

Organization Attributes Sheet: DRPR Airport Group 2

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This drug trafficking group consisted of military and police officers who worked out of Las Americas International Airport as security personnel.• The group attempted to take over the transportation of cocaine and heroin between the Dominican Republic and neighboring Puerto Rico after the arrest of Jose Figueroa Agosta.• Members were arrested in an anti-narcotics operation on December 2, 2010, when narcotics agents stopped a small plane carrying 145 kilos of cocaine. Most of the officers responsible for the trafficking operation were dishonorably discharged from service, while others were forced to switch to other units.¹• A similar operation was busted at the same airport earlier in 2008, but it is unclear whether the two cases are from the same group.²• It is unknown if elements of group are still operating at airport.
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug trafficking.
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members used their positions as airport security officials to smuggle cocaine and heroin onto small planes for transportation to Puerto Rico.
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small network of traffickers, group of security officials and pilots.• 28 members were arrested in 2010 raid.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Las Americas International Airport, Dominican Republic.
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efron Valera Sosa – Dominican army colonel.• Gustavo Amable Feliz – Dominican army colonel.• Juan Alberto Smith – Dominican army colonel.• Adalberto Castillo Perez – Dominican army colonel.
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group of leaders arrested in 2010.
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diffuse.
E. Organizational Structure
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assumed to be hierarchical as members possessed military/police ranks.
b. Membership – is there formal or informal membership in the organization or network? What role do informal or nonmembers play in trafficking and other criminal activities?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Formal members – the military/police agents ran the operation allowing the drugs onto planes, pilots were hired to fly into Puerto Rico with cocaine and heroin

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shipments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralized – traffickers worked together and out of the same airport.
<p>F. Resources</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Financial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large shipments of cocaine and heroin brought in considerable wealth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Human <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport security personnel who are insiders. • Experienced pilots to transport drugs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Logistical <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. ii. Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flights from Las Americas International Airport in the Dominican Republic to Airports or airstrips in Puerto Rico.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. ii. Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. iii. Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of small commercial planes to transport drug shipments. iv. Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the group were part of airport security, whose job it was to stop the transportation of drugs from the airport.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Concealment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drugs were hidden in the planes’ ceiling panels and floorboards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Deception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planes were part of the company Air Cargo Carriers, a legitimate airline.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>H. Prior / Existing Relationships</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of group were, in fact, corrupt authorities, making it easier for them to operate trafficking efforts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No connections have been determined.
<p>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
<p>J. Technical Sophistication</p>

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.
All research conducted according to the project manual.

- Low - drugs were concealed in floorboards and ceiling panels.³

K. Penchant for Innovation

- Low – strategy is not new.

L. Activities in United States

- a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities
 - Information not found.
- b. *Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities*
 - Information not found.
- c. Linkages with US groups
 - i. Market/transaction links
 - Information not found.
 - ii. Stable supplier
 - Information not found.
 - iii. Franchise arrangement
 - Information not found.
 - iv. HQ and Branch office
 - Information not found.

M. Evaluations

- a. Strengths
 - The fact that members were insiders was a strength of the operation.
- b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
 - Narcotics officials were already aware that Dominican airports are a main facilitator of drug trafficking.
- c. Additional insights
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Other Notes

- Although many members of the airport trafficking group were arrested, it is unclear whether or not others continue to operate at Las Americas International Airport as it is a hub for drug transportation. None of the members who were arrested received harsh punishments, which raises questions about the seriousness of Dominican Republic government efforts to stop drug trafficking.

¹ “Dominican officers sought to take over Puerto Rican kingpin’s drug empire.” *Dominican Today* 25 Jan 2011: Web. <http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2011/1/25/38374/Dominican-officers-sought-to-take-over-Puerto-Rican-kingpins-drug-empire>

² “Dominican authorities make another bust; military officers among suspects.” *Dominican Today* 19 Jun 2008: Web. <http://www.dominicantoday.com/dr/local/2008/6/19/28373/Dominican-authorities-make-another-bust-military-officers-among-suspects>

³ Fieser, Ezra. “Dominican Republic: 18 military officers suspected of drug trafficking.” *Infosurhoy* 7 Dec 2010: Web. http://www.infosurhoy.com/cocoon/saii/xhtml/en_GB/features/saii/features/main/2010/12/07/feature-01