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Drug Enforcement Administration

The majority of illicit drugs distributed and consumed in America originate in foreign countries. DEA's mission is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the U.S. In furtherance of this mission, DEA targets the cultivation, production, transportation, distribution and financial operations of Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) based in foreign nations and at home. In order to dismantle and disrupt DTOs, DEA and other U.S. agencies work hand in hand with our foreign law enforcement counterparts.

DEA establishes and maintains working relationships with host nations by staffing 85 DEA offices located in 65 countries. DEA's foreign offices act as conduits of information to DEA components in the U.S. and vice versa. In this manner, investigators are able to target DTOs from the source to the end user. DEA's foreign offices are tasked with the following objectives:

- Conduct bilateral investigations with foreign law enforcement;
- Coordinate counternarcotics intelligence gathering with host governments;
- Conduct training programs for host country police agencies (contingent on host nation being a recipient of US counter narcotics assistance);
- Assist in the development of host country drug law enforcement institutions and develop mutually beneficial law enforcement relationships with foreign law enforcement agencies.

The emphasis placed on each objective is determined by the host nation's unique conditions and circumstances as it relates to their infrastructure and law enforcement capabilities. DEA works side by side with host nation counterparts to develop relevant training, promote intelligence sharing, and support joint operations. The following sections highlight the assistance and joint enforcement undertaken by DEA and host nation counterparts in 2011.

Bilateral Investigative Activities

Drug Flow Attack Strategy

The primary objective of DEA's Drug Flow Attack Strategy is to cause major disruption to the flow of drugs, money, and chemicals between the source zones and the United States.

Drug Flow Attack Strategy Highlights:

During February 23-25, 2011, agents from numerous DEA offices, along with law enforcement officers from numerous other federal, state, and local agencies, arrested 676 individuals, resulting in the disruption of the operations and financing of Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) in the U.S., Mexico, and elsewhere throughout the world. Operation Bombardier was designed to put pressure on Mexican cartels and Mexican poly-drug organizations as a response to the murder of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent Jaime Zapata and wounding of ICE Special Agent Victor Avila in Mexico. In addition to the arrests, Operation Bombardier resulted in the seizure of 467 kilograms of cocaine,

21 pounds of heroin, 84 pounds of methamphetamine, 39,363 pounds of marijuana, \$12.1 million in U.S. currency, and 282 firearms. This Special Operations Division (SOD)-supported operation was conducted by DEA, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Federal Bureau of Investigation, ICE, and the U.S. Marshals Service. Assistance was provided by approximately 3,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers.

In FY 2011, SOD coordinated Project Delirium, a 20-month series of nationwide investigations targeting the La Familia Michoacana cartel. On July 21, 2011, DEA Administrator Michele M. Leonhart announced the results of the largest strike against La Familia in the United States: 1,985 arrests, seizure of \$62 million in U.S. currency, and approximately 2,773 pounds of methamphetamine, 2,722 kilograms of cocaine, 1,005 pounds of heroin, 14,818 pounds of marijuana and \$3.8 million in other assets. More than 70 of these arrests took place over the 2-day takedown, and over 200 were arrested since June 1, 2011.

On July 26, 2011, Preet Bharara, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York (SDNY), and DEA Administrator Leonhart, announced the unsealing of 2 indictments resulting from 2 DEA narco-terrorism undercover operations: first, an indictment against Siavosh HENAREH, Bachar WEHBE, and Cetin AKSU for conspiring to provide various forms of support to Hezbollah; second, an indictment against Taza Gul Alizai ("GUL") for narco-terrorism conspiracy, narco-terrorism, and heroin importation related to his supplying of 15 kilograms of heroin and 6 AK-47 assault rifles to a DEA confidential source whom GUL believed represented the Taliban. HENAREH and AKSU were arrested on July 25, 2011 in Bucharest, Romania, where they were detained pending extradition to the United States. WEHBE and GUL were arrested the same day in the Republic of the Maldives, and flown to the SDNY. On November 17, 2011, HENAREH and AKSU were extradited from Romania.

"These DEA operations starkly illustrate how drug trafficking is a double threat that fuels both addiction and terrorism. We have successfully targeted, and substantially dismantled two dangerous and complex networks; stopped efforts to arm Hezbollah and Taliban terrorists; and prevented massive amounts of heroin from reaching illicit markets around the world. Those responsible for these crimes will now face trial due to the brave and talented men and women of the DEA, the skilled federal prosecutors of the Southern District of New York, and the extraordinary cooperation of our many international and federal agency partners, all whom were instrumental in the success of these DEA operations." - Administrator Leonhart

On August 24, 2011, based on Provisional Arrest Warrants and federal indictments issued by the Southern District of Florida, the DEA Cartagena Resident Office (RO) provided support to Colombian authorities during an enforcement operation that resulted in 19 arrests. This investigation targeted the organization led by Consolidated Priority Organization Target (CPOT) Hader NARVAEZ-Reina that specialized in the construction and deployment of self-propelled semi- and fully-submersible (SPSS/SPFS) vessels. During July 2010, the Cartagena RO and the Quito Country Office (CO), in conjunction with Colombian authorities provided information to Ecuadorian authorities that resulted in the seizure of a SPFS vessel in Lorenzo, Ecuador. As the investigation continued, Colombian authorities developed information that led to the seizure of another SPFS vessel along the Pacific coast of Colombia during February 2011. This

investigation also resulted in the seizure of approximately 4,243 kilograms of cocaine. In addition, the Cartagena RO and Colombian authorities determined that the NARVAEZ-Reina DTO laundered significant amounts of drug proceeds through the purchase of properties and businesses in Colombia. As a result, Colombian authorities arrested 12 members of the organization on money laundering charges in violation of Colombian laws and seized a total of 86 residences, 33 businesses, and numerous motor vehicles with an estimated value of \$62 million in U.S. currency.

DEA targeted CPOT Christopher Michael COKE and his DTO. On June 22, 2010, COKE was arrested by Jamaican authorities near Kingston, Jamaica, after a 5-week pursuit by local authorities. COKE was subsequently transferred to the custody of the DEA and U.S. Marshals Service for transport to the U.S. On August 31, 2011, COKE pled guilty in the SDNY to a 2 count Superseding Information charging him with racketeering conspiracy and conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon in aid of racketeering. Sentencing on these charges is scheduled for 2012 in the SDNY. COKE faces a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison on the racketeering conspiracy charge and a maximum sentence of 3 years in prison on the conspiracy to commit assault with a dangerous weapon in aid of racketeering charge. Both of these charges also provide for a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the pecuniary gain from the offense.

On June 23, 2011, in the Southern District of Florida, retired Bolivian General Rene SANABRIA-Oropeza (from the National Counter Narcotics Police) and Marcelo FORONDA-Azero entered pleas of guilty to Conspiracy to Import Cocaine into the U.S. On September 23, 2011, SANABRIA-Oropeza was sentenced to serve 14 years of imprisonment and coconspirator FORONDA-Azero was sentenced to 9 years of imprisonment, plus 5 years of supervised release. At the time of his arrest, Rene SANABRIA-Oropeza was the Director of the Center for Intelligence and Information Generation.

On September 24, 2011, the Colombian National Police seized a SPFS vessel along the Pacific coast of Colombia. The vessel had a cargo capacity of 1,500 kilograms of cocaine and a range of 3,000 miles with the capability of descending 60 meters under water.

Drugs leaving South America destined for the U.S. are transported via various means, to include go-fast boats, shipping containers, self-propelled, semi- and fully-submersible (SPSS/SPFS) vessels, non-commercial aircraft, and to a lesser extent, commercial airlines. SPSSs/SPFSs are small, self-propelled, semi- and fully-submersible vessels that transport illegal drugs and other illicit cargo to the U.S. through the transit zone in the Eastern Pacific. There has been an increase in usage of SPSSs/SPFSs, and to date, three SPFSs have been seized; one in Ecuador in July 2010, a second in Colombia in February 2011, and a third, also in Colombia, in September 2011.

Iranian Methamphetamine Trafficking Organizations are smuggling multi-kilogram quantities of high purity methamphetamine from Iran to Southeast Asia. In January 2011, the Kuala Lumpur CO assisted the Royal Malaysian Police (RMP) in several operations which resulted in the arrest of 13 Iranian nationals and the seizure of approximately 92 kilograms of crystal meth (ICE), 2 liters of liquid meth, and a clandestine laboratory. In November 2011, the Kuala Lumpur CO assisted the RMP in the arrest of an additional 6 Iranian nationals and the seizure of 124.9

kilograms of ICE. Furthermore, in June 2011 the Dubai and Tokyo COs assisted Japanese officials in seizing 181 kilograms of liquid methamphetamine concealed inside gas tanks of 2 vehicles. The methamphetamine originated in Iran.

During 2011, the Canberra CO assisted Australian authorities with several significant seizures of cocaine. In September 2011, the Canberra CO assisted in the arrest of three individuals and the seizure of 271 kilograms of cocaine and \$220,000 Australian dollars (\$238,000 U.S. currency). According to Australian authorities, they estimate the value of the cocaine to be approximately \$80 million Australian dollars (\$87 million U.S. currency). This seizure is the fifth largest cocaine seizure in Australian history. In addition, in November 2011, the Canberra CO assisted in the arrest of 4 individuals and seizure of 300 kilograms of cocaine and \$3-\$5 million Australian dollars (approximately \$2.8 to \$4.7 million U.S. currency). To date this is the fourth largest seizure in Australian history.

Between May 15-June 15, 2011, DEA participated in Operation KAHFA KARDAN, targeting drug trafficking networks operating within the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Regional Command South (Kandahar) and Southwest (Helmand). The DEA Foreign-deployed Advisory and Support Team, National Interdiction Unit (NIU), and ISAF units conducted approximately 94 narcotic-nexus enforcement operations. These operations were designed to disrupt the supply of weapons, drugs, and financing of criminal networks. During the operation, NIU officers made 18 arrests. Operation KAFHA KARDAN resulted in the following seizures: 127 kilograms of heroin; 12,766 kilograms of opium; 10 kilograms of morphine; 15,911 kilograms of hashish; 2,888 kilograms of marijuana; 25,666 kilograms of precursor chemicals; 4,741 kilograms of Ammonium Nitrate; 50 pounds of homemade explosive devices, and numerous weapons and various other explosive devices.

In 2011, DEA, the Afghan NIU, and ISAF conducted drug disruption operations in Helmand Province which resulted in the destruction of several drug processing labs. One operation resulted in the destruction of a laboratory and the seizure of 2,782 kilograms of morphine base, 16,254 liters of morphine solution, 4 kilograms of heroin, 1,045 kilograms of sodium carbonate, 1,227 kilograms of ammonium chloride, and various processing equipment. The NIU arrested 9 individuals as a result of this operation. Another operation resulted in the destruction of 3 additional laboratories and the seizure of 5,935 kilograms of morphine base, 10,810 liters of morphine solution, 100 kilograms of heroin, 3,280 kilograms of sodium carbonate, 25 gallons of acetic anhydride, and 2,850 kilograms of ammonium chloride, as well as related processing equipment. This seizure is one of the largest ever made by combined forces in Afghanistan.

DEA has also targeted major shadow facilitators that support narco-terrorists around the globe:

On November 16, 2010, after more than two years of legal proceedings, alleged international arms dealer Viktor BOUT was extradited to the SDNY from Thailand to stand trial on terrorism charges. On November 2, 2011, Viktor BOUT was found guilty of conspiring to kill U.S. nationals; conspiring to kill U.S. officers and employees; conspiring to acquire and use anti-aircraft missiles; and conspiring to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization. Sentencing is scheduled for February 8, 2012, and BOUT faces a maximum of life behind bars.

On February 10, 2011, DEA and the Department of the Treasury announced the identification of the Lebanese Canadian Bank SAL (LCB) together with its subsidiaries as a financial institution of primary money laundering concern under Section 311 of the USA PATRIOT Act (Section 311) for the bank's role in facilitating the money laundering activities of an international narcotics trafficking and money laundering network. This network moves illegal drugs from South America to Europe and the Middle East via West Africa and launders hundreds of millions of dollars monthly through accounts held at LCB, as well as through trade-based money laundering involving consumer goods throughout the world, including through used car dealerships in the U.S. Treasury has reason to believe that LCB managers are complicit in the network's money laundering activities. This action also exposes the terrorist organization Hezbollah's links to LCB and the international narcotics trafficking and money laundering network.

Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network also filed a Notice of Proposed Rule Making, in which it proposes prohibiting U.S. financial institutions from opening or maintaining correspondent or payable-through accounts for LCB. In addition to these regulatory measures, the Treasury Department will work with the LCB and other relevant Lebanese authorities to address the concerns highlighted by this action. This was the first time a 311 action in this manner was done in conjunction with law enforcement on a drug case.

On February 18, 2011, the U.S. Department of the Treasury designated the New Ansari Money Exchange, a major money laundering vehicle for Afghan narcotics trafficking organizations, along with 15 affiliated individuals and entities under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act. The New Ansari Money Exchange is at the center of an unofficial network of individuals, money exchange houses and other businesses operating throughout Afghanistan and in the United Arab Emirates. Between 2007 and 2010, the New Ansari Money Exchange used the billions of dollars it transferred in and out of Afghanistan to conceal illicit narcotics proceeds. The New Ansari Money Exchange transfers money to its Dubai subsidiaries, Green Leaf General Trading LLC and Al Adal Exchange, which then transfer money through the U.S. and international financial systems. Elements of the New Ansari network have laundered money for Haji Azizullah ALIZAI and the Haji Juma Khan Organization, both identified as Significant Foreign Narcotics Traffickers by the President in June 2007 and May 2009, respectively. Haji Azizullah ALIZAI is a major heroin trafficker and supplier in Southwest Asia and the Middle East. The Haji Juma Khan Organization is an international opium, morphine, and heroin trafficking organization based in the border regions of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

As a result of this action, U.S. persons are prohibited from conducting financial or commercial transactions with these individuals and entities, and any assets the designees may have under U.S. jurisdiction are frozen. The investigation that led to these designations was the result of collaborative efforts of Treasury, the Afghan Threat Finance Cell (ATFC), and DEA.

The individuals designated, include several who play key roles in the New Ansari Money Exchange, including Haji Abdullah Barakzai ANSARI, the founder of the New Ansari Money Exchange; Haji Mohammad KHAN, the manager of the New Ansari Money Exchange; Haji Mohammad JAN, the day-to-day manager of the New Ansari network; Haji NOORULLAH, a stakeholder and director of the New Ansari Money Exchange; Haji Mohammad NOOR, the manager of the New Ansari Money Exchange subsidiaries in Dubai; and Haji Mohammad Rafi AZIMI. Key cash couriers Eissa Jan Haji Abdul QAVOUM and Rahmatullah Mohammad AFZAL were also designated.

As a result of an investigation conducted by DEA and San Salvador CO, on May 11, 2011, Hector Antonio Martinez-GUILLEN pleaded guilty to attempting to provide material support to the FARC, a designated terrorist organization, and carrying a destructive device in relation to a crime of violence.

Martinez-GUILLEN was indicted on February 24, 2011 by a federal grand jury for terrorism and explosives charges for conduct occurring from July to November 2010, and faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. Martinez-GUILLEN admitted to selling C-4 plastic explosives, blasting caps, several automatic rifles, and ammunition to an individual whom he believed to be a member of the FARC, a Colombian paramilitary group that has been designated a foreign Terrorist Organization since 1997. The defendant admitted to believing that these weapons and explosives were to be used by the FARC in Colombia to eradicate American troops and military consultants from Colombia. The defendant was apprehended in the Eastern District of Virginia when he traveled to the District and took possession of a load of 20 kilograms of cocaine with instructions to transport it to New York City on behalf of the FARC member for whom he was working.

DEA On-Going Operations

DEA supports on-going operations in the Caribbean on one of the most important narcotics transit routes to the United States. These operations with the code names, Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos (OPBAT); Operation Panama Express; Operation Windjammer; and the International Judicial Telecommunications Intercept Program have operated closely with the law enforcement personnel of several Caribbean countries for years, and are responsible for literally thousands of kilograms of cocaine and marijuana seizures, and the criminal forfeiture of millions of dollars in the proceeds of narcotics crime. They have provided evidence in numerous court cases brought against narcotics criminals in the U.S. and in foreign jurisdictions and have contributed importantly to the protection of the U.S. and the Caribbean from the devastating affects of narcotics crime.

Coordinate Counternarcotics Intelligence Gathering

Centers for Drug Information (CDI) Program

The CDI Program is an internet-based network that offers foreign law enforcement counterparts a secure means to coordinate drug-related investigations and share information on drug-related events. It became operational June 2003 with 41 participating countries and protectorates located throughout the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America, and South America. The user base has since expanded to over 1000 users in 58 countries that include a South Central Asia regional center in Kabul, Afghanistan, a Southeast Asia regional center in Bangkok, Thailand, and a West Africa regional center in Accra, Ghana. An automated on-line language translation feature (English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese) serves to minimize language barriers for a majority of the participants. Discussions continue in regards to expansion to Europe and additional countries in Southeast Asia and the continent of Africa.

Conduct Training Programs for Host Nation Police Agencies

DEA provides professional training in all aspects of narcotics law enforcement at numerous locations around the world. DEA is a key participant and trainer in the ILEA-International Law Enforcement Academy Training Program. DEA's role is to provide counter narcotics course instruction and best practices for the core supervisory sessions, as well as specialized training courses at the ILEAs. DEA also offers both in-country and regional training programs conducted by mobile training teams. In-country programs are seminars conducted in a host country and only include participants from that country. Regional training is designed to bring together a combination of participants from a number of countries sharing common drug trafficking issues or routes. DEA also offers Asset Forfeiture/Money Laundering Training Programs to enhance financial investigations of international drug trafficking and narco-terrorist organizations. During FY 2011, 199 participants from 14 countries were trained.

The goal of DEA International Asset Airport Interdiction Training is to educate members of foreign law enforcement about techniques for interdiction in transportation environments, especially as they relate to

money launderers and the bulk shipment of currency. 117 participants from 6 countries were trained in FY 2011.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)-Russia Council Counternarcotics Training Project is implemented by the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes and supported by U.S. Army Central Command funds. DEA provides basic drug enforcement training, tactical training, and practical training and also conducts an Advanced Instructor Development Course, as part of this program, for approximately 20 Afghan Counter Narcotics Police Instructors. DEA is also a key participant in the Afghanistan Regional Training Team (RTT) Program, which provides specialty law enforcement training to the Counter Narcotics Police of Afghanistan (CNP-A), as well as the neighboring regional countries. The goal of this training is to develop a core of professional counter narcotics investigators throughout the Southwest Asian region. This concept was so well received that it is being used as the model for training in Central Asia.

DEA also carries out a mission to Develop Host Country Drug Law Enforcement Institutions to form effective cooperative relationships with foreign law enforcement organizations. DEA capacity-building efforts in Afghanistan are primarily focused on the CNP-A specialized units: the NIU-Narcotics Investigative Unit, the SIU-Sensitive Investigative Unit, and the Technical Investigative Unit, combining training, equipment and infrastructure with mentoring and operational interaction with DEA enforcement teams, DEA training teams, and experienced mentor/advisors. These specialized units have developed to the point where they can operate with limited coalition support and are engaged with DEA on a daily basis on joint operations and investigations. DEA also is involved with the Afghan Threat Finance Cell, which is a tactically focused, inter-agency fusion center that collects, analyzes and disseminates relevant financial intelligence on individuals and organizations involved in financing the insurgents.

The Central Asia Regional Training Team (CARTT)

DEA works with its partners to disrupt the flow of opiates that originate in Afghanistan, and that transit by land along the Northern Route through Central Asian countries to their primary markets in the Russian Federation and Europe and aims to build drug law enforcement capacity and cooperation in the Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan and surrounding countries. In addition, as part of the Central Asia Strategy's progressive approach, the CARTT will stand up Vetted Units, which will serve as force multipliers in the countries where the units have the greatest chance of success.

The Northern Route Working Group provides a forum for exchanging operational intelligence and initiating joint investigations on drug trafficking organizations that utilize the Northern Route to distribute Afghan opiates from Afghanistan to Russia via Central Asian countries.

Ghana Sensitive Investigative Unit's mission is to develop, train, advise, and mentor a professional counterdrug unit in Ghana that will have primary responsibility for counterdrug initiatives nationwide. The unit serves as the cornerstone in the development of a counterdrug infrastructure needed to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal drug trafficking and money laundering organizations operating throughout West Africa.

The Mexico City Chemical Group provides training to the Government of Mexico (GOM) counterparts regarding methamphetamine trends and skills for targeting and combating the clandestine laboratory/precursor chemical operations of DTOs.

Financial Investigative Team (FIT) is tasked with carrying out DEA's national financial initiatives, providing guidance to other DEA personnel in financial investigations, conducting the more sophisticated financial investigations, and servicing as DEA's local point of contact with the financial community.