Overview

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Book Summary
Police and Public Security in Mexico

• Large-scale troop deployments throughout Mexico beginning late 2006

• Militarization of public security a concern
  – Human rights worries
  – Potential for corruption; open-ended?
  – Net effectiveness

• Role of the police
  – Effectiveness of police indicator for militarization
Marcos Pablo Moloeznik
“The Militarization of Public Security and the Role of the Military in Mexico”

• Militarization not new; part of longer-term trend
• Military involvement dependent partly on competence of police
• Military’s role becoming more institutionalized
Guillermo Zepeda Lecuona
“Mexican Police and the Criminal Justice System”

- Rigor of inquisitorial system & inadequacies of affidavit-based justice system
- State, federal justice reforms (accusatorial system) applied unevenly at state level
Jorge Rocha Quintero

“Public Security and Human Rights: Reflections on the Experience of Jalisco”

- False dichotomy between civil liberties, security
- Social construction of crime and stereotyping of vulnerable groups
Carlos Antonio Flores Pérez
“Organized Crime and Official Corruption in Mexico”

- End of “grand bargain” organized crime vs. state
- Political plurality and fragmentation of state-mafia relations
- Organized crime more brazen in attacks on public targets
María Eugenia Suárez de Garay
“Mexican Law Enforcement Culture: Testimonies from Police Behind Bars”

- Ethnography of the police
- Police cultures and structural corruption
- Collectivization to individualization of security responsibilities
Elena Azaola
“The Weaknesses of Public Security Forces in Mexico City”

- Ethnography of police forces, Mexico City
- “In their own words”
Case Study: Chihuahua
Daniel Sabet
“Two Steps Forward: Lessons from Chihuahua”

- Administrative and policy continuity
- Complications of institutional design
- Prestige of international accreditation programs, CALEA
Lessons
Lesson 1: Mexico’s public security problem is twofold: common crime and organized crime.
Lesson 2:

Police are neither the cause nor the solution of the problem.
Lesson 3:

Nonetheless, police can play a pivotal role, in either a positive or a negative sense...
Lesson 4:

Better law enforcement, requires more professional “democratic,” and community-oriented policing.
Lesson 5:

The military gambit has been both dangerous and ineffective in reducing organized crime.

Heriberto Lazcano, Head of Zetas
Recommendations
Recommendation 1:
Provide more professional working conditions and civil service protections.
Recommendation 2

Promote judicial reforms and due process for the accused to raise the bar for police and prosecutors.
Recommendation 3: Strengthen and institutionalize internal and external control mechanisms.
Recommendation 4:

Promote continuous career development and greater continuity across administrations.
Policy Horizons

• Realizing that the military is not the answer
• Debating the future of local police forces
• Realizing that progress is not inevitable after 2012
Comments
Discussants

• Marcelo Bergman,
  Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE)

• Michael McCullough,
  American Bar Association
¡Gracias!