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DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND AIR FORCE
JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS MINNESOTA
600 CEDAR STREET
SAINT PAUL MN 55101-2509

MEXICO TRAVEL ADVISORY

NGMN-OPH

15 March 2010

MNNG HLD Travel Advisory 10-01

SUBJECT: MNNG Force Protection Travel Advisory for Mexico

1. (U) PURPOSE: To provide situational awareness to Minnesota National Guard (MNNG) personnel with respect to travel to the United Mexican States (Mexico).

a. (U) References.

(1) (U) USNORTHCOM FP ADVISORY (MEXICO TRAVEL) 09-309

(2) (U) USNORTHCOM FP Directive 10-074 (Mexico Travel)

(3) (U) U.S. Department of State Travel Warning for Mexico

(4) (U) Embassy of the United States – Mexico Travel Information

b. (U) This Force Protection (FP) Advisory is intended to provide awareness to the MNNG with respect to travel to Mexico. This advisory summary is not all inclusive. Please consult the references above for additional information.

2. (U/FOUO) BACKGROUND:

a. (U) Worsening violence and insecurity in Northern Mexico has severely impacted towns and cities to include Acapulco, Juarez, Nuevo Laredo, Monterey and Reynosa. Urban centers have become battlegrounds of cartel-on-cartel violence. "Collateral-damage" of cartel firefights and targeted killings has created an atmosphere of fear.

b. (U) On 13 March, 2010 presumed Mexican drug cartel hit teams fired on U.S. Consulate General Juarez vehicles in two separate locations resulting in three fatalities (two Americans and one Mexican).

c. (U) On 14 March 2010, the Department of State issued a Mexico Travel Warning for U.S. citizens traveling to and living in Mexico. Alerting citizens about the security situation in Mexico.

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d. (U) U.S. citizens traveling throughout Mexico should exercise caution in unfamiliar areas and be aware of their surroundings at all times. Bystanders have been injured or killed in violent attacks in cities across the country, demonstrating the heightened risk of violence in public places. Dozens of U.S. citizens living in Mexico have been kidnapped and most of their cases remain unsolved. U.S. citizens who believe they are being targeted for kidnapping or other crimes should notify Mexican law enforcement officials and the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City or the nearest U.S. Consulate as soon as possible, and should consider returning to the U.S. immediately. U.S. citizen visitors are encouraged to stay in the well-known tourist areas.

(1) (U) The FPCON baseline for Mexico remains unchanged at **BRAVO**. The DIA criminal threat is **HIGH**. USNORTHCOM is not considering a FPCON change at this time.

(2) (U) There has been no confirmation of direct targeting of DoD personnel; however, drug trafficking organizations may view U.S. support to Mexico's counter-narcotics efforts as a threat, potentially targeting DoD personnel.

(3) (U) Information concerning travel to Mexico can be found at Travel Warning 14 March, 2010 and Mexico Country Specific Information.

3. (U) RECOMMENDED FORCE PROTECTION ACTIONS:

a. (U) Commanders should consider approving official travel to these areas only after completing a thorough risk assessment. ARNG MSC or ANG Wing Commander is approval authority. Official travel must be in accordance with reference DoD Foreign Clearance Guide DoD 4500.54-g.

b. (U) Per USNORTHCOM FP Directive 10-074 (Mexico Travel), the Commander has directed that all USNORTHCOM Service Components (including Subordinate Commands), Defense Agencies, and DoD Field Activities (subject to USNORTHCOM TACON for FP) provide a report of any unaccounted personnel (DoD uniformed/DoD Government Civilian and their dependant family members) (and to the extent possible all DoD contractors employed by the aforementioned organizations) residing in or traveling for official/non-official purposes to Mexico.

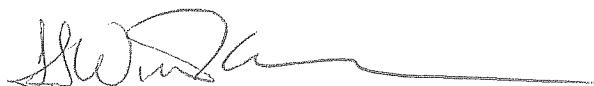
c. (U) If travel to these areas is necessary, MNNG-J34-AF recommends that travelers receive refresher Anti-Terrorism Level 1 training on personal protection procedures and receive a Country Specific Threat Brief prior to travel. Both of these resources can be found on the J34 Provost Marshal/Anti-Terrorism SharePoint Site or contact your Anti-Terrorism Officer.

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- d. (U) MNNG personnel and DMA civilians/family members traveling to Mexico for unofficial travel are highly encouraged to follow DoD and NORTHCOM anti-terrorism and travel advisory guidance and procedures for their own safety and security.
4. (U) ADDITIONAL TRAVEL RESOURCES:
- a. (U) For more detailed information on staying safe in Mexico, review the Mexico country specific information from the Overseas Security Advisory Council - Region 3.
 - b. (U) Personnel traveling abroad can monitor the U.S. Department of State's website for the current Worldwide Cautions, Travel Warnings, and Travel Alerts.
 - c. (U) Additional information can be located on the Central Intelligence Agency World Factbook.
5. (U) POINT OF CONTACT: Refer questions and comments for this FP Advisory to this headquarters, Jennifer J. Winkenwerder, PhD; Minnesota Anti-Terrorism Program Coordinator, 651.268.8866.



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