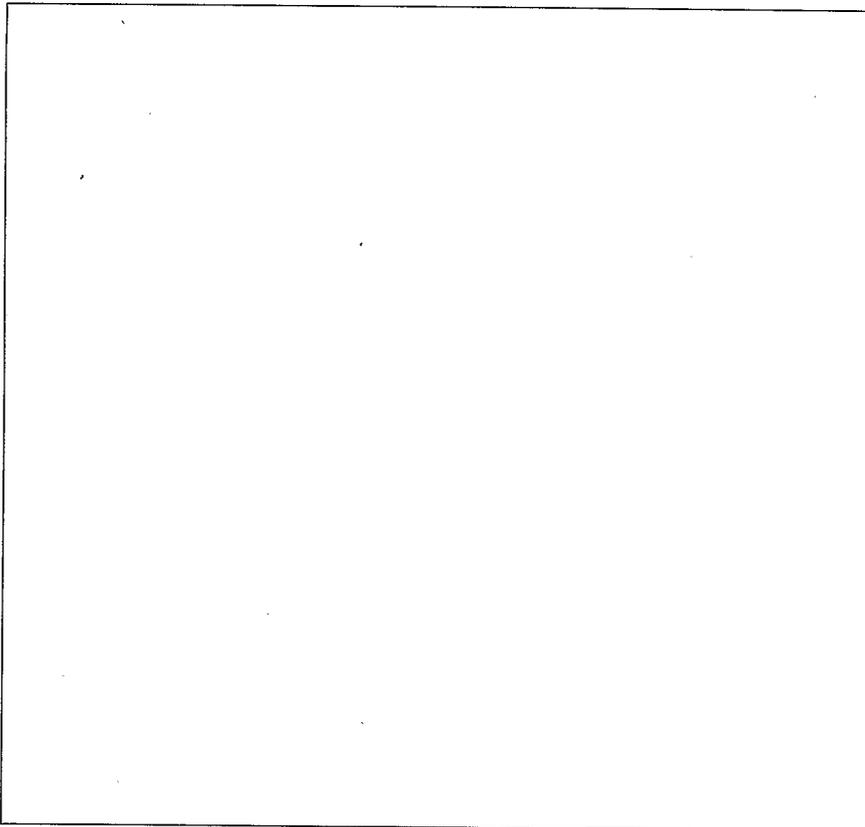
2. (C) [redacted] the city of Monterrey's problems are typical of those faced by its neighboring municipalities. On May 6, the Nuevo Leon Attorney General's office launched an investigation into the failure of seven Monterrey police officers to respond to the April 21 kidnapping of seven hotel guests in downtown Monterrey (ref C). The police station is 10 minutes by foot from the hotels, but police took over 50 minutes to respond to the incident. Overall, Monterrey Mayor Fernando Larrazabal told the media that 92 Monterrey police officers were under investigation for various crimes.

B1
1.4(D)

3. (C) Later, on May 11, the state Attorney General's office arrested 12 Monterrey municipal police officers for their role in a triple execution outside of a local bar on April 25. State officials said they secured the area for the hitmen prior to the shooting. Three of the officers subsequently admitted to routinely serving as lookouts for drug trafficking organizations (DTOs).

[redacted] Afterwards, on May 14, the State investigative Agency (AEI) arrested three Monterrey police officers, including one unit commander, for links with organized crime.

B1
1.4(D)



6. (SBU) Recent trends buttress [redacted] concerns. On May 5, troops detained five San Nicolas police and charged them with passing information on troop movements to organized criminals. A state police officer arrested by marines on May 4 confessed that he had worked with the Zetas in organizing narco roadblocks in the city. Officials also arrested six Guadalupe police for their role in supporting the roadblocks (refs A, D).

B6
B7(C)

On May 7, troops detained two San Nicolas police officers for attempting to kidnap two army officers dressed in civilian clothes. According to the report, the police discovered they were soldiers after searching their belongings. The police then threatened to turn them over to the cartels. The officers escaped and reported the incident to the military. On May 14, a judge released the two police, citing a lack of evidence.

7. (SBU) On May 6, Nuevo Leon Secretary of Public Security Carlos Trevino Berchelmann announced the dismissal of 79 state police officers on charges of corruption (making a total of 165 out of approximately 1,000 state police fired over the past few months for organized crime links). Berchelmann revealed the same day that 150 federal police would assist in policing state highways. On May 21, two of the federal police officers disappeared in Cadereyta, near the Monterrey airport. Thus far, around 654 state and municipal police officers in the Monterrey area have been discharged or voluntarily left service due to corruption charges.

San Pedro Mayor Moves to More Mainstream Solutions

8. (C) [redacted] San Pedro Mayor Mauricio Fernandez has publicly disavowed his prior declarations to the effect that he had established a vigilante squad to keep the streets of well-heeled San Pedro safe.

B1
1.4(D)

[Large redacted block]

B1
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B6

9. (C) Per a May 18 meeting of the city's Public Security Advisory Council, Fernandez's approach is now to safeguard the city by bringing on more police and enlisting the municipalities' numerous watchmen and private guards in the public security effort. Citizens will be urged to report crimes and get involved.

[Redacted block]

B1
1.4(D)

Violence Continues Unchecked in Monterrey Metro Area

10. (SBU) Meanwhile, violence on the street continues apace. On May 2, gunfire stampeded a crowd of over 3,000 at a beer garden during the Guadalupe Expo (in a Monterrey suburb). Five people died in the ensuing panic and numerous others were injured. On May 5, at 3 pm in a heavily trafficked area of Monterrey, assassins killed a drug dealer and left a note, allegedly from the Gulf Cartel, stating "This will happen to all." On May 6, criminals kidnapped two youths in San Pedro during rush hour as a San Pedro police officer passively watched on.

[REDACTED] On May 11, a drive-by shooting in downtown Monterrey left a bar bouncer dead and three bar patrons wounded. A May 12 afternoon hail of bullets outside of the popular Monterrey restaurant "El Papalote" killed a restaurant guard. Minutes later, the same gunmen shot a man to death in a car dealership in Guadalupe.

11. (SBU) On May 13, authorities found the bodies of two stabbing victims, including that of a University of Nuevo Leon (UANL) student discovered in the city of Santiago, south of Monterrey. The student, who died of multiple stab wounds, had been reported kidnapped the day before. That same day, police in the affluent Monterrey suburb of San Pedro discovered, on the banks of a dry river, the bound body of a man who had been shot to death and another body, dead from a headshot, lying beside the Santa Catarina River. After a May 15 car chase and shootout left one dead in Guadalupe, armed cartel members on motorcycles forcibly took the victim's body from the ambulance transporting it to the morgue. Ambulance officials escaped unharmed after lying on the ground for 15 minutes. (Comment: Criminals apparently retrieved the body to stymie police forensic efforts. End comment.) In a May 18 kidnapping, gunmen in two vehicles threw at least two grenades outside of Monterrey's Arena Coliseo during a "lucha libre" match. The explosions and subsequent gunshots (around 30) panicked the crowd inside, many of whom rushed out of the stadium in panic causing numerous injuries. Assailants succeeded in kidnapping the wounded victim.

Military Actions Continue

12. (C) Notwithstanding the redeployment of a contingent of marines from Nuevo Leon to Ciudad Juarez, the military, principally the army, remains active. On April 24 in General Bravo, troops killed three criminals in an engagement with a 20-vehicle narco-convoy. They freed four kidnap victims and confiscated six vehicles. In the aftermath of an April 26 gun battle with cartel members, troops freed seven kidnap victims and found two decaying bodies at a narco-ranch in General Bravo, Nuevo Leon. They

B7(F)

confiscated 43 rifles (including AR-15s and AK-47s), 6 handguns, 10,000 round of ammunition, 4 grenades and 12 vehicles. Three cartel members died in the action and soldiers arrested four others. On May 2, troops raided a drug house in Guadalupe, arresting six and seizing over US\$ 95,000 in cash, 262,677 doses of cocaine and 3,403 doses of crack cocaine. Soldiers also found handguns, ammunition and two bulletproof vests labeled "Apodaca Municipal Police." Military forces freed 16 kidnap victims (including a woman and her two-year-old child) and found two dead bodies during an April 27 army raid on a narco-ranch in Sabinas Hidalgo, Nuevo Leon. They also seized two tons of marijuana, 13 long guns, 3 sub-machineguns, 6 handguns, 2 fragmentation grenades, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, a grenade launcher and four trucks.

Troops Raid Large Zeta Base

13. (C) On May 11, the army, responding to an anonymous tip, engaged approximately 50 Zetas at a narco-camp in Higuera, Nuevo Leon, around 56 kilometers north of Monterrey, leaving one criminal

dead as the rest fled. (Comment: Post has no information on military casualties. End comment.) The military found a significant cache of arms: 32 fragmentation hand grenades, 77 40mm grenades, four 40mm grenade launchers, 76 .223 caliber rifles, 60 AK-47 type rifles, two Barrett 50-caliber rifles, 15 pistols, three rocket propelled grenade launchers, two rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), one light anti-tank armor weapon(LAAW), approximately 10,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,300 magazines, body armor and 20 two-way radios. Troops also confiscated 13 SUVs and pick-up trucks. The Zetas were believed to be living at the campsite and had a large stash of canned goods.

[Redacted]

B1
1.4(D)
B7(D)

Monterrey Area Homicide and Carjacking Rates Skyrocket

14. (SBU) The Nuevo Leon Attorney General's office recently reported a record 101 homicides in April (the state began keeping a monthly record of homicides in 2004), besting the previous record of 73 set the month before (ref A). The state has documented 226 known homicides for 2010 (through April). Additionally, carjackings continue to plague the Monterrey metro area. On May 6, criminals hijacked 74 cars in a 24-hour period, over four times the record set in February (ref B).

[Redacted]

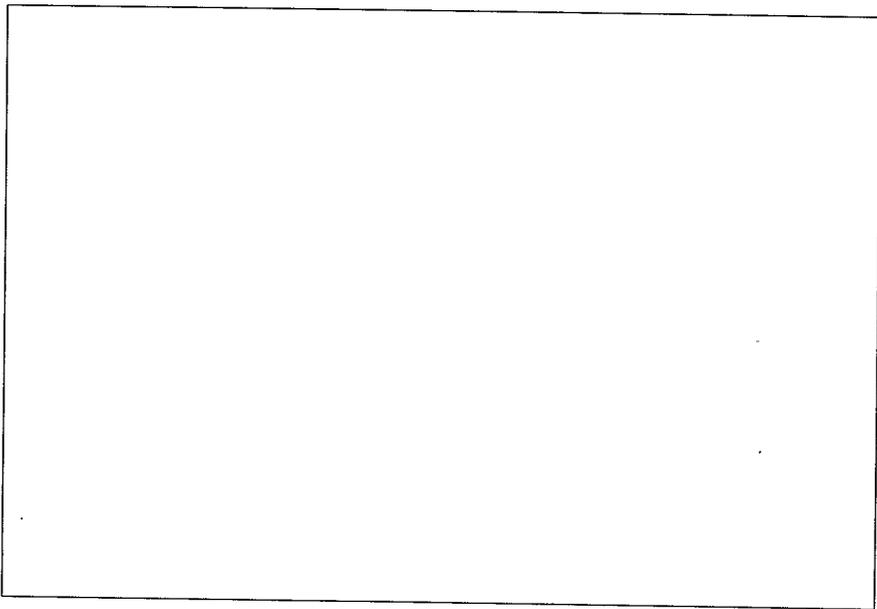
B7(E)

Roads North Continue to Be Dangerous

15. (C) Intense fighting between the Gulf Cartel and the Zetas has made travel chancy on roads north from Monterrey to the U.S. border. On April 30, gunmen killed an employee of the Nuevo Leon state Committee for Livestock Protection as he drove his mobile office towards the Colombia border crossing. (Comment: Over the past month, Post has received reports of numerous Cartel hijackings and hijack attempts, including the recent carjacking and robbery of [redacted] on the road to Reynosa. End comment.)

A Town Left Adrift

16. (SBU) At least one town in the state, General Bravo (population 5,000), has no acting security force. The town's secretary of public security resigned on April 14 and the town's entire police force resigned a week later after the discovery of the burned body of one of their colleagues. Narco-violence has impacted General Bravo, near the Tamaulipas border, since at least February (ref B).



Search for Deus Ex Machina

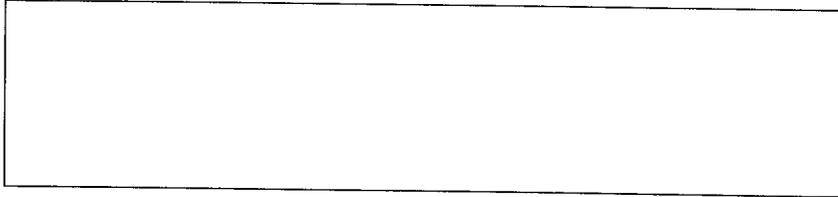
18. (C) In almost all our conversations, local residents express the desire for a safer environment, though they admit that the road from here to there is not clear. Reforming the police, observers admit, is a long-term effort which will take time, money, commitment, and sacrifice. [redacted]



B6
B7(C)

1.4(D)
B1

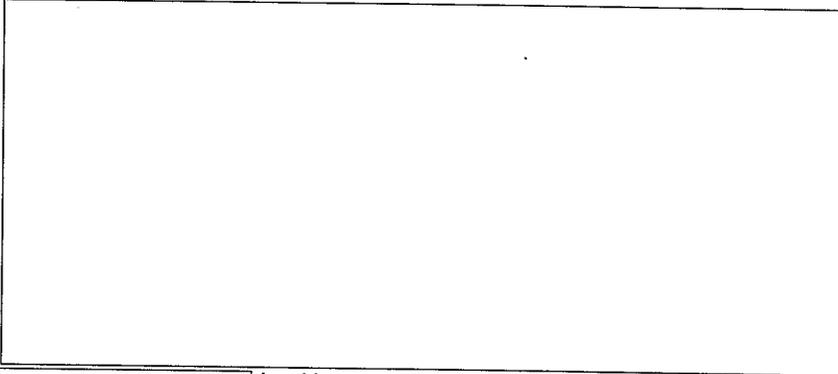
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B1



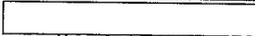
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1.4(D)

Comment

19. (C) As the Zeta - Gulf Cartel conflict widens to include Monterrey, the fear among Monterrey's citizens is palpable. Daily media reports include details of gruesome violence and lurid photos, including a recent picture of four severed heads found in Durango in the aftermath of a nightclub shootout (ref E), adding to the sense of insecurity. The city, once deemed Latin American's safest metropolis, is struggling to come to terms with its violent present.



1.4(D)
B1

 Lacking trust in state and local authorities, the public continues to view the military as its last, best hope for a return to stability.
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