

## Organization Attributes Sheet: The Sarceño Family

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<b>A. When the organization was formed + brief history</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allende del Mar Sarceño began as a subordinate of Jimmy Jereze, former head of the Luciano Cartel. In 2001, shortly after Jerez's assassination, Allende took over drug trafficking in Guatemala's south acific coastal region.<sup>1</sup> In December 2006, Allende del Mar Sarceño was arrested in the United States on conspiracy to smuggle illegal substances into the United States.<sup>2</sup> After Allende's detention, his brothers Eddy and Victor took over leadership of the cartel.<sup>3</sup> There were legal proceedings open against them in Guatemala at the time.<sup>4</sup> The family has had a low profile since Allende's detention.</li></ul>
<b>B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,</b>
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drug trafficking, money laundering</li><li>Money laundering: The Sarceño organization owned a ranch and a boating company for the purposes of laundering money from cocaine sales and concealing drug shipments.</li></ul>
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drug trafficking: The group transported large amounts of cocaine through Guatemala to Mexico.<sup>5</sup></li></ul>
<b>C. Scope and Size</b>
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The DEA considered the Sarceño organization one of the principal cartels smuggling drugs on the Southern coast, although its size is unknown.<sup>6</sup></li></ul>
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Guatemala: The Sarceño family operated out of Buena Vista, Iztapa, Escuintla and usually delivered to San Marcos.<sup>7</sup></li><li>Mexico</li></ul>
<b>D. Leader Characteristics</b>
Leadership
a. Allende del Mar Sarceño <sup>8</sup>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eddy Sarceño, brother<sup>9</sup></li><li>Victor Sarceño, brother<sup>10</sup></li></ul>
a. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allende del Mar Sarceño (2001-December 26,2006)</li><li>Eddy Sarceño (December 2006 – unknown)</li><li>Victor Sarceño (December 2006 – unknown)</li></ul>
b. Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Unknown</li></ul>
<b>E. Organizational Structure</b>
a. Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Hierarchical</li></ul>
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"><li>Unknown</li></ul>
c. Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)

- Centralized

## F. Resources

### a. Financial

- The organization owned substantial real estate and businesses.

### b. Human

- Unknown

### c. Logistical

#### i. Forgery, safe-houses, etc.

- The Sarceño family owned the Waikiki ranch and the Don Kevin Fishing and Services Enterprise, which it used to launder money and conceal their illicit drug shipments.<sup>11</sup>

#### ii. Key routes

- The organization smuggled drugs into Guatemala using small aircraft, shrimp boats, or sport-fishing boats.<sup>12</sup>

### d. Transportation

#### i. Land

- Unknown

#### ii. Sea

- The Sarceño family smuggle drugs through Guatemala to the Mexican border using shrimp boats and sport-fishing boats.<sup>13</sup>

#### iii. Air

- The group transported drugs into Guatemala using small airplanes that landed on private estates owned by the organization.<sup>14</sup>

#### iv. Intermodal container

- Unknown

## G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities

### a. Corruption

- The group used connections with local authorities to avoid boat inspections.<sup>15</sup>
- The Sarceño's property was equipped with a direct line to the military base on the south coast.<sup>16</sup>

### b. Concealment

- Unknown

### c. Deception

- Unknown

### d. Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)

- Unknown

## H. Prior / Existing Relationships

### a. Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)

- The Sarceño family transported narcotics to the Chamale cartel in San Marco, which then smuggled the drugs into Mexico and the United States.<sup>17</sup>
- Allende del Mar Sarceño started out as a subordinate of Jimmy Jereze, former head of the Luciano Cartel. The Luciano group allowed him to take over operations in the region in 2001 following Jereze's assassination.<sup>18</sup>
- The Sarceño family members were known affiliates with the Sinaloa cartel.<sup>19</sup>

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

- The Sarceño family is well liked in its local town of Buena Vista and has connections to corrupt, local authorities that allowed it to operate its trafficking organization without much difficulty.<sup>20</sup>

<p>c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul>
<p><b>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seems to be family based.</li> </ul>
<p><b>J. Technical Sophistication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low</li> </ul>
<p><b>K. Penchant for Innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low</li> </ul>
<p><b>L. Activities in United States</b></p> <p>a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul> <p>b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul> <p>c. Linkages with US groups</p> <p>i. Market/transaction links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul> <p>ii. Stable supplier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul> <p>iii. Franchise arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul> <p>iv. HQ and Branch office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul>
<p><b>M. Evaluations</b></p> <p>a. Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Sarceño family is well liked in its local town of Buena Vista and has connections to corrupt, local authorities that allowed it to operate its trafficking organization without much difficulty.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul> <p>b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group is not known to expand technologically or to be innovative.</li> </ul> <p>c. Additional insights</p>
<p><b>Other Notes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is very little information about the Sarceño family's operations after Allende del Mar Sarceño's arrest in December 2006.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Sas, Luis Angel. "Sarceño was Head of Drug Traffickers since 2001, said the PNC," *El Periodico*, January 25, 2007. <http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es//pais/36089>

<sup>2</sup> Seijo, Lorena, "Guatemala:Cartel Bribed Military Commanders to Transport Narcotics Into Mexico," *Guatemala City Prensa Libre*, January 26, 2007, OSC: LAP20070126026003.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> "Guatemala: Drug Traffickers Forcing Owners to Sell Farm Along Mexican Border," *Guatemala City Prensa Libre*, December 7, 2008, OSC: LAP20081209026001.

<sup>6</sup> Seijo, Lorena, "Guatemala:Cartel Bribed Military Commanders to Transport Narcotics Into Mexico," *Guatemala City Prensa Libre*, January 26, 2007, OSC: LAP20070126026003.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> "Guatemalan Captured in U.S." *Guatemala News*, January 24, 2007.

[http://www.guatelinda.com/noticias/archives/2007\\_01\\_24\\_archive.html](http://www.guatelinda.com/noticias/archives/2007_01_24_archive.html)

<sup>17</sup> Seijo, Lorena. "Guatemala: Cartel Bribed Military Commanders to Transport Narcotics Into Mexico," *Guatemala City Prensa Libre*, January 26, 2007. Open Source Center #LAP20070126026003

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Gutierrez, Edgar, "Situation Analysis: the War Came," *El Periodico*, May 20, 2011.

<http://www.elperiodico.com.gt/es/20080406/domingo/51895/?tpl=54>

<sup>20</sup> "Guatemalan captured in U.S.," *Guatemala News*, January 24, 2007.

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid.