

DEA SENSITIVE
PRIORITY

FM: DEA HOUSTON FD
TO: DEA HQS, WASHDC
DEA MCALLEN DO/ (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(F)
DEA BROWNSVILLE RO
DEA CORPUS CHRISTI RO
DEA SAN ANTONIO DO/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA AUSTIN RO/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA LAREDO DO/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA EAGLE PASS RO/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA EL PASO FD/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA PHOENIX FD/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA NOGALES/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA ATLANTA/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA SAN DIEGO FD/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA DALLAS FD/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA OKLAHOMA CITY DO/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA DETROIT/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA CHICAGO/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA LOS ANGELES/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA RIVERSIDE
DEA HOUSTON HIDTA/ (b)(7)(C)
DEA NEW YORK
DEA MONTERREY RO
DEA JUAREZ RO
DEA NUEVO LAREDO RO
DEA MATAMOROS RO
DEA TIJUANA RO
DEA HERMOSILLO RO
DEA GUADALAJARA RO
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA CITY
EPIC/ (b)(7)(C)
SOD/ (b)(7)(C)
CIA/ (b)(7)(C)

CIA/ (b)(7)(C)
NSA/ (b)(7)(C)
ATF/ (b)(7)(C)

UNCLASSIFIED DEA HOUSTON TX.
DEA SENSITIVE
PRIORITY

DEA HEADQUARTERS FOR NC, NCD, NN/(b)(7)(C) NCS/(b)(7)(C)
NCSC/(b)(7)(C) NCSD/(b)(7)(C) NCSM/(b)(7)(C) NCI/(b)(7)(C) NCW/(b)(7)(C)
NCWG

BT

SUBJECT: (b)(7)(C)
ASSESSMENT OF "LOS ZETAS" EVOLUTION AND EXPANSION (2001-2009)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(C) MEETING TO ASSESS THE EVOLUTION AND EXPANSION OF THE ZETAS AND THE GULF CARTEL. THE CONFERENCE WAS HELD FROM JUNE 29 TO JULY 2, 2009. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C) DURING THE CONFERENCE 23 BRIEFINGS WERE PRESENTED. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

SUMMARY

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C) THAT THE ZETAS ARE NO LONGER SOLEY OPERATING AS THE ENFORCEMENT ARM OF THE GULF CARTEL. THE STRENGTH OF THE ZETA FORCE IS THEIR ABILITY TO CORRUPT, KILL AND INTIMIDATE AND THESE FACTORS HAVE GIVEN THE ZETAS THE POWER TO CONDUCT ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT MEXICO, AND THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED A METHODOLOGY TO MOVE INTO NEW TERRITORY AND ASSERT CONTROL OVER THAT GEOGRAPHY. ZETA ACTIVITIES HAVE EVOLVED FROM DRUG TRAFFICKING TO TRADITIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME ACTIVITIES AS WELL.

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(A),(b)(7)(C)

5. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE USED TO ASSESS THE EVOLUTION AND EXPANSION OF THE ZETAS AND THE GULF CARTEL FROM THEIR INCEPTION, AT ABOUT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY THROUGH THE PRESENT DAY. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

ZETA LEADERSHIP CHANGES

6. ON APRIL 25, 2005, (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) ARRESTED (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) AND ELEVEN ASSOCIATES FOLLOWING A SHOOTOUT WITH ZETAS IN (b)(7)(C) AS A RESULT OF THIS ARREST, (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) BEGAN HIS INITIAL ASCENT TO A KEY ZETA LEADERSHIP POSITION. (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

7. ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2005, ZETA MEMBER (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) WAS ARRESTED IN (b)(7)(C) IN HIS POST-ARREST DECLARATION (b)(7)(C) STATED THAT (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) HAD RECRUITED (b)(7)(C) FORMER GUATEMALAN KAIBILES TO WORK WITH THE ZETAS, AND THAT THE KAIBILES WERE PROCURING FIREARMS AND GRENADES FROM GUATEMALA ON BEHALF OF THE GULF CARTEL. (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

ZETA'S BEGIN TO EXPAND THEIR TERRITORY

8. BY LATE 2005, THE GULF CARTEL HAD SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGED SINALOA CARTEL CONTROLLED AREAS (b)(7)(C) (b)(7)(C) FROM LATE 2005 TO 2006, THE ZETAS CONTINUED THEIR WESTWARD EXPANSION (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

SOLIDIFIED THEIR CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE BY ESTABLISHING CONTROL OF THE RETAIL LEVEL DISTRIBUTION OF COCAINE AND MARIJUANA IN ALL OF THEIR OPERATIONAL AREAS (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

REGAINING CONTROL OF THEIR HOME-TURF

10. BY THE END OF 2006, THE ZETAS HAD ALSO ESTABLISHED FIRM CONTROL OF KEY PLAZAS IN THEIR TRADITIONAL STRONGHOLD STATES

(b)(7)(A),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(F)

(b)(7)(C)

THE ZETAS ALSO ENGAGED IN THEIR OWN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS BY EXERTING CONTROL OVER MUCH OF THE CITY'S MEDIA. (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

ZETA GROWTH AND AUDACITY

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

ZETA CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES GREW INCREASINGLY DIVERSE, TO INCLUDE CONTROL OF LIQUOR SALES, AUTO THEFTS, AND THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF PIRATED MOVIE DVDS AND MUSIC CD'S. (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(D),(b)(7)(E)

12. IN LATE 2006 AND EARLY 2007, ZETAS MURDERED SEVERAL PUBLIC OFFICIALS. THE INCREASE IN HOMICIDES, PARTICULARLY AGAINST PUBLIC OFFICIALS, WAS SEEN AS A REACTION TO MEXICO PRESIDENT CALDERON'S COUNTER-DRUG, COUNTER-CARTEL INITIATIVES. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

13. BY LATE 2007, THE WILLINGNESS OF THE ZETAS TO DIRECTLY CONFRONT THE MILITARY INCREASED. ON DECEMBER 14, 2007, TWO SOLDIERS IN (b)(7)(C) WERE ASSASSINATED AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE SEIZURE OF SEVEN TONS OF MARIJUANA. ON

DECEMBER 18, 2007, FOUR MILITARY OFFICERS WERE SHOT WHILE SHOPPING (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(A),(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

33. IN SEPTEMBER OF 2008, DURING A MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION A GRENADE ATTACK TOOK PLACE IN MORELIA MICHOACAN, MEXICO. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

36. ON JANUARY 6, 2009, "TELEVISA MONTERREY" A TELEVISION STATION LOCATED IN MONTERREY, NUEVO LEON, MEXICO WAS ATTACKED BY TWO UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS WHO FIRED SHOTS AND THREW A FRAGMENTATION GRENADE OVER THE PERIMETER WALL. NO ONE WAS HURT IN THE ATTACK. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

EVOLUTION - DIVERSIFICATION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C) THE ZETAS THEN ENGAGE IN A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO ALERT AND WARN THE LOCAL POPULATION OF THEIR PRESENCE AND AS A MEANS OF RECRUITMENT. IN ONE MEXICAN TOWN THE ZETAS CREATED A BANNER PROMISING NEW ZETA RECURITS THREE SQUARE MEALS A DAY, IN LIEU OF RAMEN NOODLES, ALLEGEDLY A PREDOMINANT STAPLE IN THE MEXICAN MILITARY. (b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

41. IN 2007 THE ZETA CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES GREW INCREASINGLY DIVERSE, TO INCLUDE CONTROL OF LIQUOR SALES, AUTO THEFTS, AND THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF PIRATED DVDS AND ONLY ZETA MARKED PIRATED CDS ARE ALLOWED TO BE SOLD IN THE CONTROLLED AREA. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

EVOLUTION - INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP AND OPERATIONS

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

43. THE ZETAS, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF (b)(7)(C)
(b)(7)(C) ARE NO LONGER RELIANT UPON THE DIRECTION OF GULF
CARTEL LEADERS (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

44. WHILE STILL CLOSELY ALLIED WITH THE GULF CARTEL, THE ZETAS
HAVE EVOLVED INTO A SEPARATE DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION
THAT IS INDEPENDENTLY TRANSPORTATING COCAINE FROM COLOMBIA
TO MEXICO. (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C) THE ZETAS WILL CONTINUE TO BE A CHALLENGE TO LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND MILITARY COUNTER-DRUG FORCES.

(b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)

54. PLEASE DIRECT COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(C),(b)(7)(E)