

agenda

Operation ALTAIR

**HMCS
Charlottetown
Back From
the Gulf**

**MDA
Taking Aim
at Seaborne
TERROR**

**Project
Gunrunner
CRUSHES** the Illegal
Flow of Firearms

PLUS West Point and ITESM, Sharp Gear and Flying Iguanas



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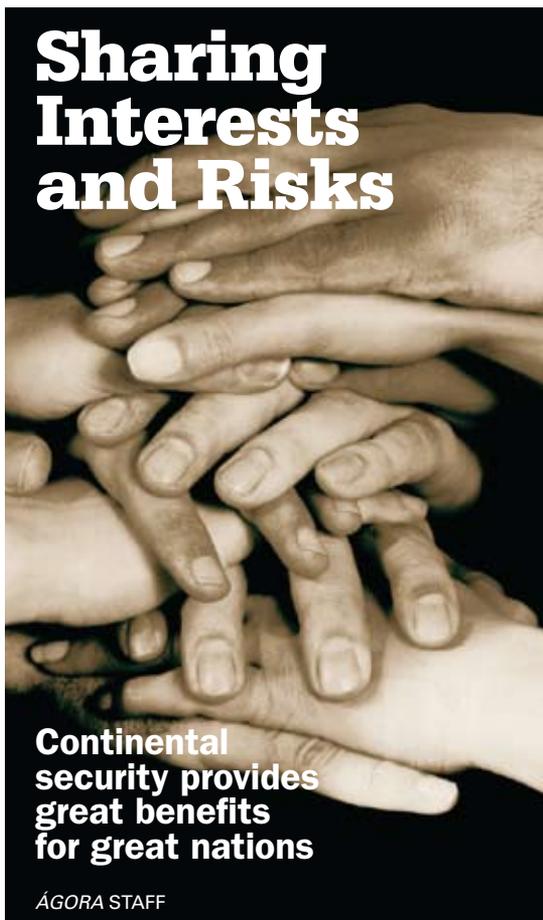


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Sharing Interests and Risks



Continental security provides great benefits for great nations

ÁGORA STAFF

What people have in common is more a function of their knowledge of each other than knowledge of their respective possessions. Strangers may appear to have nothing in common at first, but as they become friends, they discover more commonalities. What has changed is their understanding and respect of each other, and not a harmonization of their possessions. If any good has come from the global terror attacks since Sept. 11, it's that countries have

awakened to the fact that they—we—have much in common and what we share in common, can only be protected in common.

The US is coming to recognize that in order for it to be safe, its global partners and more importantly, its neighbors within the Americas, have to be safe as well. Just as it would be difficult to protect an apartment from fire if adjacent apartments are in flames, so too is it difficult for any one nation to be safe from threats if neighboring nations are at risk. As strangers, we may have a vague idea what each other's risks are, but as friends, the risks start to become clear, and a common bridge of understanding is built.

All the people of North America are at risk from different forms of regional and transnational threats, such as the intercontinental movement of weapons, narcotics, human trafficking and other crimes that know no boundaries. To the US in a post-Sept. 11 world, combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction are crucial actions to be taken against potential threats. But poverty is a threat too and a lack of adequate health care is a real risk to families and society.

A list of potential shared risks may be quite lengthy, but once we acknowledge our shared interests and risks, how are separate military capabilities employed to achieve a shared continental defense? Maybe there is no answer. Maybe there are many answers. Maybe all our neighboring countries have a part to play. A good way to bridge this is to start identifying our commonalities, respect our differences and come to a consensus as to what exactly defines a threat. An important lesson that Americans are learning from our Mexican and Canadian neighbors is that threats aren't only military in nature, and they are not only American in focus. For example, our nations have found common ground with regard to economics. The North American Free Trade Agreement continues to provide tremendous benefits to the people of North America. We now need to find common ground to build a bridge for continental security that will provide the citizens of our great nations with that same level of benefit.

ágora

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Canadian Forces Change of Command

Gen. Walter Natynczyk, New Chief of Defence Staff

The new man at the helm of Canada's military says the Afghan army is making "huge progress" and he sees the Canadian Forces leaving Kandahar as scheduled in 2011.



TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Gen. Walter Natynczyk formally took over as Chief of Defence Staff in a ceremony July 2, at a military air base in Ottawa, and immediately began to project his own persona on the highest ranking position in the Canadian Forces.

"We have a clear mandate to leave Kandahar, to leave Afghanistan, in 2011," Natynczyk said in his first news conference after being sworn in as CDS. "That is from a military standpoint that we have that mandate."

Natynczyk, 50, replaces Gen. Rick Hillier, the popular "soldier's soldier" who helped raise the profile of the Canadian Forces while publicly campaigning to maintain Canada's military role in Afghanistan.

FIRST FEMALE FOUR-STAR GENERAL

The Pentagon announced June 23 that President Bush nominated Lt. Gen. Dunwoody for promotion to four-star general. It is the first time in American history that a woman has been nominated for the distinction of four-star general. Today, 57 active-duty women and 47 female reservists wear stars on their shoulders in the armed forces. Moreover, roughly 194,000 women make up 14 percent of all active duty forces. Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 193,400 women have deployed in support of US operations.



STACEY G. BROOKS/AP

Honoring the Brave

A Mexican federal police officer pauses during a ceremony to honor officers killed last May in México City. Three officers, including México's acting federal police chief, were killed during the nationwide crackdown on organized crime.



GREGORY BULL/AP

LEARNING TO SHARE

Children hold US and Mexican flags during a visit to their school by US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings in México City, June 13. Spellings was in México City to meet with her Mexican counterparts and share ideas on how to solve educational challenges.



GREGORY BULL/AP



\$465 Million Granted to Merida Initiative

México welcomes US anti-drug aid

President George W. Bush signed a bill June 30 that grants \$465 million for the “Merida Initiative,” a partnership with México and nations in Central America to crack down on violent drug trafficking gangs. The Merida Initiative was within the budget supplemental measure approved June 27 that included \$162 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress cut \$50 million from the **\$450 million requested by Bush for México** for the first year of the initiative and expanded by **\$65 million the sum for Central America**, Haiti and the Dominican Republic. México welcomed the US Congress’ approval of the measure that will help equip the government in its deadly campaign against drug trafficking. “I am sure that this initiative will contribute to our governments’ improved collaboration and greater efficiency in the fight against organized, transnational crime,” said Mexican President Felipe Calderón. Interior Secretary Juan Camilo Mourino called the move a testament to “the maturity that our dialogue has reached.” Since December 2006, President Felipe Calderón’s government has deployed 36,000 military troops and thousands of police around the country in an operation aimed at clamping down on organized crime. (AP)

FINDING SOLUTIONS



GREGORY BULL/LAP

Polo Gómez, 43, wears a crown of needles holding what he said is his own AIDS-infected blood during a protest against the increasing prices of AIDS medication in México City. México is scheduled to host the International AIDS Conference in August to discuss solutions to these issues.

México’s Ports Security Increased

México’s Departments of the Navy and the Communications and Transport agreed last year to ensure protection, security and prosperity of the ports and waterways with the creation of Unified Centers for Marine and Ports Incidents Care (CUMAR in Spanish)

in the cities of Altamira, Veracruz, Manzanillo and Lázaro Cárdenas. This includes participation of elements from immediate reaction Forces of the Naval Infantry that combat drug trafficking and smuggling. For the past few months, the initiative has been producing positive results through multimillion dollar drug seizures, such as the instance where more than 23.5 tons of cocaine, belonging to the Sinaloa cartel and equal to \$450 million were seized in Manzanillo, Colima. (OAS)



DAVID OZIEL/LAP

Immediate reaction forces from the Naval Infantry of México inspect 23.5 tons of cocaine seized last November in the port city of Manzanillo.

Governors United Against Crime



EDUARDO VERDUGO/AP

From left to right, México's ambassador to the US, **Arturo Surukhan**, Chihuahua Gov. **José Reyes Baeza**, Baja California Gov. **Eugenio Elorduy**, Texas Gov. **Rick Perry**, Mexican Foreign Secretary **Patricia Espinoza**, California Gov. **Arnold Schwarzenegger**, Méx-

ico's President **Felipe Calderón**, Nuevo Leon Gov. **Natividad González**, Interior Secretary **Juan Mourino**, New México Gov. **Bill Richardson**, Sonora Gov. **Eduardo Bours**, Coahuila Gov. **Humberto Moreira**, and US Ambassador to México **Tony Garza**, during

a meeting at the Los Pinos presidential residence in México City, May 29. The governors of California, Texas and New México planned to offer support to Calderón for his crackdown against the drug trade, in which he has deployed more than 20,000 federal troops.

Colombia and México World Cups

During the 58th FIFA Conference held in Sydney, Australia, a decision was reached concerning future venues for World Cups and for subcategories 17 and 20, as well as to temporarily suspend the veto on playing games at altitudes above 2,750 meters.

Approved venues for future World Cups

México
World Cup
Subcat. 17, 2011

Trinidad and Tobago
World Cup
Subcat. 17
Women

Colombia
World Cup
Subcat. 20, 2011

Clubs World Cup

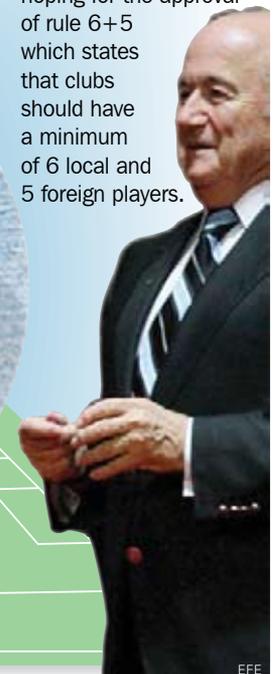
Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
2009 and 2010

Japan
2011 and 2012

Nigeria
World Cup
Subcat. 17, 2009

Egypt
World Cup Subcat. 20, 2009

Australia
Joseph Blatter is hoping for the approval of rule 6+5 which states that clubs should have a minimum of 6 local and 5 foreign players.



EFE

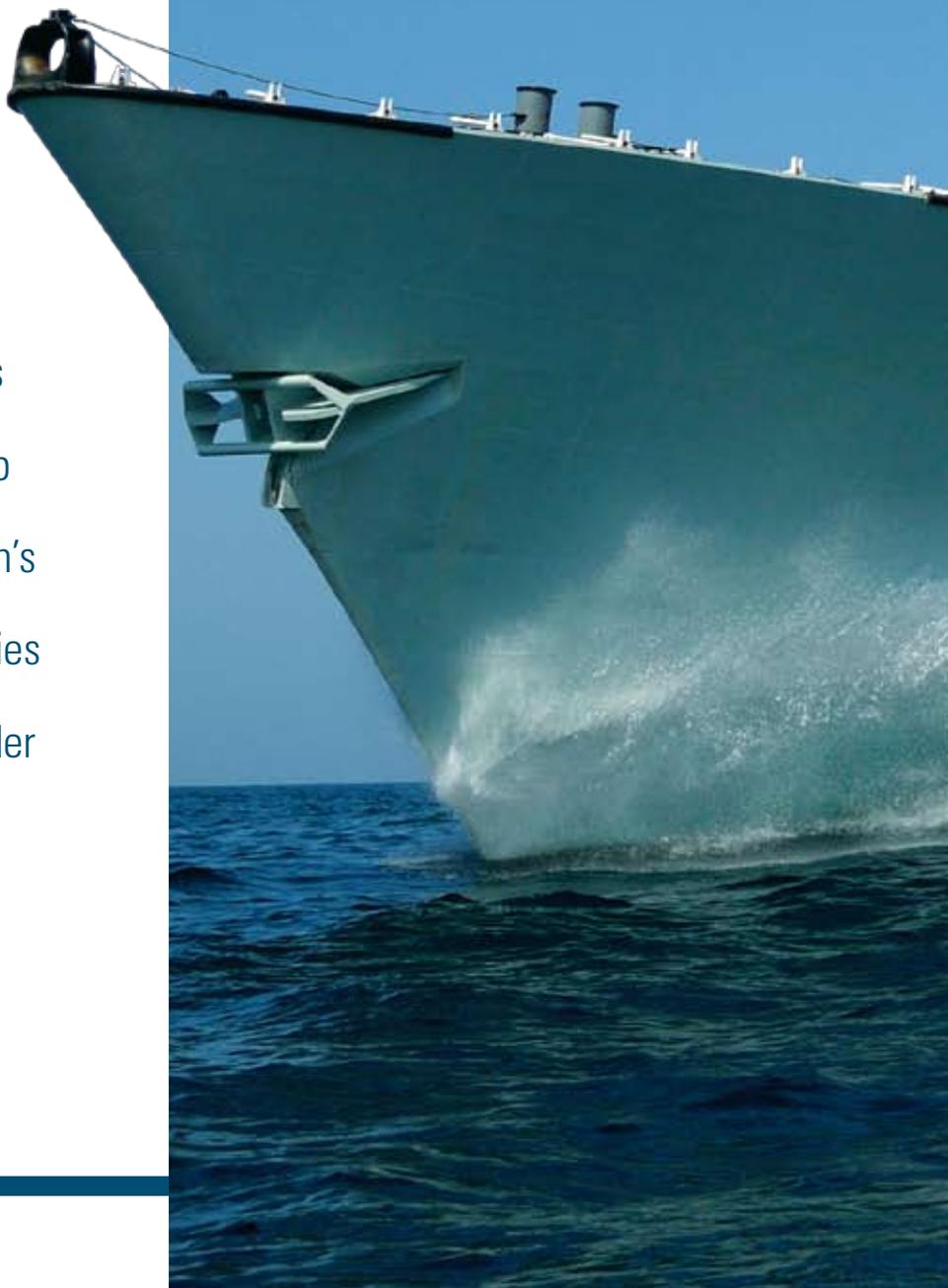
'All Challenges Squarely Met'



Her Majesty's
Canadian Ship
Charlottetown's
motto embodies
the Commander

and crew's regal straightforward
professionalism and dedication

MARISARA MARTÍN/ÁGORA STAFF
PHOTOS BY CPL ROBERT LEBLANC/CANADIAN NAVY





Her Majesty's Canadian Ship (HMCS) Charlottetown, under the leadership of Commander Patrick St-Denis and a crew of about 250 officers and sailors, left Halifax, Nova Scotia Nov. 1, 2007, for a six month deployment to the Persian Gulf and the Arabian Sea as part of Operation ALTAIR, Canada's maritime contribution to the US-led campaign against terrorism, also known as Operation Enduring Freedom. This is the 21st deployment of a Canadian naval vessel to the Persian Gulf for participation on a Global War On Terrorism campaign.

Once in theater, the ship joined the USS Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group and other coalition ships to conduct maritime security operations whose main objective is to maintain stability and security in the region and deter international terrorism, such as the use of the seas to launch attacks or the transportation of weapons or war materials. The ship was also assigned to monitor shipping, escort commercial vessels and conduct port visits to reinforce established regional relations. A CH-124 Sea King helicopter attached to the HMCS Charlottetown also conducted surveillance patrols during this deployment.

Before this mission, the ship performed exercises with the US Navy's eighth Nimitz-class super carrier, the USS Truman, back in March and July of 2007. "Once fully integrated into the strike group, we conducted escort duty for the USS Truman while operating in the Persian Gulf and were tasked to protect the carrier as a sole unit. HMCS Charlottetown commanded five different operations while supervising the coordination of coalition units for search activities, and



Commander J.H. Patrick St-Denis Commanding Officer HMCS Charlottetown

Commander Patrick St-Denis was born in Verdun, Quebec in 1969. His sea-going appointments commenced on the HMCS Provider as a Bridge Watchkeeper, HMCS Cowichan as Navigating Officer and HMCS Regina as Commissioning Navigating Officer. He led the Agnew Training Centre at the Canadian Fleet School Esquimalt from 1995-1996. In 1997, he completed the Operations Room Officer course and served on the HMCS Vancouver as Operations Room Officer, and then as Combat Officer. In 1999, he was appointed as the Weapons Officer and then as Combat Officer at Sea Training Pacific. From July 2001 to August 2003, he was the Executive Officer of HMCS Regina and participated in Operation Apollo. In 2004, Commander St-Denis graduated from Royal Roads University with a Bachelor of Commerce in Entrepreneurial Management. In 2006, he graduated from the Canadian Forces Staff College with a Master of Defence Studies granted by the Royal Military College of Canada, and later that year was appointed as the Commanding Officer of HMCS Charlottetown.



LS White-Brown and AB Switchman a .50 caliber machine gun.



CH-124 Sea King approaches HMCS Charlottetown.

provided the necessary presence to deter and disrupt illicit activities by terrorist organizations. What we've done with the USS Truman has been a positive and very rewarding experience," said Commander St-Denis.

HMCS Charlottetown is the fourth Canadian ship to deploy into Operation ALTAIR since 2003. The first ship was HMCS Toronto, which deployed with the USS George Washington Carrier Strike Group from January to July 2004. In April 2005, HMCS Winnipeg deployed for six months with the 5th Fleet of the US Navy. The third ship, HMCS Ottawa, deployed from September 2006 to March 2007.

While in the region, *Ágora* talked to Commander Patrick St-Denis via a phone interview in which he briefly summarized the crew's accomplishments and contributions to the Global War on Terror. "The presence of Charlottetown and other coalition ships in the region deter terrorist groups from conducting activities which have been known to fund terrorism. We've maintained an operational tempo of 87 percent (87 days out of every 100 days at sea), spending 116 out of 133 days at sea while conducting four patrols. It's the highest performance of all the coalition ships in the AOR," he said. "Also, we've integrated with the strike groups and conducted nine boardings, three of those resulting in the discovery of illicit cargo. One of them was the largest bust by the coalition in AOR history." Operation ALTAIR's territorial responsibility encompasses the Red Sea, the Gulf of Eden, the Horn of Africa, the Arabian Sea, the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf.

Since November 2007, the ship's crew has conducted 103 approach operations "designed to win the hearts and minds of the local traffic and provide security and stability while gathering the necessary intelligence to better understand the region. We have conducted more than 3,600 queries establishing the coalition's presence in the maritime community. We also rendered assistance to three

Continued on page 14



HMCS Charlottetown responds to a fishing dhow in distress.



A member of the HMCS Charlottetown boarding team prys up deck planking during a search that revealed 4.3 tons of hashish hidden in the fuel tanks.



Naval Boarding Patrol members extract 40 kg bundles of drugs seized in February.



HMCS Charlottetown renders assistance to a Somali vessel during a patrol. The crew provided the Somalis with fuel, food and water.

HMCS Charlottetown History

With a resourceful and complex engineering system, an impressive display of modern weaponry and a highly trained and motivated crew, the HMCS Charlottetown is considered one of the most advanced frigates in the world

CANADIAN NAVY



HMCS Charlottetown I

As the Battle of the Atlantic moved into its second year, the Royal Canadian Navy began the practice of naming newly commissioned ships after Canadian cities. A revised "Flower" class corvette, HMCS Charlottetown was named after the provincial capital of Prince Edward Island.

With an overall length of 208 feet, displacing 1,015 tons, Charlottetown I was unlike the original "Flower" class by having an increased sheer to her upper deck and more flare to her bow. Driven by the increased successes

of the German U-boat (undersea boat) campaign, Charlottetown I and other corvettes like her, were forced into the ocean escort role and served in this capacity throughout World War II.

HMCS Charlottetown I was built by Kingston Shipbuilding Ltd., Kingston, Ontario and was commissioned at Quebec City Dec. 13, 1941; she arrived in Halifax December 18. As a member of the Western Local Escort Force (WLEF) until mid-July, 1942, she was transferred to the Gulf Escort Force due to increased U-boat activity in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.



She was employed as an escort for Quebec-Sydney convoys until Sept. 11, 1942, when she was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine U-517 in the St. Lawrence River, 10 kilometers off the shore near Cap Chat, Quebec. Of her crew of 64, nine were lost including her Captain, Acting Lieutenant Commander John W. Bonner.

HMCS Charlottetown II

HMCS Charlottetown II, a river class frigate built by George T. Davie and Sons, Lauzon P.Q., was commissioned at Quebec City, April 28, 1944.

Charlottetown II marked a first for the Canadian Navy by being the only ship to bear the same hull identification as her predecessor, the K244. She visited her namesake city en route to Halifax May 22, and arrived in Bermuda in June. Upon her return to Halifax, she was assigned to Escort Group 16. She left Halifax for Londonderry, Northern Ireland, March 7, 1945, and later Portsmouth, England. In May, she escorted two convoys to and from Gibraltar, and in mid-June left Londonderry for Sydney, NS. There, she commenced a tropicalization refit that was completed at Halifax Feb. 28, 1946, and March 3, she left for Esquimalt, BC. She spent the rest of the year training men of the University Naval Training Divisions.

March 25, 1947, Charlottetown II was paid off at Esquimalt and was sold the same year. Her hull was expended as a breakwater at Oyster Bay, BC.

HMCS Charlottetown III

HMCS Charlottetown III is the 10th of 12 Canadian patrol frigates to be delivered to the Canadian Navy. Boasting a complex command and control system, combined with an impressive array of modern weaponry and sensors, Charlottetown III is considered one of the most advanced general purpose frigates in the world.

HMCS Charlottetown III began to take form December 1993, as her keel was officially laid at Saint John Shipbuilding Limited, New Brunswick. During the next year, more than 33,000 square meters of steel plate and 79.5 kilometers of T-bars and stiffeners were combined to form the nine "Mega-Modules" which comprise Charlottetown III. Oct. 1, 1994, under the watchful eye of her sponsor, the Honorable Catherine Callbeck, Premier of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown III was launched and officially named for the capital city of the province of Prince Edward Island. She sailed for the first time to commence sea trials in March 1995.

The commissioning crew of HMCS Charlottetown III was assembled in 1994 and completed preparations for the Navy's acceptance of the ship April 1995. In September 1995, HMCS Charlottetown III was commissioned at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.



vessels in distress, saving more than 25 lives, and conducted searches to locate possible survivors,” he proudly comments.

In February 2008, while in the Southern Arabian Gulf, they also participated in Goalkeeper II, a maritime event to expose the Bahrain Combined Task Force 152 (CTF 152) staff to the planning and execution of maritime security operations before they took control in March. This was the first time that Bahrain has assumed the command of a CTF. “We call it the Maritime Theater Security Operations, and it’s aimed at making sure everybody contributes to maritime security.”

In April, the CH-124 Sea King helicopter linked to the HMCS Charlottetown took part in a rescue operation in the Gulf of Eden when pirates stormed a 288-foot French yacht, the *Le Fonant*, as it returned without passengers from the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. According to the commander, “The presence of coalition units in the region will deter piracy, and we’ll always be there to respond to a piracy call.” The International Maritime Bureau, which tracks piracy, reported earlier this year that global pirate attacks rose 10 percent in 2007, marking the first increase in three years.

Other than the US and Canada, 50-60 ships from Europe, the UK, France, Pakistan, Germany, Japan and Australia, among others, are currently deployed in the AOR. Canada alone has more than 2,000 people in Afghanistan doing anti-terrorism operations. “It really shows the importance of this region and the significance of



A member of HMS Manchester’s boarding party fast ropes on board HMCS Charlottetown’s flight deck during a boarding exercise. Fast roping is a means of rapid insertion from a helicopter.



The HMCS Charlottetown’s Naval Boarding Patrol during an exercise.

Ships’ Characteristics

At the leading edge of worldwide multi-role frigate capability, Halifax-class ships carry a sophisticated array of weapons and sensor systems, including Harpoon long-range surface-to-surface missiles, Sea Sparrow surface-to-air missiles, a 57mm rapid-fire gun, a 20mm close-in defensive gun system, torpedoes, navigational and weapon-control radars, sonar and electronic warfare systems. The ships make extensive use of Canadian-designed computer technology for integrated propulsion and machinery control, communications and combat systems. Each ship is equipped to operate with one Sea King helicopter. Capable of speeds in excess of 30 nautical miles (55 km) per hour, Halifax-class frigates have a normal operating range of up to 11,000 kilometers.



Ship's Crest

When Captain Samuel Holland of the Royal Navy laid out the city of Charlottetown, he designed one major central square, Queen's Square, where the Court House, the Confederation Center and the Province House are located. The other four squares are open grassy areas one city block in size. HMCS Charlottetown's badge has a stylized representation of Queen's Square in the center, as well as the coronation crown of Queen Charlotte Sophia, wife of George III. This is meant to honor the city's namesake and recognize its importance as the provincial capital. It also underlines the status of the community as a "Royal City," which is both the seat of government and the residence of the Queen's representative, the Lieutenant Governor.

global prosperity. Global prosperity depends on a close integration of international economy and reacts strongly to 'shock and disturbance.' Everyone that has assets there really feels that it's very strategic."

Canada also leads the CTF 150, a naval coalition task force currently operating in the Middle East. Commodore Robert Davidson and his staff from the HMCS Iroquois destroyer are in charge of the Canadian Task Group, which includes two other Canadian warships, the frigate HMCS Calgary and an auxiliary replenishment ship, the HMCS Protecteur.

More than 850 sailors, soldiers and airmen are assigned to monitor shipping and help detect, deter and protect against unauthorized activity. "The Canadian Navy routinely exercises with US forces and other nations, so that we can maintain our required skills and procedures, and continue to develop a force ready to be deployed. This will continue in the years to come. That means Canada will continue to play a leadership role in the region," said Commander St-Denis. His focus at the time of this interview was to return the ship safely to Canada and ensure that everyone on board spend some time on leave with their families before the next mission. ■



The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group executes a starburst maneuver as planes from Carrier Air Wing - 3 (CVW-3) fly in formation above.



Full Speed Ahead Toward Solid Relationships

Mexican Foreign Liaison Officer in USNORTHCOM helps improve military communication

BY MARISARA MARTÍN/ÁGORA STAFF

Commander Victor Manuel Alarcón Dáowz, a senior ranking officer in the Mexican Navy, hopes his two-year assignment as the only Mexican Foreign Liaison Officer (FLO) at US Northern Command is time enough to help him achieve his goal of increasing cooperation and improving the relationship between the Mexican Navy, USNORTHCOM and the other US militaries.

For USNORTHCOM, constant communication with its resident FLOs is fundamental to building confidence and trust between its neighboring countries—México and Canada. FLOs are authorized by their governments to conduct programs and projects of interest with other governments, and also help at facilitating cooperation and mutual understanding between US

armed forces and armies of allied and friendly nations. Canada, USNORTHCOM's other partner nation, currently has more than 200 representatives stationed within the command.

ABOUT THE JOB

For the veteran commanding officer and instructor of some of the most important naval academies in México, his present job responsibilities are intellectually appealing and very specific. "My job here is to facilitate the coordination between our countries, help the different organizations within USNORTHCOM understand the way México conducts business, explain the cultural differences and to help the commander and everyone at USNORTHCOM understand the way the Mexican military thinks."

The official talks between both governments to deploy the position took more than a year, and had to be approved by high ranking officials within both governments. His original guidance required him to deal on behalf of the Mexican Navy and USNORTHCOM, but as the only FLO from México in the command, he's often required to be engaged with business related to other agencies from his native country.

Other Mexican FLO positions exist, but are assigned to the Naval, Air Force and Army Academies. Recently, two additional positions were activated by the Mexican Navy; one at Norfolk, Virginia with the US Fleet Forces Command, and the other in Key West with the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S). "We have solid relationships with many more navies, specifically with South America, but our proximity to the US and our shared interests in the economy are factors that give FLOs in the US a special relevance."

Besides maintaining the military communication, the FLO carries out a variety of programs that include joint exercises, training, security assistance, and in some instances, deployment of troops. Their objectives range from information-sharing programs and trust-building dealings, to the informal contact that occurs during receptions or meetings.

“I’m learning a lot about how US Armed Forces work, how they are organized, the concept of working in a joint military service environment, but mostly, the way ahead for our two countries. These positions [FLO’s] help to build bridges between these two great nations, and I think now the dealings between USNORTHCOM and México can be accomplished in an easier, faster and better way. This is a gain that can’t be measured. It can be summarized in one phrase: The more understanding there is, the closer the relationship between our countries.”

ABOUT THE FUTURE OF MEX-US RELATIONS

It’s no secret that past relations between the México and US governments have sometimes been unsteady, but opening new ways to interconnect and understand each others’ differences, like creating new FLO positions, is helping improve the everyday military and governmental relations. Some analysts blame that rocky past to either cultural and socioeconomic differences or to past US interventions that created distrust of US foreign policies, or to the differences between many political issues, both at the national level and in border areas.

Under both Presidents Bush and Calderón, relations between the US and México are showing the desire of both countries to address common challenges and to collaborate in building a more prosperous future. Bilateral relations have been reexamined in recent years due to law enforcement concerns such as border security, narco- and weapons trafficking, escalating trade and immigration, as well as new

unprecedented levels of cooperation. Commander Alarcón also answered the following questions for *Ágora* last April:

Are there any new cooperative operations on the horizon with the US?

“Nowadays we are working on finding a way to fight common threats, to make our seas more secure, to be prepared to face natural disasters and to find the mechanisms to cooperate in support of the civilians.”

What can you tell us about the new military or civil support capabilities México is developing or wants to develop?

“The Mexican navy is working on a series of search and rescue schools around the coasts, and I know we are working very closely with the US Coast Guard in developing those capabilities.”

What successes do you believe have occurred thus far?

“The Merida Initiative*. If finally approved and accepted by both governments, it will be one big success that will open a new era of cooperation. With a goodwill initiative that respects sovereignty and all the necessary procedures for a regional defense, México will be more involved in issues of maritime security and border control. It will work if all the countries are treated equally.”

In your opinion, what are the big issues facing México and the US in the future?

“México and the US share a common region, but not necessarily the same

threats. While the US is more focused on fighting terrorism, México has a big problem with the drug cartels. Trying to find a way to help each other as well as working with our main problems is the ultimate state of cooperation. Mutual trust, shared concerns, and supporting each other in dealing with our own problems will lead to safer and more prosperous countries.”

What other countries create concerns to México?

“The illegal immigrants from Central and South America that try to enter the US through the Mexican border towns are of great concern to us. Also Cuba, as a leftist government, still attracts young people and students in México. And, although not recently, the ETA from Spain was linked to some bank robberies in México. It’s assumed they use México as a financial link. With China, we have the problem of the goods piracy, which creates a problem for the Mexican economy.”

What do you feel México could teach the US?

“The Mexican armed forces don’t have the limitations of the Posse Comitatus Act, so we can give support to civil authorities easier and faster than the US Armed Forces. Proof of that can be seen with the last hurricanes in the Yucatan last year. Despite a wind force of 5 on the Sapir-Simpson scale, there weren’t any casualties.”

As an officer in the Mexican navy, did you find any of the new technologies, such as the offshore screening system and the buoys at sea to be beneficial in maritime security?

“Any new technology that helps obtain a better Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) and which leads to more secure seas is worth taking into consideration; the problem will always be finding the means within the budget to purchase the new technology.”

ABOUT ÁGORA

What would you like to see highlighted in upcoming issues of *Ágora*?

“How the Merida Initiative relates with the SPP and how it will affect the security and prosperity of our



COMMANDER C.G. D.E.M. VICTOR MANUEL ALARCÓN DÁOWZ
Mexican Navy

STUDIES:

- University: Heroica Escuela Naval Militar, Veracruz, México
- Post Graduate: Civic Military Responses on Terrorism, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA; Defense Policies and Strategies, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (CHDS), National Defense University, Washington D.C.
- Master: Naval Administration, CESNAV, México, D.F.

PROFESSIONAL:

- Surface Ships In The Mexican Navy; Chief Engineer C-02 Godinez; Technical Support At The Public Affairs Information Office, Semar, México, D.F.

nations. Also, I would like to see Canada as part of *Ágora*. This will be a good medium to open the dialogue between the three nations, and discuss common themes.”

Understanding other countries’ military procedures, capabilities, command and control is regarded as important for upcoming collaborations. USNORTHCOM’s interpersonal relationship with FLOs improves the communication and helps them comprehend US foreign policy concerns and the US democratic principles concerning human rights and civil-military relations.

Cmdr. Alarcón’s goodwill efforts are definitely paying off. He was instrumental in the recent coordination of the first visit to USNORTHCOM headquarters by 51 senior SEDENA Colegio de Defensa Nacional college fellows, which hopefully helps expand collaboration and develop a better understanding between both nations’ militaries.

Cmdr. Alarcón faces many challenges over the next year in his position as FLO in USNORTHCOM, but as a veteran Navy officer used to battling high-sea storms, he’s definitely cruising this one smoothly and on a direct course to success. ■

**The Merida Initiative was signed June 30.*

“Mutual trust, shared concerns, and supporting each other in dealing with our own problems will lead to safer and more prosperous countries.”

—Cmdr. Victor Manuel Alarcón Dáowz
Mexican Navy

Fifty-one SEDENA Senior College Fellows visit USNORTHCOM

HISTORIC EXCURSION FOSTERS US-MÉXICO MILITARY COOPERATION



BY DR. BENJAMIN P. GOCHMAN/CONTRACTOR, MÉXICO DESK OFFICER, NC/J59 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, HQ NORAD - USNORTHCOM



SEDENA Senior College Fellows’ visit to USNORTHCOM included a tour of Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station.

On April 4, a Mexican delegation represented by senior fellows from the prestigious SEDENA’s Colegio de Defensa Nacional (College of National Defense) visited, for the first time, the United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), and Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station (CMAF). The visit was part of a relationship-building program created to increase the cooperation and collaboration between USNORTHCOM and SEDENA.

Upon arriving at USNORTHCOM Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colo., Maj. Gen. Benito Medina Herrera, the college’s director, and 51 senior college fellows were greeted by Maj. Gen. Paul Sullivan (now retired), Chief of Staff, NORAD and USNORTHCOM (N-NC), who later briefed them on the significance of the 9/11 wall inside the second floor atrium and explained the Command’s mission, responsibility and role in the defense of the US Homeland.

After the briefing, Maj. Gen. Sullivan presented Maj. Gen. Medina a marble plaque with an engraved picture of NORAD-USNORTHCOM HQs while stressing the fact that the USNORTHCOM senior leadership was very receptive to enhancing military cooperation with SEDENA.

Maj. Gen. Medina reciprocated with a plaque from SEDENA Colegio de Defensa Nacional. Afterward the delegation visited the US Air Force Academy where they were greeted by Col. Paul Ackerman, USAFA Vice-Superintendent and enjoyed a casual, congenial lunch at the Falcon Club with Brig. Gen. Chris Miller, N-NC/J5; Lt. Col. Robert Carriedo, LASG Director; and eight members of the USAFA Latin American Studies Group.

Generally Speaking

A conversation with
Maj. Gen. Medina Herrera

On the way to Cheyenne Mountain with the 51 SEDENA's Colegio de Defensa Nacional college fellows, Maj. Gen. Benito Medina Herrera, a military veteran of 41 years and currently head of the college, agreed to answer questions from the *Ágora* staff. When asked about the goals of this memorable trip, which included the Pentagon, Inter American Defense College, National Defense University, Organization of American States and the State Department in Washington D.C., Texas and Colorado, he replied in a very positive way.

He stated that he developed a great dialogue with his fellows in the US Armed Forces and became familiarized with how things work at the top levels of the government. He emphasized that the trip was a good way to build better relationships, "But, this has to be built based on respect toward each other and toward our laws and customs. With good will, better communication and respect, we can start to see a better opening toward military relations."

Maj. Gen. Medina told us an anecdote during his trip to the Pentagon about a conversation with a G5 regarding past relations between México and the US. The G5 said that "we should not forget what happened in the past when we work future agreements. We need to avoid past errors and learn from them." Maj. Gen. Medina agrees with him 100 percent.

When asked what he thought about *Ágora*, he believes magazines are a good medium to build channels of communication between countries, referring to them as "an open forum where ideas can be exchanged."

Understanding other countries' military procedures, capabilities, command and control is regarded as important for upcoming collaborations. USNORTHCOM's interpersonal relationship with FLOs improves the communication and helps them comprehend US foreign policy concerns and the US democratic principles concerning human rights and civil-military relations.

Maj. Gen. Benito Medina Herrera, a Brigade General, is a recipient of many awards and decorations such as: five Special Awards for 35 continuous years of Military Service; an award for Academic Merit, and the Legion of Honor. He's been Director of SEDENA's Colegio de Defensa Nacional for the past two years. ■



Maj. Gen. Paul Sullivan (now retired, left) explains to Maj. Gen. Benito Medina Herrera the significance of the 9/11 wall inside N-NC Headquarters.

Once the lunch was over, the delegation proceeded to Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station to be greeted by Maj. Tom Veale, CMD/DX, and were driven through the blast entrance doors to the inside of Cheyenne Mountain in crew buses for a tour of the Air Warning Center and Industrial Area.

USNORTHCOM senior leadership is positive that the Mexican delegation visit was successful in increasing cooperation/collaboration and improving mutual understanding of shared threats and accessibility to threat information. ■

For more information, contact Dr. Benjamin Gochman at (719) 554-1663



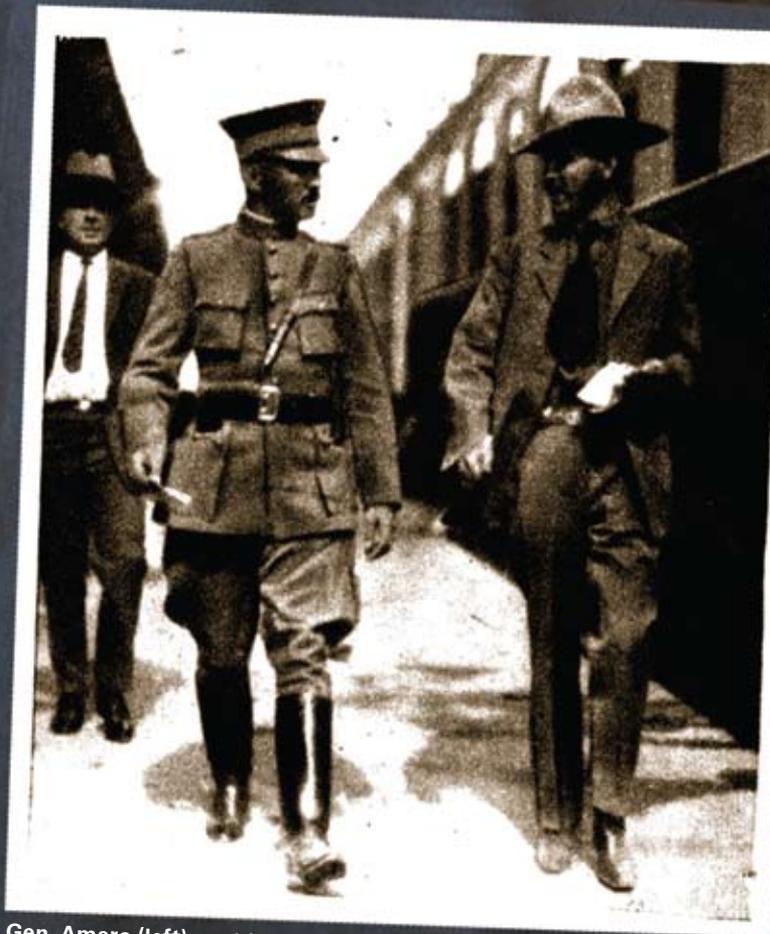
Maj. Gen. Paul Sullivan receives a plaque from the SEDENA Colegio de Defensa Nacional's delegation.

The Man Who Tamed México's Tiger

General Joaquín Amaro Domínguez and the Professionalization of México's Revolutionary Army

ROBERT CARRIEDO/NEW MÉXICO UNIVERSITY, ALBUQUERQUE

General Joaquín Amaro Domínguez was the officer most responsible for professionalizing the Mexican military after the tumultuous years of the Mexican Revolution. After 1917, with the most violent phase of the Revolution over, the military forces that crushed Mexican President Porfirio Díaz's Federal Army proved to be a double-edged sword. While effective in overthrowing Díaz, México's revolutionary armies neither disbanded nor submitted themselves to civilian rule, but instead retained their character as undisciplined and fiercely independent armies whose ultimate loyalty laid with their commanding generals. Amaro's significance resides not so much in his colorful battlefield experiences, where he clashed with the forces of such well-known generals as Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata, but rather in his relatively long tenure as Secretary of War (1925-1931), and as the Mexican military's first Director of Military Education (1931-1935). During this critical 10-year period, Amaro undertook the nearly impossible task



Gen. Amaro (left) next to a teacher and soldier of the Revolution, General Paulino Navarro.



1929 photo of Gen. Amaro (left) during an official event in México.



Gen. Amaro (left) and General José Gonzalo Escobar.

of transforming México's military from its de facto role as arbiter of political policies and presidential succession to one that was largely supportive of and loyal to the government. The most fascinating aspect of Amaro's military career stemmed from his strategy of professionalizing México's unruly and factionalized post-revolutionary army. He accomplished this through a process of cultural re-education that replaced an entrenched tradition of militarism with one emphasizing such values as discipline, duty, honor and loyalty to the civilian government.

Amaro carried out his "moralization" program of cultural reeducation through an overhaul of the military's legal system, the publication of military journals and the establishment of a comprehensive military educational system that eventually affected every soldier.

Amaro was born in 1889 and died in 1952. He was buried in the Panteón Francés de la Piedad. In 1966, his body was exhumed and reburied in Panteón Francés de San Joaquín. In the 1960s, a statue of Amaro on horseback was erected in México City's Chapultepec Park.

"To educate, this is what the Revolution mandated be done with respect to the members of the new army. To educate, that is to deposit and develop in the minds and spirits of their members ... principles and knowledge, at the same time, that they excite and develop, scientifically, their physical, moral and intellectual abilities."

- Gen. Joaquín Amaro Domínguez



Gen. Amaro (right) during an official event next to Mexican President Plutarco Elías Calles in 1929.

For more information about General Amaro, read Dr. Carriedo's thesis online at: <http://handle.dtic.mil/100.2/ADA444102>



PROJECT GUNRUNNER DISRUPTS GUN SMUGGLING RING

Illegal firearms crossing US-México border headed
to drug trafficking organizations

BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

Victor Varela, the alleged leader of a firearms trafficking network operating in Arizona and New México, was arrested April 3 by special agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), with assistance from the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force and the Attorney General's Office in Arizona.

As part of an ATF Project Gunrunner investigation, law enforcement officers disrupted a group of gun traffickers and recovered several weapons, including .50-caliber semiautomatic rifles and several handguns allegedly intended to supply drug trafficking organization (DTO) members of the Juarez Cartel in Palomas, México, located just south of Columbus, N.M. State charging documents allege that Varela and his co-defendants, who acted as "straw purchasers," purchased a number of firearms in Arizona for the purpose of supplying them to DTOs in México. The group allegedly transported the illegally purchased

firearms to New México, then into México for use in ongoing confrontations with rival DTOs and with law enforcement authorities in México.

“The quick action by ATF in this investigation exemplifies our commitment to cut off the illegal flow of firearms to violent criminals in the US and México,” said William Newell, ATF’s Phoenix Field Division Agent in Charge. “The Arizona Attorney General’s Office and ATF are working closely together to address the concerns of the government of México regarding firearms trafficking. This is just one of many ongoing investigations by ATF Phoenix and its law enforcement partners.”

Along with the seized firearms, Varela was attempting to purchase a fully automatic M-60 machine gun for a DTO associate in Palomas. Additionally, a number of firearms recovered by Mexican law enforcement and military personnel, recently mobilized to de-escalate gun violence in Palomas and Juarez, Chihuahua, allegedly were trafficked by Varela’s gun-smuggling network. ATF, through its attaché office in México City and special agents on the southwest US border, is sharing law enforcement intelligence with counterparts in México to assist in their ongoing investigations tied to the gunrunners.

Varela is in the custody of the Maricopa County (Ariz.) Sheriff’s Office on fraudulent schemes charges, and is being prosecuted by the Arizona Attorney General’s Office. Along with ATF and the attorney general’s office, the US Marshals Service and the Arizona Department of Public Safety assisted in the investigation and arrests.

WHAT IS PROJECT GUNRUNNER?

In partnership with other US agencies and the government of México, ATF developed Project Gunrunner to stem the flow of firearms into México and thereby deprive the narcotics cartels of weapons.

Trends

Trends indicate that thousands of higher-powered firearms are illegally crossing the US-México border. Some of the weapons most commonly used by drug traffickers are:

- 9mm pistols
- .38 Super pistols
- 5.7mm pistols
- .45-caliber pistols
- AR-15 type rifles
- AK-47 type rifles

In México

Most of the firearms violence in México is perpetrated by DTOs who are vying for control of drug trafficking routes to the US and engaging in turf battles for disputed distribution territories. Hundreds of Mexican citizens and law enforcement personnel have become casualties of the firearms-related violence. Intelligence indicates that these criminal organizations have tasked their money laundering, distribution and transportation infrastructures into

Several Mexican States Host Weapons Exchange

The states of San Luis Potosí, Durango, Veracruz, Querétaro, Nuevo León and Baja California Sur exchange weapons for food vouchers, money, household appliances and construction materials.

NOTIMEX

In San Luis Potosí, in order to create awareness among the population about the dangers of keeping firearms in homes and to reduce the incidence of violent crimes involving firearms, the Weapons Exchange Campaign of 2008 was initiated by the 34th Infantry Battalion.



DAVID DE LA PAZ/EFE

Members of the Mexican Army handle an explosive device during the firearms for money and food vouchers exchange in México City in April. The Department of Public Safety at the Mexican capital initiated the annual program of voluntary exchange of firearms for cash, food bundles and household appliances, an initiative also undertaken every year in other areas of the country.

The exchange is carried out voluntarily, with a cash incentive for those who participate; the amount is determined by the condition of the weapon, and it can be exchanged at any state military installation. Cash is given on the spot without taking down names, addresses or telephone numbers.

Meanwhile in Durango, the 10th Military Zone of the Mexican Army and the state government initiated the second instance of the Firearms Collection and Crime Prevention Campaign, the purpose being to convince people who possess firearms to exchange them for money or goods.

Oliverio Reza Cuéllar, Secretary General of Government, said that since the campaign’s implementation last year, 390 firearms have been collected in the state capital and in rural areas; a total of 330,000 pesos and 428 bags of cement were given in exchange. ▶



▲ Police officers display weapons said to have been seized near the México-Texas border after a shootout Jan. 7, in México City. At least three US residents were among 10 suspects arrested after the deadly shootout between Mexican authorities and suspected criminals near Rio Bravo. Police also seized at least 15 guns, bulletproof vests, a grenade launcher, nine grenades and documents.

◀ A semi-automatic TEC-9 gun is returned to a storage vault of recovered illegal firearms at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives center in New York.

▶ Picture released by the Mexican Minister of Public Security of guns, bullets, hand grenades and bulletproof vests confiscated during operations against drug traffickers in México City.

the US to acquire firearms and ammunition. They have become the leading gun trafficking organizations operating in the southwest US.

The Plan

ATF has created a broad plan to increase the strategic coverage and disrupt the firearms trafficking corridors operating along the border, dedicating approximately 100 special agents and 25 industry operations investigators over the past two years. It has recently assigned special agents to Las Cruces, N.M., and Yuma, Ariz., while others have been deployed to Monterrey to support the work of the attachés in the ATF México Office and assist Mexican authorities in their fight against firearms-related violence. Three additional ATF intelligence research specialists and one investigative analyst are planned for the El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC) to support Project Gunrunner, along with one intelligence research specialist in each of the four field divisions on the southwest border (Phoenix, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles).

eTrace

The expansion of the eTrace firearms tracing system is a critical component of Project Gunrunner in México. ATF recently deployed eTrace technology to US consulates in Monterrey, Hermosillo and Guadalajara, with six additional deployments to the remaining US consulates in México scheduled for this year. Discussions are underway with the government of México regarding the decentralization of the firearms tracing process to deploy Spanish-language eTrace to other Mexican agencies. Firearms tracing is the systematic tracking of the movement of a firearm recovered by law enforcement officials from its manufacturing or its introduction into the commerce by the importer through the distribution chain to the first retail purchase. Recovered firearms are traced by law enforcement agencies to link a suspect to a firearm in a criminal investigation, identify potential firearms traffickers, whether licensed or unlicensed, and to detect in-state, interstate and international patterns in the sources and kinds of gun crimes.



EDUARDO VERDUGO/IAF



SECRETARÍA SEGURIDAD PÚBLICA/AF

Seminars

ATF also conducts firearms seminars with federal firearms licensees, commonly referred to as licensed gun dealers, to educate the firearms industry on straw purchasers and gun trafficking. More than 3,700 industry members attended outreach events in SWB divisions in fiscal 2007.

UPDATE

On April 23, a group headed by Texas Congressman Henry Cuellar, Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response, and Congressman Ciro D. Rodríguez, a member of the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, introduced a bill that would authorize \$15 million in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to expand the Project Gunrunner Initiative. The funding would allow the ATF to hire, train and deploy an additional 80 special agents, enough for at least seven more Project Gunrunner Teams in the border region to investigate and help prosecute

On the other hand, in Xalapa, Veracruz, the commander of the 26th Military Zone, Sergio Arturo García Aragón, upon initiating the same campaign, pointed out that approximately 70 percent of the 875 million weapons worldwide are in the hands of civilians, and not with law enforcement or the military.

“People think that these are protective devices, but in fact they are dangerous,” García said at the time he invited citizens to donate weapons in exchange for a variety of household appliances.

Also in Querétaro, the Secretary of Government Alfredo Botello Montes said that weapons storage modules had been set up in seven state municipalities. He stressed that this program allowed for the exchange of 380 weapons last year, and that modules would be established in the municipalities of Querétaro, Amealco, San Juan del Río, Cadereyta, Jalpan de Serra, San Joaquín and El Marqués to receive or register weapons turned in by citizens.



DAVID DE LA PAZ /EFE

A woman hands rifles over to a member of the Mexican Army during the exchange of firearms for money and food vouchers in México City in April.

Additionally, in Monterrey, Governor Natividad González Parás set in motion the fourth edition of the “firearms for food vouchers” exchange campaign, with three million pesos allotted for the “Safety in your Home” National Program.

González emphasized the importance of this program backed by President Felipe Calderón, in order to avoid problems of insecurity and violence caused by the misuse of these weapons, and to support family economy.

Similarly in La Paz, Baja California Sur, the commander of the 3rd Military Zone, Juan José Braulio Cruz Bailón, and the governor of the state, Narciso Agúndez Montaña, started up the same program. Cruz Bailón indicated that he seeks to maintain the tranquility that exists in Baja California Sur while protecting the homes of southern Californians. ■



DARIO LOPEZ MILLISAP

▲ Diamond-encrusted AK-47 pendant that once belonged to Mexican drug lord Amado Carrillo Fuentes and was auctioned at a pawn shop in México City in 1995.



ALICIA CALDWELL / AP

◀ A sign on the road from El Paso, Texas warns about carrying firearms and ammunition into México.

individuals that traffic weapons into México. “While President Calderón has increased efforts to thwart the northward flow of drugs to the US, Congress must take steps to stop the southward flow of the firearms that supply these criminal organizations and fuel their infiltration,” said Congressman Cuellar.

The bill also authorizes \$9.5 million in fiscal years 2009 and 2010 to enhance cooperation between the US

and México and allow ATF to assign 12 additional agents to consulates in México, to support efforts to trace seized weapons and train Mexican law enforcement officials in anti-trafficking investigative techniques. “Cracking down on the illegal trafficking of guns into México from the US will save lives, reduce violence in border communities and make it harder for the drug cartels to arm themselves,” said Congressman Rodríguez. ■

Don't Lie for the Other Guy

Don't Lie for the Other Guy is a component of the US Department of Justice's Project Safe Neighborhoods. The program is a partnership of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and the Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance.



Purchase a gun for someone who can't and buy yourself 10 years in jail.

WARNING. We will report anyone who we suspect is violating Federal Firearm laws to include a "Straw Purchase" of a firearm. Straw Purchasing is defined as: Lying on the ATF form

about the identity of the actual buyer of the firearm. This is a felony. Punishable by 10 years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine.





DANGEROUS LIAISONS



Financial and political strains push Iran and Venezuela to search for common ground in Latin America

BY DOUGLAS FARAH

I recently spoke at a program sponsored by the Hudson Institute's Latin America center in Washington D.C. about the growing ties between Iran, Venezuela, and non-state armed actors such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the strategic challenges these alliances pose for the US.

The topic that dominated the discussion (the panel consisted of Brian Fonseca of Florida International University, Julio Cirino of Fundación Pensar, and was moderated by Hillel Fradkin) was the reasons for Iran's multibillion dollar investment in a region where it has no historic ties, little economic interest and only a very small base of Shiite Muslims to influence. I explored some of these economic issues in a paper I wrote last

year for the International Assessment and Strategy Center, but did not really answer the question, which is fundamental to our understanding of the dynamics in Latin America.

The enigma is what common ground could possibly exist between a leftist, populist leader like Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, whose broad vision is a somewhat ill-defined, unified Latin America as Simón Bolívar dreamt of, to a radically conservative religious leader whose theistic vision seems to be a world controlled by Sharia law, like Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran.

The answer suggested seemed to be two-fold: a shared hatred of the US and a desire to make Washington as nervous as possible about as many issues as possible; and a shared view of each other's regimes as

revolutionary and fighting broadly for justice or a more just world order.

It's clear that Iran sees a reason to do this in a rather methodical and pre-meditated fashion. Given the financial and political strains in Iran, it must be important because it has continued uninterrupted for the past five years, at least. And if this relationship is important to Iran, then it should be important to the US.

It is a limited range of self-interest that binds the two (Iran's influence in the rest of Latin America stems

favorite quasi-state actor, Hezbollah, around the region in order to be prepared to strike the US, should it deem such a strike necessary or desirable.

An overlap between the FARC and Hezbollah would provide more in terms of training and capacity enhancement to the FARC. It is hard to imagine that, on the ground, unregenerate Marxists and committed Islamists would get along very well.

But if there is anything I have learned in my years in the field, it's that the unexpected or seemingly irrational

An overlap between the FARC and Hezbollah would provide more in terms of training and capacity enhancement to the FARC. It is hard to imagine that, on the ground, unregenerate Marxists and committed Islamists would get along very well.

directly from pressure by Chávez for his allies—Evo Morales in Bolivia, Correa in Ecuador and Ortega in Nicaragua—to play “footsie” with the Iranians), but a dangerous set of circumstances.

It also provides the hope that the impact of the self-interested mutual admiration will be limited in its impact. Many of the promised Iranian projects fail to materialize, and, while their emphasis on “soft power” in the region looks good from afar, it is not necessarily effective on the ground, where more announcements than projects occur.

Though both nations produce oil and should be awash in funds, Venezuela and Iran are significantly over-extended financially, lessening their ability to offer their potential to one of the few things that matter—cash, or its equivalent in meaningful projects.

My concern is that Iran, which has little real interest in Latin America in a substantive way, is positioning its

happens as a matter of course. What we project from our own experience as unlikely has little to do with the reality that occurs.

The other worrisome factor is Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, who has a history of ties to terrorist organizations (Red Brigade etc.) and of facilitating terrorist activities and contacts.

He also controls a key entry point into the Central American pipeline that carries drugs, money, weapons, illegal immigrants, stolen cars and much more. If someone wanted to move across our borders, that is the pipeline I would want to use, and few would ask any questions.

So, in the irrational and contradictory world in which we live, the populist leftism of Chávez and the autocratic theism of Iran can find common ground, at least for a while. And we would be well served to pay more attention to that. ■

For more information visit www.douglasfarah.com



Douglas Farah has worked as an investigative consultant with the Nine/Eleven Finding Answers (NEFA) Foundation since 2005, as well as a consultant and freelance writer on terror finance and national security issues. For two decades prior, he was a foreign correspondent and investigative reporter for the Washington Post and other publications, covering Latin America and West Africa. He had traveled and written extensively about the brutal civil wars in Sierra Leone and Liberia and the interlocking networks of agents, under the protection of governments across the region, which profited from those conflicts and the diamonds-for-weapons trade. In November 2001, Farah broke the story of al-Qaida's ties to those diamond and weapons networks. Later that month, Farah and his family were evacuated from West Africa because of threats against his life resulting from the diamond stories, but he continued to travel around the world to report on the financial network of bin Laden. In June, he joined the investigative staff in Washington.

IAAFA

Contribution to the War on Terror

Courses such as Anti-Terrorism, Air Intelligence and Special Operations, amongst others taught by IAAFA instructors to respective Latin American officers, complement the efforts made by Europe and the US in the struggle to combat terrorism

BY MAJ. LUIS O. JARAMILLO C./COLOMBIAN AIR FORCE IAAFA GUEST INSTRUCTOR



Since its inception in 1943, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy (IAAFA) has fulfilled the invaluable mission of strengthening the bonds of brotherhood through providing education and training, in Spanish, to countries in Latin America. One of the means IAAFA employs to fulfill its mission is the support provided to Latin American countries for the creation and strengthening of antiterrorist and anti-drug programs. Terrorism is a threat that respects no borders and, therefore, must be fought through multinational strategies. It is easy to conclude that the origins of terrorism date back to the very origins of the human species. For that reason, rather than trying to eliminate the threat of terrorism from the face of the earth, the war on terror seeks to gain control over terrorist organizations that threaten the world's stability and, in so doing, avoid the disastrous results of terrorism as a means of fighting. It is here that IAAFA has sought to meet the needs of the nations that support inter-Americanism, by adapting its training programs to the demands of the new world order.

Nevertheless, how can the world categorize the illegal armed organizations in Latin America that kidnap and murder congressmen, military, police and even peasants from their own countries or other countries, with no other explanation than the desire to maintain an economy based on drug trafficking? Narco-terrorism, the result of the association of organized armed subversive groups such as the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) in Colombia or the ZETAS in México, the rebirth of the last

remaining Sendero Luminoso in Peru and the new Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) in Brazil, together with the illegal arms trafficking groups, are responsible for more than 970 kidnappings and revenues of more than \$300 million from drug trafficking in 2002, in only one of the countries mentioned above.



Air Force instructor Maj. Alexander González (rear) helps an Ecuadorian major (left) and a Uruguayan captain, during training in an Academy flight simulator.

Paraguay, for example, witnessed the horror of the kidnapping and murder of a former president's daughter as a result of the "association" of terrorist groups of different nationalities. Moreover, drug trafficking, at one time only considered a threat against society and the economy in producing and consumer countries, has become a much bigger terrorist threat to Latin America and a potential enemy to the US and to European countries such as Spain. Undoubtedly, the war on terror should be a world strategy. There is also no

doubt that the education and training that IAAFA provides to the Latin American public force in order to fight drug trafficking and terrorism is key in that world strategy.

What happens to the illegally armed groups that use terror as a combat tool against the Western Hemisphere when Europe and the US reinforce their security plans to the highest level of alert in order to counter any type of terrorist act against their citizens? The answer: the appearance of new terrorist groups and the strengthening of existing ones in Latin America. Obviously, not finding the security conditions suited for their recruitment goals, training, planning, or for bringing to fruition their desired attacks against the civilian population, terrorist organizations will look for refuge and a place to regroup in countries like some in Latin

America with a well-known presence of al-Qaida agents that have not taken a strong security position against this menace. Furthermore, we shouldn't underestimate al-Qaida communiqués which have, on various occasions, made clear their intentions to finance and logistically support any organization that has concrete plans to attack American interests anywhere in the world.

In light of the aforementioned, it is clear that IAAFA—by fortifying inter-Americanism and revamping its training programs toward the Global War on Terrorism—becomes a valiant and strategic contributor to the struggle against this global menace. Courses such as Anti-Terrorism, Air Intelligence and Special Operations (specifically tailored for

command structure required in case a terrorist attack is not preventable, thereby minimizing the loss of life, materiel, equipment and information—all vital components of a state. Anti-Terrorism Level 1 and 2 are excellent foundations for anyone that works in the fields of intelligence and counter-intelligence analysis, for commander's support staff in the areas of counter-terrorism and for those members of government that influence policy in counter-terrorism.

Additionally, the training offered by IAAFA in its Air Intelligence course offers a focused education in military operations planning as a product of an efficient utilization of different information sources and a powerful application of the cycle of intelligence flow. It's important, then, to under-

score that the benefits an IAAFA Air Intelligence graduate will provide can serve as the basis for any operation, be it ground, naval, air, or any joint operation launched against any threat—the reality obviously being terrorist groups.

Finally, the Special Reaction Team (SRT) course seeks to train the student in the planning, training and execution of special operations which, due to their span or complexity, are considered high-risk operations. Within these high-risk operations, we find those that deal with high-visibility scenarios, hostage rescue and the capture of dangerous subjects. The SRT course seeks to bolster the tactical



A graduating student holds the coveted "IAAFA wings" he earned for completing training at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

hostage release and narco-terrorist capture), amongst others, complement the efforts made by Europe and the US in the struggle to combat terrorism around the world.

As an example, the Anti-Terrorism Level 1 course provides students with solid foundations to understand the history and evolution of terrorism around the world. Furthermore, it gives tools to critically analyze different world events and their possible effects over groups that use terrorism as a battle tactic.

Anti-Terrorism Level 2 presents the practical and theoretical doctrine necessary to assess and evaluate the threat in any particular world scene, and in this manner support the theater commander on decisions to arrest the menace, implementing the pertinent measures and appropriate coordination to limit a terrorist attack to the maximum extent possible. Furthermore, the student who attends IAAFA is prepared to implement the necessary organizational and

and operational levels of Latin American militaries and polices with training and doctrines that are practical to real-world threats.

The training and support needs of countries that comprise the continent are the number one priority of the IAAFA. The threat of terrorism and drug trafficking is a flexible threat that demands new and better strategies to affront it. To this end, IAAFA works daily to ensure that its programs satisfy the needs of its attending countries in the noble mission of securing the stability of all legally constituted organizations in Latin America and therefore, supporting the valiant efforts toward the security of the continent. In conclusion, the work performed by IAAFA is invaluable. It has been and will continue being an academy striving for inter-Americanism by providing training and instruction to partner nations in the fight against organizations outside the law, and who have recently applied terrorism as a tool to bring their agendas against liberty, democracy, peace and world order. ■

For more information, contact CMSgt Andres Alvarez Jr. at (210)671-9993



High Stakes *on the* High Seas

New initiative aimed at improving the odds against seaborne terror

BY JIM MOSER/AGORA STAFF

Whether it's a container ship full of consumer goods bound for Los Angeles or a bulk freighter carrying wheat to Africa, seaborne trade accounts for more than 80 percent of world commerce. The sheer volume of cargo is staggering—almost uncountable—and that ambiguity is an open door to terrorists. Maritime security has become a major issue over the past few years. Between the ongoing threat of piracy and seaborne attacks by radical groups against ships like the USS Cole and the French oil tanker Limburg, and perceived threats from weapons of mass destruction (WMD), governments around the world have been sifting through security measures trying to find a balance between the safety of their country and the need to keep their economies intact by moving goods in a timely manner.

In an age of non-state actors and shadowy criminal organizations, which according to Globalsecurity.org, are unlike yesterday's enemies who were predictable, rigid, and resistant to change—today's enemies are dynamic, unpredictable, diverse, fluid, networked and constantly evolving. They benefit from the many technologies and materials that are readily available for sale on the world's illicit markets to disrupt systems and fabricate weapons of mass destruction. These enemies do not operate on con-

ventional battlefields, but thrive in weak states and gray areas where terrorists ride the back of transnational crime. To combat this threat, the US Navy and Coast Guard plan to use partnerships and technology to create a real-time global picture of maritime activities. The focal point of the operation is the Office of Global Maritime Situational Awareness. Led by Rear Adm. Lee Metcalf, the office's mission is to facilitate the creation of a collaborative global, maritime, information-sharing environment through the unity of efforts across entities with maritime interests. To accomplish this, Metcalf looks to leverage the concept of Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA).

MDA, as defined by Globalsecurity.org, is the collection, fusion and dissemination of enormous quantities of data—intelligence and information—drawn from US joint forces, US government agencies, international coalition partners and forces and commercial entities. Eventually, information collected from these various sources will be weaved together to create a comprehensive real-time picture that is fully distributed among users without infringing upon each nation's sovereignty. Many have likened MDA to a global air traffic control system, but for seaborne vessels instead of aircrafts, with users having up-to-the-minute information about a vessel's location, direction and cargo. This would allow governments to identify ships that may be a threat to their security long before they reach territorial waters.



Ships pass the massive cargo cranes at Singapore's port. Maritime security officials continue to issue dire warnings for a ship-borne terrorist attack.

ED WRA/VP

MARITIME AWAKENING

Leaders Address Cooperation During Workshop in Chile

COLIN BABB/OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH PUBLIC AFFAIRS

KEY MILITARY AND NAVAL LEADERS from both North and South America gathered December 2007 in Santiago, Chile, to discuss common interests in the realm of maritime domain surveillance, information sharing and cooperative decision-making in the first Western Hemisphere MDA Workshop. The workshop—hosted by the Office of Naval Research Global, US Southern Command, and US Northern Command, as well as the Chilean Navy—brought together military and naval leaders from nine Western Hemisphere nations to include: US, Canada, México, Panama, Colombia, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina and Chile.

The goal was to facilitate regional dialogue on Maritime Domain Awareness—the effective understanding of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy or environment of a nation—with an emphasis on the science and technology that will make “awareness” possible.

Maritime surveillance and information technologies are already in use, such as Chile's Graficación Marítima system, which allows constant monitoring of vessels, or NATO's Maritime Security Safety Information System—as well as a whole host of other systems in use around the world. Technology is available today for all countries to begin efforts toward building MDA, but the problem is bringing the right technologies together and coordinating disparate regional information sharing efforts to make a cohesive whole that planners envision will be greater than the sum of its parts. “We regularly exchange information with Peru, Ecuador and Colombia,” said Chilean Navy Vice Adm. Francisco Martínez Villareal, head of the Chilean Directorate General of the Maritime Territory and Merchant Marine. “It's only possible by using manual systems. What's missing is the ability to share large amounts of information in real time.”

From the conference came a greater understanding of what capabilities the participants' navies, coast guards and other agencies already have, especially in coastal waters, and a better realization of the challenges ahead to integrate better national maritime information systems. It was a unanimous conviction on the part of the participants that the workshop be only the first of many such opportunities for collaboration and dialogue on the road toward implementing Global Maritime Domain Awareness.

MDA SNAPSHOT

WHAT IT IS	WHAT IT ISN'T
Global	Just Homeland
Coalition/International	US Only
Joint and Interagency	Just Defense
Security Partnerships	Just Vessel Tracking
Information Sharing	Just Intelligence
All Opportunities	Just Terrorism
Origin to Delivery	Just More Sensors
A Continual Process	An End State

> Global Maritime Situational Awareness: Results from the persistent monitoring of maritime activities in such a way that trends and anomalies can be detected.

While technology will facilitate the goal of global awareness, information exchange between government agencies, private industry and partner nations is the real power behind global MDA. “Success in the world before us will require the ability to build partnerships, understand different international cultures and vantage points, understand agencies (interagency acumen) and the ability to have persistencies (interagency acumen) and the ability to have persistencies (interagency acumen),” Metcalf said in a statement posted on the OGMSA. “This cannot be accomplished by one service or by one country individ-

> **Maritime Domain Awareness:**
An effective understanding of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact the security, safety, economy or environment of a given country



A Singaporean Navy ship passes container ships unloading cargo at a port in Singapore. Port security is a major concern in the post Sept. 11 world.



Firefighters extinguish a fire on the remains of the Vicuna, a Chilean-flagged cargo ship which exploded while unloading methanol at a port in Paranagua.

ually. We must work globally with our maritime partners to face our toughest challenges from maritime security to non-traditional challenges such as disaster relief.”

Sharing information is absolutely essential if MDA is to effectively detect, identify and track the most dangerous threats, including terrorists, WMD, narcotics, piracy, mass migrations and arms traffickers. With the ability to share information on a real-time basis, a threat can be stopped well before it reaches its intended target. For example, a ship leaving a port in the Far East without the proper security checks completed would be monitored throughout its journey to ensure no unauthorized stops are made. The destination nation in turn could stop and search the ship before it became a threat to its port facilities and population.

Of course, a large part of this whole concept involves technology. MDA on a tactical basis has been achieved by nations, alliances and naval groups, but these only extend to limited areas as opposed to a global capacity. These individual efforts have a tendency to drive technology which enhances the concept of GMSA, but poses challenges of how to fuse the technology into a global standard that allows information sharing across different platforms.

“As we look forward from a science and technology perspective, we see real opportunities and we’re making our investments today to try to start getting further down that path,” said Rear Adm. William Landay III, chief of Naval Research and co-host of the first Western Hemisphere MDA Awareness Workshop in Santiago, Chile. He also pointed out that this is just the start of a large program, and many challenges that technology solves will now lead to more challenges down the road. For example, once regional systems are integrated, how do you share all of the information? And when you can share it, how can people take advantage of it?

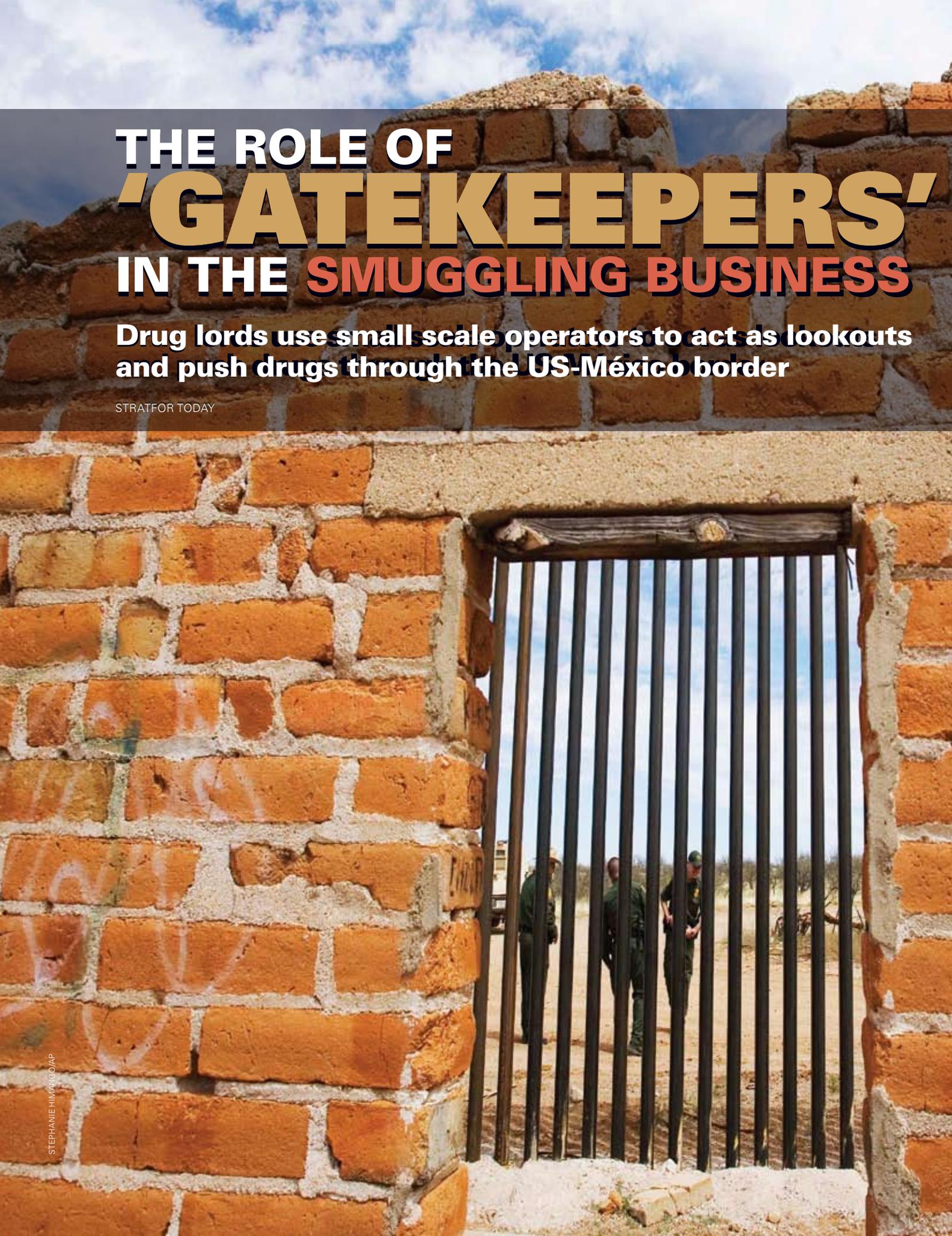
It is a simple fact of life that living on a planet with a surface that’s two-thirds water, seaborne trade plays an important role in the global economy and will not be replaced any time soon—if ever. Match the geography with the fact that people promoting radical ideologies, criminal organizations and terrorist groups are not going to fade away in the foreseeable future and it creates a tragic opportunity that someone, somewhere will take advantage of. MDA on a global scale will be an important tool—especially linked with other global initiatives to create a safer, more prosperous world. ■

For more information, contact Scot Cregan at thomas.s.cregan@uscg.dhs.gov

THE ROLE OF 'GATEKEEPERS' IN THE SMUGGLING BUSINESS

Drug lords use small scale operators to act as lookouts and push drugs through the US-México border

STRATFOR TODAY





Little has been revealed about the all-important role of gatekeepers in the flow of narcotics from México into the United States, and the flow of money back into the hands of México's drug lords. Sources familiar with this aspect of the drug trade, however, say the gatekeeper is one of the highest and most powerful people in a cartel's hierarchy, perhaps second only to the kingpin. In drug-trade lingo, the "gatekeeper" controls the "plaza," the transshipment point off of one of the main highways on the Mexican side of the border where drugs and other contraband are channeled. In Spanish, the word "plaza" means a town square, though it can also mean a military stronghold or position; in this case, it means a cartel stronghold. A gatekeeper oversees the plaza, making sure each operation runs smoothly and that the plaza bosses are collecting "taxes" on any contraband passing through. The going rate

The gatekeepers' primary concern is ensuring that appropriate fees are collected and sent to cartel coffers—and they operate in whatever manner best suits a given circumstance: intimidation, extortion or violence

on a kilo of cocaine is approximately \$500, while the tax on \$1 million in cash heading south is about \$10,000.

Gatekeepers also ensure that fees are collected on the movement of stolen cargo and illegal immigrants—including any militants who might be seeking to enter the US through México. Regardless of a person's country of origin, money buys access into the US through these plazas, though the fees charged for smuggling Middle Eastern and South Asian males into the US are higher than for Mexicans or Central Americans. The gatekeepers' primary concern is ensuring that appropriate fees are collected and sent to cartel coffers—and they operate in whatever manner best suits a given circumstance: intimidation, extortion or violence. Of course, one of their main jobs is to ensure that corrupt Mexican police and military personnel are paid off so plaza operations can proceed undisturbed.

The main plazas in México along the Texas border are in Matamoros, south of Brownsville; Reynosa, across the border from McAllen; Nuevo Laredo, across from Laredo; and Juarez, south of El Paso. These locations provide easy access to the US interstate highway system, which the cartels use to deliver their drugs to the markets they control in major US cities. Plazas are also operated in Piedras Negras opposite Eagle Pass and in Ojinaga opposite Presidio.

Because some provisions of the US Patriot Act have made wiring money out of the United States more complicated



Police officers pose next to weapons seized during a police operation in the northern Texas-México border in January.

than before—forcing the cartels to physically transfer money between operatives—the gatekeepers also must ensure that these operations run smoothly. To facilitate this, the gatekeepers also operate the cartels’ money-laundering operations using small businesses along the border. US law enforcement sources say there was a fivefold increase in bulk currency seizures along the border in 2006 alone.

Although there are multiple smuggling routes through México for drugs and other contraband, the plazas are the cartels’ critical checkpoints. Therefore, efforts to shut down the flow of drugs or illegal immigrants cannot be effective until the gatekeepers are dealt with effectively. The gatekeepers’ ability to heavily influence Mexican law enforcement and government officials through cash payouts and intimidation, however, suggests this will be no easy feat.

The Mexican government’s recent efforts against the cartels could prove to be effective against local organizations in the short term, but as long as the plazas are controlled by powerful gatekeepers, and the other routes through México to the US border are not impeded, the narcotics and drug money will continue to flow north and south. ■



A sign put up by the Attorney General’s office is seen on the door of an alleged drug trafficker’s safe house. These houses are commonly used to hide drugs and coordinate illicit trade.

Drug Trafficking Organization Terminology

Guardianes or gatekeepers: Individuals responsible for controlling drug-smuggling across the border.

Cuerno de chivo or Goat’s horn: Name given to the AK-47 rifle because the ammo clip is curved like a horn.

Encobijado: A corpse found wrapped in a blanket or “cobija.”

Plaza: Land controlled by a drug cartel.



Piso or toll: Money charged by smugglers to permit the use of a specific smuggling route.

La Línea: Corrupt police officers that protect the cartels; also another name for the Juárez drug cartel.

La Limpia: "Cleaning up" the traitors.

Carrying their belongings and gallons of water, people wait until dark before trying to cross illegally into the US through the Arizona desert. Before 1994, helping migrants sneak into the US was considered almost a community service in Mexican villages, but growing security along the border has made the business even more ruthless as smugglers chase growing profits and now see their clients as merchandise.



GATEKEEPERS' PROFILE



- Recently organized, they are considered more dangerous and complex than any other organized crime group.
- Its members consist of Mexican and US citizens, gang members, human and weapons trafficking rings, etc.
- Their area of operations includes both sides of the 3,141 km México-US border.
- They are responsible for more than 80 percent of the marijuana, heroin, cocaine and methamphetamines trafficked through the border.
- Besides charging the cartels millions of dollars for smuggling drugs, they also keep large quantities for their own commerce and use.
- Unlike cartels, they don't have a sole leader.
- Besides DTOs, they also work with illegal immigration and illegal weapons rings.
- They own safe houses in cities north of México, where the cartels store the merchandise, plan the routes and prepare the cargo to cross the border using illegal immigrants, inside secret compartments in cars and trucks, tourists' luggage, or border residents with fast boats that cross the Rio Bravo. Next, they take the merchandise to secured warehouses in Texas, Arizona, New México or California, where the distribution and sales begin.
- They use bribery, intimidation, extortion, torture and executions using well paid hit men dedicated to protecting their territory.
- Lately, they are being hired by the Colombian cartels to smuggle drug shipments from Guatemala, Yucatán and Veracruz with destinations to Florida or Washington.
- They work for approximately 46 different DTOs in México.
- They give their "word of honor" to their clients not to become a direct competitor, as long as they pay.

SOURCE: EPIC, EL PASO INTELLIGENCE CENTER REPORT



Traditional hat toss at West Point's graduation day.

West Point and ITESM Preparing Future Officers

BY MAJ. ANDY MACLEAN
SPANISH INSTRUCTOR
US MILITARY ACADEMY
AT WEST POINT

West Point Cadets immerse themselves into Mexican culture to learn Spanish

Today's military officers are operating in a complex global environment. It is no longer sufficient for a young officer merely to know how to perform battle drills and use his equipment. In today's environment, even lieutenants find themselves operating at the strategic level. How a young officer interacts with local citizens of a different culture and language is now of utmost importance to the success of his or her mission. The military's senior leadership realizes this, which is why the West Point semester abroad program was expanded. The goal of the program is to provide the Army with officers who possess language skills, cultural understanding and regional expertise.

West Point's semester exchange with México started in January of 2007. Since then, cadets have gone every semester to the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM). The cadets live with host families and attend classes in Spanish. These classes include subjects such as engineering, international relations, economics, math and sciences.

Cadets also integrate themselves with local sports teams and are required to volunteer 100 hours with a social program—some examples include teaching English to poor children, assisting with afterschool programs and building homes.



COURTESY OF ITESM

The Technological Institute of Superior Studies of Monterrey (ITESM) is a multi-campus university system with academic centers in different regions of México.



COURTESY OF ITESM



COURTESY OF WEST POINT

West Point Color Guard



COURTESY OF ITESM

ITESM Campus

Several graduates of ITESM currently head successful companies in México and Latin America or occupy important positions in the government and public administration.

4,529 students from as far as Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the US have studied at least one semester in an ITESM campus.

The semester abroad program allows cadets to interact with many segments of Mexican society; the host families allow them to interact with the older generation and witness different family values; the university allows them to interact with the youth culture and the well-to-do; and the social program permits them to interact with the less fortunate. Additionally, ITESM has campuses throughout México, which permits it to send cadets to different regions with different customs. They return to West Point not only with increased language skills, but also having experienced the opportunity to view world events from a different perspective. More importantly, they will have learned to identify and accept the differences between cultures and will have operated outside of their comfort zones. The expectation is that when these future officers find themselves operating in a foreign culture one day, they will have an edge in cross-cultural communication and in building valuable cross-cultural relationships. ■

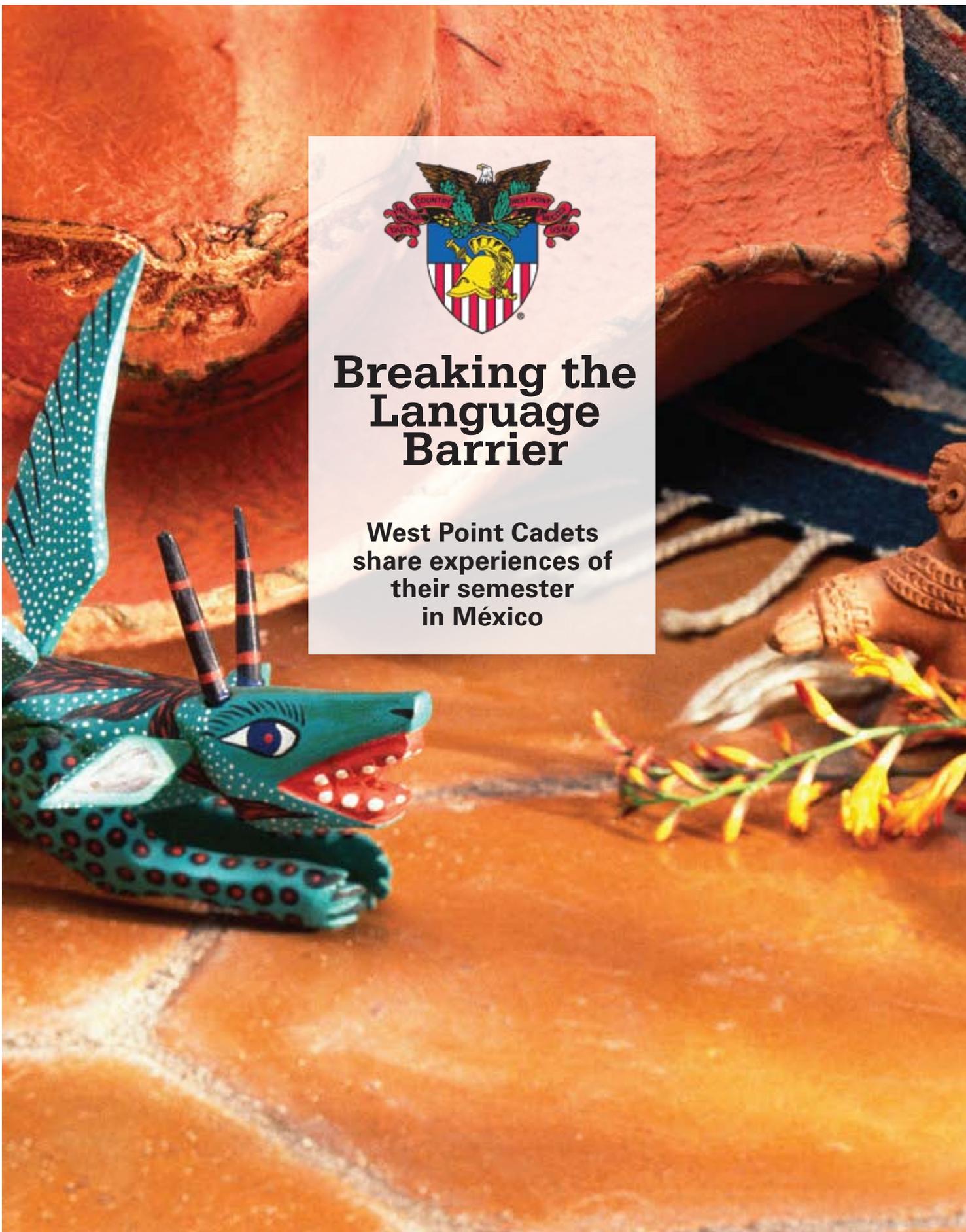


COURTESY OF ITESM



Breaking the Language Barrier

West Point Cadets share experiences of their semester in México



What's your impression of the language curriculum and how it relates to broadening your overall military experience/knowledge? Do classes like this help enhance US-México military relations?

"The language curriculum is a valuable and pertinent asset for today's Army officer. The ability to communicate meaningfully with people from other cultural backgrounds is of utmost importance, especially in today's battlefield. I was able to interact on a casual level with Mexican citizens, many of whom I retain contact with today. It is impossible to build and maintain positive relations without exchanging people across borders."

—CDT Josh Lospinosa

"The most valuable things I've learned in México have not been learned sitting inside a classroom—it's what I have learned from talking to peers, locals and taxi drivers. Being in México has made me realize the importance of learning a second language and listening to international opinions. Bilingual and trilingual speakers are more common here in México than in the US, where most of us are complacent knowing just one language. This lack of international awareness is certainly one of the biggest downfalls of the education system in the US and it's great that the military is seeking to break this trend with its language curriculum. As far as military relations, we don't have any interaction with the military down here, but I believe we are enhancing US-México relations in general on a local level. In this sense, we are breaking down the US stereotype that many Mexicans have either from what they see on television or the brief encounters they have with us when we go on vacation for spring break. Many of my classes are International Relations focused, and I'm often consulted by professors and students for an outsider's opinion on international issues and/or US affairs."

—CDT Natalie Heimel

"Understanding and adapting to foreign cultures is a skill that can be developed and once learned, can be applied to cultures anywhere in the world. This is becoming a critical skill for army officers and I feel that the semester abroad program has provided me with the opportunity to develop these skills in addition to language skills. While I have been studying here this semester, I have had no contact whatsoever with the Mexican military. However, a better understanding of Mexican culture and a proficiency in the Spanish language will significantly improve my relations with

Mexican military personnel should I work with them at some future point in my career."

— CDT Colin Jones

"I learned a lot more about the world and about life. Talking with my Mexican friends every day, I began to realize where a lot of the hatred of Americans by foreigners comes from. Most of this hate is through ignorance and stereotypes of other cultures. I believe this program is very helpful in improving relations because it reaches many more people than the program directly involves. Through my interaction with friends in México, I was able to move past prejudices



CDT Nicholas Mavricos spends time teaching English to local children in the neighborhood.

that many Americans have and cannot move past. The semester was an incredible opportunity and has opened my eyes to a world beyond the borders of the US and has taught me valuable lessons about how others live."

—CDT Nicholas Mavricos

"The Mexican culture was much different than I expected; the people are warm and friendly for the most part and very willing to help a gringo out. Especially being from the US and attempting to learn their culture and language, I think Mexicans respected the effort. I was an English teacher at La Ciudad de Los Niños, and I played rugby when I was in Monterrey. I went to school with the children of some of the wealthiest businessmen and politicians in the country, then went to teach some of the poorest of Nuevo León in Guadeloupe." ■

—CDT Thomas Boehm

THE FACES OF GLOBAL TERRORISM

They Can Be Stopped.

We'll Pay You For Your Help.

These people committed terrorist acts which killed or injured thousands of innocent people. These acts include attacks on embassies, hijacking of airliners, the attacks of September 11, and numerous other indiscriminate acts of violence. The U.S. Government is offering rewards of up to \$25 million for information that prevents or resolves any terrorist act against U.S. persons or property. Those providing information may be eligible for a reward and relocation with their families. Your response will be kept strictly confidential. If you have information about past, present or future terrorist acts, please contact the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, or in the U.S., contact the FBI or Rewards for Justice at any of the below addresses.

The Life You Save May Be Your Own!

Up to \$25 Million Reward
Responses Kept Strictly Confidential



bin Laden



al-Zawahiri



Hamed Ali



Atwa



Abdullah



al-Mughassil



Izz-al-Din



el-Hoorie



Yasin



al-Yacoub



Msalam



Swedan



al-Badawi



Elbaneh



Zulkifli



Fazul



al-Quso



al-Nasser



Umar Patek



Gadahn



al-Liby



al-Adel



al-Bakri



el-Shukrijumah



Jdey



Boussora



Umar



Hapilon



Rewards for Justice

Washington, DC 20522-0303 USA

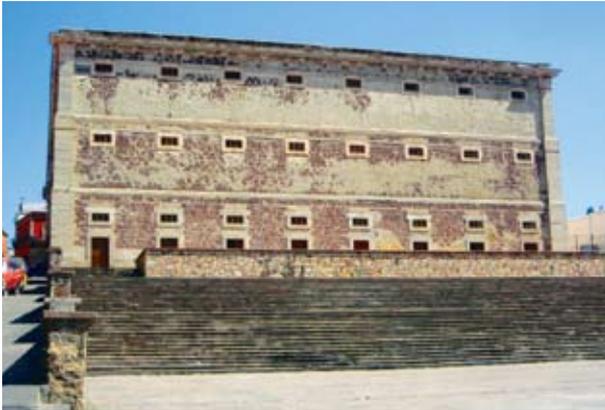
www.rewardsforjustice.net

email: RFJ@state.gov

Guanajuato:

Cradle of Independence

Bicentenary Expo 2010, the landmark symbol of the Independence Bicentenary and the Centenary of the Mexican Revolution.



Alhondiga de Granaditas was where the royalist Spaniards hid during the siege by Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla's troops. After the fall of the insurgents, the heads of Miguel Hidalgo, Ignacio Allende, Juan Aldama and Mariano Jiménez were hung from each one of the four corners of the grain storage building, where they were kept for almost 10 years.

Guanajuato, the cradle of Mexican independence, will be an essential part of the Independence Bicentenary and the Centenary of the Mexican Revolution celebrations.

Mexican President Felipe Calderón presented the Bicentenary Expo mega project May 8 in Alhondiga de Granadita, which includes the construction of "one huge park and a macro plaza that will change the face of Guanajuato."

The Bicentenary Expo opening, planned for July 2010, is expected to create 3,000 direct and 15,000 indirect jobs, as well as 3 billion pesos from tourism during the six month span of festivities. Additionally, a tripartite investment of federal, state and funds up to approximately 600 million pesos will be directed toward the Bicentenary Expo, which includes the construction of a Macro Plaza 2010. The Macro Plaza will be surrounded by five pavilions where the historic, natural and artistic treasures of México and Guanajuato will be displayed. It will also have botanical gardens, a hotel area, camping grounds, a transportation center, a sculpture garden and cabins, among other attractions.

Guanajuato is the place where the nation's patriarch, Don Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, gave the "Grito de Dolores" (Cry of Dolores), which marked the beginning of their independence.

SOURCE: GUANAJUATO GOVERNMENT

Traditional Cavalcade

Celebrating 94 years of the "Toma de Zacatecas"

BY RUBÉN VALDEZ/EL SOL DE ZACATECAS/OEM



Pancho Villa rides at the head of his rebel army in México in 1916. American soldiers pursued Villa into México after the raid on Columbus, N.M., but he eluded capture. He was assassinated by political enemies in México in 1923.

"The spirit is kept alive for honoring the successes of the Mexican Revolution started in 1910," said Amalia García Medina, governor of Zacatecas, while welcoming the "Toma de Zacatecas" Touristic Cavalcade, June 23. The Cavalcade, now in its fourth consecutive year, included hundreds of horseback riders from the states of Durango, Coahuila and Zacatecas.

The Toma de Zacatecas, June 23, 1914, was a historic event which changed the direction of the Mexican Revolution and was led by Gen. Francisco "Pancho" Villa, also known as the Centaur of the North. "This event is already a tradition that neighboring states and Zacatecas remember and will always remember. The fact is that Zacatecas City, particularly the Cerro De La Bufa, was the stage of the cruelest battle which broke the backbone of Victoriano Huerta's usurping government's resistance," García Medina said, alluding to the groups of riders from Coahuila and Durango as they pretended to engage in battle.



MYTHS vs. FACTS

Commonly asked questions about the SPP

The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) is a White House-led initiative among the United States and the two nations it borders—Canada and México—to increase security and enhance prosperity among the three countries through greater cooperation. It is based on the principle that prosperity is dependent on security, and it recognizes that the three nations share a belief in freedom, economic opportunity and strong democratic institutions.

MYTH: The SPP was an agreement signed in Waco, Texas by President Bush and his Mexican and Canadian counterparts March 23, 2005.

FACT: The SPP is a dialogue to increase security and enhance prosperity among the three countries. It's neither an agreement nor a treaty; in fact, no agreement was ever signed.

MYTH: The SPP is a movement to merge the US, México and Canada into a North American Union and establish a common currency.

FACT: The cooperative efforts under the SPP seek to make the US, Canada and México open to legitimate trade and closed to terrorism and crime. It does not change the US courts or legislative processes and respects the sovereignty of all three countries. It in no way, shape or form considers the creation of a European Union-like structure or a common currency, and it doesn't attempt to modify the US sovereignty or currency, or change the American system of government. US agencies involved with SPP regularly update the members of Congress on its efforts and plans.

MYTH: The SPP is illegal and violates the Constitution.

FACT: The SPP is legal and in no way violates the Constitution or affects the legal authorities of the participating executive agencies. Indeed, it's an opportunity for the governments of the US, Canada and México to discuss common goals and identify ways to enhance each nation's security and prosperity. If an action is identified, US federal agencies can only operate within US law to address these issues. The Departments of Commerce and Homeland Security coordinate the efforts of the agencies responsible for the various initiatives under the prosperity and security pillars of the SPP. If an agency were to decide a regulatory change is desirable through the cooperative efforts of SPP,

that agency is required to conform to all existing US laws and administrative procedures, including offering an opportunity to comment.

MYTH: The US section of the SPP is headed by the Department of Commerce.

FACT: The SPP is a White House-driven initiative. In the US, the Department of Commerce coordinates the “Prosperity” component, while the Department of Homeland Security coordinates the “Security” component. The Department of State ensures the two components are coordinated and are consistent with US foreign policy.

MYTH: The US Government, working through the SPP, has a secret plan to build a “NAFTA Super Highway.”

FACT: The US government does not have the authority to designate any highway as a NAFTA Super Highway, nor has it sought such authority, nor is it planning to seek such authority. There are private and state level interests planning highway projects that describe themselves as “NAFTA Corridors,” but these are not federally-driven initiatives, and they are not a part of the SPP. Many states in the American Midwest are proposing or undertaking highway projects to improve or build roads as federal-aid and state or private-sector revenue becomes available. All projects involving federal-aid funds or approvals are subject to normal federal-aid requirements, such as review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), including public involvement. This public involvement, the common thread among all these activities, makes them anything but “secret.” In addition, Congress directs Department of Transportation funding for specific highway projects. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will continue to cooperate with the state transportation departments as they build and upgrade highways to meet the needs of the 21st century.



Traffic streams northbound on Interstate 69, Anderson, Ind. I-69, often mislabeled as the “NAFTA Superhighway” by its opposers, is a new interstate to link Canada and México with the goal of easing truck congestion and international access for US goods.

Rather than evidence of a secret plan to create a NAFTA Super Highway that could undermine our national sovereignty, the FHWA’s efforts are a routine part of cooperation with all the state transportation departments to improve the nation’s highways.

MYTH: US government officials sponsored a secret SPP planning meeting in Banff, Alberta in September 2006.

FACT: The US government did not sponsor the meeting in Banff. The North American Forum, a private initiative that is separate from the US government, hosted the Sept. 12-14, 2006 conference, “Continental Prosperity in the New Security Environment.” Academics, businesspeople, private citizens and government officials from the US, Mexican and Canadian governments attended the conference. The North American Forum is not a product of the SPP. The SPP’s initiatives and milestones with timelines can be found by clicking the Report to Leaders link

at www.spp.gov. The Web site contains a section that allows those interested to provide input directly to the various working groups.

MYTH: The SPP is meant to deal with immigration reform and trade disputes.

FACT: Immigration reform is a legislative matter currently being debated in Congress and is not being dealt with in the SPP. Likewise, trade disputes between the US, Canada and México are resolved in the NAFTA and WTO mechanisms and not the SPP.

MYTH: The SPP creates a NAFTA-plus legal status between the three countries.

FACT: The SPP does not seek to rewrite or renegotiate NAFTA. It creates no NAFTA-plus legal status.

For additional information about the SPP, visit www.spp.gov



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Economic Issues Dominate Discussions

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Mexican President Felipe Calderón and US President George W. Bush commended the 14-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) during the news conference held after their two-day meeting in New Orleans in April. “Now is not the time to renegotiate NAFTA or walk away from NAFTA,” said President Bush. Mexican President Felipe Calderón agreed with him and added, “This is the time to strengthen and reinvigorate this free-trade agreement among our three countries.”

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he wouldn’t rule out negotiations that other parties might want in the future. “But this is not the position that we prefer,” he said. “We have an agreement that worked well, that created jobs—lots of jobs in this continent, and I think that the business community is unanimous about the benefits of this agreement.”

Among some of the issues discussed, Mr. Bush expressed his concern over rising crude-oil and fuel prices and praised Canada and México for providing so much of US energy needs. Both leaders agreed with Mr. Bush’s recent call for major economies to embrace long-term greenhouse-gas emissions goals, as well as “binding international commitments” for reductions. Also, all three leaders endorsed a pending US free-trade deal with Colombia.



TOM HANSON/AP

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left, President George W. Bush, center, and Mexican President Felipe Calderón plant a ceremonial oak tree following the North American Leaders Summit in New Orleans in April.

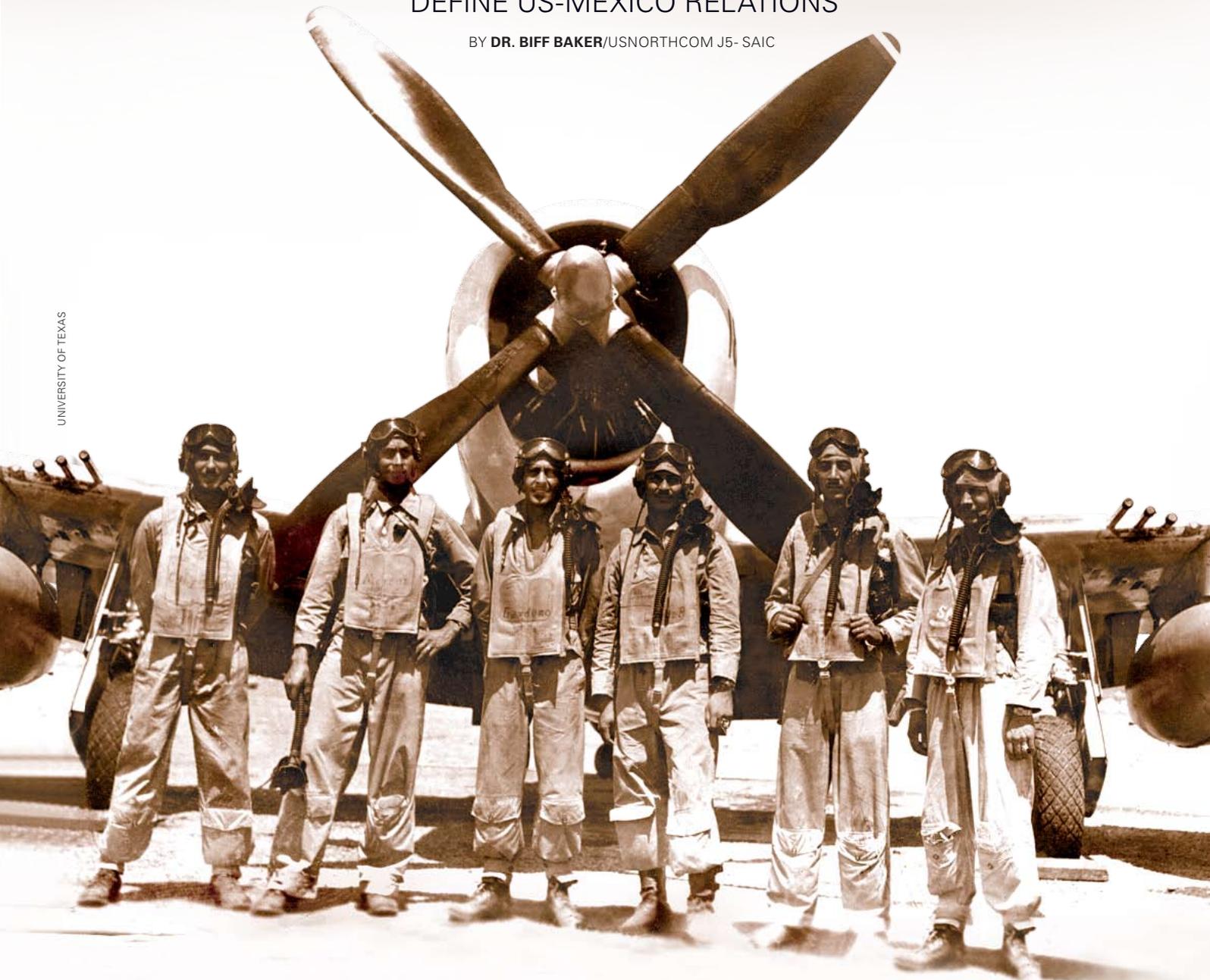
The conference served as an opportunity for the three leaders to discuss important hemispheric and global issues.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER
DEFINE US-MÉXICO RELATIONS

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The Japanese raid at Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, was one of the defining moments in US history, leading to a declaration of war against the Axis Powers. After numerous Axis submarine attacks on Mexican ships and the sinking of the Mexican oil tanker *Potero del Llano* in June 1942, México declared war against the Axis. The war effort stimulated trade, with Mexican oil fueling the US war machine, and it led to significantly enhanced military cooperation for mutual defense of North America. The common threat led to the training of Mexican fighter pilots in the US, and the creation of the 201st Mexican "Aztec Eagles" Fighter Squadron.

The Mexican Expeditionary Air Force (photo pg. 49) provided close air support for

US forces in the Philippines, resulting in the defeat of the Japanese in 1945. This represented one of the most successful partnerships in the history of México-US relations.

In 1947, security for the Western Hemisphere was further enhanced through the Inter-American Reciprocal Defense Treaty (Rio Treaty), whereby members pledged to defend

one another from external attacks. However, México and the US did not continue close collaboration as we did during World War II. Not until the 9/11 attacks did homeland defense and homeland security once again become top priorities for both governments. As a result of these concerns, Canada, México and the US became partners in the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP), March 23, 2005, resolving to improve cooperation for the economic prosperity, freedom, safety and well-being of the people.

SPP is a partnership that recognizes Canada, México and the US as

...the North American economy and related critical infrastructure is a shared center of gravity that must be defended.

sovereign nations with separate and distinct national identities. SPP does not impinge upon national sovereignty. As sovereign powers, these governments have the authority to make war or peace, to form treaties of alliance or commerce with foreign nations and maintain control over their territories. In doing so, coordinated operations are merely one part of an overall

strategy to focus all of the elements of national power to protect the people.

MÉXICO-US INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER

A thorough comparison of two nations would require several hundred pages, but this comparison is focused upon four instruments of national power including economic, diplomatic, informational and military. Synchronization (not integration) of these instruments of national power is required to ensure the successful execution of homeland defense and security. If the instruments are used in concert with each other and in cooperation with other

nations, then the result is an exponentially stronger, faster and more effective means to address critical

events. Therefore, México and the US must develop mechanisms or coordinating bodies that will enable each to plan for and practice coordinating the instruments of national power, as both nations will benefit from the synergies that arise from doing so. Since intertwined economies are the primary driver for mutual cooperation, it will be addressed first.





ECONOMIC INSTRUMENT OF POWER

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has shown that competition and open capital markets foster innovation, productivity and economic growth—all of which are essential for improving the living standards of our citizens over time. NAFTA eliminated tariffs and removed many of the non-tariff barriers such as import licenses, creating a unique economic relationship with an inextricably linked infrastructure. NAFTA increased trade, that is now in the range of \$900 million per day between México and the US.

Both nations have separate centers of gravity, but from a bilateral perspective, the North American economy and related critical infrastructure is a shared center of gravity that must be defended. This continental view of defense and security issues became increasingly important after Osama bin Laden pinpointed the North American economy as a target, shaping current concerns about security and defense. Security measures and concerns about further terrorist attacks resulted in a short-term recession that adversely impacted the economy (see Figure 1).

This short-term decline in trade started in 2001 and continued through 2003, with recovery in 2004, making it clear that an attack on one nation affects not just the defense and security of that nation, but also the economic

well-being of trading partners. Closing the shared border to legal trade had dramatic consequences for both economies; we must therefore plan to ensure this does not happen again. In recent years, almost 85 percent of México's exports have gone to the US, making the economic success of México very dependent on American economic behavior and vice versa.

Increased integration between México and the US stands as a model of mutually beneficial trade. While maintaining distinct monetary, fiscal, economic and social policies and practices that are tailored to each nation's particular needs and economic structure, both nations have managed to forge an open marketplace where goods, services and capital can move freely. To preserve that economic freedom, defense and security initiatives must be planned and coordinated continentally. However, moving forward in defense and security is contingent upon improving information sharing and diplomatic relations. ■

Editor's note: Part 2 will be published in the next issue

Dr. Biff Baker currently supports US Northern Command J5/Theater Security Cooperation via a contract with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC).

FIGURE 1: TRADE BETWEEN MÉXICO AND THE US



Oil: México sends 90 percent of its crude oil exports to the US.



Natural Gas: Pemex operates more than 5,700 miles of natural gas pipelines in México and the natural gas pipeline network includes 12 active connections with the US.



Coal: México imports coal from the US for electricity generation and steelmaking.

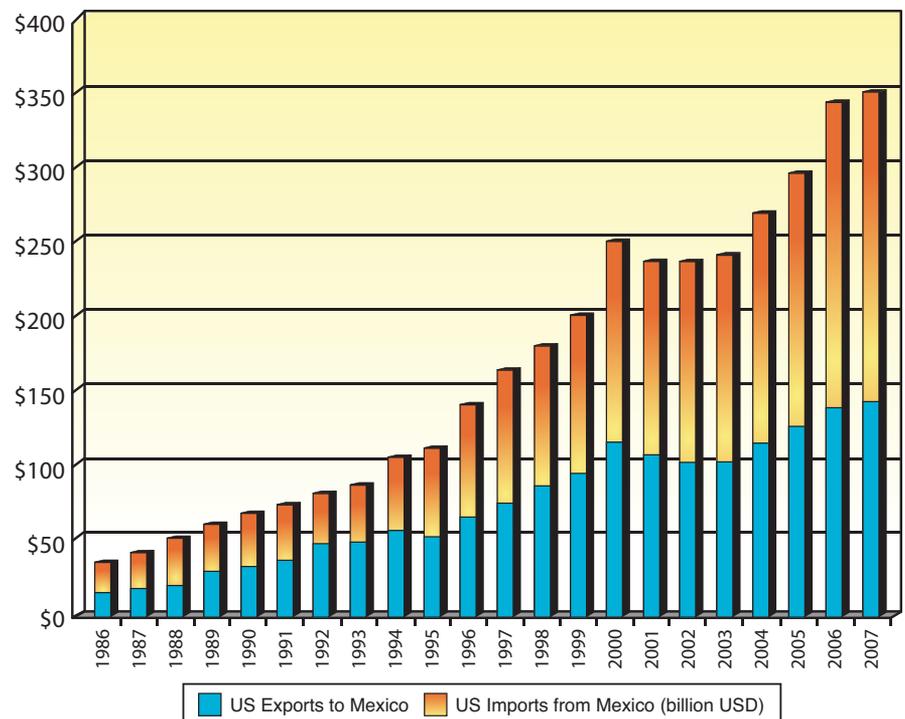


Electricity: México exported 1,600 megawatt-hours of electricity to the US in 2005, while importing 470 MWh.



Manufactured Goods: The majority of US exports to México consist of manufactured goods such as computers, electrical equipment and other manufactured articles.

MEXICAN AND US ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCY



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, "TRADE WITH México," FEB. 12, 2007

Pandemic Flu Contingency Plan

USNORTHCOM contributes its expertise to the 2008 US – South Korea – Japan Trilateral Workshop

NORAD and USNORTHCOM PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Rules, regulations and red tape can make traveling from one country to another tedious and time-consuming for people. Diseases, on the other hand, can cross borders without passports, visas or even reservations.

Ease of movement, combined with modern transportation that can move people from one hemisphere to another in a matter of hours, has made dealing with a potentially international pandemic a major concern of the United States – South Korea – Japan Trilateral Workshop. The latest workshop, held earlier this year on South Korea’s Jeju Island, was the fourth in a series that was first hosted in Tokyo in 2006.

US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), at the request of the Institute for Defense Analyses, has participated in the

The potential number of fatalities in the US in a modern pandemic influenza could reach nearly 2 million, according to Felderman. Not only would the nation’s economy suffer, but the Department of Defense would still have to be ready and able to protect and defend the country and provide support of civil authorities in disaster situations. While virtually every aspect of society would be affected, “the implications for Northern Command will be very significant.”

“USNORTHCOM is the global synchronizer – the global coordinator for pandemic influenza across the combatant commands”

Army Brig. Gen. Robert Felderman, deputy director of USNORTHCOM’s Plans, Policy and Strategy Directorate

Since November 2003, nearly 400 cases of human infection with highly pathogenic avian influenza A (Harm) viruses have been reported. CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

a.m. p.m.

A person may be able to infect others one day before getting symptoms and up to five days after getting sick.

Ease of movement, combined with modern transportation has made international pandemic a concern.

“The potential number of fatalities in the US in a modern pandemic influenza could reach nearly 2 million”
Brig. Gen. Robert Felderman

When a pandemic influenza virus emerges, its global spread is considered inevitable. Security measures such as border closures and travel restrictions delay arrival of the virus, but cannot stop it.

www.pandemicflu.gov

ILLUSTRATIONS BY RYAN MCNALLY/AGORA STAFF

Trilateral Workshop since the beginning, contributing its expertise in pandemic influenza contingency planning, among other subjects. Army Brig. Gen. Robert Felderman, deputy director of USNORTHCOM’s Plans, Policy and Strategy Directorate, attended the Jeju Island workshop and presented a briefing on the command’s pandemic influenza plan.

“USNORTHCOM is the global synchronizer—the global coordinator—for pandemic influenza across the combatant commands,” Felderman said. “Also, the US in 1918 had the Spanish influenza. We were the ones who had the largest response to [a pandemic] in more recent history. So I discussed what we did then, what we expect to have happen now and the numbers that we would expect in a pandemic influenza.”

“A pandemic would have a huge economic impact, in addition to the defense-of-our-nation impact,” Felderman said. The US isn’t alone in preparing for such a potential catastrophe. “The workshop organizers wanted pandemic influenza to be the focal point for this meeting because it’s something that all three nations have in common, and all three nations are in the planning phase for this,” said David Koster, deputy chief of the Joint Readiness Division in the North American Aerospace Defense Command



USNORTHCOM

Conference attendees brainstorm answers to hypothetical questions.

and USNORTHCOM Training and Exercise Directorate. “That kind of shared experience serves as a common denominator, and it really does help break the ice because it gives everyone something very familiar to discuss.” Koster, who has attended three of the four Trilateral Workshops, said that, despite the cultural, political and functional differences among the three participating countries, their solutions to problems are often surprisingly similar.

“The structure of the workshop was that questions were posed by the facilitators, and the three nations split off into three different teams to discuss and find their unique solution to the problem that’s been posed,” Koster explained. “When we’d come back together and brief our answers, we’d often find that the Japanese or the Koreans, or perhaps both, had the same solutions as we did. So the differences in the cultures were often superseded by the issues at hand.”

The workshops not only give representatives from the three countries the opportunity to brainstorm answers to hypothetical questions, but to learn more about each other.

“It gives us a good understanding of the other nations—of governments and what sort of processes they have to go through, and their bureaucracy compared to our bureaucracy,” Koster said.

“We’re intending to share experiences by sending observers to each other’s exercises. We’re also intending to create a trilateral portal that will allow us to collaborate electronically,” Koster said. “And that’s brand-new, a result of the discussions at these workshops.”

The four Trilateral Workshops in the past two years have also laid the groundwork for more permanent, ongoing working groups scheduled to be established this year. And the three countries plan to interact and communicate more actively.

USNORTHCOM

Defending Our Homeland

“... that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

– President Abraham Lincoln - Gettysburg Address

US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) was established Oct. 1, 2002, to provide command and control of Department of Defense (DoD) homeland defense efforts and, when directed, provide timely and effective defense support of civil authorities. USNORTHCOM defends America’s homeland—protecting our people, national power and freedom of action.

MISSION:

- USNORTHCOM anticipates and conducts homeland defense and civil support operations within the assigned area of responsibility to defend, protect and secure the US and its interests.
- USNORTHCOM’s Area of Responsibility (AOR) includes air, land and sea approaches and encompasses the continental US, Alaska, Canada, México and the surrounding water out to approximately 500 nautical miles. It also includes the Gulf of México and the Straits of Florida. The defense of Hawaii and our territories and possessions in the Pacific is the responsibility of US Pacific Command. The defense of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands is the responsibility of US Southern Command. The commander of USNORTHCOM is responsible for theater security cooperation within his AOR, notably with Canada and México.
- USNORTHCOM consolidates under a single unified command existing missions that were previously executed by numerous DoD organizations. This provides active duty unity of command, which is critical to mission accomplishment.
- USNORTHCOM plans, organizes and executes homeland defense and civil support missions, but has few permanently assigned forces. The command is assigned forces whenever necessary to execute missions, as directed by the President or Secretary of Defense.
- Civil service employees and uniformed members representing all service

branches comprise USNORTHCOM’s headquarters located at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The commander of USNORTHCOM also commands the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), a bi-national command responsible for aerospace warning and aerospace control for North America.

• USNORTHCOM’s civil support mission includes domestic disaster relief operations that occur during fires, hurricanes, floods and earthquakes. Support also includes counter-drug operations and managing the consequences of a terrorist event employing a weapon of mass destruction. The command provides assistance to a primary agency when tasked by DoD. Per the Posse Comitatus Act, military forces can provide civil support, but cannot become directly involved in law enforcement.

• In providing civil support, USNORTHCOM generally operates through established Joint Task Forces subordinate to the command. An emergency must exceed the capabilities of local, state and federal agencies before USNORTHCOM becomes involved. In most cases, support will be limited, localized and specific. When the scope of the disaster is reduced to the point that the Primary Agency can again assume full control and management without military assistance, USNORTHCOM will exit, leaving the on-scene experts to finish the job.

Please visit www.northcom.mil to learn more about US Northern Command, its people and operations.

NORAD



Through outstanding binational cooperation, NORAD has proven itself effective in its roles of watching, warning and responding. NORAD continues to play an important role in the defense of Canada and the US by evolving to meet the changing threat. The events of Sept. 11, 2001, demonstrated NORAD's continued relevance to North American security. Today, NORAD provides civil authorities with a potent military response capability to counter domestic airspace threats.

Below is a timeline highlighting some of NORAD's significant achievements:



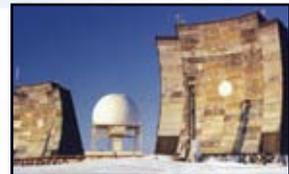
Early 50's – The US and Canada agree to construct a series of radar stations across North America to detect a Soviet attack over the Arctic.



1957-1958 – The Mid-Canada line (also known as McGill Fence) is declared fully operational; it includes Doppler radar for detecting low-flying aircraft. The primary Distant Early Warning Line (DEW Line), a series of radar stations farther north, is also operational.



1960's – Space surveillance and missile warning system is constructed to provide worldwide space detection, tracking and identification.



Early 1970's – The acceptance of mutual assured destruction doctrine leads to a cut in the air defense budget and the repositioning of NORAD's mission.

1950's

1960's

1970's



Dec. 24, 1955 – The Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD) first tracks Santa Claus. In 1958, NORAD becomes the official Santa Tracking Operations Center, showing Santa's progress as he travels around the globe.



Sept. 12, 1957 – The North American Air Defense Command (NORAD) is stood up at Ent AFB, Colorado Springs, Colo.

May 12, 1958 – US and Canadian governments ratify and sign the initial agreement sanctioning NORAD.



June 16, 1961 – Official ground-breaking ceremony is held at the construction site of the Cheyenne Mountain NORAD Combat Operations Center (COC), Colorado Springs, Colo.



1966 – Operations of the NORAD Combined Operations Center are transferred from Ent AFB to Cheyenne Mountain.



Nov. 9, 1979 – A NORAD technician loads a test tape but fails to switch the system status to 'test', causing a stream of constant false warnings to spread to two government bunkers, as well as command posts worldwide. Within eight minutes, NORAD assessed that no attack was under way, but the incident caused public and congressional concern.



May 12, 1981 – On this occasion of the renewal of the NORAD Agreement, Canada and the US agree to change the term “air defense” to “aerospace defense” in the command’s name. This acknowledged the importance of space to North American defense and the need for enhanced cooperation in space surveillance activities.



May 2, 1991 – Phase 1, Precision Acquisition Vehicle Entry Phased Array Warning System (PAVE PAWS) radar upgrade program, at Beale AFB, Calif. achieved IOC.



Sept. 11, 2001 – Terrorists attack the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., prompting the NORAD mission to include monitoring of all aircraft flying over the US.



Post 9/11 – Following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, NORAD conducts Operation Noble Eagle air patrol missions to defend North America against terrorist aggression within or outside the nations’ air borders. By 2007, NORAD had responded to more than 2,700 potential airborne threats in the continental US, Canada and Alaska, while flying more than 45,000 sorties.

1980's



March 18, 1985 – Canadian and US Defense leaders sign the North American Air Defense Modernization Memorandum (NAADMM) authorizing various initiatives to improve overall aerospace defense capabilities, including the creation of the North Warning System (NWS).



1989 – NORAD operations expand to cover counter-drug operations, especially the tracking of small aircraft.

Nov. 1993 – Deputy Secretary of Defense (SecDef) issued policy announcing a major shift in focus for US drug efforts. New policy reduced overall NORAD counter-drug measures.

Apr. 17, 1995 – CMOC reorganization complete - NORAD and USSPACECOM Cheyenne Mountain centers combined into one organization.



Oct. 25, 1999 – NORAD fighters provided an emergency escort to a Learjet carrying golfer Payne Stewart. The Learjet depressurized, killing all on board. It crashed in a South Dakota cornfield.

1990's

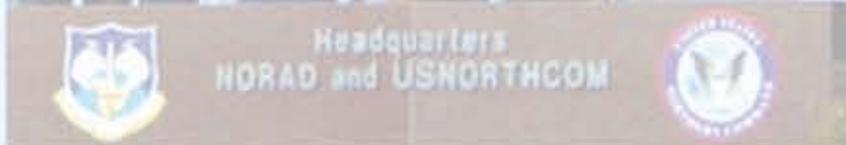
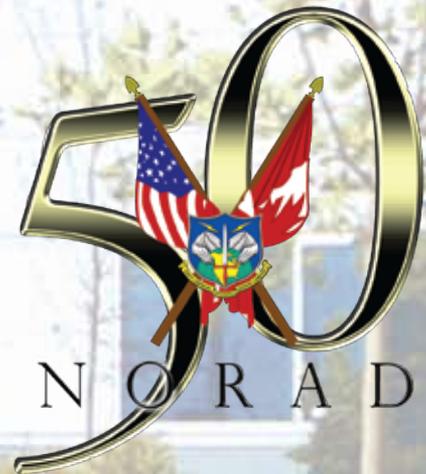
May 12, 2006 – NORAD gains a new mission requirement, Maritime Warning, with the renewal of the NORAD Agreement.

July 28, 2006 – Military officials announce NORAD’s day-to-day operations will be consolidated with the USNORTHCOM Command Center at Peterson AFB in nearby Colorado Springs.

2000's



May 12, 2008 – General Victor E. Renuart, Jr.(USAF), commander of NORAD and USNORTHCOM, hosts events recognizing the 50th anniversary of the signing of the NORAD agreement between the US and Canada, which ratified the existence of NORAD as a binational command.





Egyptian Troops Discover Tunnels, Drugs and Arms Near Gaza

An Egyptian security official says border guards discovered seven underground smuggling tunnels at the Gaza border. The official says that some of the tunnels, found north of the Rafah crossing between Egypt and Gaza, were used to pump fuel to the Hamas-run coastal Gaza Strip. The official also says that police found "11 stacks" of hashish near the volatile border. Smugglers had fled and left the drugs behind. Police also came across an ammunition and arms cache left over from the 1967 Egypt-Israel war near the town of el-Hassana in central Sinai. (AP)



IBM launches the Africa Innovation Centre

IBM, the multinational computer technology company, has launched the Africa Innovation Centre, in a bid to drive skills development in information technology and address business challenges in the economic growth of Sub-Saharan Africa. The one of a kind center is part of IBM's \$120 million, two-

year investment through 2009 that includes new market expansion initiatives and houses Africa's first cloud computing center. The Africa Innovation Centre will offer an array of resources for IBM business partners, software start-ups, Information Technology professionals and academia. This will enable them to develop skills and deliver solutions to global markets using IBM's open architecture in a bid to fuel entrepreneurship and growth in the continent. It will showcase business approaches and open technologies such as cloud computing, Web 2.0 technologies, service-oriented architecture (SOA) and systems management. It will also demonstrate next-generation systems offered at the Banking Centre of Excellence as part of the new innovation center, as well as environmentally-friendly computing designs. Africa was most recently the theme of IBM's 2007 Global Innovation Outlook™ (GIO), a global thought leaders' forum on the changing nature of innovation that has a positive impact on business and society. The GIO indicated that factors critical to the continent's future include skills, infrastructure development and financing for small business. (BUSINESS DAILY)

Iraq Gradually Taking Control of More Provinces

Iraq is scheduled to take over security responsibility for another southern province from US forces in July, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. US and British forces, which invaded Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein in 2003, have been gradually transferring more responsibilities to Iraq's security forces. ♦ Qadisiya, also known as Diwaniya because of its capital's name, would be the 10th of Iraq's 18 provinces to return to Iraqi control. It has been relatively violence-free this year. ♦ "We will take security responsibility for Diwaniya province from the Multi-National Forces, and we have prepared the required force to take this security responsibility," Maj. Gen. Mohammed al-Askari, the Defence Ministry spokesman told reporters. ♦ The ninth province to return to Iraqi control was the oil-rich southern province of Basra, which Britain handed over in December, 2007, marking the end of nearly five years of British control over southern Iraq. ♦ So far, the provinces under Iraqi control are either in the Kurdish north or the Shiite south. US forces still control provinces with large Sunni Arab populations, such as the western province of Anbar, which used to be the main stronghold of al-Qaida insurgents. Some skepticism about whether Iraqi security forces are ready to take control of hotspots has been allayed by recent security operations. ♦ Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki sent Iraqi security forces to tackle Shiite militias in Basra and Baghdad and launched a crackdown against al-Qaida in the northern town of Mosul, strengthening government authority in areas previously outside its control. (REUTERS)



ANDY WONG/JAP

Training begins for Olympic volunteers

A volunteer stands in front of the Olympic logo in Beijing, June 12. A team of 337 volunteers has been selected for victory ceremonies and are now undergoing training for the Olympic and Paralympics Games. The Olympic Games open in Beijing, Aug 8.



anxious villagers all praise the tough measures of the 1990s and say the government is now underestimating the threat posed by the rebels' resurgence.

The Shining Path came close to bringing Peru to its knees with its insurgency. Its founder, Abimael Guzmán, a former philosophy professor, had a messianic vision of a classless utopia based on communism.

His fanatical followers—as many as 10,000 guerrillas at their peak—bombed electrical towers, bridges and factories, assassinated mayors and massacred villagers. Guzmán cared little about the loss of lives, preaching: “Blood does not drown the revolution. It irrigates it.” But Guzmán was captured in 1992, as Fujimori’s security forces jailed thousands of rebels and suspected collaborators. By 1999, there were fewer than 200 armed fighters left in the Apurimac and Huallaga valleys, the only regions where the Shining Path remained active, and many Peruvians believed the movement was in its death throes. After years in retreat, they are once again on the offensive—although still in numbers far below their peak in past decades.

Backed by drug money, the rebels' numbers have quadrupled to nearly 800 in recent years, according to military officers, village militia leaders and Pedro Egoavil, 53, a former rebel commander who broke with the Shining Path in the 1990s over its violent strategy, but retains friends inside the organization. The guerrillas also have hundreds of unarmed collaborators.

Interior Minister Luis Alva Castro, who heads the national police, and other government officials argue that today’s Shining Path cares more about drug trafficking than its long-term goal of imposing a Maoist regime. (AP)

SHINING PATH REBELS ARE BACK

Terrorists seeking resurgence in Peru

Unlike before, the Shining Path rebels have almost unlimited financial support. Earning cash by protecting coca fields and cocaine-smuggling routes, they are able to buy powerful weapons and pay salaries to men and women who take up arms against the government. It is a nightmarish prospect for Peru, which saw nearly 70,000 people killed from 1980 to the mid-90s in the Shining Path's brutal effort to impose a Maoist communist regime. Most of the victims were peasants, caught in the crossfire between guerrillas and security forces.

The country has enjoyed more than a decade of political stability since the rebel threat was virtually eliminated by former President Alberto Fujimori, a democratically elected leader who ruled with an iron fist from 1990 until his regime ended in scandal in 2000.

Fujimori, 69, was extradited from Chile in September and is now on trial for human-rights violations committed during his crackdown, including the killings of university students and the massacre of Lima tenement dwellers targeted as Shining Path collaborators by a military death squad. But Fujimori remains a hero in the isolated valleys where the rebels drew the most blood. Matucana Mayor Florencio Velásquez, military officers and



Local security members known as “Rondeiros” patrol in Pichihuillca, in the southern Peruvian state of Ayacucho. Villagers are facing a new Shining Path movement, which is growing in numbers as its members visit isolated villages asking forgiveness for past attacks and for villagers to join them.

Food Shortage

México donates twenty tons of aid to Haiti's population during the food crisis

EMBASSY OF MÉXICO IN CANADA

In response to the international call for humanitarian aid sent out by the “Group of Friends of Haiti” and the Haitian government, México delivered a package of food aid comprising eight tons of beans, two tons of tuna and ten tons of sardines, with a total estimated value of nearly half a million pesos.

The provisions were transported by the ship ARM Guanajuato (PO-153), of the Mexican Navy, which sailed from the Port of Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, June 9, en route to Port-au-Prince carrying 20,425 tons of humanitarian aid; the shipment arrived June 18.

The foodstuffs were donated by various Mexican producers who provided their support following the announcement made by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA). The movement of supplies inside the country was accomplished with the participation of the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA).

This humanitarian aid comes in addition to the government of México's financial contribution of \$50,000 in support of actions developed by the World Food Program, the UN agency responsible for tending to the needs of populations dealing with food scarcity.



Workers sweep around sacks of grain at a UN World Food Program warehouse in Port-au-Prince. Some aid organizations are warning of a widening nutritional crisis in Haiti, where spiraling food prices have sparked protests.

BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP



Haitian students wait for food in a classroom.

ARIANA CUBILLOS/AP

Welcome Home

President Calderón announces social housing program for Central America

COORDINACIÓN GENERAL DE COMUNICACIÓN SOCIAL-MÉXICO

President Felipe Calderón announced a Social Housing Program for Central America, which will be financed using resources from the San José Agreement, and reinforce cooperation and integration in Mesoamerica.

At the inauguration of the 10th Tuxtla Dialogue and Agreement Summit, he reported that a \$33 million fund will be made available to countries in the region through the Central American Bank of Economic Integration, which will finance the construction of up to 50,000 dwellings for low-income families in the short term, and half a million houses in the long-term.

Calderón said the program is based on a model that has proven successful in México in housing development and that its aim is to provide a long-term solution to the housing lag in the region, as well as promoting economic activity in

the area of construction. México will also provide technical advice for countries wishing to participate.

During the inauguration of the Summit, the president proposed restructuring the Panama-Puebla Plan to turn it into a Program for the Integration and Development of Mesoamerica. In his address to the presidents of the nations comprising the Tuxtla Dialogue and Agreement Mechanism, Calderón explained that the experience in Mesoamerica made it quite clear that the best way of meeting global challenges is through solutions shared by nations with common interests. The president suggested a thorough review and restructuring of the Panama-Puebla Plan, in order to consolidate it as a program for the integration and development of Mesoamerica to meet the region's long-term development needs more effectively and therefore, become a genuine Mesoamerican project.

Calderón told the presidents of Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama that "México has an irrevocable commitment to the integration and integral transformation of Latin America and particularly to this region, Mesoamerica, which spans from México to Colombia."



COURTESY OF PICASA

Gunships

“Spectre”, call sign for the AC-130H’s gunship and “Spooky” for the AC-130U’s, a third generation of C-130 gunships, trace their history to the first operational gunship, the AC-47

The AC-130 gunship has a combat history dating back to Vietnam. Gunships destroyed more than 10,000 trucks and were credited with many life-saving close air support missions. During Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada in 1983, AC-130s suppressed enemy air defense systems and attacked ground forces, enabling the successful assault of the Point Salines Airfield via airdrop and air land of friendly forces. The AC-130 aircrew earned the Lt. Gen. William H. Tunner Award for the mission.

AC-130s also had a primary role during Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989, when they destroyed Panamanian Defense Force Headquarters and numerous command and control facilities. Aircrews earned the Mackay Trophy for the most meritorious flight of the year and the Tunner Award.

During Operation Desert Storm, AC-130s provided close air support and air base defense for ground forces. They also provided air interdiction against key targets in the Sarajevo area.

In 1997, gunships were diverted from Italy to provide combat air support for US and allied ground troops during the evacuation of American noncombatants in Albania. Gunships were also part of the buildup of US forces in 1998 to convince Iraq to comply with UN weapons inspections.

The military used gunships during Operations Restore Hope and United Shield in Somalia, and in the NATO mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina. On March 15, 1994, over the Indian Ocean (off the coast of Kenya, near the town of Malindi), aircraft 69-6576, then known as “Predator” but previously called both “Bad Company” and “Widow Maker”, was lost, taking the lives of eight crew members.

The US later used gunships during the 2001 invasion of Afghanistan and the Iraq War. In 2007, US Special Operations Forces used the AC-130 in attacks on suspected al-Qaida militants in Somalia. The AC-130 has the distinction of never having lost a base to the enemy. (USAF)



AC-47

US AIR FORCE PHOTO

An AC-47 at Nha Trang Air Base displays the three Gatling type machine guns that make up its armament. The AC-47s were the first gunships and were called a variety of nicknames—“Puff”, “Spooky” and “Dragon” were among the most popular.



AC-130U

US AIR FORCE PHOTO

The Spectre gunship’s primary missions are close air support, air interdiction and armed reconnaissance. Other missions include perimeter and point defense, escort, landing, drop and extraction zone support, forward air control, limited command and control and combat search and rescue.



AC-130H

CHIEF MASTER SGT GARY EMERY/AF

Spooky gunship armed with Bushmaster 30 mm cannons protruding from the gun ports. The 30 mm gun will eventually replace both the 40 mm cannon and 25 mm gun on U-model gunships.



AC-130H

An AC-130H gunship jettisons flares as an infrared countermeasure during multi-gunship formation egress training.

Training with flair

- Powered by four turboprops and an armament ranging from 20 mm Gatling guns to 105 mm howitzers.
- A standard crew of 12 to 13 Airmen, including five officers.
- Side-firing weapons integrated with sophisticated sensor, navigation and fire control systems to provide surgical firepower or area saturation during extended loiter periods, at night and in adverse weather.
- Sensor suites that consist of a TV sensor, infrared sensor and radar to, visually or electronically, identify friendly ground forces and targets.
- The AC-130U employs synthetic aperture strike radar for long-range target detection and identification and employs the latest technologies that can attack two targets simultaneously. It also has twice the munitions capacity of the AC-130H.

SENIOR AIRMAN JULIANNE SHOWALTER/USAF



Longest Sniper Kill

Canadian sniper holds the world's record with a 2,430 meter shot

On a March afternoon in 2002, during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan's Shah-i-Kot Valley, five Canadian snipers from the 3rd Battalion of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) fighting alongside the scout platoon of the US Army's 187th "Rakkasan" brigade, spotted a three-man al-Qaida weapons team approximately 2.5 kilometers away. The sniper team consisted of MCpl. Graham Ragsdale (Team Commander), MCpl. Tim McMeekin, MCpl. Arron Perry, Cpl. Dennis Eason and Cpl. Rob Furlong.

Crawling into position, Furlong, a master corporal from Ontario, took aim with his long range .50-caliber McMillan Brothers TAC-50 sniper rifle and began firing 750 grain Hornady A-MAX very-low-drag bullets at one of the fighters, who appeared to be carrying an RPK machine gun. He missed the first shot and the second one hit the knapsack on the target's back, but the third struck the target's torso

and killed him. The distance was measured as 2,430 meters, making it the longest confirmed sniper kill in combat, and exceeding Carlos Hathcock's 1967 record of 2,286 meters during the Vietnam War.

Furlong received a Mention in Dispatch for "impressive professionalism and dedication to duty through his valiant conduct while under direct and indirect fire," and the US Armed Forces' Bronze Star.



McMillan TAC-50 Tactical Sniper Rifle

The McMillan TAC-50 Tactical Sniper Rifle system provides the capability to effectively perform the tasks of a sniper, for combat and internal security operations. The rifle system can also be used in both advanced regional and national sniper competitions.

The .50-caliber rifle has a heavy barrel, manually operated, bolt action, detachable box magazine-fed system with a five shot capacity. It is fitted with a detachable TAC-50 McMillan fiberglass stock with butt spacer system and pistol grip. The stock is specifically designed for use with a bipod.

The system utilizes a Remington type trigger set to 3.5 lbs, with an optional Jewell trigger assembly. The McMillan barrel is a match grade fluted chrome-moly barrel, available in stainless as an option. All metal parts are finished with a matte black corrosion-resistant polymer finish.

The .50-caliber McMillan Tactical Sniper Rifle, with a Leupold 16X Mil Dot Telescope, is capable of 1/2 minute of arc (1/60 of one degree) in the hands of qualified snipers with applicable match ammunition.



This McMillan TAC-50, belonging to 3 PPCLI, is the actual weapon that was used to set the world's long-distance sniper kill record. The photo was taken at the Calgary Stampede Small Arms display.



Canadian sniper from the PPCLI tests his equipment in full camouflage as he looks through a C-3 rifle. The precision marksmen are trained in the arts of camouflage and moving undetected in enemy territory.



Honduran Special Forces soldiers render a battle cry while posing with a live iguana during Iguana Voladora 2008.

US ARMY PHOTO



TECH. SGT. WILLIAM FARROW/USAF

Paratroopers descend to the ground at Támara Drop Zone.

FLYING IGUANAS

US Joint Task Force-Bravo's largest airborne training exercise developed to strengthen regional cooperation and security in the Americas

JOINT TASK FORCE-BRAVO PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Drivers on the highway near Tegucigalpa were treated to an unusual sight April 24, as 138 paratroopers from 17 countries descended from clear blue skies to the ground at Támara Drop Zone, the home of the Honduran airborne school.

The paratroopers were part of an annual airborne operation hosted by the US Joint Task Force-Bravo, known as Iguana Voladora ("flying iguana" in Spanish). The airborne exercise is the task force's largest joint and combined training event and was developed to strengthen regional cooperation and security between countries of the Americas.

Iguana Voladora 2008 was the largest in history with Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Domini-

can Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and the US participating.

On jump day, participants boarded two CH-47 Chinook helicopters from JTF-Bravo, hooked their static lines up and jumped out 1,250 feet above solid Honduran ground. Less than three hours after the first jumper left the aircraft, all 138 jumpers were on the ground safely.

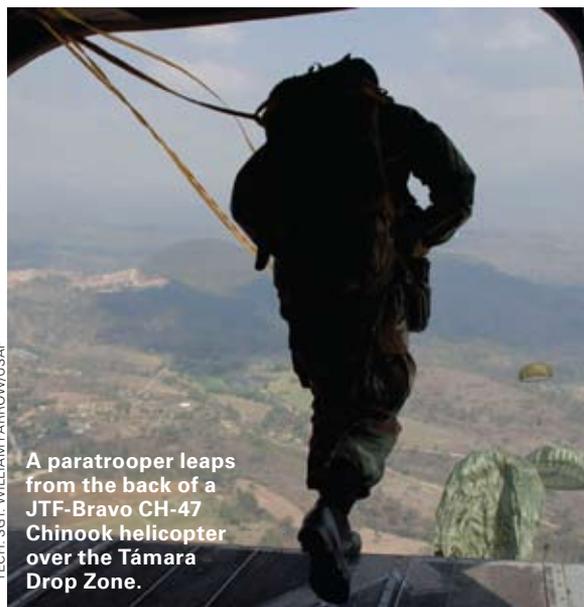
“There is great tradition in this operation and all participants are brothers in the occupation of ‘paracaidista’ (parachutist),” said Honduran Capt. Mariano Días, a first-time Iguana Voladora participant. “When we get together as professional associates, we get to know each other, which benefits all participating nations’ militaries by allowing us to reach out to each other and rely on the friendships we developed here.”

After the jump, the Honduran airborne school’s officials invited the participants to a reception and ceremonial release of the operation’s namesake — live iguanas. In the evening, JTF-Bravo welcomed the paratroopers back to Soto Cano Air Base for a banquet and wings exchange.

The day after the jump, JTF-Bravo hosted multiple demonstrations for visiting nations to further understand the task force’s capabilities.

“We’re a key presence in Central America for disaster relief and humanitarian assistance,” Army Lt. Col. Gregory Jicha, the airborne commander said. “It’s an excellent opportunity to show some of our partner nations’ militaries what we do and what we can do to help them. This was an amazing event.”

The multinational airborne operation has been hosted by JTF-Bravo annually since 1997. The operation was first known as “General Francisco Morazan” and “Fuerzas Unidas” before being renamed Iguana Voladora in 2002.



TECH. SGT. WILLIAM FARROW/USAF

A paratrooper leaps from the back of a JTF-Bravo CH-47 Chinook helicopter over the Támara Drop Zone.

Mark Your Calendar

Sept. 30

BIO ATTACK WITH FOOD CONTAMINATION TABLE TOP EXERCISE

NORAD and USNORTHCOM Table Top exercise: scenario-driven, facilitated discussion focusing on plausible biological food contamination response and containment considerations. Will focus on consequence management throughout the area of responsibility.

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

NORAD-USNORTHCOM HQ staff, Interagency, JCS, OSD, other DOD, Canada COM, state, local and private sectors.

CONTACT:

Mr. Dave Wilkins, N-NC/J72, (719) 556-0253



Nov. 12-18

VIGILANT SHIELD 2009

Vigilant Shield 09 is a NORAD-USNORTHCOM exercise linked with USSTRATCOM exercise Global Lightning 09 as a Program Tier III National Exercise.

POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS:

NORAD-USNORTHCOM HQ staff, Regions, JTFs, Components, Joint Staff, Canada Command, USSTRATCOM, NGB, USTRANSCOM and USJFCOM.

CONTACT:

Mr. Steve Zakaluk, DAFC, N-NC/J712, (719) 554-5453





J.J. GUILLEN/EFE

MÉXICO PHOTOGRAPHED BY LUIS BUÑUEL

A tribute to the Spanish film director on the 25th anniversary of his death

CONCHA BARRIGÓS/EFE

Beaches, jungles, forests and deserts, but everything near a bar: they were “exteriors” that Luis Buñuel captured with his Leica camera in México to make his films and now comprise a tribute of the Spanish Film library and the center dedicated to the film director of Calanda. The exhibition: “México photographed by Luis Buñuel,” opened at the beginning of July in the Spanish Film library, and from June 29 will also be displayed in “exact duplicate” at the Centro Buñuel de Cine (CBC) of Calanda, commemorating the 25th anniversary of his death. In these photos, it’s possible to find so many ‘Méxicos’ as in his films, from the tropical forests to the mangrove swamps, from Acapulco to the parks, the cemeteries or the streets of the capital. “The importance of these photos is that all the places were near a bar or a restaurant because he was very strict about that: he always needed to stop in one of them for an appetizer or to have dinner,” explained his son Juan Luis. Hundreds of black and white photos were selected from thousands that the Spanish Film Library stored in boxes.

A FILM TO REMEMBER

Juan Gómez, right, brother of the late Sergio Gómez, former lead singer of the band K-Paz de la Sierra, stands with other musicians inside an elevator while filming a scene for a film about his brother, in México City, June 19, 2008. Sergio Gómez was tortured and strangled to death after leaving a performance in Morelia, México Dec. 1, 2007.



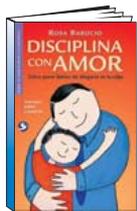
ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI/AP



MONICA RUEDA/AP

WORLD RECORD Artist Filemon Trevino, 38, poses with his 411-meter-long (1,350 ft.) drawing called “Electrocardiograma Artístico 411” at the Regiomontana University in Monterrey, México. Trevino accomplished his lifelong dream of entering the Guinness Book of World Records this year when he was presented a Guinness certificate declaring his drawing as the world’s largest.

SUMMER’S BESTSELLERS



“Discipline with Love”

Rosa Barocio

How can parents and teachers teach children to be healthy and self-confident, but also respectful and responsible? Is it possible to set limits and be firm while still showing love? With practical advice, sensibility and humor, this guide presents a clear explanation of the difficult task of educating with consciousness—encouraging children, offering support, acceptance, and unconditional love and simultaneously setting strong boundaries and firm rules.



“The Boy in the Striped Pajamas”

John Boyne

Berlin 1942. When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.



“Eclipse”

Stephanie Meyer

Readers captivated by Twilight and New Moon will eagerly devour Eclipse, the much anticipated third book in Stephenie Meyer’s riveting vampire love saga. As Seattle is ravaged by a string of mysterious killings and a malicious vampire continues her quest for revenge, Bella once again finds herself surrounded by danger. In the midst of it all, she is forced to choose between her love for Edward and her friendship with Jacob. Bella has one more decision to make: life or death. But which is which?

PRADO MUSEUM, HOAP



THE FAMOUS 'COLOSSUS' IS NOT A GOYA

For years, Spain's famed Prado Museum had its suspicions, now it's certain.

The Prado's announcement about the Colossus, a large oil painting depicting the torso of a giant bursting through the clouds as he marches above a village of terrified people and animals, caused commotion among experts. Some criticize El Prado for the way it handled the issue. At least one still believes the painting is the work of the great Aragonese master of the 18th-century. Francisco de Goya y Lucientes' Colossus has always been one of the Prado's major attractions and a highlight of his series on Spain's war against Napoleon, whose troops invaded in 1808. Doubts about the paintings authenticity began to surface in the early 1990s, then again in April, when the museum decided to exclude the painting from its blockbuster show, "Goya in Times of War," that opened July 13. New studies indicate that the Colossus could be the work of Asensio Julia, a pupil and a workshop assistant of Goya. One of the most significant findings, the announcement says, is what appears to be Julia's initials at the bottom of the painting. "The museum is certain it is not a Goya.

That's for sure. What's not so clear is who actually painted it," a Prado spokeswoman told The Associated Press. She was speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with museum policy. The final results of the investigation will be revealed at the end of this year.

GREGORY BULL/AP



MAYAN GEMS

A Mayan crystal skull sits on display at México's Anthropology Museum in México City. There is a legend that the ancient Maya possessed 13 crystal skulls which, when united, hold the power of saving the Earth—a tale so strange and fantastic that it inspired the latest Indiana Jones movie.



SIPA/AP

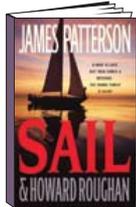
EXHIBIT The father of French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Pal Sarkozy and co-artist German Werner Hornung, at the opening of their show "Out of Mind" in June, exhibiting their joint creations at Casa de Vacas Gallery in Madrid, Spain.

SUMMER'S BESTSELLERS



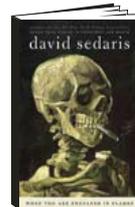
"The Secret" Rhonda Byrne

Fragments of a Great Secret have been found in the oral traditions, in literature, in religions and philosophies throughout the centuries. For the first time, all the pieces of The Secret come together in an incredible revelation that will be life-transforming for all who experience it. In this book, you'll learn how to use The Secret in every aspect of your life — money, health, relationships, happiness, and in every interaction you have in the world. By applying the knowledge of The Secret, they bring to light compelling stories of eradicating disease, acquiring massive wealth, overcoming obstacles and achieving what many would regard as impossible.



"Sail" James Patterson

Since the death of her husband, Anne Dunne and her three children have struggled in every way. In a last ditch effort to save the family, Anne plans an elaborate sailing vacation to bring everyone together once again. But only an hour out of port, everything starts going wrong. The teenage daughter, Carrie, is planning to drown herself. The teenage son, Mark, is high on drugs and 10-year-old Ernie is nearly catatonic. Written with the blistering pace and shocking twists that only James Patterson can master, SAIL takes "Lost" and "Survivor" to a new level of terror.



"When You are Engulfed in Flames" David Sedaris

David Sedaris brings together a collection of essays so uproariously funny and profoundly moving that his legions of fans will fall for him once more. From armoring the windows with LP covers to protect the house from neurotic songbirds to the awkwardness of having a lozenge fall from your mouth into the lap of a sleeping fellow passenger on a plane, David Sedaris uses life's most bizarre moments to reach new heights in understanding love and fear, family and strangers.

Why Ágora?



ILLUSTRATIONS BY RYAN MCNALLY/AGORA STAFF

As highlighted on our Editorial page, “since Sept. 11, countries have awakened to the fact that we have much in common and what we share in common, can only be protected in common ... a good way to bridge this is to identify our commonalities, respect our differences and come to some consensus as to what exactly defines a threat ...” USNORTHCOM brings you *Ágora*, a gathering place for sharing those commonalities and differences. In fact, that’s the reason behind the name. *Ágora* means the place of assembly where citizens would gather for various activities, such as military duty or to hear statements from the ruling king or council. Later in Greek history, the agora also served as a marketplace where merchants kept stalls or shops to sell their goods. Nowadays, it refers to a crossroads or to the point at which many paths meet. Other definitions found are:

“In ancient Greek cities, an open space that served as a meeting ground for various activities of the citizens. The name, first found in the works of Homer, connotes both the assembly of the people as well as the physical setting; it was

applied by the classical Greeks of the 5th century B.C. to what they regarded as a typical feature of their life: their daily religious, political, judicial, social and commercial activity. The agora was located either in the middle of the city or near the harbor, which was surrounded by public buildings and temples. Colonnades, sometimes containing shops, often enclosed the space, and statues, altars, trees and fountains adorned it.” - **Encyclopedia Britannica**

“In ancient Greece, it was the public square or marketplace of a city. In early Greek history, the agora was primarily used as a place for public assembly; later it functioned mainly as a center of commerce. Commonly found in a readily accessible part of the city, it was often surrounded by public buildings such as the royal palace, the courts of law, the assembly house and the jail. A favorite architectural device was the colonnade surrounding the agora. One of the highest honors was to be granted a tomb in the agora. The agora was similar to the Roman forum.” - **Columbia Encyclopedia**

THE ATHENIAN AGORA

AN OPEN SPACE THAT SERVED AS A MEETING GROUND FOR VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF THE CITIZENS OF ANCIENT GREECE.

1 HEPHAISTEION

A Doric temple located to the west of the Agora dedicated to both Hephaistos, as god of the forge, and Athena, as goddess of wisdom, strategy and fair war.

2 BOULEUTERION

A meeting place for the Athenian council on the west side of the agora. It had a simple, almost square building plan, organized in order to accommodate the 500 person council.

3 THOLOS

This structure may have been a temple, a tomb, or the building for keeping weights and measures. It is round in plan, with columns at the perimeter.

4 STRATEGEION

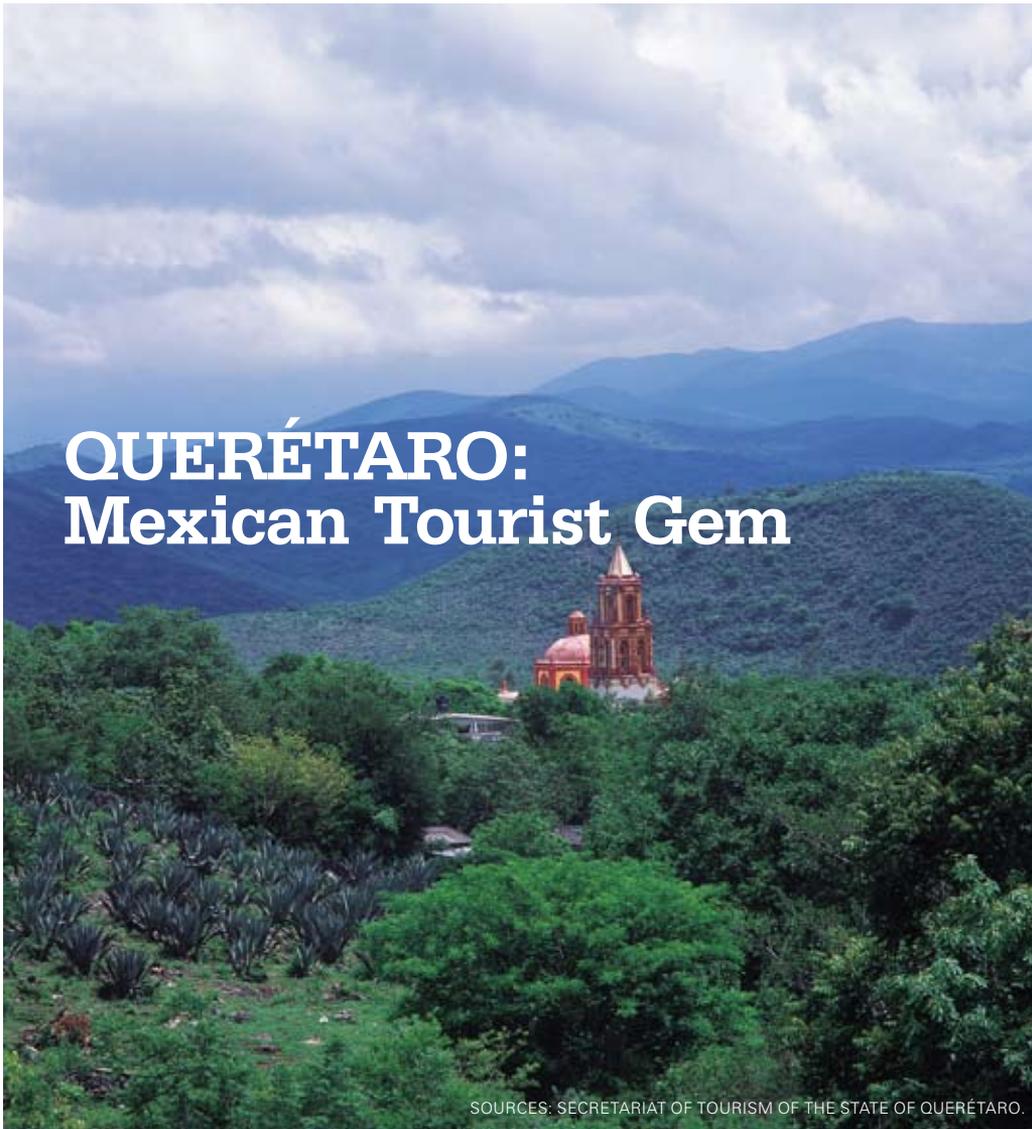
A place for the 10 Strategoi (officials who were elected for one year) to discuss and take decisions regarding matters of finance, politics and foreign policy.



5 STOAS

Ancient Greek porticos usually walled at the back with a front colonnade designed to afford a sheltered promenade. Used for offices and shops.





QUERÉTARO: Mexican Tourist Gem

SOURCES: SECRETARIAT OF TOURISM OF THE STATE OF QUERÉTARO.

Central México has a tourist and cultural gem which, thanks to its historical heritage and natural wealth, has become a vacation destination. Located 222 km (130 miles) from México City, Querétaro offers guided tours to Sierra Gorda, considered a paradise of exuberant vegetation and impressive landscapes. Though eco-tourism is one of the greatest draws to this region, the area is home to the five Franciscan Missions site that has received status of World Heritage Site by UNESCO. According to information from the Secretariat of Tourism, Querétaro will focus efforts during the summer vacation season, concludes Aug. 17, to attract national and international tourism and will also take advantage of the 477th anniversary of the city of Querétaro’s founding.



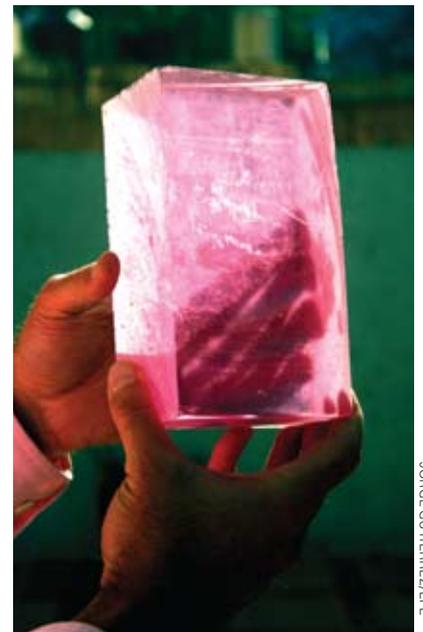
PAUL SANCIYA/AP

Byte-thoven

Honda’s ASIMO robot conducts the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in May during a program in Detroit, playing Mitch Leigh’s “Impossible Dream,” a song from the musical “Man of La Mancha.”

Glass Houses

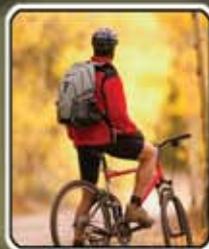
Close-up of an innovative concrete block that will allow the building of transparent walls. The transparent concrete, invented by two Mexican college students, will be available to consumers in less than two years, according to the manufacturers who have kept the secret formula.



JORGE GUTIERREZ/IFE



th Anniversary



Guarding What You Value Most

www.norad.mil

NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND