

1 Q Turning the ten or so years that you were a member of the  
2 Sinaloa cartel, approximately how much money did the cartel  
3 make?

4 A Many millions.

5 Q Was it billions?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What are some of the things that the Sinaloa cartel did  
8 to make sure it was successful in trafficking cocaine to the  
9 United States?

10 A To make sure through corruption in Mexico that we would  
11 have no problems or obstacles.

12 Q Did the cartel ever pay Government authorities in Mexico?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Were you ever involved in payments to Government  
15 officials?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Generally, what levels of Government officials did the  
18 cartel pay?

19 A Municipal level, state level, federal level, and also the  
20 military.

21 Q Were all of those Government officials paid the same  
22 amount of money?

23 A No.

24 Q Did all of those Government officials have the same level  
25 of participation in the cartel's work?

1 too.

2 Q What happened to your cocaine once it got to the United  
3 States?

4 A Well, it was distributed and sold here in the country of  
5 the United States.

6 Q Where specifically in the United States was your cocaine  
7 sold?

8 A The State of California, Texas, Chicago, New York,  
9 Florida.

10 Q In total, approximately how much cocaine did you move  
11 into the United States during your drug trafficking career?

12 A More than 100,000 kilos of cocaine.

13 Q How did you ensure the security of the drugs that you  
14 traveled in Mexico?

15 A Well, through bribes that we would do in my country to be  
16 able to traffic freely and move it across my country to the  
17 United States.

18 Q Who did you bribe?

19 A We would bribe the federal governments, the federal  
20 highway patrol, and municipal and states and, you know,  
21 politicians here and there as well.

22 Q Between 2000 and 2009, what were the main drug cartels in  
23 Mexico?

24 A It was mainly the Sinaloa Cartel and the Tijuana. After  
25 that, the Gulf Cartel started, but those are the three main

1 A No.

2 Q Can you describe for the jury some of the differences?

3 A There were two types of corruption in the Government.

4 One of them is when you pay an officer and they look the other  
5 way and let something through. And the other type is when the  
6 officers take part in the activities of the organization.

7 Q Did the Sinaloa cartel pay the defendant Genaro Garcia  
8 Luna?

9 A Yes.

10 Q What level of participation did the defendant Genaro  
11 Garcia Luna have with the Sinaloa cartel's activities?

12 A A very important one.

13 Q Of the two kinds of participation that you just described  
14 for us, how would you characterize the defendant's  
15 participation with the Sinaloa cartel?

16 A As the second description that I mentioned.

17 Q Was the defendant Genaro Garcia Luna a Government  
18 official?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What role did he have within the Mexican Government?

21 A When I came in in 2001 he was the director of the federal  
22 investigative agency. Afterwards he was the secretary for  
23 public security at the federal level.

24 Q So let's start with the federal investigative agency.  
25 What was that?

1 Monterrey, and then after that, to the United States.

2 Q And did you get anything extra for intercepting those  
3 drugs?

4 A I did.

5 Q I'm sorry what was the answer?

6 A I did.

7 Q What was that?

8 A Arturo gave me money.

9 Q How much money?

10 A About a million dollars.

11 Q Now, while you were in Chiapas, were you generally  
12 successful in what you set out to do for the cartel?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Did you establish some drug routes?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And did the payments that you were making to AFI help  
17 you do that?

18 A Yes.

19 Q How?

20 A Well, we could go around freely. We could set up and  
21 take down checkpoints however we wanted to, whenever we  
22 wanted to. And if there was any information about the  
23 observation in the plaza or anything going on, they would  
24 have to let us know about the operation in time so that we  
25 would be able to empty the houses or the warehouses.

1 identified a shipment that belonged to Alfredo, and they had  
2 stopped it on the road.

3 Q And what happened?

4 A Alfredo calls Arturo Beltran, his brother, and he --  
5 Arturo gives me the order to talk to the regional commander,  
6 or Yankee, as we knew them, who was the regional commander in  
7 Sonora. Spoke to Eloy, and I reminded him that he was there  
8 because of orders from the cartel and that he had to release  
9 that shipment right away.

10 Q And what happened?

11 A He released them.

12 Q I think you referenced the word "Yankee." What does that  
13 mean?

14 A It is a word that we use to identify regional commanders,  
15 Yankee. Or we also call them JR, like for junior. So junior  
16 or Yankee is the same thing.

17 Q Now, earlier you told us about Commander Domingo of AFI  
18 who you met in Monterrey?

19 A Yes.

20 Q I want to go back to your meetings with the defendant in  
21 Mexico City. Did you ever see Commander Domingo at any of  
22 those meetings?

23 A Yes, some of them.

24 Q While you were in the Mexico City area, did anything that  
25 happened to -- did anything happen that affected Domingo's

1 status with the government?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What happened?

4 A In Guerrero state, in the city of Ixtapa Zihuatanejo,  
5 there was a war between the Sinaloa Cartel and the Gulf  
6 Cartel. The AFI from Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, together with gunmen  
7 from the Sinaloa Cartel, arrested a group of Zetas from the  
8 Gulf Cartel who were going to go fight over the plaza. They  
9 were also with women and children.

10 They were kidnapped. They were taken to Acapulco.  
11 In Acapulco they were interrogated. The hit men for the Gulf  
12 Cartel were interrogated. They were executed. The women and  
13 the children were let go. The women went to place a complaint  
14 at the SIEDO with Licenciado Vasconcelos. So a big problem  
15 came out of it. The AFIs from Guerrero were arrested. And  
16 due to that situation, Domingo had an arrest warrant against  
17 him.

18 Q And what was your understanding of why Domingo had an  
19 arrest warrant as a result of this incident?

20 A Because of the SIEDO investigations.

21 Q Did you ever hear the defendant, Garcia Luna, talk about  
22 this incident involving Domingo?

23 A Yes.

24 Q When did you hear that?

25 A Right after the problem came up when we were in the

1 Everything had been arranged.

2 Q Was the fact that Arturo Beltran paid government  
3 officials important to you?

4 A Well, of course. You know, you could go around with  
5 extreme peace of mind. There would be checkpoints on the  
6 highway, in Mexico City. Sometimes there would be posts where  
7 they would check you for alcohol intake, and all you had to do  
8 would be to call him and then he would make it so that these  
9 people would even apologize for stopping you.

10 Q Were there any people who worked for Arturo Beltran who  
11 were responsible for paying off police?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And who's that?

14 A Those responsible for making payment were Roberto, Grande  
15 M.P., he also made payments.

16 Q How do you know that?

17 A Well, because, as I told you before, the relationship I  
18 had with Arturo was really close. And actually many people  
19 were envious of the relationship I had with him, and so I got  
20 to find out about a lot of things.

21 Q Earlier you mentioned that he would be able to call  
22 checkpoints and they would let you through.

23 Who is the "he" you were referring to?

24 A Arturo. I was always in direct contact with Arturo  
25 Beltran. I was always in contact with him.

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1                   -- AND SPECIAL AGENT HARVEY VARENHORST, ALSO FROM  
2 GUADALAJARA.

3 Q   AND DID YOU EVENTUALLY MEET WITH ANY ELEMENTS OF THE  
4 M.F.J.P.?

5 A   YES, SIR.

6 Q   WHERE WAS THAT?

7 A   AT THE AIRPORT IN ZACATECAS, EARLY THE MORNING OF THE 25TH.

8 Q   HOW DID YOU GET FROM AGUASCALIENTES TO ZACATECAS?

9 A   I DROVE IN A GOVERNMENT AUTOMOBILE WITH SPECIAL AGENT  
10 SEARS.

11 Q   DID THE OTHER AGENTS ALSO GO TO ZACATECAS CITY?

12 A   YES, THEY DID.

13 Q   AND WHEN YOU ARRIVED AT ZACATECAS CITY AND MET UP WITH THE  
14 M.F.J.P. AGENTS, DID YOU FIND OUT WHO WAS COMMANDING THE  
15 M.F.J.P. CONTINGENT?

16 A   I ALREADY KNEW THAT, SIR.

17 Q   WHO WAS THAT.

18 Q   FIRST COMANDANTE MIGUEL ALDANA IBARRA.

19 Q   DO YOU KNOW WHAT HIS POSITION IN THE M.F.J.P. WAS?

20 A   HE WAS A FIRST COMANDANTE, AND HE WAS ALSO THE  
21 REPRESENTATIVE OF INTERPOL.

22 Q   CAN YOU DESCRIBE FOR THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY  
23 WHAT INTERPOL IS, IF YOU KNOW?

24 A   INTERPOL IS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION THAT EXCHANGES  
25 INFORMATION BETWEEN POLICE FORCES AROUND THE WORLD. IT HAS



1 REPRESENTATIVES IN MOST COUNTRIES.

2 Q DO YOU KNOW WHETHER COMANDANTE ALDANA WAS RELATED IN SOME  
3 FASHION TO MANUEL IBARRA, THE DIRECTOR OF THE M.F.J.P.?

4 A I BELIEVE THEY ARE FIRST COUSINS.

5 Q NOW, WHEN YOU MET UP WITH ALDANA, WHAT DID YOU DO IN  
6 FURTHERANCE OF THESE RAIDS?

7 A HE INSTRUCTED ME TO STAY WITH HIM THROUGHOUT THE DAY, AND I  
8 WENT WHERE HE WENT.

9 Q AND WHERE WAS THAT?

10 A WE WENT TO SEVERAL OF THE HOTELS THAT HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO  
11 HIM AS BEING THOSE WHERE EITHER GUARDS OR D.F.S. AGENTS --

12 MR. [REDACTED]: OBJECT, YOUR HONOR. MOVE TO STRIKE AS  
13 NONRESPONSIVE.

14 THE COURT: THE WITNESS HAS ANSWERED THE QUESTION. HE  
15 SAID THEY WENT TO THE HOTELS.

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q ALL RIGHT. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO GO TO THOSE PARTICULAR  
18 HOTELS?

19 A THOSE WERE THE HOTELS THAT HAD BEEN NAMED TO US AS BEING  
20 THE ONES WHERE THE TRAFFICKERS WERE STAYING OR WHERE THE FARM  
21 LABORERS WERE BEING HOUSED.

22 Q WHERE WERE THESE HOTELS LOCATED? IN THE ZACATECAS CITY?

23 A IN THE CITY OF ZACATECAS AND IN THE CITY OF FRESNILLO.

24 Q HAD YOU PERSONALLY VIEWED ANY OF THESE HOTELS IN YOUR TRIPS  
25 TO THESE TWO CITIES EARLIER?

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1 A YES, I HAD.

2 Q DID YOU NOTICE ANY CHANGE IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT THESE TWO  
3 HOTELS BETWEEN THE TIME YOU VIEWED THEM EARLIER AND THE TIME  
4 THAT YOU ACCOMPANIED ALDANA, ON THE RAIDS, TO THEM?

5 A NOW THEY WERE BASICALLY VACANT.

6 Q HAD THEY BEEN APPARENTLY FULL ON THE PREVIOUS OCCASION?

7 A JUST ABOUT; YES, SIR.

8 THE COURT: WE WILL TAKE OUR AFTERNOON RECESS AT THIS  
9 TIME. THE JURY MAY BE EXCUSED.

10 THE CLERK: PLEASE RISE.

11 (JURY ABSENT.)

12 THE COURT: CLOSE THE DOOR, PLEASE.

13 (WITNESS CLOSES DOOR.)

14 THE CLERK: YOU MAY BE SEATED.

15 THE COURT: COUNSEL, I WANT TO CLARIFY OR REMIND  
16 COUNSEL ABOUT SOMETHING I TOLD YOU THE OTHER DAY. TO THE  
17 EXTENT POSSIBLE, THE COURT DOES NOT WANT TO HOLD ANY BENCH  
18 CONFERENCES. NOW, THIS WITNESS WAS CALLED TO THE STAND AND  
19 IMMEDIATELY YOU ASKED FOR A SIDEBAR REGARDING THIS WITNESS'S  
20 TESTIMONY.

21 MR. [REDACTED]: I UNDERSTAND THAT, JUDGE.

22 THE COURT: JUST A MOMENT.

23 THE TESTIMONY OF THIS WITNESS HAS BEEN AVAILABLE IN  
24 THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE EARLIER TRIAL THAT TOOK PLACE TWO OR  
25 THREE YEARS AGO; TWO YEARS AGO, ANYWAY. YOU'VE KNOWN ABOUT

1 ABOUT WHAT HE DID.

2 MR. [REDACTED]: I WOULD AGREE HE CAN TESTIFY WHAT HE DID  
3 WITH AN INDIVIDUAL. THE LARGER IMPLICATIONS OF THAT, THERE'S  
4 NO FOUNDATION FOR HIM TO MAKE THE ASSERTION.

5 MR. [REDACTED] ON: I'LL FILL IN THE BACKGROUND, YOUR HONOR.

6 Q MR. GOMEZ, DO YOU KNOW THE PURPOSE FOR MAKING THESE  
7 PAYMENTS OF MONEY TO VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS?

8 A FOR THEM TO PROTECT US.

9 Q AND WHEN YOU SAY "PROTECT US," WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

10 A THAT THEY SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE PLANTING, THAT THEY  
11 SHOULD LOOK AFTER THE ROADS WHERE WE HAD THE FIELDS.

12 Q WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

13 A THE MARIJUANA RANCHES.

14 Q I MEAN "LOOKING AFTER THE ROADS," WHAT DOES THAT TERM MEAN?

15 A THAT PEOPLE WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS BUSINESS DIDN'T  
16 COME AROUND.

17 Q ANYTHING ELSE?

18 A AND THEY WERE TO PROTECT US AGAINST ANY KIND OF TROUBLE.

19 Q DID THAT INCLUDE PROVIDING INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER D.E.A.  
20 AGENTS WERE IN THE AREA?

21 A AS FAR AS ANY PERSON NOT HAVING TO DO WITH THAT BUSINESS.

22 Q DID, TO YOUR KNOWLEDGE, ANY D.F.S. AGENTS PROVIDE ANY OTHER  
23 SERVICES TO THIS MARIJUANA GROWING OPERATION?

24 A TRANSPORTATION OF THE MARIJUANA.

25 Q NOW, WHO IN THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE DID YOU PARTICIPATE

1 IN MAKING PAYMENTS TO?

2 A COMANDANTE GALO GUTIERREZ.

3 Q AND WHO IN THE ZACATECAS STATE JUDICIAL POLICE DID YOU  
4 PARTICIPATE IN MAKING PAYMENTS TO?

5 A COMANDANTE PULIDO.

6 Q DO YOU KNOW WHETHER COMANDANTE GALO GUTIERREZ ACTUALLY  
7 INVESTED IN THE MARIJUANA FIELDS?

8 A YES.

9 Q DID HE DO THAT?

10 A YES, ALONG WITH MANUEL CHAVEZ.

11 Q LIKewise, DO YOU KNOW WHETHER COMANDANTE APARICIO INVESTED  
12 IN THESE MARIJUANA FIELDS?

13 MS. [REDACTED]: OBJECTION, YOUR HONOR, TO THE QUESTION, AS  
14 LACKING FOUNDATION.

15 THE COURT: HOW ABOUT IT, COUNSEL? WHY DON'T YOU LAY  
16 SOME FOUNDATION FOR THESE QUESTIONS? YOU'RE ASKING THIS  
17 WITNESS FOR CONCLUSIONS.

18 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

19 Q DID YOU EVER LEARN FROM MANUEL CHAVEZ WHETHER GALO  
20 GUTIERREZ HAD INVESTED IN MARIJUANA FIELDS?

21 MR. [REDACTED]: OBJECTION. HEARSAY.

22 THE COURT: SUSTAINED.

23 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

24 Q DID YOU EVER SEE A SHIPMENT OF RIFLES ARRIVE FOR USE IN THE  
25 MARIJUANA FIELDS?

1 A YES.

2 Q HOW MANY SUCH SHIPMENTS DID YOU SEE?

3 A ONE.

4 Q AND DO YOU KNOW HOW LARGE THAT SHIPMENT WAS?

5 A THERE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE 300.

6 Q HOW MANY DID YOU ACTUALLY SEE, DO YOU KNOW?

7 A THERE WERE ABOUT 60, IN A CAR.

8 Q AND DID YOU HAVE SOME INVOLVEMENT IN DELIVERING THOSE GUNS  
9 SOMEPLACE?

10 A YES.

11 Q WHERE DID YOU DELIVER THEM?

12 A TO ONE OF MANUEL CHAVEZ'S HOUSES.

13 Q DO YOU KNOW WHO HAD DELIVERED THOSE RIFLES TO YOU?

14 A SOME D.F.S. AGENTS.

15 Q DID YOU EVER SEE RAFAEL CARO QUINTERO?

16 A YES.

17 Q HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU SEE HIM?

18 MR. [REDACTED]: OBJECT TO THE QUESTION. CAN WE FIX THE  
19 TIME WE'RE TALKING ABOUT?

20 THE COURT: I ASSUME HE'S TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE  
21 WORKED --

22 MR. [REDACTED]: I ASSUME SO, TOO, BUT --

23 THE COURT: OBJECTION'S OVERRULED.

24 THE WITNESS: THREE OR FOUR TIMES.

25 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

1 Q AND DURING WHAT PERIOD DID YOU SEE CARO QUINTERO?

2 A FROM JANUARY TO THE BEGINNING OF MAY.

3 Q OF 1984?

4 A YES.

5 Q AND WHAT WAS THE LOCATION WHERE YOU SAW CARO QUINTERO ON  
6 THOSE OCCASIONS?

7 A AT THE FRESNO HOTEL, AT MANUEL CHAVEZ'S HOUSE, AT THE LA  
8 FORTUNA MOTEL.

9 Q WERE ALL OF THOSE LOCATIONS IN FRESNILLO, ZACATECAS?

10 A YES.

11 Q AND ON EACH THOSE OCCASIONS WAS CARO ACCOMPANIED BY  
12 BODYGUARDS?

13 A YES.

14 Q APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY?

15 A 20, 30; SOMETIMES MORE.

16 Q DO YOU KNOW WHETHER ANY OF THOSE BODYGUARDS WERE D.F.S.  
17 AGENTS?

18 A YES.

19 Q HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

20 A BECAUSE THESE WERE PEOPLE WHO WOULD ARRIVE AT MANUEL'S  
21 HOUSE.

22 Q DID YOU SEE THEIR CREDENTIALS?

23 A YES.

24 Q NOW, WHEN WAS THE FIRST OCCASION THAT YOU SAW CARO QUINTERO  
25 IN FRESNILLO?

1 THE COURT: Before you continue, ladies and  
2 gentlemen, are you hearing the interpreter okay?

3 You can hear?

4 THE JURY: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Good.

6 Go ahead.

7 Q Now, after you started working for Arturo Beltran, did he  
8 ever introduce you to anyone from AFI?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Who did he introduce you to?

11 A A commander.

12 Q And who was that?

13 A His name was Domingo.

14 Q Do you know Commander Domingo's full name?

15 A I do, but I don't remember it.

16 Q About how long after you started working for  
17 Arturo Beltran did he introduce you to Commander Domingo?

18 A Very soon after. I think a week, week and a half,  
19 something like that later.

20 Q And tell us about your first memory of meeting AFI  
21 Commander Domingo.

22 A I met him at one of Arturo Beltran's offices in  
23 Monterrey. I explained to him this project, the one that I  
24 had come up with, to have more of a presence in Nuevo Leon and  
25 Miguel Aleman. I asked him what he could tell me about the

1 support that we could get from AFI agents. And his answer to  
2 me was: Total.

3 Q All right. So I want to break a few things down.

4 First, you said you met at an office. What do you  
5 mean by that?

6 A Offices are safe houses, they're referred to as offices,  
7 and that's what the cartel uses, the drug organization does to  
8 discuss matters that have to do with it. And that includes  
9 sometimes sleeping there and sometimes living there.

10 Q Now, you said that when you first met Commander Domingo,  
11 you explained to him about a project you were working on.

12 What do you mean by that?

13 A It was the plan that I had come up with -- well, that  
14 Arturo Beltran had asked me to come up with so we could have  
15 more of a presence in the plazas of Nuevo Laredo and  
16 Miguel Aleman.

17 Q And what was the plan?

18 A The original plan was to mingle people, actual agents  
19 from the AFI, with Sinaloa Cartel hit men, everybody wearing  
20 the same uniform with the AFI logo type and everything,  
21 vehicles as well. These gunmen or hit men would raid  
22 residences of ours.

23 And then the actual AFI agents would create a  
24 perimeter around those locations in case the municipal or  
25 state police came, they would ask them to leave. And then



1 anybody who had been arrested or any items that had been  
2 seized during those raids would be turned over to the office  
3 of the local prosecutor by the real AFI officers.

4 Q And who are the individuals that you planned to arrest or  
5 seize property from?

6 A They were members of the Gulf Cartel. They were our  
7 rivals.

8 Q After you discussed this plan, what, if anything, did  
9 Commander Domingo say?

10 A That we had his full support to do it. He was there,  
11 available to us.

12 Q Did anyone pay Commander Domingo at the meeting?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Who did that?

15 A Arturo Beltran.

16 Q And were you present for that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And how much money did he pay Commander Domingo?

19 A I don't remember if it was a million, a million and a  
20 half dollars.

21 Q Did you see that money?

22 A Yes.

23 Q In what form was it in?

24 A It was in packets, in a bag.

25 Q What currency was it in?

1 A U.S. dollars.

2 Q And why was it in U.S. dollars?

3 A Because that's how -- that's what the money is that you  
4 get from drug trafficking, it comes from the sale of the  
5 drugs.

6 Q And what was your understanding of who that payment was  
7 for?

8 A For the bosses in Mexico, Domingo's bosses.

9 Q Who were Domingo's bosses?

10 A The general director and the other directors.

11 Q And who was the general director of AFI at that time?

12 A Garcia Luna.

13 Q And how did you understand that this payment to  
14 Commander Domingo was for these other people?

15 A I would hear the conversations that Domingo would have  
16 with Arturo.

17 Q And during those conversations, was there ever any  
18 mention of the defendant, Genaro Garcia Luna, by name?

19 A Not at the beginning. He was referred to as the  
20 director. At least Domingo said that, director.

21 Q Over time, did you ever hear Arturo Beltran and  
22 Commander Domingo reference the defendant by name?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And after that first meeting with Commander Domingo, did  
25 he meet with Arturo other times?

1     Cartel. Did the cartel carry out that plan?

2     A     For a time, yes.

3     Q     During that time, what, if any, role did AFI have in  
4     the plan?

5     A     For a while, everything worked as planned. They were  
6     taking care of the perimeter and they were also having some  
7     people to be of service to them until they broke out from  
8     that plan.

9     Q     So while the plan was going well, can you just explain  
10    to us in a bit more detail what happened on these  
11    operations?

12    A     The hit men together with the AFI members, they would  
13    get to a ranch, for example, to raid it. And they would  
14    search, they would make sure to ensure the area and if there  
15    were any people they would arrest them, or if anything had  
16    been seized they would bring it to the local prosecutor's  
17    office. And the AFI people would be taking care of the  
18    perimeter and they would bring those who are arrested as  
19    well as the items that were seized to the local prosecutor's  
20    office.

21    Q     Just to be clear, who were the people that were being  
22    arrested for this plan?

23    A     People who were part of the Gulf Cartel.

24    Q     When AFI members made a perimeter around a ranch that  
25    you described, could they see what Sinaloa Cartel members

1 were doing?

2 A Yes. Because the perimeters were very close by.

3 Q And did AFI members ever interfere with the Sinaloa  
4 Cartel members detaining Gulf Cartel members?

5 A No, no.

6 Q And what were the Sinaloa Cartel members wearing during  
7 these operations?

8 A AFI uniforms.

9 Q And how important was AFI's support to the cartel's  
10 efforts in Monterrey at this time?

11 A It's very necessary. Otherwise we wouldn't have been  
12 able to go in.

13 Q During this time, did Arturo Beltran speak with  
14 Comander Domingo about these operations?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did Arturo Beltran speak to the defendant about these  
17 operations?

18 A Yes.

19 Q I believe you mentioned that at some point something  
20 may have changed with the plan. What happened?

21 A The hit men who were in charge of operations for the  
22 Sinaloa Cartel, together with the AFI agents, they decided  
23 that instead of bringing the people they had arrested to the  
24 local prosecutor's office, they started killing them and  
25 they made them disappear.

1 Q Were you aware that this was going on?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Ultimately, did this impact the Sinaloa Cartel's  
4 efforts in Monterrey?

5 A Things heat up. It heat up because of those actions.

6 Q At some point, did you leave the Monterrey area?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Around when was that?

9 A Approximately 2003.

10 Q Where did you go?

11 A I had instructions, well, to Chiapas.

12 Q And I want to go back, if I can, to 325 on the screen  
13 and, with the Court's indulgence, we may also set it up for  
14 the jury.

15 (Document published for the jury.)

16 So looking at 325 and if the Court permits, maybe  
17 you can come down and show us where Chiapas was.

18 A It's right here (indicating).

19 Q Why were you sent to Chiapas?

20 A Arturo trusted me and he knew whatever he asked me to  
21 do, that I could do it.

22 Q Using the map in front of you, can you point to us any  
23 areas that you were focused on when you went to Chiapas?

24 A Here. Tapachula, Tove La, in this area, (indicating).

25 Q You can have a seat, thank you.

1 Cartel was present. We were there, we were armed, we were  
2 patrolling the area. And we were trying to fight them.

3 Q And did different government officials help you with  
4 that effort?

5 A Yes.

6 Q When you were in Chiapas, where was Arturo Beltran?

7 A He was in Monterrey for a time and then some other  
8 time, in Mexico City.

9 Q Did you keep in contact?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And how did you do that?

12 A Through the communication equipment, through radios.  
13 And I would travel constantly to see him.

14 Q While you were in the Chiapas area, did you ever meet  
15 the defendant, Genaro Garcia Luna in person?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Can you tell us about that?

18 A One time I went to Mexico City to speak to Arturo and  
19 to report to him all of the news from our expansion efforts.  
20 And Borrado, a leader with the Beltran Leyva, he had  
21 information about a drug shipment. That belonged with the  
22 Gulf Cartel together with the Michoacana family. Both were  
23 our rivals. Arturo asked me to intercept that and to take  
24 it away from them. We installed a checkpoint on the highway  
25 that goes to Morelos together with the AFI people, and is

1 the actual road that goes from Veracruz to Mexico City. We  
2 grabbed that from them and we transported them to a  
3 warehouse that belonged to MP, his brother, and Borrado.

4 Q And I just want to stop you right there. You've  
5 mentioned a couple of names. You've mentioned someone named  
6 Borrado. Who is that?

7 A That is Alberto Pineda Villa.

8 Q Who is that?

9 A He was a leader with the Sinaloa Cartel and he reported  
10 to Mario and Arturo.

11 Q And if I could -- sorry, I didn't mean to interrupt  
12 you.

13 A He was the person in charge of receiving the fast boats  
14 on the Guerrero coast line. With cocaine.

15 Q What is a fast boat?

16 A Well, fast boats are vehicles. They are fast boats  
17 where they load up the shipments and they bring them close  
18 to the coast.

19 Q And I want to show you, if I could, on the screen,  
20 Government Exhibit 45 for identification.

21 Do you recognize that person?

22 (Exhibit published for the witness.)

23 A Yes.

24 Q Who is that?

25 A That's Borrado.

1 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

2 THE COURT: Received.

3 (Government's Exhibit 45 received in evidence.)

4 (Exhibit published for the jury.)

5 Q Did you tell us his full name?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What was that again?

8 A Alberto Pineda Villa.

9 Q And did Alberto Pineda Villa, also known as Borrado,  
10 have any relatives in the cartel?

11 A Yes.

12 Q I believe you mentioned someone named MP. Who is that?

13 A His brother.

14 Q And what is MP's full name?

15 A Mario Pineda Villa.

16 Q What role did Mario Pineda Villa have in the Sinaloa  
17 Cartel?

18 A He was the person in charge of the City of Cuernavaca  
19 and the state of Morelos.

20 Q So go back to this occasion when you intercepted drugs  
21 that belongs to Sinaloa's rivals. What was the amount of  
22 the drugs you intercepted?

23 A Two tons.

24 Q And what was it?

25 A Cocaine.



1 Q After you intercepted that cocaine, what did you do?

2 A We brought them to a warehouse, we emptied the trailers  
3 out. We found the trap which was a double side wall and we  
4 got the cocaine out.

5 Q What is a trap?

6 A A trap is a hidden compartment in a particular place.

7 Q What happened next?

8 A After that, I notified Arturo. I notified Arturo of  
9 the amount there was. And the AFI commander, the regional  
10 AFI commander, was with us. And so Arturo and some people  
11 came to the warehouse. Garcia Luna came, Cardenas Palomino,  
12 Comander Domingo, other people, gunmen.

13 Q What happened after the defendant, Cardenas Palomino,  
14 Domingo, and others came to the warehouse?

15 A They saw the amount of drugs that were there. There  
16 was an agreement that had been made previously between the  
17 AFI and the Sinaloa Cartel. 50 percent of the seizure would  
18 go to AFI, 50 of the seizure would go to the Sinaloa Cartel.

19 Q And just to be clear. Is that an agreement -- had  
20 Sinaloa made seizures or interceptions like this before?

21 A Yes. But smaller amounts.

22 Q And when you say the agreement was that half would go  
23 to the Sinaloa Cartel and half to AFI, do you mean that  
24 Sinaloa would give drugs to AFI?

25 A They weren't going to give them the drugs. They would

1 give them the money, the value of it.

2 Q What happened on this occasion?

3 A Arturo got in touch with someone whose code name was R.  
4 He asked him to bring that amount of money that had to be  
5 given as payment to a warehouse that he was going to tell  
6 him where it was. He took him a while to get there. The  
7 payment was made. And then they left, Garcia Luna and his  
8 people left, Arturo and his people left. The drugs were  
9 sent to the warehouse. Everything was good.

10 Q Okay. So you mentioned someone named R. Who is that?

11 A That was someone by the name of Roberto. He was like  
12 Arturo's secretary.

13 Q When Arturo asked R to bring money to the warehouse,  
14 how much money was it?

15 A I don't remember if it was 14 or \$16 million. It was a  
16 good amount.

17 Q Did you see the money?

18 A Yes.

19 Q How was it packaged?

20 A In cardboard boxes. You know, the kind that's used for  
21 office papers.

22 Q Why was it in boxes?

23 A That is how Arturo would package his money, arrange it  
24 for the payment for drugs.

25 Q Was that different in any way from the way that Arturo

1 made bribe payments to government officials?

2 A Yes.

3 Q How did it differ?

4 A The bills that were used to pay for any kind of a drug  
5 deal were 20s. \$20 bills. And in this manner that I was  
6 just explaining to you when they used the boxes, and then  
7 with respect to bribes to government officials, that would  
8 be in \$100 bills.

9 Q And in this occasion, how many boxes or quantities of  
10 \$20 bills were there?

11 A There were many of them. They didn't fit in their SUV.

12 Q Whose SUV?

13 A The one that Garcia Luna, Cardenas Palomino and Domingo  
14 came in.

15 Q What happened when all of the boxes didn't fit in the  
16 car?

17 A They used one of their Suburbans that we used at the  
18 office.

19 Q Was that one of Arturo Beltran's cars?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And were the boxes put into those cars?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And ultimately, after the defendant left, what did the  
24 cartel do with the cocaine in the warehouse?

25 A It was then sent to the warehouse. After that, to

1 identified a shipment that belonged to Alfredo, and they had  
2 stopped it on the road.

3 Q And what happened?

4 A Alfredo calls Arturo Beltran, his brother, and he --  
5 Arturo gives me the order to talk to the regional commander,  
6 or Yankee, as we knew them, who was the regional commander in  
7 Sonora. Spoke to Eloy, and I reminded him that he was there  
8 because of orders from the cartel and that he had to release  
9 that shipment right away.

10 Q And what happened?

11 A He released them.

12 Q I think you referenced the word "Yankee." What does that  
13 mean?

14 A It is a word that we use to identify regional commanders,  
15 Yankee. Or we also call them JR, like for junior. So junior  
16 or Yankee is the same thing.

17 Q Now, earlier you told us about Commander Domingo of AFI  
18 who you met in Monterrey?

19 A Yes.

20 Q I want to go back to your meetings with the defendant in  
21 Mexico City. Did you ever see Commander Domingo at any of  
22 those meetings?

23 A Yes, some of them.

24 Q While you were in the Mexico City area, did anything that  
25 happened to -- did anything happen that affected Domingo's

1 status with the government?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What happened?

4 A In Guerrero state, in the city of Ixtapa Zihuatanejo,  
5 there was a war between the Sinaloa Cartel and the Gulf  
6 Cartel. The AFI from Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, together with gunmen  
7 from the Sinaloa Cartel, arrested a group of Zetas from the  
8 Gulf Cartel who were going to go fight over the plaza. They  
9 were also with women and children.

10 They were kidnapped. They were taken to Acapulco.  
11 In Acapulco they were interrogated. The hit men for the Gulf  
12 Cartel were interrogated. They were executed. The women and  
13 the children were let go. The women went to place a complaint  
14 at the SIEDO with Licenciado Vasconcelos. So a big problem  
15 came out of it. The AFIs from Guerrero were arrested. And  
16 due to that situation, Domingo had an arrest warrant against  
17 him.

18 Q And what was your understanding of why Domingo had an  
19 arrest warrant as a result of this incident?

20 A Because of the SIEDO investigations.

21 Q Did you ever hear the defendant, Garcia Luna, talk about  
22 this incident involving Domingo?

23 A Yes.

24 Q When did you hear that?

25 A Right after the problem came up when we were in the

1 middle of the problem.

2 Q And where was this when you heard the defendant speaking  
3 about this?

4 A At one of the safe houses.

5 Q Was Arturo present?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And what, if anything, do you remember the defendant  
8 saying about this?

9 A I remember that neither Arturo nor Garcia Luna nor anyone  
10 was worried about this. The only thing that Garcia Luna said  
11 is that he would have to deal with it himself.

12 Q And who did you understand the defendant to be referring  
13 to?

14 A To Commander Domingo.

15 Q And what did it mean to you when the defendant said  
16 Domingo would have to deal with this himself?

17 A That the entire problem would be on him.

18 Q After that incident, did Arturo Beltran continue to meet  
19 with the defendant, Garcia Luna?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And after there was an arrest warrant issued for  
22 Commander Domingo, did you see him again?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And where did you see him?

25 A At the AFI offices in Toreo and on the street and in

1 Q And were there ever occasions when Cardenas Palomino was  
2 meeting with Arturo Beltran in person and they spoke with  
3 Garcia Luna?

4 A Yes.

5 Q How often did that occur?

6 A It was sporadic, not too often.

7 Q After the defendant became the head of the secretary of  
8 public security, what kind of benefits did the Sinaloa Cartel  
9 get from their payments to him?

10 A There were greater benefits, greater benefits than when  
11 he was at AFI.

12 Q Can you explain that to us?

13 A Now the Sinaloa Cartel had control, more control over the  
14 roads all over the country, airports and ports.

15 Q After the defendant became the secretary of public  
16 security, did the Sinaloa Cartel continue to receive  
17 information from him about law enforcement operations?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Can you give us some examples of that?

20 A Yes. One example was when a relative of mine was coming  
21 to visit me from the United States to Mexico, in Acapulco, and  
22 I was warned that the person was being followed by the DEA.

23 Also, there was a time, there was a residence where  
24 Arturo's family was at in Cuernavaca. We were warned about  
25 that, and we were able to take everything out belonging to the

1 family. I mean, the house was raided, but there was nothing  
2 left there. There were many times like that.

3 Also, when Mochomo was captured, Bayardo told us  
4 about a raid that was coming in a residence in Bosques del  
5 Pedregal in the southern part of the city.

6 Q Okay. I want to break that down.

7 You mentioned a time that you learned about a  
8 relative of yours being followed by the DEA. How did you  
9 learn that?

10 A Yes. My relative wasn't the one who had the information.  
11 It was me. Borrado told me that Cardenas Palomino called him  
12 with information saying that the DEA was following my  
13 brother-in-law from Laredo.

14 Q And can you remind us, who is Borrado?

15 A Alberto Pineda Villa, a lieutenant of the Sinaloa Cartel.

16 Q And did you or your relative take any action when you  
17 learned that information?

18 A Well, it was Christmas and I canceled the get-together I  
19 was going to have with him.

20 Q You mentioned a time in Cuernavaca when members of  
21 Arturo's family were able to get out of a house that was going  
22 to be raided.

23 A Yes.

24 Q On that occasion, how did you learn the information  
25 before that raid?



1 A Same way. Cardenas Palomino warned that that house was  
2 going to be raided.

3 Q And was there ever -- before we get to your next example,  
4 were there other times when you would be -- when you took  
5 action based on information you received from  
6 Cardenas Palomino?

7 A Not just me; everyone in the organization. Another  
8 example would be Barbie's wedding in Acapulco.

9 Q And remind us, who is Barbie?

10 A Another lieutenant for the Sinaloa Cartel.

11 Q And I would like to show you, actually, on the screen  
12 what's marked as Government Exhibit 41 for identification.

13 [REDACTED] I think it's loading.

14 Q Do you recognize this person?

15 A The screen is dark.

16 Yes.

17 Q Is the screen showing a picture now?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And do you recognize the picture -- the person in that  
20 picture?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Who is that?

23 A That's Barbie.

24 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

25 THE COURT: Received.

1 Q I want to now direct you to October 2007. In that month  
2 did the DEA take action with respect to the Port of  
3 Manzanillo?

4 A Yes. We received a tip from our DEA Tijuana office of a  
5 large amount of cocaine at the port. We were provided with  
6 come container numbers. I then did research on those  
7 container numbers. There are some maritime databases.  
8 Discovered that they were at the Port of Manzanillo and they  
9 arrived via cargo ship *Esmereida*.

10 Q Once you got the tip and did the investigation, what did  
11 you do?

12 A We pass information off to our Mexican federal police  
13 counterparts at the Port of Manzanillo.

14 Q Was that information sensitive?

15 A It was sensitive because it was actionable information.

16 Q I want to now direct to you on or about October 31st of  
17 2007.

18 What happened that day?

19 A We were informed by our Mexican counterparts that they  
20 did detect cocaine concealed within those containers. We had  
21 agents at the port at the time.

22 Q When you say you had agents at the port, did DEA agents  
23 go to the Port of Manzanillo?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Why did they go?

1 A It was customary whenever a seizure was about to take  
2 place we would send agents to the port in a sense to apply  
3 pressure to let them know we were -- the Mexico government  
4 that we were interested in what was going on. That we wanted  
5 to make sure that they searched the container properly.

6 Q Why was it important in your experience to apply  
7 pressure?

8 A We had other incidents in the past where if we did not  
9 apply pressure or if we did not go to the site to help to  
10 oversee the interdiction, or to be there to observe it, then  
11 we're not sure if it would happen. It was hit or miss.

12 Q Were the containers in this instance searched?

13 A Yes, they were.

14 Q And approximately how much cocaine was recovered?

15 A 23.5 metric tons.

16 Q I want to direct you now to November 27, 2007. On or  
17 about that day, did you take any additional steps related to  
18 this seizure?

19 A Yes. Me and two agents went out to the Port of  
20 Manzanillo. The Mexican government was going to display all  
21 the cocaine that was seized and have a photo op.

22 Q Just to be clear, was this about a month after the  
23 seizure?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Had there been a continuous DEA presence at the Port of

1 Port of Manzanillo, and the people that we had made  
2 arrangements with there in the state of Colima told us that we  
3 had to wait -- we had to wait for things to cool down because  
4 the Marines were already there.

5 Q What were the Marines doing there?

6 A There was a Marines presence at the port and they were  
7 conducting more checks of all the containers before they went  
8 out of the port.

9 Q So had your drugs arrived into the port at this point?

10 A Yes. The drugs were at the port, the ship was there, and  
11 the containers were getting unloaded from the ship.

12 Q Did you take any steps to get your cocaine off the ships?

13 A Yes. We were looking around for ways to either take it  
14 out by train or be able to take it out directly from the port,  
15 trying to swap it to just kind of like make -- conceal it. We  
16 were looking for alternatives to see what the best way might  
17 be.

18 Q Did you reach out to anyone in the Sinaloa Cartel for  
19 help?

20 A Yes. I contacted Rey also for to see if he had a  
21 solution. He was in the capital city, maybe they could lend  
22 us a hand, and I started communicating a lot with Arturo. We  
23 were the most interested parties.

24 Q What steps did Arturo take to recover the drugs?

25 A Arturo was taking his own measures, like trying to swap

1 that. But then after that he called me and he said he was --  
2 had already talked to Licenciados and that we would have help.

3 Q What do you mean swap the drugs?

4 A Well, to try to put in some similar drugs or lower-  
5 quality drugs.

6 Q Were you able to do that?

7 A No, we weren't able to.

8 Q You mentioned that Arturo said he contacted the  
9 Licenciados.

10 Who are the Licenciados?

11 A Yes. Referring to Garcia Luna and the high Government  
12 officials.

13 Q What happened after Arturo contacted the Licenciados.

14 A Arturo told me I shouldn't worry about it, they were  
15 going to manage this directly from the capital city. They  
16 were going to send a group over there.

17 Q And what happened next?

18 A He said we had to pay \$10 million; that we had to put in  
19 \$5 million, and then, when the containers were released, we  
20 would pay the other \$5 million.

21 Q Did you pay the \$5 million?

22 A Yes. I had to send the \$5 million so that I could make  
23 sure that the containers would be handed over.

24 Q And what happened after you paid the \$5 million to El  
25 Licenciados?

1 A Once we made the payment, we were just waiting for the  
2 containers to be recovered. And things kept heating up over  
3 there, and it came to the point where they seized Arturo's  
4 first container.

5 Q Who seized Arturo's first container?

6 A Well, the Marines and all the other officials that were  
7 there in the port, they had seized it.

8 Q What happened after Arturo's container was seized?

9 A Well, we all had the hope that the other container could  
10 still be rescued, that by having seized that one container,  
11 things were going to calm down.

12 Q What happened with the second container?

13 A Well, about two days later they found the other container  
14 and it was seized, as well.

15 Q How did you feel when your drugs were seized?

16 A I was worried and sad for -- about what had happened.

17 Q What ultimately happened with the 20 tons of cocaine the  
18 Marines seized at Manzanillo?

19 A They were incinerated.

20 Q Did you ever meet directly with Garcia Luna about the  
21 Manzanillo seizure?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Tell the jury about that.

24 A We met in Cuernavaca through our Arturo Beltran. After  
25 the situation happened, we were trying to find out what had

1 happened and why -- what had gone on. We also had  
2 responsibility with the Colombians on the other side. They  
3 wanted to hold us accountable as well of what had happened to  
4 them.

5           So about a month after the situation happened,  
6 Arturo called me so -- and asked me to come to Cuernavaca. I  
7 arrived there in Cuernavaca, they came to pick us up; me, my  
8 brother and my buddy René.

9 Q     Where did they pick you up from?

10 A     In the City of Cuernavaca at a shopping center, they came  
11 to pick us up.

12 Q     Who picked you up?

13 A     Borrado did.

14 Q     Who is Borrado?

15 A     He's someone close to Arturo and he was a brother of MP,  
16 who was in charge of security for Arturo.

17 Q     After Borrado picked you up in the shopping center in  
18 Cuernavaca, what happened next?

19 A     They took us to a place over there near Cuernavaca, like  
20 at the edge of Cuernavaca.

21 Q     What type of place was it?

22 A     It was like a country place.

23 Q     Was it a house?

24 A     Like a country house.

25 Q     Do you know whose house it was?

1 A It was Arturo's, and Arturo's people's.

2 Q What happened after you arrived to Arturo's country home?

3 A Well, we came in and I arrived there. Arturo was there,  
4 Hector, Barbie. We started to talk about the situation that  
5 had happened in Manzanillo and the situation that we had with  
6 the Colombians. And then Arturo told me that someone was  
7 coming over to talk to us about that issue.

8 Q Where were you seated -- sorry.

9 Where in Arturo's house were you at this point?

10 A It was like a small terrace, and we were right in the  
11 middle of that terrace. There were tables.

12 Q Describe the security around Arturo's house.

13 A Before arriving, we saw several security rings and there  
14 was -- right outside there were people watching and guarding  
15 the area, and also Arturo had people in there.

16 Q What happened next?

17 A Well, we were there, Arturo said someone was coming, so  
18 the gates open up and some SUVs came in.

19 Q And what happened?

20 A I saw that a person got out of the SUVs along with two  
21 other people. They showed them our way and told them to come  
22 over to the table that I was at with Arturo, Barbie and  
23 Hector. And then he came to say hi to Arturo, Hector and  
24 Barbie, and that's when he introduced me to him and said:  
25 Compadre, I'm introducing you to Mr. Genaro Garcia Luna.



1 Q How was Genaro Garcia Luna dressed at this meeting?

2 A A suit and tie.

3 Q And what happened after you were introduced to Genaro  
4 Garcia Luna?

5 A Genaro Garcia Luna sat down across from me, next to  
6 Hector, and they started talking about the issue that had gone  
7 on in Manzanillo. That's when Genaro Garcia Luna said that  
8 they had not been able to rescue or do anything about it  
9 because the U.S. Government had already become involved, as  
10 well as the Marines.

11 Q Did Garcia Luna say anything more about that?

12 A Yes. He also said that this had already been reported  
13 from Colombia that there was knowledge that this load was  
14 coming from the time it came out of Colombia.

15 Q So was Garcia Luna able to help you retrieve your drugs?

16 A No. No, he wasn't. They weren't able to intervene.

17 Q What else did you discuss at this meeting?

18 A That they were going to send us later the information  
19 about the report that had come from Colombia that had pointed  
20 to this cargo.

21 Q And did Garcia Luna send you this information?

22 A Yes. After the meeting that we had there, that  
23 information was sent to us through Arturo.

24 Q About how long was Garcia Luna at this meeting at  
25 Arturo's?

1 A About 30 minutes when he was saying these things; and  
2 then afterwards, they talked some more.

3 Q Who talked some more?

4 A Arturo and Hector were bringing up other topics, so we  
5 got up from the table and they remained there.

6 Q What was Garcia Luna's demeanor like during this meeting?

7 A He looked serious. After he told us that, you know, I  
8 was surprised to see him when I saw him there and that he was  
9 saying those things.

10 Q Why were you surprised?

11 A Well, seeing -- seeing him there personally and what had  
12 been said about him, I was surprised, yes.

13 Q Did you see Genaro Garcia Luna leave the meeting?

14 A Yes, after they finished there, we said goodbyes -- we  
15 all said goodbye and he got into the SUV there.

16 Q Did he arrest any of you?

17 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

18 THE COURT: Overruled.

19 A No.

20 Q You mentioned that Garcia Luna sent a document to Arturo  
21 about the seizure.

22 What did that document -- what information was in  
23 that document?

24 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

25 THE COURT: Better foundation, please.

1 BY MS. [REDACTED]

2 Q Did you see the document that Garcia Luna provided about  
3 the drug seizure at Manzanillo?

4 A Yes. Yes, I did see it.

5 Q And what sort of information did it contain?

6 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection.

7 THE COURT: Do you speak Spanish?

8 I will hear the answer.

9 A Yes, it can -- it had information about the report that  
10 the U.S. Government had knowledge of that container, of the  
11 ship, of the container and the company that sent it.

12 THE COURT: Overruled.

13 Q You mentioned earlier that you were having issues with  
14 the Colombians regarding the seizure.

15 Can you tell us more about that?

16 A Yes, of course.

17 Q What was the nature of that dispute?

18 A Because they thought -- they thought that we didn't have  
19 good arrangements there and that's the reason why we lost the  
20 containers there in Manzanillo.

21 Q Were the Colombians holding you responsible for their  
22 losses?

23 A Yes, they were making us responsible for their loss.

24 Q And how much money were those losses?

25 THE INTERPRETER: Judge, may I clarify, if I may?

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 A We're talking about more than 30 million, and then with  
3 all of the movements, about 50 million.

4 Q How did you resolve your dispute over the loss of cocaine  
5 with the Colombians?

6 A Sending them a copy of the document so that they could  
7 see that the problem was theirs and not ours.

8 Q And what happened after you sent them a copy of the  
9 document that Garcia Luna gave you?

10 A Well, the responsibility was then no longer ours and they  
11 made arrangements among themselves, the Colombians did, and  
12 Arturo and I came to an agreement.

13 Q How much money did you save as a result of Garcia Luna  
14 giving you sensitive American law enforcement information?

15 A We would have had to be responsible for about \$50 million  
16 for the Colombians' losses.

17 Q So how much money did you save?

18 A We saved that amount of money, \$50 million. If not, we  
19 would have had to pay it.

20 Q What was the relationship like between the Beltrans and  
21 the Zambadas and Chapo?

22 A Well, there was -- there was a close relationship between  
23 El Chapo and Zambadas.

24 Can you repeat the question?

25 Q Yes.

1 Q You were asked on cross-examination about  
2 Genaro Garcia Luna being a public figure and giving speeches;  
3 do you remember those questions?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Was President Calderon a public figure?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did President Calderon give speeches?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What about the Secretary of Defense?

10 A Yes, I think so, too. All of the government officials  
11 usually give speeches.

12 Q You were also asked several questions about a public  
13 official's power after they leave office and whether they  
14 could still be useful to a cartel. Do you remember those  
15 questions?

16 A Yes.

17 Q I believe you were asked one question multiple times, I  
18 just want to clarify, I believe you testified that public  
19 officials' power comes from their relationships; is that what  
20 you said?

21 A That is correct, yes.

22 Q And to be clear, can relationships continue after someone  
23 leaves public office?

24 A Of course, those are relationships that stay forever.

25 Q Can someone be useful to the cartel if they continue to

1 cover up crimes that cartel leaders committed after they leave  
2 public office?

3 A Yes, there's modality that is called recommendation.

4 Q What does that mean?

5 A To recommend or to replace somebody, the next person who  
6 is the person who will be conducting the payments.

7 Q How does that work?

8 A Let's say I'm a public official today and I receive money  
9 from a person, and I will then recommend my replacement, the  
10 person who comes after me, to continue to work with the person  
11 who was paying me in the event that they wanted to keep that  
12 relationship going.

13 Q And is that a way that someone who is no longer in public  
14 office can still be useful to people they worked with earlier?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Can someone else be useful to the cartel if they fail to  
17 report other government officials who are still in office who  
18 worked with the cartel?

19 A I'm sorry, I didn't really understand the question.  
20 Could you repeat it?

21 Q Can someone be useful to the cartel even after they leave  
22 public office, if that person fails to report other public  
23 officials who work with the cartel who are still in office?

24 A If they don't recommend that person, then it stops --  
25 that person stops being useful. If they do recommend the

1 person, then they continue to be useful.

2 Q You were asked on cross-examination about some things  
3 that happened at your sentencing and whether or not you  
4 remembered them; do you remember being asked about that?

5 A Yes.

6 Q I believe defense counsel asked you why you didn't  
7 remember your sentencing because your sentencing directly  
8 impacted your own life; do you remember that question?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Does testifying in this case impact you and your family?

11 A Of course.

12 Q How?

13 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection. Can we --

14 THE COURT: Did you object?

15 MR. [REDACTED]: Yes, I did.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Sidebar, please.

17 (Continued on the next page.)

18 (Sidebar conference.)

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25

1 Q. And just for future purposes, can I ask the interpreter to  
2 provide the Court a translation of the nickname "El Judio"?

3 A. "The Jew."

4 THE COURT: I know what it is.

5 MS. [REDACTED]: Just for the record.

6 THE COURT: All right.

7 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

8 Q. And based on your observations, did Ismael Corone1  
9 Sica1ros know La Reina?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And now in approximately December of 2009, was Arturo  
12 Beltran Leyva also killed?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. And who took over the leadership following -- of the  
15 Beltran Leyva organization following Arturo's death?

16 A. Hector Beltran Leyva.

17 Q. Around that time, was there an individual who Hector  
18 perceived as a threat to the leader -- to his leadership of  
19 the Beltran Leyvas?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And who was that?

22 A. Edgar Valdez Villareal, alias La Barbie.

23 Q. Mr. Villarreal, are you aware of what ultimately happened  
24 to La Barbie, to Edgar Valdez?

25 A. That's correct. He fought with Hector Beltran, and he



1 ended up arrested by the federal police.

2 Q. Was there a particular federal police --

3 THE COURT: Wait a second.

4 MS. [REDACTED]: I'm sorry.

5 THE COURT: La Barbie was the one that was arrested  
6 by the federal police? Okay.

7 MS. [REDACTED]: Yes, your Honor.

8 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

9 Q. And Mr. Villarreal, are you aware of whether or not any  
10 members of the federal police received payment for their  
11 participation in that arrest?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Who was that?

14 A. La Reina.

15 Q. Was it La Reina's group that conducted the operation that  
16 resulted in the arrest of Edgar Valdez?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. And how much was paid by the Beltran Leyva organization to  
19 the federal police including La Reina?

20 A. Could you please repeat the question for me?

21 Q. How much did the Beltran Leyva organization pay to the  
22 members of the federal police including La Reina?

23 A. 500 -- \$500,000.

24 Q. How do you know that?

25 A. Because I was with The Judio to make that payment.

1 A The marines at that time did not have a lot of history  
2 working against the Sinaloa Cartel. They are mostly the Zetas  
3 and Gulf Cartel. I was the one indebted to them with the  
4 knowledge of what he looked like or what he would be like, the  
5 history, the experience, the training. The marines were  
6 relying on me to make that identification.

7 Q So what did you do?

8 A I -- at this moment I walked towards him. I believe he  
9 was here -- from this gentleman -- far away on his knees, and  
10 at that point I kind of froze myself and I said, holy, it is  
11 him. And I said -- I took a moment and I looked at him and he  
12 kind of looked at me, and I said eres tu, eres tu, Chapo.

13 Q What does that mean?

14 A It's you, it's you.

15 I said please stand him up, and at that point my  
16 vehicle had been driven behind me, in the parking lot. As the  
17 marines stood him up, I asked them please put him in the back,  
18 and one of you marines drive him out.

19 Q Who else was present at that time with the defendant?

20 A Oh, yes. Two baby girls and his wife.

21 Q Which one?

22 A Emma Coronel.

23 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as Government's  
24 Exhibit 45.

25 Is that the person that was with him at Hotel

Summations - [REDACTED]

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1 declared war against the Sinaloa cartel, as Damaso put it,  
2 it was the Beltran Leyva Organization against the defendant,  
3 Mayo and Nacho. So the Beltran Leyvas left the cartel, and  
4 they were an enemy.

5 Also during this time, Rey Zambada got  
6 arrested and Nacho Coronel was killed. So this left the  
7 defendant and Mayo Zambada as the preeminent leaders of the  
8 Sinaloa Cartel, not only as a result of their longevity in  
9 the cartel, but their partnership made them the most  
10 powerful of all.

11 All right. So now we talk a little bit about  
12 the defendant's criminal organization. Let's talk about how  
13 we know he was the boss of five or more people within the  
14 cartel. We proven all the elements of three and four beyond  
15 a reasonable doubt, we must talk about how.

16 Now, first, you heard from 14 cooperating  
17 witnesses and every single one of them took that stand and  
18 they testified under oath that the defendant, sitting right  
19 there, was a boss of the Sinaloa Cartel. In fact, 11 of  
20 these cooperating witness testified that they worked for the  
21 defendant in the Sinaloa Cartel; they each had different  
22 jobs within the cartel, but they all told you that they  
23 committed crimes for the cartel under the defendant's  
24 leadership. That right there, ladies and gentlemen, is more  
25 than five people.

1 A Yes, yes, obviously the favor that --

2 THE INTERPRETER: Interpreter correction.

3 A -- the favor that I would ask for would be for the person  
4 to kill the person I mentioned.

5 Q Did any of those murders have anything to do with your  
6 personal life as opposed to with the cartel?

7 A Yes. There were two murders that happened in Acapulco,  
8 of some of the Varela workers who wanted to kill me, and so I  
9 spoke with Arturo Beltran and I told him that those people  
10 were there and that they were after me.

11 Q Did the Sinaloa Cartel use violence?

12 A A great deal.

13 Q Did Arturo Beltran use violence as well?

14 A A very great deal.

15 Q When were you arrested?

16 A I was arrested on November 4th, 2010, but I was turned  
17 over to the authorities and the press on November 5th, 2010.

18 Q Was this in Mexico?

19 A Yes. I was arrested in a restaurant near Ajusco in  
20 Mexico City.

21 Q Who arrested you?

22 A I was arrested by the federal police.

23 Q You said you were arrested on November 4th, but not  
24 turned over until November 5th.

25 Can you explain what you mean by that?

1 A Yes, of course. So, after I was arrested, which was  
2 around 4 or so in the afternoon, the federal agents, the  
3 federal police officers, who weren't -- were addressed in  
4 civilian clothes, so at the time of my arrest they said to me:  
5 Are you fucking Conejo? You are really fucked.

6 Q I'm sorry, who is Conejo?

7 A Me.

8 Q Is that your nickname?

9 A Conejo.

10 Q Sorry, keep going.

11 A I was put into a car. They started beating me up. I was  
12 taken to a safehouse and my eyes were covered. They used a  
13 female sanitary pad to cover my eyes. I was taken, I don't  
14 know, to a safehouse. Well, it was a house.

15 Then they started asking me where my money was and  
16 how much my freedom would cost and how much would I be willing  
17 to pay if they let me go.

18 So I said: Yes, I can try to get money so you can  
19 let me go. Then they started putting mineral water up my  
20 nose, covering my mouth. Where's the money? Where did I  
21 live? They also put a plastic bag on me, you know, to  
22 suffocate me. They took my clothes off. They splashed cold  
23 water on me. They used electric shocks on me until I couldn't  
24 take it anymore, and then I was -- I had to tell them, yes. I  
25 had to tell them the houses where I lived.

1           After that, they let me relax a bit. They'd take  
2 the blindfold off of my eyes. They said: Look, you son of a  
3 bitch, you're not going to look around and see anything but  
4 the computer. They put on a laptop with Google Maps on it and  
5 they told me to tell them which ones are my residences. And  
6 then I gave them two addresses, and then they called over the  
7 radio. They were in communication with other agents to go  
8 over there to loot and to rob the houses at the addresses that  
9 I gave them.

10 Q     Did you pay them money?

11 A     No.

12 Q     Why not?

13 A     Because I already gave them the addresses of those houses  
14 and there was money there. Not a lot. I had about 50 to  
15 \$60,000. And I had jewelry, but that never showed up later.

16 Q     So why didn't they release you?

17 A     No, then they bandaged --

18           THE INTERPRETER: Interpreter correction.

19 A     No, then they blindfolded me again. And then they took  
20 me -- well, they told me to touch my face. And then they made  
21 me touch things and they asked me what it was that I was  
22 touching. And they made me touch things and tell them what I  
23 was touching. And I was touching bullets and a magazine and a  
24 long gun. It felt like AK-47s or maybe it was an AR-15. They  
25 made me touch a kilo of cocaine.

1 Q Was that actually your gun, your bullets, or your drugs?

2 A No, sir. I was never armed. I'm not one to go around  
3 armed. That day I was with a girlfriend of mine. We were  
4 eating strawberries and cream at a restaurant. I wasn't going  
5 around -- I didn't have any weapons. I wasn't gonna go around  
6 carrying a kilo on me while I was shipping tons out.

7 After that, they make me get dressed. They give me  
8 my clothes. And from there they sent me to an office in the  
9 same -- it's in the same place. They sent me to a room. They  
10 come back and they tell me -- well, they take off my blindfold  
11 and say: All you're gonna look at is the camera. If not,  
12 we're going to beat you more.

13 Q Sorry to interrupt you. What office are you in at this  
14 point?

15 A After they take the blindfold off my eyes, I see it says  
16 federal police: They put me up against the wall with the --  
17 with the -- with the logos of the federal police. They put me  
18 up against the wall and they filmed me with -- with a video  
19 camera. And they said: We're going to ask you some questions  
20 and you're going to answer them right, you son of a bitch.

21 Q What was the first thing they asked you?

22 A The first thing that they asked me was to give my full  
23 name and my nickname. I told them my name is Harold Mauricio  
24 Poueda Ortega, a/k/a Conejo. They asked me a second question:  
25 What do you do?

1           So I said: I'm a businessman. They said: No, you  
2           son of a bitch, you have to say that you're a drug trafficker.

3           Q     What did they ask you next?

4           A     Well, they asked me the question again and I told them  
5           that I was a drug trafficker, that's what they wanted me to  
6           say. And they asked me: With who, with who do you work?

7                     And I said: With Arturo Beltran Leyva.

8                     And they came back and they said I had to say that I  
9           worked for El -- for Chapo Guzman.

10          Q     And was that true at that time, you were working for  
11          Chapo Guzman?

12          A     No, I mean I know I knew him, but that wasn't -- that  
13          wasn't true. I think that they wanted me to say that so that  
14          Chapo would think that I was outing him.

15          Q     After all this, did you end up cooperating with the  
16          Mexican authorities?

17          A     Well, after making that video and thinking that they'd  
18          published part of it, I decided to, out of fear, in case that  
19          Chapo would send out to have me killed, to become a protected  
20          witness.

21          Q     What does that mean, to be a protected witness?

22          A     I'm sorry, I forgot something.

23                     Can I say it?

24          Q     Of course.

25          A     At the moment that they bring me to the authorities,



1 November 5th, in front of the authorities and the press at  
2 6:00 in the morning at a federal police place, it was like  
3 a -- like an airport, at the hanger of the federal  
4 preventative police. And when they present me, I remember  
5 that they put me at a table and there was the gun and the  
6 bullets and the kilo that they made me touch.

7 Q So you said you became a protected witness in Mexico.

8 What is that?

9 A Being a protected witness in Mexico is like cooperating  
10 with the Mexican government.

11 Q So you did that, you cooperated with the Mexican  
12 government?

13 A After I went through the tests that they make you take to  
14 become a protected witness, a polygraph test, a lie detector,  
15 and then I passed the tests, and so yes, sir, I became a  
16 protected witness.

17 Q And did you agree to be extradited to the United States?

18 A Yes, I accept the extradition to the United States.

19 Q Around when were you extradited to the United States?

20 A I was extradited to the United States in 2012, at the  
21 beginning of 2012.

22 Q And after your extradition, did you begin cooperating  
23 with the United States government?

24 A That's right.

25 Q Were you truthful?

1 Conejo says, hey, I was at Arturo's house and Arturo  
2 was upset. He had a bunch of phones everywhere, 15, 20  
3 phones, he was agitated, and he said, they had just grabbed  
4 Garcia Luna, and he was going to kill him. And Conejo said,  
5 hey, slow down, that's not someone -- that's not someone that  
6 you want to kill. He's the head of the federal police.

7 Arturo tells Conejo, he's the head of the federal  
8 police. He's the one who's been fucking with us on behalf of  
9 Rey, Chapo, and Mayo.

10 And Conejo says, no, Arturo, how can you think about  
11 killing that guy? Don't even think about doing that. We're  
12 going to have problem after problem if we do that. The  
13 Government is going to come after us at full force.

14 There's no illusion here. Remember who's who. The  
15 Sinaloa Cartel has hundreds of people, hundreds. They have a  
16 lot of weapons, they're capable of a lot of violence, but the  
17 federal police has 40,000 people. They have BLACK HAWK  
18 helicopters and M16s, and if they want to go after someone,  
19 they're perfectly capable of doing that. That's what they did  
20 at Conejo's house.

21 So Conejo says, hang on. What are you doing? Don't  
22 kill him. Just talk to him. So that's what happened. Just  
23 talk to him. Put your cards on the table. Make him see, make  
24 him understand what is really going on here, and let's see  
25 what happens.

1 A Yes. He thanked me, so did Alfredo.

2 Q Let's talk about El Chapo.

3 When did you first meet El Chapo?

4 A I met him in 2001 when he escaped from the Puente Grande,  
5 the penal institution.

6 Q Approximately when in 2001 was that?

7 A Early in the year.

8 Q Were you involved in that escape?

9 A Well, yes, I conspired.

10 Q What did you do?

11 A So he escaped and he was wanted by everyone, and some  
12 time went by, a few days went by, my brother called me, and he  
13 said, you know, they're after him, the army is after him  
14 again, they want to arrest him.

15 Q Did you help?

16 A I -- yes. And I said, why did you call me. He said, I  
17 need you to get me a place where a helicopter can land without  
18 any problem so I can send for him, rescue him, because if we  
19 don't do that, they're going to grab him. I said, okay, I can  
20 do that.

21 Q Did you go pick up Chapo?

22 A Yes. I found a place, I sent him the coordinates, and I  
23 said, this is where we can pick him up.

24 Q Where did you take him?

25 A He -- it was a place in Querétaro near San Juan del Rio

1 and some time in the early morning hours, the helicopter  
2 landed, and we were able to pick him up. We rescued him.

3 Q What happened next?

4 A I took him to Mexico City. I asked my brother to come  
5 with me, but I said we should go separately, you go  
6 separately.

7 Q At this time, after Chapo's escape from prison in early  
8 2001, was that a highly publicized event?

9 A Yes. His photograph was everywhere. It was put  
10 everywhere. It was a very noteworthy topic that was being  
11 reported on.

12 Q And you testified that the army was trying to recapture  
13 him, right?

14 A Yes. That's correct.

15 Q Why did you feel safe taking Chapo Guzman through Mexico  
16 City right after his escape?

17 A Well, because an AFI commander helped me and a Federal  
18 Police Highway Officer helped me.

19 Q How did they help you?

20 A Well, I asked both commanders, you know, each one of you  
21 stay on top of your teams, and I asked them to please make  
22 sure that -- check that there was no obstacles on the way in  
23 the area of state until we got to Mexico City.

24 Q From 2001 until 2012, was when Chapo ever arrested?

25 A Well, I was arrested in 2008. He was free up until then,

Vazquez - direct - [REDACTED]

1 A We were able to capture Joaquin Guzman Loera.

2 Q Were you present when Joaquin Guzman Loera was arrested?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Do you see the person that you assisted in capturing in  
5 the court today?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Can you describe an article of clothing that he is  
8 wearing?

9 MR. [REDACTED]: Your Honor, we will stipulate that  
10 Mr. Guzman is at the table.

11 THE COURT: And the witness will recognize him as  
12 such.

13 MR. [REDACTED]: Yes.

14 THE COURT: Do you?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 THE COURT: All right. So stipulated.

17 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

18 Q What was your role specifically within this capture  
19 operation?

20 A My role was I was the lead U.S. liaison embedded with the  
21 Marines on the ground.

22 Q When you say Marines, what are you talk about?

23 A The Mexican Marine.

24 Q What's the name of the Mexican Marines?

25 A They are also known as Semar, S-E-M-A-R.

Vazquez - direct - [REDACTED]

1 Q When you say Mexican Marines, can you describe for the  
2 ladies and gentlemen of the jury what that is?

3 A It means I was the one embedded with the Marines on a  
4 daily basis on the ground from the start of the operations to  
5 the end; sharing information again with the Marines on a daily  
6 basis from the information coming from offices on the domestic  
7 side.

8 Q Now, before we get on the ground, what role did you play  
9 in organizing this specific capture operation?

10 A I requested or suggested to my chain of command that we  
11 use the Marines for this specific operation.

12 Q When you say chain of command who --

13 A My supervisors in Mexico City.

14 Q With what agency?

15 A The DEA.

16 Q Why is it that you specifically requested to work with  
17 the Mexican Marines in this capture operation?

18 A My relationship with Marines and the success with the  
19 Marines have gotten me to that date, to that point, the  
20 reputation.

21 Q Now had there been capture operations against any of  
22 these three leaders of the Sinaloa cartel in the past?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Were those successful?

25 A No.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q What decision did you make at that time?

2 A We decided to go after Joaquin Guzman Loera.

3 Q So where did you go?

4 A We had to go back to the city of Culiacan.

5 Q What date is this?

6 A This is February 16, 2014.

7 Q Where do you go in Culiacan?

8 A So once again, there is no Mexican Marine base in

9 Culiacan, so we go to a field north of the city.

10 Q What do you do at the field in the north of Culiacan?

11 A We establish a command post there.

12 Q Who do you target first once you set up the command post  
13 in Culiacan?

14 A We targeted an individual known as Condor.

15 Q Why were you targeting Condor?

16 A Condor was the individual that was primarily most of the  
17 time with Guzman Loera.

18 Q Did you locate Condor on that date, on February 16th?

19 A No.

20 Q Did you get any -- did you try several times on that date  
21 to locate him?

22 A Yes, we had a couple of locations for him.

23 Q Were there any problems when you were trying to find him  
24 or see him at another location?

25 A Yes, in the first location we didn't have any success, so

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 we moved to the second location and at the second location we  
2 were stopped by the local police force.

3 Q Why was that a problem?

4 A Once again, the police force --

5 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection as to this.

6 THE COURT: Overruled.

7 A It's a problem because we're moving around the city of  
8 Culiacan in two unmarked vehicles and get stopped by the local  
9 police force for no reason. Safety issue and corruption  
10 issue.

11 Q So what decision do you make after this happens?

12 A We go back to the field north of the city.

13 Q To the command post?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What decision, if any, do you decide -- I'm sorry, strike  
16 that. Who, if anyone, do you attempt to locate next?

17 A We changed our strategy, we went after an individual  
18 known as Nariz.

19 Q What is Naris, that's N-A-R-I-S, is that a Spanish word?

20 A Yes. N-A-R-I-Z. Nariz.

21 Q What does it stand for, what does it mean?

22 A Nariz means nose.

23 Q What prompted you to look for Nariz?

24 A We knew Nariz was a individual, a runner for Guzman  
25 Loera, a gopher, an individual that would go and retrieve



1 things for Guzman Loera, an individual that knew all his  
2 houses, his cars, locations, where Guzman Loera spent his time  
3 in the city of Culiacan. He knew absolutely everything about  
4 Guzman Loera.

5 Q Did you locate Nariz on that date?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Where did you find him?

8 A At this residence.

9 Q Can you describe what happened when you arrived at  
10 Nariz's residence?

11 A We had information that he could be celebrating an event  
12 of some sorts. We went to the location of interest and at  
13 first we couldn't find where he was or a good location for  
14 him, like a house or a residence, but we did notice that there  
15 was a party going on. This is Sunday night almost on a Monday  
16 morning, with two suburbans blocking the entry to this street  
17 where all these houses are at. And I went back to the  
18 conversation that I had received from the domestic office that  
19 said he's got to be here because we can't find him, we can't  
20 get into that street but he is celebrating something and  
21 that's a party, he has to be there.

22 Q So what did you do as a result of this?

23 A At that point there was only two vehicles around that  
24 area, myself and another vehicle of marines. I called the  
25 rest of the Mexican Marines that were now in their marked

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 trucks to surround the area, cordon off the area, make a  
2 perimeter, nobody leaves or enters this area until we search  
3 or -- this area for Nariz.

4 Q And what did you do next?

5 A Once the marines told me they had a good perimeter of the  
6 location, I exited my vehicle and we walked towards the party.  
7 There was maybe 15, 16, 17 males, 10 to 12 females celebrating  
8 a party, having drinking, listening to music.

9 Q When you arrived at this location did you know what Nariz  
10 looked like?

11 A No, I just knew that it had to do something with his  
12 nose. He had a big nose, small nose, no nose, something.  
13 Something told me focus on the nose.

14 Q When you arrive at this location do you find Nariz, when  
15 you first arrive at the location?

16 A No. I -- I had the information in hand that I was  
17 looking for an individual named Nariz. So I had asked the  
18 marines to line up all the males in front of the party and to  
19 please ask them to show us their phones and if they had a  
20 Blackberry device to show us their Blackberry PIN.

21 Q What is a Blackberry PIN?

22 A A Blackberry PIN is used to message a Blackberry PIN  
23 messenger, it's a message from one Blackberry to the other.  
24 Blackberry is just like a regular device, a Nokia or another  
25 type of device like an iPhone.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q Why were you looking for the specific Blackberry PIN?

2 A Because of the information we were getting the domestic  
3 office.

4 Q And which domestic office was providing you with this  
5 information?

6 A HSI office out of Nogales, Arizona.

7 Q What happened when you asked the marines to line up these  
8 men at the party?

9 A At that point I believe it was an all or nothing. I  
10 didn't want to show my hand and say, hey, which one of you is  
11 Nariz. Most likely I was not going to get any positive  
12 response. So I was going down the line of men. The females,  
13 we just let them go. They were sitting down, standing up.  
14 They were obviously complaining, you know, what were you doing  
15 here, whatever, so we ignored them, let me do whatever they  
16 wanted to. Some were sitting just looking.

17 As I went by each male, I don't have a Blackberry,  
18 okay, step back. I have a Blackberry, here's my PIN. At that  
19 moment I had a marine Intel analyst with me and I said confirm  
20 the last three for Nariz that we have from domestic office.  
21 He said it was 87F. I said that's the number we're looking  
22 for, so if you see it, that's going to be our guy. As I go  
23 down, I'm going down, I'm down to four or three males left,  
24 and at that point I'm telling myself, this is it, this is our  
25 moment it has to be something happening here, one of these

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 guys has to be it and right when I'm asking the third guy to  
2 the end, my attention gets diverted to my left as one of the  
3 females jumps off her chair and kind of yells, I'm going to  
4 check on my baby. Just out of the blue.

5 Q Did you observe where this woman went?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And did where she went draw any attention to you?

8 A Absolutely.

9 Q Why?

10 A Because it was -- it was -- to me, it triggered some kind  
11 of like alert, you got to pay attention. This is not right,  
12 why would she just get up and jump off the chair.

13 Q Where did you see her go?

14 A I told the marine next to me, pay attention to her as I  
15 kept asking the males and he pointed at me and said, look at  
16 the house where she's going to. I turned around, she walked  
17 towards probably one of the nicest houses in the neighbor,  
18 with a brand new -- what looked to be a brand new car in the  
19 driveway, and I said he's in there, he's in that house.

20 Q When you say "he" who are you referring to?

21 A Nariz.

22 Q So what did you do next?

23 A I asked the marines to search that residence. At that  
24 point we had a female -- two female marines, one a doctor, one  
25 a nurse. I asked the nurse or the doctor, I can't recall

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 which one it was, to please go in there and ask the female to  
2 exit the residence as we wanted to have the marines search.

3 Q Did you go into the residence?

4 A I went in through the entry of the door. As I entered, I  
5 saw it was a living room and I saw the female holding her baby  
6 with tight hands on the side yelling at the marines, Get out  
7 of my house, get out of my house, you're corrupt, get out of  
8 here. I asked the female marine, please bring her out, we  
9 have to search this residence and she refused. And what  
10 another thing that caught my attention was she held her hands  
11 very tight to her sides. As she's holding the baby, she's  
12 yelling but she's yelling in to her baby that was another  
13 concern. It was like, why are you so concerned about the baby  
14 if you're yelling in her ear. So I asked the marine, please  
15 pull her out. As the marine attempts to pull the baby, they  
16 struggled a little bit, the marine pulled the baby -- the  
17 female marine pulled the baby away, as the baby was pulled  
18 away from the female a phone dropped from her armpit.

19 Q What did you do once you saw the phone?

20 A When I saw the phone fall, I said check that phone, he's  
21 in the house.

22 Q What happened next?

23 A The marines went into the back of the master bedroom and  
24 they pulled Nariz out.

25 Q Well, what happened next?

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A They walked Nariz towards me, I was maybe from here to  
2 the wall away from him and I said, "Tu eres Nariz."

3 Q What does that mean in English?

4 A I said, you are Nariz, you are nose or the nose.

5 Q What did this person respond?

6 A He said -- he nodded, he said yes.

7 Q Showing you for identification purposes Government  
8 Exhibit 219-1.

9 Do you recognize the person in this photo?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Is this a fair and accurate depiction of the person you  
12 saw --

13 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection, Your Honor.

14 A Yes.

15 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

16 MS. [REDACTED]: At this time the government moves to  
17 admit Government Exhibit 219-1 into evidence.

18 THE COURT: Received.

19 (Government Exhibit 219-1, was received in  
20 evidence.)

21 Q Agent Vasquez, who is this?

22 A That's Nariz.

23 Q Now after he admitted that he was Nariz, what did you ask  
24 him next?

25 A I asked him, do you know where he's at right now, I want

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 to know where he's at right now. By he, I meant Guzman Loera.

2 Q What did Nariz respond?

3 A He responded he's at the 3.

4 Q Did you ask him anything else?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Why?

7 A 'Cause I knew he was lying to me.

8 Q I'd like to show you what is in evidence as Government  
9 Exhibit 610N-6T.

10 You said you were being provided information from  
11 HSI Nogales. When you said that you knew Nariz was lying when  
12 said he was in 3, why is that?

13 A Because of the conversation from the domestic office, the  
14 Nogales HSI office had previously sent us.

15 Q Drawing your attention to paragraph 3. Can you read that  
16 in English, please.

17 A Yeah, bro, go there very early to the birria and take it  
18 to the 5, bring waters. I forgot the rocket at the 3. Behind  
19 the cautiba in the back, bring it to me.

20 Q Had you seen this message before?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Was this a message that you had when you indicated you  
23 believed that Nariz wasn't being honest with you?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Can you explain why?

1 A I received the message in Spanish and my conversations  
2 and my chats and when he told me he was at the 3, I knew he  
3 was -- Guzman Loera was already at 5.

4 Q At that time did you know what the 3 or the 5 stood for?

5 A Code words for locations or safe houses or safe  
6 locations.

7 Q So when Nariz told you that he was at the 3, what did you  
8 say to him?

9 A I said, no, he's not, and I asked him one more question:  
10 Where are you taking the birria tomorrow?

11 Q That's B-I-R-R-I-A.

12 A Yes.

13 Q What does that mean?

14 A Birria it's a goat soup, goat stew.

15 Q Why did you ask him about the goat stew?

16 A I used that question because if I -- once I knew he  
17 was -- if I used birria he would know that I was -- that I  
18 knew he was lying to me and I was on to him, I knew more about  
19 him than he thought.

20 Q And what happened when you asked Nariz about this?

21 A So when I asked him, he put his head down and his eyes  
22 kind of rolled back wide, his air kind of left and he said,  
23 he's at the 5.

24 Q At some point in time did you come to learn where the 3  
25 and 5 were?



VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q How did you find out?

3 A Nariz took us there.

4 Q So after Nariz told you who's at the 5, what did you do  
5 next?

6 A Advised the marines to have Nariz go in the passenger  
7 side of his vehicle, have a marine drive and two marines  
8 behind. I told them grab all the remote controls in the  
9 vehicles or other vehicles around in the house, remote  
10 controls of the garages, I mean. And he would take us there.

11 Q He being who?

12 A Nariz.

13 Q Where is the first location you went to?

14 A The 5.

15 Q For the witness, I'm showing you what's been marked as  
16 Government Exhibit 219-2 for identification.

17 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

18 THE COURT: 219-2 received.

19 (Government Exhibit 219-2, was received in  
20 evidence.)

21 Q Publishing Government Exhibit 219-2.

22 (Exhibit published.)

23 Q Agent Vasquez, what are we looking at here?

24 A House 5.

25 Q Now, how did you get there?

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A I didn't want to take all the marines in a convoy marked  
2 units, so I wanted Nariz to be in his vehicle, the same  
3 vehicle that Guzman Loera would recognize in case he saw him,  
4 in case Guzman was looking out the window. So I used that  
5 vehicle with my vehicle and another unmarked vehicle behind  
6 us. I told the marine driving, I said, Listen, when he tells  
7 you to make a left, make a left. When he tells you to make a  
8 right, right. Once you reach the last turn before the houses  
9 in the street, you stop, you don't know go.

10 Q Why did you give the marine that instruction?

11 A I wanted us close enough, the closest possible to the  
12 residence without raising any alert or any suspicion from  
13 anybody around in unmarked vehicles. Three vehicles at the  
14 most, Nariz's car, and two vehicles of marines behind him.

15 Q So what happened next?

16 A As we traveled, maybe it was 15 minutes of turns and  
17 lefts and the marine finally reach out to me, I had my radio  
18 right here, he said, Vic --

19 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection.

20 THE COURT: Overruled.

21 A He said, Nariz told me that once I make this right the  
22 house is on this street.

23 Q And after the marine told you that, what did you do next?

24 A I said, Good, don't move park your car there. I reached  
25 out to my marine sergeant, Mexican Marine sergeant that was

1 with me, as he called everybody here at our location, surround  
2 the neighbor again, nobody in, nobody out. Once we make that  
3 turn it's going to be a go and we need to have a good  
4 perimeter.

5 Q What happened next?

6 A We waited for the marines to build a perimeter around  
7 their location. Once my sergeant said everything is good,  
8 confirm, okay, and I told the marine, make a right. The two  
9 marines behind in the back seat, start using the remote  
10 controls to the garage. I said, whatever house opens,  
11 whatever house opens, that's your house.

12 Q What happened next?

13 A As the marines made the right, I was maybe 200, maybe  
14 150 meters behind it so I hurried up. I can see them going  
15 down the street and I'm behind it and I see a door, a garage  
16 door open roll up.

17 Q What did you do next?

18 A I was actually surprised that it actually worked. I was  
19 like, whoa, there it is.

20 Nariz -- the marine with Nariz parked right past the  
21 residence, I went straight to the opening of the garage, I  
22 parked my car right in the opening, I got out and  
23 automatically immediately observed what we were looking at.

24 Q What was that?

25 A It was a house, you see it has metal railings protecting

1 on the windows, the lights upstairs were on. The marines in  
2 my vehicle along with the other marines that were surrounding  
3 the perimeter immediately went up into the entry of the garage  
4 and --

5 Q Before they got to the garage, did you give the marines  
6 any instructions as to where to go once they got into the  
7 house?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What prompted you to give them those instructions?

10 A A communication from domestic office.

11 Q Which domestic office?

12 A HSI Nogales.

13 Q And what was that information?

14 A I said, don't waste your time with the upstairs, go  
15 straight to the master bedroom bathroom.

16 Q Why did you instruct the marines to go straight to the  
17 bathroom?

18 A Because I knew he was using tunnels to move from location  
19 to the other locations.

20 Q So what happens when they get to the door?

21 A When they get to the door, the marines use a ram, a  
22 battering ram --

23 Q What's a battering ram?

24 A It's a device about this big, maybe shorter, some are  
25 cylinder, some are square. You use them like to make entry.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Law enforcement uses them all the time to make entry during  
2 search warrants.

3 It takes them about eight, nine minutes to get in.  
4 They break one, they call for the other one. They come in and  
5 get the second ram going. They are telling us, hey, it's a  
6 fortified door, it's a metal door, it's hard to get in. I  
7 said, keep going, keep going, don't waste your time upstairs  
8 go to the straight to master bedroom bathroom when you get in.

9 Q Had you ever used a battering ram before?

10 A Yes.

11 Q How many times in your experience have you had one break  
12 trying to get into a door?

13 A None.

14 Q As the marines are trying to get into the door with the  
15 battering ram, what are you doing?

16 A I'm standing back and I'm communicating with the marines.  
17 The captain is running around and I'm -- he's advising  
18 everything -- the perimeter is secure. I said nobody in or  
19 out, tire flats ready, everybody gets stopped and questioned.  
20 We need to surround, secure the whole neighborhood.

21 Q What's a tire flat?

22 A A tire flat is a device used by law enforcement or  
23 military to throw on the street to make a vehicle that's  
24 running fast or going away or trying to evade get a flat tire.

25 Q Were the Mexican Marines able to enter the house?

1 A Yes.

2 Q What happened next?

3 A As I heard the marines -- I'm still standing in front of  
4 the garage, I heard the marines go in 'cause I heard the rams  
5 go down and make entry. I waited maybe what seemed to be  
6 forever but it was more like 10, 15 seconds and on my radio  
7 said, "tunel," "tunel," "tunel," which means tunnel, tunnel,  
8 tunnel. Then I heard a big bam sound. After the bang sound I  
9 waited for any gunfire because that would tell me who  
10 detonated, I didn't hear any gunfire after the bang so I knew  
11 the marines had detonated.

12 Q What did they detonate?

13 A A flash bang.

14 Q Why did they do that?

15 A Once they saw the tunnel opening, it's probably not a  
16 good idea to go down there and see who is down there. You  
17 don't know who's waiting for you to go down there, so they had  
18 to detonate a flash bang to.

19 Q What happens when you detonate a flash bang?

20 A Obviously makes a big sound, big noise. The walls  
21 rattle, stuff on the walls comes down, the lights go out.  
22 There's smoke, a little smoke is in the close -- especially in  
23 the area like that a bathroom or master bedroom there is a lot  
24 of smoke comes out.

25 Q Where did you go? Did you enter the house at this time?

1 A No.

2 Q Where did you go?

3 A I'm still outside, I hear the sound and I know the  
4 marines have found a tunnel, so my priority is to say, okay, I  
5 had marines -- we had marines going in there now, let's make  
6 sure everything is secure and he's not coming out of the  
7 manhole covers. And we got a good perimeter.

8 So I'm running around making sure everybody is in  
9 place. Some marines are stopping people on the street. I  
10 quickly go, that's not him, let him go. Boom, boom, boom.  
11 There's marines all over the place, action on the radio. The  
12 captain is yelling, hey, do this, do that, make sure you  
13 secure. The marines that are following him say we hear him,  
14 we hear him up front, we hear him up front.

15 Q When the marines are saying, we hear him, we hear him,  
16 what do you understand that to mean?

17 A As they hear Guzman Loera in front in the tunnel.

18 Q At some point in time did you go in the house?

19 A Yes.

20 Q When you say that you're setting a perimeter, what does  
21 that mean?

22 A Staging marines in corners, different layers or different  
23 circular perimeters around the block making sure that you  
24 identify anybody that's trying to leave or entering, which is  
25 easy because it was probably four in the morning 3:30 in the

1 morning on a Monday morning so there was not a lot of traffic,  
2 so that was really easy to do because, you know...

3 Q How wide was the perimeter that you set up?

4 A About two blocks.

5 Q So what happens when you go inside of the house?

6 A When I go in, the marine points, direct me to what is  
7 enter through my right, I go in, I observe, I go down because  
8 the marines are now relaying it's very hot, very humid --

9 Q You go down where?

10 A Into the tunnel. And as I go in, I go in maybe 15,  
11 20 feet and I said, wow, this is really hot and I'm going have  
12 issues going through here because it's really -- some parts  
13 they're telling me, hey, it's very -- "muy chiquito," "muy  
14 chiquito."

15 Q What does that mean?

16 A Very small areas where the marines -- I mean even they  
17 are having trouble getting in there because of the size of the  
18 tunnel and the conditions.

19 Q Agent Vasquez, how tall are you?

20 A 6'2".

21 Q Were you able to easily maneuver in that tunnel?

22 A In the beginning, yes, but you can tell as you keep going  
23 you're going to be basically crouched the majority of the  
24 time.

25 Q What decision did you make?



VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A I go back out and I start telling the marines, okay,  
2 don't go any more in the bathtub. Let's start using these  
3 manhole covers because if he's down here, as we're getting  
4 reported by the radio, let's start opening these manhole  
5 covers. Some were square like you have here in New York,  
6 square ones, but most of them are circular manhole covers, a  
7 little smaller than the ones in the U.S. And marines are  
8 saying, hey, you can't go in there with your long gun because  
9 it's too -- at some point you can't -- I mean it's going to be  
10 cumbersome.

11 Q So what happens?

12 A I was there with the captain, I said, Captain, maybe you  
13 should ask volunteers without their long guns and without  
14 their vests because this is -- the vest is going to make them  
15 really hot. The captain said okay only handguns and take your  
16 vest off, volunteers only.

17 Q How many people volunteered?

18 A Every single marine volunteered.

19 Q What did they do next?

20 A As they were going down I had some chem lights in my  
21 cargo pocket.

22 Q What is a chem light?

23 A Chem light is like, I don't know, artificial, a chemical  
24 light used to really -- kids use them on Halloween, chem  
25 light. I cracked a few open and I handed them out to each

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 marine going in and I said, "Hey, vaya con Dios, ale."

2 Q What does that mean in English?

3 A Go with God.

4 Q So after the marines volunteered to go down in the  
5 manholes, what did you do next?

6 A Can you repeat again.

7 Q Yes. After the marines volunteered to go into the  
8 manholes, what did you do next?

9 A As I'm sending them off, and I stayed there for a little  
10 bit, again secured everybody, all the marines that are not in  
11 the manhole covers are ready on standby and then I make my way  
12 back to the house.

13 Q Do you grab anything before you go into the house?

14 A Yes.

15 Q What do you grab?

16 A I go to my vehicle and I turn on my GoPro.

17 Q What's a GoPro?

18 A A device used to record video.

19 Q Did you record your entry into the house the second time?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Showing you for identification Government Exhibit 219-31.

22 MR. [REDACTED] No objection, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Received.

24 (Government Exhibit 219-31, was received in  
25 evidence.)

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q What's in evidence now as 219-31, I'd like to play two  
2 clips. The first clip for the record is zero seconds to 45  
3 seconds.

4 Agent Vasquez, I would like to ask you to narrate  
5 what we're seeing as the video is playing. If we can also dim  
6 the lights. Thank you.

7 (Video recording played.)

8 A So that's where my vehicle is at. I'm walking towards  
9 the garage door entry. I'm making my way into the front door,  
10 foyer. You can see there is a marine standing there and the  
11 metal door that was so hard for marines to get in there.  
12 There's two rams on the ground. I'm telling the marine that  
13 Nariz had notified Condor, but Condor never got the message  
14 that we were coming --

15 Q What are we looking at here?

16 A -- you see the entry here of the upstairs and the kitchen  
17 area, living room. You see a frame down because of the  
18 explosion, and then you have the master bedroom the lights are  
19 completely out, you see the entry to the tunnel underneath the  
20 bathtub.

21 Q That light that we're seeing, was that the entry to the  
22 tub?

23 A Yes.

24 Q That's at about 38 seconds.

25 Now, at that time you see a painting that's on the

1 sofa, do you know why it was on the sofa?

2 A Because of the explosion.

3 Q Now we're going to play the second clip. Sorry. Which,  
4 for the record, is from one minute 26 seconds to two minutes  
5 53 seconds.

6 (Video recording played.)

7 Now right there on the right-hand side, what do we  
8 see on the screen?

9 A You see like a little command -- not a command center, a  
10 place to set up a camera or closed circuit TV.

11 Q Where you now?

12 A This is the master bedroom.

13 Q Where is that?

14 A There's the tunnel, it's like a vent. You see the  
15 bathtub being pulled up. It's assisting -- somebody pulls it  
16 up it's assisted by two shock absorbers.

17 Q What else is happening as you're inspecting the bathroom?

18 A I have a few of the marines coming back. These are a few  
19 of the ones that went into the tunnel originally, they are  
20 coming back. They're absolutely exhausted. As you can see,  
21 they are not very tall but even them had issues with it.  
22 Trying to help them get out of that.

23 Q It looks like there is a sledgehammer at the side of the  
24 tub, what was that for?

25 A That was used to just make sure the tub didn't fall on

1 anybody as far as the Mexican Marines.

2 Q And what is the physical state of the marines as they are  
3 coming out?

4 A They're tired, exhausted. They're telling me, oof, it's  
5 extremely hot down there. We went ahead and were relieved by  
6 other marines that were going into the manhole covers.

7 Q By this time approximately how much time had you spent at  
8 this location, approximately?

9 A It was so -- I don't know, maybe an hour.

10 Q Did you find the defendant at this house?

11 A No.

12 Q So after you searched the tunnel, what did you do next?

13 A Regrouped and regathered, kept going.

14 Q Where did you go next?

15 A We still had Nariz, so we had Nariz take us to the next  
16 location.

17 Q Before we move on to the next location, I'd like to show  
18 you what's been marked for identification as Government  
19 Exhibit 219-8.

20 Do you recognize that photo?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What is that photo?

23 A That's me coming out of the tunnel.

24 Q Is that a true and accurate depiction of you at that  
25 time?

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A Yes.

2 Q The government moves to admit --

3 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

4 THE COURT: Received.

5 (Government Exhibit 219-8, was received in  
6 evidence.)

7 Q The government will ask to publish Government  
8 Exhibit 219-8.

9 (Exhibit published.)

10 This is the entry of what tunnel, of what tub? Is  
11 that the house we just looked at?

12 A Yes, house 5.

13 Q On the left and the right-hand side we see certain  
14 objects that I just marked in green, can you describe what  
15 those objects are?

16 A Chucks used to help assist in pulling the bathtub up.

17 Q Now, you go to the next location, what day is that?

18 A Still the same day, February 17th, 2014.

19 Q Does Nariz go with you to this location?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Showing you for identification purposes Government  
22 Exhibit 219-3.

23 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

24 THE COURT: Received.

25 (Government Exhibit 219-3, was received in

1 evidence.)

2 Q Moving into evidence, 219-3 and publishing to the jury.

3 (Exhibit published.)

4 Agent Vasquez, what are we looking at in this photo?

5 A That's the second location we went to that Nariz took us  
6 to.

7 Q What happened when you got there?

8 A Marines made entry, located the tunnel.

9 Q Did you find anyone inside?

10 A No, ma'am.

11 Q What did you do after you entered into this location?

12 A We immediately kept going. At each location, house 5,  
13 this location. Once we -- the marines made entry, secured it,  
14 checked it, make sure nobody was inside or around the area, we  
15 moved to the second location and we always left marines behind  
16 to secure it to make sure nobody would come back in.

17 Q Why were you doing this?

18 A If we made entry and nobody was there we wanted to keep  
19 going, I wanted to keep going because we didn't have enough  
20 time, the light -- the sunlight is coming up, word is going to  
21 get out that we're going around. An associate can get the  
22 word out, hey, they're going to all these houses, go to this  
23 house take this out before they get there. I wanted to go  
24 through the whole house location, warehouses, associate houses  
25 that Nariz was aware of before anybody -- an associate of

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Guzman Loera could get to that house and take anything out, I  
2 wanted to hit everything in place.

3 Q So after you went to this location, where did you go  
4 next?

5 A To a third location.

6 Q Showing you for identification purposes, Government  
7 Exhibit 219-4.

8 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

9 THE COURT: Received.

10 (Government Exhibit 219-4, was received in  
11 evidence.)

12 Q Moving into evidence 219-4 and publishing to the jury.

13 (Exhibit published.)

14 Q Agent Vasquez, what are we looking at here?

15 A That's the third location that we went to.

16 Q Was Nariz still with you?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Does Nariz enter the house with you?

19 A Yes.

20 Q What, if anything, do you see Nariz do or observe him do?

21 A Nariz shows myself and the marines how to get into the  
22 tunnels.

23 Q What did you observe him do?

24 A I observed him grab a piece of metal or a little piece of  
25 wire with the two ends bare, insert it into the outlet of the



VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 vanity, underneath the vanity mirror. Once he does this  
2 there's a little sound, a crackling sound from the bathtub  
3 which separates the sealant of the bathtub from the base.

4 Q Did you take a video of Nariz opening the bathtub?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Showing you for identification purposes what's been  
7 marked Government's Exhibit 219-32.

8 Do you recognize this video?

9 A Yes.

10 Q I'm sorry, do you recognize this CD?

11 A Yes.

12 Q How do you recognize it?

13 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

14 THE COURT: Received.

15 (Government Exhibit 219-32, was received in  
16 evidence.)

17 MS. [REDACTED]: Admitting into evidence 219-32.

18 I'd like to play this for the jury, I'd like the  
19 lights dimmed as well.

20 Can you narrate also for us as the video is playing  
21 what it is we're looking at?

22 A So Nariz is standing right underneath the vanity and he's  
23 inserting piece of wire into the outlet. Once it's down,  
24 there is a sound, there's a marine taking a picture he's  
25 asking where's it at, Nariz says over here, and you can see

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 the white crackling come apart from the bathtub, from the  
2 base, and we asked to Nariz to lift it. He's having issues,  
3 but that's one of the shock absorbers coming to assist  
4 anybody, now it makes it easy for him to lift it.

5 MS. [REDACTED]: Pause it there.

6 (Video recording paused.)

7 Q In the back we something black, what is that?

8 A This part here?

9 Q Yes. Actually we have a photo. Yes, we'll do it with  
10 the photo. Keep going.

11 (Video recording played.)

12 A So we asked Nariz, hey, which one is this, he gave us the  
13 number.

14 Q Keep playing. Is that Nariz still with you?

15 A That is Nariz.

16 Q At this time did you go into this tunnel?

17 A No.

18 Q Showing you for identification --

19 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: One second.

20 Q -- what's been marked as Government Exhibit 219-7.

21 Do you recognize this photo?

22 A Yes. Yes.

23 Q What is it?

24 A It seems to be a still image of the tunnel that Nariz  
25 showed us.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q Is it a fair and accurate depiction of the photo?

2 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Received 219-7.

4 (Government Exhibit 219-7, was received in  
5 evidence.)

6 MS. [REDACTED]: I'm trying to clear the red mark on  
7 there.

8 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Do you have something on the  
9 monitor?

10 MS. [REDACTED] I do not.

11 Q What's the color of the underside of the tub in this  
12 photo?

13 MR. [REDACTED] We'll stipulate it's red, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: It's easy to let the witness answer.

15 Q Answer the question.

16 A Reddish color.

17 Q Why didn't you go into the tunnel?

18 A Nobody in the residence and we wanted to keep going.

19 MS. [REDACTED]: We're having technical difficulties  
20 here, sorry.

21 A When I say I didn't go in the tunnel, it doesn't mean  
22 marines didn't go into the tunnel, but I didn't go in the  
23 tunnel.

24 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection. There is no question.

25 THE COURT: All right. That answer is stricken.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Do you have another question?

2 MS. [REDACTED]: Yes.

3 Q Are you aware of whether or not any other marines went  
4 into the tunnel at that location?

5 A No, I'm not aware.

6 Q After Nariz opened the tunnel for you, what did you do  
7 next?

8 A Nariz took us to the next location.

9 Q Showing you for identification --

10 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: 219-5 received.

12 (Government Exhibit 219-5, was received in  
13 evidence.)

14 MS. [REDACTED] Thank you. Moving into evidence  
15 219-5 and publishing to the jury.

16 (Exhibit published.)

17 Q What are we looking at here?

18 A That was next location after he showed us the tunnel.

19 Q What happened when you got here?

20 A As we arrived, you see the entry to the garage, I noticed  
21 the marines were standing there and I walked towards there.  
22 The marines are having difficulty, the hard time opening the  
23 door from inside the garage.

24 Q Were you still recording entries into the house at this  
25 time?

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A Yes.

2 Q Showing you for identification purposes --

3 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

4 MS. [REDACTED] Moving into evidence without  
5 objection, Government Exhibit 219-20.

6 THE COURT: Received.

7 (Government Exhibit 219-20, was received in  
8 evidence.)

9 MS. [REDACTED] Thank you. And we have two clips  
10 from this video. I ask we play the first one at this point in  
11 time which, for the record, is from 36 seconds to two minutes  
12 and 17 seconds.

13 (Video recording played.)

14 Q If you can describe what we're looking at as the video is  
15 playing. Approximately what time is this?

16 A 4:30, five.

17 Q In the morning?

18 A Yes. The same day, February 17th, 2014.

19 Q What are we seeing here?

20 A I'm making my way up to the garage entry, I see some of  
21 the marines standing by. As you can see in the back there's  
22 marines using a ram attempting to make entry to go into a  
23 door. I walk over to see and I notice there's two metal doors  
24 again reinforced.

25 Q What are we observing here at about --

1 A Marines are rotating, taking turns using the ram to make  
2 entry.

3 Q Is it common to see this level of effort needed to --  
4 with a ram?

5 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

6 THE COURT: Overruled.

7 Q In your experience?

8 A No.

9 Q What do we see here?

10 A Another marine taking a turn at the ram.

11 Q Is he making any progress?

12 A A little bit.

13 Q What do we see there?

14 A Another marine attempting to insert -- trying to insert a  
15 bar, a metal bar in there as the other marine hits it.

16 Q The videos -- the audio has been turned off for a few  
17 seconds, what are we listening to there?

18 A Banging of the ram on the metal doors.

19 Q How many people attempted to gain entry into that door?

20 A Seven to eight, maybe more.

21 Q If we could play the second clip of this video and, for  
22 the record, it's three minutes 36 seconds to four minutes  
23 three seconds.

24 (Video recording played.)

25 Q What are we observing here?

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A Another marine again trying to open that door.

2 Q What do we see here in about 15 seconds?

3 A I take the ram, I take my turn at it.

4 Q How heavy is that ram?

5 A Seven -- seven, eight pounds.

6 Q What is it made out of?

7 A Metal.

8 Q Were you able to gain entry?

9 A Not me.

10 Q Were the marines eventually able to get into this  
11 location?

12 A Yes.

13 Q How long did it take to get in?

14 A It took a while. I couldn't tell you how long exactly it  
15 took.

16 Q So what happened once you finally entered into the house?

17 A As marines made entry they went inside and I went back to  
18 talk to the captain, the marine captain and to our next stop.

19 Q Was anything found inside of this house?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Did you take inventory of the items as you were going  
22 through the houses, or did you do that later?

23 A I did that later.

24 Q Where did you go next?

25 A To the next location that Nariz took us to.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q Showing you for identification Government Exhibit 219-6.

2 What is this, Agent Vasquez?

3 A That's the next location we -- Nariz took us.

4 Q Is this a fair and accurate depiction of the location  
5 that you went to afterwards?

6 A Yes.

7 MS. [REDACTED] At this time the government move to  
8 government exhibit 219-6 into evidence.

9 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

10 THE COURT: Received.

11 (Government Exhibit 219-6, was received in  
12 evidence.)

13 MS. [REDACTED] Seek to publish.

14 (Exhibit published.)

15 Q Agent Vasquez, what are we looking at here?

16 A The entry of the garage of the residence.

17 Q And what day is that you arrive at this house?

18 A February 17th, 2014.

19 Q Did you find anyone inside of this house?

20 A No.

21 Q So what did you do next?

22 A We continued on with Nariz.

23 Q Where did you go, where did he take you next?

24 A Other associates' locations, warehouses, Condor's  
25 residence.



VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q Did you find the defendant in any of those locations?

2 A No.

3 Q At some point in time do you return to the five houses  
4 that we just saw photos of?

5 A Yes.

6 Q When was that?

7 A The same, the same day.

8 Q Showing you for identification purposes 219-9, 10 and 11.  
9 Do you recognize these photos?

10 A Yes.

11 MR. [REDACTED] No objection, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Received.

13 MS. [REDACTED]: The government would move to admit  
14 into evidence.

15 (Government Exhibit 219-9, 10, 11, were received in  
16 evidence.)

17 BY MS. [REDACTED]

18 Q Starting with Government Exhibit 219-10, what are we  
19 looking at here?

20 A It's a picture of myself standing in front of narcotics.

21 Q Looking at 219-9, what are we looking at here?

22 A It's another picture of the narcotics, methamphetamine.

23 Q Did you inspect these packages?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What did you observe?

1 A When I grabbed or picked up a package it had the same  
2 feel that of methamphetamine, it's a crystalline feel of it,  
3 crackling inside. It wasn't the same as cocaine. Cocaine is  
4 a powder form packed into a kilo shape or can be any other  
5 shape.

6 Q Had you seen packages like this before with your years  
7 with the DEA?

8 A Absolutely.

9 Q How many packages of this drug was found at this  
10 location?

11 A Over 2800 packages.

12 Q Showing you what's now in evidence, 219-11. What are we  
13 looking at there?

14 A Looking at plastic boxes of plastic bananas, fake  
15 bananas.

16 Q What did you do with these?

17 A Just took a picture. I observed them and the marines  
18 picked one up and I felt the plastic material it was made out  
19 of.

20 Q Can you describe what it was?

21 A It was plastic banana like.

22 Q Was there anything on the inside?

23 A Oh, substance believed to be cocaine.

24 Q At what location did you find these items?

25 A At the one where the marines were having a hard time

1 entering.

2 Q Showing you Government Exhibit 219-5, is that the  
3 location?

4 A That's it.

5 Q Showing you for identification purposes 219-12 and  
6 219-13.

7 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

8 THE COURT: Received.

9 MS. [REDACTED] Move into evidence 219-12 and 219-13.

10 (Government Exhibit 219-12 and 219-13, were received  
11 in evidence.)

12 Q Did you take a video of any of the evidence we're looking  
13 at?

14 A Yes.

15 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

16 MS. [REDACTED] Moving into evidence 219-24.

17 THE COURT: Received.

18 (Government Exhibit 219-24, was received in  
19 evidence.)

20 MS. [REDACTED]: If I can play, Your Honor, for the  
21 jury, the video -- yes, I'm sorry, 219-24.

22 Q Can you narrate for us what we're looking at.

23 (Video recording played.)

24 A This is a video of ammunition, handguns, grenades, a  
25 holster, and two RPGs.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as 219-12, what are we  
2 looking at here?

3 A It's a photograph of the video I took.

4 Q Can you circle the RPGs that you mentioned before.

5 (Witness complies.)

6 Q And what's right above the RPGs?

7 A Four grenades, hand grenades.

8 Q And what about the object in the middle that's on a  
9 tripod with the red handle?

10 A That's the device used to launch the RPGs.

11 Q Right above that there's a box with items in it?

12 A Ammunition.

13 Q Showing you 219-13, what are we looking at here?

14 A A set of three handguns on the ground.

15 Q Surrounded by?

16 A Ammunition, magazines and right beside the RPG launcher.

17 Q I'm zooming in on one of the handguns on the left, can  
18 you describe what we're looking at there?

19 A You see the diamond encrusted initials, JGL.

20 Q Now in the video, the first video that we looked at you  
21 said that there was a closed circuit TV. I'm showing you for  
22 identification purposes 219-14.

23 What are we looking at here?

24 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

25 MS. [REDACTED] Moving into evidence 219-14 asking to

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 publish to the jury.

2 THE COURT: Received.

3 (Government Exhibit 219-14, was received in  
4 evidence.)

5 (Exhibit published.)

6 Q Agent Vasquez, what are we looking at in this photo?

7 A You're looking at two monitors with plastic cables and  
8 used for closed circuit TV to see what's outside of the  
9 residence. The majority of the houses that we hit had this  
10 system where they can be inside and see what was going on  
11 outside, who is driving on the streets, who is knocking on the  
12 door, who is coming and going.

13 Q Is that what you mean by closed circuit?

14 A Yes.

15 Q In how many houses did you find this type of system?

16 A The majority.

17 Q Did you find any personal effects in any of these houses?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Showing you for identification purposes what's been  
20 marked Government Exhibit 219-15.

21 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

22 MS. [REDACTED] Move into evidence Government  
23 Exhibit 219-15.

24 THE COURT: Received.

25 (Government Exhibit 219-15, was received in

1 evidence.)

2 Q Also what's in evidence as Government Exhibit 219-15.

3 Agent Vasquez, can I ask you to describe what we're looking at  
4 here?

5 A A photo of Mr. Guzman Loera's family.

6 Q Who do you recognize in this photo?

7 A I recognize the top, top two on the right.

8 Q Can you circle the people you recognize.

9 (Witness complies.)

10 Q Who do you recognize those to be?

11 A Those are Ovidio and Joaquin.

12 Q What relation do they have to the defendant?

13 A They are Mr. Guzman Loera's sons.

14 Q Do you recall which house you found this in?

15 A I cannot recall which one it was.

16 Q At some point in time when you're reviewing what's been  
17 found in these houses, did you also go back to inspect the  
18 tunnels?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Did you take a video of the tunnels?

21 Showing you for identification purposes -- actually  
22 it's in evidence, 219-33.

23 Have you reviewed this video, Agent Vasquez?

24 A I have to look at it.

25 Q Have you reviewed this video?

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A Oh, yes.

2 Q Is this a video you took?

3 A No.

4 Q Does this video accurately depict part of the tunnel that  
5 you went through?

6 A Yes, at some point.

7 Q For the record, we're playing just a clip from 52 seconds  
8 until one minute 25 seconds, and, Agent Vasquez, if you could  
9 narrate for us what it is that we're seeing in this video.

10 (Video recording played.)

11 A So this reporter is going into the tunnel. Those are  
12 consistent with the tunnels that I observed, the wood paneling  
13 with the lights to a certain point. And he's making his way  
14 up to the drainage to go out to the city.

15 Q Do you recognize that location right there?

16 A Yes, that's the tunnel that Nariz showed us opening, you  
17 can see the -- you can still see the sealant on ground there.

18 MS. [REDACTED] Thank you.

19 Q Now, how many days did you spend in Culiacan searching  
20 these houses?

21 A About four days.

22 (Continued on the next page.)

23

24

25

1 (In open court.)

2 DIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MS. [REDACTED] (continuing):

4 Q What were you doing during those four days?

5 A My or our idea was to flush him out of the city.

6 Q What do you mean by that?

7 A To make it hard for him to ever come back to Culiacan.

8 What do I mean by that? Is I want to take out every tunnel he

9 has, via Nariz, take out his infrastructure, all residences,

10 associates, or his associates, make it hard for him to, once

11 we leave, for him to come back to the city and just begin

12 again.

13 Q So does the operation end in Culiacan?

14 A No.

15 Q Do you continue searching for the defendant in Culiacan?

16 A No.

17 Q Where did you go?

18 A We go to Mazatlan.

19 Q Where is Mazatlan?

20 A Mazatlan is a fishing town about an hour and 15 minutes

21 south of Culiacan.

22 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as Government

23 Exhibit 506-19:

24 Can you mark for us on the map where is Mazatlan.

25 On what date did you go to Mazatlan?



1 A February 21, 2014.

2 Q What prompted you to go from Culiacan to Mazatlan?

3 A An interview of the plaza boss, of Picudo, and  
4 information from domestic offices.

5 Q Who is Picudo?

6 A Picudo was the plaza boss in Culiacan for Guzman Loera  
7 and the Sinaloa Cartel.

8 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

9 THE COURT: Ask another question.

10 Q Based on your investigation, did you learn what role  
11 Picudo had in the organization?

12 A Yes.

13 Q What's that?

14 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 A As the plaza boss in Culiacan.

17 Q Was Picudo detained?

18 A Yes.

19 Q What date?

20 A February 17, evening.

21 Q Were you present?

22 A Yes.

23 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as Government  
24 Exhibit 68.

25 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 MS. [REDACTED] It's in evidence.

2 THE COURT: Received.

3 Q Who is that?

4 A Picudo.

5 Q You said there was information from Picudo that caused  
6 you to go to Mazatlan.

7 What was that information?

8 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection.

9 THE COURT: Overruled, not being offered for the  
10 truth.

11 A When Picudo was detained by the marines, the marines  
12 interviewed him, and I was present and he told the marines a  
13 conversation he had with Guzman Loera.

14 Q Did he provide information -- what did he say?

15 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

16 THE COURT: Overruled.

17 A He told the marines that Guzman Loera had contacted him  
18 early that morning to meet him at a location where Guzman  
19 Loera was waiting for him. Picudo got up in his vehicle,  
20 traveled to that location that was asked by Guzman Loera.

21 When he arrived at the location Guzman Loera was --  
22 I believe he said he was just wearing pants. There were two  
23 females with him and Condor. Mr. Guzman Loera was very quiet,  
24 very pensive, didn't say much.

25 All he told Picudo was take me to Mazatlan, hand me

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 over to Bravo Aponte.

2 Q Who is Bravo Aponte?

3 A Bravo Aponte is the plaza boss for Sinaloa Cartel in  
4 Mazatlan.

5 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

6 THE COURT: Overruled.

7 Q What preparations did you make to get from Culiacan to  
8 Mazatlan?

9 A Going down to Mazatlan, I didn't want to raise -- I  
10 wanted to keep the majority, or we needed to keep the majority  
11 of the marines in Culiacan, to keep the focus of the marines  
12 in Culiacan.

13 The idea was to travel in unmarked vehicles, one or  
14 two at a time together, without the uniform on, and to leave a  
15 majority of the marked Mexican marine trucks behind, just take  
16 three. We went to -- equivalent to a Walmart, had the marines  
17 buy sandals, board shorts, beachwear. We acted like we were  
18 just going on -- to the beach as tourists.

19 Q Why did you do that?

20 A Not to -- to make it look like we are just going on a  
21 Friday afternoon to the beach, to drink, or whatever touristy  
22 thing.

23 Once we were ready, we traveled in one at a time,  
24 two at a time, going down to Mazatlan with the marked units  
25 behind us, always being alert of lookouts or any activity on

1 the way down.

2 Q How long did it take you to travel from Culiacan to  
3 Mazatlan on that day?

4 A About two hours.

5 Q Did you have to change how you were traveling to  
6 Mazatlan?

7 A Yes.

8 Q What prompted you to change how it is you were traveling  
9 to Mazatlan?

10 A Information received from HSI's Nogales.

11 Q What was that information?

12 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

13 THE COURT: Overruled.

14 A HSI relayed to us on the ground that there was  
15 communications between the division known as Pinpo and Condor,  
16 alerting them or that there was marines in civilians, civilian  
17 wear, going down to a place called Mojolo, marine's boludo  
18 leaving the airport.

19 So the lookouts, halcones, were calling out  
20 everything that moves. That's their job. They call out  
21 anything that leaves the airport, leaves north of the city,  
22 south of the city, in the city. They are calling out  
23 everything; and that specific conversation, that was reported  
24 to Condor from Pipo.

25 Q Once you received that information, how was it you were

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 approaching Mazatlan?

2 A Instead of traveling two vehicles together, I decided to  
3 have the first vehicle even go farther away, which made us, in  
4 a way, more vulnerable. I alerted the marines of this. I had  
5 a conversation in English and a chat in a Mexican chat. I  
6 alerted the marines of this; and they said, okay, copy, we  
7 will be alert.

8 Q Where did you get to that day?

9 A Mazatlan.

10 Q What day is this?

11 A February 21, 2014.

12 Q When you arrived at Mazatlan what did you do?

13 A We gathered in the safe location or command post that we  
14 set up, and we went ahead with the plan for the next day.

15 Q Where did you go the next day?

16 A The next morning we went to a location known as Hotel  
17 Miramar.

18 Q When did you leave for Hotel Miramar?

19 A In the morning, 4:00, 4:30, on February 22, 2014.

20 Q I'm showing you what's been marked for identification as  
21 Government's Exhibit 217 -- 219-17.

22 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

23 MS. G [REDACTED] I'm moving into evidence what's been  
24 marked Government Exhibits 219-17, 18, and 19.

25 THE COURT: Received.

1 (Government Exhibit 219-17, 219-18, 219-19, were  
2 received in evidence.)

3 Q I'm showing you Government Exhibit 219-17.

4 What do we see there?

5 A The street with Hotel Miramar.

6 Q Can you circle where is the hotel.

7 The large building in the middle?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Thank you. Also, now showing you 219-18.

10 Now, what time do you arrive at the hotel?

11 A 4:30, 4:45.

12 Q Do you encounter any issues as you arrive at the hotel?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What were those?

15 A As we arrived there were two local police units with  
16 their lights on, each one facing each way in front of the  
17 hotel.

18 Q Can you mark on Government Exhibit 219-18 where is it you  
19 saw those marked police officers? All right.

20 Why did this cause you --

21 A Each facing.

22 Q Why did those cause you concern?

23 A Once again, the corruption in the state is rampant. I  
24 didn't know if those units were put there by the organization  
25 to protect or to see anybody coming in and out of that area.

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 So we wanted to be absolutely aware of their presence and  
2 maybe attempt to move them out of the way.

3 Q Were they moved out of the way?

4 A Yes.

5 Q On Government Exhibit 219-18, can you circle where is the  
6 Hotel Miramar.

7 MS. [REDACTED]: Just for the record, it's in the  
8 middle of the photograph with the blue top.

9 Q And then you put dots and arrows on either side of that.

10 Is that the location of the police cars that you  
11 saw?

12 A Yes.

13 Q As you were traveling to Hotel Miramar, how many people  
14 are a part of this operation present?

15 A Twenty-four, twenty five. Twenty-four.

16 Q Is this considered a large group for this type of  
17 operation?

18 A No.

19 Q Why not?

20 A You are going into a stronghold of the cartel with 24  
21 individuals to take control of a hotel that's ten stories and  
22 multiple entries and exits and rooms. It's very, very small.  
23 So it was done for a reason, to stay low profile.

24 Q What happened once you arrived at Hotel Miramar?

25 A Once we arrived at Hotel Miramar, we had marines in the

VAZQUEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 back. We had already moved the patrol units away. We had  
2 marines in the front. Now their marked units had come in.

3 I come out of my car. I make entry into the -- if  
4 you are looking at the hotel from the street, I run up --  
5 thank you -- this is kind of sort of my view. I was looking  
6 up, and I said, okay, he's got to be in there somewhere.

7 MS. [REDACTED] Can we publish 219-19 for the jury,  
8 please. Thank you.

9 Q So you said this was the vantage point you had when you  
10 arrived.

11 A Yes.

12 Q What are you looking for?

13 A I'm looking for anybody opening a window or attempting to  
14 jump out of the balcony from the side. So I have a marine  
15 next to me, and I said you need to focus on this whole side of  
16 the building, anybody opens a window or tries to pop their  
17 head out. You have to alert us of anybody trying to run out  
18 the window. There is no tunnels in this hotel, I hope, so  
19 let's -- he's got to probably run through a window.

20 I had marines in the back, securing that area.  
21 There was entries in the back. There was kind of like a big,  
22 open entry. In front of that is a pool. So I had that  
23 secured. I had marines out.

24 So our resources were very, very stretched out.

25 Q Do you stay outside of the hotel?



1 A I do.

2 Q What happened next?

3 A The marines are inside going floor to floor. I finally  
4 get a confirm, saying seven, seven, seven; seven, seven,  
5 seven.

6 Q What does that mean?

7 A Seven, seven meant gather everything, let's go, let's go,  
8 let's go. We're moving to the next location.

9 Q When they said confirmed, what did you understand that to  
10 mean?

11 A When they said siete, siete, siete, confirmado, confirmed  
12 it. Means come to the basement. I knew they had got him,  
13 Guzman Loera.

14 Q What did you do?

15 A I ran to the basement parking lot.

16 Q You are making a circular motion with your hand.

17 A Yes. If you go down, the parking lot is kind of like --  
18 sorry -- you make your way into a circular mode all the way  
19 down to the basement.

20 I ran there. As I approached the entry to the  
21 basement, the marines had Mr. Guzman Loera on his knees and  
22 they were holding him. The marines said, please confirm,  
23 confirm it is him. Is it him? Is it him? Is it him?

24 Q Why were the Mexican marines asking you to confirm if the  
25 person in front of them was the defendant?

1 A The marines at that time did not have a lot of history  
2 working against the Sinaloa Cartel. They are mostly the Zetas  
3 and Gulf Cartel. I was the one indebted to them with the  
4 knowledge of what he looked like or what he would be like, the  
5 history, the experience, the training. The marines were  
6 relying on me to make that identification.

7 Q So what did you do?

8 A I -- at this moment I walked towards him. I believe he  
9 was here -- from this gentleman -- far away on his knees, and  
10 at that point I kind of froze myself and I said, holy, it is  
11 him. And I said -- I took a moment and I looked at him and he  
12 kind of looked at me, and I said eres tu, eres tu, Chapo.

13 Q What does that mean?

14 A It's you, it's you.

15 I said please stand him up, and at that point my  
16 vehicle had been driven behind me, in the parking lot. As the  
17 marines stood him up, I asked them please put him in the back,  
18 and one of you marines drive him out.

19 Q Who else was present at that time with the defendant?

20 A Oh, yes. Two baby girls and his wife.

21 Q Which one?

22 A Emma Coronel.

23 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as Government's  
24 Exhibit 45.

25 Is that the person that was with him at Hotel

1 Miramar?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What happened after the defendant was placed in the car?  
4 Where did you go?

5 A The marines relayed it via the radio to the admiral on  
6 the base, in Topolobampo in Culiacan. He said, take him to  
7 the nearest Semar base, which is two kilometers away.

8 Q Did you go there as well?

9 A Yes.

10 Q What happened when you arrived at the base?

11 A When we arrived at the base the marines took Mr. Guzman  
12 Loera to process him. I walked around.

13 Q Did you stay in Mazatlan at that time?

14 A No.

15 Q Where did you go?

16 A I went back to Mexico City.

17 Q How did you get to Mexico City?

18 A On a Mexican marine Lehr jet.

19 Q Who was on that jet with you?

20 A Four marines, one admiral, myself, Mr. Guzman Loera, and  
21 Condor.

22 Q I'm showing you what's in evidence as Government  
23 Exhibit 63.

24 Who is that?

25 A Condor.

Lopez Nunez - direct - [REDACTED]

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1 BY MS. [REDACTED]: (Continuing)

2 Q Okay. And what was your response?

3 A That I would do it.

4 Q Okay. And you said that the meeting was either at the  
5 end of March or the beginning of April. What year?

6 A Approximately 2014.

7 Q Okay. Did you have any further meetings with Emma?

8 A Yes.

9 Q When was that?

10 A I think it was June, May or June of the same year.

11 Q Okay. And who was present at that meeting?

12 A That meeting took place at a different place and my  
13 *compadre's* sons were present.

14 Q And what was discussed at that meeting?

15 A My *compadre* was asking -- he sent his sons, the question  
16 whether they had already obtained the piece of land close to  
17 Altiplano prison and he was also asking me to get a warehouse  
18 close to Altiplano also. He also asked me to get him some  
19 weapons and a pickup truck and an armored pick up truck.

20 Q How were these requests relayed to you?

21 A My *compadre* gave us his message.

22 Q Okay. And was there discussion as to why defendant's  
23 sons were to look for a piece of land near the prison?

24 A The piece of land was because a tunnel had to be built  
25 and then they would start to work.

Lopez Nunez - direct - [REDACTED]

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1 Q And was there a discussion about how the people digging  
2 the tunnel were going to find the right location to dig?

3 A Yes. We were looking for a way to obtain a watch that  
4 had GP, a GPS application that could give the coordinates of  
5 the place.

6 Q And what was to happen with that GPS watch?

7 A Well, we had to buy it and get inside the prison to get  
8 the coordinates from the cell where my *compadre* was.

9 Q Okay. What did you do after this meeting?

10 A I dedicated myself to get what had been asked from me.

11 Q Okay. And were you able to accomplish your tasks?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. Was there another meeting with Emma and the  
14 defendant's sons?

15 A We got together again at the same place which was my  
16 *compadre's* sons' property. My *compadre* was present, Ivan,  
17 Alfredo. I don't remember if Ovidio and Joaquin were there  
18 and myself.

19 Q Sorry. Just to clarify, who was present at the meeting?

20 A My *comadre*, Ivan, Alfredo, Ovidio and myself.

21 Q Okay. And you said you weren't sure about Joaquin?

22 A Exactly.

23 Q And when did this meeting occur?

24 A It was about a month later or maybe a little less than  
25 the previous meeting. I think it was in July approximately.

CMH

OCR

RMR

CRR

FCRR

Lopez Nunez - direct - [REDACTED]

5940

1 Q Of what year?

2 A '14.

3 Q And what was the purpose of this meeting?

4 A My *compadre* had wanted to know the progress. His sons  
5 mentioned that they had already obtained the piece of land but  
6 they were about to close on it and that they were also about  
7 to get the watch. Then I continued doing the things that I  
8 had to do. I mean, it wasn't something that you could do  
9 overnight but I was working on my things.

10 Q You mentioned the sons that were present at that meeting  
11 and you weren't sure about Joaquin. Which Joaquin are you  
12 talking about?

13 A My *compadre*'s son.

14 Q Okay. At some point -- you said you had not completed  
15 the tasks that had been requested of you, correct?

16 A It wasn't completed at that time but when it was needed,  
17 it was.

18 Q At some point, you had completed the tasks that were  
19 requested of you?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. And did you have any further meetings with  
22 defendant's sons to discuss an escape plan?

23 A His sons and I got together on one occasion. We spoke.  
24 That was, that was already in 2015. His sons mentioned to me  
25 that my *compadre* sends a message that he was already hearing

Lopez Nunez - direct - [REDACTED]

5941

1 noises where he was, meaning those who were excavating, they  
2 were already underneath. They said that can't be, how can you  
3 hear noises from underneath. At one point, they even  
4 convinced me of thinking the same way, but the truth was that  
5 the noises were coming from the concrete, from the floor  
6 below, not meters under the ground. That's why you could hear  
7 it.

8 Q Was there a discussion at that meeting about a specific  
9 date that the escape was going to happen?

10 A Well, what my *compadre* explained was it took place on a  
11 weekend, Saturday and Sunday, because there are no officials  
12 at the jail in those days and there are no visits from people  
13 from the courts bringing notifications.

14 Q Did you see the defendant again after this last meeting  
15 with his sons?

16 A Yes, I did see my *compadre* once he had already escaped.

17 Q And where did you see him?

18 A In the highlands, in La Tuna.

19 Q And approximately when was that?

20 A The escape was July 11th and I saw him about a week after  
21 the escape.

22 Q Who else was present for that meeting with the defendant?

23 A My son came with me, he wanted to greet my *compadre*. And  
24 at the place in La Tuna, Pedrito Loiaza was there, and  
25 acquaintance, a friend of ours.

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RELEASED IN PART: B1,  
1.4(B),1.4(D)

**From:** svcsmartmfi  
**Sent:** 8/13/2009 5:56:53 PM  
**To:** SMART Core  
**Subject:** NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2009

**UNCLASSIFIED**  
Sensitive

DECONTROLLED



**MRN:** 09 MEXICO 2403  
**Date/DTG:** Aug 13, 2009 / 132218Z AUG 09  
**From:** AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
**Action:** WASHDC, SECSTATE, ROUTINE  
**E.O.:** 12958  
**TAGS:** SNAR, KCRM, KJUS, PGOV, PREL, MX  
**Captions:** SENSITIVE  
**Sensitivity:** Sensitive  
**Pass Line:** STATE FOR INL AND WHA/MEX  
TREASURY FOR ENFORCEMENT SECRETARY  
DOJ FOR BSWARTZ/KBLANCO DEP ASSIST ATTY GEN  
FBI DIR FOR LA/CU, OC/DB, OIU, CID  
DEA FOR OD, OF, OFC, AO, DO, NPSM  
CUSTOMS FOR LA OPS AND FOR OIA/WHB  
**Subject:** NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2009

UNCLAS MEXICO 002403

SENSITIVE

STATE FOR INL AND WHA/MEX  
TREASURY FOR ENFORCEMENT SECRETARY  
DOJ FOR BSWARTZ/KBLANCO DEP ASSIST ATTY GEN  
FBI DIR FOR LA/CU, OC/DB, OIU, CID  
DEA FOR OD, OF, OFC, AO, DO, NPSM  
CUSTOMS FOR LA OPS AND FOR OIA/WHB

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: SNAR, KCRM, KJUS, PGOV, PREL, MX  
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS AFFAIRS SECTION MEXICO  
MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY 2009

1. (U) THIS CABLE IS SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS  
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2. (SBU) INCREASING VIOLENCE: Violent deaths  
attributed to organized crime surpassed previous

Classified by DAS, A/GIS, DoS on: 02/19/2013,  
Class: CONFIDENTIAL, Reason: ☐ B1, 1.4 (B,  
D), Declassify on: 08/12/24

REVIEW AUTHORITY: Alan Flanigan, Senior Reviewer

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records, reaching an estimated 854 at the close of July. The majority of these murders occurred in regions with joint military operations and increased law enforcement presence,

[redacted]  
[redacted]

The state of Chihuahua continues to lead as the most violent state, reporting 344 organized crime-related deaths in July, the majority of those in Ciudad Juarez.

1.4(B)  
1.4(D)  
B1

3. (SBU) In the face of escalating violence, President Calderon has remained resolute, again attributing the backlash in these key regions to a ?desperate reaction? to his government?s pressure against the DTOs. The retaliation attacks of July 11 following the arrest of Alfonso ?La Minsa? Rueda Medina in Calderon?s home state of Michoacan and the subsequent deployment of an estimated 4,500 federal troops and 1,000 federal police further highlight the GOM?s resolve to continue to press the fight. Approximately 645,000 federal, state and municipal officers are involved to some degree in the fight against organized crime, most in the 13 joint operations in the states of Michoacan, Guerrero, Baja California, Tamaulipas, Monterrey, Coahuila, Durango, Sinaloa, San Luis Potosi, Aguascalientes, Chihuahua, Veracruz, Chiapas and Tabasco. Over half of this force is comprised of state and municipal police in the affected regions. The other half consists of 198,697 troops from the Secretariat of Defense (SEDENA)(30.7%), 31,851 Federal Police officers (4.9%), and 25,785 Ministerial Police (4%).

4. (SBU) CALLS FOR A NEW STRATEGY: The rise in violence has led some, including newly elected legislators, to question the current strategy. The most vocal of critics within both houses have called on Calderon to ?redefine? what they consider a ?failed drug war?. Most proposals focus on improved intelligence and closer coordination at the state-local level, change that even proponents of the current approach agree will be necessary to turn the tide. Others wonder if pressing the fight is worth it and some voices call for quietly accommodating the traffickers. While there has been limited talk of withdrawing the military, there seems to be general consensus to keep them engaged.

[redacted]

1.4(B)  
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5. (SBU) In July, Joint Operation Chihuahua (JOC) took steps to assess the strategy in

Ciudad Juarez. [redacted]  
[redacted]

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1.4(B)

1.4(D)

B1

6. (SBU) Senate leader Gustavo Enrique Madero has made clear that revision of the line of attack against organized crime should be ongoing as the nature of the threat they pose is changing and dynamic. He also made clear that an exhaustive analysis of the military role in policing would be debated on the floor in September as well as an evaluation of the proposals sent by the executive in April. These proposals call for modifications to the National Security Law, Military Justice Code, Organic Law of the Federal Courts, Federal Firearms Law, Organized Crime Law, and the Federal Code of Criminal Procedures to legitimize the role of the military and set penalties of 30 to 60 years for troops who aid organized crime.

7. (SBU) CORRUPTION: In July the GOM continued efforts to root out corruption within the ranks of security forces, a primary piece of its current strategy. Some 20 officers operating from the San Pedro, Nuevo Leon C-4 command center were arrested for leaking information to the Beltran Leyva Cartel. Ongoing investigations show that these officers, including the center coordinator, provided tips to cartels on operations and ordered the release of known cartel vehicles detained through the use of the C-4 center monitoring system. In return they received payments from 1,500 to 5,000 MXN, equivalent or superior to their salaries.

8. (SBU) HUMAN RIGHTS: The Mexican National Human Rights Center (CNDH) received 2,956 complaints during the first half of 2009, with 559 complaints levied against the military. This sharp increase in violations, according to SEDENA Human Rights Director Jaime Antonio Lopez Portillo, is attributed to the increased contact with the public since over 30% of the force dedicated to fight organized crime are soldiers. Lopez Portillo was also quick to point out this figure has been inflated by false and duplicate complaints filed by organized crime groups. This sentiment was repeated by former president of the Chamber of Deputies Naval Commission, Jose Manuel del Rio Virgen, who attributed 3/4 of complaints to organized crime interests.

9. (SBU) Lopez Portillo further noted that 12 military officials have been sentenced during Calderon's administration and an additional 53

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cases are being processed.

10. (SBU) CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE: Mid-term elections tilted the balance within a legislature already unsympathetic to Calderon's agenda. Unsurprisingly, areas with high concentrations of organized crime reported lower than average voter turnout during the July 5 vote, with one Ciudad Juarez district reporting the highest absentee rate, approximately 74.1%. Tijuana reported a similar turnout. However elections proceeded without the setbacks and violence previously forecasted confirmed the vitality of the Mexican democratic process.

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MERIDA INITIATIVE  
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11. (SBU) The fifth Merida Mexico Bilateral Implementation Meeting was held July 1 in Mexico City, chaired by technical director of the Mexican National Security Council Monte Alejandro Rubido Garcia and NAS Director Keith Mines. The forum drew participation from the major stakeholder agencies from both sides of the border and included a review of project status, discussion of the 2009 budget talks as they impact on the various entities, and confirmation of the working groups on arms trafficking and public affairs. (MEXICO 1948)

12. (SBU) The Merida Initiative Public Affairs Working Group held its first meeting July 8. The GOM delegation committed to provide a draft joint press strategy and obtain consensus from GOM stakeholder agencies on the group's work plan. The strategy will define how events will be publicized, institutionalize contact and communication with participating entities, and create a portal to catalog Merida Initiative implementation and programs.

13. (SBU) The Bilateral Arms Trafficking Working group met for the first time July 15 in Mexico City. Representatives from DOS/NAS, DOJ/ATF, DEA, FBI, DHS/CBP, ICE and DOD/ODC met with counterparts from Presidencia, SRE, SEDENA, SEMAR, SSP, SHCP/ACIA (Aduanas), PGR/CENAPI, and CISEN to set the framework for collaboration within the context of Merida Initiative working groups. This initial encounter yielded consensus from the GOM on sub-working groups, leadership, and draft work plans. The three sub-working groups will be: 1) information sharing/tracing/investigations, 2) judicial coordination, and 3) interdiction and Non-Intrusive Inspection Equipment. (MEXICO 2145)

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PROFESSIONALIZATION AND TRAINING  
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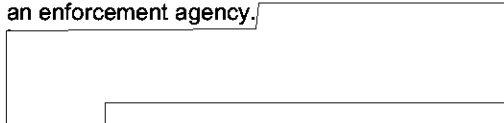
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14. (SBU) Ongoing NAS/DEA training in May provided over 450 law enforcement officials from the PGR, SSP and other Mexican state/federal law enforcement institutions with coursework on Crime Scene and Homicide Investigation, Interviewing Techniques, Auto Theft

Identification, Basic Drug Identification, Methamphetamine and Clandestine Labs and Officer Safety. Additional training provided by post?s law enforcement community included courses on Counter Terrorism and Basic Police Tactics.

15. (SBU) The U.S. led training of 1,450 new Federal Police Investigators kicked off July 20 in the SSP training base at San Luis Potosi with 13 ICE agents, two Colombian investigators, and one Spaniard federal police officer training 456 new agents in basic investigative techniques. The international team was also joined by 50 Mexican trainers who received a week-long course in instruction methodology by Salvadoran instructors from ILEA. An additional 450 students and 15 instructors (DEA and ATF) arrived on July 27. To date logistics, security, and instruction has gone smoothly. The SSP has already started GOM-led basic training for the next complement of 1,500 and would like to keep the program running straight through. SSP would also like our assistance with training for up to 40 senior leaders who will direct these new recruits in their new posts, and 300 mid-level leaders. (MEXICO 2180)

16. (SBU) NAS Director and Mexican Customs Directors met briefly to discuss training needs as it transitions from a revenue collection to an enforcement agency.



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17. (SBU) USAID ended a month-long anti-kidnapping anti-extortion course for officials from the State of Chihuahua?s Attorney General?s Office. USAID is also sponsoring Anti-kidnapping, Anti-extortion training for 38 Officials from the Baja California Attorney General?s Office. The four week session will be followed by another session for 45 SSP officials.

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CORRECTIONS SYSTEMS REFORM PROJECT  
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18. (SBU) Efforts to revamp the federal prisoner classification system made advances with the test sampling of 700 offenders. This process will validate the system developed by the first group of 23 corrections classification specialist trained in Colorado. Data collection and analysis will last approximately one month

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and planning is underway for a second group of classification specialists to attend training in Colorado in early September.

19. (SBU) NAS Corrections Reform Coordinator provided a presentation on Supermax design criteria and operating practice which led to an initial request from SSP and their architect to visit the Colorado Department of Correction (CDOC) Supermax facility. CDOC has already committed to share drawings from the Colorado

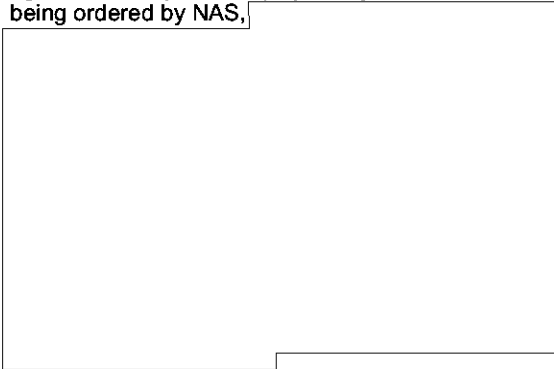
State Penitentiary 1 facility.

20. (SBU) Training for the second group of Mexican Corrections instructors began July 19 at the New Mexico Corrections Training Academy. The 30 participants from SSP will undergo a eight? week program and will join the 23 instructors that graduated in April in the training of new corrections officers at the at the National Academy for Penitentiary Administration in Xalapa, Veracruz.

21. (SBU) Equipment continues to arrive for the National Academy for Penitentiary Administration in Xalapa, Veracruz. In July we received part of the equipment for the Defensive tactics module. Post is working to procure certain items locally, which will significantly reduce lead times and assist the Academy to reach its goal to train 1,000 new Corrections Officers by the end of the year.

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NON-INTRUSIVE INSPECTION EQUIPMENT  
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22. (SBU) The Mexican Secretariat of Public Security (SSP) stepped up to the plate and agreed to accept all ten (10) X-Ray Minivans being ordered by NAS,



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IT PROGRAMS  
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23. (SBU) SECRETARY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION:  
NAS completed documentation to support acquisition of \$14,000,000 worth of satellite

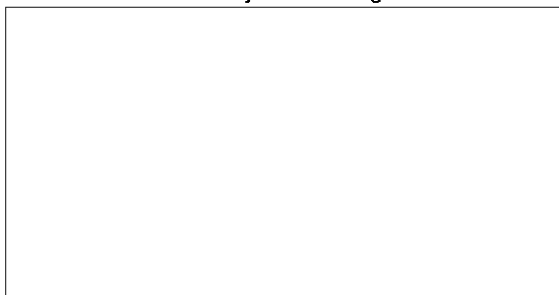
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communication ground station terminals. This will establish a redundancy in infrastructure to support its sole satellite-based secure mobile telecommunications network for national security agencies. The support will also provide for the design of the next generation of Mexico's secure telecommunications network, and will allow for a major overhaul of SCT's infrastructure for system administration. The Merida Initiative funded portion of the project will be completed in twelve months.

24. (SBU) PGR ? OASISS: We executed a second extension to the contract to allow additional time for a US-Mexico Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be drafted and approved and to allow

more time for the OASISS application developer to make the necessary software changes that result from the MOU negotiations. This extension runs from 4 August to 30 November 2009 and will allow the determination of what information will actually be exchanged between



1.4(B)

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25. (SBU) Project Constanza: Contract negotiations continue for the prime contractor to support the PGR's transition to a consolidated digitized paperless system in order to provide transparency, accountability, and efficiency to Mexico's judicial system. Some \$18,000,000 of Merida Initiative funds has been obligated to assist in the PGR efforts to strengthen, secure and standardize the supporting case management system. Project Constanza depends on the successful deployment, implementation, acceptance and use of sophisticated technical information management systems by all prosecutors with an initial focus at the federal level. Software deliveries will begin in September.

26. (SBU) SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SECURITY: The SSP's National Command and Control Center, or "the Bunker" is scheduled to have an initial operating capability in August - September 2009. Presently, NAS is providing technical assistance to SSP to build a large screen display system (video wall) to show separate data feeds from major civilian entities such as the national petroleum company, federal prisons, vigilance security camera platforms in major Mexico population centers as well as emergency feeds in times of crisis relating to natural disasters.

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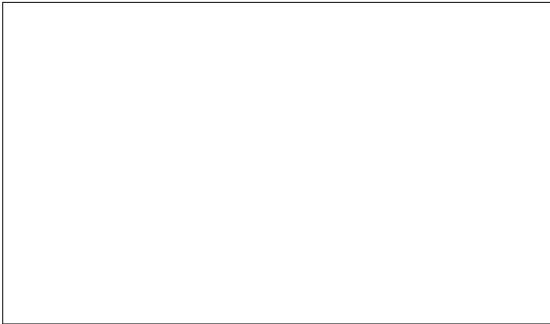
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According to the SSP, the facility will be inaugurated by Mexican President Felipe Calderon. Previously, NAS has delivered and installed some 60 servers for the project and currently is providing technical support to define the best means to enhance the capability of the Mexican federal entities dedicated to public security and civil preparedness to manage complex law enforcement operations as well as civil disaster mitigation efforts in a coordinated and effective fashion across multiple jurisdictions and agencies.

27. (SBU) INAMI: The Mexican Immigration Service (INM) project for issuance of biographic and biometrical identification credential (migratory form) for frequent visitors and temporary workers on the Mexico Guatemala border began in June, starting at three points on Mexico's southern border (Ciudad Hidalgo, Talisman, and El Ceibo). Procurement of biometric equipment

is complete. Initial equipment delivery is expected to take place 4 weeks ahead of schedule (6th of September, 2009). Fully operational sites are expected by early November, 2009.

28. (SBU) The Mexican database for the INM System for Immigration Operations (SIOM) project is underway with the review of GOM requirements, and creation of a draft procurement document. An accepted and final procurement file is expected to be in place by the end of September, 2009. Phase 1 of SIOM re-engineering is expected to be delivered late March, 2010.



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CANINES  
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30. (SBU) To address the urgent need for space for canine units throughout the country, Aduanas and PGR officials visited the Front Royal Academy canine facilities the week of June 29 to develop concepts for the construction of their own facilities. DHS/CBP and DOJ/ATF provided guided tours of their respective facilities complete with canine demonstrations and an in-depth presentation of their activities. Both GOM agencies requested copies of the Academy's blueprints to begin construction of their own

facilities. SSP, also invited to attend, cancelled a day prior departure due to internal issues.

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AVIATION PROGRAM  
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31. (SBU) On July 21, 2009 NAS and Foreign Ministry co-hosted inter-agency talks on aviation strategy and programs. The talks covered current missions and inventory, with future needs and projected Merida programming for the Secretariat of National Defense (SEDENA), Secretariat of the Navy (SEMAR), the Attorney General's Office (PGR), and the Secretariat of Public Security (SSP). SEDENA and SEMAR gave straight-forward presentations of missions and requirements and noted that their FY08-FY09 Merida Initiative programs are on track. Discussion with PGR focused on their current missions and future strategy, which does not include Merida funding. The SSP aviation program is expanding rapidly and must address a number of needs and make mission critical decisions. We discussed in depth the

requirements for maintenance, training, and spares for the three Blackhawks, the fixed wing package, and surveillance aircraft which we are providing as part of Merida in 2009. There were still some issues to resolve but overall the talks were extremely productive and gave us the background we needed to work closely with the GOM on their aviation needs. (MEXICO 2284)

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INTERDICTION  
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32. (SBU) [redacted] major seizures in July:

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--July 3 - Durango, Durango: Military revision at a check point established by Joint Operation Durango led to the seizure of approximately 1.5 tons of marijuana.  
--July 3 ? Zapopan, Jalisco: Seizure of 137 kilograms of synthetic drugs and approximately one kilogram of cocaine.  
--July 4 ? Mexico City International Airport: Seizure of 16.66 kilograms of cocaine en route from Barcelona, Spain.  
--July 5 - San Juan Nepomuceno, Chihuahua: Military forces discovered an abandoned vehicle with 458 kilograms of marijuana and 73 kilograms of marijuana seeds, as well as 8.58 kilograms of opium gum, 200 grams of cocaine and ammunition.  
--July 9 ? Corralito, Zacatecas: Following and armed confrontation, military forces seized 318 kilos de marihuana and nine rifles, two pistols and three grenades. Three of the assailants were killed during the attack.



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--July 10 ? San Ignacio, Baja California Sur: Military forces seized 1.2 tons of marijuana found aboard a tractor-trailer.

--July 15 ? Tijuana, Baja California: Seizure of 2.9 tons of marijuana.

--July 16 ? Escuinapa, Sinaloa: Federal Police seized 28.17 kilograms of heroin secreted in the tires of a vehicle en route from Michoacan.

--July 16 ? Zapopan, Jalisco: Federal Police seized 137 kilograms of ephedrine tablets, one kilogram of cocaine, and three handguns.

--July 18 - Tijuana, Baja California: Military forces seized USD \$3.6 million and a large jewelry collection believed to belong to the Arellano Felix Cartel.

--July 18 ? Mexico City: PGR canine teams discovered 100 kilograms of marijuana hidden in shipping containers near the Mexico City International Airport.

--July 19 ? Culiacan, Sinaloa: Military forces seized 17 vehicles (3 were replicas of military vehicles), 136 rifles, 69 handguns, 1 grenade launcher, 8 grenades, more than 3,000 rounds of ammunition, USD \$20,000, MXN \$93,000 as well as small amounts of marijuana, cocaine and crystal meth. Seven individuals in possession of MXN \$333,670 were also arrested.

--July 21 ? Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua: SSP SIU search of a local warehouse yielded 5.3 tons of marijuana.

--July 21 ? Navojoa, Sonora: Seizure of 3.1

kilograms of heroin

--July 22 ? Huatulco, Oaxaca: Joint Operation Aztec Eagle between the U.S., Mexico, Belize and Guatemala led to the seizure of 7.5 tons of cocaine.

--July 24 - Tijuana, Baja California: Seizure of a methamphetamine laboratory and 7 kilograms of methamphetamine.

--July 25 - Santiago Undameo, Michoacan: Seizure of a methamphetamine laboratory in a remote mountain forest.

--July 26 ? Durango, Durango: Military forces seized 1 submachine gun, 1 grenade launcher, 3 grenades, 1 gas grenade, a large cache of ammunition, 19 bullet proof vests, 28 plates for the vests, and gear with Federal Police and Federal Investigative Agency (AFI) insignias.

--July 29 ? Mexico City International Airport: Mexican Customs seized approximately USD \$500,000 using x-ray non-intrusive inspection equipment.

--July 29 ? Uruapan/Apatzingan, Michoacan: Military forces discovered four methamphetamine laboratories.

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 DEMAND REDUCTION  
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33. (SBU) NAS coordinated the visit to Mexico City of ONDCP Director Gil Kerlikowske. Director Kerlikowske met with GOM officials

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including Attorney General Medina Mora and Secretary Garcia Luna of the Federal Police force where they discussed ways in which the Merida Initiative could further support drug interdiction efforts. Additionally, Director Kerlikowske met with demand reduction and drug treatment professionals. Programs such as RENADIC, an information sharing network funded under the Merida Initiative, were praised as having a direct and immediate impact on the treatment community's ability to connect and exchange essential information.

#### CONFERENCE OF WESTERN ATTORNEYS GENERAL

34. (SBU) Attorney General Medina Mora led a delegation of 20 Mexican State Attorneys General to the 2d Annual Meeting of the Conference of Western U.S. Attorneys General and the National Conference of Attorneys General of Mexico. The Mexican AGs were exposed to the U.S. methods of conducting drug courts and the two sides signed two letters of intent ? on drug and arms trafficking. Medina Mora and the Mexican AGs were extremely pleased with the hospitality they were shown by their American counterparts and the meeting cemented a growing partnership that is leading to an increasing number of training events and exchanges between the two sides. The Mexican delegation again stressed that the key issue on arms trafficking is to develop a protocol for tracing and exchange of data.

#### JUDICIAL PROGRAMS

35. (SBU) In July the Colorado AG hosted a workshop for 22 GOM investigators and prosecutors with USAID support under the state alliance agreement with the Council of State Governments. Colorado state and local agencies ran a collection drive and donated 120 vests to the attorneys general of the three Mexican states.

36. (SBU) NAS Director, USAID Director, Legatt, and DOJ Justice Advisor were hosted by the senior PGR team to review judicial programs and cooperation. The PGR team is interested in vastly increased interaction between their personnel and U.S. active duty judicial and investigative personnel, and would like all the capacity building we can offer.

37. (SBU) During the month of July, 18 officials from the Morelos Center for Alternative Justice are learning best practices and training techniques. USAID and the state of Morelos? Attorney General's Office designed this course to improve services and train future trainers for other officials from the state's Alternative

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Justice Centers.

The Chihuahua Secretariat of Public Security and the Autonomous University of Chihuahua have joined forces to provide training to 15 psychologists, social workers, and anthropologists who will serve as facilitators in finding case resolution alternatives to full court trials. These participants received USAID sponsored basic training on justice reforms and the role of pre-trial case resolutions during July. They will also receive specific feedback on their performance as they serve in new roles created as part of Mexican justice reform.

38. (SBU) DOJ sponsored a course this week on asset forfeiture. DOJ RLA continues to work with the GOM to develop a curriculum for trafficking in persons, oral trials and extradition training.

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INTERNAL CONTROLS PROGRAMS  
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39. (SBU) Two OIG experts from DOJ completed an assessment tour of the SSP/OIG offices the second week of July. They inspected facilities and worked directly with counterparts to understand immediate needs, resource gaps and future plans. The team will carry out an assessment of the PGR/OIG offices next week followed by a written assessment report and a potential exchange visit by counterparts from both agencies to Washington. SSP was extremely satisfied with this initial piece of the OIG project, which has already yielded changes to their internal affairs bureau organization and role.

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CULTURE OF LAWFULNESS/CITIZEN PARTICIPATION COUNCILS  
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40. (SBU) Twenty-three Mexican state prosecutors, Attorneys General and Citizen Participation Council members conducted a study tour to Italy June 20-30, to learn from Government and civil society's experience in confronting the mafia and lessons learned about how to effectively fight organized crime. The delegation also included the U.S. state Attorneys General who contributed experiences in applying U.S. judicial practices. This USAID sponsored event is part of an ongoing Merida Initiative program to provide technical assistance to justice officials and civil society organizations.

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MANAGEMENT

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41. (SBU) The Reforma 265 project continues to progress. Design firm EYP visited post in July and has submitted an initial design that was met with general approval from USG and GOM parties. The GOM has requested clarification on some technical IT and security issues, but none seem a threat to derail the project.

42. (SBU) WAE Management Officer Mark Young completed his very successful tenure in Mexico City and departed post to make way for our new Management Officer, Les DeGraffenried, who arrived August 2.

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PROJECTS OFF TRACK

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43. (SBU) The following Merida projects are stalled for reasons listed (action varies; some are in DF and some DC):



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-- PGR SIEDO OASISS: This project is stalled but there has been some recent, positive motion. OASISS is held up at CBP Washington because this project requires an MOU to be signed / agreed to by the GOM and the USG. The MOU is still in the drafting phase within CBP. We have been told, in writing, that this latest draft will be completed by 14 August. However, in reality this MOU still has a ways to go as it clears CBP and the State Department before it comes to the GOM.

-- PGR SIEDO OASISS ENHANCEMENT: This project is to produce the next version of OASISS. It will include software (JAVA) that is much easier to administer and requires less expensive and specialized software engineering. This project will include a Requirements Study on Arms Trafficking, Marijuana Smuggling and Money Laundering modules that may be included or integrated into OASISS. Project impact: We are concerned given that we are moving to contract and with delays in the current system operations that the PGR may opt out of the project.

-- SHCP / PGR / SSP ANTI MONEY LAUNDERING EFFORTS: This project is stalled due to lack of staffing. The contractor has done some preliminary work on the effort under an existing contract. Project impact: Lack of NAS staff to

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focus on the Government of Mexico computer hardware and software needs to initiate new contract has delayed the project by three months. The new contract is anticipated to start in September and deliveries to commence in last quarter CY09.

-- SHCP / PGR ASSET SEIZURE & FORFEITURE: This project is stalled due to lack of staffing. The contractor has done some preliminary work on the effort under an existing contract. Project impact: Lack of NAS staff to focus on the Government of Mexico computer hardware and software needs to initiate new contract has delayed the project by three months. The new contract is anticipated to start in September and deliveries to commence in last quarter CY09.

-- RENADIC (Demand Reduction): This project has been stalled due to lack of information needed from the GOM (CONADIC). NOBLIS team provided their recommendations and an acquisition strategy in mid-June, but cannot move forward until certain information regarding set-up, providers and installations are provided. NAS has pressed CONADIC urgently for this information but to no avail.

-- Aviation Training: During July solicitations for the SSP Blackhawk Pilot Training Contract were submitted to CNTPO for evaluation. The evaluation process uncovered a need for clarification and went back for another round. Final selection of a training contractor is expected by the middle of August.

-- INAMI Rescue Equipment and Communications (Grupos Beta): First attempt to do this was delayed because of CBP security concerns (now resolved), and inability by NAS to procure equipment in time for the training. It might be more efficient to use an IAA and transfer money to CBP but CBP detailee will make a recommendation on how to best accomplish this.

-- USAID Police Continuing Education: Part of the funding is stuck pending completion of IAAs with other agencies.

-- Citizen Participation Councils: USAID project

but the funding is still with State. Need to transfer the money.

-- Judicial Reform Projects (5): Pending incoming DOJ personnel.

PASCUAL

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**Info:** ONDP, WASHINGTON DC, ROUTINE; DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC, ROUTINE;  
DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC, ROUTINE; FBI WASHINGTON DC, ROUTINE; HQS WASHINGTON DC, DEA,  
ROUTINE

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Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6201

1 A Well, that was one of the houses that was affected by the  
2 cross-fire, one of the many houses that were located at the  
3 back of the gas station.

4 Q This is a residential area that you were in?

5 A No, no, no, of course not. It was the beginning, the  
6 entrance to the town of Borrion.

7 Q And, finally, this vehicle that we're seeing?

8 A Well, it was a vehicle, a vehicle from the municipal  
9 police that was there. I didn't see it but I guess, you know,  
10 it was there.

11 (Video stopped.)

12 MR. [REDACTED] Okay. We can turn the lights back  
13 on.

14 Q All right. We talked about some acts of violence that  
15 you were ordered to carry out. Were there ever any instances  
16 where you saw the defendant carry out any acts of violence?

17 A Yes.

18 Q How many times?

19 A Two times.

20 Q When was the first time?

21 A It was around 2006, 2007.

22 Q And what happened?

23 A We were in a town called Bastantita, Durango. There,  
24 Mr. Chapo Guzman asked to make a phone call, receive a phone  
25 call, I don't remember if it was on the radio or on the

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6202

1 telephone. He made his phone call and he finished it.

2 At that time, he said we have to go send -- well, he  
3 said to his secretary -- I don't remember if it was Chinacate  
4 at that time or a different person. No, I think it was. I  
5 don't remember who the secretary was. But he said: Oh, send,  
6 we have to send someone to pick up some things that my  
7 *compadre* Mayo is sending and someone who has been picked up  
8 and tied up is coming with them, one of the *Aretes*. And  
9 "*Arete*" was a word we used from people from the Arellano-Felix  
10 cartel.

11 Q What happened next?

12 A And he said: Be careful, let's see how beaten up he is  
13 because it looks like he's coming, that he's already been  
14 beaten up. Be careful not to be seen by the people in the  
15 town where he is at and bring him to the place where you  
16 sleep.

17 We went. We picked him up. Mayo's plane arrived.  
18 I say it's Mayo's plane because the pilot who brought it was  
19 El Nino and he was the one who always brought Mayo. We picked  
20 him up. We took him to the place. We looked at the person to  
21 see what state he was in or what he looked like.

22 Q What was this place that you took him to?

23 A It was a place where we slept about 50 to 100 meters from  
24 the small cabin where Mr. Guzman slept.

25 Q All right. And once you arrived there with him, what



Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6203

1 happened next?

2 A Well, we arrived with the person there. We observed how  
3 he had been tortured. He had been severely tortured.

4 We informed Chapo how this person's state was. He  
5 had been burned with an iron, an iron you use to iron clothes.  
6 He had been burned all over his body. His back was burned.  
7 The T-shirt he was wearing was actually stuck to his skin. He  
8 had lighter marks all over his body, the lighter that you have  
9 in the car. His feet had also been burned. He couldn't walk.  
10 He had been blind in his eyes --

11 THE INTERPRETER: "Blindfolded," Interpreter  
12 correction.

13 A Mr. Joaquin Chapman Guzman was a little upset. In fact,  
14 he said: How can they send me this asshole just like that?  
15 They would have just rather they killed him. What am I going  
16 to do with him like that?

17 And that's how he was left there. That day went by.  
18 Mr. Joaquin went to sleep. He did not see him. Then the  
19 next, the next day came. He went to the place where he would  
20 meet up with guests and he didn't see him on that day either.

21 Q What happened next?

22 A Well, the next day, on the third day, he then approached  
23 the area where the person was.

24 Q When you say "he," you're talking about the defendant?

25 A Yes, Mr. Chapo. He came close to where the person was

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6204

1 and he started interrogating him. And I, I heard him asking  
2 him about what had happened with the members of that cartel.  
3 He would ask about specific names.

4 Q When you say "that cartel," which cartel are you  
5 referring to?

6 A He was referring to the Arellano-Felix cartel.

7 Q How long did he interrogate him for?

8 A It wasn't that long. It was about 20 minutes.

9 Q Then what happened?

10 A Well, then Mr. Joaquin Chapo went back to the place where  
11 he would meet up with his guests. And in the afternoon, he  
12 said: Well, we have to move to another place close to that  
13 town of Bastantita. It's about three, four, five kilometers  
14 away.

15 We took off. We actually brought that person, that  
16 person who worked for the Arellano Felix, we took him with us,  
17 and we put him inside this, like, you know, a henhouse, like a  
18 wooden structure. We put that person in there. The person  
19 was still there for days. And then we told, later on,  
20 Mr. Joaquin that the person had this really bad odor because  
21 he was pretty much decomposing away.

22 Q What did he tell you to do with that?

23 A Well, in front of that little house where we had gotten  
24 to, it was isolated, there were no other houses nearby, there  
25 was a small graveyard. And then he said, you know, take him

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6205

1 out of where he's at and then place him in, like, a little  
2 elevated area that's right in front of the graveyard there,  
3 and then he said, Dig a hole in the graveyard and I don't want  
4 him to hear while you're excavating there.

5 Q Did you dig a hole?

6 A Yes. Chaneke, another guy, we would call him Cotorrito,  
7 and I went there. We dug the hole. Another two people were  
8 watching out for the Arellano's worker. When we finished  
9 digging out the hole, we reported back and said, you know, we  
10 had dug out the hole.

11 Mr. Joaquin had a small gun, it was like a .25  
12 caliber, a small caliber.

13 Q It was a handgun?

14 A Yes, exactly, a handgun, a 25-caliber, a small one. And  
15 he grabbed it and he put a bullet in the chambers, he removed  
16 the safe and he put it behind him in his back. And then he  
17 asked for us to take him close to the area where we had dug  
18 out the hole, right close to the hole. The guys who were  
19 taking care of him, that were watching out for him, brought  
20 the guy close. The guy, the guy was right there on the  
21 ground. It wasn't even cold at that time but I think that,  
22 you know, he was afraid, I don't know.

23 Q Was he restrained in any way?

24 A Yes. He was blindfolded and his hands and legs were tied  
25 up. The only thing he would hear were the voices.

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6206

1 Q What was the next time the defendant came into contact  
2 with him?

3 A Well, he came close, Mr. Joaquin came close to the person  
4 who had been tied up and then he started interrogating him  
5 once again. He started interrogating him, he started asking  
6 him questions, and the person who was tied up, you know, he  
7 was responding. And in one of those times when he was  
8 responding, Mr. Joaquin grabbed his gun and shot at him.  
9 Boom. You motherfucker, he said. And then he said: Remove  
10 the handcuffs and bury him.

11 Chaneke and I removed the handcuffs. And the shot  
12 in him was a small shot and still the person was sort of  
13 gasping for air, and that's how we dumped him in the hole and  
14 we buried him.

15 Q Okay. You said there were two occasions. When did the  
16 second one occur?

17 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection. 402.

18 THE COURT: Overruled.

19 A The second time was around the same time I already  
20 mentioned, 2006, 2007. We were in the area of Coluta,  
21 Durango, in some little houses that belonged to a person by  
22 the name of Pedro Loiaza.

23 And the same thing. Mr. Joaquin, he requested or he  
24 placed a call. He placed a call. I mean, he finished his  
25 call, he finished. And then he said: Hey, *chavalones*, guys,

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6207

1 you know, they are sending us a gift. Lic's people grabbed  
2 some Zetas close to El Dorado.

3 Q Who is "he"?

4 A Licenciado Damaso.

5 They are already delivering them to my *compadre* El  
6 Bravo and we have to go pick them up at the airstrip. And  
7 then he told me: Memin, hey, send some guys so that they can  
8 go pick up those people there at the airstrip and they should  
9 be careful.

10 Q These people, were they picked up?

11 A Yes. Those people, the Zetas, they had been picked up in  
12 the area of El Dorado, Sinaloa.

13 Q How did you find out they were Zetas?

14 A Oh, because Mr. Joaquin himself said so.

15 Q And what are Zetas?

16 A The Zetas, it's another cartel, it's one of the cartels  
17 that we have in Mexico and they're enemies of the Sinaloa  
18 Cartel.

19 Q Were these two Zetas brought up to where you were in the  
20 mountains?

21 A That's right.

22 Q What happened next?

23 A And then -- well, I told Mr. Joaquin, you know, if he  
24 wanted to, I could go. And he said: Yeah, better you go so  
25 that the people in the little town around there, they don't

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6208

1 see anything.

2 So we went to get the people, I went to the airstrip  
3 to get those people. Bravo was also there with them, with the  
4 two Zetas. Obviously, the Zetas were tied up, but they were  
5 not blindfolded. And I took them all the way to where we were  
6 camping at. And Mr. Joaquin had ordered us to put them in,  
7 like, a shed or, like, an area where they were saving some or  
8 storing some grass for the cows or something like that. And  
9 then he said: And you can start heating them up.

10 Q What does that mean?

11 A Heated them up in the sense of we could start beating  
12 them up, beating them up so that they could start saying  
13 things, so that they can start revealing information.

14 Q Did you start beating them up?

15 A Yes. Two or three guys were, remained there and they  
16 started beating them up.

17 And then after that, Chapo asked me to send some  
18 other guys to look for another place that was a little more  
19 like secluded, within the mountains so that we could take the  
20 Zetas there. And, yes, the guys, like, found this place. It  
21 was, like, an area with, like, trees and it was about  
22 500 meters away from the base where we were at and we took  
23 them there, we brought them to that place.

24 Q Once they arrived at that location, what happened next?

25 A Well, Mr. Joaquin arrived together with his *compadre*

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6209

1 Bravo, and another one of the guys, another one of the guys  
2 got in there with them. And Mr. Joaquin requested like a big,  
3 you know, stick, like a large branch, stick. We found it, we  
4 brought it over to him and then he started torturing them.  
5 That's when he started torturing them.

6 And I actually left that area because I was in  
7 charge of communications. I had a radio, I had a phone, so I  
8 needed to be in an area where there was a better signal.

9 Q When you said he started torturing them, what do you mean  
10 by that? What was he doing to them?

11 A Well, the stick, you know, that he had requested,  
12 obviously he didn't request that to be affectionate towards  
13 them, obviously. He started beating them up with that stick.  
14 At one point, he told me actually to go closer with where  
15 Mr. Joaquin was with Bravo and the other guy. And the people,  
16 there were, they were pretty much already like ragged dolls.  
17 All the bones in their body were fractured and they couldn't  
18 move. And Mr. Joaquin kept beating them up with that stick  
19 and he also had his firearm and he was hitting them with that  
20 firearm.

21 Q What kind of firearm was it?

22 A Either the AR-15 or the M-16, the short one that he had  
23 that was camouflaged. And he was telling them: You  
24 motherfuckers, how is it possible that you're working for  
25 those people and you are betraying us.

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6210

1 Q Why was he saying that to them?

2 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection.

3 THE COURT: Sustained. Rephrase it.

4 Q Did you, how did you know why -- let me rephrase.

5 MR. [REDACTED]: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

6 Did you know these two Zetas, anything about them  
7 other than the fact that they were Zetas, without telling us  
8 what it is?

9 A No. The only thing I knew was that they lived in  
10 Sinaloa, in the area of El Dorado, Sinaloa, an area that is  
11 controlled by Licenciado Damaso.

12 Q So based upon that, why did you think the defendant was  
13 saying that?

14 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection.

15 THE COURT: No. The question is what was your  
16 understanding of why he was saying that.

17 THE WITNESS: Excuse me?

18 Q What was your understanding of why he was saying that?

19 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection.

20 THE COURT: Overruled.

21 A Well, because that organization, the Zetas organization,  
22 I mean, those are not people who belong to Sinaloa. Those are  
23 not people in the Sinaloa. Those are people from other  
24 states, for example, in the areas of Tampico, Tamaulipas,  
25 Zacatecas and other areas in the north of the country. So the



Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6211

1 fact that two people who were originally from the state of  
2 Sinaloa and who were working for them --

3 MR. [REDACTED] Again, objection.

4 THE COURT: Overruled.

5 A -- that was the issue, because those were two people from  
6 the same state and that, in fact, they were betraying the  
7 people from Sinaloa, Sinaloan people themselves.

8 Q How long did it go on for?

9 A Quite a long time. I would say about three hours, I  
10 think.

11 Q And what happened after the beating?

12 A Well, like I said, I had to come close to the area  
13 because Bravo asked me to come close to that place. Yes, it  
14 was him who told me to go, sir, to tell me, he said: Well, my  
15 *compadre* Chapo said to dig a very large hole and for us to put  
16 some wood inside and to make a huge fire.

17 (Continued on next page.)

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

Valdez - direct - [REDACTED]

6212

1 BY MR. [REDACTED]: (Continuing.)

2 Q Did you do it?

3 A Yes, yes.

4 Q What happened next?

5 A I had some guys do that and a large bonfire was made as  
6 he had asked for. Later on in the night, they -- he asked for  
7 two ATVs to be brought over. They brought -- the ATVs came  
8 and the two Zetas were slung across the back grid of the ATVs.

9 Q Where did they take the ATVs?

10 A We brought the ATVs to where Chapo's man was with the  
11 Zetas. There, we put the people on the back -- the rack --  
12 the back rack of the ATVs. Mr. Joaquin got on one of them.  
13 Bravo got on the other one. There was a Zeta on each ATV and  
14 they went closer to where the bonfire was. The people were no  
15 longer tied up.

16 Q What happened next?

17 A So then the other ones of us from the security circle  
18 that were there, they picked them up, they threw them off the  
19 ATVs. Then Mr. Joaquin got off his ATV and he put a bullet in  
20 the chamber of his rifle, the AR 15 or M16 that he had. The  
21 Zetas were seeing the bonfire. They were seeing the bonfire  
22 in their faces. They were scared. Their faces looked like  
23 they were scared. Mr. Joaquin did not say much. He just came  
24 up with a rifle to the head of one of them and said, Fuck your  
25 mother, and boom, shot him. And he did the same thing to the

Valdez - direct - [REDACTED]

6213

1 other one. He shot him in the head and the same thing, Fuck  
2 your mother. Put them in the bonfire.

3 Q And was that done?

4 A Yes, that was done. He said, I don't want any bones to  
5 remain. And then some of the guys from the security detail  
6 stayed there putting more lumber into the fire for a long  
7 time, until practically it was daylight. And when they  
8 finished doing that, then they came to us and they said, Yes,  
9 that's done. We finished. They are covered over. We ground  
10 up the bones.

11 MR. [REDACTED]: Your Honor, I'm about to switch  
12 topics. It may be a little early for a break, but --

13 THE COURT: Okay. We will take 15 minutes for a  
14 break until 3:10. Please don't talk about the case. See you  
15 in 15 minutes.

16 (Jury exits.)

17 (In open court.)

18 THE COURT: Okay. Recess, 15 minutes.

19 (Recess taken.)

20 (Judge enters.)

21 THE COURT: Please bring in the jury.

22 Do you think you will finish today?

23 MR. [REDACTED]: Your Honor, I don't think so. I  
24 think it will be about an hour into Monday. I will try.

25 THE COURT: Do what you can do.

Vazquez - direct - [REDACTED]

1 A Because you're sitting -- you're driving around for two  
2 days so there's no -- there's news reports. There's news  
3 articles already coming out that the Marines are in the city.  
4 It's -- you're driving around in the lion's den of this cartel  
5 and you can't really trust anybody, law enforcement or  
6 military, in that city or in that state.

7 Q Let me ask you about that. You said that there were  
8 about 100 personnel strong in this operation. Is that  
9 considered a large or a small number for an operation of this  
10 nature?

11 A Very small.

12 Q Why is that?

13 A Even though they're highly skilled, highly trained  
14 Marines, Mexican Marines, it is a small group for this  
15 one-of-a-kind operation.

16 Q What do you mean that it was one-of-a-kind?

17 A It's the first time that it was ever done.

18 Q It's the first time that what was ever done?

19 A This type of operation hadn't been conducted with the  
20 intent of capturing one of the three leaders of the cartel.

21 Q Was that going into Culiacan itself?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And what were the safety concerns or the dangers that you  
24 were facing, the 100-group strong, was facing in Culiacan?

25 A In my four and a half years there, five and a half years,

Vazquez - direct - [REDACTED]

1 police officers, federal, state, municipal get killed every  
2 day. Marines get killed there every day, DEA agents has been  
3 killed there before.

4 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection.

5 THE COURT: Overruled.

6 A Of course, you're there with 100 marines, but you still  
7 have to think about safety.

8 Q Why can't you go to or seek the assistance of the local  
9 or state police? You are shaking your head.

10 A The fear of corruption. You don't want to trust anybody.  
11 Once you're there, you're there on your own, moving around  
12 trusting the people there, that are there with you.

13 Q After two days, what decision is made?

14 A To move our camp to the nearest Mexican Marines base.

15 Q Where do you go?

16 A We go to Topolobampo, Sinaloa.

17 THE COURT: Ms. [REDACTED]?

18 MS. [REDACTED]: If I can have him point out the city  
19 on a map, we can call it a day.

20 BY MS. [REDACTED]:

21 Q Showing you Government Exhibit 506-19 in evidence, you  
22 said you go to Topolobampo. Can you point it out on the map?

23 A (Indicating.)

24 MS. [REDACTED]: Your Honor, this is a great place to  
25 stop.

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6186

1 A Two.

2 Q When did the first instance occur?

3 A It was around 2006, 2007, approximately.

4 Q And what were the orders that you received?

5 A Bravo called me to meet up at an office. That's what we  
6 called security house that we had, which was a regular house.

7 We would call it "oficina." And I met immediately with them,  
8 with Bravo and other people who were there, sicarios, gunmen.

9 I got there, and then Bravo said, Are we all here? Okay.

10 Let's go.

11 Q How many of you were there, approximately?

12 A They were approximately ten of us.

13 Q What happened next?

14 A Okay. We got on the vehicles, in the pickup trucks, and  
15 we headed towards Tamazula, Durango. And that was  
16 approximately three hours away from Culiacan.

17 Q What were you going to Tamazula, Durango, to do?

18 A Well, at the time, Bravo still hadn't told us what we  
19 were doing there. So, we headed to Tamazula, Durango. When  
20 we got there, there was a person waiting there for us by the  
21 name Cojito.

22 Q As a result of your meeting with El Cojito, what did you  
23 do next?

24 A Well, you know, Cojito was waiting for that person who  
25 had sort of pointed the finger at, you know, the person we

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6187

1 were actually on the way to get. He was waiting for the  
2 person to call Cojito to confirm that he was in his domicile.

3 Q When you say pointed the finger at, what do you mean by  
4 that?

5 A How can I explain this? It's a person who -- it was a  
6 person who was pretty much indicating specifically where that  
7 person where we were out to get was located at.

8 Q What happened next?

9 A Well, Bravo told us while we're on our way to get a dedo,  
10 a rat, a finger.

11 Q What happened next?

12 A Well, you know, it came the afternoon, early evening, and  
13 we went by the house of that person, and Cojito actually  
14 pointed that house to us. And Cojito told Bravo, You know  
15 what? They're actually telling me that asshole is, indeed,  
16 there.

17 So, we turned around, and the doors to the home were  
18 open. Five of us got out of the cars. It was Bravo, another  
19 guy we would call Mohohoho -- it was Bravo, Mohohoho, me,  
20 Cavorka, and a guy we would call El Roke.

21 Q What happened when you went inside the house?

22 A Well, the first thing that we found was actually people  
23 in the living room that were women and children, and Mohohoho  
24 subdued them.

25 Bravo, Roke, and I headed towards the patio of the

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6188

1 home, where there were some bedrooms there, and we started  
2 searching the bedrooms until, in fact, we actually found the  
3 person whom we were looking for, who was in one of the  
4 bedrooms. He was a very, you know, tall, like, big guy;  
5 bigger than Bravo, bigger than Roke, and bigger than me.  
6 Bravo and I, we stayed outside, and then Roke went in and he  
7 pretty much, you know, got him out, pushing him out.

8 And the patio in this house, it was like an indoor  
9 patio and it had, like, a column in the middle that was sort  
10 of holding that, you know, the roof. And the person, when he  
11 got out on the patio, he actually hugged that column.

12 Obviously, we couldn't actually pull him out, so  
13 Bravo activated his weapon against him, meaning he shot at  
14 him. And the person just dropped from the column, he fell on  
15 the ground. And Bravo pretty much, you know, like, shot out a  
16 burst of bullets in automatic with his weapon, and the person  
17 was just laying there. And then from there, Roke also  
18 activated his weapon and he shot at him in his head.

19 From there, we left. We actually got on the  
20 vehicles, on the pickups, and we headed towards the mountains.

21 Q Was this all communicated back to the Defendant?

22 A Yes, after Bravo did it -- actually, Bravo did it after  
23 we finish. It was the next day, yes.

24 Q What did the Defendant say?

25 A Well, according to Bravo, what he said, and what



Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6191

1 A It was from Mr. Joaquin to the secretary; from the  
2 secretary directly either to me, but in this case directly to  
3 Cachimba, but that was an order that also involved me.

4 Q So, what did you do next?

5 A Well, we continued to plan that alleged, well, pickup.  
6 And then at the end, the oficina said, Okay. Just be on the  
7 watchout, be attentive. We'll let you know when we're going  
8 to do it.

9 Two, three days went by, nothing happened. And I  
10 ask Cachimba, Hey, what happened with what we were going to  
11 do?

12 No, he said.

13 No, Cachimba said, they did it already. They  
14 already picked him up, Bravo and his people picked him up.

15 Q Did you find out who the person they picked up was?

16 A And I ask Cachimba, Hey, at the end of the day, who was  
17 that person?

18 He said, It was Virgo.

19 Q I'll show you what's in evidence as Government Exhibit  
20 58.

21 (Exhibit published to the jury.)

22 Q Is this the same Virgo, Juancho, you told us about  
23 before?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Did you ever speak to Bravo about Virgo's death?

Valdez Rios - direct - [REDACTED]

6192

1 A Yes, one time when Bravo actually called me to come see  
2 him, he was interested in me fixing a plane for him. I met up  
3 with him in the outskirts of Culiacan at a town that's called  
4 El Dorado.

5 Q What did Bravo tell you about Virgo's death?

6 A Well, I didn't ask him directly, but Virgo's issue came  
7 out, and I actually dared ask him, Well, what happened? Why  
8 did they kill him?

9 Well, because he was an informant with the DEA. He  
10 was an informant for the Government. And on three occasions,  
11 he actually put me with the Government, he ratted me out to  
12 the Government. And I told my compadre in this case -- well,  
13 Joaquin El Chapo, so it was ordered for him to be picked up.  
14 And finally, well, the person was interrogated, we  
15 interrogated him, and, well, yes, you know, he was, in fact, a  
16 dedo, a rat, and I personally killed him.

17 That's what Bravo told me: I shot him in the chest.

18 Q You also said a few minutes ago that there were instances  
19 where the Defendant ordered you had to carry out acts of  
20 violence against enemies; remember that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q I don't want to talk about all of those, but I want to  
23 ask you if there was ever an instance where he asked you to  
24 carry an act against -- in a larger scale against enemies?

25 A Yes, yes, yes.

Lopez Nunez - direct - [REDACTED]

5958

1 information about my compadre, about Mayo, and about myself.

2 Q Okay. And who was that person?

3 A Omar.

4 Q Who is Omar?

5 A Omar worked with me. He helped doing errands.

6 Q What happened to Omar?

7 A He was picked up and he was interrogated, and the  
8 government was passing on to us accurate information that he  
9 was passing around information about us. He was killed.

10 Q Now turning to Government Exhibit 601L-7B, which is  
11 already in evidence.

12 MS. [REDACTED] For the record, we're going to play a  
13 clip from the beginning of the call to 1 minute 48 seconds,  
14 and the transcript will be on the screens in front of you  
15 again.

16 (Audio plays; audio stops.)

17 Q Mr. Lopez, what are they discussing here?

18 A About Omar, that there was an intelligence officer from  
19 the military, Burrito Mendola. He was the one who was passing  
20 on the information about Omar. But besides Omar, there was  
21 another person who was involved as well.

22 Q What does that mean?

23 A That it wasn't only Omar who was passing on information  
24 but that together with the other person who was also passing  
25 on information.

Lopez Nunez - direct - [REDACTED]

5959

1 Q You said before that Omar was killed.

2 Did you ever talk to the Defendant about what  
3 happened to Omar?

4 A Yes. Omar was killed.

5 Q Who ordered Omar to be killed?

6 A I talked about it with my compadre, and my compadre  
7 authorized for that person to be killed.

8 Q Did you relay that order for Omar to be killed?

9 A Yes, yes.

10 Q Now, in the clip that we just played, there was a  
11 reference to a Javier.

12 Who is that?

13 A I would like to see it again.

14 Q All right. We'll move on.

15 There was a reference to Felizardo in the clip. Who  
16 is that?

17 A Me.

18 Q When you were communicating with the Defendant, what  
19 names did you refer to him by?

20 MR. [REDACTED]: Objection, asked and answered  
21 yesterday.

22 THE COURT: I think so.

23 Q There was a reference to Vicente being gone on the call.

24 What was that a reference to?

25 A That Vicente had been arrested already.

1 remember looking at them and thinking, they're probably  
2 looking right through me and wondering who I am.

3           Fortunately, we got up to the second level, and they  
4 went and seated themselves. I was on the other side of the  
5 restaurant. And while this is all occurring, little did I  
6 know that within hours, those same people that I was trying to  
7 observe by myself in Mexico who have a history of all sorts of  
8 violence, that they were being told by my trusted counterpart  
9 that we were investigating them.

10           And so thank goodness, I didn't -- you know, that  
11 didn't come out faster than that, than it did, but I  
12 personally was in danger. And from that moment on until I  
13 lived the rest of the time in Mexico, even today, I wonder,  
14 you know. There's people that know all about me and know what  
15 I was doing, you know.

16           They know -- you know, it was coming from someone  
17 that I was trying to protect myself with, someone that I  
18 trusted who in some ways had done many good things but after  
19 we look back at it, it makes me wonder what was the real  
20 reason for that. Was it to just take out rivals?

21           And so it's very, very difficult for me personally  
22 and for our agency and -- because agents have been killed.  
23 Mexicans have been killed. His own officers have been killed  
24 in the line of this work as have Sonorans by the Beltrans.  
25 The ones that went there and risked their lives to try to

1 capture Arturo Beltran Leyva, one of the Marines died in that  
2 operation.

3 To add insult to injury, within a couple of days,  
4 they killed his family, too. They went after his family.  
5 That stuff can't happen unless there's corrupt officials that  
6 are passing on information. They're leaking what we're trying  
7 to do, people standing beside us. And it only takes one or  
8 two to put everyone in jeopardy. And this is a real thing.  
9 And it happened and played out over and over and over again in  
10 Mexico and still does.

11 Q. In your experience -- you know, you've spent many years  
12 working with foreign counterparts on cases involving  
13 international drug trafficking. Can you just talk about why  
14 the trust between law enforcement officers on those types of  
15 cases is so important and also why corruption is so damaging  
16 to that trust?

17 THE COURT: I think he's explained this already. I  
18 mean, it's pretty obvious what the problem is, so maybe we can  
19 move on.

20 MR. [REDACTED] Your Honor, may I have a moment?

21 THE COURT: Yes.

22 MR. [REDACTED] Judge, I have no other questions.

23 THE COURT: How long will the cross be?

24 MR. [REDACTED] Half hour.

25 THE COURT: All right. We'll take a recess until

Vazquez - direct - [REDACTED]

1 A Because you're sitting -- you're driving around for two  
2 days so there's no -- there's news reports. There's news  
3 articles already coming out that the Marines are in the city.  
4 It's -- you're driving around in the lion's den of this cartel  
5 and you can't really trust anybody, law enforcement or  
6 military, in that city or in that state.

7 Q Let me ask you about that. You said that there were  
8 about 100 personnel strong in this operation. Is that  
9 considered a large or a small number for an operation of this  
10 nature?

11 A Very small.

12 Q Why is that?

13 A Even though they're highly skilled, highly trained  
14 Marines, Mexican Marines, it is a small group for this  
15 one-of-a-kind operation.

16 Q What do you mean that it was one-of-a-kind?

17 A It's the first time that it was ever done.

18 Q It's the first time that what was ever done?

19 A This type of operation hadn't been conducted with the  
20 intent of capturing one of the three leaders of the cartel.

21 Q Was that going into Culiacan itself?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q And what were the safety concerns or the dangers that you  
24 were facing, the 100-group strong, was facing in Culiacan?

25 A In my four and a half years there, five and a half years,

Vazquez - direct - [REDACTED]

1 police officers, federal, state, municipal get killed every  
2 day. Marines get killed there every day, DEA agents has been  
3 killed there before.

4 MR. [REDACTED] Objection.

5 THE COURT: Overruled.

6 A Of course, you're there with 100 marines, but you still  
7 have to think about safety.

8 Q Why can't you go to or seek the assistance of the local  
9 or state police? You are shaking your head.

10 A The fear of corruption. You don't want to trust anybody.  
11 Once you're there, you're there on your own, moving around  
12 trusting the people there, that are there with you.

13 Q After two days, what decision is made?

14 A To move our camp to the nearest Mexican Marines base.

15 Q Where do you go?

16 A We go to Topolobampo, Sinaloa.

17 THE COURT: Ms. [REDACTED]

18 MS. [REDACTED] If I can have him point out the city  
19 on a map, we can call it a day.

20 BY MS. [REDACTED]

21 Q Showing you Government Exhibit 506-19 in evidence, you  
22 said you go to Topolobampo. Can you point it out on the map?

23 A (Indicating.)

24 MS. [REDACTED] Your Honor, this is a great place to  
25 stop.



1 Q So to make it easier, I'm going to refer to this Manuel  
2 as Sinaloan Manuel.

3 At some point, did you start speaking with  
4 Sinaloan Manuel?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q And, generally, what happened when you first spoke with  
7 Sinaloan Manuel?

8 A When I first started talking to him, he, like, he was  
9 throwing his voice off. Like oh, talking like that.  
10 Putting like a different sound to his voice. He started --  
11 we was discussing like numbers and stuff and drugs that I  
12 could move.

13 Q Okay. And after you started speaking with Sinaloan  
14 Manuel, did you start buying drugs from him?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And how did you introduce yourself to him, by the way?

17 A I introduced myself as Jose.

18 Q And how did you speak with Sinaloan Manuel?

19 A Through an app. The first time it was Whats App and  
20 then he told me to download an app called Signal.

21 Q Why did you use that?

22 A Because it deletes the call. It doesn't record  
23 anything.

24 Q Now, when was it that you first bought drugs from  
25 Sinaloan Manuel?

1 A Three days after the first phone call.

2 Q When was this?

3 A April 2019.

4 Q What did you buy?

5 A A kilo of fentanyl.

6 Q How did you get it?

7 A He sent a Dominican guy from the Bronx to bring it to  
8 me in Queens.

9 Q How much money did you pay for did?

10 A \$45,000.

11 Q And what did you do with it?

12 A I sold it.

13 Q How much did you sell it for?

14 A 55.

15 Q Why was there such a different between what you paid  
16 and what you sold it for?

17 A Because I had to make my profit.

18 Q What was your understanding of how you could sell it  
19 for so much more?

20 A Because it was -- going around that time, it was going  
21 for like 60, 65. So I made ten points on it and I get rid  
22 of it quick and get more.

23 Q So after that first time, did you buy more drugs from  
24 Sinaloa Manuel?

25 A Yes. That same day he was not expecting for me to pay

1 for it in cash. He was giving it to me in consignment and  
2 he sent me 10,000 pills that same day. But after that, I  
3 started getting work.

4 Q When you say work, what are you referring to?

5 A Cocaine, heroin, fentanyl and pills.

6 Q What kinds pills?

7 A M30. Rocks.

8 Q Where did you sell the drugs that you bought from  
9 Sinaloan Manuel?

10 A Mainly New York, but also Philadelphia.

11 Q How, over time, did you receive drugs from Sinaloan  
12 Manuel?

13 A Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.  
14 Like, those days I can receive through the mail. And one  
15 time a week from the truck.

16 Q Okay. Let's start with the mail. How did you get  
17 drugs through the mail?

18 A Through the mail, I would provide an address, I give  
19 them an address. It had -- I had to provide the address  
20 before Monday. That way, Monday they could leave so I can  
21 get them on Tuesday overnight. And the one for Wednesday, I  
22 had to provide on Tuesday morning so they could leave on  
23 Tuesday.

24 Q Would the drugs be concealed in any way in these  
25 packages?

1 A Yes. They would come in like a pumpkin. It was like a  
2 shaped art thing that was painted gold, the color gold. And  
3 they would put fragile on it. Some would be 4, 8, 10 or 12.

4 Q What are you referring to; 4, 8, 10, or 12?

5 A Kilos inside the figure.

6 Q How did you get drugs from a truck?

7 A From the truck, they would text me a time. Then I  
8 would drive to New Jersey and they would text me an address  
9 or they would send me like a location. And I go and pick it  
10 up from the truck.

11 Q When you say they, who are you referring to?

12 A The truck driver.

13 Q How did you get in touch with truck drivers?

14 A Manuel would give them my information and they reach  
15 out to me when they was a few hours away so that way I could  
16 start heading out.

17 Q And starting let's say in April 2019 through your  
18 arrest in December 2019. How frequently were you buying  
19 drugs from Sinaloa Manuel?

20 A Oh, every week.

21 Q And on average, during that time period, how much  
22 cocaine were you buying per week?

23 A I would say 40. Anywhere between 40 to 50.

24 Q 40 or 50 what?

25 A Kilos of cocaine.

1 Q Did you send money -- how were you sending money to  
2 Sinaloa Manuel?

3 A I would tell him the amount that I had ready. Let's  
4 say it was \$300,000. I'd say I have \$300,000, then he would  
5 get the ticket. He would tell me hold on, gave me the  
6 information. Then he would send me a serial number with a  
7 number. I would call the number, and once I called number,  
8 they either pick up or text me back to say the serial  
9 number. Once I say the serial number, they send me a  
10 location where to go.

11 Q Just to be clear. Would you be directed to talk to  
12 some other people with a serial number? Like, a code?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And after you spoke with them, would you bring them  
15 money to send to Sinaloa Manuel?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q And did they charge you any fee for this?

18 A Yes. I started paying seven percent. But since I was  
19 doing it so often, I dropped down to five percent.

20 Q Over time, did your relationship with Sinaloa Manuel  
21 become close?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q How often did you speak with him?

24 A Every day, ma'am.

25 Q And what kinds of things did you talk about with

1 Sinaloa Manuel?

2 A We talked about the business, of females, clothes  
3 watches, music, and stuff like that.

4 Q And in addition to buying drugs from him, did you ever  
5 do other things for him?

6 A I served -- I took drugs to two of his clients. One in  
7 Long Island, one in Manhattan. Send him clothes. I would  
8 shop clothes for him, and one time I collected money for  
9 him.

10 Q Did you ever speak by video call with him?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q How often did you do that?

13 A Every time he had to show me something or we were just  
14 talking and stuff like that.

15 Q At the time of your arrest in December of 2019, did law  
16 enforcement seize any phones that belonged to you?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Did you have more than one phone at the time of your  
19 arrest?

20 A Yes, ma'am. About five phones.

21 Q Why did you have so many phones?

22 A One was a personal phone and the other one was like  
23 working phones. I had everything divided.

24 Q What does that mean you had everything divided?

25 A One for like the route, one to speak to Mexico, to

1 speak to Manuel from Mexico, and stuff like that.

2 Q And have you had the opportunity to see the phone that  
3 you used to speak to Sinaloa Manuel since your arrest?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q Have you reviewed messages on it?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q How about videos?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And how about photos?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. [REDACTED]: And I want to show you just on your  
12 screen what's marked for identification as Government  
13 Exhibit 1219. And then a few more. 1211A, 1215A --  
14 Withdrawn. Not 1219.

15 1215A, 1209A and 1214A. You can take a look at  
16 each of those and let me know after you've seen them when  
17 you're ready. Let me know if you recognize them.

18 (Exhibit published to the witness.)

19 Q Do you recognize this 1219?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 (Continued on the next page.)

22

23

24

25

1 BY MS. [REDACTED]

2 Q What about 1215-A?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And what about 1201-A?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q What about 1209-A?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q What about 1214-A?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q And what are these?

11 A Those are pictures from my phone.

12 Q Did you review those before testifying today?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Are they fair and accurate, or exact pictures of items  
15 from your phone?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. [REDACTED] I ask that Government Exhibits 1219,  
18 1215-A, 1201-A, 1209-A and 1214-A be admitted into evidence.

19 MR. [REDACTED]: No objection.

20 THE COURT: Received.

21 (Government Exhibit 1219, 1215-A, 1201-A, 1209-A,  
22 1214-A, were received in evidence.)

23 Q Let's start with 1219, looking at page one, who is this?

24 A That's my single counter (ph) for Manuel.

25 Q Does this reflect calls between you and another person?



1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q Who are they with?

3 A Manuel.

4 Q How did you save Sinaloa Manuel's number?

5 A Don Manuel, Tio Manuel, things like that.

6 Q Starting on December 4, 2019, does this reflect several  
7 calls between you?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q And I want to go to page two. Does this continue several  
10 calls over the next few days?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q Page three, page four, page five. Let's go to the last  
13 page, are these calls between you and Sinaloa Manuel on  
14 December 18, 2019?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Is that the same day you were arrested?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q I want to go to 1214-A. What is this?

19 A That is a kilo of cocaine.

20 Q How did you have this picture in your phone?

21 A Manuel send it to me, so I could see the work I was  
22 receiving.

23 Q I want to go to 1209-A. What is this?

24 A That's a picture of me sending him money, I was putting a  
25 picture of the money, me showing him that I was putting the

1 money together.

2 Q How would you package the money that you were sending?

3 A 10,000s.

4 Q 10,000-dollar packets?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q I want to go to 1201-A. What are we looking at here?

7 A This is him showing me what, how much it will come out  
8 to.

9 Q Is this like some math that he was doing?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Briefly, can you describe it to us?

12 A It says Compa Jose, that's my name that he knows me as.  
13 It's showing you that out of \$90,000, he's taking away the  
14 5 percent for me for the sending of the money, how much I will  
15 have left to invest. And on the bottom of that, it shows how  
16 much that I need for the work for a package, for a package of  
17 four.

18 Q I want to start where it says 300 in the bottom left,  
19 what is that referring to?

20 A 300 for OG, means cocaine.

21 Q What does this mean?

22 A \$300 for every package, for the person gets paid for  
23 packaging. So if I do ten, they get \$3,000, that person  
24 that's packaging the work.

25 Q Are you talking about individual bricks?

1 A Yes, ma'am.

2 Q It says 1800 times four. What is that a reference to?

3 A That's if I'm coming in the truck, to come in the truck  
4 each kilo will be \$1,800.

5 Q What is the four a reference to?

6 A From Mexico to California is \$2,000, from California to  
7 New Jersey will be 1800.

8 Q Is it fair to say that the price changes depending on  
9 where you're bringing drugs to?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q At the top it says under Compa Jose 90,000 minus five  
12 percent. What is that a reference to?

13 A That means that out of the 90, they taking the 5 percent  
14 for me sending the money.

15 Q Is that for the fee that you had to pay to send the money  
16 back to him?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Below that 23,500. What is that a reference to?

19 A The price on each kilo.

20 Q What why does it say times four?

21 A Times four is times a kilogram. Each box will come out  
22 to \$94,000.

23 Q Is this generally the price that you would have to pay  
24 for 4 kilos?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

1 Q I want to also now go to 1215-A, I don't think we've done  
2 that yet. Just briefly, what are we looking at here?

3 A Right there is a number that I'm supposed to call them  
4 and give them that number and they will send me a location  
5 near me. That's a serial number of a dollar.

6 Q Does this relate to the practice you followed that you  
7 described earlier for sending money to Sinaloa Manuel?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q I want to now show you what is marked for identification  
10 as Government Exhibit 1205-A. Just for the witness. Do you  
11 recognize this?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q What is this?

14 A That is a video Manuel sent.

15 Q And was this taken from your phone after your arrest?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 [REDACTED]: I'd ask to move Government Exhibit 1205  
18 into evidence.

19 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

20 THE COURT: Received.

21 (Government Exhibit 1205, was received in evidence.)

22 Q If we can play with sound once it's published for the  
23 jury.

24 (Video played)

25 Q What did we just -- first of all, what is that a video

1 of?

2 A That's a video of a song, saying what was doing, bringing  
3 in the work from Culiacan to New York.

4 Q Do the lyrics of that song refer to bringing from drugs  
5 from Culiacan to New York?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Just to be clear, did Sinaloa Manuel send you this?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q What is your understanding of why he did that?

10 A We were sending each other videos. That song was  
11 explaining everything that we was doing.

12 Q I want to show you 1204-A for identification. Do you  
13 recognize this?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q What is this?

16 A That's a pill presser.

17 Q Is this another video that you received?

18 A Yes, I received that video from Manuel.

19 MS. [REDACTED]: I'd ask that Government Exhibit 1204-A be  
20 admitted.

21 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

22 THE COURT: Received.

23 (Government Exhibit 1204-A, was received in  
24 evidence.)

25 (Video played)

1 Q What is this?

2 A That's a pill presser that he send me so I can see how  
3 the machine works making the M30s.

4 Q What are M30s again?

5 A The roxys, Oxycontin.

6 Q Why did he send this to you?

7 A Because we was planning on starting January, the plan was  
8 to start making the pills over here to not take the risk  
9 bringing them. And he was showing me the machine how they  
10 work, so I could see how they operate. So he told me I could  
11 get them on Ebay. I was like, eh, I'm not getting that. He  
12 told me he would send them to me, that's how it works.

13 Q Why didn't you want to buy a pill press on Ebay?

14 A That was a red flag.

15 Q Were you worried you might get caught?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Over the course of your time working with Sinaloa Manuel,  
18 what did he tell you about who he worked for?

19 A He told me he was working for his compadre.

20 Q Did he tell you anything more about who that was?

21 A He told me his compadre was Ivan, Chapo's son.

22 Q Who is Chapo?

23 A Chapo, Joaquin Guzman.

24 Q Did that person belong to any group?

25 A The Sinaloa cartel.

1 Q Was there ever a time when you learned more about Ivan?

2 A Yes, ma'am. Manuel had called me dedicating a song to me  
3 from Antonio Gilal (ph). We always call each other dedicating  
4 songs. He call me, one time there was a boat, he called me  
5 dedicating a live song, a live band was playing in the back,  
6 dedicating the song. He introduced me to Ivan. He said, this  
7 is the guy, Jose from La Torre. At first I was, how you  
8 doing. I didn't recognize who he was. And then he saw it on  
9 my face, like, that I was not like excited like, oh, you don't  
10 know who is this. I'm like, no, compa. Saying, Ivan, el hijo  
11 del senor; this is Ivan the son of the senor, the man; senor,  
12 sir. Then I was, like, it's an honor.

13 Q When was this that Sinaloa Manuel called you to dedicate  
14 this song?

15 A 2019.

16 Q Do you remember what time of year?

17 A No, somewhere around the summer.

18 Q I believe you said he introduced you from Jose from  
19 somewhere?

20 A La Torre.

21 Q What does that mean?

22 A New York, like the Twin Towers.

23 Q When you didn't immediately recognize the person he  
24 introduced you to, what did Manuel say?

25 A Compa, you don't know who that is? You don't know who

1 you're talking to? I'm like, no. That's my compadre, Ivan,  
2 the son of senor, in Spanish. Like, this is like the son of  
3 the sir.

4 Q What did it to mean to you who was he referring to when  
5 you said the son of the sir?

6 A The son of the boss, meaning Chapo.

7 Q After that call, did you ever speak with Manuel more  
8 about who he worked for?

9 A Yes, ma'am. After that I was, like, wow compa. He  
10 started telling me how Ivan is his one of his youngest boys,  
11 he got nine kids, his godfather, the godfather of the kid. He  
12 kept telling me you really lucked out, you're going to be  
13 good. Never going to be miss anything. You good, you direct.

14 Q Did Manuel also tell you other things about how he worked  
15 for the Sinaloa cartel?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q Did you continue working with Manuel up until your arrest  
18 in December of 2019?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q During that time, generally where would you keep the  
21 drugs that you bought from him?

22 A I would keep them in an apartment in Flushing, New York.

23 Q Is that in Queens?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q Did you live in that apartment?



DAMASO LOPEZ NUNEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 working relationship like between the defendant and Mayo  
2 Zambada?

3 A They always helped one another in partnership. If my  
4 compadre did a job, then Mayo would help him in a partnership  
5 at 50 percent, and the same way the other way around.

6 Q And when you say your compadre, who are you referring to?

7 A My Compadre Joaquin.

8 Q Okay. Did you, yourself, have any nicknames or code  
9 names that were used?

10 A Liscensiado, Lic, Felizardo.

11 Q Showing you Government's Exhibit 11-A, which is already  
12 in evidence.

13 (The above-referred to exhibit was published.)

14 BY MS. [REDACTED]

15 Q Who is that?

16 A That's me.

17 Q All right. So I want to take a moment and talk a little  
18 bit about your case.

19 You previously said you were in custody in the  
20 United States. Why is that?

21 A I was charged with the crime of drug trafficking.

22 Q And what is the status of your case?

23 A I have been sentenced.

24 Q What was your sentence?

25 A Life.

DAMASO LOPEZ NUNEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 Q And did you plead guilty?

2 A Yes.

3 Q What crime did you plead guilty to?

4 A Drug trafficking.

5 MS. [REDACTED]: Showing just to the witness only.

6 BY MS. [REDACTED]

7 Q I'm showing you what's been marked as Government's  
8 Exhibit 3500 DLN2, -3, and -4.

9 MR. [REDACTED] No objection.

10 THE COURT: It is received.

11 (Government Exhibit 3500 DLN2, 3, 4, was received in  
12 evidence.)

13 MS. [REDACTED] Thank you.

14 (The above-referred to exhibit was published.)

15 BY MS. [REDACTED]

16 Q Mr. Lopez, what is this?

17 A That is the agreement I signed.

18 Q Okay. And turning to the last page, whose signature is  
19 that?

20 A That is my signature. Mine.

21 Q Based on the terms of your plea agreement, what are your  
22 obligations?

23 A To tell the truth.

24 Q Okay. And what is your understanding of the Government's  
25 obligations under the plea agreement?

DAMASO LOPEZ NUNEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 A None.

2 Q Okay. What do you hope happens after your cooperation is  
3 complete?

4 A I have the hope to be recommended so that my sentence is  
5 reduced.

6 Q Who ultimately will decide if your sentence is reduced?

7 A The judge.

8 Q Has anyone promised you that your sentence will be  
9 reduced in any way?

10 A No.

11 Q Pursuant to your plea agreement, did you agree to forfeit  
12 any money to the United States?

13 A Yes.

14 Q How much money?

15 A \$25 million.

16 Q And to date, how much of that money have you paid?

17 A Nothing.

18 Q Did the Government agree to provide you or your family  
19 with any immigration benefits?

20 A My family is in the United States for safety reasons.

21 Q Okay. Has the Government made any other promises to you?

22 A No.

23 Q Okay. I want to direct your attention now to 1999.

24 Where were you working at that time?

25 A I worked at the federal -- maximum security federal

DAMASO LOPEZ NUNEZ - DIRECT - [REDACTED]

1 penitentiary of Puente Grande, Jalisco.

2 Q What position did you have at that prison?

3 A I was the deputy director of security and custody.

4 Q And what were your responsibilities in that role?

5 A I was responsible for internal security of the  
6 penitentiary.

7 Q As a deputy director, were you familiar with the layout  
8 of the prison?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Generally, how was the prison set up?

11 A Eight different security units, an area of observation  
12 and classification of inmates, a small hospital, an area for  
13 special conducts, and the government area.

14 Q Who controlled the doors to these eight security units?

15 A Personnel under my command.

16 Q Okay. And the personnel under your command that  
17 controlled these doors, where were they located in the prison?

18 A One was at the diamonds.

19 Q What is a diamond?

20 A A place fenced by see-through glass. Inside of it, there  
21 is security personnel who have the visibility from there to  
22 four other units.

23 Q Okay. And showing you --

24 [REDACTED]: I believe there's no objection.

25 BY MS. [REDACTED]