Organization Attributes Sheet: Rogue Law Enforcement Drug Trafficking Organization (Belize)

Author: Suman Sajjan Revised: Adrienna Jones Review: Phil Williams

# A. When the organization was formed + brief history

• Little is known about the organization's origins or evolution. What is known is that Ezekiel Tillett, Emmanuel Matthews, Michael Logan, Edwin Perez, and Michael Gentle were charged with landing an aircraft without permission on the Southern Highway, Bladen Village, Belize on Oct 13, 2010.¹ It is believed that this aircraft was loaded with drugs but the aircraft was not apprehended.² On November 13, 2010, a Beechcraft King Air 200 carrying over 2 tons of cocaine landed on the same highway. Five law enforcement officials, Corporal Vidal Cajun, Corporal Nelson Middleton, Sergeant Lawrence Humes, Sergeant Jacinto Roches, and customs boatman Harold Usher were arrested. Authorities in Belize believe the two incidents were related. In May 2011, Ezequiel (Ezekiel) Tillet and Michael Gentle were arrested in connection with the November 13, 2010 incident and charged with conspiracy to abet a crime.³ The five law enforcement officials arrested are seen as the architects of the drug trafficking plot.⁴

# B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,

- a. In general
  - Drug trafficking
- b. Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in
  - On November 13, 2010, a Beechcraft King Air 200 carrying over 2 tons of cocaine landed on the Southern Highway in Belize.

### C. Scope and Size

- a. Estimated size of network and membership
  - Information not found. It seems likely that those involved were part of a larger network
- b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
  - Belize, specifically Sartejena region<sup>6</sup>

# D. Leader Characteristics

- a. Who is/are the leader(s)
  - Corporal Vidal Cajun, Corporal Nelson Middleton, Sergeant Lawrence Humes, Sergeant Jacinto Roches, Corporal Renel Grant<sup>7</sup>, and customs boatman Harold Usher.<sup>8</sup>
  - Other key members/drug dealers: Ezekiel Tillett, Emmanuel Matthews, Michael Logan, Edwin Perez, Michael Gentle.<sup>9</sup>
- b. Leadership timeline
  - Information not found
- c. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
  - Information not found

## E. Organizational Structure

- a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
  - Information not found
- 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?
  - Information not found
- c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
  - Information not found

#### F. Resources

- a. Financial
  - Information not found
- b. Human
  - Police resources
- c. Logistical
  - i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.
    - Information not found
  - ii. Key routes
    - Cocaine transported via aircraft from Colombia into Belize from where it is sent to Mexico via Rio Hondo.<sup>10</sup>

### d. Transportation

- i. Land
  - Information not found
- ii. Sea
  - On boat to Mexico via the Rio Hondo, a natural border between Mexico and Belize. 11
- iii. Air
  - King Air Beechcaft 200 (300-FA-137)<sup>12</sup> which is believed to be stolen from the Honduras military.<sup>13</sup>
- iv. Intermodal container
  - Information not found

## G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities

- a. Corruption
  - Traffickers themselves are police officers and customs agents.
- b. Concealment
  - Information not found
- c. Deception
  - Information not found
- d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
  - Landed aircraft on highways

## H. Prior / Existing Relationships

- a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
  - 80 cocaine bales seized had black scorpion insignia and L.R inscription representative of the Cali Cartel in Colombia<sup>14</sup> or a black scorpion<sup>15</sup> with the red Star of David.<sup>16</sup>
- b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement, political parties and other state entities, etc.
  - Police officers and customs agents are the drug traffickers
- c. Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.
  - Information not found

# I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)

Information not found

# J. Technical Sophistication

Information not found

## K. Penchant for Innovation

• Information not found

#### L. Activities in United States

a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

- None apparent
- 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
  - Associated with large Colombia drug trafficking organization which serves as a supplier and provides additional resources.
  - Infiltrated the Belize police force.
- b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities
  - Members have been arrested and charged in Belize
- c. Additional insights
  - The members appear to be working with large Colombian drug organizations to traffic cocaine into Mexico and are just middlemen of a larger organization. Now that Corporal Vidal Cajun, Corporal Nelson Middleton, Sergeant Lawrence Humes, Sergeant Jacinto Roches, Corporal Renel Grant, 17 customs boatman Harold Usher, Ezekiel Tillett, Emmanuel Matthews, Michael Logan, Edwin Perez, and Michael Gentle 18 have been arrested and charged their ability to serve as traffickers is severely limited. There is a possibility, however, that they will simply be replaced and that the route and method will continue to be used.

#### **Other Notes**

 Nelson Middleton was the driver of governor general Sir Colville Young, representative of the British Crown in Belize.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Five Charged in Connection to Presumed Drug Plane in Sarteneja," *Love FM.com*, October 19-23, 2010, OSC: LAP20101024356002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "Five Charged in Connection to Presumed Drug Plane in Sarteneja," *Love FM.com*, October 19-23, 2010, OSC: LAP20101024356002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Two More Arrests for Largest Cocaine Bust and Drug Plane," *News 5*, May 2, 2011, Retrieved online at: <a href="http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/53605">http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/53605</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> "Aseguran Nacroavioneta en Belice," *Por Esto de Quintana Roo*, November 15, 2010, Retrieved online at: <a href="http://www.periodistasquintanaroo.com/sitio/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=6542:aseguran-narcoavioneta-en-belice&catid=38:nota-abajo-editorial&Itemid=59">http://www.periodistasquintanaroo.com/sitio/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=6542:aseguran-narcoavioneta-en-belice&catid=38:nota-abajo-editorial&Itemid=59</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> "Two More Arrests for Largest Cocaine Bust and Drug Plane," *News 5,* May 2, 2011, Retrieved online at: <a href="http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/53605">http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/53605</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> "Five Charged in Connection to Presumed Drug Plane in Sarteneja," *Love FM.com*, October 19-23, 2010, OSC: LAP20101024356002

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> ibid

<sup>8</sup> "5 Read Additional charge for Southern Hwy Drug Plane," *Amandala*, December 11, 2010, Retrieved online at: http://ambergriscave.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/392722/all/DRUG\_PLANE\_LANDS\_IN\_SOUTHERN\_B.htm <sup>9</sup> "Five Charged in Connection to Presumed Drug Plane in Sarteneja," Love FM.com, October 19-23, 2010, OSC: LAP20101024356002 <sup>10</sup> Can, Ramiro, "Optan Narcos Por Belice," Quintana Roo, November 16, 2010, Retrieved online at: http://www.poresto.net/ver\_nota.php?zona=qroo&idSeccion=3&idTitulo=54954 <sup>11</sup> ibid <sup>12</sup> "Aseguran Narcoavioneta en Belice," *Quintana Roo*, November 15, 2010, Retrieved online at: http://www.poresto.net/ver\_nota.php?zona=qroo&idSeccion=2&idTitulo=54697 <sup>13</sup> "Two More Arrests for Largest Cocaine Bust and Drug Plane," News 5, May 2, 2011, Retrieved online at: http://edition.channel5belize.com/archives/53605 <sup>14</sup> Cavetano. Isani, "Police Officers Still Arrested After \$140 Million of Cocaine Found," News Five, November 17, 2010. Retrieved online at: http://ambergriscaye.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/392722/3/DRUG\_PLANE\_LANDS\_IN\_SOUTHERN\_B.html <sup>15</sup> Sanchez, Jose, "Drug Plane Lands on Highway with Million Dollars worth of Suspected Cocaine," *Channel 5*, November 16, 2010, Retrieved online at: http://ambergriscaye.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/392722/all/DRUG PLANE LANDS IN SOUTHERN B.htm <sup>16</sup> "BZ\$131 million worth of cocaína!," *Amandala*, November 19, 2010, Retrieved online at: http://ambergriscaye.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/392722/all/DRUG PLANE LANDS IN SOUTHERN B.htm <sup>17</sup> "Five Charged in Connection to Presumed Drug Plane in Sarteneja," Love FM.com, October 19-23. 2010, OSC: LAP20101024356002 <sup>18</sup> "5 Read Additional charge for Southern Hwy Drug Plane," Amandala, December 1, 2010, Retrieved online at: http://ambergriscaye.com/forum/ubbthreads.php/topics/392722/all/DRUG PLANE LANDS IN SOUTHERN B.htm <sup>19</sup> "Aseguran Nacroavioneta en Belice," *Por Esto de Quintana Roo*, November 15,2010, Retrieved online at: http://www.periodistasquintanaroo.com/sitio/index.php?option=com\_content&view=article&id=6542:asegurannarcoavioneta-en-belice&catid=38:nota-abajo-editorial&Itemid=59