

Mexican security forces kill 7 in Veracruz state
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By Chris Covert

A total of seven armed suspects were killed in a firefight with a joint Mexican security road patrol late Sunday night in central Veracruz state, according to Mexican news accounts.

According to a news item posted on the website of *Proceso* news weekly, the confrontation took place in near the village of La Gloria in Ursulo Galvan municipality, where the security patrol signalled the drivers of two vehicles to stop, but instead were met with preparations to fire weapons by the armed suspects.

La Raza news daily reported the patrol was a joint patrol comprising Veracruz state police agents as well as Mexican Army units.

After the confrontation, patrol elements seized four rifles, ten weapons magazines, communications gear and the two vehicles.

Ursulo Galvan is a coastal municipality, about 20 kilometers north of the port city of Veracruz and 40 kilometers southeast of Xalapa, the capital of Veracruz state.

Veracruz state has been the scene of a major security operation for the last 18 months dubbed *Seguro Veracruz*, a security program operated jointly by state and federal security forces including Mexican Army and Mexican Naval Infantry forces.

The security operation, similar to one in the *La Laguna* region and in places such as Tamaulipas state, seeks to concentrate security forces in choke points used by the drug cartels to ship product, shooters and munitions north to the US border crossings.

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