

GRUPO SAVANT

Border Patrol agent shoots and kills border crosser

Jun 22, 2011 - SAN DIEGO (CNS) - San Diego police Wednesday were investigating an officer-involved shooting in which a Border Patrol agent shot and killed a suspected border crosser who was allegedly throwing large rocks and wood with exposed nails at agents.

Police were called to assist a Border Patrol agent east of Dairy Mart Road, near the border fence line, shortly before 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to San Diego police homicide Lt. Ernie Herbert.

The agent had come upon three suspected border crossers and had initially called another Border Patrol agent for backup, Herbert said.

When the second agent arrived, they tried to arrest the suspects and two of them fled back into Mexico through an opening in the border fence, Herbert said, noting that the third began fighting with the agents while they were trying to arrest him.

During the struggle, one of the suspects who escaped through the fence, leaned over the top of it and began throwing large rocks and a large piece of wood with exposed nails at the agents, hitting one of them in the head, Herbert said.

As the suspect began to throw another large rock, the agent who initially called for backup fired his gun and fatally struck the suspect, who was still leaning over the fence, Herbert said.

The wounded suspect fell back into Mexico and died at the scene, Herbert said.

The agent who fired his gun is a three-year veteran of the agency. The other agent was injured and taken to a hospital, where he was treated and released, according to Herbert.

One suspected border crosser was arrested, Herbert said. His name and age were unavailable. <http://www.cbs8.com/story/14956397/border-patrol-agent-shoots-and-kills-border-crosser>

U.S. Border Officials on Alert for Fear of Spill-Over Violence

BROWNSVILLE, Texas June 17, 2011 - Top Zeta leader Lazcano reportedly killed in gun battle Friday in Matamoros.

The top leader of the Zeta criminal organization was killed Friday in a Matamoros firefight with rivaling Gulf Cartel, sources close to the newspaper have reported. Heriberto "El Lazca" Lazcano Lazcano was reportedly killed in a gun battle on the streets of Matamoros Friday afternoon.

Gunfire erupted shortly after 2 p.m., throughout the city as the two forces clashed. Sources claim Lazcano was killed at an area near Avenida Del Niño and Lauro Villar. U.S. officials confirmed the firefight and said the international bridges in Brownsville remained opened Friday. They were on alert to any gunmen or Mexican residents attempting to flee the gunfire in Matamoros after a street battle broke out about a mile south of the Rio Grande, officials said.

A U.S. official said they have similar information as to Lazcano's death but had not confirmed whether it is true. An official with Mexico's attorney general's office said they were investigating word that Lazcano was dead. This is the second gun battle between the two cartels in as many days. On Thursday, the Gulf Cartel captured 11 alleged Zeta hit men in the downtown area of Matamoros. Sources said the squad of six men and five women were part of a larger group of up to 60 Zetas who attempted to seize control of the plaza, or drug corridor.

Wednesday, Matamoros residents went to sleep with the sound of automatic weapons fire, grenade explosions, screeching tires and sirens after a large number of Zetas made their way into the city shortly after midnight. Although casualties were reported, an exact number has not been released.

The Herald received information that at least 13 people were killed in the Thursday encounter, with 11 individuals captured. Details were not known. There was no indication that Friday's gun battles and the killing of Lazcano had anything to do with the February murder of Jaime J. Zapata, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent who was killed in the state of San Luis Potosi, purportedly by the Zetas. But a U.S. professor, George W. Grayson, had predicted in the wake of Zapata's slaying that there would be severe repercussions against the Zetas for the murder. Grayson said at the time that one possible outcome would be the capture or death of Lazcano and/or Miguel Angel "El 40" Treviño, the two most prominent Zeta leaders.

He said the capture of the Zeta leaders could, potentially, put the Zetas out of business or significantly cripple them. Grayson has written more than 20 books and monographs on Latin American politics and narco-violence. He is a regular lecturer at the U.S. Department of State. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has been offering a \$5 million reward for information that leads to Lazcano's arrest; Mexican authorities have been offering a \$2 million reward.

Lazcano, also known as "El Verdugo," Spanish for executioner, was named in a superseding indictment in June 2009 alongside other Mexican drug-trafficking bosses for conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States. The indictment dates to when the Gulf Cartel and the Zetas were close allies. That relationship broke up in February 2010, and the two sides have been enveloped in a bloody turf war across northeast

Mexico.

<http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/articles/matamoros-127845-sources-close.html>

11APR11 SAN DIEGO, CA – MEXICALI, BAJA CALIFORNIA NORTE (Mexico Side)
Mexican Army representatives in Mexicali, Baja California Norte reported the seizure last night (11APR11) of 194 grenades in two suitcases that were heaved over the fence into Mexico from the U.S. side of the border at Calexico, California.

04APR11 SAN DIEGO, CA – TIJUANA, BAJA CALIFORNIA NORTE (Mexico Side)
The U.S. Consulate in Tijuana confirmed on Tuesday (05APR11) that two men killed on Monday (04APR11) while waiting in the queue at the San Ysidro border crossing were U.S. citizens. The men lived in Tijuana and commuted to their jobs at a U.S. company in San Diego. Neither man had a criminal record and they were driving a marked company car when they were executed at point-blank range.

22MAR11 DOUGLAS, AZ – AGUA PRIETA, SONORA (U.S. Side)
A U.S. Border Patrol Agent fatally shot a 19-year old man on Tuesday (22MAR11) after the Agent was allegedly pelted by rocks. The incident began when local police saw the victim possibly loading marijuana into a vehicle and chased his vehicle to the border. The FBI is investigating.

17MAR11 FRONTON, TX – LOS GUERRA, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)
U.S. Border Patrol agents discovered a 40mm grenade launcher, two grenades, eight AK-47s and other automatic rifles and weapons along the banks of the Rio Grande river near Fronzon, Texas on Thursday (17MAR11.) The weapons were found while the agents were reading sign and following tracks after going to investigate a suspicious truck in the area in which they were operating.

16MAR11 PHARR, TX – REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)
A Pharr, Texas man was arrested on Wednesday by ATF for smuggling guns into

Mexico for the Gulf Cartel. Agents arrested Francisco Ramirez, Jr. as he returned into the U.S. from Mexico and he admitted to sending at least 100 weapons to his Mexican cartel employers.

08FEB 11 PHARR, TX – REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

Jared Taylor of the McAllen Monitor newspaper reports the arrest of a man who was attempting to smuggle a Browning 30 caliber belt-fed machine gun into Reynosa, Tamaulipas from Pharr, Texas. Julio Ramirez claimed he was coerced by drug traffickers in Reynosa who threatened to harm him and his family if he did not deliver the case containing the machine gun. See the attached article.

05FEB11 EL PASO, TX – CIUDAD JUAREZ, CHIHUAHUA (Mexico Side)

Three American citizen teenagers El Paso, Texas were killed on Saturday 05FEB11 while they looked at cars in a sales lot in Ciudad, Juarez, Chihuahua. Juan Carlos Echeverry (15) was a student at Radford High; Carlos Gonzalez (16) a student at Cathedral High and Cesar Yalín (17) was a student at the Tecnológico de Monterrey in Juarez. Traffickers angry at not finding their target at the car lot opened fire at the three boys instead.

05FEB11 PHARR, TX – REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

Mexican Customs officials in Reynosa, Tamaulipas (opposite Pharr, Texas) arrested Adolfo Rodulfo Sanchez with almost 4000 rounds of 223 caliber munitions. It is unclear if Sanchez is a Mexican or American citizen; however, he had just crossed into Mexico when he was arrested.

26JAN11 PHARR, TX – REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

Pharr, Texas officials report that a woman from Pennsylvania, who had been shot in the head, and her husband, arrived at the international port of entry this afternoon from Mexico where they had been performing missionary work. While details remain unclear, the rear part of their truck was “riddled with bullets” leading to speculation that drug cartels were behind the shooting. Grupo Savant sources reported that the victim was

shot in San Fernando (Monterrey suburb) and that her husband drove to the U.S. border while being chased by still unidentified parties.

20JAN11 REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS – MCALLEN, TX (U.S. Side)

An investigation by McAllen Channel 5 News determined that Mexican cartel representatives in the U.S. are recruiting day laborers in McAllen, Texas to smuggle drugs into the U.S. from Mexico. Carlos Paez-Rentería was charged on Thursday, January 20, 2011 with smuggling weapons and military equipment to the Gulf Cartel from McAllen, Texas. Other day laborers interviewed by the media stated that they had been approached to perform similar work for the cartels.

18JAN11 LAREDO, TX – NUEVO LAREDO, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

Daniel Bustamante of Laredo, Texas was arrested on Tuesday with 16 high powered rifles including five AR-47s, ten AR-15's as well as several handguns. The guns were in the rear of a pick-up truck that was believed to be headed to Mexico.

16JAN11 LOS ANGELES, CA (Economic Spill-Over Event)

The Port Director of the Port of Los Angeles has reported that three cruise lines that previously sailed from U.S. ports have suspended their visits to Mexico's Pacific ports due to fears of violence and victimization of tourists in Mexico. Caribbean Cruises, Ltd., Norwegian Cruise Lines and Carnival Corp. have suspended further voyages to eastern Mexico and will relocate ships that previously visited Mexico's Pacific ports from California, to other home ports. Caribbean Cruise Lines will move their vessels from Los Angeles, California to Galveston, Texas; Norwegian Cruise Lines will move from Los Angeles to Tampa, Florida and Carnival will move its ships from San Diego, California to Australia.

16JAN11 SAN JUAN, TX – REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

San Juan, Texas Police reported to local press that on Sunday, January 16, 2011 they seized 50 ballistic helmets, 26 high-powered rifles, over 600 rounds of ammunition and

24 pairs of tactical boots from an area residence. No arrests were made; however, police speculate that the arms and equipment were destined for Mexico.

16JAN11 PHARR, TX – REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS (Mexico Side)

An alleged Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas Traffic Police officer was killed by the Mexican Army as he attempted to flee into the U.S. via the Pharr, Texas Port of Entry on Sunday, January 16, 2011. The subject drove past a military checkpoint in Reynosa and was pursued until the soldiers opened fire, killing the driver and leaving the vehicle crashed into a tree just short of the Pharr POE.

16JAN11 Drug Czar Kerlikowske Says there is no "Spill-Over" Violence (Mexico Side)

U.S. Drug Czar Gil Kerlikowske visited Colombia this past week where he stated to the Bogota El Tiempo newspaper that "Mexican cartels are not overly concentrated in the U.S. and there are no indications that (cartel) violence would expand onto the streets of the United States." He went on to recognize that the Calderon Administration in Mexico is not only confronting the cartels but that the Mexican government is reforming their judicial system and improving Mexican law enforcement infrastructure.

14JAN11 DONNA, TEXAS – RIO BRAVO, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

An alleged Zeta member named Jose Eduardo Aleman-Chavez was arrested at the Donna-Rio Bravo International Bridge on Wednesday, January 13, 2011 was returned to Mexico on the same date. Mexican authorities alleged that Aleman was involved in the theft of petroleum products from Mexico's PEMEX pipelines in the state of Nayarit.

13JAN11 HIDALGO, TEXAS – REYNOSA, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

Two U.S. citizens who live on the Mexican side of the border were arrested by Hidalgo, Texas Police when they were found to have been smuggling fifteen AK-47's that were concealed in a gas tank of the truck they were driving. Only one of the fifteen weapons had a visible serial number. Hidalgo Police Chief Vernon Rosser stated that the AK-47

was the weapon of choice for the (Mexican) cartels and that he believed the weapons were destined for the black market in Mexico.

13JAN11 LA JOYA, TEXAS – CIUDAD GUSTAVO DIAZ ORDAZ, TAMAULIPAS (U.S. Side)

Drug smugglers being pursued by various police agencies in Hidalgo County, Texas and U.S. Border Patrol units led the policemen on a high-speed chase that initially ended on the banks of the Rio Grande River. When the first officer arrived and approached the smugglers, they were already loading their drugs into a boat that was to be used to return the men and the drugs to the Mexican side of the border. While this was happening, two other men aimed high-powered rifles at the Texas police officer. As the men drove their boat to the Mexico they noticed the Mexican Army waiting for them. The smugglers then absconded further downriver in their boat. When discovered by Border Patrol units further downriver, the men set their load of drugs on fire and escaped into Mexico.

13JAN11 FORT QUITMAN, TEXAS – BANDERAS, CHIHUAHUA (U.S. Side)

The El Paso Times reported on January 13, 2011 that Hudspeth, Texas county employees were fired upon by unidentified persons who were shooting at them from the Mexican side of the border. Texas Rangers investigation the shooting said that the drug smugglers use the area to traffic narcotics and appeared to have fired their guns to scare the road workers away. No injuries were reported during the incident.