

United States to join Mexico's war on drugs

The U.S. is to unveil a comprehensive plan to help Mexico in its fight against drug-trafficking. Some 7,000 people have been killed in an upsurge in violence between Mexican cartels since January 2008 and U.S. officials fear the violence is spilling over the U.S. border

UNITED STATES

Mexican drug cartels thought to be present in at least 230 U.S. cities, up from 50 in 2006

Drug-trafficking from South America to U.S. thought to be worth \$13bn a year

U.S. may give Mexico assistance in counterinsurgency tactics used in Iraq and Afghanistan, including surveillance drones

Gen. Gene Renuart oversees U.S. military interests on both sides of border

AREAS OF CARTEL INFLUENCE

- Tijuana cartel
- Juarez cartel
- Sinaloa cartel
- Gulf cartel
- Beltran Leyva organisation



Death toll in drug wars has soared since 2006, when new president **Felipe Calderon** sent in 45,000 army troops to fight cartels

Los Zetas: Enforcement arm of Gulf cartel and one of most violent drug gangs, made up of deserters from Mexican army special forces