



1962

# INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION REGION 11



2012

## U.S. SECTION 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Region 11 encompasses:  
Broward  
Palm Beach  
Collier  
Hendry &  
Lee Counties



Region 11 Mailing Address:  
P. O. Box 970322  
Boca Raton, FL 33497

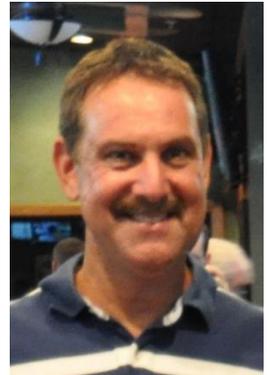
**IPA REGION 11  
MAY/ JUNE 2012  
edition**



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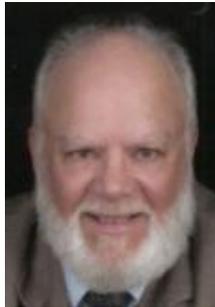
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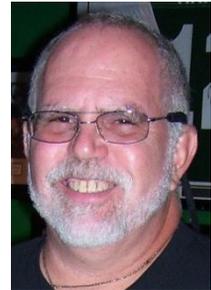
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U.S.A. Web Site:  
[www.ipa-usa.org](http://www.ipa-usa.org)



# GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MAY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2012

TIME: 6:45 pm

**G.G.'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT & PIZZARIA**  
5440 North State Road 7, Fort Lauderdale, FL  
(954) 484-0400

Friends &  
Families  
Welcome

## MESSAGE FROM OUR REGION PRESIDENT, SAM GOLDSTEIN

Next week Susan, Paul and I are scheduled to take off for Washington D.C. for the Law Enforcement Memorial week. If it is anything like last year, it will be filled with a roller coaster of emotions along with events. I'll let you know of our experience at the next meeting and newsletter. Going to D.C. is a great opportunity to meet other Law Enforcement officers and IPA members. Law Enforcement officers from all over the world come to the D.C. area to take part to pay homage and respect for those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, their lives in the line of duty. On May 15 Law Enforcement Memorial Day please pay homage and remember our fallen brothers and sisters as well as their families.

I recently had the honor and privilege of meeting the President of IPA Germany Section, Horst W. Bichl, at a Region 43 special event. Region 43 (Miami-Dade and Monroe counties) was recognized for their continuous support hosting and assisting with internships for German officers. Congratulations go to Region 43 on this great honor and accomplishment.

Don't forget the next Region 11 Membership meeting is scheduled for May 23 - one week later than usual due to the Law Enforcement Memorial Week. Please support your IPA by coming to our meetings. Remember friends and family are always welcome at our meetings and events. The more the merrier and I hope to see you soon.



Sam

Horst



Horst W. Bichl President IPA Germany Section presented German IPA Banner to R-11 President Sam Goldstein.

Region 43 President Lewis Thomason and Horst W. Bichl - President IPA Germany Section. Presentation of IPA SERVICE THROUGH FRIENDSHIP AWARD .

## SUPPORT YOUR REGION and BUY A ONE-OF-A-KIND IPA REGION 11 CHALLENGE COIN



ONLY  
\$5.00

We are proud to display the REGION 11 Challenge Coin! The coin is for sale to any member of the International Police Association. The coin was designed by Region 11 Life Member, Paul Goldstein, who is also the son of President Sam Goldstein. You can see the extraordinary work and detail that was put into creating this stunning coin! **The coins sell for only \$5.00 each.** If you want them mailed to you, please add postage of \$0.65 for each coin ordered. Contact Region 11 Treasurer Rich Kreuter, or any Region 11 Board Member to purchase the Region coin. All other IPA memorabilia can be found by accessing the supplies web page: <http://www.ipa-usa.org/supplies.html>. The order form can be

found at [http://www.ipa-usa.org/Forms/03-Order\\_Form.pdf](http://www.ipa-usa.org/Forms/03-Order_Form.pdf). If you want to order by mail, please send a check payable to "IPA Region 11" and send your request to the attention of Rich Kreuter at P. O. Box 970322, Boca Raton, FL 33497. If you have any questions, please call me at (954) 290-4598. A limited amount of supplies will also be available at all General Meetings.

### Circuit Court Rules FRS Changes are "Unconstitutional"

Tuesday, March 06, 2012

Score a big one for the FRS employees! Minutes ago, Circuit Judge Jackie Fulford issued her long-awaited decision in the lawsuit filed against the legislative changes made to the Florida Retirement system last year. The lawsuit filed by the state teachers union, the Florida PBA and several other organizations on behalf of their FRS members sought to have the changes declared unconstitutional as a breach of contract between the State and its employees. Judge Fulford struck down the revisions finding that they so adversely impacted the retirement agreement between the FRS and its members as to be unconstitutional. The PBA's attorneys and those from other organizations are in the process of examining the court's decision. This much is clear: the State will appeal the court's decision to the district court for review. Hopefully, Judge Fulford's courageous and well-reasoned decision will be upheld! The Florida PBA will keep working on your behalf and keep you posted as matters develop in the case.

**An important point for all who carry a weapon.....**



**Subject: MANDATORY INSPECTION OF 45 CALIBER DUTY AMUNITION**

The Firearms Training Unit has discovered a problem with three (3) 45 caliber Duty rounds that were out of specification. This issue caused the rounds to fail to feed into the chamber of the pistol. All Department members that were issued Winchester 45 Auto 230 GR. Bonded JHP Duty ammunition by the Department in 2011 or 2012 shall immediately perform the following inspection: In a safe location, such as a weapon safety center, field strip the weapon according to the manufacturer instruction manual and remove all rounds from all magazines. Ensure that the chamber is clean and free from obstruction. Hold the barrel with muzzle pointed downward. Drop each round into the chamber and observe if it falls freely into the chamber without assistance (see figure 1). Then invert the barrel over a soft surface and ensure the round falls freely from the chamber (it is OK to catch the round in your hand). If there is any doubt about whether the round moved freely into and out of the chamber, bring the suspect round to the range for inspection and replacement. All officers are encouraged to visually inspect their duty cartridges for defects, regardless of caliber, every time they clean their weapon.

Timing is the most critical factor for survival. Statistics show a clear link between delay in treatment and disability or death — the amount of time that elapses between the first sign of symptoms and receiving care. That's why knowing what to look for in terms of symptoms is critical, especially when they're the kind that most people don't think to associate with a heart attack — like the four things in Dr. Crandall's video, [Silent Heart Attacks: A Special Newsmax Heart Health Report](http://w3.newsmax.com/newsletters/crandall/video_ob2.cfm?s=al&promo_code=E278-1).

[http://w3.newsmax.com/newsletters/crandall/video\\_ob2.cfm?s=al&promo\\_code=E278-1](http://w3.newsmax.com/newsletters/crandall/video_ob2.cfm?s=al&promo_code=E278-1)

Originally developed as an educational tool, this video quickly went viral, surpassing five million viewers in just a few short months. Newsmax Health Publisher Travis Davis attributes the viral sensation to the fact that the content hits close to home for so many Americans. According to Davis, "Dr. Crandall tells the real-life story of a 'widow-maker' heart attack that did not have to happen. It's scary but eye-opening, because he outlines what could have been done to actually prevent this." Dr. Crandall, chief of the cardiac transplant program at the esteemed Palm Beach Cardiovascular Clinic in Florida, practices on the front lines of interventional, vascular, and transplant cardiology. Years of experience have afforded him the chance to detect little-known warning signs and symptoms like the four he addresses. "I think the real value in this presentation is the number of simple strategies he outlines to help prevent heart disease," says Davis, "strategies that many doctors just don't take the time to discuss with patients until they're already showing obvious symptoms of cardiovascular stress." Editor's Note: For a limited time, Newsmax Health is making [Silent Heart Attacks: A Special Newsmax Heart Health Report](http://w3.newsmax.com/newsletters/crandall/video_ob2.cfm?s=al&promo_code=E278-1) available at no charge. [Click here](#) to see the four things that happen before a heart attack.

### Heart Attack & Water

**Something I didn't know either! I asked my Doctor why do I and other people urinate so much at night time. Answer from my Cardiac Doctor = Gravity holds water in the lower part of your body when you are upright (legs swell). When you lie down and the lower body (legs and etc) seeks level with the kidneys it is then that the kidneys remove the water because it is easier. This then ties in with the last statement!**

**I knew you need your minimum water to help flush the toxins out of your body, but this was news to me.**

**Correct time to drink water... Very Important. From A Cardiac Specialist!**

**Drinking water at a certain time maximizes its effectiveness on the body:**

- ✓2 glasses of water after waking up - helps activate internal organs
- ✓1 glass of water 30 minutes before a meal - helps digestion
- ✓1 glass of water before taking a bath - helps lower blood pressure
- ✓1 glass of water before going to bed - avoids stroke or heart attack

**Please pass this to the people you care about.....**

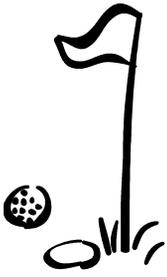
**I can also add to this... My physician told me that water at bed time will also help prevent night time leg cramps. Your leg muscles are seeking hydration when they cramp and wake you up with a Charlie Horse.**

# ATTENTION GOLFERS & SPONSORS

The Broward Police Memorial Association Will be Hosting the 1st Annual  
"BPMA Golf Tournament"

**Friday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 1pm - Shotgun Start**

Jacaranda Country Club  
9200 W. Broward Blvd  
Plantation, Florida 33324



Proceeds will benefit the new Broward County Law Enforcement & K-9 Memorial recognizing the 62 fallen officers and 6 K-9's who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the Line-of-Duty.

See attached for registration and sponsor information, or to register online or view additional sponsorship opportunities, visit us at:

[www.honorguardinc.com/calendar-of-events.php](http://www.honorguardinc.com/calendar-of-events.php)

or click/paste the below link:

<http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/20583-BPMAGolfTournament>

**\*\*Please involve your company, business or agency by sponsoring or playing in this wonderful event or forward on to those who may be interested.**

We are a registered not-for-profit 501 (C)(3) organization, contributions are tax deductible.

## Questions?

Event Coordinators: John Banas - 954-646-1056 or [jg.banas@gmail.com](mailto:jg.banas@gmail.com)

or

Chris Stilwell - 954-520-5325 / [info@honorguardinc.com](mailto:info@honorguardinc.com)

**Thank you for your continued support!!**

***Officer Chris Stilwell - Director***

***Police Honor Guard of Broward County /***

***Broward Police Memorial Association***

***P.O. Box 813552***

***Hollywood, Florida 33081-3352***

***E-mail : [cstilwell@honorguardinc.com](mailto:cstilwell@honorguardinc.com)***

***Web: [www.honorguardinc.com](http://www.honorguardinc.com)***

***Honor. Integrity. Respect.***



# POLICE WARNING

## WEAPON DESIGNED AS A TOY WATER BLASTER

### INDIANAPOLIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT



ATTN ALL LEOS



USE EXTREME CAUTION



THIS HARMLESS-LOOKING  
WATER GUN MAY CONCEAL A  
REAL SHOTGUN !!

WHO IS THIS? a/k/a ¿Quién es Ese?



First of all:  
Yes, that is my ex-wife, the beautiful Jaclyn Smith, sitting next to him.  
(editor) ☺



Hint :  
He is the Vice President of Broward Crimestoppers and a retired high-ranking Chicago police officer

Answer on page 8

WHEN YOU THINK YOUR JOB IS TOUGH !

THE AWARD GOES TO:



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THIS POOR SOUL WORKS IN THE SANITATION DEPARTMENT IN INDIA, CLEANING OUT THE CITY'S SEWERS. ON A REGULAR BASIS, HE SITS IN A LOW CROUCH AT THE BOTTOM OF A SEVEN-FOOT-DEEP MANHOLE, SLOSHING AWAY IN A SWIRL OF HUMAN WASTE AND SEDIMENT.

## PAMELA GELLER: ISLAMIZATION OF AMERICA ACCELERATES

In "Islamization of America accelerates" in WND, April 4, Pamela Geller discusses three recent examples of capitulation to Sharia: This has been a week of attempted advances for the Islamization of America (and Britain as well). Those who think it isn't happening should ponder the case of Wegmans, a supermarket in Rochester, N.Y. Wegmans has put up a sign asking customers buying pork or alcohol not to use a particular checkout line when a Muslim teenager is on duty as the cashier. Only after public pressure from readers of my site [www.AtlasShrugs.com](http://www.AtlasShrugs.com) and Robert Spencer's [www.Jihadwatch.org](http://www.Jihadwatch.org) did the sign come down.

This was more Islamization of the marketplace. This is a pattern. If you don't want to handle meat that's not halal, work for a Muslim butcher. Don't take a job at Wegmans, Wal-Mart or Target. But this Muslim cashier's special line was not about that. It was about imposing Islam on non-Muslims. Muslims are seeking special accommodations for a "special class." (Islamic law places Muslims in a special class, giving them rights that non-Muslims do not have.)

This was part of a systematic campaign to impose the Shariah on the secular marketplace. Muslim workers suing Disney over its 60-year-old dress code or Muslim cashiers strong-arming Wal-Mart and Target over their refusal to handle meat that is not halal is all part of a much larger supremacist effort. It has succeeded in Europe, which is all but doomed. They mean to replicate it here. This is well-documented in my book, "Stop the Islamization of America: A Practical Guide to the Resistance."

Meanwhile, Robert Spencer has a groundbreaking book coming out later this month: "Did Muhammad Exist?" It is a bombshell. I have read it, and I can tell you that it shatters every conventional and accepted myth on the history of Muhammad and Islam. Is it any wonder Islamic supremacists want to squash it? Spencer was scheduled to speak at a lunch hosted by MEF at the offices of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel (Kramer Levin), a law firm in New York City. But the Hamas front known as the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) heard about it and sicced their dogs on Kramer Levin, demanding the enforcement of the blasphemy laws under the Shariah (Islamic law considers any critical examination of Islam to be blasphemous and subject to the death penalty), and it worked. Kramer Levin canceled the Spencer event. Kramer Levin readily acquiesced to the prohibition of the truth by Islamic supremacists. Imagine this, an American law firm, no less.

Meanwhile, over in Britain, the BBC has refused to screen "Can We Talk About This?" a play about the Islamic threat to the freedom speech. Mark Thompson, the BBC's director-general, has admitted in the past that there is a "growing nervousness about discussion about Islam," but his spokesman denied that this refusal had anything to do with the play's "content or themes."

Islamic supremacists are more assertive in the United States and Europe than they ever have been before. They're building large mega-mosques in communities where the local Muslims can neither fill nor afford them. They're demanding – and receiving – special privileges for Muslims in workplaces and special installations for Islamic prayers in public universities, as well as in airports and other public facilities.

They're bringing back prayer in public schools – but only for Muslims, while insisting that Christians, Jews, Hindus and Buddhists can assert no such constitutional privilege under our law: They are seeking special legal status for Islam. They're shutting down the national debate we urgently need to have about Islam and Islamization, demonizing anyone who suggests any anti-terror measure or who asks the Muslim community in the U.S. to do something effective about the jihadists and Islamic supremacists in their midst, labeling them "bigots," "racists" and "Islamophobes." They're persecuting anti-jihad activists in the courtroom and private citizens who dare to report suspicious behavior by Muslims.



**The photo from page 7  
is Region 11's - 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice  
President Dirk Lowry.**



## Knockout King

### **THE SICKENING 'GAME' CLAIMING LIVES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AS YOUTHS BEAT UP THE VULNERABLE 'FOR ATTENTION'**

Punched to the ground, left bruised, brain damaged and sometimes even dead – these are the vulnerable victims of an increasingly popular 'game'. 'Knockout King' is the frightening phenomenon that has claimed lives across the country as teenagers and young adults seek out sick thrills. In the planned attacks, a group will appoint a leader and then choose a defenseless victim at random. They punch the victim to the ground, sometimes filming the attack on mobile phones. Reports from across the country – including Massachusetts, New Jersey and Chicago – have identified victims as immigrants, elderly and often alone. Films of the attacks are then uploaded to social networking sites or YouTube, in turn fuelling others to create copycat videos, experts believe. The FBI does not keep records on the number of Knockout King attacks, but St. Louis Police Chief Dan Isom told the Associated Press the city has seen about 10 over the past 15 months. 'These individuals have absolutely no respect for human life,' St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay said.

One recent example that sparked outrage across the country was footage that surfaced from a Chicago train station. A group of young males were seen following an elderly homeless man, before punching him in the face and knocking him out. The youths then jumped on a train, laughing at their sickening exploits. The horrific video received a quarter of a million views within two days after it was posted on a hip hop website.

The teenager who had punched the man was not arrested as police were unable to track down the man to see if he wanted to press charges. Another even less fortunate victim was retired teacher Hoang Nguyen, 72, who had moved from Vietnam to St. Louis, Missouri to be closer to his daughter. He was returning to his apartment with his wife after a daytime trip to the grocery store when they were approached by a group in an alley. Stepping in front of his wife, Hoang was savagely beaten by the youths and died from his injuries.

Elex Murphy, 18, was charged with first-degree murder and allegedly told police the attack was part of the Knockout King game. One victim who lived to tell his tale was Matthew Quain, 51, who was randomly attacked in St. Louis in October. 'I don't remember much of what happened,' Quain, who was found lying in a pool of blood by the city mayor, told the Associated Press.

'I was hanging out with a friend, celebrating the Cardinals in the World Series. I went to the store and saw a group of kids who looked out of place, suspicious, but I shrugged it off. 'I got around to the library, and the next thing I remember is waking up on the corner with the mayor standing next to me. I tried to say "hi" but my jaw was broken.'

Quain, who works in a pizza restaurant in the city, suffered a broken jaw and a cracked skull and still has headaches and memory problems. Despite raising money through fundraisers he is unsure how he will pay his medical bills. Experts believe the phenomenon is driven by a thirst for attention. 'We know that juveniles don't think out consequences clearly,' Beth Huebner, an associate professor of criminology at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, told the Associated Press. 'They see something on YouTube and say, "I want to get that sort of attention, too." They don't think about the person they're attacking maybe hitting their head.' - (by Mail On-line News)

Nothing in the behavior of Mexican cartels indicates that they would consciously keep tourists out of the line of fire or away from gruesome displays of their murder victims. Violence related to the cartels is spreading, and while tourists may not be directly targeted, they can be caught in the crossfire or otherwise find themselves in situations where their security is compromised. TCOs, it should be remembered, are more than just drug traffickers – they participate in extortion, robbery, rape and carjacking. Where cartels are fighting each other violently, local gangs are able to take advantage of law enforcement's resulting distraction to commit crimes of their own.

### **Mexico's Drug War**

Violence between competing criminal organizations in Mexico has continued for more than two decades. In the last decade, this violence has escalated nearly every year: In 2006 there were 2,119 murders related to organized crime. There were 2,275 in 2007, 5,207 in 2008, 6,598 in 2009 and 15,273 in 2010. While official figures are not yet available for 2011, figures reported by media agencies demonstrate that violence did not drop substantially from 2010. The core of the conflict revolves around the most valuable routes for trafficking drugs through Mexico. Several groups are waging a violent campaign for control of these corridors and the Mexican government is using the military to combat drug traffickers, adding an additional actor in the conflict. However, no part of the country has been immune to the effects of organized crime. While cartels typically direct their violence toward rival groups, outside parties are often caught up in the violence. For example, Los Zetas tried to burn down the Casino Royale in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon state, on Aug. 25, 2011, allegedly to send a message to the casino's owner. The attackers were not stopped by the presence of innocent bystanders, and more than 50 individuals were killed in the blaze. In August 2011, a grenade targeting the Mexican military landed near a crowd of tourists near an aquarium in Veracruz state, killing at least one individual. U.S. citizens have been among those caught up in the violence of the drug wars, with the U.S. State Department reporting 120 U.S. citizens killed in 2011. While that number is small in relation to the estimated 4.7 million Americans who visited Mexico between January and October 2011 – and the more than 150,000 U.S. citizens who travel across the border each day – it marks a substantial increase from the 35 deaths reported in 2007.

There is no sign that cartel-related violence in Mexico will ease in 2012. While a polarization of organized criminal groups has set in – with Los Zetas and the Sinaloa Federation on opposing ends – 2011 witnessed a continued splintering of many organized criminal groups. Divisions between entities such as the Gulf Cartel, La Familia Michoacana and Knights Templar have exacerbated the violence in many regions of Mexico, and the efforts of federal forces have failed to effectively cap the violence. Cartel operations within Mexico have affected many aspects of the country's security infrastructure – some of which tourists may rely on. Corruption is rampant within Mexico's governing bodies and law enforcement is a routine victim of cartel infiltration and violence. With federal, state and municipal forces focused on combating criminal organizations, resources are drawn away from combating unrelated crimes. This has led to an increase in serious crimes such as murder and kidnapping and to an uptick in general crime to which tourists are more likely to fall victim.

### **Threats from Cartels and Local Gangs**

Cartels usually focus on the business of trafficking drugs through Mexico into the United States. However, they do resort to other methods of financial gain, which could affect visitors to Mexico. Groups such as the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas are known to involve themselves in kidnappings, car-jackings and extortion. Cartel gunmen also operate with a sense of impunity in many parts of the country and will rob or rape targets of opportunity as they see fit. It is impossible to gauge the willingness of individual cartel members to victimize unwary tourists, but innocent bystanders can be caught in the crossfire as confrontations between groups escalate. The presence of cartels, especially in areas where multiple cartels exist in competition, causes a deterioration of security conditions that also invites the formation of local gangs. These local gangs may not be affiliated with the cartels but still present many of the same security concerns. They may be involved in murder, extortion, carjacking, sexual assaults, kidnappings and collateral damage caused during open confrontations with rivals. As law enforcement increases its focus on combating drug traffickers, resources are diverted away from providing the kind of security many visitors to Mexico are accustomed to local police providing. Los Zetas and the Sinaloa Federation also succeed in corrupting law enforcement agencies in Mexico, which in turn degrades the security infrastructure, providing a suitable environment for local gangs to thrive. Corrupt police officers themselves also frequently prey on other targets. In 2011, 1,322 kidnappings were reported throughout Mexico. This number represents the kidnappings reported by victims and family who are willing to speak up – the actual number is believed to be much higher. As the security infrastructure in Mexico has deteriorated, many citizens have lost trust in Mexico's law enforcement and feel it would be safer not to report a kidnapping. While there are examples of groups such as the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas participating in kidnappings throughout the country, localized kidnapping rings have sprouted due to the lack of security in Mexican cities. The gangs' victims range from wealthy businessmen to lower- and middle-class individuals, so assumptions should not be made regarding their typical target. There are also different types of kidnappings, ranging from classic high-value target abductions to express kidnappings (in which the victim can spend a week in the trunk of a vehicle as the kidnappers go from one ATM to the next withdrawing all the money in the victim's account) and even virtual kidnappings, a method in which someone falsifies a kidnapping to extort a ransom. There is little uniformity with kidnapping rings in Mexico in terms of resources, targets and tactics. The vast majority of kidnapping victims are Mexican nationals, but the risk to tourists remains, especially if they are perceived to be wealthy.

### **Law Enforcement**

Visitors to Mexico should not expect law enforcement officers to behave as their counterparts do in the United States. As previously stated, law enforcement in many areas of Mexico is focused on drug trafficking. In some regions, elements of law enforcement are on the payroll of cartels,

and in some locations the police have been fired for corruption and law enforcement functions have been assumed by the Mexican military. In October 2011, authorities in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon state, announced that seven police officers were allowing Los Zetas to maintain safe-houses where cartel members watched over kidnapping victims. While obviously not every element of law enforcement in Mexico engages in these activities, visitors to the country should expect to assume sole responsibility for their personal security.

## **Locations**

As Stratfor has previously stated, many of the popular spring break locations that are perceived to have "acceptable" levels of crime have experienced the violence related to the drug wars raging in Mexico. Firefights between Federal Police or soldiers and gunmen armed with assault rifles have erupted without warning throughout Mexico, affecting small mountain villages, large cities like Monterrey and resort towns like Acapulco and Cancun. While the cartels have not often intentionally targeted tourists, their violence increasingly has been on public display in popular tourist districts. In February this year, Acapulco saw multiple incidents of dismembered bodies being discovered in the trunks of abandoned vehicles -- on Feb. 13, authorities discovered the decapitated body of a taxi driver in the trunk of a taxi. Highlighting these threats, the U.S. State Department updated its travel warning to Mexico in February 2012 and recommended against non-essential travel to resort areas such as Acapulco, Mazatlan and Puerto Vallarta. It also is important to understand the risks associated with traveling to a country that is engaged in ongoing counternarcotics operations involving thousands of military and federal law enforcement personnel. Some parts of Mexico can credibly be described as a war zone. While there are important differences among the security environments in Mexico's various resort areas and between the resort towns and other parts of Mexico, the country's overall reputation for crime and kidnapping is deserved. Locals and foreigners alike often become victims of assault, express kidnappings, high-value target kidnappings, sexual assaults, carjackings and other crimes.

As stated, the country's security services sometimes pose security risks themselves. When driving, it is important to pay attention to the highway roadblocks manned by military personnel and to checkpoints established to screen vehicles for drugs and cartel operatives. Police officers and soldiers have opened fire on vehicles driven by innocent people who failed to follow instructions at the checkpoints, which are often poorly marked. It is also important to note the well-documented episodes of cartel gunmen operating mobile or stationary roadblocks while disguised as government troops. We have not confirmed whether these have been encountered in popular resort areas, but if not, there is the strong possibility they will be eventually, given the increase in violence in port cities. And as violence escalates near Mexico's resort towns, Stratfor anticipates that the cartels will not hesitate to use all the tools at their disposal to defeat their opponents, regardless of where these happen to be. An encounter with a checkpoint or roadblock operated by gunmen disguised as Federal Police or military personnel can be deadly. Driving around city streets in resort towns or roads in the surrounding countryside is becoming increasingly dangerous.

Many Mexican coastal resort towns better known for their beautiful beaches also depend on their port facilities, and these have come to play a strategic role in the country's drug trade. Drug trafficking organizations use legitimate commercial ships as well as fishing boats and other small surface vessels to carry shipments of cocaine from South America to Mexico, and many cartels often rely on hotels and resorts to launder drug proceeds. Because of the importance of these facilities, the assumption has been that drug trafficking organizations seek to limit violence in such areas, not only to protect existing infrastructure but also to avoid the attention that violence affecting wealthy foreign tourists would draw. This is no longer a safe assumption. The profound escalation of cartel-related conflict in Mexico has created an environment in which deadly violence can occur anywhere, with complete disregard for bystanders, whatever their nationality or status. Moreover, the threat to vacationing foreigners is not just the potential of being caught in the crossfire but also of inadvertently drawing the attention and anger of cartel gunmen.

## **Acapulco**

Acapulco, which remains one of the most violent of Mexico's popular resort towns, saw 1,199 murders in 2011 according to Mexican government figures. The criminal landscape in Acapulco is fluid and has seen many changes since 2011. Most violence related to organized crime in the city resulted from the collapse of the Beltran Leyva Organization, which spawned a set of competing organizations. While the reported activity of groups such as the Independent Cartel of Acapulco and Cartel Pacifico Sur has dropped, a more recent group also formed from the remnants of Beltran Leyva Organization, La Barredora, has established dominance over the city. Organized crime-related violence in Acapulco is not limited to regional outfits. For example, Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion, which is based out of Jalisco state and known for public displays of violence, recently announced its presence in Acapulco.

## **Cancun and Cozumel**

Cancun's port remains an important point of entry for South American drugs transiting Mexico on their way to the United States. Los Zetas remain highly active in the area, with a steady flow of drugs and foreign nationals entering the smuggling pipeline from Colombia, Venezuela, Cuba and other points of origin in the greater Caribbean Basin. Benito Juarez, the municipality in which Cancun is located, saw 423 homicides during 2011. Cozumel, Isla Mujeres and associated tourist zones have seen little violence related to organized crime -- nine murders were reported for 2011.

## **Puerto Vallarta**

Puerto Vallarta's location on the Pacific coast makes it strategically important to trafficking groups that send and receive maritime shipments of South American drugs and Chinese chemical precursors used in the production of methamphetamine, much of which is produced in the areas surrounding the nearby city of Guadalajara. Several of Mexico's largest and most powerful cartels maintain a trafficking presence in Puerto Vallarta and the nearby municipality of Jarretaderas. Incidents of cartel-related deaths in Puerto Vallarta are relatively low compared to places like Acapulco, but Puerto Vallarta still saw 64 murders and one reported kidnapping in 2011. Threats from kidnapping gangs or other criminal groups also are said to be lower in this resort city than in the rest of the country. Still, a February 2012 incident illustrated why caution and situational

awareness should always be exercised: a group of 22 tourists ventured off their cruise ship to tour El Nogalito, an area near Puerto Vallarta, and were held at gunpoint and robbed of their personal belongings.

### **Cabo San Lucas**

Located on the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula, Cabo San Lucas and the greater Los Cabos region have been relatively insulated from the country's drug-related violence and can be considered one of the safer places in Mexico for foreign tourists. Although historically it has been a stop on the cocaine trafficking routes, Cabo San Lucas' strategic importance decreased dramatically after the peak of cartel activities there in the late 1990s when the Tijuana cartel lost its contacts with Colombian cocaine suppliers (the result of joint U.S.-Colombian counternarcotics activities). Over the last five years, drug trafficking in the area has been limited. Still, Cabo San Lucas' ongoing problems with crime include incidences of kidnapping, theft and assault, as well as some drug trafficking. In October 2011, after being pursued by municipal police, gunmen took refuge in a grocery store in Cabo San Lucas -- some reports stated the civilians inside were taken hostage. Despite the relative lack of cartel violence in the area, official 2011 statistics for the greater Los Cabos region show seven murders and one kidnapping.

### **Mazatlan**

Mazatlan, located only about 450 kilometers (280 miles) north of Puerto Vallarta, has been perhaps the most consistently violent of Mexico's resort cities during the past year. It is located in Sinaloa state, home of the country's largest cartel, the Sinaloa Federation, and bodies of victims of drug cartels and kidnapping gangs appear on Mazatlan's streets on a weekly basis. The sheer level of violence means that the potential for collateral damage is high. There were 382 murders and 12 reported kidnappings in Mazatlan and the rest of Sinaloa state in 2011.

### **Matamoros**

Though Matamoros itself is not one of the more commonly visited spring break locations, we are including it in this discussion because of its proximity to South Padre Island, Texas. It has long been the practice of adventurous vacationers on the south end of South Padre Island to take advantage of the inexpensive alcohol and lower drinking age south of the border, mainly in Matamoros and the surrounding towns clustered along the Rio Grande. But it is important to note that drug- and human-smuggling activities in that region of Mexico are constant, vital to Los Zetas and the Gulf Cartel, and ruthlessly conducted. Since the Zetas offensive against the Gulf Cartel of Matamoros in 2011, Matamoros has seen a significant amount of violence between competing organizations as well as confrontations with the military. Visitors should not venture south into Mexico from South Padre Island.

## **General Safety Tips**



**If travel to Mexico is planned or necessary, visitors should keep in mind the following:**

- 1. Do not drive at night.**
- 2. Use only pre-arranged transportation between the airport and the resort or hotel.**
- 3. If at a resort, plan on staying there; refrain from going into town, particularly at night.**
- 4. If you do go into town (or anywhere off the resort property), do not accept a ride from unknown persons, do not go into suspicious-looking or run-down bars, do not wander away from brightly lit public places and do not wander on the beach at night.**
- 5. Stop at all roadblocks.**
- 6. Do not bring anything with you that you are not willing to have taken from you.**
- 7. If confronted by an armed individual who demands the possessions on your person, give them up.**
- 8. Do not bring ATM cards linked to your bank account. (Among other things, an ATM card can facilitate an express kidnapping.)**
- 9. Do not get irresponsibly intoxicated.**
- 10. Do not accept a drink from a stranger, regardless of whether you are male or female.**
- 11. Do not make yourself a tempting target by wearing expensive clothing or jewelry.**
- 12. Do not venture out alone. Additionally, being part of a group does not guarantee safety.**

# NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2012

## MAY 13 – 19, 2012

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as *Police Week*. Currently, tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world converge on Washington, DC to participate in a number of planned events which honor those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

The Memorial Service began in 1982 as a gathering in Senate Park of approximately 120 survivors and supporters of law enforcement. Decades later, the event, more commonly known as *National Police Week*, has grown to a series of events which attracts thousands of survivors and law enforcement officers to our Nation's Capital each year.

**The National Peace Officers' Memorial Service, which is sponsored by the Grand Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police, is one in a series of events which includes the Candlelight Vigil, which is sponsored by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF) and seminars sponsored by Concerns of Police Survivors (C.O.P.S.)**

National Police Week draws in between 25,000 to 40,000 attendees. The attendees come from departments throughout the United States as well as from agencies throughout the world. This provides a unique opportunity to meet others that share a common brotherhood. In that spirit, the Fraternal Order of Police DC Lodge #1 sponsors receptions each afternoon and evening during Police Week. These events are open to all law enforcement personnel and are an experience unlike any other.

## **BLUE RIBBON CAMPAIGN**

During National Police Week (the calendar week that includes May 15), C.O.P.S. encourages the display of blue ribbons on car antennas. C.O.P.S. distributes over 1,000,000 blue ribbons for National Police Week. Law enforcement personnel are encouraged to tie blue ribbons to cruiser antennas. Citizens are encouraged to tie blue ribbons to their car antennas. These blue ribbons are a reminder of law enforcement personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice and in honor of those men and women who serve their communities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year in and year out.

**Any strip of royal blue ribbon will work.**

