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FM (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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SECTION 1 OF 4

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SERIAL: (U) IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

COUNTRY: (U) MEXICO (MEX).

IPSP: (b)(3):10 USC 424

SUBJ: IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES (IEDS) IN MEXICO
FROM 2009 TO 2011. (U).

WARNING: (U) THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY
EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASSIFIED

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DOI: (U) 20110131.

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SOURCE:

SOURCE A

1. (U) (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

SUMMARY: (U) SEE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, TEXT PARAGRAPH 1, BELOW.

ENCLOSURES

TEXT: 1. (U//~~FOUO~~) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY. ANALYSIS OF IMPROVISED
EXPLOSIVES DEVICES (IEDS) DISCOVERED IN MEXICO BETWEEN 2009 AND 2011.
THE CARTEL DEL GOLFO (CDG) CONDUCTED THE FIRST TRUE VEHICLE BORNE

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IED (VBIED) IN MEXICO ON 05 AUGUST 2010 IN CIUDAD VICTORIA, TAMAULIPAS. OTHER TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS (TCO) SUCH AS THE **ZETAS** HAVE ALSO SINCE CONDUCTED VBIED ATTACKS. MOST IEDS AND VBIEDS IN MEXICO TARGET MUNICIPAL POLICE. CIUDAD **JUAREZ** ATTACKS, HOWEVER, TARGETED THE FEDERAL POLICE. IN JANUARY THE CDG MAY HAVE REVERTED TO USING SIMPLE PIPE BOMBS. WHITE OR LIGHT-GRAY SEDANS ARE OFTEN USED IN IED OR VBIED ATTACKS.

2. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2009 IN APIZACO, TLAXCALA, MEXICAN FORCES RECOVERED AN UN-DETONATED IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICE (IED) CONSISTING OF A CLAYMORE MINE, A VARTA LONGLIFE BATTERY, AND A SIMPLE MECHANICAL ALARM-CLOCK AS THE INITIATOR. THE MINE WAS TRACED BACK TO EL SALVADOR MILITARY STOCKS AS A U.S. FOREIGN MILITARY SALE (FMS) FROM THE 1980S. **LA FAMILIA MICHOCANA** INTENDED TO DETONATE THE MINE AT THE 15 SEPTEMBER 2009 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE IN APIZACO. [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10
USC 424

3. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 08 MARCH 2010 AN IED WAS DETONATED IN THE BATHROOM OF A GAS STATION IN CADEREYTA, NUEVO LEON. THE IED WAS SLIGHTLY MORE ADVANCED THAN 10 SEPTEMBER BOMB BECAUSE IT WAS REMOTELY-ACTIVATED USING A MOTOROLA CELL PHONE. THE IED CONSISTED OF POLY VINYL CHLORIDE (PVC) PIPE CYLINDERS, FILLED WITH LOW ORDER EXPLOSIVES POWDER AND SCREWS, AND A CATTLE PROD THAT WAS USED AS THE BLAST INITIATOR. THE IED WAS LOCATED INSIDE A MILK CRATE WHEN IT WAS DETONATED. [REDACTED] (b)(3):10 USC 424

4. (U//~~FOUO~~) IN APRIL 2010 AN UN-DETONATED IED WAS SEIZED IN REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS THAT WAS SIMILAR TO THE IED DETONATED IN CADEREYTA, NUEVO LEON ON 8 MARCH 2010. UNLIKE THE CADAREYTA IED, HOWEVER, THE REYNOSA IED USED A TWO-PRONGED TASER RATHER THAN A CATTLE-PROD AS THE INITIATOR AND WAS WRAPPED IN DUCT TAPE. THE REYNOSA IED WAS A PVC PIPE FILLED WITH SMOKELESS POWDER AND NAILS, CONNECTED TO A NEXTEL TELEPHONE. MEXICAN SECURITY FORCES DID NOT FINGERPRINT THE IED BECAUSE THEY HAVE HISTORICALLY DISPOSED OF SEIZED ORDINANCE BY DETONATING THE MATERIEL IN-PLACE. THEIR EXPLOSIVES FORENSICS PROCEDURES ARE STARTING TO IMPROVE, HOWEVER, WITH US GUIDANCE. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 9-11.)

5. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 13 MARCH 2010 AN IED EXPLODED INSIDE A CAR IN TUXTLA, GUTIERREZ, CHIAPAS. THE CAR WAS A LIGHT GRAY CHEVROLET ASTRA, WITH LICENSE PLATE NUMBER DPS-2724. THE BLAST KILLED THE FRONT PASSENGER OF THE VEHICLE AND INJURED THE DRIVER; BOTH MEN WERE ATTEMPTING TO TRANSPORT THE IED WHEN IT DETONATED PREMATURELY. THE INTENDED TARGET WAS A A MEXICAN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (PROCURADURIA GENERAL DE LA REPUBLICA - PGR) OFFICE. BOTH MEN WERE **ZETAS** MEMBERS, AND RESIDENTS OF TABASCO. THE IED CONSISTED OF A 30X80CM PACK OF C-4 WRAPPED IN

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BLACK TAPE, TWO-WAY HAND-HELD MOTOROLA RADIOS, A SAFE-ARM SWITCH, A SILICONE CONTROLLED RECTIFIER (SCR), AND A NINE-VOLT BATTERY. [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC
424

6. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 29 JUNE 2010 IN TAPACHULA, CHIAPAS, SEDENA SEIZED 4 IEDS THAT BELONGED TO LOS **ZETAS**. THE IEDS HAD THE SAME MOTOROLA HANDHELD RADIO MODEL AND AS THE TUXTLA IED, AND USED AN M12 BLOCK DEMOLITION CHARGE WITH LOT NUMBERS TRACED TO U.S. FOREIGN MILITARY SALES TO EL SALVADOR IN THE 1980S. BLACK TAPE WAS USED TO ATTACH THE RADIOS TO THE EXPLOSIVES. IN THE SAME LOCATION, THE MEXICAN SECRETARIAT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (SECRETARIA DE LA DEFENSA NACIONAL - SEDENA) FOUND ENOUGH C-4 TO MAKE FOUR MORE IEDS. [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC
424

7. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 15 JULY 2010 AN IED ATTACK AGAINST THE FEDERAL POLICE OCCURRED IN CIUDAD **JUAREZ**, IN RETALIATION FOR THE FEDERAL POLICE'S ARREST OF LA LINEA MEMBER ALIAS "EL 35." THE FEDERAL POLICE PERMANENTLY ASSIGNED IN CIUDAD **JUAREZ** HAD BEEN ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION (TCO) PAYROLLS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO ROTATED IN 3,500 ADDITIONAL FEDERAL POLICE FROM MEXICO CITY, WHO BEGAN MAKING ARRESTS. WHEN "EL 35" WAS ARRESTED, THE DTO RETALIATED WITH THE BELIEF THAT BUYING OFF ONE GROUP OF FEDERAL POLICE WAS BUYING OFF THE ENTIRE FORCE. THE ATTACK WAS A LITTLE MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN PREVIOUS ATTACKS BECAUSE IT USED A NEW RUSE TO LURE TARGETS INTO THE KILL ZONE. THE ATTACKERS DRESSED A DEAD RIVAL **CARTEL** MEMBER UP IN A MUNICIPAL POLICE UNIFORM, AND AN ANONYMOUS CALLER TOLD THE FEDERAL POLICE THAT A MUNICIPAL OFFICER'S BODY WAS IN THE CAR. THE ATTACKERS ALSO INSTRUCTED A LOCAL REPORTER TO STAND IN A NEARBY ALLEY AND 'WAIT FOR SOMETHING TO HAPPEN.' THE SUBSEQUENT BLAST, CAPTURED ON FILM BY THE REPORTER, KILLED A POLICE OFFICER AND A DOCTOR WHO HAD STOPPED TO ASSIST. THE BOMB WAS PLACED IN A BLACK VAULTZ BRIEFCASE PLACED ON THE FLOOR BEHIND THE PASSENGER SEAT OF THE BLUE-GREEN CAR. THE BOMB WAS MADE USING ABOUT 10 TO 15 STICKS OF TOVEX EXPLOSIVES AND RECHARGEABLE SANYO BATTERIES. ACCORDING TO WITNESSES, THE BOMB WAS DETONATED JUST AS THE FEDERAL POLICE OFFICER ON SCENE WAS REACHING FOR THE BRIEFCASE. A SPRAY-PAINTED MESSAGE ON A WALL DOWN THE STREET WARNED, "THIS HAPPENED ON THE 16TH AND WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN TO ALL AUTHORITIES WHO CONTINUE ASSISTING THE 'CAPO.' (SIGNED) THE **JUAREZ CARTEL**." THE MESSAGE ENDED WITH A WARNING POST-SCRIPT, "WE STILL HAVE (MORE) CAR BOMBS." [REDACTED]

(b)(3):10 USC
424

8. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 05 AUGUST 2010 THE **CARTEL DEL GOLFO** (CDG) SET OFF A VBIED IN FRONT OF THE RURAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN CIUDAD VICTORIA, TAMAULIPAS. THE VEHICLE WAS A WHITE, UNMARKED SEDAN WITH TAMAULIPAS

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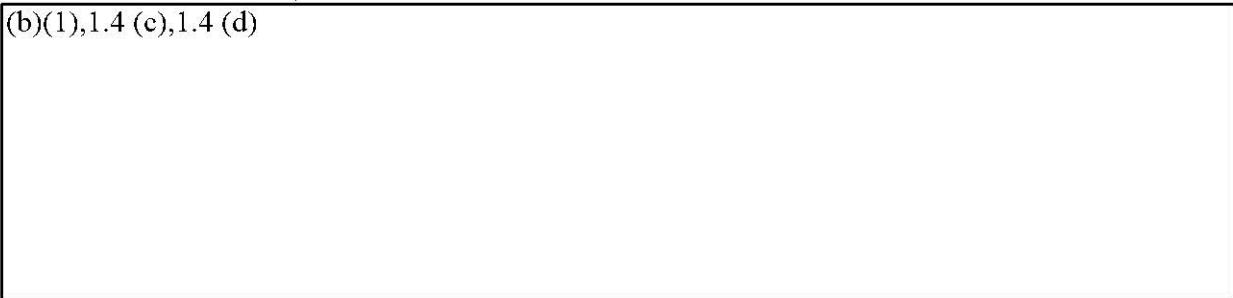
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PLATES. THE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER WAS XEZ-31-84. THE VBIED USED 20-25 STICKS OF EXPLOSIVES. AN ORICA EXPLOSIVES WRAPPER WAS FOUND AT THE SITE. ORICA IS A HYDROGEL SLURRY USED IN MINING, PRODUCED BY AN AUSTRALIAN COMPANY IN MEXICO. THE EXPLOSIVES WERE LOCATED IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR, CONTAINED IN A METAL BOX, WITH A WIRE EXTENDING THROUGH TO THE FRONT OF THE CAR TO THE DETONATION DEVICE CONCEALED IN THE PASSENGER SIDE NEAR THE DASHBOARD. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 36-44.)

9. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 27 AUGUST 2010 THE CDG SET OFF TWO VBIEDS IN CIUDAD VICTORIA, TAMAULIPAS. THE FIRST VBIED, IN A RED CAR, EXPLODED IN FRONT OF THE TELEVISA STATION AT 0035. THE CDG TARGETED TELEVISA BECAUSE THEY WERE BROADCASTING "BAD PRESS" ABOUT THE CDG. THE SECOND VBIED, IN A LIGHT COLORED, 4 DOOR SEDAN, EXPLODED IN FRONT OF THE TRANSIT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AT 0104. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 45-54.)

10. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 09 SEPTEMBER 2010, AN UNDETONATED IED WAS SEIZED IN TONALA, JALISCO. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 55-59.)

(b)(1),1.4 (c),1.4 (d)



12. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2010 AN UNDETONATED VBIED WAS FOUND IN CIUDAD **JUAREZ**, CHIHUAHUA, AFTER AN ANONYMOUS CALL TO THE FEDERAL POLICE REPORTED A DEAD BODY IN AN ABANDONED VEHICLE. THE VEHICLE CONTAINING THE EXPLOSIVES WAS A RED VOLKSWAGEN DERBY, PARKED SEVERAL METERS FROM THE VEHICLE WITH THE BODY. THE DETONATION DEVICE CONTAINED DUAL TONE MULTI-FREQUENCY (DTMF) COMPONENTS, BUT THESE WERE ONLY USED AS AN ELECTRICAL BRIDGE, NOT IN A DTMF CAPACITY. THE FEDERAL POLICE WERE THE INTENDED TARGET. LA LINEA MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ATTACK. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 60-69.)

13. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 17 DECEMBER 2010 THE **GULF CARTEL** DETONATED A VBIED IN ZUAZUA, NUEVO LEON, TARGETING THE MUNICIPAL POLICE. THE VBIED WAS MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN PREVIOUS VBIEDS, ADDING A 5-GALLON GAS CAN TO INCREASE THE BOMB'S EXPLOSIVE POWER AND POSSIBLY DESTROY EVIDENCE. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 70-74.)

14. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 18 JANUARY 2011 A PIPE-BOMB EXPLODED INSIDE A LIGHT GRAY FOUR-DOOR SEDAN IN LINARES, NUEVO LEON, TARGETING THE MUNICIPAL POLICE. ON THE SAME DAY, A PIPE-BOMB ALSO EXPLODED INSIDE A WHITE FOUR-DOOR SEDAN IN SAN NICOLAS DE LOS GARZA, NUEVO LEON. THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS ATTACK ARE UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME (ATT). (SEE

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ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 79-83.)

15. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 20 JANUARY 2011 A PIPE BOMB EXPLODED INSIDE A LIGHT GRAY, 4 DOOR CAR IN MONTERREY, NUEVO LEON, ON 20 JANUARY 2011. CDG IS SUSPECTED OF DETONATING THIS DEVICE TARGETING THE MUNICIPAL POLICE. THE DEVICE WAS POSITIONED BETWEEN THE TWO FRONT SEATS. THE CUSHIONS OF THE TWO FRONT SEATS WERE DESTROYED AND THE WINDOWS WERE BLOWN OUT, BUT THE CAR'S FRAME WAS INTACT. THE PERPETRATORS OF THIS ATTACK ARE UNKNOWN ATT. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 84-86.)

16. (U//~~FOUO~~) ON 22 JANUARY 2011 THE **ZETAS** SET OFF A VBIED INSIDE A WHITE VOLKSWAGEN SEDAN IN EL CARMEN-TULA, HIDALGO. THE TARGET OF THE ATTACK WAS THE MUNICIPAL POLICE BECAUSE THE MUNICIPAL POLICE CHIEF HAD 'GOTTEN TOO GREEDY' AND WANTED INCREASED PAY-OFFS FROM THE **ZETAS**. (SEE ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 87-94, FOR PHOTOS OF THE NARCO-MENSAJE ON THE VOLKSWAGEN'S WINDSHIELD, AND OF THE BLAST CLOUD. SEE IIR (b)(3):10 USC 424 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.)

17. (U//~~FOUO~~) (ENCLOSURE, SLIDES 97-108) THESE SLIDES EXPLAIN THE HISTORY OF THE COMBINED EXPLOSIVES INVESTIGATIONS TEAM (CEIT) AND PORTRAYS SOME OF THE GRENADES AND ROCKET PROPELLED GRENADES (RPGS) THE TEAM ENCOUNTERED. SLIDE 98 EXPLAINS THE ANTECEDENTS OF THE TEAM, "THE TEAM BEGAN WITH A SHARED CONCERN BETWEEN THE SEDENA AND ATF. IN APRIL AND MAY OF 2009, SEVERAL GRENADES "MADE" IN CIUDAD **JUAREZ** AND MADERA, CHIHUAHUA WERE FOUND. SEDENA REPORTED SEIZING "HOME-MADE" GRENADES IN VARIOUS CITIES THROUGHOUT GUERRERO. CONVERSATIONS BEGAN BETWEEN SEDENA, PGR NATIONAL CENTER FOR PLANNING AND ANALYSIS AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME (CENAPI), BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF), AND THE (b)(3):10 USC 424 TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-DISCIPLINE TEAM WITH THE GOAL OF EXPLOITING INFORMATION FROM THESE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. THE TEAM ACTIVATED ON 22 JULY 2009, RESPONDING TO ACAPULCO AND MONTERREY AS THEIR FIRST MISSIONS. TO DATE (NFI), THE TEAM HAS COMPLETED 18 MISSIONS IN VARIOUS STATES INCLUDING CHIHUAHUA, **SINALOA**, GUERRERO, NYARIT, JALISCO, PUEBLA, MORELOS, TAMAULIPAS, AND NUEVO LEON.

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2.(U//~~FOUO~~) THE FOLLOWING WARNINGS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR PERSONNEL OPERATING IN THE AREAS WHERE IEDS AND VBIEDS HAVE DETONATED. WATCH FOR VEHICLES BEING PARKED AND ABANDONED, ESPECIALLY NEAR POLICE STATIONS. SEVERAL OF THE EXPLOSIVE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN SMALL AND LIGHT COLORED, WITH WHITE TSURUS ESPECIALLY POPULAR. IF THE PRESS HAS BEEN ALERTED EARLY AND IS ON SCENE ALREADY, BE WARY. IF A BODY IS APPARENTLY LIFELESS IN AN ABANDONED CAR, STAY CLEAR.

3.(U//~~FOUO~~) THE APRIL 10TH BOMB DUCT TAPE REPRESENTS AN ADVANCE IN THAT THE TAPE INCREASES THE PRESSURE AT WHICH THE PIPE WOULD BURST, AND THEREFORE INCREASES THE IED'S DESTRUCTIVE POWER OVER A SIMILAR PVC BOMB WITHOUT DUCT TAPE WRAPPING.

4.(U//~~FOUO~~) ATF BELIEVES THAT THE 13 MARCH 2010 ACCIDENTAL SUICIDE BOMBING WAS CAUSED WHEN THE BOMBER ARMED HIS BOMB WHILE EXITING THE VEHICLE. THE BOMBER DID NOT CONSIDER THE LARGE AMOUNT OF RADIO FREQUENCY NOISE IN THE AREA DUE TO NEARBY TRANSMISSION TOWERS, WHICH ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE TRIGGERED THE NOW-ACTIVATED DEVICE VIA THE CELL PHONE TRIGGER.

(b)(1),1.4 (c)

6.(U//~~FOUO~~) THE 10 SEPTEMBER 2010 VBIED IN CIUDAD **JUAREZ** HAD DTMF COMPONENTS, BUT THEIR USE DID NOT PARALLEL DTMF USE IN OTHER THEATERS. INSTEAD, ATF MEXICO CITY CONSIDERS DTMF EMPLOYMENT MERELY AN INDICATION OF INCREASED BOMBER SOPHISTICATION.

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9.(U//~~FOUO~~) SINCE THIS BRIEF WAS PUBLISHED, THE CEIT HAS COMPLETED MORE MISSIONS, FOR A TOTAL OF 23 AS OF 4 MARCH 2011.

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c)

4. (U//~~FOUO~~) THIS REPORT MADE IN COORDINATION WITH UNITED STATES BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES (ATF) OFFICE IN US EMBASSY MEXICO CITY.

(b)(1),(b)(3):10 USC 424,1.4 (c)

6. (U) THIS IIR RESPONDS TO 1 DECEMBER 2010 US NORTHERN COMMAND FOCUS AREAS ON TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ON COUNTER-TERRORISM AND FORCE PROTECTION.

DO review in 0329-2009 said deny para 6, but it was previously released in case 0345-2012

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ENCL: (U) TO FOLLOW - 1 ENCLOSURES.

1. DIGITAL, DOCUMENT - (U//~~LES~~) IEDS IN MEXICO 2009 TO 2011, ONE DOCUMENT, 108 PAGES, IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH, 22.0 MB, PDF FORMAT, 20110301 (U//~~LES~~)

(b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i)

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