



## ***JALISCO NEW GENERATION CARTEL EXPANDS INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA***



*The Logo of The Jalisco New Generation  
Cartel, (CJNG)  
Image Credit: The Times*

**By Scott Boster, Latin America Deputy**

On October 07, 2021, in an attempt to curb the trade and influence of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, (CJNG) the US Treasury Department sanctioned four members of the cartel. Aldrín Miguel Jarquín Jarquín, José Jesús Jarquín Jarquín, César Enrique Díaz de León Saucedo, and Fernando Zagal Antón have been identified as drug trafficking leaders for the CJNG in the Port of Manzanillo and for operations on the west coast of Mexico.

Chile's Drug Trafficking Observatory reported in September 2021 that just a year prior, the CJNG tried to penetrate Chile with more than 6 tons of Marijuana from Mexico. The Marijuana shipments are believed to be coming from the Port of Manzanillo which is dominated by the CJNG.

The CJNG has been increasing its activity across Mexico's southern border with a focus on Chile in recent years. On September 09, 2021, Chile's national prosecutor, Jorge Abbot, stated that "Chile is no longer a drug transit country." Instead, "widely known Mexican cartels [are] attempt[ing] to settle in Chile."

It can be stated with moderate confidence that the success of cartel establishment in Chile will lead to increased maritime operations along the west coast of Latin America. It can also be stated with moderate to low confidence that this new trade will provide the financial support for increased operations within Mexico in the coming year.

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*US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin (Right) and Ukrainian Defense Minister Andriy Taran (left) commemorating fallen defenders of Ukraine  
Image Credit: Reuters*

### United States Secretary of Defence Calls on Russia to Stop ‘Malign Activities’

**By Sierra Mason, Europe Desk**

On October 19, US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin attended a series of meetings with Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky and Minister of Defense Andriy Taran. They discussed plans to implement the newly signed US-Ukraine Strategic Defense Framework, meant for enhancing defense and security operations, and to reaffirm the United States’ unwavering support to Ukraine in leu of the conflict in the Donbas region. In a news briefing alongside Minister Taran, Secretary Austin called on Russia to stop its “malign activities” of cyberattacks and its activity in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine has been battling Russian-backed separatists in the Donbas region of eastern Ukraine since 2014, resulting in the deaths of 14,000 people according to Kyiv. Russia continues to deny having any involvement in the conflict and denies carrying out any cyberattacks against the nation.

It can be stated with high confidence that Russia will not be withdrawing its presence from Eastern Ukraine in the near future due to its long-standing denial of involvement. Additionally, with Russian troops steadily increasing at the border to Ukraine, we predict with high confidence that tensions will escalate further.

### Chinese Hypersonic Glide Vehicle Test Increases US-China Tensions

**Tate Few, North America Desk**

This past week China revealed advanced space technology after testing its new hypersonic glide vehicle in July of 2021. The most notable observation of this vehicle is that it demonstrated increased maneuverability when re-entering the atmosphere. The glider was able to make sharp turns in-atmosphere, even when going five times the speed of sound, which is aerodynamically advanced. Furthermore, this glider is capable of carrying nuclear payloads, which is still against international law under the Outer Space Treaty of 1967. The agreement specifically restricts countries from “place[ing] in orbit around the Earth or other celestial bodies any nuclear weapons or objects carrying WMDs.”

Hypersonic vehicles compared to ballistic missiles are harder to detect by U.S. early warning satellites. In response, the Pentagon is developing a network of space sensors in low-Earth orbit to bolster the current anti-missile defense system.

It is with high confidence that we expect the competition of hypersonic technologies between the United States and China to increase tensions between the two countries.



*Chinese Military Parade Showing the Hypersonic Glide Missile, the DF-17  
Image Credit: CNN*