

**DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
HISTORICAL INTERVIEWS  
MICHAEL VIGIL - TAPE #164**

**MV = SAC MICHAEL VIGIL, San Diego Field Division;**

**SEAN = Sean Fearn, DEA Museum Director**

**PJ = Peter Jennings, ABC News**

**DR = Dean Reynolds, ABC News Reporter**

01:57:09:27      SEAN:...museum. We did a series of lectures last spring that were very successful that had a theme about medical history and the history of drugs and medicines. This fall Susie Vigil is working on a series of presentations that will take place one a month here in the auditorium. You probably saw a schedule for them as you walked into the auditorium between now and December. Encourage you to attend those. We bring in some very experienced individuals who'll be speaking about their time with DEA and their experiences in different parts of the world.

01:57:44:05      This morning I have the distinct pleasure of introducing Mr. Michael Vigil who will be speaking to you today about Mexico. Mike began his career with DEA back in 1973. Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Mike. Was assigned to the Albuquerque office. He served in Nogales, Arizona; Hermosio, Mexico; Barenchia,

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Columbia; Medehine, Columbia and the Miami Field Division as well as the heroine desk here at headquarters.

01:58:13:08 He was transferred to Mexico City as the Assistant Country Attaché. Then to the Dallas Field Division as ASAC. In 1998 he was promoted to SAC of the Caribbean Field Division. In 2001 Mike was assigned here at headquarters as the Chief of International Operations. He is now the special agent in charge for the San Diego Field Division.

01:58:38:02 Also of note as many of you perhaps remember back in August of 2000 the National Association of Police Organizations presented Mike with the Top Cop Award on a nationally televised program for his efforts in developing the Unified Caribbean online Regional Network known as Unicorn and for initiating Caribbean-based operations Genesis, Columbus, Conquistador and Liberator. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to introduce SAC Vigil. (Applause)

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01:59:14:23      MV: Thanks Sean, and I initially want to thank the DEA Museum for inviting me here. Obviously my wife was very instrumental in this invitation. However, I think it's very important to sit down with a lot of you and talk about things that happen. A lot of the history involving Mexico. As you heard from Sean I have a total of about fourteen years working in Mexico, and quite frankly I think that they were probably the most rewarding times of my career.

01:59:54:15      I worked in Mexico many years ago when there were very, very rough times. There were issues that were taking place in Mexico that called for DEA to do a lot of things that were very risky. Things that we did without any type of diplomatic immunity. No protection at all. It was basically analogous to iron man football. We had no padding. We had no protection, and we took tremendous hits on both sides of the border politically.

02:00:32:19      When I went to the border in Nogales, Arizona myself and an individual by the name of Robert Condiladia (ph.) were transferred there to basically implement an

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undercover program in Mexico because of the fact that there was a lot of drugs flowing through that corridor into the United States. Our orders were basically go into Mexico, coordinate with the Mexican federal judicial police and do as much damage as you possibly can.

02:01:07:27 Now on the Mexican side we had one entity that was responsible for counter-drug efforts in Mexico, and that was a Mexican Federal Judicial Police. They were ill-equipped, ill-trained and they were having a very difficult time stemming the movement of drugs through that country.

02:01:32:16 They were having an equally difficult time immobilizing the drug trafficking organizations that had already garnered extreme power. Mexico at that time was a source of supply for marijuana and heroine. The tri-state area of Durango, Cinalo and Enchiwawa were basically responsible for most of the cultivation and production of opium and heroine.

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02:02:01:17      Marijuana cultivation was centered in the northern and central parts of Mexico. By that time the Columbian organizations had already established a very strong linkage or nexus with the Mexican drug trafficking organizations in order to funnel cocaine through already existing pipelines. When I was in Nogales, Arizona we started going in many times and negotiating with drug traffickers in Mexico, and it was to the point where you'd be negotiating with an individual on the streets of Nogales Sonora Mexico and other traffickers would approach you wanting to sell drugs.

02:02:50:05      I remember one occasion I had undercover negotiations with a very significant trafficker, and I'm standing on the street talking to him when another trafficker comes in and he says Miguel, he says I need to talk to you. I just got a shipment of heroine that I just received. So I said listen. Have a cup of coffee at this coffee shop and I'll get together here within five minutes.

02:03:15:22      Later I sat down with him and he's got several kilos of heroine. So I jump in a cab with him and we go to

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his house out in the middle of nowhere and we negotiate for that quantity of heroine. The following morning this courageous trafficker sends his wife across the border to make delivery of the heroine and she's arrested. But fortunately one of the packages had his name, address and we were able to later arrest him.

02:03:49:22 The times were very tough, but I think that the individuals and the handful of individuals that went into Mexico were basically armed strictly with a lot of intestinal fortitude and with a lot of ingenuity. This was like a human chess game. I remember on one occasion I went into Cavorka (ph.) and Kiki Camerena (ph.) was with me at that time because he was assigned to Guadalajara, Mexico. We were gonna do a raid on a ranch, an isolated ranch.

02:04:31:25 We needed military people because we knew that there were armed guards out there. So we rented a truck for seventy-five dollars U.S., and we basically put about thirty military soldiers in there. We go to the ranch and all of a sudden we come under fire by individuals

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carrying very heavy artillery, a lot of automatic weapons.

02:05:00:16 We give chase. The bullets are flying all over the place. Most of the traffickers dropped their weapons and flee. One of them decides to shoot it out. He's brought down by fire from the military and obviously dies about a half an hour later.

02:05:24:15 We make the seizure, and later I get a telephone call from one of the prosecutors, and he says Mike, he says I found it unusual he says because I went to the scene because they have to do a report very much like a coroner's report. He said it was rather interesting because this individual that was killed in the gun fire had raw marijuana stuffed into his pockets.

02:05:55:19 I said well that's unusual. As it turns out the military wanted to make sure that there was no question that this guy had been killed as a result of his drug trafficking activities, so what they did is they went and got the boxes of marijuana. Took the raw marijuana and stuffed it into his pockets so that

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there was no question that he was involved in the drug trade.

02:06:20:14      Now, Mexico knew that it had a war on its hands. I remember one of the local prosecutors in Mexico. His name was Pedro Mirellos Malpica (ph.). At that time it was—there were no human rights in Mexico per se. They did what was necessary in terms of stemming the drug-related violence. I remember Mirellos Malpica who was a munestero public feraldo or federal prosecutor telling me. He says Mike, he says here in Mexico if the traffickers kill one of us we're gonna kill forty of them in order to show them that they can't do this.

02:07:18:08      That's exactly what it was. It was a very harsh rule of law. It was something that I don't think that they wanted to do but they understood that this was playing in the big leagues and it was hardball. The Mexican federal judicial police at that time numbered maybe about 2,000. They had to cover thirty-three states. In order to get somewhat of a force multiplier they



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would hire individuals that were not trained. They called them madrenas.

02:07:57:22 They were helpers. They basically did the dirty work. These were the individuals that went into areas and basically did a lot of things that—that the Federal Judicial Police did not want to do. But at the same time they made a lot of errors. They made a lot of mistakes. It was a very, very, very tenuous situation. I think that the biggest and most significant issue that we had in Mexico at that point in time was in 1995 when Kiki Camarena was kidnapped along with an informant and they were brutally tortured to the point where they actually made tapes and they questioned them for days in terms of what type of DEA activities we were—what type of activities DEA was conducting in Mexico.

02:09:01:00 By that time I had already been transferred to Medehine, Columbia. Later because of subversive threats I went to Barenchia. But I got involved in that massive manhunt where we were looking for the individuals that were responsible for the killing

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namely Miguel Felix Guyardo, Ernesto Fonseca Carillo, Raphael Carokintero and their Honduran source of supply, Juan Piasteros.

02:09:35:25 I was transferred from Medehine to Barenchia, Columbia as a result of subversive threats. I became involved in the manhunt for all of these individuals, principally Mata Biasteros. We had wire taps that were going on worldwide. We had sources of supply that were providing information. And we were able to identify an individual by the name of Himie Garcia who lived in Catahana, Columbia.

02:10:11:08 We rented a house right across the street from the Columbia National Police. We saw very strange activity. My orders were not to hit it until we saw Mata Biasteros if he in fact was there. Well, there was no way we were gonna see that because vehicles would drive out. Tinted windows. They went right into the garage. But a lot of activity.

02:10:38:14 So being the gambler that I am I was able to get about thirty Columbia National Police officers. We

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surrounded the house. Knocked on the door. Doesn't open the door. This goes on for about thirty seconds. All of a sudden Mata Biasteros comes to the door, to the window rather, and he says what do you want?-- looking for weapons. At that time he bolts. We kick down the door and he's running through the courtyard carrying a semi-automatic nine millimeter.

02:11:25:09 He jumps on top of a wall, and we were rather fortunate that he had just had back surgery. There were two walls together. He falls between the two walls, and he's got the weapon pointing up. We figured that this is it when all of a sudden he drops the weapon and he says don't shoot. He says I can buy my way out of jail but I can't buy my way out of a tomb.

02:12:00:17 That was a prophecy because we flew him into Bogotá and we put him into the Picota Penitentiary there. Several months later he paid over three million dollars to all of the prison guards and walked out of prison. Went to the El Dorado Airport in Bogotá,

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boarded a private aircraft twin engine and flew to Honduras, his native country.

02:12:30:15 Later we captured him again in Honduras. He's now serving three consecutive life sentences. The drug trafficking organizations in Mexico obviously had tremendous power. A lot of people talk about the fact that Mexico could possibly become a narco democracy or a narco government. I don't think that's the case. I think that Mexico has, especially during the past several years, has recognized the fact that drug trafficking poses a very insidious problem to their country. They look at it as a national security threat.

02:13:20:09 I think that Columbia basically provided somewhat of a paragon during the days of Pablo Escobar, Miguel Rodriguez, Orewella brothers and others who basically controlled a lot of the political system and economic system in that country. I look at drug traffic in Mexico as basically being an alternate force, a force that constantly disputes with the state issues

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involving economics, politics and society, the society of that nation.

02:14:10:16      There has been a process of evolution. When I went to Mexico City I basically managed on the American side an interdiction program. This was a very significant interdiction program where we used resources from a multitude of agencies—the Navy, the Coast Guard, U.S. Customs, the Mexican Attorney General's office, DEA. We would track aircraft that were coming in from Columbia. We even had a profile. These aircraft would fly between fourteen and eighteen thousand feet.

02:14:53:03      No lights on, no flight plan and altered registration numbers. These aircraft were coming into Mexico, landing in the northern area, southern areas. In 1991, to be more precise November 7, 1991, we had a tremendous situation in Mexico where we tracked a single engine aircraft flying very low coming up the eastern Pacific. As it went into the area of the Gulf of Tawantepek (ph.) it veered in an easternly direction and it went into an area called La Vivora, or the snake in the state of Vera Cruz.

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02:15:46:29      It lands. We had aircraft up there with flare that was videotaping the whole scenario. Two individuals disembarked from the aircraft and they leisurely walk away. One of the Mexican Attorney General's aircraft lands, and on the flare tape which is a forward looking infrared and it picks up heat from bodies or engines. The picture is very clear. You can see the Mexican interdiction team approaching the suspect, the aircraft.

02:16:29:17      All of a sudden they come under heavy fire from individuals in a wooded area. As it turns out later on it was the Mexican military. You see the team scatter, and they're all laying in a prone position. There's two calls that are made to the Mexican general to desist. That he's firing on Mexican Attorney General officers.

02:16:59:25      The second phone call he says well we'll see how this ends up. He takes a company size force to the area. As it turns out seven PGR agents are killed. The general claims that it was mistaken identity.

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However, the most damaging impact or evidence came as a result of the autopsy reports. Several of them had had their head bashed in with rifle butts. One individual had a gunshot wound to the roof of his mouth.

02:17:39:10 As a result of that two Mexican military generals went to jail along with other assorted rank and file officers. But what that caused was a tremendous rift between the Mexican military and the Mexican Attorney General's office which somewhat exists even until the present time.

02:18:07:00 In 1994 many issues took place in Mexico. January 1<sup>st</sup> of 1994 how many of you remember the Sapatista Liberation Army that started its insurrection in the town of Sanctu Stole De La Stasis Giopus (ph.). It was the same day that NAFTA, the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect.

02:18:40:25 Also in March of that year, March 6, Dinaldo Kolosio (ph.), a revolutionary party candidate, was assassinated in Tijuana by a lone gunman. The

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following month, April 28<sup>th</sup>, Jose Bonitez the chief of police in Tijuana was also executed very close to where Kolosio was killed.

02:19:19:15 At that time said Sedillo (ph.) was then nominated as the PRI candidate for the presidency. He didn't want the presidency, and he told one of his closest advisors he says Dan Kolosio, why did you have to die at this point in time? Did not want the presidency, but he took it, and he wanted to show the pluralistic nature of the government so he selects an individual by the name of Antonio Yosono Gracia (ph.) as the Deputy—as the Attorney General. Yosono Gracia was the first pawn in the National Action Party candidate to ever hold a cabinet level post with the PRI that had been in power since 1929–1929.

02:20:26:29 It was somewhat of great benefit to me because I was in Guadalajara attending a management conference shortly after Yosono Gracia took over as Attorney General, and I didn't know him from Adam. My cell phone rings and it's his secretary who says Mr. Vigil the Attorney General of Mexico would like to talk to



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you. So he gets on the phone and he says I know that you're a man of confidence because I never bashed Mexico. You know I've never finger-pointed.

02:21:11:13 He says I want to meet with you because we're very concerned about this issue of drug trafficking. So my boss at that time says well why is he calling you? I said well how do I know? I don't know him. So he would have to take me with him because they would not allow him into the Attorney General's office unless I was here.

02:21:39:23 Now in 1993, June of that year, we started assisting the Mexican Attorney General's office in the construction of what we called at that time the National Institute for the combating of drugs. They wanted to create a new component that would be uncorruptible. So what they did is they got rid of a lot of individuals, not because of corruption but they just wanted to start from scratch. New people and all the people called me and they said we're out of job so I went to the Mexican Federal Judicial Police director, Rudolpho Forlo Adigorn (ph.) and I said

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Rudolpho I said you need to hire all of these individuals.

02:22:35:11 He said bring them. So he brings them in and hires them. Within two years they were all commanders of may of the thirty-three states in Mexico, and guess who they reported to before they reported to their headquarters. They reported to us, to me. We were able to do a lot of very, very significant things. Mexico also in 1992 created Sandra, and we basically helped construct that along with the U.S. Department of State.

02:23:16:29 It has served Mexico very well. One time it functioned very much like the office of National Drug Control Policy and that it formulated Mexico's national drug strategy function as a C-3I or a command center in that it handled a lot of the interdiction and then it also functioned very much like an epic in that it handled both tactical and strategic intelligence.

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02:23:45:24      But Mexico continues to have very, very significant problems, but I think that working well together in a collaborative effort we can make very significant inroads. The drug trafficking organizations there are very, very well entrenched. For example the one now headed that used to be headed by the Lord of the Skies as they called him, Amaldo Cario Fuentes and they called him the Lord of the Skies. Why? Because he was the individual that basically pioneered the use of commercial aircraft, 727's, and then also French-made Caravels (ph.).

02:24:41:07      This was a very, very difficult time because these aircraft travel in speeds that exceed 500 nautical miles an hour which means that they can outrun the Customs P-3's, the E-2's, and they were landing in the desert, in the middle of the desert. Payload, anywhere from eight to twelve metric tons of cocaine.

02:25:09:20      On the way back to Columbia they would many times be loaded with currency. A lot of times we knew that they were sending forty, fifty, sixty million dollars aboard those aircraft, very much like we would send

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somebody a \$5 money order. I remember one occasion where one of these aircraft landed in the desert of Chihuahua. Again we had a Cessna Citation II jet aircraft that was out in the area. Do you know how many body guards they had on those access roads?

02:25:52:05 They had in excess of seventy which for those of you in the military know that you have to send a force double that size otherwise you're gonna have a pretty significant massacre on your hands.

02:26:06:09 They were able to offload the drugs and refuel the aircraft in less than eight minutes. It was airborne and headed due south. Amalda Carero Fuentes in my personal opinion has been probably the most prolific drug trafficker that Mexico has ever spanned. He died a couple years ago, and it was basically vanity that killed him. He went in for plastic surgery. It was not plastic surgery in an effort to change his appearance. But it was basically cosmetic surgery to make him appear a little bit younger and then lipo suction.

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02:26:54:27      He shows up in a clinic in downtown Mexico City with about five of his doctors. They do the surgery. Too risky staying in the clinic so they take him to a hotel where he's under the care of a handful of doctors and then his bodyguards. His primary doctor tells the others do not give him any pain killers. He's heavily sedated. He wakes up and says give me a pain killer. I'm in pain. Who's gonna tell this very violent drug lord that they're not gonna give him a pain killer? So they give it to him and it's too much for his system to bear. So basically he dies of a heart attack.

02:27:49:08      Then Mexico is a land of conspiracy. He said no it's not. Amaldo Carero Fuentes. But we took fingerprints from the cadaver who is bound a couple of solicitations or applications that he had submitted for a border crossing card one with a fictitious name, another one with his righteous name and we fully identified him.

02:28:15:21      But this man was very violent, generating hundreds of millions of dollars in profit annually and a pioneer

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in terms of innovative ideas that he put forward in Mexico. Recently Mexico captured Ociel Cardanas, the heir of Juan Carra who used to head up the cartel in the Matamurels area which was then handed down to his nephew, Juan Garcia Abrego (ph.). Then with the capture of Juan Garcia Abrego it was inherited by Ociel Cadanas.

02:29:03:28 Violent individual. Not only engaged in drug trafficking by kidnapping and any other illegal enterprise that brought him money. Now a lot of people throw stones on Mexico and they say well Jesus, why didn't the Mexican Attorney General's office capture this significant trafficker? Well, it's not like the United States. It's not like the United States where you can take a handful of individuals and go and arrest someone.

02:29:38:07 These people go into many areas with massive entourages. Sometimes in upwards of forty to seventy bodyguards. What is a handful of individuals gonna do against that type of force? I've got a video that I want to show you. It starts off. They show Juan

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Garcia Abrego when he was captured in Mexico. We were able to get him expelled because we found a birth certificate when he had been born in Palamos, Texas, so we actually expelled him as an American citizen.

02:30:20:05 But what you'll see here is the capture of Ociel Cardanas, and a lot of people put his entourage at over 100. I would suspect it was anywhere between forty to seventy. Mexican military infiltrated the area with about three hundred troops. What you'll see here is probably more of a battle than the initial invasion the first few days of the invasion of Iraq. This will put everything into proper perspective. Can we roll the tape?

02:35:09:12 ...as a result of them providing him with this medication. Shortly thereafter they started finding the bodies of his doctors in fifty-five gallon barrels with cement strewn from Mexico City all the way to Acapulco. That was the price that they paid for making an error in terms of—that led to his death. Let's play that one.

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02:36:04:18 PJ: In Mexico the continuing mystery of the drug lord and the plastic surgeons. Three mangled corpses have been found in Mexico encased in concrete in oil drums. It's a discovery which may help explain what happened to one of the world's major drug traffickers. ABC's Dean Reynolds reports from Mexico City.

02:36:25:27 DR: The only thing that's know for sure is that these bodies which turned up Monday night on a highway near Acapulco are those of three doctors, three plastic surgeons who are believed to have operated on Mexico's most notorious drug boss, Amada Cario Fuentes, last July. Cario Fuentes died after that operation, the cause said to be a heart attack.

02:36:46:21 But this week Mexican officials said the three doctors had actually murdered him by administering a lethal dose of drugs.

02:36:55:08 While government officials never said why the doctors would have killed a drug lord there is widespread speculation here on how his death may have come about. Everyone here has a theory. Some officials here say



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privately it could well have involved the medical incompetence of the three surgeons. Others like this journalist believe the doctors were hired to kill Cario Fuentes by members of his own cartel who believed he had outlived his usefulness.

02:37:22:11 MS: You mean he was bad for business?

02:37:26:02 MS: Yes.

02:37:25:19 DR: Perhaps the most bizarre view here yet one that is widely held is that Cario Fuentes is not dead at all.

02:37:32:19 MS: I don't believe he's dead because he have a huge pile of money.

02:37:37:21 DR: But U.S. officials who should know say Cario Fuentes is definitely dead.

02:37:42:11 MS: The sightings of Cario Fuentes really are starting to replicate the sightings of Elvis Presley.

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02:37:48:13 DR: One thing is for sure. Alive or dead Amado Cario Fuentes has left behind a trail of blood. Dean Reynolds, ABC News, Mexico City.

02:38:07:10 MV: Before I open it up to a few questions let me just say this. That Mexico's cooperation continues to be strengthened. It's no longer the words of Pofillio Diaz that once said "poor Mexico. So far from God and so close to the United States". A lot of that has now changed. I think that with President Bicente Fox he's basically restructured the Mexican Attorney General's office. Really done a great job in terms of the way they have created this federal investigative agency.

02:38:51:09 What they do is they basically segregate a lot of the responsibility so that very few people know about the entire investigation. They have professionalized the ranks by giving them better salaries, better education. At the same time he's brought into the fray the Mexican military. The Mexican military in the early days was basically relegated to nothing more than manual eradication of illicit crops.

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02:39:26:14      Now they also have debted units. These are units that are polygraphed. They do the drug testing. They do the backgrounds so that sensitive information can be passed on to them. The Mexican military has really been a significant success story in terms of counter drug efforts in Mexico.

02:39:48:26      You've also heard about CCEN. CCEN is their equivalent of our CIA. It's the National Security Investigative Center. In the past they would investigate oppositional party leaders. Now they too are engaging very heavily in terms of drug trafficking investigations. You heard me talk about the Mexican military and the PGR. There's still some distress there. But there's one individual that was recently promoted from the organized crime units to Deputy Attorney General. Probably more powerful than any other Deputy Attorney General and probably second only to Raphael Maseo De Le Concha, the Mexican Attorney General in terms of power, and he is a friend of the United States.

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02:40:45:09 But he's trusted by the Mexican military, so that is the thread or the linkage between the Mexican Attorney General's office and the Mexican military. I think that Fox has started to take a new approach. When he took office he said we need to globalize our efforts. DEA and the United States, especially in the aftermath of 9-11, has to globalize it's efforts.

02:41:18:29 We deal with global—a global drug problem. Unless we globalize we basically minimize the operational impact that we're gonna have. President Fox has pursued these drug traffickers with a vengeance. You saw the capture of Ociel Cardana as (unint.) the head of the so-called golf cartel. He also captured Ben Hamin Ariano Felix who was the patriarch of the massive drug trafficking syndicate based out of Tijuana. Captured him in Pueblo.

02:42:04:05 Then recently captured Armando Valicia, another very prolific trafficker. We still have a ways to go in Mexico. Again, I think that the doors are broadening. We've been working with very closely with the Mexican authorities in terms of sharing information. Working

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together in terms of collective targets. But the key here is the sharing of information.

02:42:37:00 Many times I think that within U.S. entities we become very risk aversion. We can't afford to do that. We can't afford to do that because we basically limit again the impact that we're gonna have on these drug cartels. At this point in time I'd really like to open it up to any questions that you may have.

02:43:12:26 MS: (Off Mike)

02:44:03:06 MV: I think that you see that. I think that the drug trade as significant as it is it's a multi-billion dollar industry. You not only have the nexus to parism, but you see actually artificial inflations taking place in many of these countries. You take a look at Minmar or Burma as it was once called where you have the Wa that basically are a government within the government.

02:44:39:28 You take a look at many of the issues that Columbia suffered in the old days and they still suffer but

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where you had the equivalent of let's say Deputy Attorney Generals, presidential candidates being killed. The economy as in chaos. The political system was suffering as a result of the drug trade.

02:45:09:06 In those areas many times a lot of these countries looked at well this is not our problem. This is a U.S. problem. But a lot of these source countries started to develop addiction problems. Those problems continue and they now see the issues that stem from the drug trade. Yes.

02:45:39:03 MS: (Off Mike)

02:46:03:19 MV: Both sides had their arguments. The military claimed that they thought there were drug traffickers coming to rescue the aircraft. The PGR said no. We had ray jackets. Some of them did have ray jackets. The aircraft was a king aircraft that was used for interdiction purposes. It was painted blue and white, the colors of the PGR. But regardless of what happened there the damaging evidence was as a result

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of the subsequent autopsy reports that were done on the cadavers.

02:46:58:08 MS: (Off Mike)

02:47:04:00 MV: I really don't want to say that because I really don't know. Again, there were a lot of--there was a lot of speculation there. I don't think that we'll truly ever know.

02:47:21:22 MS: (Off Mike)

02:47:35:18 MV: The drugs on that plane. Yeah. Well the thing is there's a lot of source countries around the world. There's many geographic areas. For example, we talked about southwest Asia. We talk about southeast Asia, Mexico, Columbia. At one time or another during the past twenty to twenty-five years anyone--those areas have all dominated for example the heroine market here in the United States.

02:48:13:12 I think that we estimate that approximately 60% of the heroine being seized and consumed here in the United

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States right now is of Columbian origin. There's definitely a conflict there between Mexican Columbian traffickers vying for control of the heroine market. But again let's keep in mind that Afghanistan now has surpassed Burma, and it did several years ago as the number one producer of opium and heroine.

02:48:47:08 My prediction is that eventually we'll start seeing some of that heroine start becoming more prevalent in the U.S. market. Now Bolivia started their dignity plan under Ugo Bonsette where they almost eliminated a significant amount of their coca cultivation in the Chapara and also in the Uengas. Peru also diminished somewhat their coca cultivation or their coca production. But then it mushroomed in Columbia, and Columbia now produces 75% of the world's total in terms of cocaine.

02:49:31:26 Those two countries by the way are the sources, primary sources, for U.S. market. They target the U.S. market because it's the most ludi-ludicrous market. I mean lucrative, I'm sorry. She always corrects me. Yes.



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02:50:06:04 FS: (Off Mike)

02:50:25:03 MV: The U.S. is there primary customer. However we do see a tremendous movement of cocaine from Latin America especially Columbia into the European market. The gateway for those drugs without question right now is Spain. They transport it primarily by boat. Goes into Spain and then from there it spreads throughout Europe. It is a major problem.

02:50:54:22 I was in Spain some time back and they have two entities there. One, the national police and then the Guardia Seville. I was talking to the general in charge of the national police and I said do you have—do you see any evidence of Columbian heroine coming into your country? He said no, no. We don't have any of that. We don't have any of that.

02:51:20:05 So I went over and met with the head of the La Guardia Seville. He proceeds to tell me that the day before that they had seized several kilograms of Columbian heroine in Spain. So—but the U.S. is the primary market. Well I appreciate you all for coming, and I

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appreciate the museum for having me come and say a few words today. Thank you very much. (Applause)

02:51:57:26 SEAN: Thank you very much Mike. Just before you all leave I wanted to make two quick announcements. The first is next month, October 7<sup>th</sup>, right back here in the auditorium, Javier Pena, an ASAC in San Antonio will be coming in. For those of you who've had the opportunity to read the book or to see the history channel series "Killing Pablo" a lot of talk about DEA and Pablo Escobar in Columbia.

02:52:21:13 Javier is gonna speak about his personal experiences in Columbia dealing with Escobar and the Medehine Cartel. I also want to mention that work is now underway in developing the lecture series that'll take place in the spring. If you have any suggestions for speakers or themes or topics please get with Suzie in our museum office and offer your suggestions and we'll continue to have these on a monthly basis. Thank you all for your time, and enjoy your afternoon.

**(END OF TAPE)**