

Organization Attributes Sheet: Los Mexicles

Author: Matthew Pacilla

Review: Phil Williams

A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Mexicles gang was founded in 1987 by Jose “El Maestro” Marquez at the Cofield state prison in Tennessee Colony, Texas.¹• Originally the gang was started for the purpose of uniting Mexican nationals being held in Texas prisoners, but later began to include a vast number of Mexican prisoners who sought protection from predatory black and Hispanic gangs.• After gaining significance, Los Mexicles began working for the Sinaloa drug cartel in its effort to obtain control of Juarez and became a subcontracted armed wing of the group, offering assistance in the form of assassinations, kidnappings, and drug running and dealing.• Members of Los Mexicles are often described as normal looking, polite, and possessing a reserved demeanor.²
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extortion, contract killing, kidnapping, drug dealing.³
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Group assists the Sinaloa cartel in trafficking drugs from Juarez City, Mexico into El Paso, Texas.
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approximately 14,000 members.⁴• Large network spread throughout prisons in Texas and along both sides of the border into Northern Mexico.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group’s operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Northern Mexico (mainly Juarez City), Texas.
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founder: Jose “El Maestro” Marquez.• Now led by David Galvez Gutierrez.⁵
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1987: Jose Marquez establishes Los Mexicles.• 2001: Jose Marquez is stripped of rank by gang’s generals due to his opposition to extortion.⁶• Abelardo Torres Larios takes command after the oust of Marquez.• 2006: David Galvez Gutierrez takes command of Los Mexicles.⁷
c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even though Gutierrez is in charge, leadership appears to be diffuse as members are located in many different prisons in the border region between Mexico and the United States.
E. Organizational Structure
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hierarchical – generals, lieutenants, sergeants, soldiers.
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?

- Formal membership as recruits have to prove their valor by attacking members of other gangs to receive gang tattoo.

c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)

- Decentralized as group members are spread throughout the border region between Mexico and the United States both in and out of prisons.

F. Resources

a. Financial

- Receive funds from the Sinaloa cartel to perform violent acts against enemies, specifically the Juarez cartel and its associates.

b. Human

- Operating in prisons allows for constant recruitment of new members.
- Alliances with other gangs like the Artistic Assassins.

c. Logistical

i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.

- Information not found.

ii. Key routes

- Trafficking drugs into the United States via Juarez.

d. Transportation

i. Land

- Overland passages into Juarez.

ii. Sea

- Information not found.

iii. Air

- Information not found.

iv. Intermodal container

- Information not found.

G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities

a. Corruption

- Information not found

b. Concealment

- Information not found

c. Deception

- Information not found

d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)

- Information not found

H. Prior / Existing Relationships

a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)

- Work for the Sinaloa cartel as hired guns and are allies with the Artistic Assassins, another group subcontracted by the Sinaloa cartel.
- In conflict with the Azteca and other prison gangs affiliated with the Juarez cartel, with violence between the gangs being a frequent occurrence.⁸ The Mexicles and Azteca were once allies fighting against the Texas Syndicate, but later began to clash over alliance disagreements.⁹

b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.

- The Sinaloa cartel bribes corrupt municipal police and prison officers within Mexican prisons to protect Mexicles members and allow for smuggled weapons such as clubs, knives, and even firearms to reach Mexicles members within Mexican prisons.¹⁰

<p>c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No connections with terrorist organizations have been determined.
<p>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prison bonding and initiation requirements.
<p>J. Technical Sophistication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low.
<p>K. Penchant for Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low.
<p>L. Activities in United States</p> <p>a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extortion, drug dealing. <p>b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate and attempt to dominate drug trafficking within Texas prisons. Sell drugs both from within prisons and in Texas cities. <p>c. Linkages with US groups</p> <p>i. Market/transaction links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not available. <p>ii. Stable supplier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sinaloa cartel. <p>iii. Franchise arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sub-contractor to Sinaloa. <p>iv. HQ and Branch office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> El Paso, Texas.
<p>M. Evaluations</p> <p>a. Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement in network of alliances is highly lucrative. Large-scale recruitment within prisons on both sides of the border ensures the group's longevity. Direct connection with Sinaloa cartel ensures financial prosperity. <p>b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often outnumbered in prisons. Constantly under attack by rival gangs. <p>c. Additional insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being guns for hire, Los Mexicles appear to be willing to engage in riskier activities if these are deemed profitable.
<p>Other Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">

¹ "PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO MEXICANO (PRM) aka MEXICLES." *Prison Offenders*. Web. 17 May 2010
http://prisonoffenders.com/prm_gang.html

² Maclean, Ruth. "We're not a gang, we're a union, say the drug killers of Ciudad Juarez." *Sunday Times* 27 Mar 2010. Web. http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article7078075.ece

³ "El Chapo world's most wanted man." *Borderland Beat* 7 May 2011: Web. 17 May 2011.
<http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2011/05/el-chapo-worlds-most-wanted-man.html>

⁴ "PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO MEXICANO (PRM) aka MEXICLES." *Prison Offenders*. Web. 17 May 2010
http://prisonoffenders.com/prm_gang.html

⁵ "New Los Mexicles Gang Leader Emerges," Ciudad Juarez El Diario (Internet Version-WWW) In Spanish, January 19, 2006, OSC: LAP20060119356002

⁶ "PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO MEXICANO (PRM) aka MEXICLES." *Prison Offenders*. Web. 17 May 2010
http://prisonoffenders.com/prm_gang.html

⁷ "New Los Mexicles Gang Leader Emerges," Ciudad Juarez El Diario (Internet Version-WWW) In Spanish, January 19, 2006, OSC: LAP20060119356002

⁸ Maclean, Ruth. "We're not a gang, we're a union, say the drug killers of Ciudad Juarez." *Sunday Times* 27 Mar 2010. Web. http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/us_and_americas/article7078075.ece

⁹ "New Mayor Takes Off in the Most Violent City." *Borderland Beat* 13 Oct 2010: Web. 17 May 2011.
<http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2010/10/new-mayor-takes-off-in-most-violent.html>

¹⁰ OSC. FMSO-JRIC: Latin America Military and Security Watch 05 MAY 11.
https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/FBS20110506467149#index=2&searchKey=5212978&rpp=10