



RCMP teaches criminal intelligence analysis in Guatemala

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Three experienced RCMP analysts from the Lower Mainland of British Columbia (B.C.) — Kelly Rainbow, Carol Diack and Ken Schulz — travelled to Guatemala City recently to teach a two-week long Criminal Intelligence Analysis Course to a group of 21 prosecutors, investigators and analysts from Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

Security is a serious problem in Guatemala, which has one of the highest violent crime rates in Latin America. The national homicide rate is estimated at 47 per 100,000 of population compared to Canada's two per 100,000. Furthermore, the clearance rate by charge in Guatemala is only two per cent whereas in Canada it is roughly 80 per cent.

Two notoriously violent street gangs, Mara Salvatrucha 13 and Mara 18, have a strong presence in the country. The level of violence is further exacerbated by the key role Guatemala plays in the international drug trade as the primary trans-shipment country for cocaine moving from Colombia to Mexico and on to the U.S.

During the past year, the drug wars raging in Mexico have spilled over into Guatemala. The Zetas, the military arm of the Gulf Cartel (a Mexican drug-trafficking organization), have moved into the country and succeeded in wresting control of large tracts of land from the local Guatemalan drug traffickers. It is along these corridors that the drugs move through Guatemala to Mexico.

There have been two so-called "narco

massacres" in Guatemala: one in Zacapa in March 2008 and one in Huehuetenango in December 2008, in which the Zetas took on the local drug traffickers and inflicted serious casualties on them. The Zetas have even driven off Guatemalan army patrols that have attempted to interdict drug shipments.

Drug connections

While all this might seem remote from what happens in Canada, it is not. The recent wave of gang-related killings on the streets of B.C.'s Lower Mainland has been linked to the drug trade. Furthermore, Wally Oppal, the Attorney General of B.C., and Supt Pat Fogarty, the officer-in-charge of B.C.'s Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit, have both publicly acknowledged that the roots of this mayhem can be traced back to what is going on in Mexico and Guatemala.

Canadian law enforcement has long understood the importance of intelligence-led investigations as a means of deploying limited investigative resources with maximum effectiveness against organized criminal groups. The need to do the same thing in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras is even more pressing.

Unlike Canada, none of these countries have efficient police forces or strong justice systems, yet they face overwhelming threats from violent crime. The Criminal Intelligence Analysis Course was an attempt to give them the tools they need to put the modest investigative resources at their disposal to best use.

The course covered various components of the intelligence process. It also demonstrated the use of standard analyti-

cal techniques such as association matrices, link charts, telephone toll analysis, timelines, event flow charts, and commodity and money flow charts. Much of the work was of a hands-on, practical nature.

The participants were divided into groups of three and provided with laptops equipped with Analyst's Notebook, an analytical software tool used by intelligence analysts. The use of the software for the course was donated by its developer and distributor, i2 Limited.

The participants were also taught the fundamentals of tactical and strategic analysis using three scenarios based on the activities of imaginary criminal groups. As a final exercise, the participants prepared strategic threat assessments on each of the three fictitious groups using Sleipnir, a threat-measurement technique developed by the RCMP.

Funding for the course was provided by the federal government's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade through its Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Fund. The finances and logistics were handled by Rick Craig, the executive director of the Law Courts Education Society of British Columbia, a non-governmental organization whose primary mandate is to promote public legal education within B.C., but which also manages international justice-related projects. ■

Cal Deedman, a Spanish-speaking Crown Counsel with the B.C. Ministry of the Attorney General, worked closely with the analysts to design the course content and co-ordinate its delivery in Guatemala.