



Wednesday, May 2, 2018



This seminar was funded and supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate Office of University Programs through the Center for Borders, Trade, and Immigration Research under Grant Award Number DHS-14-ST-061-COE-00. The views and conclusions contained in this document are those of the authors and should not be interpreted as necessarily as representing the official policies, either expressed or implied, of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, or any office of the United States Government.

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence, Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Center of Excellence through the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute, held a Homeland Security Symposium titled: **“Drug Trafficking Organizations and Violence in Mexico.”**

The aim of this symposium was two-fold. First, Ms. June S. Beittel provided a descriptive account of organized crime and drug trafficking organizations operating in Mexico. This part of the symposium was intended to provide a better understanding of the illicit drug trade in Mexico and the impact of Drug Trafficking Organizations on security conditions within Mexico. The second portion of the symposium was presented by Dr. David A. Shirk where he examined the trends in violence and organized crime in Mexico through 2016. Dr. Shirk is an author of the March 2017 Justice in Mexico report titled, “Drug Violence in Mexico-Data and Analysis through 2016.” Part of the report analyzes the latest data analysis of trends to help better understand the facets implications, and possible remedies to the ongoing crisis of violence, corruption, and human rights violations associated with the war on drugs.

Instructor's Biography

David A. Shirk, Ph.D. – David A. Shirk is a professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at the University of San Diego, and director of the USD Master of Arts in International Relations program. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California-San Diego, and conducts research on Mexican politics, U.S.-Mexican relations, and law enforcement and security along the U.S.-Mexican border. Dr. Shirk also teaches introductory courses on politics, and upper division courses on comparative politics, international political economy and security. He is also the director of "Justice in Mexico," a research and policy initiative on criminal justice and the rule of law in Mexico with over \$6 million in support from the Hewlett, MacArthur, and Tinker Foundations, the U.S. Agency for international development, and the U.S. State Department. He has served as a consultant for the World Bank and various other international organizations. He has been a Resident Fellow and a Global Fellow at the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2009-10; 2013-15), and a fellow at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies (1998-99; 2001-03). From 2003 to 2013, he was director of the Trans-Border Institute at the University of San Diego. Dr. Shirk has delivered testimony to both houses of the U.S. Congress, as well as numerous presentations to academic, military, law enforcement, and policy audiences. He has been an author and editor for several books, including *Contemporary Mexican Politics* (2015), *Building Resilient Communities in Mexico: Civic Responses to Crime and Violence* (2014), *Reforma Judicial en México* (2012), *Shared Responsibility: U.S.-Mexico Policy Options for Combating Organized Crime* (2010).

June S. Beittel - Analyst in Latin American Affairs with CRS's Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division. Her work concentrates on U.S. relations with Colombia, Ecuador, and Paraguay and she covers drug trafficking and organized crime in Mexico, corruption and efforts to combat it, climate and environment, and other political and economic issues in the region. Previously she directed outreach programs at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs and developed programs for local officials in the United States, on the U.S.-Mexico border, and in other countries during her tenure at the International City/County

Management Association. She holds a B.A. in American Studies from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and an M.A. from Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs. She was a Public Affairs Fellow with the Coro Foundation in San Francisco, California.

Topics Covered

1. The Evolving Crime Threat from Mexico TCO’s
2. Understanding Drug Violence in Mexico

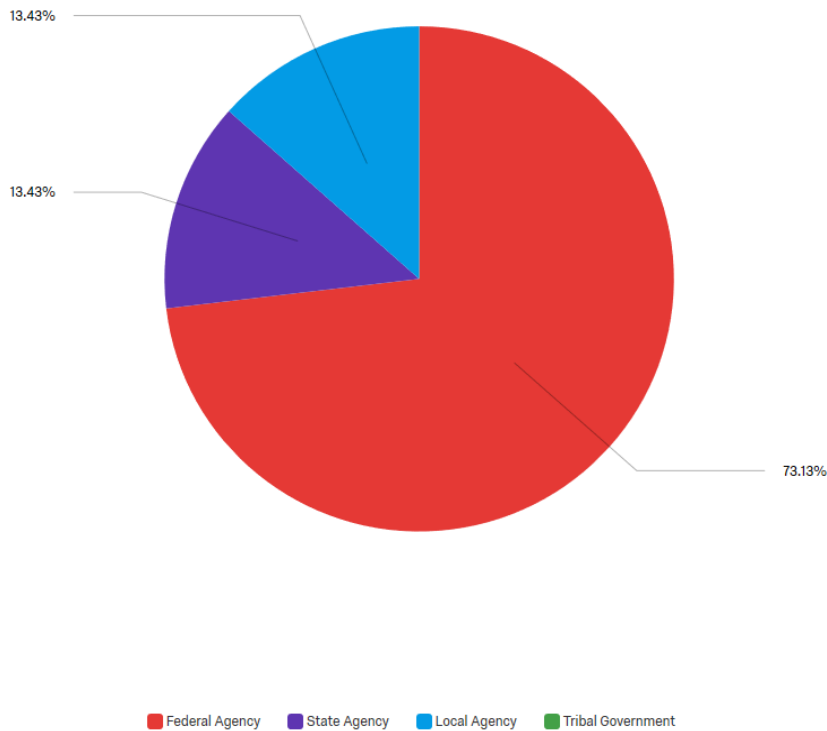
Analysis of Symposium Feedback

The symposium was well-attended with a total of:

- 107 Confirmed RSVPs
- 77 Attendees (Approximately **71%** of RSVP total)

A total of **19** government agencies were represented by the symposium attendees. Attendees from El Paso and Austin, Texas attended this event. The following table displays each of the agencies/organizations with the total number of representatives in attendance.

Federal Agencies		State and Local Agencies	
DHS, ICE, Enforcement & Removal Operations	7	El Paso Police Department	6
DHS, CBP Border Patrol	16	El Paso County Sheriff’s Office	2
DHS, CBP Office of Field Operations	9	El Paso District Attorney’s Office	2
DHS, ICE, Homeland Security Investigations	2	Horizon City Police	1
Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General	1	New Mexico/West Texas HIDTA	6
Department of Defense	5	Texas DPS	2
Federal Bureau of Investigation	6	New Mexico Office of Border Health	1
Federal Bureau of Prisons	1	Clint Independent School District	1
Drug Enforcement Agency	6	El Paso Community College Police Department	1
		Journalists (Fox & Dallas Morning News)	2
	Total		Total
	53		24



Every attendee was asked to fill out a symposium evaluation. A total of 68 surveys (**88.3% of total attendees**) were submitted. Overall, the assessment feedback was overwhelmingly positive (listed percentages are the sum of both the “agree” and “strongly agree” percentages):

The seminar met my expectations	100%
The overall topics covered in this seminar were relevant and useful to my current assignment	94.1%
The seminar description accurately described the seminar content	100%
The seminar increased my knowledge of the subject matter	97%
The seminar increased my interest of the subject matter	97%
The overall quality of this seminar was excellent	100%
The instructors’ presentation style was effective	100%

The exit survey also contained the following question (Q3): Would you attend a second more in-depth symposium on this topic? The survey revealed that **98.5%** of the symposium participants would attend a second more in-depth symposium.

Open-ended responses indicated a common satisfaction with the course with particularly positive comments regarding the competence of the instructor and the content’s utility and pertinence to their field of work. The following questions were asked in the exit survey and no edits have been made to the comments with the exception of spelling.

Q5. What other topic/subject matter would you like to see presented in similar seminars, tabletop exercises or practicums?

- *Counter-espionage and economic espionage*
- *Prosecution and law enforcement interaction post-arrest*
- *Money laundering – styles and trends*
- *TCO’s emerging role in controlling alien smuggling to make up for lost marijuana revenue*

- *Gangs, narco-terrorism and Miami connection*
- *Cross-border crime*
- *Illicit finance, technology/cyber*
- *Drug production and distribution methods worldwide*
- *Social media, counter-terrorism*
- *Drug organizations and gang cooperation*
- *Opioid crisis*
- *Espionage, dark web*
- *Prescription drug/controlled substance abuse epidemic*

Q6. If there are any additional comments you have about the seminar topics covered please provide them below.

- *Great presentation. A wealth of information provided. Information was extremely interesting as well as helpful*
- *Overall very good symposium and topics*
- *Great symposium*
- *Thank you! Excellent!*
- *Fantastic symposium*
- *Very informative presentation by Dr. Shirk*
- *Dr. Shirk was a good presenter, would like to see him again*
- *Really enjoyed Dr. Shirk's presentation. Very well presented and engaging*
- *Thank you for all of the great information!*
- *Excellent insight on the data associated with cartel violence*

Webcast Analytics

This symposium was the eleventh effort to add a webcast feature as part of the value added deliverable of this program. All thirteen symposiums have been filmed and can be viewed by the public on our website and YouTube account to enhance future viewings of the symposium series. The PI will continue with simultaneous webcast broadcasting of the symposium series with efforts to increase viewership through this medium.

Total views: 273

Symposium Series Visibility

In an effort to promote the symposium series and the work of the Borders and Trade Institute (BTI) we have actively engaged on Twitter and local news media outlets.

- There were twenty-five (25) tweets that were sent prior, during, and just after the symposium event. The tweets received a total of 3,198 impressions.

Learning

Every attendee was asked to take a Pretest Questionnaire in order to gauge the level of understanding of the topic. In addition, the participants were asked to take the same Posttest Questionnaire at the conclusion of the symposium. A total of 71 pretests/posttests (**92.2% of total attendees**) were returned by the participants.

Analysis: The average Pretest Questionnaire score was 59% and the average Posttest Questionnaire score was 75%. The results of the Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires revealed a **16% increase** in learning.

Lessons Learned

As part of the program's self-evaluation process the following areas will be addressed:

- Continue to emphasize to symposium participants the importance of the Exit Surveys and Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires.

Acknowledgements

The Principle Investigator, Victor. M. Manjarrez, Jr., would like to acknowledge the efforts of Center for Human & Behavior's Manager Leonora Ortega-Martinez. In addition, the hard work, diligence, and "can-do" attitude of research assistants Ms. Anjelica Manjarrez and Mr. Victor Reyes helped make this symposium a success. Finally, the work by UTEP's Academic Technologies is simply second to none.

Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.

May 23, 2018

Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.
Center for Law & Human Behavior
The University of Texas at El Paso

Date