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From: (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NO RECOMMENDATION

Sent: 3/25/2010 5:03:08 PM

To: (b)(7)e

Subject: HIR/ICE-0214-10 CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN MEXICO BETWEEN Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas
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MRN: 10 DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC 3252940
Date/DTG: Mar 25, 2010 / 252048Z MAR 10
From: DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DC
Action: ANCHORY FT GEORGE G MEADE MDIMMEDIATE ;
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL TOBACCO FIREARMS WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
COGARD MIFC LANT DAM NECK VAIMMEDIATE ; DA AMHS WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY IA WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ; WASHDC, SECSTATE
IMMEDIATE ; DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
DIA WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ; DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MDIMMEDIATE ;
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ; FBI WASHINGTON DC
IMMEDIATE ; FORSCOM ACE FT MCPHERSON GAIMMEDIATE ; HMSNG WASHINGTON DC
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NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER JOHNSTOWN PAIMMEDIATE ;
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NGA NAVY YARD WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
NGIC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VAIMMEDIATE ; NRC WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
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ONI WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ; TSA HQ WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
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US MARSHALS SERVICE WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ;
US SECRET SERVICE WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE ; USCBP WASHINGTON DC
IMMEDIATE ; SAFE WASHINGTON DCIMMEDIATE
Captions: SENSITIVE
Sensitivity: Sensitive
Subject: HIR/ICE-0214-10 CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN MEXICO BETWEEN Gulf
Cartel and Los Zetas (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) UNCLASSIFIED//FOR
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SUBJ: HIR/ICE-0214-10 CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN MEXICO BETWEEN
Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
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SERIAL: HIR/ICE-0214-10.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

COUNTRY OR NON STATE ENTITY: ~~(U//FOUO)~~ Mexico, United States

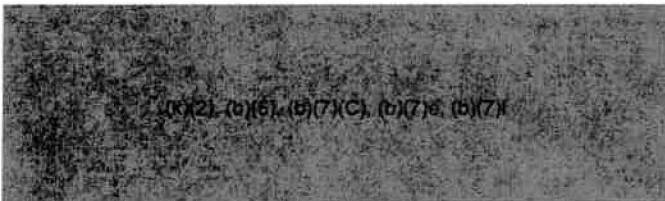
SUBJECT HIR/ICE -0214-10 Continuing Violence in Northern Mexico
Between Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

DATE OF INFORMATION: (U) 20 March 2010.

SUMMARY: (U//LES) The security situation in northern Mexico continues to be tenuous, as warring Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO) continue to fight for lucrative smuggling corridors, and Mexican military and law enforcement entities struggle to maintain order.

SOURCE: ~~(U//FOUO)~~ Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

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officials, who acquired the reported information during the normal course of their official duties



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TEXT

1. ~~(U//FOUO)~~ (CONTEXT STATEMENT: Since 23 February 2010, ICE Office of Intelligence (INTEL) officials have been receiving information (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)e about the ongoing violence occurring between the previously allied Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas. The violence began in Ciudad Reynosa (b)(7)e Tamaulipas, spread throughout the State of Tamaulipas, and has extended to the State of Nuevo Leon. Multiple (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)e (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) DTO and the Sinaloa Cartel are actively supporting the Gulf Cartel while the (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) DTOs are probably aligning with Los Zetas. (b)(7)e (b)(7)(C) the Gulf Cartel has inflicted heavy damage on Los Zetas, but a retaliatory strike by Los Zetas is likely inevitable. The battles continue and the security situation in northern Mexico remains volatile. All Mexican locations in this

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report are in Tamaulipas, Mexico unless otherwise noted. For previous ICE reporting on this situation, please reference the following: HIR/ICE-0116-10; HIR/ICE-0129-10; HIR/ICE-0135-10; HIR/ICE-0136-10; HIR/ICE-0145-10; HIR/ICE-0146-10; HIR/ICE-0147-10.

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 HIR/ICE-0148-10; HIR/ICE-0157-10; HIR/ICE-0158-10; HIR/ICE-0159-10;
 HIR/ICE-0170-10; HIR/ICE-0171-10; HIR/ICE-0172-10; HIR/ICE-0173-10;
 HIR/ICE-0174-10; HIR/ICE-0175-10; HIR/ICE-0187-10; HIR/ICE-0188-10;
 HIR/ICE-0189-10; HIR/ICE-0196-10; HIR/ICE-0203-10; HIR/ICE-0204-10)

2. (U//LES) On 18 March 2010, at 0600L, a multi-agency task force consisting of Federal, State, and Local LEOs launched OPERATION KNOCK DOWN (OKD). OKD is a large-scale operation targeting nearly 200 Barrio Azteca (BA) gang members in El Paso

(b)(7)e Texas. Arrest teams are expected to execute arrest warrants on known BA gang members wanted on various charges, while interview teams are also set to interview BA members and their associates who are encountered, but have no current charges. Southbound operations will also be conducted at all Ports of Entry (POEs) within driving distance of El Paso in an attempt to detain and interview any BA members who attempt to flee into Mexico.

2A. (U//LES) Results of OKD operations which occurred on 18 March 2010 consisted of the following: nine arrests, of which seven were

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 in connection with the Sergio (SACUEDO) murder-for-hire case. Saucedo was kidnapped in Horizon City (b)(7)e El Paso County, Texas and subsequently found dead in Ciudad Juarez (b)(7)e Chihuahua, Mexico. Three of the nine had already been in state custody and were consequently served by federal LEAs. Approximately 100 individuals have been contacted during OKD; six residences have been searched (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)f and two cellular telephones have been searched. As part of the OKD enforcement action, approximately 41 bar establishments were planned to be checked between 1700L and 2359L.

2B. (U//LES) Later, as of 1900L, LEOs who participated in OKD had increased arrests to 13 known BA members, conducted 100 interviews of suspected BA members and/or associates, and seized approximately 10,000 (USD). OKD operations were to continue on 19 March 2010.

2C. (U//LES) Phase II of OKD operations were executed on 19 March 2010; totals increased to 108 BA members and/or associates interviewed, with 15 arrested.

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3. (U//LES) On 18 March 2010, at 1445L, ICE officials received corroborated information regarding a report that on the night of 17 March 2010, a gun battle between Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas members occurred in Jimenez (b)(7)e Tamaulipas. The number killed could not be confirmed, however a rough estimate of approximately 20 to 25 Gulf Cartel member(s) bodies were left

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 scattered in Jimenez.

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3A. (U//LES) Gulf Cartel members traveled to Hidalgo (b)(7)e Tamaulipas shortly after this incident and burned five police vehicles and killed two police officers. The municipality was left without police vehicles. In Ciudad Victoria (b)(7)e the Gulf Cartel killed three comandantes (commanders) of the police force and three police officers were kidnapped and have not been located. The Gulf Cartel has been attacking small plazas in Tamaulipas even if they are not involved with Los Zetas. The attacks occur simply because the area belongs to the Zetas.

3B. (U//LES) ICE officials subsequently received reliable corroborating information concerning the aforementioned reports of the Gulf Cartel, killing three comandantes of the police force and kidnapping three police officers. On the following day, at approximately 1700L, three decapitated heads were recovered in Ciudad Victoria; these are believed to belong to the officers that were reported missing. The missing officers were identified as a

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comandante for the Ministerial police, an agent for the Ministerial police; and an AFI agent from Ciudad Mante (b)(7)e Tamaulipas.

4. (U//LES) According to information received on 18 March 2010, at approximately 1800L, a battle between unidentified rival factions occurred in Gran Morelos (b)(7)d Chihuahua. Two vehicles were found with dead bodies inside them. A third vehicle had a grenade tossed inside which blew the leg off one individual who was reported as missing.

4A. (U//LES) CBP officials later reported that an ambulance arrived at the Paso Del Norte POE in El Paso, bearing a victim who was drifting in and out of consciousness. The individual is a 21 year old U.S. citizen, who was shot twice in the chest and his left leg was amputated as a result of a grenade explosion. The victim presented photocopies of his driver(s) license, birth certificate and social security card. He was accompanied by an aunt, a resident alien residing in El Paso. The victim resides in Denver (b)(7)e Colorado and had traveled to Mexico to

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visit his mother in Chihuahua. The victim has no visible tattoos.

4B. (U//LES) The victim who lost his leg to grenade shrapnel was subsequently identified as (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)f ICE Attache officials in Juarez received information from Government of Mexico (GoM) LEOs that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was attempting to toss a grenade into another vehicle when it detonated prematurely. According to (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) he lost his leg when a grenade was thrown into his vehicle. He is currently at an identified U.S. medical center (USBUS) in El Paso in critical condition.

5. (U//LES) On 19 March 2010, at approximately 1030L, ICE Attache officials in Hermosillo (b)(7)e Sonora, Mexico received information regarding the killing of two family members of a (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)f. The killings occurred in Hermosillo (b)(7)f informed local LEOs about the murders (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ((GASTON))-Lugo, born 13 October 1963, and his uncle German ((LUGO))-Norzagary, who

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was approximately 70 years of age (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(f)
 (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(f)

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5A. (U//LES) (b)(6), (b)(7) Jorge Gaston-Lugo, was a former Sonora State Investigative Police (PEI) Officer, who had resigned approximately 15 years ago and was operating a taco stand or restaurant. According to the LEOs, Jorge Gaston-Lugo was under investigation by PEI for being related to 1999 drug-related quadruple homicide and a house that was found with weapons in southern Hermosillo.

5B (U//LES) The gunmen who murdered the two men were described by witnesses as two young men who fled in a red 2005 Nissan or Honda. There are also conflicting reports as to the weapons utilized, either 9mm handguns or AK-47 rifles. (FIELD COMMENT) (k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(f)

(k)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(f)

6 (U//LES) On 19 March 2010, at 1225L, ICE INTEL officials received corroborated and reliable information indicating Los Zetas have blocked three major roadways in Monterrey (b)(7)e Nuevo Leon, Mexico, to include the

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freeway to Reynosa, with buses, tractor trailers, and cars. (ICE INTEL FIELD COMMENT: It is possible Los Zetas are attempting to limit the Mexican military(s) movement as they prepare to conduct operations in the area.)

7. (U//LES) On 20 March 2010 at 1400L, ICE INTEL received information indicating that Ministerial Police Officers Comandante Jorge ((MONTEMAYOR)) and FNU ((MEDELLIN)), a Commander of a Group, were killed that morning in Ciudad Mante

REQUIREMENTS. (U) MEX2005A, TOC2008A, TSB2006A, DSR-519, HSEC-04-04000-ST-2009, HSEC-05-02000-ST-2009, HSEC-05-03000-ST-2009, HSEC-05-12000-ST-2009, HSEC-05-18000-ST-2009, HSEC-05-19000-ST-2009, HSEC-16-01000-ST-2009, HSEC-16-02000-ST-2009, HSEC-16-03000-ST-2009, HSEC-16-04000-ST-2009, HSEC-16-06000-ST-2009, HSEC-17-01001-ST-2009, HSEC-18-01000-ST-2009, C-ALB-1100-053-09, C-ALB-1510-045-09, D-IAC-1513-081-08, D-IAC-2510-083-09, D-IAC-2510-217-06, D-IAC-2510-241-05, D-IAC-2540-0267-09, D-INT-2320-0002-09, G-AIF-1541-543-09, U-NCA-1514-009-08, M-CMC-2232-001-09, U-UCR-2320-007-08, U-USU-1137-001-08, U-XCA-2300-011-08, SUBJ. HIR/ICE-0214-10 CONTINUING VIOLENCE IN NORTHERN MEXICO BETWEEN ICE-03000-08, ICE-05000-08, ICE-10000-08, ICE-11000-08.

MGT CODE: (U) 504500.

INSTR: (U) U.S. Yes-25.

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PREP (U) DHS-0121.

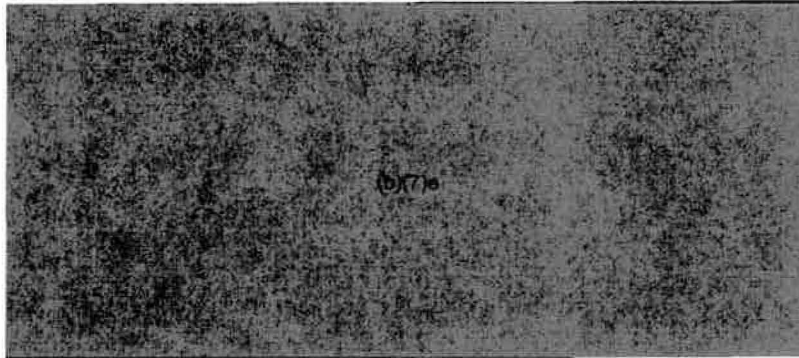
DATE OF ACQUISITION: (U) 23 March 2010 at 500904

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