



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT

Purpose: Inform SWAT/RRT on potential cartel tactics and practices

Setting the Stage:

- Limited information available
- Rolling firefight over multiple locations, potentially 2-3 hrs
- Cartel-on-cartel fight with involvement from Mexican forces
- Post-event documentation photos from different locations



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Road blocking tactic used at many intersections in this and other cartel gun battles, utilized both to vector the target(s) in predictable paths and to deter interference from federal elements.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT

Attackers engaged this F-150 from a distance greater than from where the photo was taken (absence of casings on driver's side). No evidence of rushing the vehicle, indicating tactical control and training.





Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Law Enforcement Sensitive



Border
Security
Operations
Center

Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Law Enforcement Sensitive



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT

Live ammunition possibly indicating stoppages, magazine malfunction, insufficient supply of loaded magazines necessitating hand reloads after initial depletion, etc.



Many of the subjects appear to have the identical brand/model of shoes, or the same color schemes. This may be an indicator for friendly forces recognition, particularly during surveillance.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Live ammunition,
found around several
of the bodies.

Several 7.62 x 39
projectiles on scene.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Note the tactical vest.

Cover location for the subjects in Slide 6, indicating tactical awareness though eventually overwhelmed by superior firepower from the opposition.





Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Interior penetration damage noted in larger, more robust vehicles like a bus



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Note the tactical vest, possibly missing the plate. The type and style of magazine dump pouches appears to be consistent among the bodies at this scene.

Another subject with matching shoe brand/model/color for possible friendly forces recognition.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Again, note the shoe color scheme, and similarity to those in previous slides.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT

Aftermarket stocks (see note below). Most viewed here have replacement butt stocks.

Again the shoe brand/model/color for possible friendly forces recognition.



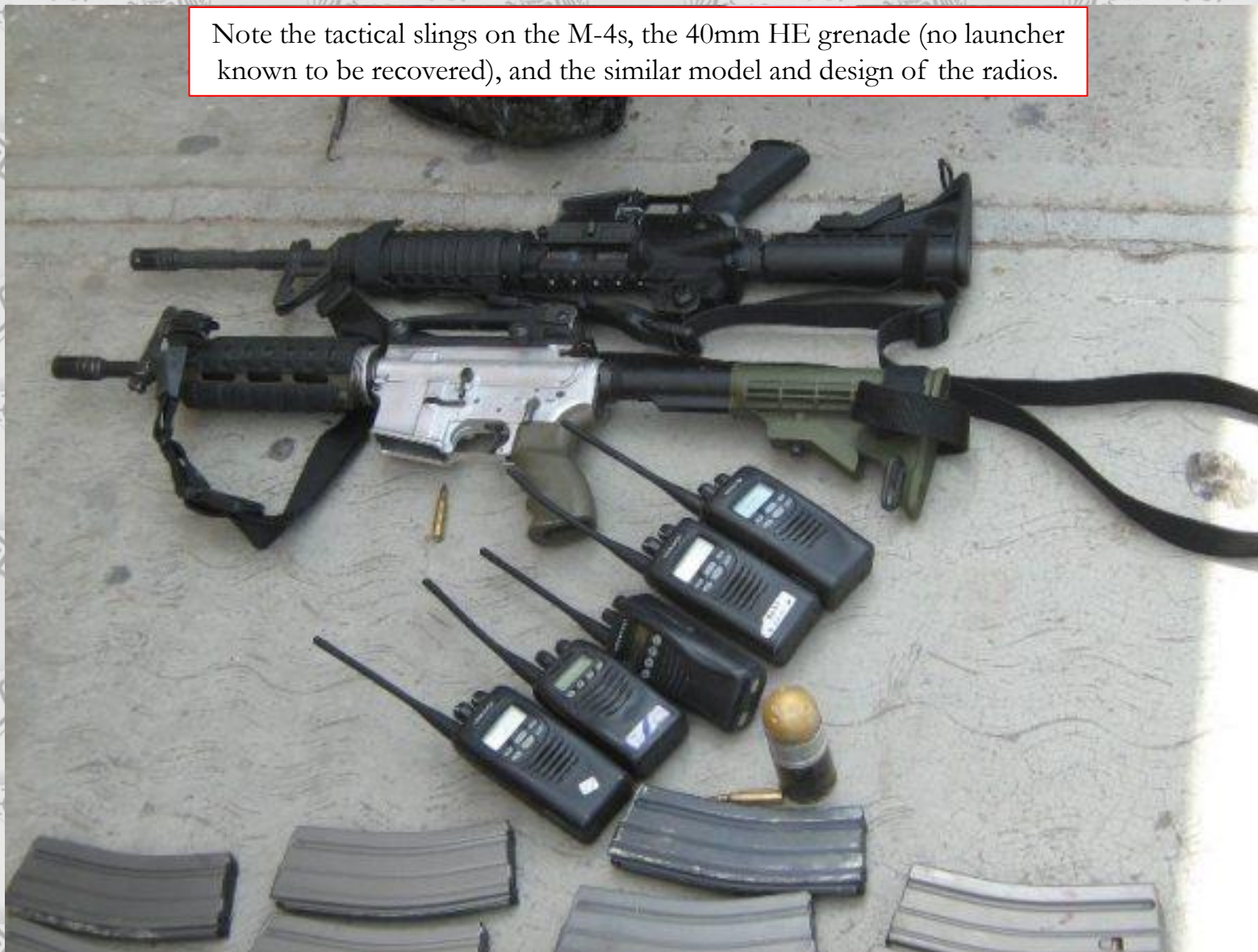
Note the homemade butt stocks. These potentially are replacements following damage in battle, or from stocks being removed for greater smuggling ease during clandestine import into Mexico. Also note the missing forehand grip (blue) from battle damage or overall condition indicator.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT

Note the tactical slings on the M-4s, the 40mm HE grenade (no launcher known to be recovered), and the similar model and design of the radios.





Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Duct tape indicates customization of gear during training to a specific person.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT





Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Large amount of battle damaged magazines from scenes with mixed live rounds on ground indicative of training need for magazine change drills, stoppage drills, and transition drills for RRT/SWAT if anticipating engagement with trained cartel forces.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



AK-47 variant on
the passenger seat.



Law Enforcement Sensitive



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Aftermarket extended charging handle.

The presence of food and a radio charger indicates preparation for a long wait time. This vehicle's occupants were the attackers.



Border
Security
Operations
Center

Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



Law Enforcement Sensitive



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT



The vehicles used during this engagement are consistent with those employed by Cartel forces historically during assault operations – heavy trucks and full size SUVs.



Nuevo Laredo Cartel Battle, 16 July 2010

Cartel Tactics Analysis For Ranger Reconnaissance Team/DPS SWAT

Take-aways

- Sustained a 2+ hour, multi-location firefight... willingness to continue the fight
- Incident(s) were pre-planned...
 - Stolen support vehicles as a roadblock and ram to disable target vehicles
 - Surveillance
 - Appear to be using common shoe as friendly force identification
- Homemade stocks on multiple weapons... could indicate breakdown for smuggling
- Evidence of common tactical web gear (bulk purchase?), use of vests, gear was personalized and adjusted for the shooter showing level of familiarity and training