

Contents

1	Backdrop to the Assassination of Local Law Enforcement	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Law Enforcement Assassination in the Mexican “Drug-War” Context.	3
1.2.1	Institutional Limitations, Impunity and Law-Enforcement Assassination	3
1.2.2	Spill-Over Arms Supplies and Their Impact	4
1.2.3	A Change in the Tactical Balance of Power.	5
1.2.4	The Power of the Gun	7
1.3	A Multiplicity of Motives for Law-Enforcement Assassination	10
1.3.1	A Systemic Pattern of Assassinations	12
1.4	Northern Tier Mexican States and Mexico-US Ports of Entry.	14
1.4.1	The Selection of Northern Tier States	14
1.4.2	US Ports of Entry: Urban or Rural?	16
	References	18
2	Rub Outs in the Territory: Killing Police Chiefs and Top-Level Commanders in Chihuahua	23
2.1	Introduction	23
2.2	Opportunity, Motivation and Law-Enforcement Assassination	24
2.2.1	Targeted, Strategic Hits	24
2.2.2	Gaps in the Data	25
2.2.3	Methods	27
2.2.4	Simultaneousness and Opportunity	27
2.2.5	Chihuahua and the Northern Mexican Tier (2008–2012): Cop-Killing Without Punishment?	29
2.3	Goals of Organized Crime Elements	32
2.3.1	A “Bird’s Eye” View of Law-Enforcement Assassination	32
2.3.2	Retaliation for Prosecution.	34

2.3.3	Other Assassinated Police Chiefs and Commanders: The New, “Neutral” or Otherwise Unsuitable to Organized Crime	37
2.3.4	Intermittent Local Governance.	39
2.3.5	A Broader Attack on Rule of Law Personnel for Greater Freedom for Movement of Goods	40
2.4	Law-Enforcement Assassinations in Strategic Towns	42
2.4.1	Highway Routes Where Assassinations Occur.	42
2.4.2	Influencing the Selection of Police Chiefs/Mass Police Resignations	44
2.4.3	Broader Attacks on Rule of Law Enforcement for the Movement of Goods	45
2.4.4	Law-Enforcement Assassinations, Reducing Police Presence and Halting of the Rule of Law in Other Northern Tier States	46
2.4.5	Law-Enforcement Assassinations, Attacks on Police Stations in Strategic Small-Towns and Message Sending in Other Northern Tier States	47
2.4.6	The Removal of New, Neutral and/or Police Chiefs and Commanders Unsuitable to Organized Crime/Broader Attacks on Rule of Law Enforcement for the Movement of Goods in Other Northern Tier States	47
2.5	Conclusion	48
	References	54
3	Weapons and Methods of Attack as a Tactical Advantage	61
3.1	Introduction	61
3.2	Considerations Regarding Weaponry	62
3.2.1	Extreme Weaponization	62
3.2.2	A Relative Lack of High-Powered Weapons at the Municipal Level	63
3.3	Armed Vehicular Assaults	65
3.3.1	Data Description.	65
3.3.2	Vehicular Attacks	71
3.3.3	Convoy-Style Ambush Attacks.	72
3.3.4	Lack of Vehicular Protection Means Certain Death.	73
3.3.5	On and Off-Duty Victims	74
3.3.6	Little or No Opportunity for Self-Defense.	75
3.3.7	Types of High-Powered Weaponry Utilized.	75
3.3.8	Effective Attack Method.	77
3.3.9	Selective Targeted Hits and the Repeated Firing of Assault Rifles	77
3.3.10	Who Survives Armed Vehicular Attacks? T6+ Levels of Bullet-Proofing.	80
3.3.11	Prohibitive Costs	81

3.4	Targeted Strategic Hits of Officers Engaged in Everyday	
	Social Activities	82
3.4.1	Hunted Down by Armed Commandos	82
3.4.2	Extreme and Non-Extreme Personal Security	83
3.4.3	Elements of Deception	84
3.4.4	Abduction Assassinations	85
3.4.5	Bodies Left Lying Around/Torture	86
3.4.6	Beheadings	87
3.4.7	From Tactics to Routes	88
3.5	Three Northbound Routes (Western, Central, Eastern)	89
3.5.1	A Rural Dimension	90
3.6	Institutional Dimensions of Law-Enforcement Assassination	92
3.6.1	Institutional Deficits, Impunity and Law-Enforcement Assassination	92
3.7	Police Corruption and Lack of Public Confidence	95
3.7.1	Reducing Target Access	96
3.7.2	Continued Assassination Risks for Municipal Police	98
3.7.3	Access to Bullet-Proof Vehicles	98
3.7.4	Uneven Institutional Outcomes in Efforts to Reduce Target Access Across Northern Tier Municipalities	99
3.8	Conclusion	100
	References	101
4	Conclusion	109
	References	113

Impact of Organized Crime on Murder of Law
Enforcement Personnel at the U.S.-Mexican Border
Schatz, S.

2014, XIII, 114 p. 13 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-94-017-9248-6