Art Against Drugs “Draws” Great Participation

Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) in Bogota supported another great national contest attracting 61,000 children to “Draw for a Drug-Free Country.” All participants belong to schools that use the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program, managed by CNP’s Anti-Narcotics Directive and supported by our NAS. On November 29, thirty-two winners (one for each of the country’s departments) were honored at a prize ceremony in Bogota, receiving a bicycle, NAS Director James Story invited them to view the bicycles as symbols of the road ahead: the constant choice towards the bright path of opportunity and away from drugs.

Tajik Police Get An Up-Close Demonstration of Community Policing

During a study tour to the United States, 16 Tajik police and community participants observed the Cambridge Massachusetts Police Department using community policing techniques as they reacted to an actual public demonstration at a hotel boycott rally near Boston. Police arrested 35 demonstrators for trespassing, engaging with the protestors respectfully and explaining to the Tajik police what they were doing.

Next, the Tajikistan Ministry of Internal Affairs representatives attended an operational briefing in the police department’s command center where they were involved in real-time planning and decision making. Other participants attended a shift roll call, which included a briefing on the demonstration. A Boston Globe photojournalist remarked that he had never seen police behave so cooperatively during a demonstration, to which one of the Tajik participants responded, “This is the community policing way, according to democratic principles.”

A Speedboat + A Canoe is Not Equal to A Helicopter + Night-goggles

INL and the Guatemalan Villages

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Reaching Flooded Guatemalan Villages

Their success was built upon the earlier double natural disaster, when on May 27th, the volcano Pacaya erupted, covering Guatemala City with thick ash clouds. The international airport closed as a result, and extensive efforts were required to clean up the ramp to allow for flight operations. Just two days later, Tropical Storm Agatha made landfall in Guatemala, causing extensive damage and flooding, isolating remote communities.

On the morning of the third day of the crisis, the weather conditions improved sufficiently for INL helicopter flight operations to begin assistance to the mountainous region west of the capital. A Huey-II delivered 2,300 pounds of food to Pachalhu Quiche and conducted aerial reconnaissance of Pachalhu Quiche and Sololá.

On May 31st, the fourth day, they provided aerial reconnaissance of Izabal Province on the southern Guatemala as well as in the Peten and facilities improvements.

A Staff Cut Lucia, Drug Demand Program Officer James Story, and a talented winner stand next to the DARE lion mascot with her winning drawing and a bicycle.

For further information

United States Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics & Law Enforcement Affairs 2201 C Street, NW, Room 7333 Washington, D.C. 20006 www.state.gov/j/inl

http://www.facebook.com/StateINL

http://www.youtube.com/user/INLvibe

INLbeat

Winter 2012

Reaching Flooded Guatemalan Villages

Stories from Guatemala showcase INL’s Drug War’s versatility, knowledge of the land, and community involvement. During the year’s second crisis in October, NAS helicopters flew again in coordination with the Government of Guatemala and delivered approximately 17,000 pounds of foodstuffs to isolated areas in southern Guatemala as well as in the Peten of the far north. NAS aircraft also evacuated 36 personnel from flooded areas and was on standby to evacuate many more, of the far north. NAS aircraft also evacuated 36 personnel from flooded areas and was on standby to evacuate many more, of the far north.

A Chance To Rebuild, Recover and Shape-Up

Ambassador Karen Stewart opened two new dormitories in December to house recovering drug addicts at the Somsanga Drug Treatment Center near Vientiane city in Laos. The buildings, one for adults and the other for juveniles, were constructed with $240,000 INL funds. “These new facilities,” said Ambassador Stewart, “will allow Somsanga Center to provide clean and safe living conditions to Laos adults and youth who come here to be treated for drug addiction, and to relieve the crowded conditions in the main facilities.”

The government of Laos has committed to demand reduction as an important element of its national strategy to fight illegal drugs. Since the beginning of our relationship with Somsanga, INL has provided over $60,000 to support vocational training and facilities improvements.

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Community Workshop Teaches Community Policing To You Youth Leaders

In October the INL section at the U.S. Embassy Dushanbe, Tajikistan and the Gharm Community Policing Partnership Team hosted a workshop for youth leaders at one of the newly opened Community Policing Centers. The workshop brought together 30 regional youth leaders with 10 police officers and civil society leaders in an effort to identify and develop responses to common youth problems.

Youth participants tackled their problems such as access to education focusing on girls’ needs, the prevention of drug use, anti-social behavior, and promoting their involvement in environmental protection.

This program received great feedback as participants appreciated the opportunity to discuss these issues with police officers. As one youth leader remarked, “It was interesting to learn more about youth issues in different communities and how they solve their problems. It was useful to discuss what we can do together, as young people, and in partnership with the police, to make our communities safer.”

These programs take the important step of bringing these two groups together as they start working on their common goals.

Over 1,020 township armed police officers from several different operational units, for the evening of the Community Policing Center (CPC) in Radio Dushanbe.
INL and USSC support also included basic equipment, such as breathing apparatuses, first aid bags, ladder, ambulance blankets, fire gloves, boots and new fire trucks. INL support to Palestinian Civil Defense in the West Bank is part of a broad range of INL and USSC projects designed to improve security in the West Bank and help build effective and credible justice and security institutions which respect human rights and improve citizens confidence in the rule of law.

Palestinian CD forces in training exercises.

Radio PSAs Help Victims of Domestic Violence

Sometimes it only takes a few words of encouragement to guide you out of a difficult situation and get your life safely back on track. In many parts of the world, radio is the only means to reach a wide population.

As part of the public awareness campaign to promote the three new Violence Against Women (VAW) Units that opened with INL funding in November, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) aired radio public service announcements (PSAs) that showed powerful results.

According to the manager of Radio Nehad in Balkh, a young woman who was able to escape the bruises came to the station after the PSAs aired, requesting help out of a forced marriage to a much older man who beats her regularly. She said she was illiterate and did not own a phone, but had heard the PSAs and asked the station manager for help. A second young woman came to Radio Nehad and said she was part of a “bad” agreement (the practice of giving a woman to settle a dispute).

“I came here before I listened to some messages [on the radio] that if a woman is under torture and violence, then there is VAW Unit to support and protect her from injustice,” she said. The manager took both women to the VAW Unit to report their cases.

Radio Nehad voluntarily aired the PSAs far beyond the paid-for schedule because they provided such useful information to their listeners. IDLO also shared the PSAs with the Embassy Public Affairs Section to air nationwide as part of their “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign in December.

Airiﬁng Wounded Police Who Are Taking Down Jungle Drug-labs

The Bolivian police and approximately 35 well-armed drug traffickers, including Colombians, engaged in a vicious 20-hour gun battle deep in the jungles of Bolivia. NAS-donated helicopters transported Bolivian reinforcements to and from the fight, with one helicopter sustaining direct fire.

A UN administrator was severely wounded in the exchange of fire and was airiﬁed by a helicopter to the United States for medical treatment. The operation concluded with the destruction of several drug labs.

A Palestinian who was wounded in a motorcycle accident was airlifted to a hospital in Gaza. The helicopter carried the patient to the hospital in a medical chair.

First Aid Training in Pakistan: Saving Lives from Day One

A means to build conﬁdence and basic skills among law enforcement ofﬁcials in Pakistan, First Aid and CPR training courses have evolved into much more than anticipated. Each course taught by ICTAP trainers generates numerous stories from ofﬁcers who heroically step in to save lives, when previously they would have been too afraid and helpless to assist to trafﬁc accident victims and others in life-threatening situations.

Five days into his two-week First Aid and CPR course, Mr. Syed Shah of the Islamabad Police Force encountered a gruesome motorcycle accident. Ofﬁcer Shah assessed the victim from “head-to-toe,” as he had learned just days earlier, determining that the victim’s severed foot, connected to the leg only by some skin, was the most life-threatening injury. Using a shirt and an ink pen, he applied a tourniquet to the victim’s leg, stopping 95% of the bleeding before an ambulance arrived.

In his own words, Ofﬁcer Shah admits, “before attending First Aid course I was unable to do anything at accident and in cases but now I am very much conﬁdent that I can save life with this knowledge and I have also learnt about ﬁrst golden hour in which we can do a lot to save life.”

The manager of the station, who administered First Aid twice within weeks of completing his training wrote of the pride in his work that his new skills give him, “I could not sleep that night and kept thinking about my deed. I felt how much internal satisfaction is achieved by helping human-ity. Thanks to you again, and thanks to God who chose me for this noble work.” Many ofﬁcers have also reported that the public perception of police and their role in society improves among the crowds that inevitably gather at accident scenes and witness police in their ﬁrst responder roles.

As a result of these training courses, INL is helping Pakistan achieve the goal of more capable and professional law enforcement which enjoys greater public conﬁdence. Since 2009, NAS Islamabad has trained 536 Pakistani police in First Aid and CPR—including 54 women—from Police Service Pakistan, Islamabad Police, Islamabad Traffic Police, National Highways and Motorways Police, PunjAB police, and Quetta police.