Ontario Association of Police Educators

Name of Instructor(s):
Byron Boston

Days/Hours of Course Proposed:
3 Days/24 Training Hours

Byron Boston

SYLLABUS SURVEY

Course Description:

Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations are impacting every state in America. Recent intelligence has revealed that the Cartels trafficking large quantities of illegal narcotics into Canadian Provinces. This problem can no longer be viewed as a "U.S./Mexican Border Issue." The majority of the drugs distributed and consumed in North America originate in Mexico. The Cartel leaders have strategically formed relationships with Hispanic Street Gangs to distribute narcotics all over the world.

The smuggling routes utilized by the Cartels do not stop once the drugs make it across the U.S./Mexican Border. That is simply the first step. It is important for Canadian law enforcement officers to understand that large shipments of narcotics entering the U.S. from Mexico are destined for Canada. Once the narcotics are distributed in Canada, currency is then smuggled across the U.S./Canadian Border headed for Mexico. The United States Border Patrol has reported record seizures of currency crossing the U.S./Canadian border in recent years. This is a direct result of the Mexican Drug Cartels strong presence in Canada. It is paramount that Canadian law enforcement officers need to learn to identify the methods used by the cartels to distribute drugs in their Provinces.

In an effort to aggressively target drug trafficking organizations, Canadian law enforcement officers need to gain a better understanding of the true structure and operational components of the Cartels and how the Mexican Drug War impacts narcotic distribution across the world.

The violence perpetrated by the Cartels has reached an unprecedented level in the United States. Kidnappings, home invasions, murders, and attacks on local law enforcement officers are occurring on a daily basis. The level of violence perpetrated by Mexican Drug Cartels was unheard of a few years ago. It's inevitable that this violence will continue to flow north into Canada in due time. Aggressive tactics will be presented to help to combat this violence.

This course does not focus on statistical data or other information easily obtained through online searches regarding Mexican Drug Cartels. The information presented is based on the instructor's unique experience in conducting long-term undercover operations, wiretap intercepts, and debriefings of suspects directly linked to various Mexican Drug Cartels.

This training course will teach Canadian law enforcement officers how to identify, target, infiltrate, and prosecute Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations operating in their Provinces. All levels of Canadian Law Enforcement Officers will benefit from this training. Gaining a true understanding of the Mexican Drug Cartel Operations will lead to more arrests as well as larger seizures of drugs, currency, and assets.

Course Goals/Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Identify the 7 major Mexican Drug Cartels.
2. Discuss the true structure of Mexican Drug Cartels with a focus on Canadian based operations.
3. Identify what Mexican Drug Cartels control drug distribution in each region of the U.S.
4. Determine the reason for Mexican Drug Cartel "hits" in American cities.
5. Describe investigative procedures used to solve Mexican Drug Cartel "hits" in the U.S.
6. Identify the Mexican Drug Cartel & American Hispanic Street Gang connections.
7. Identify patterns used by American & Canadian street gangs when carrying out crimes at the direction of Mexican Drug Cartels.
8. Follow the "Drug Trafficking Pyramid" from street-level drug distribution to the Mexican drug cartel source of supply.
9. Determine methods used by Mexican Drug Cartels to bribe law enforcement officials on both sides of the border.
10. Identify the various counter-surveillance techniques used by Mexican Drug Cartels.
11. Conduct complete financial investigations to dismantle Mexican Drug Cartels operations at their core.
12. Identify local smuggling routes and common businesses used as fronts by the Mexican Drug Cartels.
13. Identify concealment methods Mexican Drug Cartels utilize to transport their illegal contraband.
14. Distinguish the difference between regular confidential informants and high-level informants that require special approval for use.
15. Discuss various techniques to infiltrate Mexican Drug Cartels.
16. Identify safety concerns when utilizing undercover operations to target Mexican Drug Cartels.
17. Understand the benefits of utilizing wiretaps.
18. Present Mexican Drug Cartel investigations to Federal Grand Juries for prosecution.
19. Identify violent encounters between Mexican Drug Cartels and U.S. law enforcement.
20. Initiate investigation to dismantle Mexican Drug Cartels operating in the North America.

At the end of the course, what will the students have learned?

The students attending this course will learn the true inner-workings of Mexican Drug Cartels. This will assist the students in the identification of Mexican Drug Cartel distribution cells operating in their perspective communities.

The students will learn techniques to conduct financial investigations into Mexican Drug Cartels. The students will learn which financial institutions can further assist their investigations. Contac information for various financial institutions will be provided

The students will learn how to build a multi-defendant conspiracy targeting drug cartels, using a variety of investigative techniques that include undercover operations, uses of informants, and wire taps. The students will learn how properly present cases to Federal Grand Juries.

The students will learn how to determine which Cartels are connected to Hispanic street gangs in their communities.

The students will learn techniques to combat the violent activities utilized by Mexican Drug Cartels.

After completing this three day training course, the students will learn to utilize all available resources seize larger quantities of narcotics, U.S. currency, and assets tied to Mexican Drug Cartels.

How many Days/Hours is this course?

3 Days / 24 Hours

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for the course.

Who may attend this course?

1. Law Enforcement/Code Enforcement
2. Law Enforcement Support Personnel
3. Counterdrug and Military Personnel
4. College and University Professors instructing in Law Enforcement

Professional references:

Dallas Morning News
Borderlandbeat.com
National Gang Intelligence Center Publication - 2011
National Drug Intelligence Center Publication - 2011
Office of Enforcement Operations Title III Wiretap Guide
Officer Down Memorial Page

Methods of Evaluation:

The students will engage in oral question and answer sessions to ensure the mastery of each learning objective. Class participation exercises will challenge students to discuss the material that was presented to them.

The students will complete a fill in the blank exercise to identify the relationship with Mexican Drug Cartels and American street gangs.

The students will prepare various financial subpoenas to demonstrate mastery of the financial investigations section.

The students will be presented with classroom-based scenarios to deal with hostile situations that will be encountered when conducting Mexican Drug Cartel investigations.

Content Outline:

SECTION I – LEARNING OBJECTIVES (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

    A. The students will learn the 7 Mexican Drug Cartels. (8:00 a.m. – 12: 00 p.m.)
    B. The students will gain an understanding of the structure of the Cartels. (1:00 p.m – 3:00 p.m.)
    C. Officers will learn which cartels have formed alliances with Hispanic Street Gangs**.** (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL (SECTION I)

    i.   Instructor introduction and background information.

    ii.   Structure of the Cartels
        a. Leader
        b. Regional Boss
        c. "Plaza Boss"
        d. Operational Branch
        e. Training Branch
        f. Communications Branch
        g. Enforcement Branch

    iii.   Identification of the 7 Mexican Drug Cartels
        a. Arellano-Felix
        b. La Familia (Knights of Templar)
        c. Sinaloa
        d. Gulf
        e. Los Zetas

    f. Juarez
    g. Beltran-Leyva.

 iv. Cartel Alliances with American Street Gangs
    a. Mexican Mafia
    b. MS-13
    c. 18th Street
    d. Texas Syndicate
    e. Barrio Azteca
    f. Surenos
    g. Nortenos

Evaluation Section I

The students will demonstrate mastery of this lesson by participating in an oral question and answering session regarding the 7 major Mexican Drug Cartel cartels and their connections to American Street Gangs. The students will complete a fill in the blank exercise to demonstrate mastery of this subject.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES – SECTION II (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

A. The students will learn to identify local smuggling routes utilized by Mexican Drug Cartels. (8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.)
B. The students will gain an understanding of the drug trafficking pyramid and how it impacts their investigations on a daily basis. The students will also learn techniques to conduct a Financial Investigation. (9:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
C. The students will understand the meaning of "high-level" informants and learn techniques and methods to manage and control their informants. (1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL (SECTION II)

 i. Identify Smuggling Routes
    a. Major Highways
    b. Concealment Techniques
    c. Drop-off Points
    d.
 ii. Drug Trafficking Pyramid
    a. Cartel Leader to Street Dealer in Communities
    b. Follow the Pyramid
    c. Flow of Currency back to Mexico

 iii. Conducting Financial Investigations
    a. Emerging Trends
    b. Western Union
    c. FinCen

           d. Bulk Cash Smuggling

   iv.   Cultivating High Level Informants
           a. Understand Motivation
           b. Techniques to Gain Trust
           c. Risk Versus Reward
           d. Operational Hazards
           e. Protection if Identity Revealed

Evaluation Section II

The students will discuss methods to control high-level informants. The students will share experiences in managing informants and discuss techniques that they will utilize in the future to control the informant. The students will draft financial subpoenas in class.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES – SECTION III (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

  A. Officers will learn techniques to infiltrate Mexican Drug Cartels. (8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)
  B. Officers will learn the benefits of wiretap investigations. (10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

   i.   Identification of weak link
           a. Chance Encounter
           b. Flipping an Informant

   ii.   Techniques to make a drug buy
           a. Developing Cover Story
           b. Building a Rapport
           c. Thinking outside the Box
           d. Chance Encounter
           e. Maintaining Cover
           f. Safety Considerations

   iii.   Overcoming cartel counter-surveillance tactics
           a. Dangers of Post-buy Surveillance
           b. Tracking Devices
           c. Air support

   iv.   Overview of Wiretap Uses
           a. Establishing Necessity
           b. Wiretap Case Study

EVALUATION: SECTION III

The students will participate in class-based scenarios designed to assist in undercover operations. The students will be evaluated based on their input and responses to the

various scenarios. The students will share experiences they have had being "burned" on surveillance. The students will complete exercises to draft portions of an affidavit to obtain wiretaps.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES – SECTION IV (1pm-5pm)

1. The students will be presented with case studies of cartel-related murders. (1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
2. The students will understand the high level of violence associated with Mexican cartels. (2:00 p.m – 3:00 p.m.)
3. The students will gain an understanding of "sanctioned hits" on U.S. law enforcement officials. (3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.)

PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL (SECTION IV)

i.   Case study of Gonzalo Hernandez homicide.
ii.   Case study of Raquel Ramirez homicide.
iii.   Understanding what motivates the violence
iv.   Bexar County Deputy Murder
v.   Zeta Attack on U.S. Law Enforcement (Houston, Texas)
vi.   Gulf Cartel Attack on U.S. Law Enforcement (Hidalgo County)
vii.   Border Patrol Agent Murder
viii. ICE Agent Murder
ix.   Closing thoughts

EVALUATION: SECTION IV
The students will identify patterns with Cartel-related attacks on U.S. Law Enforcement.