

GANGS: THEIR INCREASING GRIP ON THE RMIN REGION

**A special report from the Rocky Mountain Information Network
June 2010**





RMIN's U.S. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs Map (shown at left) and Path of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (shown below) documents are now available in PDF and poster-size printouts.

RMIN and the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association partnered to create the Path of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Member poster. The chart is designed to help law enforcement personnel better understand the path a person must follow in order to become a member of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang. It also identifies the meaning behind several of the tabs, or cookies, members wear on their vests. A copy of this chart, along with the 2010 U.S. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs Map, is available in PDF format on the RISSGANG website or you can e-mail RMIN Criminal Intelligence Analyst Brian Novotny at bnovotny@rmin.riss.net to request a PDF or printed copy.

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Path of an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Member

RUN FORMATION

- Full Patch members in front of pack - in order of their club rank
- Next - prospects or probationary member
- Hang-a-rounds and supporters will be in the back of the pack

Crash track will usually follow 1-2 miles behind. Vehicles often contain weapons and drugs for club members

Various examples of the 1% patch.

Origination of the one percent term arose after the 1947 Hollister biker riot. In a statement following the riot, the American Motorcyclist Association noted "...thirty nine percent of motorcycling riders are law-abiding citizens and only one percent are outlaws."

Club	Supporter / Associate	Official Hang-a-round	Prospect / Probate	Full Patch	Skin Patch	Females	Club Specific
<h4>HELLSANGELS</h4> <p><i>Est 1948 in California</i> Operate in 27 states with an estimated 52 chapters within the United States. Have additional unaffiliated "D" or "Dagger" chapters. Membership in 2009 was confirmed at 2,600. Current worldwide membership is 2,800. Criminal activity related to members have included assault, extortion, homicide, money laundering, theft, and drug offenses.</p> <p>"Three people can keep a secret - if two are dead"</p> <p>AKA: Big Red Machine / Red and White / S1 (son) / HA / HA Rival: HA and Mongols have had a long term dispute over use of California bottom rocker. HA and Outlaws also engaged in battles in the 1980s. Hells Angels and Outlaws involved in shooting at Sturgis rally in 2006.</p>	<p>No standing in club.</p> <p>Items usually sold at OMG events to anyone willing to pay. This includes cops, firefighters, politicians, etc.</p>	<p>Friend of the club.</p> <p>Usually offers club various services, job, etc.</p> <p>WHITE LETTERS RED BACKGROUND</p> <p>"License Plate" is placed on bottom rocker worn by prospects</p>	<p>Prospect period - mandatory 1 year</p> <p>Must do what full patch members expect.</p>	<p>Full patch member with full patch in club. Considered the long-combust</p> <p>Center patch is called the "Clubpatch"</p> <p>When investigating "1% club" decide if the file the member is driving and be aware of any possible equipment violations.</p>	<p>Abused after being full patch for 10 years. If out of club it will have an "out" date</p>	<p>Since the 1970s, the Hells Angels do not make their 1% patches wear any type of property patch.</p>	<p>Filly Faw = Violence for the club</p> <p>Dequillo = Fought officers</p> <p>Club Rank</p> <p>Chapter</p>
<h4>MONGOLS</h4> <p><i>Est 1968 in Maryland, California</i> Until the 2008 takeover of the club by four undercover ATF Agents, who became full patched members, the Mongols were involved in a large expansion push across the United States. With the arrival of the club's leadership the membership has rapidly declined. Current membership is down to fewer than 200 members.</p> <p>"Honor Few, Fear None"</p> <p>The long term leader of the Mongols, is well up on a docket and still has the court record. Pending the state reprobation and Chapter 1 received during these state reprobations the Mongols future may be in question.</p>		<p>MOST 1% CLUBS HAVE TWO LEVELS FOR HANG-A-ROUNDS</p> <p>"UNOFFICIAL" AND "OFFICIAL"</p> <p>"ONLY OFFICIAL" HANG-A-ROUND WEARS STICKS OR "UNOFFICIAL PATCH" ALL SOME TABS ARE CALLED</p>	<p>Can pay money to be member - have "P" on out if paid.</p> <p>Prospect period normally 1 year minimum. Some members patched in just weeks.</p>	<p>Center patch is called the "Mongol Patch" (Genghis Khan)</p> <p>1% clubs have expanded their international presence over the past several decades.</p> <p>Investigators need to be aware of where those chapters are when investigating those clubs of leading members.</p>	<p>Property of</p>	<p>If they hold rank they have small military style bars on cuffs.</p> <p>Have a black and white design</p> <p>Chapter they belong to</p> <p>Memorial tabs for deceased members</p>	
<h4>BANDIDOS</h4> <p><i>Est 1968 in Santa Ana, Texas</i> With nearly 2,000 members across the United States and 13 other countries, the Bandidos are one of the largest 1% clubs in the world. In the United States there are approximately 800 members in 10 chapters. They are most active in the Pacific, Southeast, and West Central regions of the United States.</p> <p>"God Forgives - Bandidos Don't"</p> <p>AKA: "Fat Mexican" (they call their logo this as well)</p> <p>Rival: Raped and killed with Hells Angels over the past few years but most recent tensions with the Hells Angels.</p>	<p>Support clubs set other their colors that are members of the larger 1% club. These Bandido support clubs in Germany and Washington wear orange on red vests.</p>	<p>Bandido support clubs and associates wear this "cookie"</p>	<p>Bandidos have a probationary member status after the prospect period.</p>	<p>Center patch is called the "Fat Mexican"</p>	<p>Property of</p>	<p>13 patch.</p> <p>Club Rank</p> <p>Expect No Mercy</p> <p>Bandido Forever</p> <p>Original Chapter in Texas</p>	
<h4>SONS OF SILENCE</h4> <p><i>Est 1968 (possibly May 13, 1966 - date not verified)</i> In the beginning of the club it had close ties to the Hells Angels but the group broke away from the HA. Relations also increased when the HA established a California presence. Overall, historically the SOS have had good relations with the other 1% clubs. SOS continue to expand during the feud between the HA and Mongols developing into one of the major 1% clubs. In 1998 the Sons opened its first international chapter in Germany. The Sons have approximately 300 members in 12 states.</p> <p>AKA: Sons and SOS</p>	<p>1% clubs will have several local support clubs in each state in which they have chapters.</p> <p>Investigators need to be aware which 1% clubs have smaller clubs support</p>	<p>Sons of Silence official hang-a-round wear a plain black vest with official support cookie on front.</p>	<p>6 months as prospect, and 6 months as probate</p> <p>Can start at probate status if patching over from another club only.</p>	<p>Center patch is called the "Luk"</p>	<p>Property of</p>	<p>Memorial patch</p> <p>Mother Chapter - Denver, Colorado</p>	
<h4>VAGOS</h4> <p><i>Est 1965 - San Bernardino, California</i> By almost all accounts, the Vagos are the most rapidly expanding club in the United States. In the Southwest region it has almost tripled in numbers the past few years. This rapid expansion has led to increased tensions between the Vagos and the Hells Angels in this region. The Vagos have strong ties to Mexico which helps in its drug trafficking ability.</p> <p>AKA: Green Nation / Green Machine</p> <p>Rival: Recent tensions have been seen between the Vagos and Hells Angels. Have supported the Mongols in the past which also caused tension with the Hells Angels.</p>		<p>Over the past several years many 1% supporters and some associates have begun to wear copies of the patch on various social relations including Facebook, MySpace, and local biker club sites. OMG membership is almost entirely members who have their own club. All possible sources for intelligence and surveillance.</p>	<p>Prospect period is usually 6 months.</p> <p>These patches some members in just weeks to repair "increase their" numbers within the Southwest.</p>	<p>Meaning of pin on back of "2" is unclear.</p> <p>May be used as symbol of internal club sytem.</p> <p>Center patch is called the "Luk"</p>	<p>Property of</p>	<p>Wings = various size cuts with a female</p> <p>3 = motorcycle or motorcycle club</p> <p>22 = Vago</p> <p>22 also means member has fewer than 2 years in the club. After 2 years, member can move patch to inside of their cut</p>	
<h4>OUTLAWS</h4> <p><i>Est 1968 (California)</i> The Outlaws are the dominant 1% club in the Great Lakes region. Outlaws reportedly have 1700 members in 170 chapters across the United States and 12 foreign countries. In the United States alone it has an estimated 700 members from 110 clubs in 22 states. Crimes relating to the Outlaws have included homicide, theft, explosives, drug offenses, weapons, extortion and other violent crimes.</p> <p>AKA: O.A. (American Outlaw Association) and Outlaws Nation</p> <p>Rival: Outlaws have been in constant dispute with the Hells Angels since 1966 over territory.</p>	<p>It is common for 1% clubs to have neckties or other Nazi symbols on their cuts. This does not always equal a white supremacist mindset for the club. Often clubs do business with minority groups if it will provide the 1% clubs with drugs or money needed to continue their own operations.</p>	<p>Pagan Hang-a-round</p> <p>Solid black / blue jean colors.</p> <p>No Pagan patch</p>	<p>Probationary period is usually 6 months to a year. Minimum time to become a full patch member is 1 year.</p> <p>Background checks and psychiatric administered.</p> <p>No other patch for probates</p> <p>If a member of another motorcycle gang (other than Black Pistons) is patching to any event, it increases their chances of being a probationary.</p>	<p>Center patch is called the "Charlie"</p>	<p>Property of</p>	<p>American Outlaw Association</p>	
<h4>PAGANS</h4> <p><i>Est 1969 in Phoenix, Arizona, Maryland</i> Of all the 1% clubs, the Pagans have the club that has been tied to traditional organized crime families in New York and Philadelphia. The Pagans are a violent 1% club that has been tied to criminal activities including arson, assault, extortion, drug crimes, and murder. The Pagans currently number approximately 325-350 members from 41 chapters in 11 states.</p> <p>"God Forgives - Pagans Don't"</p> <p>Pagans use the term "colors" not "cuts"</p> <p>Rival: Hells Angels</p>		<p>Worlock Hang-a-round</p> <p>Worlock bed patch</p>	<p>No Worlock patch</p>	<p>Center patch for the Florida / South Carolina Worlocks</p> <p>Center patch for the New Jersey / Pennsylvania Worlocks</p>	<p>Property of</p>	<p>Worlocks burning the cuts of a deceased member at the memorial</p>	
<h4>WARLOCKS</h4> <p><i>Est 1967 (Philadelphia, Oregon)</i> Warlocks have two separate and distinct clubs. One is located in the Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey area and is the second in the Florida / South Carolina area. Both clubs use the Warlock name but function as two separate clubs.</p> <p>Rival: Warlocks have two distinct clubs - depends on location and which club you are dealing with.</p>		<p>Warlock Hang-a-round</p> <p>Warlock bed patch</p>	<p>No Warlock patch</p>	<p>Center patch for the Florida / South Carolina Warlocks</p> <p>Center patch for the New Jersey / Pennsylvania Warlocks</p>	<p>Property of</p>	<p>Warlocks, like other OMG clubs, present plaques to commemorate anniversaries and other major events.</p>	

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Gangs: Taking over one corner at a time

By CHUCK SCHOVILLE
RMIN TRAINING SPECIALIST

Gangs no longer respect boundaries, territory or turf. Worse yet, gangs and gang members place no value on human life. Gang violence occurs in big cities and small towns throughout the RMIN region. Gangs that align themselves underneath the Sureno umbrella continue to migrate from California to each and every RMIN state. Most recently, gangs that claim to be Nortenos, the enemy and rival of any Sureno gang, are also springing up throughout the RMIN region. Ask any military strategist and he or she will agree with a simple concept – the greater their numbers, the greater their strength. The Sureno gangs realize that the larger they are, it's less likely they will be stopped. Therefore, the Surenos have started to "adopt" Sureno gang members from within the RMIN region that have never had any connection to the California Surenos. An example of this adoptive process would be a large group of Nevada Surenos that was once incarcerated in the Nevada Department of Corrections who refer to themselves as the "Nevada Trece."

Gangs and gang members place no value on human life. Gang violence occurs in both big cities and small towns in the RMIN region.

Make no mistake about it. When trouble arises, there are no California Surenos, no Wyoming Surenos, but just one army known as Surenos.

During the last 25 years I have watched as gangs and the crimes they commit affect each of us, one region, one state, one city, one community, one corner at a time. I have watched as the gang situation was called an epidemic, a crisis and out of control. The gang situation forced many police agencies into a reactive mode, hoping that an innocent bystander, child or non-gang member didn't die for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

This report provides an overview of gang activity in the Southwestern United States. It is certain that what happened in California will happen in RMIN states soon, and the gang activity and trends will continue to spread further into the country unless stopped. But, it is unlikely the gang activity can be stopped based on the low level of priority many police agencies, and worse yet, many states, have placed on stopping the problem.

In 1993, Arizona leaders, politicians, and police agencies recognized the severity of the

gang problem. Legislators enacted gang laws and enhanced gang sentencing guidelines to aggressively attack the problem.

During the last 17 years, hundreds, if not thousands, of gang members have been sentenced to lengthy prison terms for terrorizing the communities they live in. Gangs rely on intimidation and fear tactics to survive. Most gang members won't hesitate or back down from a violent encounter if the results will further the criminal interests of their gang.

Yet, 17 years later, many if not most states in the RMIN region still have no criteria for a consistent method to formally identify suspected gang members, and most states still have no gang statutes or enhanced sentencing guidelines. Unless consistency is established from one RMIN region state to the next, gang members will continue to understand and criminally exploit the weaknesses in the system.

The gang problem is further compounded by many gang experts who are reluctant or unwilling to take the necessary steps to share relevant gang specific information or intelligence. While fusion centers proliferate, a collaborative approach to analyzing and distributing gang-related intelligence is often lacking. The analysis and distri-

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bution of timely, actionable intelligence is critical to line-level officers on the streets and within our correctional facilities.

This challenge often starts with those chosen by agencies to confront the gang problem: We're frequently our own worst enemy when it comes to sharing critical information. How many times have we sat in a meeting convened to share gang intelligence, information and trends, and take our turn discussing our community's gang problems? Many people waste this great opportunity to share information by stating "nothing's really going on in our town" as they return to their seats to listen as others share information.

Several people in the Western United States recognized the importance of sharing gang-related information not only on the local level, but on a regional level as well. In 2008, approximately 35 people representing local, state, federal and tribal agencies converged in Anaheim, California to meet and discuss relevant gang intelligence, which was then passed on to others at all levels.

This working group of practitioners is now called the Western States Gang Intelligence Network (WSGIN), which is not to be confused with the Western States Information Network (WSIN).

WSGIN has no formal association and has no formal board or executive board structure, but instead, is focused on providing timely intelligence.

Numerous participants of the WSGIN have submitted articles that we hope you will

find educational and useful in preparing for and dealing with the continued onslaught of violent gang crimes being committed across the country. Articles have been submitted by members of the law enforcement community in California, the well-documented birthplace of most gangs being encountered in the Western United States.

As the training specialist for RMIN, I have had the opportunity to travel throughout the RMIN region, and have talked to many law enforcement officers and current gang members about gangs in the region.

Although each state and community has its own unique gang-related concerns, one thing is glaringly obvious: The gangs that once lived and created havoc in California are on the move. What was once considered a prison or correctional issue involving prison gangs (Security Threat Groups) is no longer only a prison issue. As

one Nevada gang member told me recently, "You need to let the street cops know that everything that they see happening on the streets started in here, in the facilities. They go hand-in-hand."

I have heard people say they believe gangs were around during biblical times, while others deny we have a gang problem. I believe the gang problem as we now know it started in the 1950s, with most gangs being formed within small tight-knit communities. As time passed, gangs started to migrate from one community to another in search of excitement, friendship, girls and for other reasons.

We often hear that a gang was not really a gang, but instead, just the local guys hanging out, based on their race or neighborhood. Regardless of the reasons why they joined together, at some point, criminal activity was added to their list of activities.



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Whether a gang in your community has formed within the last few months or has been around for many decades, it is imperative that the gang's creation and criminal activity be researched and well documented by the use of a Gang Historical document. An example of a Gang Historical document involving the La Victoria Locos gang is included with the Investigator's Toolbox at the back of this publication. If you have one gang or 100 gangs in your community, gang historical documentation is a necessity for successful criminal prosecution at a later date.

During the 1980s, Arizona law enforcement saw our first major migration of California-based gang members. During this period, the Phoenix area was hit hard and fast by Black gang members claiming loyalty to the Crips and Bloods. The Crips and Bloods were coming to Arizona to sell the newest drug sensation to hit the streets, known as crack cocaine. Profits were huge and law enforcement offered very little resistance to the drug dealers because Arizona law enforcement officials were caught off guard and unprepared for the "crack rush." In an attempt to control their own neighborhoods, Phoenix saw a noticeable increase in the formation of Black gangs including local sets of Crips and Bloods and other Black criminal street gangs that referred to themselves as Gangsters (Broadway Gangsters). Local Black gangs took exception to outsiders attempting to come into their neighborhoods to sell crack, so they quickly formed their own gangs. As a result,

Phoenix became home to numerous Los Angeles-based gangs that came to Ariona for one reason, and only one reason: to make money. Phoenix also now had to deal with the newly formed local Black gangs, as well as the hundreds of Hispanic street gangs that were looking on as interested parties.

The sudden migration of Los Angeles-based gangs into the Phoenix metropolitan area forced local agencies to form specialty gang units to deal with the problems.

After traveling throughout the RMIN region and discussing gangs with others, it is clear to me that the largest issue facing law enforcement in the region is the continued migration of California gangs into other communities.

Gangs claiming loyalty to the Surenos and Nortenos have migrated to every state in the region. Gangs claiming loyalty to the Nortenos are following their Sureno rivals into areas we once considered immune to big city problems.

Unfortunately, we have grown calloused and expect this type of gang activity in major metropolitan areas, but not in the heart of America, not in Carson City, not in

Casper, not in Colorado Springs, not in Clovis, and most assuredly not in our own backyards.

What we once considered a California problem is now our problem.

While the details of gang activity vary from state to state and from gang to

gang, the threat gangs pose to public safety is consistent.

The following reviews and trend information should be of value to law enforcement throughout the RMIN region.

CURRENT TRENDS

Drug Cartels and Criminal Street Gangs/Prison Gangs

Law enforcement has seen a drastic increase in border-related crimes in the RMIN region. Phoenix was named the kidnapping capital of the country in 2009 and has seen an increase in home invasions and homicides and violent acts that are connected to the border crisis. In 2008 alone, Phoenix police reported 366 kidnappings and 370 home invasion robberies. This may be just the tip of the iceberg.

Suspects are dressing as and impersonating police officers; the suspects are heav-

"Violent urban gangs control most retail-level drug distribution nationally, and some have relocated from inner cities to suburban and rural areas. Moreover, gangs are increasing their involvement in wholesale-level drug distribution, aided by their connections with Mexican and Asian drug trafficking organizations (DTOs)."

— National Drug Intelligence Center, U.S. Department of Justice, National Drug Threat Assessment 2009

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ily armed and multiple assailants are threatening and assaulting their victims. The perpetrators are in pursuit of other drug dealer's drugs, undocumented aliens, money, weapons, plasma televisions, laptop computers, jewelry or anything of value.

While the United States and Mexico work together to strengthen a border which stretches some 1,900-plus miles across four states, the enemy works just as hard to make the border more vulnerable and easier to traverse illegally. Within the RMIN region alone, the Arizona border measures 377 miles long while New Mexico authorities contend with a 180 mile border.

While U.S. law enforcement is struggling daily with the illegal movement of drugs and humans through the RMIN region, we are also attempting to stop large amounts of money and large quantities of weapons going from the RMIN region into Mexico. The drug cartels have an increased interest in .50 caliber weapons and drum magazines capable of holding between 50 and 100 rounds. The weapons and ammunition are being purchased at gun shows using straw purchasers. A straw purchaser is anyone who knowingly acquires an item or service for someone who is, for whatever reason, unable to purchase the item or service legally.

While many intelligence bulletins list Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) and criminal street gangs as a source for drug/human smuggling operations, the intelligence has been difficult to verify because the

majority of the information is uncorroborated and unsubstantiated. Instead, law enforcement is left wondering about the specifics of the relationship between the drug cartels and the U.S. street and prison gangs. A few simple truths about the connection have been gleaned by law enforcement over the last several years concerning the nexus between the groups.

First and foremost we should start by looking at the recent investigation involving the Barrio Azteca prison gang in the Texas Department of Corrections, and the subsequent indictments and successful prosecution against the gang members. The Barrio Azteca gang is well known for its control of the gangs in and around the El Paso, Texas area. The gang, simply known as the BA, controls the border drug trade and works hand-in-hand with a counterpart organization on the Mexican side of the border in Ciudad Juárez. Barrio Azteca controls cocaine, heroin and marijuana distribution in El Paso. Because of its connections to Mexican Drug Trafficking Operations (DTOs) functioning in the El Paso/Juárez plaza, Barrio Azteca has a direct source for heroin and other illicit drugs.

A prison gang or criminal street gang must have a direct connection to someone within a drug cartel, and must be able to speak fluent Spanish. Sounds simple enough, but most criminal street gangs in

the RMIN region lack a direct connection and trust with members of the cartels. There are many street and prison gangs in New Mexico and Arizona, however, that have members from Mexico or have family members still living in Mexico, so the door of opportunity is wide open. In Arizona, individual gang members have been apprehended at the border crossings attempting to smuggle drugs back into the United States. There is little information to lead us to believe that these individuals were attempting to bring the drugs back into Arizona to further the criminal interests of their particular gang. Instead, it appears that most gang members apprehended are acting on their own to make a sizeable profit. They may bring the drugs back into their

"The problem that affects everybody ... is this: Crime migrates."

—Albert Herring, Executive Assistant, U.S. Attorney for the Department of Commerce

respective gang controlled communities and sell it to other gang members

from their own gang as well as others, but this is not being done on behalf of the entire gang. Regardless, we do know that gang members are purchasing drugs from the drug cartels in Mexico and bringing the drugs into the United States for distribution.

How do we confirm a connection between criminal street and prison gangs and the drug cartels? We must start by looking at the arrest of every gang member caught in possession of illegal drugs as an opportunity to dismantle an entire drug organization, or at mini-

mum, to seriously disrupt illegal activities. We can no longer be satisfied with one arrest, one booking, and one conviction of a gang member in possession of drugs that originated in Mexico.

Instead of stopping with a simple interview, officers should make every effort to work the drugs backward, toward the original source. Although this may seem difficult and time consuming, it is imperative that a higher level of emphasis be placed on the interview process. Officers should attempt to determine where the drugs were purchased and the identity of those involved in the distribution of the drugs. The information developed should be carefully collected, analyzed, processed and distributed within the law enforcement community.

PAISAS

The term Paisas is pronounced “pie-sa” and when translated from Spanish to English, simply means “countryman.”

What is a Paisa? The answer depends on who you ask because the term is broad and open to interpretation. But ask any gang expert and you will learn that the Paisas are one of the fast growing threats to our communities, with the biggest challenges being faced by those working in a correctional setting.

During the last decade, we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of undocumented aliens (UDAs) entering the United States. After arriving in

the United States, the immigrants found themselves living and working in the same communities that had been inhabited by Mexican Americans for decades. Although both groups shared the same culture and heritage, the fight was on. Mexican Americans who had been living in neighborhoods suddenly found themselves being squeezed out of their comfort zones. Conflicts, including gang conflicts, soon developed between established residents and the newcomers. As a result of the intimidation and fear tactics being used against them, many disenfranchised youths from Mexico started forming their own gangs. The gangs were formed to protect themselves from the predators and often took on names that clearly indicated that they were from Mexico. During the 1990s, Arizona law enforcement witnessed the fastest growing and most violent criminal street gang to hit the streets in some time, known simply as “Doble” (pronounced doe-bley), which is the Spanish pronunciation for the letter W. The gang was also known as Wetback Power and quickly spread into almost every Hispanic neighborhood in the Phoenix area. Wetback Power sets were now standing up to their rivals from traditional Hispanic criminal street gangs and refusing to back down.

At the same time, many of the first-generation Mexican immigrants were finding their way into trouble, committing serious felony crimes for which they were being incarcerated. These men were being locked up in local, county, state, pri-

vate and federal correctional facilities.

Once incarcerated, the men from Mexico quickly realized they were outnumbered. They also learned the prison philosophy that there are two types of people in our prisons: predators and victims. The newly incarcerated individuals from Mexico were being extorted, attacked and violently victimized and traumatized.

It did not take long for these men to understand that their only hope for security and protection was to gain strength by joining together and increasing their numbers. They began grouping together, one facility, one yard, one unit, one housing pod at a time. They shared a common goal of wanting to survive in a shark tank, and they soon joined together and began referring to each other as Paisas, meaning my fellow country (Mexico) man. Early on, these men only needed

June 2009

Nine correctional officers from the Arizona Department of Corrections were injured while breaking up two separate fights within a week at a prison complex in Tucson. According to news reports, about two dozen inmates were injured. The fights broke out between the Mexican-American and Mexican National inmates, which included a large number of Paisas. With the increased growth of the Paisas within RMIN state correctional facilities, similar problems are almost inevitable and difficult to prevent. Surenos believe in their cause. Their loyalty includes the willingness to kill or be killed as a supporter of the Mexican Mafia.

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protection from the prison gangs that were terrorizing them; their lack of leadership and direction was unimportant.

Soon, the Paisas were walking and talking like other prison Security Threat Groups (STGs), moving and posturing for their positions in the prison recreation yards, prison chow halls and into any other area typically controlled by the dominant prison STGs. The Paisas were now being noticed by the STG facility investigators who realized that they were a force to be dealt with, not only by the other prison gangs, but by the prison management teams as well.

In almost every Southwestern correctional facility, the fastest growing prison group is the Paisas. Paisas outnumber the next largest prison gang sometimes by as many as 10-to-one in some facilities. This does not

necessarily mean the Paisas are 10 times as strong. They seem to lack the support or feeder system that other groups enjoy, including the Mexican Mafia and the hundreds of Sureno gangs that feed into the Mexican Mafia.

The United States Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) considers the Paisas a Security Threat Group and closely monitors the group's activities. In April 2009, the Arizona Department of Corrections added the Paisas as the newest STG to be closely monitored and controlled.

The Paisas should not be confused with the Border Brothers, a separate prison STG. Paisas and Border Brothers share the same values, culture and desire to remain safe while incarcerated. In fact, both groups have used their newfound power and strength to turn from being victims to being predators

against other vulnerable individuals.

There is no established Paisa gang tattoo yet, but they do use several common themes or terms, including:

- Hecho en Mexico (Made in Mexico)
- Paisas
- Puro Paisa (Pure Paisa)
- Tattoo of the Mexican war bird

Paisas may be a Spanish word that is currently difficult for some to pronounce in some RMIN communities, but give it time and it will be a term we use as often as we use the words Crips, Bloods, Mafia and Hells Angels and soon thereafter it will be a force to be reckoned with in your state and in your correctional facilities.

BLACK GANGS

Traditionally, members of Black criminal street gangs have focused their efforts on any type of illegal activity that would generate large amounts of income in a short amount of time. This generally meant the illegal distribution of illicit drugs, primarily crack cocaine. Ten years ago, if you were trying to buy drugs from gang members, you would buy methamphetamine from White gang members, often Outlaw Motorcycle Gang members. You would buy crack cocaine from the Black gangs and heroin or marijuana from Hispanic gang members.

The rules have changed.

All gangs, regardless of ethnicity, are now attempting to make a profit by selling any type of drug. Black gang members are now distributing large



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amounts of methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin and other drugs that were once considered off limits to Black gangs.

The Black gangs have also ventured into areas that once carried a higher risk of capture and were shied away from. Additionally, Black gangs have branched off into new illegal business ventures that are proving to be effective income generators, including the formation of crews that operate as bank robbery crews, home invasion crews, drug rip off crews and other similar ventures. It is not uncommon for a group of between six and 12 Black gang members to fly or drive into a new area, commit numerous crimes, or in their own words, “bust a few licks” before returning to their homes, which are often hundreds if not thousands of miles away. Not being from the area and not being easily recognizable reduces the chance of capture by the law enforcement authorities.

Black gangs have also seen the ease of using computers

for “paper crimes.” A lengthy investigation, Operation Checkmate, was recently completed by the Phoenix Police Department. Black gang members were illegally obtaining valid identification from unsuspecting victims and creating bogus checks with valid account numbers. Gang members would then drive female associates to several banks and would withdraw thousands of dollars from business accounts. The withdrawals often would not be discovered for months and by then, the gangs had moved on to a new bank and new victims. This operation involved a large organization that had bilked banks out of hundreds of thousands of dollars before the gang leaders and many others were arrested.

Black gang members claiming allegiance to the Crips and Bloods have been stopped during bank robbery investigations. In some cases, Crips were found in possession of duffle bags of clothing, hats, bandanas, etc., that the armed

robbery crew would wear during the robbery. The Crips seem to like to wear the color red and the Bloods like to wear blue during the robberies, choosing to wear the colors of their rival gangs during the commission of their crimes.

Black gang members are also forming Party Crews using a different name than the gang they belong to in an attempt to avoid detection. It’s a little easier to get non-gang members to join and pay to enter your parties when the young participants think you are merely an entertainment group, not hard core gang members.

Black gang members are also jumping from hard core ruthless gangs into Hip Hop crews, often hiding behind the front of a music production company. They are still gang members, but are now attempting to use their power and intimidation tactics to generate income from an unsuspecting music crowd. It’s the same wolf, but now dressed in sheep’s clothing.

About the author...

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Gangs in Indian Country: An overview of a growing problem

BY CHRISTOPHER M. GRANT, MA

THE EMERGENCE OF GANG ACTIVITY IN INDIAN COUNTRY

As gang activity continues to flourish and spread throughout communities across the United States, so too does the influence of gang activity in many tribal communities.

The origins of gang behavior in Indian Country can essentially be traced back to the late 1980s and early 1990s, when such behavior began to emerge in a handful of tribal communities, primarily in the Southwest, Northwest and Midwest regions of the country. By the mid to late 1990s, however, and more specifically during the last five to seven years, significant increases in gang activity have occurred in an increasing number of tribal communities.

Notably, however, the emergence and growth of gang activity in Indian Country has little or nothing to do with urban gang members infiltrating tribal communities to start gang “chapters” or “sets.”

Rather, the behavior most frequently involves certain Native Americans residing in such communities choosing this path of behavior.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – SOCIAL ISSUES

There are a myriad of contributing factors to gang behavior across Indian Country. Certainly the social issues many tribal communities face continue to be a causative or contributing factor to some degree, in terms of substance abuse, unemployment, poverty, drop-out rates and the relative lack of social, cultural and recreational resources in many tribal communities. Although many of these same social issues are faced by juveniles and young adults in other parts of the country, the lack of resources to deal with these problems in Indian Country tends to exacerbate the situation and perpetuate destructive behavior such as gang activity.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – FAMILIAL CONFLICT

Increasingly, however, a pattern of gang behavior has emerged in Indian Country that is seen to be connected directly to family affiliation and animosity between families within the tribal community. Because many tribal communities are relatively small and close-knit, this pattern makes

sense to some degree. While many individuals involved in gang activity know each other and often grew up in the same neighborhood, housing area or community, what may have previously been a “family feud” situation between specific familial groups often evolves into a gang-like style of behavior, with individuals using gang affiliation names to identify their allegiance to a family group, as opposed to using a family name. This pattern is not an absolute because there are individuals who will form gang cliques and “crews” outside the realm of a family context. Increasingly, however, interviews reveal that a certain degree of gang claiming is actually about opposition between family structures.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – PROTECTION

Protection is the primary reason many youth in Indian Country give for their involvement in gang activity. This theme is consistently heard in field interviews with gang-involved subjects, mainly adolescents, and is a very real and powerful dynamic in understanding the motivation behind claiming affiliation in an Indian

Country gang. The real or perceived need to “claim” gang affiliation for self-protection is one of the most, if not the most powerful influencing factor in much of the Indian Country gang activity that is occurring.

This is not to suggest that all Indian Country gangs form or exist for that sole purpose. There are also the elements of individuals choosing the gang as a replacement for the family because being in a gang offers the promise of love, attention, respect and belonging – elements that are often absent or minimized in the lives of many individuals who choose the path of gang behavior.

There is also the element of fascination with the gang lifestyle, peer pressure to claim gang affiliation, the desire to appear to be “cool” and the feeling of “power” that some individuals experience when claiming to belong to a specific gang, particularly one that has a reputation in the tribal community or school.

Still, protection has emerged as a core and consistent predictor of gang involvement in many tribal communities.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – FAMILY GANG INVOLVEMENT

Another predictor of gang involvement in Indian Country is parental, sibling or extended

family influences. Field interviews consistently reveal that many adolescents in Indian Country who are gang-involved have older siblings or cousins, and sometimes parents, who are or were involved in the behavior as well. While the predominant age range for most Indian Country gang activity is 12 to 19 years, gang behavior in tribal communities is increasingly seen at younger ages, and may occur as early as elementary school years.



At the opposite end of the age spectrum are the individuals who maintain their gang affiliation well into their adult years. Notably, many of these individuals will be more covert about their gang involvement, but they are often a powerful influencing factor behind gang activity that is occurring at the adolescent level. This dynamic portends that gang activity will continue to grow within the Native American population as a generational model of gang activity continues to emerge.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – MEDIA INFLUENCE

Aside from the personal and family dynamics that contribute to gang involvement, there are also three primary “external influencing factors” that are important to consider. One of these factors is media influence, in that with the “mainstreaming” of the gang

lifestyle depicted and portrayed in music (gangster rap), movies, television, interactive video games, magazines and via the Internet, young Native Americans, like all youth and young adults, can learn about the gang lifestyle regularly and consistently. Added to this equation is the popular image of the “successful gangster” projected by some components of the mainstream media, resulting in a flawed image of gang life that certain Native American youth seek to emulate as a means to cope with or compensate for their social condition. While the great majority of youth in Indian Country do not emulate the gang activity they see, read and hear about through the media, certain young people identify with the gangster lifestyle and seek to replicate such behavior in their communities and schools.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – JAIL AND PRISON INFLUENCE

Yet another contributing element is the influence of prison gang activity. Gang activity occurs in many tribal, state and federal correctional facilities and a certain degree of “gang education” occurs in this environment. Field interviews reveal that the gangster mentality is often learned in this environment, resulting in a transplanting of gang behavior back into the tribal community after an incarcerated individual has been released from custody. In fact, several interviews have revealed that hav-

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ing served time in prison or jail is seen by some individuals as a “rite of passage” into the gang world, to the extent that individuals have been shown “respect” for their incarceration time.

This does not suggest that all tribal members who serve jail or prison time are indoctrinated into the gang life, but the evidence and information points to a growing connection between prison gangs and the transplanting of such behavior back into tribal communities.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – URBAN GANG INFLUENCES

Another influencing factor is that of urban gang influences. Earlier in this essay it was mentioned that the growth of the gang problem in Indian Country does not tend to involve urban gangs moving to reservation communities to start “chapters” or “sets.” However, an urban influence does exist in the form of transplanted gang behavior. Research has revealed that a certain amount of gang activity involves tribal members who move away from the tribal community to an urban area, or have gang-involved friends or relatives in an urban area, and bring such behavior back to the tribal community.

While no firm statistical data exists to support the degree or extent of such activity, field interviews, once again, support that such activity is occurring.

CONTRIBUTING FACTORS – MINIMIZATION AND DENIAL

Finally, the attitudes of minimization and denial continue to be prevalent in many tribal communities, and remain connected to the false perception that “real” gang activity is an urban-based problem that can’t affect tribal communities in a truly negative form. These attitudes are typically prevalent in tribal communities that are experiencing an emerging gang problem. However, in tribal communities with more entrenched gang problems, acknowledgment of the legitimacy of the problem is more likely to occur. Still, the tendency to downplay or minimize gang activity continues to be the primary reasons for the continued growth of the gang problem, as does the feeling of helplessness in understanding how to deal with the behavior.

NATIVE AMERICAN GANGS – TYPE AND STYLE

Like many street gangs across the country, the great majority of Native American street gangs are loose-knit and unorganized, with little or no organizational hierarchy. Many of these gangs are small, and may be comprised of only five-20 subjects.

For the most part, the type and style of gang activity in Indian Country can best be described as a “hybrid” form of gang behavior. The majority of gangs in tribal communities adopt the names and symbols of urban gangs, identifying themselves by such names as Native Gangster Bloods, Native

Gangster Crips, Native Gangster Disciples, etc. Gang structures also form with unique names, e.g., The Boyz, Odd Squad, Red Nation Klique, etc., but the typical trend involves claiming affiliation with a nationally recognized gang structure. The purpose of this revolves around the instant name recognition associated with claiming affiliation with a nationally known gang, as well as the perception of power and respect associated with claiming the name. While this is a hybrid form of gang behavior, it is nonetheless the same gangster mentality which is at the core of gang violence, criminality and anti-social behavior.

However, there are exceptions to the hybrid rule. Native Mob, for example, has its roots in Minneapolis, Minnesota, through connections with the Vice Lords street gang. In the mid-1990s, Native Mob became an independent Native American gang structure and is currently active on many reservations in Minnesota, as well as in the Minnesota prison system. Native Mob is more structured than many Native American gangs and is closest to being considered an organized Native American street gang.

In the state and federal prison system there are several Native American-based gangs that tend to follow a more rigid organizational pattern, including Warrior Society (Arizona), Indian Pride Organization (Oregon) and Indian Brotherhood (Oklahoma), to name a few. These gangs have a code that members must follow and adhere to, and each actively recruits new members,

not only in correctional facilities, but also within many tribal communities.

OPPOSING GANG STRUCTURES

Another interesting aspect of gang behavior in Indian Country has to do with the relationship between individuals involved in opposing gang structures. While the potential for violence is always constant between rival gang members, there is often a “leave each other alone” attitude that exists in many tribal communities, schools and housing areas. In other words, individuals are free to claim and represent their gang affiliation without undue concern that they will be attacked or victimized by a rival for doing so. This symbiotic relationship is most frequently seen in school environments, but also occurs in many tribal communities. The fact that such a relationship is known in the community tends to lessen the concern that gang violence will occur because there is the appearance or impression that everyone gets along with each other. The flaw in this attitude is that violence can erupt between gang-involved individuals at any time, given the right set of circumstances, whether it be an act of disrespect or the desire to exact revenge for a real or perceived insult or slight.

Notably, a number of subjects interviewed have revealed that despite the hatred and animosity gang members in tribal communities often express for each other, there is also the attitude that if a gang from “outside” the tribal com-

munity poses a threat to a tribal gang, other native gang members, regardless of their affiliation, will group together to confront this outside threat.

FEMALE GANG INVOLVEMENT

Yet another increasing gang dynamic in Indian Country is female involvement in the gang subculture. While most gang-involved individuals continue to be males, female involvement has escalated, both in terms of females associated with male gangs and females forming their own gangs. This, too, follows national gang patterns in that gang behavior increasingly involves females on a national level.

THE GANG AND DRUG CONNECTION

Of the many concerns connected to the growth of gang activity in Indian Country, one of the most prevalent is the connection between gang activity and drug activity. While the typical trend is toward drug usage among gang-involved individuals, there is increasing evidence of drug distribution activity connected to gang activity in certain tribal communities. As well, a number of tribal communities are known to have been identified and targeted, specifically by Mexican drug distributors who seek to exploit the substance

abuse issues endemic to many such communities, as well as taking advantage of limited law enforcement resources and the ability to assimilate within the community.

As gang activity continues to increase across Indian Country, it can be logically expected that drug activity will increase as well and will become a more frequent aspect of gang behavior.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE CONSIDERATIONS

Another important consideration in this discussion involves the fact that many Native Americans who are involved in gangs, crime and drug activity do not feel threatened that their behavior will be addressed through the tribal criminal justice system. Part of this perception is due to the relative lack of law enforcement officers in Indian Country and the lack of detention or jail facilities in many tribal communities.

A number of tribes have to transport arrested subjects many miles to a holding facility, resulting in significant downtime for officers, which adds to the lack of a strong law enforcement presence in the community.

Many tribes are also struggling with inadequate numbers of prosecutors and judges, as well as federal laws that limit the



amount of time criminal defendants can be sentenced to in tribal court. All of these elements contribute to the perception that little or no consequence for criminal behavior will occur at the tribal court level. Also, the perceived lack of law enforcement effectiveness in dealing with gang and drug issues results in a degree of empowerment for those involved in the behavior, who believe they can engage in such behavior with impunity.

Having said this, there are also tribal law enforcement agencies that are aggressively addressing gang issues and dealing with them effectively. The creation of multi-agency tribal, state and federal task forces has served to reduce gang activity by providing a more visible law enforcement presence and proactive approach to gang-based criminal events. Such task forces not only address gang behavior through directed patrol, surveillance and enforcement operations, but they also provide for positive interaction between law enforcement and gang-involved individuals, creating greater potential for effective communication, as well as the potential for changing gang behavior.

While law enforcement is an important component in addressing gang issues in tribal communities, it is by no means the only approach that is needed. One of the denial attitudes seen in both tribal and non-tribal communities has to do with the belief that gangs are a law enforcement problem, when in truth they are a community problem requiring a community-based

approach. Such an approach must involve collaboration and cooperation between law enforcement and community agencies and organizations in order to be effective.

Tribal communities that recognize gang behavior in its early stages and take steps to effectively mitigate the behavior have an opportunity to effectively mitigate the growth of the problem, and some tribal communities are taking such steps.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

One of the core components of the community approach toward dealing with gang issues effectively is education regarding the gangster mentality and lifestyle. Communities that are educated in understanding the gangster mentality and belief system, as well as recognition of the manifestations of gang behavior, are much better prepared to recognize and address gang activity. This is especially true in schools, where a great deal of gang representing and recruiting occurs.

While there are different attitudes about the effectiveness of gang awareness training, what remains true is that informed communities are better prepared to deal with gang issues than are communities that do not understand or recognize this destructive behavior.

SUMMARY

The precise answer to dealing with the growing problem of gang activity in Indian Country is unknown. What is known is that any approach must be tailored to individual

tribal communities and to gang-involved individuals. While there must certainly be an effective law enforcement approach to the gang issue in any community, there must also be effective intervention and prevention programs that seek to strengthen families, traditional culture and individual lives, because gang behavior is always interconnected to other underlying issues that contribute to its growth and manifestation.

Finally, while it is important to remember that the great majority of Native American youth and adults are not involved in gang behavior, it is clear that the gang problem in Indian Country will continue to grow and adversely impact the lives of those who choose this path of behavior.

About the author...

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A national perspective on OMGs

BY STEVE TRETHERWY
RMIN ARIZONA FIELD SERVICES COORDINATOR

Although there are hundreds of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) throughout the country, some receive more attention from law enforcement. Traditionally, the largest have been known as the “Big Four” – Hells Angels, Outlaws, Bandidos and Pagans. Others gaining notoriety that can rival the Big Four include the Mongols, Vagos, Sons of Silence, Warlocks, Devils Disciples, Gypsy Jokers and Galloping Goose. Often times, they beat the Big Four at their “own game.” Case in point is a recent brawl between the Hells Angels and the Mongols at Harrah’s Casino in Laughlin, Nevada in 2002. It ended with three dead Hells Angels and one dead Mongol – Mongols won.

The Hells Angels are the cornerstone of the outlaw biker world. It is the oldest, most powerful and wealthiest motorcycle gang in the world. It is what other clubs want to be and has the high profile, spit and polish of the OMG world. Hells Angels don’t believe in justice – they do believe in “just us” (their rules, constitution and bylaws). They live in their world, a secret society where typical society norms are unknown.

Conversely, the Mongols are the epitome of a street gang on wheels, typically recruiting membership from Los Angeles

area street gangs. In appearance, the Mongols are the anti-spit and polish that the Hells Angels are known for. In appearance, they are the stereotypical 1960’s “old school” hardcore motorcycle gang. If attitude could have an appearance, the Mongols would epitomize it. They want the reputation of being the “baddest” bikers anywhere, as demonstrated by their anti-social appearance and attitude. Their motto further reflects their view: “Respect Few, Fear None.”

High profile historical events such as the 1947 Gypsy Tour in Hollister, California (first high profile biker event recorded), or the 1964 Monterey rape case involving the Hells Angels, or the early 1970s wars between the Hells Angels and the Outlaws, or the Hells Angels and the Mongols, have carried on through the years, giving the gangs their reputation. Even though the Hells Angels is considered to be the “number one” club, the club is viewed by the Big Four as well as other major gangs as their nemesis.

HISTORY

Outlaw bikers started to become part of the American subculture in the 1940s, but gained steam in the 1960s. The cornerstone for the culture had been laid with the 1947

Hollister and 1948 Riverside incidents in California, giving the biker clubs their outlaw nickname. Although they were not much more than a large gathering of rowdy bikers acting like hooligans, one person died due to some careless riding. The 1953 movie, “The Wild Ones” with Lee Marvin and Marlon Brando, gave the biker lifestyle what they wanted – the rebel. By the 1960s, the Big Four were established and weaving their way into the criminal fabric of our culture. They got a boost from the 1968 movie “Easy Rider,” starring “Captain America” Peter Fonda, Dennis Hopper and Jack Nicholson.

The biggest and fastest expansion of motorcycle gangs occurred during the 1970s with the addition of more than 800 clubs. A 1983 FBI report, among others, labeled the Big Four as organized crime. Subsequently the FBI set up federal task forces and wire tap investigations and many major OMG investigations became law enforcement success stories.

During the 1990s, biker gangs began to flourish and grow. For instance, the Hells Angels grew from a 72-chapter club during the 1980s to nearly 200 chapters by the end of the 1990s. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) started working many of these organizations with

undercover infiltrations, in contrast to the successful wire-tap cases of the 1980s led by FBI task forces.

Today there are more motorcycle gangs and wannabe clubs than ever before. More is known about the outlaw culture today, whereas a few decades ago the culture was draped in secrecy. The code of silence is still key to the OMG world as evidenced in the way members do business. Top secret exchanges are conducted by word of mouth, away from meetings and phones. Assuming their phones are tapped or that a “rat” member may be phoning information out of the meeting are big concerns. At high level meetings, no phones are allowed and sweeps and pat downs are common. Polygraphs are administered and even the motto of the Hells Angels, “Three people will keep a secret if two are dead,” is taken to heart. Successful cases against bigger gangs are occurring more frequently as officers infiltrate gangs, and high level turncoats leave gangs to cut sentencing deals. With books authored by big name outlaws like Hells Angel legend Sonny Barger and Mongols former International President Doc Cavazos, as well as ATF agents Billy Queen and Jay Dobyns who successfully infiltrated the Mongols and Hells Angels, we are learning more about the biker secret society.

ATF has conducted major cases since the 1990s on the Hells Angels, Outlaws, Bandidos, Vagos, Mongols, Sons of Silence, and Warlocks. This has hurt these major

clubs, but it also has taught members how to be more astute bikers; they honed their skills to survive. They learned how to use discovery motions in court and the use of Freedom of Information Act effectively. They learned from their mistakes and they learned from law enforcements’ mistakes. Their intelligence methods improved, and like law enforcement, they too were successful at infiltrations. Intimidation, a biker trademark, has not diminished.

IMAGE: SMOKE SCREENS & PUBLIC RELATIONS

The image of the 1960s bikers has changed. Bikers are more educated and business savvy. Their PR machine works well and uninformed citizens have bought into their bad boy image. Other social organizations have bought into the biker culture and even more disturbing, cops have bought into the image, starting up bike clubs that in some cases rival the image of outlaws, complete with patches, tattoos, club runs, bylaws, and most upsetting, the attitude. Sadly, the OMG tentacles have reached into the last bastion –

the protectors of society – that has been at the forefront of stopping these guys and now, some law enforcement want to look and act like OMGs. There

Numerous Outlaw Motorcycle Gang members have begun to again use an existing gesture to notify others that there are police nearby. OMG members will use a free hand to tap the top of their heads, which is supposed to represent the roof lights of a patrol vehicle. This signal has been verified by members of OMG clubs and has been seen numerous times while law enforcement was involved in mobile or stationary surveillance of OMG clubs.

has been public acceptance of outlaws that not only includes law enforcement, but politicians, judges, movie stars and athletes who embrace the biker culture. The Robin

Hood image of the big bad biker with a heart of gold collecting toys for needy kids has left an indelible image of positive behavior in the minds of the public. The image of a Christmas-time photo in the newspaper of a toy toting Hells Angel, Bandido, or Outlaws should not minimize what OMGs represent – violence and drugs. OMGs want to have it both ways, and seem to be succeeding.

The public doesn’t often see the flip side of the biker culture – the criminal activity that includes murder, assault, rapes, intimidation, thefts, forgery, drugs, weapons charges, etc. The Margo Compton murder case of the 1970s or the Billy Grondalski murder case of the 1980s should prove to

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anyone that these gangs are truly dangerous. In each of these cases, families of four were killed – four of them children as young as five years old, and twin girls age seven.

People must realize that OMGs are not a bunch of fun loving, toy toting good guys delivering gifts to needy kids. The investigations are staggering and go on and on. The incidents, beginning with Hollister, go on through the years and have shaped our image of the OMG culture and no amount of spin, public relations or veneer should make a bit of difference in exposing what the gangs stand for.

Schmoozing the public has provided OMGs with an improved image, taking the spotlight off the terror and horror they mete out and overriding the malicious side of their culture. The bad boy look is popular today with many. OMGs, like the rest of society, have learned how to fit in and change as needed. Riding hundreds of miles on a chopped hard tail into a campground on a run isn't reality as it was decades ago. Even hard core outlaws are known to trailer their factory cushioned Harleys to a hotel to stay for a relaxing weekend run, giving them access to showers, computers, laundry, and restaurant food. The years have changed their image, but it hasn't changed loyalty to their clubs or their zest for power and crime.

The growth of motorcycle clubs has forged a new social culture that has become part of the American way of life. Even those not involved in an OMG or social biker clubs have

found the independent RUB (Rich Urban Biker) an enjoyable lifestyle, some even daring to cross the line into criminal behavior.

Somehow, looking bad is looking good. The movie and television industry, clothing and fashion manufactures have all benefitted from this attitude; many charities have too. The perception of what the true outlaw biker is about has been twisted and turned into an acceptable part of our culture. Citizens don't often see the crimes, and victims are often kept in check by intimidation, so the crime goes unreported and the public remains in the dark about biker crimes. Biker crimes are frequently not reported as such or kept away from juries as prejudicial and the biker element or gang involvement is often unknown to juries.

"Are there still Hells Angels out there?" or "They're not so bad anymore," or "They do Toys for Tots," are statements that minimize what OMGs really stand for. Unfortunately, as a society we have accepted and embraced it as mainstream and socially acceptable.

GROWTH AND SUPPORT

Looking at a map of the United States 30 or 40 years ago, it would have been obvious where the major OMGs were: The Hells Angels in the West (California); Pagans in the East

(Maryland); Outlaws in the North and Southeast (Illinois and Florida); and Bandidos to the South (Texas). Within a short period of time, the Outlaws spread east and south; the Bandidos spread northwest. The Hells Angels spread north and east. The Pagans focused their growth primarily in eastern states and were the only one of the Big Four that didn't eventually become an international club.

Today, the Hells Angels continues its quest for dominance and is located in almost 50 percent of the states. The big clubs are now overlapping into other

gang territories, clouding the map and blurring lines of demarcation. Colorado has more major clubs -- including Hells Angels, Bandidos, Outlaws, Sons of Silence, Vietnam Vets and Mongols -- than any other state.

Internationally, the Hells Angels has spread to 30 countries, with the Bandidos and Outlaws having chapters in about half as many countries. In terms of membership, the Bandidos are probably as big as the Hells Angels, but are in fewer countries, which would account for larger memberships in individual chapters. Other major clubs including the Mongols, Vagos, Gypsy Jokers, Sons of Silence and Vietnam Vets have also become international clubs with some surpassing the Pagans in membership.



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In a 2009 congressional report, motorcycle gangs were identified as transnational gangs known for carrying out crimes including drugs, stolen motorcycles, assaults and murder. Examples include the Hells Angels running drugs from South America to Canada and from South Africa to Arizona. Other crimes included a Hells Angel from Canada and one from the U.S. shooting Outlaws a few years ago in Sturgis, South Dakota, and Outlaws killing a Canadian Hells Angel in England. Another situation involved a Hells Angel from Europe attempting to kill a U.S. federal agent. A Hells Angel on the run for a murder that occurred in Mesa, Arizona was identified in Canada riding with the club.

Aside from OMGs, there are other biker clubs across the country that don't fit into the OMG mold but may be considered "fringe clubs" that are visible at OMG get-togethers. Law enforcement tends to work the major OMGs, paying little attention to these fringe clubs. While these clubs dabble in petty crimes, they don't fit the definition of being an outlaw club, yet have the potential opportunity to work their way into becoming outlaws. These clubs are usually made up of individuals sharing the same social interests, profession, cultural background or race.

A major national U.S. veterans club is the Vietnam Vets. The club was built as a dying club: Only Vietnam veterans can be members and as members die, membership dwindles until the club dies out. A decision allowed veterans returning

home from the mid-eastern wars to join. They call themselves the Legacy Vets. The Vietnam Vets and Legacy Vets are one club with two names.

Other clubs including the Sin City Disciples, Chosen Few and East Bay Dragons are restricted to African Americans; the Narbones and Rez Riders are open to Native Americans. There are female clubs including the Devil Dolls and Dykes on Bikes. More recently, some sport bike clubs are starting to factor into the OMG culture as well. One of the larger sport bike clubs known as the Ruff Ryders are wearing Hells Angel support patches. Uniquely, they are a mixed-race club unlike the "no Blacks allowed" Hells Angels OMG, yet Ruff Ryders show support for the Hells Angels. Other information has indicated the Latin Kings street gang is starting a sport bike club called the Kings Knights. There has been a relationship between the Outlaws OMG and the Latin Kings in the Illinois area for years.

Many of these clubs have some peripheral involvement with the OMGs, dabbling in the lifestyle and some crimes; however, with the exception of a few, these clubs are not considered outlaw clubs.

Although many aspects of OMGs have remained consistent over the years, there have been some changes.

Unchanged is the posturing for power and territory. OMGs use intimidation, assaults and murder to maintain control of various territories. It's like the old adage, "He who dies with the most toys wins." With

OMGs, it's similar in that the club with the most power or territory wins – as though they own it. They believe that they have control over others, to the point that they "allow" who can wear colors of other clubs into "their territory," truly a gang mentality. Confederations and coalitions of motorcycle clubs have been set up nationally and by state. They serve as a type of lobbying organization or voice for biker rights, legislation (no helmet laws), attorneys, etc. A common topic at their meetings has been lawsuits against law enforcement. These coalitions and confederations also control which clubs are allowed in their areas and are assessed dues. The confederation and coalitions in the various states are further controlled by the more powerful gangs in that state. Disputes over territory have caused most of the major OMG assaults and murders. There have been more "bottom rocker" (patch designating state) wars than any other reason for biker conflict. In Arizona, for example, the Dirty Dozen battled it out with the Outlaws, Devils Diciples, Sons of Silence, Bad Company, Seekers, Vagos and Mongols over the right to wear the Arizona bottom rocker. Many gang members were murdered or assaulted over that "right" and this is common practice among OMGs all over the world.

Smaller clubs are also moving into the Big Four's areas. These interlopers are being given the blessing from the major gang controlling the area, and if not, dissipate within a short time. New York has

had bloodshed between Outlaws, Pagans, Hells Angels and smaller gangs for years, to include the 1990s Lancaster Speedway shootings where the presidents of the Hells Angel and Outlaws were killed in the gun battle, or the 2002 Hellraisers Ball when 75 Pagans attacked the Hells Angels only to be on the losing end with one murdered Pagan. There was bloodshed in Outlaws-controlled Illinois and Indiana when the Hells Angels took over the long standing Hells Henchmen in the mid-1990s. The Outlaws started assassinating Hells Angels for moving into their territory.

Conversely, Colorado has had more major OMGs than any other state with Hells Angels, Bandidos, Outlaws, Sons of Silence and Mongols, but it has been fairly low key and other than minor skirmishes, OMGs avoid one another. Interestingly, there has been a tit-for-tat Hells Angel/Bandido thing going on where the clubs have been “testing” each other by conducting their national runs in the other gang’s territories. This has continued with little consequence. However, the opportunity did present itself at the 2007 Hells Angel USA Run in Eureka Springs, Arkansas (Bandido state). The Bandidos were thumped and bloodied for making their presence known near the Hells Angels Run.

Support/puppet clubs and associates give the major clubs a layer of insulation and keep OMGs away from the eyes of law enforcement. They also supply security and intelli-

gence to the major clubs. In some instances, members of the support club will patch up and become a member of the dominant club. Support clubs have become part of the mainstream existence of the bigger gangs, and function much like the low rung hangaround does within the hierarchy of a club.

The Outlaws have a major support club called the Black Pistons with a patch that has some Outlaw similarities and the Black and White color scheme of the Outlaws. The Bandidos, on the other hand, seem to have more support clubs than any of the major gangs. When on a major run, the Bandidos typically have 15-20+ support clubs traveling with them, unlike others that may have a couple of clubs that attend major runs. This makes the Bandidos look like a much bigger organization than it is. The Bandido colors are gold with red lettering and Bandido support clubs typically wear a reverse color scheme, red backgrounds with gold lettering. Recently, the newer support clubs for the Hells Angels are seen with colors involving lots of red color with flaming skulls, or ball peen hammers or other symbolism that trained investigators know is Hells Angels-connected. Support stickers on their motorcycles are also a good indicator of their allegiance.

Other than adding membership to an existing club, expansion of the gangs occurs one of two ways:

- An OMG will take over an existing club and typically have members prospect, usually six months to a year, depending

on the club. An example of that was the Dirty Dozen in Arizona. The Dirty Dozen was the premier outlaw motorcycle gang in Arizona for 30 years when they started prospecting as Hells Angels. Just prior to prospecting, Dirty Dozen members were seen wearing red and White t-shirts (Hells Angel colors), with lettering that said “Come in peace, or leave in pieces.” The Hells Angels chose the top 60 members out of 120 Dirty Dozen to start prospecting as potential Hells Angels. Only 42 members successfully became fully patched Hells Angels.

- An OMG can put in a new club (support club). The club will then act on its own under the guidance of the major club. An example of this was when the Hells Angels put in the Red Demons in Nevada. Unfortunately for the Red Demons (and fortunately for law enforcement), the Red Demons flunked the test and did not become Hells Angels. They didn’t stay Red Demons either, because they had been infiltrated by Las Vegas Metro Police Department officers. The Red Devils in Orange County, California did pass the test and eventually became Hells Angels.

In addition to clubs associating with their support clubs, they are also known to associate with other gangs, groups and countercultures. There is ample documentation of OMGs associating with prison gangs (Aryan Brotherhood and Mexican Mafia), Los Cosa Nostra/mafia, KKK and other White supremacists groups, drug cartels, and street gangs.

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In rare instances, there has been documentation of a connection to a Chinese Triad (Canada) and Lebanese and other Mideastern groups. There are rare instances where members are “double patched,” meaning that they not only associate with, but belong to an OMG as well as another organization (street gang, prison gang, KKK, skinhead, etc.). This compounds the problems and creates a complex gang network. This gives gangs more power and ability to be crime connected and to operate more effectively within

the criminal world.

Historically, gangs are just as bad now as they were years ago, but they have learned how to survive – functioning differently through the years, learning how to use the system to their advantage, putting on a layer of insulation using associations with other groups/gangs and counter cultures, as well as through public relations techniques previously explained. The bad boy image is popular in today’s culture, and others not involved in the criminal culture have

come to enjoy the camaraderie and freedom the lifestyle represents. What was once a lifestyle for the outlaws has become blurred as other aspects of society have bought into it. Growth, power, violence and territory are present and important to their existence as they continue their global expansion. The image of the outlaw on a motorcycle with the three-piece patch brings about very powerful imagery of intimidation – a trademark of their culture which demands respect.

About the author...

Steve Trethewy served with the Arizona Department of Public Safety from 1975-99 and joined RMIN as a Field Services Coordinator, Arizona, upon retirement from DPS. Trethewy helped develop the Arizona Gang Investigator’s Association and the Tri-State Intelligence Association and is a member of the board of the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigator’s Association. He has published numerous articles on street, prison and motorcycle gangs in publications including Police Chief, Law & Order and in the RMIN Bulletin. He was interviewed as a resource for background information on two documentaries on the Discovery Channel regarding Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and was interviewed on air for the History Channel’s Gangland series on the Hells Angels.

Aryan gangs of Idaho

By *TIMOTHY HIGGINS*
INVESTIGATION INTELLIGENCE COORDINATOR
IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Idaho has become known nationally for two things: potatoes and unfortunately, Aryans.

A relatively small number of anti-government extremists were actually behind Idaho's Aryan reputation but due to the level of violence they employed, they managed to win national notoriety. These extremists were attracted to the dense woods and high mountain ranges in Idaho's northern panhandle that provided remote and easy access to surrounding states and the Canadian border. They found the area ideal for establishing a base for their operations.

IDAHO'S HISTORY OF ARYAN GANGS

Aryan Nations is behind most of Idaho's Aryan reputation. The original Aryan Nations arose from a Christian Identity religious group founded in California in the 1940s. Richard Butler was an aerospace engineer for Lockheed who moved to northern Idaho in the 1970s, bought 20 acres of land near Idaho's Hayden Lake, and set up a compound which became known as the Church of Jesus Christ Christian, Aryan Nations. He hosted annual conventions



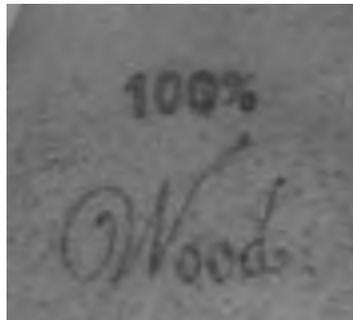
that attracted White supremacists from around the country and held widely publicized marches through downtown Coeur d'Alene that drew many more protesters than participants. Aryan Nations became the parent organization for a number of violent splinter groups that terrorized the United States during the 1980s.

In September 1983, Aryan Nations supporter Robert Mathews formed an Aryan terrorist group called "The Order." The Order launched a crime spree that included robbing armored cars, printing counterfeit money, bombing a synagogue in Boise, Idaho and assassinating Jewish talk-radio host Alan Berg in Denver, Colorado.

During the July 1986 conference, Aryan Nations Security Chief David Dorr formed "The Order II" which was responsible for exploding three pipe bombs in Coeur d'Alene, including one at the U.S. Courthouse.

In January 1991, Randy Weaver, who regularly attended Aryan Nations gatherings, was arrested for selling a sawed-off

shotgun to an informant. Weaver refused to show up for trial, triggering the August 1992 shootout with federal agents at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Weaver's son and wife and a deputy U.S. Marshal were killed during the gun battle with federal authorities.



In July 1998, Victoria Keenan and her son Jason were shot at by Aryan Nations security staff during a car chase near the Aryan Nations compound. The Southern Poverty Law Center won a \$6.3 million judgment against the Aryan Nations for the Keenans. The Aryan Nations lost possession of its compound, which was later turned into a "peace park." Richard Butler died a few years later and the Aryan Nations was quiet until recently.

TODAY'S IDAHO ARYAN GANGS

The Aryan Nations (Christian Identity) have recently been distributing fliers and recruiting new members while trying to create a new "world headquarters" in Idaho. Their latest web site lists

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Coeur d'Alene residents Jerald O'Brien and Michael Lombard as the new leaders of the Aryan Nations. The Aryan Nations is a common name that is used by 11 different groups operating nationally that claim northern Idaho as their homeland. There are approximately 50 Aryan Nations members in Idaho prisons today. Aryan Nations members frequently exhibit Nazi symbols to denote their White supremacy ideology and typically display the initials "AN," the phrase "Aryan Nations," and/or the Aryan Nations' emblem to indicate affiliation with the organization.

The Aryan Knights (Neo-Confederate) is Idaho's largest and most powerful Aryan prison gang with more than 200 known members. The gang was formed in the early 1990s at the Idaho Maximum Security Institution and is a profit-based criminal organization. The Aryan Knights exhibit the traditional Nazi symbols to denote their White supremacy ideology and frequently display the initials "AK," the phrase "Aryan Knight," and/or the numbers "1 - 11" which represents the 1st and 11th letters of the alphabet (AK). There are two smaller Aryan Knight subsets known as Irish Assassins and Insane Outlaws that serve primarily as their contract muscle. These subsets frequently display the initials "IO" or "IA."

David Patrick Kennedy founded the European Kindred (Neo-Confederate) in 1998 in Eastern Oregon's Snake River Correctional Institution. It is one of the most powerful gangs

in the Oregon Prison System. There are approximately 15 members in Idaho prisons. They are closely aligned with the Aryan Knights and are openly accepted as equals. The European Kindred exhibit the traditional Nazi symbols to denote their White supremacy ideology and typically display the initials "EK" inside a shield to indicate set affiliation.

MEMBER PROFILE

The Skinheads (Neo-Nazi / Neopagans) in Idaho are sometimes known as "Yard Skins" and include members from the Nazi Low Riders, Public Enemy Number 1 (PEN1), Hammerskins and various other skinhead gangs. There are approximately 120 known members of this group. Their symbols include crossed hammers and various Celtic, Odinist and Nazi symbols. They claim to be Odinists and follow the teachings of David Lane. They frequently display "14," representing Lane's 14 words, "We must secure the existence of our people and a future for White children" and "88" representing Lane's 88 precepts and/or the eighth letter of the alphabet twice meaning "Heil Hitler."

The Peckerwoods (Neo-Confederate) are a loose organization in Idaho that perform tasks and serve as a recruiting pool for the more powerful Aryan Knights. There are approximately 70 known Peckerwood members in Idaho. Coined in the 19th century, "Peckerwood" or "Wood" is a derogatory term used to describe poor rural Whites.

Inmates eventually made the term Peckerwood a source of pride in the late 1980s. In addition to various Nazi symbols, Peckerwoods usually display the phrases "Peckerwood," "Pure Peckerwood," "100% Pure Wood," "Pure Peck," "Pure Wood," "Peckerwood Inc," "Peckerwood Tribe," "100% Peckerwood," or images of the woodpecker bird. Female members are commonly referred to as "Featherwoods."

The American Outlaws (Neo-Confederate) were first identified on the streets of Idaho Falls in eastern Idaho in 2007. There are approximately 30 known members. While membership is restricted to Whites only, this is primarily a criminal organization with a focus on drug trafficking. Harsh punishments are dispensed to those who prove to be disloyal or don't perform assigned tasks. Last year, an American Outlaw member who did not meet expectations had his "AO" tattoo cut off his chest. Members are tattooed with "American Outlaw," "AO," and/or the Iron Cross, sometimes with an anarchy symbol in the center to show set affiliation.

The Psychotic Soldiers (Neo-Nazi) were first identified in the Idaho State Correctional Institution in 2008. There are approximately 25 known members. It was formed by a group of skinheads who felt the other Aryan gangs were too passive. The gang set out to make a name for itself through acts of violence. Other gangs frequently pay the Psychotic Soldiers to perform collections and contract hits. Members display the letters "PS" and Nazi symbols.

IDAHO ARYAN GANGS OF TOMORROW

The Aryans of tomorrow appear to be dividing into three basic types based on their ideology. These include Neo-Confederate groups, Christian Identity or Creativity Movement religious groups, and Neo-Nazi groups.

The modern Neo-Confederate Aryan gang member places more emphasis on operating a criminal enterprise and much less on being a White supremacist. We have seen these Aryan gangs employing more modern technology in their methods of operation and entering into alliances with non-White gangs for business purposes.

It has become common to find Aryan Knights joining forces with the Sureno gangs when it serves their purpose. We have found these Aryan gangs have been investing in legitimate small businesses that employ their members on the street and are currently sponsoring some of their members in Ultimate Fighting competitions. Our local gyms have become a common meeting place for Aryan gang members on the streets.

The number of Aryan religious groups and anti-government extremists are steadily increasing, both nationally and in Idaho. The anti-immigration movement and most recently the election of a Black president of the United States sparked much of this growth.



Many of the Aryan religious groups continue to let fear and paranoia drive their hatred of non-Whites. They view their incarcerated members as prisoners of war. They reportedly have been stockpiling firearms and ammunition based on their belief that President Barack Obama will restrict their ability to buy additional weapons. Their members frequently choose to serve their full sentence in order to avoid having a parole officer in their homes or around their families. This makes it more difficult for criminal justice officials to monitor their organization and intercede in criminal activity.

Today's Neo-Nazi group seems to care little about the revolutionary creation of a fascist political state but focuses on simple hatred of homosexuals, sex offenders and non-Whites. They rebel against any type of authority over them and make it their mission to break all the rules. If they want something, they simply take it from the weaker inmates, by force if necessary. They travel in packs like wolves, feeding on the weaker members of the pack.

Idaho is working to develop a statewide systems approach for dealing with the anticipated gang problems of tomorrow. Joint agency task forces, a new Criminal Intelligence Sharing Center and the statewide de-confliction of criminal investigations have enabled Idaho's criminal justice agencies to maximize the use of our limit-

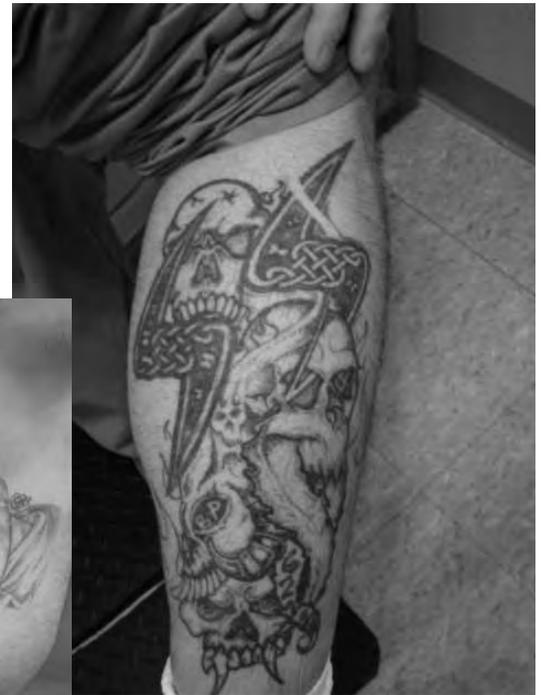
ed resources. We will continue to identify gang members as early as possible and carefully track them as they move through the system through our intelligence sharing networks. Working together we will be able to meet any challenge the future may present.

About the author...

Timothy Higgins served for 10 years in the U.S. Air Force as a Security Police Manager, obtaining the rank of Technical Sergeant. He has worked for the Idaho Department of Correction since October 1989 and currently serves as a Program Coordinator in the Central Office, providing oversight for the investigation, intelligence and Security Threat Group Management Programs statewide. He is the creator of the website www.IdahoGangs.com and is a member of the northwest Gang Investigators Association. He has served as Idaho's State representative for the National Major Gang Task Force since 2001. He earned a degree in criminology from the University of Maryland and is an adjunct instructor for Boise State University's Criminal Justice Department in gang management. Higgins chairs a multi-agency subcommittee for the Idaho Criminal Justice Commission that is developing a statewide strategy for dealing with Idaho's growing gang problem. Higgins can be reached at thiggins@idoc.idaho.gov or (208)658-2134.

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Evolution of gangs in Arizona

By FRANK "PACO" MARCELL

Arizona natives relate that gangs, particularly street gangs, have been around for several decades.

From the mid 1970s, the Aryan Brotherhood, Mexican Mafia and Mau Mau prison gangs came into existence at the Florence Complex, Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC). These groups formed along racial lines, and immediately initiated a campaign to control all illegal activities within the prison yards. They also began a recruitment drive for membership of the most criminally orientated among each race. I am sure, at that time, prison administrators could not realize the impact these groups eventually would have within the Arizona Department of Corrections. Nor, in time, that other groups including the New Mexican Mafia, Border Brothers, Warrior Society, Grandels and Surenos would form. In addition, the ADOC inmate population has grown to more than 30,000 inmates and the prison system has expanded to include several new prison facilities statewide.

The membership of these groups is an interesting study. It tells a story of their life-long commitment to crime and of recidivism.

Mexican-American prison gangs like the New and Old Mexican Mafias, Grandels and

Surenos come from communities throughout Arizona and California. Many grew up in Hispanic neighborhoods or barrios steeped in the gang culture and most were members of a street gang. Generally, their pattern of crime started at an early age with stints in and out of the juvenile justice system, county jails and eventually ending up incarcerated in the adult prison system.

The Aryan Brotherhood, from inception to the present, has been the undisputed rulers of the White inmate prison population. Although recent assessment indicates they have lost direction and their influence today is threatened by a large influx of Skinheads who have steadily come into the prison system in the last five years. Skinheads too, as Hispanic criminal gang members, have a pattern of criminal behavior. Unlike the Hispanics, the environment and location where they grew up seems to play a lesser role as an indicator of future crime. Their recruitment and membership has always been about who is willing to take care of business (that is, conduct assaults or even murder when called upon). Most have a life-long history of drug abuse and infatuation with weapons. They have gained notoriety as being White racist extremists although, truth from fiction

shows they are more career criminals than racial ideologues, and many have close friendships with Mexican-Americans and other races.

The Border Brothers are strictly Mexican nationals. They formed to protect themselves, as is common with all the other prison groups, as well as to seek power. Its initial membership was from the most criminally oriented of the Mexican national prison population. From the onset, Border Brothers were willing to face off against the established New Mexican Mafia which resulted in a riot at the Arizona Prison Complex in Winslow in 1997. Historically, second generation Mexican nationals coming into the prison population with the street gang mentality of "Wetback Power" sets shunned membership in groups such as the Border Brothers. This is true for many other Mexican national inmates who refer to themselves as Paisas or countrymen.

The Mau Maus have remained the sole Black prison gang. In the late 1980s, an attempt was made by various Crips gang set members from Los Angeles who were incarcerated in ADOC to form a group known as the United Crip Gang (UCG). This take-over never gained prominence. Originally, the Mau Maus were the racial ideologues of all the prison groups and today Mau

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Mau membership has largely diminished. The present concern is focusing on the increasing Black street gang population due to the FBI Violent Gang Task Force RICO investigations targeting Black street gang sets. The prospect of a group such as the "West Side City" Crips, who have an overwhelming number of members incarcerated, becoming a Security Threat Group is alarming.

In the 1970s when prison gangs, now referred to as Security Threat Groups (STGs) came into existence, few in the criminal justice community could predict the effect they would have upon our state and communities.

The sum of their impact on crime, victimization and applied justice resources is staggering. They have become a recruitment attraction for impressionable youngsters entering the criminal justice system.

These members possess the highest recidivism rate of any type of criminal. The prison environment is their domain and they are committed to a life of crime. This commitment, coupled with an outward hostility toward authority, has increasingly led to officer-involved shootings and attacks. They routinely tie-up the court system with appeals, subpoenas, and writs and use the system to their advantage and

advancement of their criminal enterprises. Upon release from prison, they hook up with fellow gang members to form cells. They tend to gravitate to crimes with the highest violence potential such as armed robbery, drug distribution and home invasions or the lucrative profit from identification theft.

Since the inception of prison gangs within the Arizona prison system, there have been internal struggles with each group. Political jockeying for power and influence is as commonplace to them as any organization. This often has led to paranoia and jealousy of which the result is a member being put on a "hit list." From



1977 to 1984 several murders that took place in the prisons and out on the streets were attributed to this in-fighting. The Arizona Department of Public Safety, Criminal Investigation Bureau, had investigators who routinely responded to these incidents.

Leading up to 1983, several significant events involving prison gang members caught the attention of both prison and law enforcement authorities:

- An upswing of murders and assaults by Hispanic inmates was occurring between two factions.
- Critical information obtained led to the Florence Prison

Complex, CB-6 search. Detonating cord, blasting caps and other contraband was found during the search in the possession of suspected Aryan Brotherhood members.

- Intelligence collected indicated that there were ties with the Aryan Brotherhood to the then highly visible nationwide White extremist movement.

For these reasons, in 1984, the first federally funded Prison Gang Task Force (PGTF) came into existence. The PGTF consisted of a sergeant and squad from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Also assigned were two full time attorneys and investigators from the state Attorney General's Office (AG) and personnel from the Department of Corrections (DOC).

The goals of the PGTF were multifaceted:

- Develop a collection plan to identify all known gang members within these groups
- Identify prison housing assignments and addresses of those out on the streets
- Develop sources within the prison
- Utilize intelligence techniques in prison to disrupt gang and illegal activities
- Arrest and prosecute members using organized crime enhancement statutes and without plea bargain

One of the most important results that came from the PGTF was the creation of the Gang Member Identifying Criteria (GMIC). GMIC came about because PGTF prosecutors were seeking the most severe enhanced sentencing laws. Subsequently, it necessi-

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tated defense attorneys prove their clients were not members of an organized criminal enterprise. During court proceedings, to overcome these objectives, prosecutors and investigators needed to provide criteria utilizing documentation to substantiate gang membership and thus, GMIC was written.

Years later, around 1992, GMIC was introduced into legislation and became new statutes under the Arizona Revised Criminal Code.

From my perspective, the gang phenomenon that we face today in Arizona is a direct result of the gang explosion in California from the 1980s. Until that time, gangs had been part of the Los Angeles scene for decades and viewed as a social issue confined to the inner city and various barrios throughout Los Angeles.

The catalyst that spawned this phenomenon was the introduction of crack cocaine. This product resulted in a Crip and Blood rivalry for the drug trade. Both Crip and Blood members took up arms to eliminate competition. To enhance their image and swagger, they began to dress and emulate in Cholo style, a long-held tradition of Hispanic street gangs. This did not sit well with members of the established Hispanic barrios, who perceived Black street gangs as rivals. As bloodshed and body counts increased, fueled by a heavy dose of notoriety by nightly news and from the entertainment business, a perfect storm of gang warfare was created: soldiers without dedicated uniforms.

In 1984, when the PGTF was created, Phoenix was starting to feel the spin-off from this

unfolding storm in Los Angeles. My recollection, and according to Retired Phoenix Police Department Detective Alex Fermina who was a member of the gang squad, was that they began receiving information from South Mountain Precinct that Los Angeles-based Black gangsters were now in Phoenix. At that time, the squad did not perceive that a serious gang problem existed, but things were about to change.

The distribution of drugs and a bit of entrepreneurship from various Los Angeles Black gang sets obviously led them to a potential market in Phoenix, perhaps with the thought that it would be easy to take over.

This was not the case, and in time a turf war developed between Phoenix and Los Angeles Black gang sets that lasted for a few years. Eventually, after numerous shootings, some reported, many not, the LA crews were run out of Phoenix.

Det. Fermina also recalled that the event that led to the increased resources of dedicated PPD gang squads was a Phoenix Fire Department truck that had responded to a fire at 21st Street and Broadway and had taken fire from suspected gang members. Additionally, as the Los Angeles gang phenomenon

gained notoriety, an insurgence of Hispanic gang activity was increasing in Phoenix.

From 1984 and into the 1990s, the street gang problem was increasing on many fronts. Street gang turf fights and rivalries had escalated into several shootings. Throughout Maricopa County, new street gang sets were being identified (in non-traditional neighborhoods). Car thefts, increase use and sales of drugs and disturbances at high schools were on the rise.

In 1989, the Department of Public Safety, Intelligence Division, dedicated a squad to work gangs under the supervision of Sergeant Steve Trethewy who had been working outlaw

motorcycle gangs for years. This squad was unique for its time, in that each squad member could specialize in street, prison or motorcycle gangs and assist one another when help was needed



in targeting a specific group. The squad also assisted other cities that had no formal gang enforcement.

By 1993, the gang problem was felt throughout Arizona both in size and scope. In 1994 the Gang Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GITEM) was created, initiated and approved for legislative funding. GITEM became a multi-agency

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task force with the authority to operate anywhere in the state. Its initial concept was based on the Los Angeles Police Department Metro concept from the 1950-60s that handled problematic and high profile crime. GITEM's first commander was Captain Mike Denney, followed by Captain David Gonzales. GITEM was highly successful and after a few years in existence, was recognized by the National Chiefs of Police Association for its originality and concept.

GITEM is still in operation today after a few years hiatus due to funding problems. It is known today as GIITEM, and an aspect of immigration enforcement has been added.

Today, the gang problem in Arizona is top priority and well it should be. It is an epidemic problem on a national level and according to a recent FBI intelligence assessment, gang crime may be responsible for 80 percent of crime statistics.

I have witnessed many positive changes since I first started in this specialized field. Arizona now has a gang information repository. The Phoenix Police Department has several dedicated gang squads, one of which, the Syndicate Squad, works exclusively on the New Mexican Mafia. Several other police agencies throughout the state have assigned gang detectives. The Phoenix FBI Violent Gang Task Force has done an excellent job on numerous multi-indictment RICO investigations. The ADOC for several years has had a Security Threat Group validation process that has greatly improved the safety and security within the prisons. The Maricopa County Attorney's office has an aggressive staff of

attorneys to prosecute gang related crimes. Last but certainly not least, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office has jail and phone monitoring units that provide daily service to all criminal justice agencies.

The future and evolution of gangs within Arizona is troublesome. Arizona is faced with several fronts to be concerned with. Within the last couple of years, the Arizona New Mexican Mafia has struck an alliance with the California and Federal Mexican Mafias, groups that are synonymous with one another and perhaps the largest organized crime group in the nation. Could this allegiance eventually lead to old and new drug transshipment routes from Arizona's borders, with control by the Mexican Mafias collectively?

Mexican national gangs are attempting to gain a foothold in Arizona. They remain connected to organized drug and human smuggling groups operating along the Arizona-Mexico border. All indications show they have targeted Phoenix as the hub and distribution centers of these commodities. Over the last several years their propensity for violence is indicative of the numerous unsolved homicides of Mexican nationals, who have been dumped in rural areas and shot in the head with their hands tied behind their backs. The accounts of running gun battles along the I-10 east to west corridor through Arizona and numerous violent home invasions show these gangs are serious.

The gang problem throughout Arizona is likely to increase. The flow of drugs and human cargo is too lucrative. Prison and street gangs will be the intermediaries and soldiers for

long established smuggling operations (cartels) from Mexico. California's economy, third strike law and an assortment of other ills will drive more and more bad guys to Arizona for autonomy. There will be no time for denial or loss of resources. Intelligence collection and analysis will be the key to law enforcement's success in the fight against gangs.

About the author...

Frank "Paco" Marcell retired in May from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office after 37 years of service with various law enforcement and corrections agencies. He currently is serving on the governing boards of the Arizona Gang Investigators Association and the National Major Gang Task Force. He is an advisor to the International Latino Gang Investigators Association and a member of the California Gang Task Force. During the last 25 years of his law enforcement career, Marcell worked and supervised various prison and street gang units. While assigned to the Arizona Prison Gang Task Force in 1985, he co-authored the Gang Member Identifying Criteria and conceptualized the Gang Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission with the Arizona Department of Public Safety. He has published numerous articles in law enforcement journals and has spoken on gang-related topics to groups across the country. Marcell is in the process of establishing a consulting business while he continues to meet his public speaking and writing commitments. He can be reached at azpacomar@gmail.com

The Wonder Boys

By JOSEPH PRECIADO
LEAD BORDER PATROL AGENT
YUMA SECTOR INTELLIGENCE UNIT

U.S. Border Patrol agents of the Yuma Sector have come in contact more frequently with Sureno (Southern Hispanics) gang members who have family ties in the United States.

Located 25 miles south of Yuma, Arizona, is the small border town of San Luis, Arizona. San Luis, Arizona, and San Luis, Sonora, Mexico share the international border that divides the United States from Mexico. It is here that the border patrol agents have had a constant conflict with a Mexican street gang known as “Los Wonders” (The Wonder Boys) that is identified as a Sureno street gang.

The area that they control and operate solely from is known as La Colonia Rio, San Luis, Sonora, Mexico. The Wonder Boys have now expanded their criminal network and enterprise to populate the other neighborhoods in the city of San Luis, Sonora. Wonder Boys are also believed to be presently living in the city of San Luis, Arizona.

The Wonder Boys criminal organization is mainly involved in illegal alien trafficking from Mexico into the United States. They operate along the international border fence that separates San Luis, Arizona and

San Luis, Sonora. This area of operation extends to the west and ends at the riverbed of the now dry Colorado River. The Wonder Boys support their gang endeavors by committing car thefts, strong armed robberies, assaults, extortion, prostitution and home invasions, etc. Some members have been arrested for disorderly conduct, assault on police officers and some have been suspects in homicides.

The Wonder Boys are known to carry concealed weapons and caution should be taken when encountered by law enforcement or border patrol agents in the field.

The Mexican Government has conducted coordinated street gang operations in San Luis, Sonora, in the past few years. The operations were conducted in order to seek out and arrest any street gang members in San Luis, Sonora

area and more specifically, to target The Wonder Boys gang during these organized “Gang Sweeps.” Newspaper articles regarding arrests of gang members, particularly Wonder Boys, have been published with regularity in the local newspaper and media. Some of The Wonder Boys arrested have been identified as leaders (Shot Callers) within the gang by Mexican law enforcement.

Members of The Wonder Boys often frequent the local San Luis, Sonora, dance clubs and have been photographed flashing gang signs on the dance club website. The tattoo most commonly used by The Wonder Boys is the initials W.B. or Wonder Bois in old English script.

The Wonder Boys are not the only Mexican street gang that has been targeted by San Luis, Sonora, law enforcement.

Another street gang that is active is known by the name “Chopas” (unknown meaning).



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Chopas are also located in San Luis, Sonora. Chopas gang members or associates live near or have congregated in the neighborhood known as El Callejon (Guerrero 8 Y 9) in San Luis, Sonora. A decal with the wording Chopas and affixed to the rear windows of vehicles has been observed in known gang neighborhoods in Yuma. The Chopas are rivals of The Wonder Boys due to the illegal alien trafficking trade along the border and the money it generates for their respective gangs. Chopas and a gang identified as Los Demonios (The Demons) are not as high profile as The Wonder Boys but are also a concern to the local Mexican law enforcement community. They too are a Sureno street gang.

All three of these Mexican-based street gangs keep their hair groomed as short as possible and dress in the same style as their Hispanic street gang counterparts in California and Arizona. In San Luis, the Sureno lifestyle is embraced and has a strong influence along the San Luis border area. The style of dress that has been adopted is a style referred to as "tumblado" that

translates loosely to the wearing of oversized clothing. Brands of pants such as Ben Davis, Friscos or Dickies are worn with an oversized white T-shirt and Nike Cortez tennis shoes with blue or black shoelaces. This can be the uniform of the day for some Surenos. They also prefer wearing SouthSider trece (13) brand football jerseys or anything that represents the number 13 on the clothing being worn. By displaying this type of clothing they immediately identify within themselves and to others who they represent and their allegiance to the Sureno mission. Sureno gang members will wear predominantly any clothing except the color red or the number 14. The color red or the number 14 identifies a Norteno gang member or associate.

Mexican authorities are stating that they are seeing a steady rise in Sureno street gangs in San Luis, Sonora which is a growing concern for Mexican law enforcement and the general public. The majority of illegal alien gang members arrested in Yuma have a connection to a particular Sureno street gang in California.

The following are some of the Sureno street gangs that have been encountered and arrested in Yuma:

- Bakers Trece, Bakersfield, CA
- 18th Street, Arlington, VA
- Barrio Vagos, Salinas, CA
- Hollywood Hobart Tiny Ones, Los Angeles, CA
- White Fence, Los Angeles, CA
- Crazy Riders, Los Angeles, CA
- Little Town, San Luis, AZ
- Border Brothers, various parts of Mexico
- Lomas Trece, Los Angeles, CA
- Florencia Trece, Los Angeles, CA
- SouthSider Trece, Las Vegas, NV
- Orange County Trece, Orange County, CA
- Surenos Trece, East LA Clique, Los Angeles
- Mara Salvatrucha, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico

About the author...

Joe Preciado has more than 20 years of service with the United States Border Patrol and serves as a Lead Border Patrol Agent with the Yuma Sector Intelligence Unit in Yuma, AZ. Agent Preciado has been involved in tracking criminal street gangs since being selected as the Yuma Station Intelligence Agent in 1998. He was promoted to his current position in 2001. As a Lead Border Patrol Agent, he monitors street, prison, transnational gangs, their distinctive tattoos and how they relate to the involvement of illegal aliens and street gangs. Agent Preciado recently returned from the International Law Enforcement Academy in San Salvador, El Salvador, where he provided training to various Central American law enforcement personnel regarding transnational gangs and their effect on the U.S. Border. Agent Preciado can be reached by e-mail at Joseph.F.Preciado@dhs.gov

Juggalos: A fan club or a gang?

By MICHELLE VASEY

In the late 1980s and early '90s, two men from Detroit, Michigan, walked away from a gang they began, known as Inner City Posse, and tried their hand in the underground rap scene.

Changing their name from Inner City Posse to Insane Clown Posse (ICP), Joseph Bruce and Joey Utsler, or as they like to be called, Violent J and Shaggy 2 Dope, claimed to have been visited by the carnival spirit. They were told to send a message of society's need for cleansing or perish when the world ends.

They began their own record label called Psychopathic Records, and decided to send the message through six joker cards which became albums. Each album has a specific message and although the lyrics brought controversy, their fan base erupted.

The fans refer to themselves as Juggalos. The name Juggalo comes from Violent J's so-called alter ego, "The Juggla." Fans say that Violent J called out to the fans during a concert calling them "My Juggalos" and the name stuck. The lyrics speak of clown love and paying homage to the hatchet. The lyrics also speak of extreme violence and hatred toward society that has disrespected all those that society has labeled loners or outcasts.

Juggalos are fans of Insane Clown Posse but several groups of Juggalos have evolved into gangs.

In 2004, the Arizona Department of Public Safety Gang Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM) began investigating several incidents at Palo Verde High School in Tucson, Arizona. The juveniles, who were self-proclaimed Juggalos, were threatening a student for reasons unknown. Detectives began conducting research on the Juggalos and the Insane Clown Posse. Based on the information developed along with the Palo Verde case, the Juggalos were officially documented as a gang within the State of Arizona in 2007. The lead detective in the case, Hal Van Woert, noted, "Juggalos have adopted the message and philosophy of ICP and others on the Psychopathic Records label as a mission and a total lifestyle. They immerse themselves in the imagery and listen to the music whenever and wherever they can. They meet at annual and semiannual 'gatherings,' and they share their views and thoughts (such

as they are) on numerous Internet sites. In short, the message of ICP is, for the true die-hard Juggalos, not what they hear, but what they ARE."

Shortly after Det. Van Woert wrote his definition of the Juggalos, he found a similar definition written by a Juggalo on the Internet: "Many people often believe that Juggalos & Juggalettes are just another name for fans of Insane Clown Posse. Being a Juggalo is much more than liking the music; it is a way of life. A fan is someone who only likes the music either because it's the fad right now, or because they want to conform. Fans don't see the true message of the music, just the outer layer. Fans are quick to forget you as soon as the next big sensation comes along. They also will hound ICP for autographs and see them only as big famous stars. A Juggalo is one who lives their life by the hatchet. In other words, they believe in the true meaning behind ICP's songs [and] try to live by J and Shaggy's preachings. Juggalos are down with the clown for life, and will never turn their back on ICP because they are said to be 'uncool' ... They are dedicated to Psychopathic forever."¹

Juggalos can be identified by the following indicia:

- 1) Any and all Psychopathic record label clothing and paraphernalia
- 2) Tattoos relating to Insane Clown Posse and Psychopathic associated artists to include



These "Juggalettes" flash their gang signs.

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the six joker card album covers and the hatchet man which is the Psychopathic record label insignia

Juggalos do not claim a specific color such as red for Bloods or blue for Crips but colors have been documented depending on the set. For instance, the Eastside Juggalos from the Navajo Nation claim red in part because some of the members are former members of the Insane Cobra Nation.

Since 2004, Arizona, along with several states throughout the nation, has seen an increase in Juggalo membership to include gang related crimes. Arizona tribes have also seen an increase in gang related crimes involving Juggalos to include gang members from traditional gangs leaving and joining Juggalo sets.

Arizona tribes reporting Juggalos sets are:

Navajo Nation

- Eastside Juggalos
- Insane Dark Flames

Tohono O'odham Nation

- Eastside Juggalos
- Red Hatchet Representing
- Juggalo Mafia
- Juggalo Ryder Bitch

Fort McDowell Reservation

- Rez Crew

Arizona municipalities reporting Juggalo sets include:

Mesa

- Juggalo Ryder Bitch

Tempe

- Southwest Bloods, in this set, not all Juggalos are Southwest Bloods but all Southwest Bloods are Juggalos

Tucson

- Juggalo Ryder Bitch
- Juggalo Street Mafia
- Eastside Juggalos

Crimes associated with each of these sets include, but are not limited to, drive by shootings, aggravated assaults, assaults, weapons offenses, drug offenses, animal cruelty and criminal damage. Officer Neil Yazzie with the Navajo Nation Police Department is investigating several arsons that are Juggalo related. A source informed him that the arsons were a means for Juggalos to gain rank within the Juggalo sets. He also states that members of the Eastside Juggalos are now jumping in their members much like traditional gangs.

In 2008, several Juggalos also members of the Rez Crew were charged with animal cruelty and participating in a criminal street gang in Fort McDowell, Arizona. The juveniles killed a dog while at a park

and then mutilated the carcass, scaring those in attendance.

Also in 2008, several Juggalos who now claim to be members of Juggalo Ryder Bitch committed armed robbery in Mesa, Arizona. Those involved have been charged with crimes related to armed robbery, hindering prosecution and participating in a criminal street gang. In 2009, a group of Juggalos who also claim to be Southwest Bloods were charged with aggravated assault and participating in a criminal street gang after one member wanted out of the gang and was told to stab another member in Tempe, Arizona.

The name Juggalos have created a split between gang detectives throughout the United States. The question asked is how does the law enforcement community differentiate between a fan and an actual gang member?

My response to this question is that just because we do not understand this phenomenon fully, we can't as gang detectives ignore it.

It is imperative that upon contacting a Juggalo we are diligent in our investigation to answer the question: Are you a fan or are you a member of a gang?

We in law enforcement must be willing to take that extra step in our intelligence gathering to see if we are in fact dealing with a gang member or just a crazed fan.

¹www.whatisajuggalo.com

About the author...

Michelle Vasey began her career in law enforcement in 2000 with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. She joined the Fort McDowell Police Department in 2002 and was appointed the department's Gang Intelligence Officer. She was promoted to sergeant in 2004 and became a committee member for the Arizona Indian Country Gang Summit. In 2006 she founded the Arizona Indian Country Gang Task Force and in 2007, Vasey accepted a position as a detective with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, assigned to the Arizona State Gang Task Force, Gang Immigration Intelligence Team Enforcement Mission (GIITEM). Sgt. Vasey can be reached by e-mail to mvasey@azdps.gov or by phone at (602) 501-9049.

New Mexico gang update

By *CHUCK SCHOVILLE*
RMIN TRAINING SPECIALIST

New Mexico continues to find itself at the crossroads of gang activity. Just as I-25 and I-40 meet in Albuquerque, gang trends also seem to find their way into the heart of New Mexico. New Mexico continues to grapple with the effect of the California gang migration, which is most notable by the continued increase of Sureno gang members who are loyal to the Mexican Mafia. A young gang member in Albuquerque was recently asked what the most obvious change was in Albuquerque gangs and he replied, "There's a lot of that 213 stuff showing up" (213 is a reference to the area code for Los Angeles).

In addition to the presence of California-based Sureno gangs, New Mexico has been challenged by gang members migrating from South and Central America. Small towns

in New Mexico that traditionally have had little exposure to gang activity now find themselves trying to keep up with the gangs and gang motivated crimes.

Albuquerque has approximately 313 gangs and 9,297 gang members. The largest gangs operating within Albuquerque are the Southside Locos, Bernatown (Berna Varrio Town Grande), Brewtown, Northside Locos, TCK (Thugz Causing Kaos), Los Padillas, Barelas, East Side San Jose, South Side San Jose, El Washe Locos and Juaritos. The gangs within Albuquerque are involved in the traditional gang crimes seen throughout the RMIN region.

Smaller towns such as Hobbs, Roswell, Santa Fe and Artesia are no longer safe or immune from gang activity. In fact, what was once considered

an Albuquerque or El Paso, Texas, gang problem is as prevalent in the smaller cities and towns throughout New Mexico. Law enforcement in New Mexico has continued to see most Hispanic gangs claiming to be Surenos or Nortenos. The Albuquerque area has also seen a noticeable increase of the migration of gangs from the Midwest, primarily the Gangster Disciples and Latin Kings.

As is the case with most Surenos who are not from California, the New Mexico Surenos are dealing with issues within the correctional facilities from the "True Blue" California Surenos. The New Mexico Surenos are referred to as the "Free riders" by the California Surenos, because they are not loyal to the California Mexican Mafia, yet they benefit from the respect of the use of the name Sureno.

STG activity in the Montana DOC

By TRACY NAPIER

Montana does not have gangs.”

This is a common belief in our state. I can recall discussing gangs and violence in a criminal justice course I was taking in college four or five years ago. The professor was talking about these issues from other state’s perspectives. I distinctly remember her saying, “Thank goodness I can only teach about these issues from other state’s experiences. Montana is so blessed because we don’t have gangs in our cities and towns.”

Being an employee of the Montana Department of Corrections and an active member of the Montana Department of Corrections Strategic Threat Group (STG) Task Force, my eyebrows raised quickly and I almost spit my coffee out in disbelief.

“Montana does not have gangs?” I questioned.

“No we don’t,” she responded.

I went on to dispute this statement and fill the rest of the class in on the gang problem the Department of Corrections was dealing with at that time. I had a hard time believing a professor for one of the best criminal justice programs in our state was not aware of the rising gang problem in Montana.

“I have never seen graffiti or drive-bys. I don’t hear about it on the news. So, where are

these gangs you are talking about?” she asked me.

Four or five years ago, when I was discussing this with my professor, gang activity was in full bloom within the prison walls of Montana State Prison. Corrections officials were dealing with national gangs including Surenos, Nortenos, Bloods, Crips and White Supremacists groups (Peckerwoods and Skinheads). The prison was also dealing with hybrid gangs including the Modern Outlaws and the Suicide Mafia.

It was obvious why my professor was not aware of the gang problem in Montana: most of the gang members were locked up safely behind prison walls. As most of us know though, the majority of offenders will eventually be released into the community. Just as in California and Arizona, when gang members in Montana are released from prison, they take their gang affiliation with them. Many of the active gang members within the prison walls were serving short sentences and are now being released.

I would be willing to bet if I called that professor today, she would be able to tell me she sees graffiti on local businesses and houses in her city. I would also be willing to bet she is teaching about Montana’s own gang problems in her criminal justice classes.

The secret gang problem that was once hidden behind prison walls is now spilling over onto the streets of almost every community within Montana.

According to Lieutenant Dan Hess, Montana Department of Corrections STG Coordinator, there are gangs active on all seven Indian reservations in Montana. Every major city in Montana has gangs that are active and recruiting, too. Smaller, more rural communities are starting to see graffiti and other signs of a gang presence.

During 2009 in Great Falls, Montana, the Northland Mafia was involved in several robberies and an attempt to burglarize a local convenience store. Gang members were responsible for several auto thefts and the distribution of narcotics, according to Jeff Becroft, a detective with the Great Falls Police Department. The Modern Outlaws have been involved in selling cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine. One member of this gang is wanted for his involvement in a home invasion and a burglary of a local pawn shop.

Also of note is the LVL or Little Valley Locos, who have been discharged from prison at high rates and are making a strong presence in the Great Falls community. One member of the LVL was being investigated for firing random gun shots from a 9mm while walk-

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ing down the street. It is likely that this group will continue to recruit and cause problems for the Great Falls community. Members of these gangs have been leaving graffiti on businesses and houses on the main streets of Great Falls. The city makes it mandatory for home or business owners to remove the graffiti within 72 hours in order to prevent turf wars from starting.

Billings has seen an increase in drive-by shootings and graffiti as well. During 2009, several patrol cars and police officer's homes were tagged with gang graffiti throughout the course of a few nights. This bold and rebellious move by gang members prompted the Department of Corrections to get Probation & Parole officers more involved in gang recognition and tracking. Lt. Hess met with several Probation & Parole officials to coordinate an effort to have one main STG officer in each Probation & Parole region for the purpose of identifying and tracking active gang members in that region. So far, this has proven successful, but the department is working toward having one officer for each community, rather than one for each of the six regions around the state.

Montana is not unique in the fact that gang members are not following national trends. Although they may claim and mimic Surenos, they most likely do not have any ties to the California-based Surenos. Some Surenos and Nortenos in Montana have relocated from larger states and prisons and have brought their affiliation

with them, but the majority of Montana's gangs do not have national ties.

With the exception of White Supremacist groups, Montana gangs do not support racial discrimination. Native American gang members tend to take on traditional Hispanic gang affiliation, but any race can be affiliated with any gang in Montana. White Supremacist groups are the one exception to this trend.

Montana gangs do not typically follow

national alliances. Over the past five years, Surenos have been the dominant gang within the prison system and have had the highest number of validated members, but this trend is changing. Currently, Nortenos are recruiting at a high rate and are attempting to become the dominant force within the Montana Department of Corrections. The Nortenos are aligning with the Crips, while the Surenos are aligning with the White Supremacists. On Sept. 29, 2008, Montana State Prison experienced a disturbance in the high security gym as a result of the White Supremacists attacking Crips and Nortenos. Correctional officers and Recreation staff quickly contained the disturbance and only minor injuries were received by inmates and staff.

A few of Montana's larger cities have been proactive in their attempts to deal with the rising gang problems by coordinating Gang Task Force

Units. The problem, so far, has been successfully contained in these cities because of these proactive measures, but as other states have seen, gangs are here to stay.

The Montana Department of Corrections has been proactive since the introduction of gangs into this state, and it will continue to reach out to local law enforcement officials and agencies in an attempt to control

recruitment and expansion of the current

gangs in Montana. This unified front and sharing of information has been key to keeping gang activity in Montana to a minimum.

With the exception of White Supremacist groups, Montana gangs do not support racial discrimination

About the author...

Tracy Napier is a Staff Training & Development Specialist for the Montana Department of Corrections (DOC). She started her career in corrections at the Montana State Prison as a correctional officer. She promoted to an intake/admissions officer and became involved in the identification of security threat group (STG) members as they entered the institution. She was promoted to Correctional Case Manager, and then was offered the training position with the Department of Corrections. She has been the coordinator for the Montana DOC STG Taskforce for more than four years and remains involved with all aspects of STG issues within the state of Montana. Napier obtained her bachelor's degree in Psychology and is working toward her master's degree in Professional Counseling. She can be reached by e-mail to tnapier@mt.gov

Tattoos in the

Latin King 5-point



Each bar represents five and the dots are one and is commonly used by the Surenos to represent the number 13



Dark Lotus Records label for the Insane Clown Posse



12 jurors + 1 judge = half a chance



A version used White Supremacists as a swastika



United Samean Organization



"D" of the "GD" (Gangster Disciple) on hands



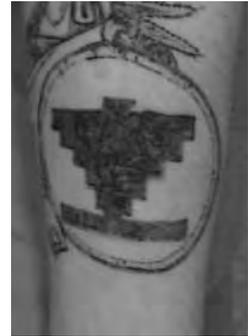
The Hatchet Man:
Used by the Insane
Clown Posse gang

RMIN region

Crown



**Celtic Cross covering
Aryan Circle behind**



**Huelga
Bird used
by
Nortenos
and
Nuestra
Familia**

**Lips
represent
Surenos**



Califas ideology



Latin King with 5-point crown



100% Mexicano



Aryan Circle



Hidden "A" in Barrios Azteca



Surenos



Hidden TS



Peckerwoods



Surenos

Made in Mexico



European Knights logo

Mexikanemi
(emi replaced eme)



Nazi Low Riders



Nortenos

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Public Enemy No.1 (PEN1)



Paisa



18th Street



**White Supremacist
Lightning Bolts**



Pistolero in waistband



Aryan Circle



A look at Nevada's gangs

By BRIAN NOVOTNY, CCA
RMIN CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas” has become a marketing pitch known across the world.

Unfortunately, this also makes Las Vegas a target for gang members and other criminals from across the world.

The glamour and glitz of the Las Vegas Strip draws people who think they can strike it rich at the casinos or just enjoy the party lifestyle of the city. While many people are drawn to Las Vegas for entertainment and relaxation, others come to the city to commit criminal acts in “Sin City.”

Although Las Vegas is the largest and possibly best known city in Nevada, it is not the only city in Nevada that draws tens of thousands of visitors each year to its casinos and tourist locations. Laughlin, Reno and Lake Tahoe are also locations with visitors year-round. With the wide range of diversity among Nevada citizens and its tourism industry, various gangs have tried to establish themselves in Nevada to make money off tourists through drug dealing, scams, robberies, assaults and other crimes. Law enforcement across Nevada has done its best to stop the rapid growth of gang violence but with Nevada's population growth in the mid-2000s consistently being one of the highest in the

nation, the gang population grew faster than any agency could handle.

The following examines some of the gangs in Nevada and issues related to them. It also examines Nevada's law enforcement response to gang violence.

Las Vegas has approximately 300 gangs comprised of 8,000 gang members and 2,000 associates.¹ This number helps demonstrate what officers face every day in Las Vegas. Various estimates indicate that Clark County, which includes Las Vegas, has approximately 10,000 gang members across the county. With the number of gang members in communities like Reno, Carson City, Laughlin, Henderson, Elko, Winnemucca and Indian Reservations, the total number of gang members across the state is estimated at 15,000 to 20,000.

ARYAN WARRIORS

On July 6, 2009, five members of the Aryan Warriors were found guilty of RICO charges or conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine, as well as various other charges each faced.² Seven people had previously plead guilty to charges and an additional defendant awaits trial. A total of 14 defendants were charged after an investigation into this

group's activity inside and outside of prison.

The Aryan Warriors is a White prison gang that has operated within the Nevada Department of Corrections for nearly 30 years. Its violence inside and out of prison includes murder, assault, robbery, extortion, identity theft and drug trafficking. Gang members have also been accused of bribing prison guards and violence within the Nevada prison system. Like many other prison gangs, the Aryan Warriors use female associates on the outside to conduct drug dealing and other criminal activity. Aryan Warriors reportedly run a “street program” in the Las Vegas, Reno and Pahrump areas of Nevada.³

EASTWOOD TOKERS

One of the largest street gangs in the Carson City area of Nevada is the Eastwood Tokers. This group is usually active in its specific geographical area, including a mobile home park area where most of the gang's illegal activity occurs.

18TH STREET

Just like their counterparts from Los Angeles, 18th Street has also demonstrated violent activity in the Carson City

area. Gang members from 18th Street were reportedly involved in an April 2009 shooting that left one male victim injured.

LIMA STREET AND BAMBINOS

Two additional street gangs currently active in the Carson City area are Lima Street and Bambinos.

Similar to Eastwood Tokers and 18th Street, these gangs have a relatively low profile compared to gangs in other major cities. Most of its activity has centered on graffiti, robberies and assaults; more violent crimes such as drive-by shootings and homicides are infrequent.

Each of these gangs claims a loyalty to the Surenos movement which is rapidly expanding across the United States. On occasion, gang members will commit violent acts to prove themselves to fellow gang members but to date the majority of those crimes involve other gang members. This results in reluctant witnesses and victims who do not contact police or fail to cooperate with any investigation.

NV TRECE

Recognized by Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) as a Security Threat Group, NV Trece continues to commit assaults within the NDOC system. Members claim allegiance with the Mexican Mafia and may be called “Nevadans” or “Nevadenos” by rivals who do not recognize the Trece allegiance to the Surenos.⁴

HELLS ANGELS

Hells Angels operate three chapters in Nevada – Las Vegas, West Vegas and Nomads in Reno. In July 2008, then Nomads President David Burgess was convicted of possession of child pornography and sentenced to 15 years in prison. Hells Angels continue to conduct various runs in Nevada and sell support merchandise at these events. The largest run is the Reno Poker run. Currently there are approximately 30 Hells Angels members statewide with additional supporters across the state.

NATIVE AMERICAN GANGS

Nevada has 32 reservations (colonies) across the state.⁶ Gangs that operate on reservation lands will often commit crimes off the reservation and flee to their reservation in an attempt to elude law enforcement. Sovereignty issues make this a complex legal battle for local agencies. Several agencies participate in gang task force meetings and are able to assist agencies when possible.

Crimes relating to reservation gangs are often drug related. Some of the reservation gangs are:

Mean Violent Natives
East 2nd Street
Rez Boys
ICP

PARTY CREWS (KREWS)

Party Crews are quickly escalating into a serious threat across the state of Nevada. With the increased ability of

these crews to communicate by text messaging, it can be difficult for law enforcement to track party locations and attendees. In several cases gang members are claiming to be a party crew to avoid the gang label and future legal ramifications for gang crimes or penalty enhancements. Several of these party crews are displaying allegiance to the Surenos gang movement.

ADDITIONAL GANGS WITH A PRESENCE IN NEVADA

VAGOS

Vagos are rapidly expanding across the Southern Nevada region. This growth is also being seen in Northern Arizona near Bullhead City. In the past several weeks tensions between the Hells Angels and Vagos seems to be progressively worsening.

BANDIDOS

Bandidos have a presence in Nevada but have remained fairly low key and quiet across the state. During the Elko, Nevada Jamboree, Hells Angels and Bandidos reportedly met prior to the event and expressed a neutral stance with each other. No issues between the clubs have been reported.

SILVER STATE SURENOS

Active in the Elko area, Silver State Surenos are comprised primarily of Hispanic street gang members. Gang

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members are involved in a range of crimes and tagging in the Elko area.

RECENT GANG ACTIVITY

Two Carson City gang members recently were sentenced to prison terms for shooting at residents of an apartment complex in July 2008.

Ricardo Llama was sentenced to 24 years in prison and John Turner received a four to 12 year sentence.

Four gang members are facing possible murder charges for the death of a potential gang member during a gang initiation.

The victim suffered severe head injuries during the March 14th beating.

Gang members are becoming more aggressive toward law enforcement in Nevada.

They are more open in their displays of hostility toward law enforcement and less fearful of the consequences of these actions.

LAW ENFORCEMENTS RESPONSE

Nevada law enforcement has been active in the fight against all crimes and several programs have focused on gang related crimes specifically. In Carson City, the Regional Gang Unit conducts regular meetings in which local, state, county, and tribal law enforcement officers meet to share gang information and trends. Prosecutors are also present to provide updates on cases currently in the court system.

Nevada has three fusion centers operating across the state. Each of these centers provides law enforcement with analysis of current crime trends and information sharing across the state.

In February 2009, the Nevada Threat Analysis Center partnered with the Rocky Mountain Information Network to provide gang and terrorism liaison officer training to rural areas of Nevada. Over the course of two weeks, four separate two-day courses were provided in Ely, Elko, Tonopah and

Carson City. Nearly 200 people received training during these sessions which spent one day focusing on Nevada gang issues and a second day training new terrorism liaison officers.

There are additional meetings and training relating to gangs occurring across Nevada each month. Las Vegas and Laughlin are locations where regional training often occurs, bringing law enforcement from Arizona, California and Nevada together. These regional meetings help expand information sharing and resource networking.

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About the author...

Brian Novotny is a Certified Criminal Intelligence Analyst with Rocky Mountain Information Network, specializing in gang and domestic terrorism activity in the eight RMIN states. Prior to joining RMIN, Novotny served as a paralegal/bureau chief with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and as an instructor in the paralegal program at Long Technical College. A graduate of Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Novotny volunteers as a reserve with the Arizona Department of Public Safety State Gang Task Force – GIITEM. He is a member of numerous gang associations across the nation and serves on the board of directors of the Arizona Gang Investigators Association.

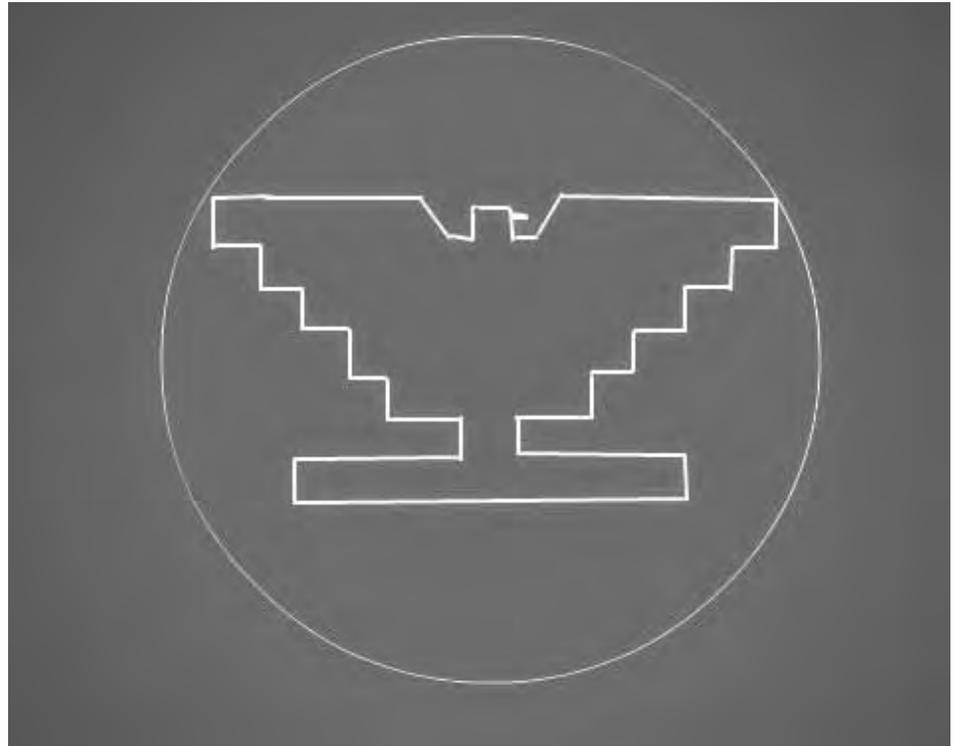
The Mexican War Eagle

With the steady growth of the Sureños and Nortenos in California, all eight RMIN states have seen a continual migration of Sureños and Nortenos into the states.

One of the most visible symbols of the Nortenos and the Nuestra Familia (NF) prison gang is what is commonly called the “Mexican War Eagle.” It is known to many as the “Huelga” bird or the war eagle. The origin and creation of the Huelga bird was unrelated to Nortenos or the Nuestra Familia.

Marc Grossman, the former personal aide to the late Cesar Chavez, provided personal insight into the origin and meaning of the Huelga bird.

According to Grossman, the original Huelga bird was the creation of Cesar Chavez’s brother Richard and their first cousin Manuel. When Chavez helped form the United Farm Workers (UFW) union in 1962, his relatives wanted to design a symbol to be used by the organization. The two men decided on an eagle because



eagles are an important part of the Mexican culture. The reason for the simplicity of the eagle was basic: Neither of Cesar Chavez’s relatives were artists and “...both lacked any high level of artistic talent,” so they decided to use straight lines and right angles which they and others could easily draw, explained Grossman.

Grossman said he was certain that his longtime friend Cesar Chavez would be disappointed that the UFW Huelga bird is now being used by gangs. “Cesar Chavez spent his entire life teaching the principles of peaceful resolution and non-violence,” said Grossman.

Vagos OMG expansion in Nevada

By JIM LOPEY, TLO COORDINATOR
AND MICHELLE MCNEELY, INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

Regional law enforcement in Nevada has seen a rapid expansion of the Vagos Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG). The ongoing collection of information concerning active Vagos OMG members in Nevada reveals a strong membership base. In response to this emerging threat, this report will focus on the Vagos expansion in Northern Nevada counties, but will further include the semi-rural Vagos chapters located in Lincoln and Nye counties, with some emphasis on Las Vegas and Utah.

The Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC) has concentrated its Vagos OMG intelligence gathering efforts within those counties normally serviced by NTAC (all counties excluding Washoe and Clark). However, active Vagos chapters in northern Nevada exist in the Reno and Carson City areas and their regional activities tend to overlap in several Nevada counties including Washoe, Carson, Lyon, Douglas, Churchill and Humboldt. Vagos chapters in Southern Nevada also exist in Lincoln, Clark and Nye counties. The Vagos Tri-State, Las Vegas, and Forsaken 7 chapters based in Las Vegas (Clark County) have significant memberships. Las Vegas Metro Police authorities estimate that there are approximately 47 active Vagos chapters within the greater Las Vegas area.

Utah has rapidly expanding Vagos chapters as well. According to the Utah Statewide Information and Analysis Center (SIAC), approximately 25 Vagos members claim membership in Salt Lake City and Ogden chapters. A third Utah Vagos Chapter is reportedly being formed in Utah County. Utah authorities indicate that Vagos are actively recruiting from various motorcycle clubs, including but not limited to the Vietnam Vets and Legacy Vets.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Vagos OMG was established in Southern California in 1965. The Vagos evolved from the Psychos motorcycle club in Corona, California, and took on the name "Los Vagos" when they became a 1% outlaw club. The name was later changed to "Vago," meaning tramp, vagabond or transient. The club's insignia is "Loki," the Norse god of mischief, riding a motorcycle. Members commonly wear green apparel.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) have identified the Vagos as an OMG, claiming that members are involved in criminal activities such as producing, transporting and distributing methamphetamine and marijuana, as well as assault,

extortion, insurance fraud, money laundering, murder, vehicle theft, witness intimidation and weapons violations. They are also considered one of the more heavily armed OMGs.

The Vagos have a history of "counter intelligence" efforts. For example, in 1995, a Vagos member reportedly infiltrated a law enforcement seminar on outlaw motorcycle gangs. Material from the conference was later recovered during an arrest of a Vagos member.

On March 9, 2006, 25 Vagos members and associates were arrested on firearms and drug violations charges following one of the largest coordinated law enforcement probes ever conducted in Southern California. The operation, known as "Operation 22 Green," involved approximately 700 personnel from the ATF and local police and sheriff's departments. Ninety-five illegal firearms, illegal drugs, \$6,000 in cash and two stolen motorcycles were seized.

Most recently, three Vagos members were arrested on June 22, 2009 for sexually assaulting a woman in San Jose, California. On May 4, 2009, Eduardo Larios, Jose Portillo-Garcia, and his younger brother Edwin met the woman at a nightclub. They told her they would drive her home, but instead drove her to their clubhouse on Kings Row in San Jose. There, the crimi-

nal report states, they gang raped and beat her.

CLUB STRUCTURE

Each chapter of the Vagos is organized in a similar manner, in various geographical-based areas. The typical chapter officers are president, vice president, sergeant-at-arms, road captain and secretary/treasurer. Most chapters have more than one sergeant-at-arms since that position is responsible for security at club meetings and enforcement as directed by the chapter president. They also have an international hierarchy with one international president, two international vice presidents, two international sergeants-at-arms, and one international secretary. The recognized leader and international president of the Vagos is Terry Lee Orendorff, aka "Terry the Tramp." He resides and conducts business in the San Gabriel Valley area of Eastern Los Angeles County.

VAGOS MEMBERS IN NORTHERN NEVADA/LINCOLN COUNTY/NYE COUNTY

The Vagos are expanding and continue to seek new members. According to the data and intelligence reports collected by NTAC, 72 full patched members and prospects live in Carson, Lyon, Douglas, Washoe, Lincoln and Nye counties, with three residing in Churchill and Humboldt counties. Of the 72 total members, approximately eight are believed to be prospects (with

only one unverified). The Nevada Vagos is predominately comprised of White males, with only a few having Latino or American Indian surnames. Of the 72 documented members and or prospects, no fewer than 17 members are ex-felons for various crimes (roughly one out of four). Most of the 72 Vagos have had contacts with law enforcement and have been arrested and or convicted of a myriad of different crimes, categorized as follows:

- Sex Crimes: 3 members
- Assault and/or Battery: 17 members
- Driving Under the Influence: 11 members
- Property Crimes (includes Fraud, Burglary, and Theft): 14 members
- Drug Violations: 14 members
- Attempted Murder: 1 member
- Robbery: 1 member
- Misc. Misdemeanors: 7 members
- Misc. Felonies: 1 member
- Unknown or No Criminal Record: 17 members

The 72 Vagos members documented in Nevada (excluding those in Clark County) live in several cities. The members so noted belong to various chapters, including but not limited to the Carson City, Lyon County, Reno, Sparks, Border Town, Lincoln County and Pahrump Chapters. It should be noted that Pahrump Rockers haven't been seen for quite some time, but authorities in Southern Nevada believe that the chapter still exists or is being reactivated. Las Vegas Metro authorities report three Vagos chapters in the greater

Las Vegas area, including the Las Vegas, Tri-State, and Forsaken seven chapters, comprised of 47 members: (Three of the Las Vegas region Vagos are also on our roster; two from Lincoln County and one also known to frequent the Carson area).

The general breakdown of demographics reveal that the 72 Vagos examined in this report reside in the following cities:

- Reno: (city and unincorporated) 18 members
- Sparks: (city and unincorporated) 19 members
- Carson City: 8 members
- Gardnerville: 4 members
- Fernley: 4 members
- Dayton: 2 members
- Pahrump: 6 members
- Pioche/Lincoln County: 5 members
- Silver Springs: 2 members
- Winnemucca: 2 members
- Fallon: 1 member
- Unk: 1 member

The typical Nevada Vagos (roughly three-fourths of known members) exhibit past criminal behavior, including large numbers having assault and battery arrests and/or convictions. Only about 17 Vagos either have no criminal history and or criminal histories that are unknown. Drug convictions are also significant within the composite group. Coupled with the Vagos' long history of involvement in the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine, as well as other controlled substances, there's no reason to believe that the Vagos will slow down anytime soon.

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Recent events illustrate propensity for conflict. For example, on May 12, 2009, a large group of Vagos were riding around the San Fernando Valley, California, in a large pack when they caught the attention of law enforcement – primarily because they were excessively speeding and running vehicles off the road. Responding officers detained approximately 20 members and 11 Vagos were booked for reckless driving with an added gang enhancement. Three of the 11 Vagos were booked on felony charges related to having possession of dangerous weapons. It was later determined that five of the arrested Vagos were from Carson City, Fernley, and Gardnerville.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPLICATIONS/TAKE-AWAYS

The Vagos have large numbers of patched members in Nevada. Excluding Clark County, about 72 active members exist in the counties of Carson, Washoe, Lyon, Lincoln, Douglas, Humboldt, Churchill and Nye.

Approximately three-quarters of this number have had arrests and or convictions for various misdemeanor and felony crimes. About 47 active Vagos reside in the greater Las Vegas area of Nevada. In total, about 116 active Vagos inhabit the state of Nevada (note that three of the Las Vegas area Vagos are also listed in the Northern Nevada and rural Vagos roster, hence the adjustment).

Vagos are also firmly

embedded in Arizona (recent RMIN-generated organizational charts document no less than 29 Vagos in the state). Vagos are also expanding in Utah, with about 25 active members on the roster of the Salt Lake City and Ogden Vagos chapters (note that another chapter is apparently forming in Utah County as well).

The swelling numbers of Nevada Vagos members far exceeds the overall numbers of other Nevada OMGs. For example, the Vagos numbers far exceed the Las Vegas and Reno chapters of the Hells Angels.

The Vagos numbers also exceed those of the Bandidos who currently have chapters in Elko and Las Vegas. Currently there are no significant conflicts existing between the Vagos and other OMGs in Nevada, but because of the sheer numbers of Vagos and the declining influence of the Mongols, the Vagos is arguably the OMG to watch. The Vagos are steadily moving to rural Nevada areas and have active chapters in Pioche and Pahrump, Nevada, but are most active in Northern Nevada, with an additional 47 Vagos actively engaged in the various Las Vegas chapters. Each year the Vagos maintains a significant presence in Laughlin and Street Vibrations (they are considered mandato-

ry runs by the club leaders). They are often observed on the various roadways throughout the state. At least twice a year large numbers of Vagos flock to Pioche, to party and socialize at a local watering hole.

According to law enforcement sources, the Vagos have a long history of methamphetamine distribution and are one of more heavily armed motorcycle gangs. Caution should be employed when dealing with large numbers of these members, and sufficient back-up is recommended during traffic stops. Recent arrests in California for charges related to “running cars off the road” and reckless driving illustrate periodic disregard for other motorists, when club members are traveling in large groups.

During the same incident three Vagos were arrested on dangerous weapons related charges. The Vagos, like other OMGs, are known to employ the use of chase vehicles, which can pose an additional threat. Vagos are further known to conduct counter-surveillance.

Anyone having information on known Vagos members or other OMGs in Nevada are encouraged to contact TLO Coordinator Jim Lopey at (775) 687-0454 or Analyst Michelle McNeely at (775) 687-0332.



SOURCES/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Pete Grimm, Washoe County D.A.'s Office

Bryan Parsons, Lyon County Sheriff's Office

Don Fieselman, Las Vegas Metro Police Department

Sam Hatley, Brian Humphrey and Rick Dodds, Carson City Sheriff's Office

Shelly Kelly, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Kerry Lee, Lincoln County Sheriff's Office

Brian Novotny, Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)

RMIN (Vagos Historical Information)

Paul Martino, Nevada DPS-Investigations

Trevor Meade, Nye County Sheriff's Office

Ty Trouten, Elko County Sheriff's Office

Jed Crittendon, Utah Statewide Information and Analysis Center

<http://wikipedia.org> - Search for "Vagos MC"

Pam Herrera, Northern Nevada Counter Terrorism Center

About the authors...

Jim Lopey serves as Terrorism/Infrastructure Liaison Coordinator for 15 of 17 counties with the Nevada Department of Public Safety and coordinates information sharing among 120+ Terrorism Liaison officers recruited throughout the state. He began his career in law enforcement with Washoe County (NV) Juvenile Probation in 1976 and was hired by the Washoe County (NV) Sheriff's Office (WCSCO) two years later. He served as Acting Undersheriff and Assistant Sheriff with WCSCO and led the agency's Homeland Security activities, Patrol, Detectives, Training, Records, Civil, Backgrounds, Search and Rescue and Aviation units. He organized and developed and served as the first Internal Affairs Section Commander with WCSCO. He served with the United States Army and has been the recipient of numerous law enforcement awards, including the WCSCO Sheriff's Star and a Transportation Security Administration Commendation when he subdued a suspect who attempted to break into the cockpit of an airliner during a flight from Africa to the United States. Lopey earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from University of Nevada, Reno and has a master's degree in Emergency Crisis Management from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

Michelle McNeely is the Senior Criminal Intelligence Analyst at the Nevada Threat Analysis Center (NTAC) located in Carson City, Nevada. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice and Administration in 2004. As part of her degree program, she served internships with the Nevada Attorney General's Office in Carson City, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Reno, where she specialized in investigations and legal research. Prior to her current position with the Nevada Department of Public Safety, she served three years as a Booking Officer at the Carson City Jail under the jurisdiction of the Carson City Sheriff's Office. During her tenure there, she became the Carson City Sheriff's first civilian Field Training Officer and trained a number of civilians and law enforcement officers on the various aspects of jail operations.

Overview of Salt Lake area gang activity

BY MARILYN FELKNER

Gangs in the Salt Lake area tend to be multi-racial, less territorial, highly mobile and often form unexpected alliances. Salt Lake City gangs tend to be unsophisticated and not well-organized, with an organizational structure that resembles more leadership by committee than by a structured hierarchy. Although many gangs have attempted to become more organized and structure their operations more efficiently, this is often thwarted by their petty squabbles, personal drug use, and their inability to see a future benefit when a

more immediate reward is within reach.

Salt Lake gang members join gangs for many of the same reasons youth across the nation join gangs: acceptance, power, a sense of belonging, thrills, or the search for money and other material compensation.

The major groups that exist in the Salt Lake City area are Bloods, Crips, Surenos, Nortenos, Folk, People, White Supremacists, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, extremist gangs (such as Juggalos and Straight Edge), and independ-

ent gangs. Within these groupings, various sets are known to fight among themselves. This is especially evident with Surenos sets, although they tend to support each other in situations where, for example, a Nortenos set is threatening them.

Folk and People gangs exist, but not to the extent they do in the Midwest. Perhaps because they have fewer members, they tend to be much less organized and, at the present time, have not exerted any type of control over other gangs or illicit business endeavors.

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Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs in Utah consist of the following: Sundowners, Barons, Hells Angels, Bandidos, Hermanos, and Kerberos (a Hells Angels support group).

Hispanic gang members comprise 50 percent of all documented gang members in the Salt Lake area. Surenos 13 and the independent Hispanic gang known as QVO each have in excess of 200 members. The community has seen several incidents in which escalating violence has occurred.

Hispanic gang members have been involved in crimes including homicides, drive-by shootings, robberies, narcotics use and distribution, and weapon-related offenses.

Drugs, money, guns and violence are the combustible components that make for a volatile gang problem. Violent gang members can be found throughout Salt Lake County and more importantly, are carrying and using firearms.

Firearms trafficking investigations involve criminals dealing firearms without a license, illegal interstate transfers, and lying and buying firearms from dealers (straw purchases). A common occurrence in gang circles is for the female companions of gang members to purchase firearms from licensed dealers for persons who can't lawfully buy firearms. Due to felony convictions,

outstanding warrants/protective orders, domestic violence convictions or even age requirements, gang members typically can't buy firearms from licensed dealers because they will not pass the background check.

One of the most difficult parts of investigating gangs and gang-related crimes is the constantly changing gang lifestyle. Gangs have learned to evolve with the times to better accommodate what goals and purposes they have. Law enforcement has seen a decrease in the flashy clothing or "flying colors," making it difficult to detect gang gatherings or events. Gangs also don't appear to be openly "advertising" as much in recent years. Sadly, this isn't an indication that gang activity is decreasing. Gang violence is on the rise. The "smile now, cry later" mentality is still very much a part of the active gang lifestyle.

Another trend gang detectives in the Salt Lake area report on is the entrenchment of illicit drug trafficking as an established gang enterprise. Gang members will often deviate from their traditional rival-

ries in order to carry out profitable illicit business transactions. Methamphetamine,

cocaine and marijuana appear to be as popular as ever among gang members. It has been clear now for many

years that in Utah there are no lines between gangs when it comes to drugs. The bottom line is always money, not color, not set, not allegiance. Gangs and gang members have continued to establish a lucrative business involving the drug trade.

With the state budget cuts and the lack of space in the state prison and county jails, the federal system has become a very effective tool for the prosecution and removal of dangerous gang members from the community. The sentences these weapons and drug violations carry are very hard on gang members because they are usually removed from Utah to another state to serve their federal sentences, thus disrupting the gang's activities on the streets, in the jails and in the Utah State Prison.



About the author...

Marilyn Felkner is the analyst for the Salt Lake Area Gang Project and has been with the Project since 1993. Felkner has extensive experience in graphics, writing, criminal intelligence analysis and database management. She has written articles addressing database structure and the creation of charts and graphs that help others visualize gang-related statistics. Felkner has a bachelor of arts in Mathematics and English. Since graduation, she has completed additional course work in computer programming, graphic design and writing.

Wyoming gang activity

By *ELVIN EHRHARDT*

Gangs in the state of Wyoming tend to be of the hybrid nature because they do not always follow the societal norms established by original gangs (OGs) or gang namesakes that they attempt to emulate.

There are a growing number of West Coast Bloods and Crips gangs which, from the OG example, tend to be predominately composed of Blacks. Here, however, those same gang elements are predominately White. This is due to a below national average (12.6 percent – 2007 census) Black population in Wyoming (1.2 percent – 2007 census).

There are also other OG commonalities that are not found among Wyoming hybrid gangs. An example is Wyoming's version of Crips gangs. In the Eastern part of the United States, Crips gangs are associated to the Folk Nation. These Crips gangs use symbols (such as the six-pointed star) that are found offensive by West Coast Crips. However, Wyoming Crips gangs, including the Killa Lunatic Crips or the Hoover Duce Crips with West Coast origins, commonly use those Folk Nation symbols in their graffiti.

Gang members in Wyoming tend to join gangs for many of the same reasons as other youth across the rest of the nation: for acceptance, power, a sense of belonging, thrills or

a search for money and other material compensations.

The major groups that exist in Wyoming are Surenos, Nortenos, Viet Boys, Puro Tango Blast, Folk Nation and People Nation Gangs, Bloods, Crips Gangster Disciples, Latin Disciples and ICP Juggalos and Juggalettts. Native American gangs such as South West Gangstes (Surenos), Mid West Menace (ICP), Lower Arapahoe (Warrior Society), South Side Playaz (Surenos/Mexican Mafia), N8tive Bonzez (Warrior Society), INK Indian Nation Klic (Surenos/ Warrior Society) and 307 (Surenos/Mexican Mafia) are all very active on the Wind River Indian Reservation. Within these groupings, we have seen uncommon associations inconsistent with OG common rivalry.

The gangs currently most active and largest in size in Wyoming are the varied sets of the Surenos gangs. Those Surenos gangs are violent rivals with the Nortenos, Bloods and even Crips in the Cheyenne, Casper, Rawlins and Rock Springs areas. But in some areas like the less populated areas of North Central Wyoming and even the Wind River Indian reservation, those rivalries seem nonexistent.

The Hispanic gangs comprise an average of 70 percent of Wyoming's known gang members. Violence among the varied rival gangs has been limited to date with seven documented

drive-by shootings in 2008 and five to date in 2009. In these cases, all but two involved members of the Surenos gang sets. There are also cases of various sets which have been known to fight among themselves. This is especially evident with Surenos sets, although they tend to support each other in most situations where, for example, a Nortenos set is threatening them.

Intelligence efforts have documented cases of state prison incarcerated Surenos gang members directing gang activity on the street. These cases predominantly have been identified through seizure and decoding of coded letters mailed by known Surenos gang members, coupled with intelligence gathered from personal contact with confidential sources and gang member associates.

Other gangs operating in Wyoming are White supremacy gangs including Skinhead Groups, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Soldiers of the Aryan Culture and Silent Aryan Warriors. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) including Hells Angels MC, Destroyers MC, Bandidos MC, Los Lobos MC, Knights MC, Ghost Riders MC, Grim Reapers MC, Sons of Silence MC, Wehrmacht MC, Vagos MC, Ching-A-Lings MC, Heathens MC, Bad Company MC and Outlaws MC are active in Wyoming.

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Firearms theft and trafficking investigations involve several gang elements in Wyoming. Over the last year, there have been reports and documented arrests of Surenos and Crips gang members burglarizing gun stores and homes for guns. Several drug delivery cases have been executed against gang members from the Surenos, Crips, Bloods and even Juggalos gangs where sizable gun seizures were made. This trend clearly documents the common street gang tendency to arm themselves with firearms to engage law enforcement and rival gang violence.

Wyoming criminal gangs continue to evolve to better accommodate what the local lifestyles and economy will support. Wyoming has long dealt with local gang elements which in many cases local law enforcement referred to as “wannabes.” With close to 100

gang members serving hard time in the Wyoming state prison system, several more in the federal prison system and many of their juvenile counterparts in juvenile community and residential treatment programs, the days of the so called “wannabes” have long past.

As documented by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), the downturn in the U.S. economy has generated a migration of some big city OG gang elements into Middle America. Wyoming has and continues to suffer from this phenomenon.

With ever growing gas and oil well drilling operations scattered across the state, high dollar unskilled labor positions have brought outsiders running to capitalize on these wages. In many cases, we have witnessed a steady increase of never before seen OG elements surfacing in the jurisdictions

where this booming industry is operating. In several cases we have found these OG gang members or their parents came here for the work and are in fact working as a part of this growing industry.

With budget shortfalls and staffing issues, tracking, documenting and sharing gang intelligence is an ever growing challenge. Programs being organized by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police, Wyoming DCI and the DOJ-funded Project Safe Neighborhoods are underway to expand intelligence gathering and sharing to better deal with the growing gang problems in Wyoming. Other programs to expand law enforcement training on gang investigations and intervention programs are also underway to better equip authorities for this challenge.

About the author...

Elvin Ehrhardt started his career in law enforcement in 1971 as a law enforcement specialist with the United States Air Force and has worked in law enforcement ever since. For the past 12+ years he has been the senior intelligence investigator/analyst with the Wyoming Attorney General’s Division of Criminal Investigation, assigned to the Criminal Intelligence Unit. His education includes a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice Administration and a master’s in Criminal Justice and Terrorism Studies. He is a member of the Wyoming Peace Officers Association, Northwest Gang Investigators Association, International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigations Association, and the National Major Gang Task Force. Ehrhardt can be reached at (307) 777-6615.

Wyoming gang tattoos and graffiti



Polynesian gangs: Warriors to gangsters

By TRUDY A. CROPPER
WEST VALLEY (UT) POLICE DEPARTMENT

As with all crime, gang activity dips and then spikes over a series of years. In late 2006 and early 2007, high-profile gang crimes committed by Polynesian gang members increased as did a rivalry between the two largest Polynesian gangs in Utah. Drugs, alcohol and violent crimes continue to define the gang activities. Polynesian gang members continue to trade their cultural values for the life of crime and have become gangsters where their ancestors were once warriors.

Many came to the Salt Lake area to be near the center of the LDS Church, while others came to be near family members, to seek better economic prospects, and to provide their children with improved academic opportunities.

In Polynesian societies the family is the most important component. The family includes not only the immediate family unit of mother, father and children, but also the extended family of aunts, uncles, grandparents, and cousins. In the Tongan language there is no separate word for sibling and cousin and at times they are considered to be one and the same. Disrespecting a member of a

family is showing disrespect to the entire family. Loyalty between family members can be very strong and often Polynesians will defend their family at all cost. These family ties can also lead to difficulty in investigating crimes and prosecuting suspected Polynesian gang members.



In the world of criminal street gangs, Polynesians have established them-

selves as both violent and forceful. From the very first Polynesian gangs they have touted themselves as very strong and fearless. Most of the Polynesian street gangs identify themselves not only by their gang, such as Crip or Blood, but also by their ethnicity, such as the Tongan Crip Gang.

SAMOAN GANGS

DOCUMENTED IN UTAH:

SOS (Sons of Samoa)
PVCC (Park Village Compton Crips)
SIA (Samoans in Action)
KSR (Keepin' Suckers Runnin')
Rose Park Hamos
RSP (Royal Samoan Posse)
Tongan Gangs Documented in Utah:
TCG (Tongan Crip Gang)

TSG (Tongan Style Gangsters)
TCR (Tongan Crip Regulators)
TCR/BR (Regulators/Baby Regulators)
KRQ (Krazy Rose Park Queens)
Rose Park Family
Doomstown Crips
SPI (South Pacific Islanders)
SKS (Sandy Kandy Soldiers)
TRG (Tiny Regulator Gang)

TCG is one of the largest Polynesian gangs across the United States. There are members in Northern and Southern California, Hawaii, Utah, Nevada and Washington.

TCG has a stronghold in the Rose Park and Glendale areas—Salt Lake City's west side. TCG members have been involved in all types of criminal activity and violent felonies including homicides, arson, shootings, robberies, taxing for drug dealers, drug sales and beer thefts. They continue to be very active in criminal activity today. TCG members have been known to commit violent felonies such as aggravated burglaries, drive-by shootings, aggravated assaults and firearms violations. TCG continues to maintain its violent way of life. Members continue to have a violent rivalry with the "Regulators," a gang that broke off from TCG in the early 1990s.

The Baby Regulators (BR) formed as the younger brothers and cousins of TCR. In recent

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years the Baby Regulators have been the most active of all Polynesian gangs in Utah and often refer to themselves as simply "Regulators." They have been involved in violent crimes including homicides, attempted homicides, aggravated assaults, burglaries, robberies, home invasions, strong-arm robberies and beer thefts. Gang members have threatened store clerks with bodily harm, or threatened to use a gun, thus turning a misdemeanor theft into a felony robbery. This is also a very common practice among TCG members. The Regulators have been the most powerful and prominent Polynesian gang in the past several years. While they are loosely organized, respect is shown to older members. They do not seem to have a formal hierarchy. Many members established themselves as security for those involved in the methamphetamine trade. They serve as tax collectors for drug dealers using their fierce reputations to collect debts from drug users. This has been apparent in crimes including assaults, home invasions and burglaries.

In the past there has been an ongoing war between TCG and BR resulting in homicides, attempted homicides, shootings, drive-by shootings, arsons and other crimes committed against each other. Despite the fact that

some of the TCG and BR members are closely related to one another, they have shown that their gang ties are stronger than their family connections.

Many Polynesian gang members have been found in possession of a variety of firearms and other weapons, including a grenade. They have access not only to weapons, but also to drugs and alcohol.

Like many other gangs, Polynesian gang members and their associates have found the Internet as a place to represent their gang lifestyle. There are websites that often talk about the gang lifestyle where people will represent their gang set.

As a result of gang activity there are many Polynesian gang members who are incarcerated in county jails and the Utah State Prison and incarcerated Polynesian gang members, as do other gang members, tend to congregate along racial lines. Despite what may be going on out on the streets, Polynesians generally unite together to form a unified front while in prison.



Tongans and Samoans come together and unite as Polynesians and not as their individual gangs. BR and TCG members also come together as

Tongans and often put aside the ongoing street war.

Individuals who are witnesses to crimes committed by

Polynesian gang members are often reluctant to get involved because they don't want to be considered a "snitch" or they are afraid of retaliation. Many people are willing to come forward with information anonymously; however, very few are willing to testify in court due to possible repercussions. Gang members will often intimidate witnesses, victims, or other participants with threats of violence if information is given. Witness tampering where actual violence is used does occur. Gang members also use idle threats to their advantage to keep good people from getting involved. While these practices are not promoted among Polynesians, they have caused serious problems in convicting violent gang members of the crimes that they are committing.

To effectively handle the current crisis of Polynesian gangs, law enforcement and the Polynesian community must continue to work together in a cooperative effort. Law enforcement agencies need to increase their knowledge of Polynesian cultures, discredit inaccurate stereotypes and learn effective ways to successfully work within Polynesian communities. The Polynesian community must continue to acknowledge the gang problem and find ways to direct Polynesian youth away from destructive gang activities that are dragging them away from the opportunity for success that their parents and ancestors sacrificed for.

About the author...

Trudy A. Cropper began working for West Valley City (Utah) Police Department in 1999. She served as a Field Training Officer in the Patrol Division and then became a detective in 2002. She has been assigned as a detective on the H.E.A.T. (High Enforcement apprehension Team), the Salt Lake Area Gang Project/Metro Gang Unit, and the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force. She recently was promoted to sergeant and is currently assigned to the Patrol Division.

Rocky Mountain hot zone

By JIMMY WATTLES

Colorado has become a unique location for the 1% Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs). In 2001, when the Hells Angels formed its chapter in Denver, Colorado became a place which now had chapters of the Hells Angels, Bandidos, Outlaws, Mongols and the Sons of Silence, all considered among the largest and most violent of the OMGs. The “biker wars” that had been waged elsewhere, Hells Angels vs Bandidos, Hells Angels vs Outlaws, and the Hells Angels vs Mongols, now came to Colorado overnight. In the past eight years, the fears of law enforcement have been reduced, with only minor incidents between the rival gangs.

The on-going rivalries are in constant change, as the major gangs strive to maintain or elevate their status and hold on to their territories. Incidents in other states and even other countries have an effect on how the gangs interact in Colorado. So, tracking violent incidents that occur between these gangs all over the world becomes a necessity and networking with biker investigators around the world also becomes a necessity as the gangs spread their wings on an international level.

Law enforcement should remain vigilant and not become blind to the OMGs. Even after investigating the OMGs for 32 years, and having provided

training to approximately 5,000 law enforcement personnel, I still am surprised by some comments made by law enforcement who seem to view these gangs as a harmless bunch of beer drinkers, who get in an occasional bar fight and like to ride motorcycles and give stuffed teddy bears to kids in the hospital at Christmas. Those views are far from the truth.

The recruiting for OMG membership has been at a frenzied pace for the past eight years. The Sons of Silence (SOSMC) and Bandidos (BMC) have been the most prolific in their membership drives. Since 2000, the BMC has expanded from little more than 15 members in Denver, to its current membership of approximately 60 in Colorado through its three chapters in Denver and a chapter in Pueblo.

The SOSMC has not stood by watching. Since 2000, the SOSMC has almost doubled in size in Colorado, with current membership of about 110 and expanding from five chapters to 12.

This expansion and growth can also be seen in the establishment of “support clubs” by

most of the major gangs. The SOSMC have established two support clubs in Colorado with the Deuces Wild in Greeley and the American Iron in Denver and Colorado Springs. The BMC has its own support clubs in the Peligrosos in

Denver and the Los Bravos in Denver and Colorado Springs. These support clubs are used to prepare new prospective members for the mother clubs. These clubs exist

only because the mother club allows them to operate and they are steadfast in their support to the mother club and are a constant source of new members.

The Hells Angels (HAMC) has remained relatively constant in its membership levels and recruits more carefully than its rivals. New members are a rarity with the Angels, but they have found quality and dedicated members and seem to want quality more than quantity. The HAMC has also developed its support club in the newly formed Destroyers. The Destroyers have members living from Castle Rock, Colorado to members living in Wyoming.



GANGS

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This expansion has brought on territory issues among the rival gangs. Minor skirmishes and fights have occurred, but mostly it has been chest thumping and belly bumping incidents, as the OMGs attempt to keep their place in the 1% world they live in.

Several years ago, the SOSMC, Colorado's largest and most dominant gang, entered into an agreement with the BMC and opened a chapter in Pueblo, where the BMC had established a chapter several years before. Apparently the agreement between the two gangs limited the number of members the SOSMC could have in its new Southern Colorado chapter. In late 2008, intelligence indicated the BMC in Pueblo were upset with the number of members in the SOSMC chapter in Pueblo and told the Sons to "thin their herd!"

The SOSMC apparently did little to reduce its membership and the BMC were going to be forced to take a stand and

back up their threats. In late January 2009, at the yearly Denver Swap Meet, intelligence was received that indicated a meeting would take place between the SOSMC and BMC leadership. The BMC told the SOSMC if the chapter size was not

reduced, the BMC were going to start a chapter in Colorado Springs. Colorado Springs has long been considered the Sons of Silence's headquarters and is considered sacred ground, where no other OMGs have ever established a chapter. In response to the BMC threat, in February 2009, the SOSMC immediately patched over 14 members of its American Iron



support club in Colorado Springs to form the new Central Colorado Sons of Silence chapter. Members of the new chapter live in Colorado Springs and Pueblo.

Officers should be aware that these gangs travel with a variety of weapons and should use caution in contacts with any of the 1% outlaw gangs they come in contact with.

About the author...

James "Jimmy" Wattles is a Criminal Investigator with the Colorado Division of Gaming. He joined the division in 2000 after retiring from the Denver Police Department. During his 30-year career with Denver PD, he served as a detective with the Intelligence Unit from 1974 to 2000 and specialized in OMG investigations. He has been a member of the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association since 1978 and has provided expert OMG testimony in district courts in Iowa (Sons of Silence) and New Hampshire (Bandidos) as well as in Colorado (Sons of Silence). He can be contacted at jwattles@spike.dor.state.co.us

Western States Gang Investigators Network

By WES MCBRIDE

Gang violence continues to plague the nation, especially in the Southwestern states.

These violent gangs present a clear and present danger to the public at large and the internal security of our country. In order to address this phenomenon from a law enforcement perspective, a new network of Western states gang investigators was formed to discuss this problem. The network consists of the existing Western states gang investigator associations, federal agencies, and law enforcement groups involved in the investigation of gang violence. This project provides a forum for training and the exchanging of information about the various concerns about the gangs in the Western United States. It was found that there is very little networking done across jurisdictional lines, other than that established by individual investigators or gang investigators associations.

The Western States Gang Investigators Network was established to provide that communication platform.

This network is not intended to be a new gang association or to replace or replicate the work that current gang investigators associations are now performing. It is a forum for those existing organizations in the western states to meet regularly and exchange gang information and discuss trends of interest to those investiga-

tors. Another goal is to debunk gang mythology that has grown up around the gangs of the Southwest. An e-mail list provides a forum for immediate distribution of investigators' concerns to the network.

The following organizations form the core of the Western States Gang Investigators Intelligence Network, however any agency or association involved in gang investigations or that an interest in that field is invited to participate:

- Arizona Gang Investigators
- California Gang Investigators Association
- Northern California Gang Investigators Association
- Orange County Gang Investigator's Association
- Texas Gang Investigator's Association
- Oklahoma Gang Investigator's Association
- New Mexico Gang Task Force
- GIITEM
- Northwest Gang Investigator's Association
- STING
- Inland Empire Gang Investigator's Association
- Western States Intelligence Network
- Rocky Mountain Intelligence Network
- RISSNET
- California Gang Node Administrators Committee
- Federal Bureau of

Investigation's National Gang Intelligence Center

- Los Angeles Gang Intelligence Network
- International Latino Gang Investigator's Association
- ICE
- FBI Safe Streets Task Force
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (Los Angeles)
- San Diego North County Gang Task Force.
- Southern California Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association (SCOMGIA)
- Tri-state Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators

CALIFORNIA GANG SITUATION

Overall, the gang situation seems to be basically static, yet still at atrociously high rates. It is difficult to get accurate gang related statistics, because there is no repository for the state. Several large departments have reported a decline in activity.

Violence still remains, primarily, in the Hispanic gang community. The warfare between Nortenos and Sureno sets is the major problem in Northern California, while in the South, the warfare tends to be between Sureno sets because there are no Norteno sets in Southern California. This does not diminish the problem within the African-American communities as that problem also exists, but not at

the magnitude of the Hispanic gangs.

Gang migration from California to other states remains a major problem. The Sureno umbrella, in particular, has made its way across the nation. Southern California Hispanic gangs are represented throughout the Southern and Midwestern states. The Eastern seaboard is also a major target of some of the California gangs, particularly the MS-13. Florencia gang out of South L.A. has spread into several states. This gang is an old traditional Mexican-American gang that is also well represented in the Mexican Mafia. 18th Street gang is the largest Hispanic gang in Southern California and a rival to the MS-13. Both have spread their tentacles from America throughout Central America. Much of this is attributable to the deportation of violent gangsters back to their homelands of El Salvador and Honduras, where

they spread into other countries. When these gang members decide to return to the U.S., they tend to enter through the porous border along the Western states and spread east and northeast, following the migrant worker patterns. They are particularly adept at seeking out low paying agricultural and meat processing jobs.

California gang investigators continue to hear that the California Crips and Bloods are major gangs on the Eastern seaboard, however, after consultation with detectives from that area, we are convinced that those Eastern versions of the Crips and Bloods are related in name only. There seems to be no continuing interaction between the various sets.

Prison gangs are a continuing problem, as is their interaction with the street gangs. While federal RICO cases have splintered some of the gangs, they have the unique ability to

regenerate in small cells and continue their criminal enterprise. A side effect of the federal prosecution and convictions of various prison gang members has in some cases caused the federal prison system to suffer. The inmates are scattered into federal prisons around the country, which spreads their influence like a communicable disease. Not only are the prisons affected but also the surrounding communities as families of the gangster move in to be close to their incarcerated family member.

It is through the efforts of gang investigators associations and members of WSGIN that some of these problems can be alleviated by regular exchanges of information and briefings. Personal contacts are enhanced when the parties know each other and tend to be more attentive to the needs of the other investigators.

About the author...

Of the 36 years Wes McBride spent as a Los Angeles Sheriff's Deputy, 28 of those years were spent in the agency's gang unit. McBride retired as a sergeant. He is executive director of the California Gang Investigator's Association and co-author of the textbook, "Understanding Street Gangs." He is an advisory board member of the National Gang Center and guest lecturer for various law enforcement institutions and academies and university programs worldwide. He assisted the U.S. State Department with the formation of a gang training program for South Africa and a counselor to the International Advisory Board for the Department for the Study of the Contemporary Criminal Menace, located in Paris, France.

California DOC and Rehabilitation

By BRIAN PARRY

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has approximately 300,000 inmates and parolees under its jurisdiction, making it one of the largest prison and parole systems in the free world. The CDCR is in crisis. It is operating at almost 200 percent capacity. The severe overcrowding contributes to a number of operational problems. The number of gangs and gang members and their violence only exacerbates the crisis. It is estimated that half of the inmates and parolees—about 150,000—are involved with gangs to one degree or another.

The CDCR's medical division is under federal receivership and the department's use of force policy and incidents are also under federal scrutiny.

A federal judge is considering releasing 22,000 to 50,000 inmates from prison if CDCR cannot adopt a reasonable solution to the overcrowding problem. This of course would be the equivalent of a tsunami crime wave, impacting not only California but its neighboring states as well. CDCR's Parole Division, with a current recidivism rate of 70 percent, would be severely impacted.

A STATISTICAL SNAPSHOT OF CDCR REVEALS:

- 170,000 inmates in 33 pris-



- ons (200 percent capacity)
- 125,000 parolees (70 percent recidivism rate)
- Approximately 6500 inmates in private facilities
- 16,000 parole absconders (at large with felony warrants)
- 150,000 estimated gang members
- 10,000 validated gang members
- Six major prison gangs (Mexican Mafia, Aryan Brotherhood, Nuestra Familia, Northern Structure, Black Guerilla Family, Nazi Low Riders)
- Approximately 900 other gangs including street gangs and disruptive groups
- Approximately 20,000 illegal criminal aliens in the system

- Approximately 30 riots/disturbances monthly (Surenos in about half)
- 29 lock downs a month (disrupts programming)
- Average of 14 homicides a year
- 25,000 inmates assigned to soft yards – sensitive needs yards which translates to protective security yards, with a lengthy waiting list
- Average nine assaults a day on staff
- Major conflicts between Surenos and Nortenos

INFORMATION ON MAJOR GANGS REVEALS:

Mexican Mafia

- Some talk of attempting to formulate a leadership structure

(no single source of leadership since the death of Joe Morgan)

- Books are open for recruitment, some connections to Los Zetas

Aryan Brotherhood

- Recruiting from PEN1 and other White groups
- Have a contract or “green light” on members of the United Society of Aryan Skins (USAS)
- Being courted by the Nuestra Familia to align against the Mexican Mafia

Black Guerilla Family

- Same leadership since the mid-1970s
- Recruiting from Black inmate population
- At peace with Kumi
- Some cross recruitment with the Ansar El Mohammed (AEM)
- Keeping Crips and Bloods in line for the time being

Nuestra Familia/Northern Structure

- NF wrote new constitution
- Instructed all street regiments to pay allegiance to the California NF and not to the Federal NF



About the author...

Brian Parry worked for the California Department of Corrections for more than 30 years and retired in 2002 as the assistant director of the Law Enforcement and Investigations Unit. The Unit was responsible for gang suppression, intelligence and management, apprehension of paroled fugitives and escapees, officer involved shootings, threat assessments and other investigative duties. Parry has a bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton and has been a firearms instructor, polygraph examiner and a licensed private investigator. He received the Distinguished Service Medal on behalf of the Unit's exemplary work during the 1993 Los Angeles riot. He also has served as a parole agent, special agent and chief of investigations. Parry has taught all over the country on gangs and officer safety issues and has served as an expert witness and consultant for several agencies on gang related issues since his retirement. He has authored several articles on gang related issues and currently is on contract to the FBI's National Gang Intelligence Center working on gang intelligence related issues.

Gang investigator's toolbox

Proposed Law Regarding Pat Downs

Johnson v. Arizona, ___ S.Ct. ___, 2009 WL 160434 (Jan. 26, 2009)

Holding:

A traffic stop may permissibly lead to a protective "pat down" on vehicle passengers when the officer has a reasonable belief that the passenger may be armed and dangerous. Questions to the involved passenger about matters unrelated to the original traffic stop do not change the nature of the original detention or constitute an unlawful search or seizure.

Facts:

Officers in Tucson stopped a vehicle for a civil traffic violation. Johnson was a rear seat passenger in the vehicle. An officer noticed that Johnson was dressed in attire consistent with a Crips street gang member. The officer questioned Johnson about his possible gang affiliation and learned that he was from an area with a known Crip gang population and that Johnson had served time in prison for a burglary. Following this, the officer had Johnson step out of the car and "patted down"

Johnson for weapons.

This revealed Johnson, a prohibited possessor, had a firearm. Johnson was arrested, tried and convicted for being a prohibited possessor.

Johnson appealed his conviction. The Arizona Court of Appeals reversed the conviction reasoning that when the officer began to question Johnson about matters unrelated to the traffic stop, the nature of the contact had changed from detention of a passenger as part of a traffic stop to a consensual conversation about Johnson's gang affiliation. With that, the Court of Appeals ruled that the officer had no right to "pat down" Johnson even if the officer reasonably believed that Johnson might be armed and dangerous. The Arizona Supreme Court refused to review the Court of Appeals decision. Ultimately, the State of Arizona appealed and the case was heard by the United States Supreme Court.

The United States Supreme Court's opinion recognizes that a passenger in vehicle which is stopped for a legitimate traffic violation is detained just as is the driver of such vehicle (citing *Brendlin v. California*, 551 U.S. 249 (2007)).

Thus, the lawfulness of the detention of a passenger in a vehicle stop is not an issue.

Secondly, the court noted that discussing issues unrelated to the stop does not change the nature of the lawful detention so long as the ancillary questioning does not "measurably extend the stop." (citing *Muehler v. Mena*, 544 U.S. 93 (2005)). Third, the Court noted that when an officer makes a traffic stop and contacts a passenger, the same considerations as to officer safety apply regarding the passenger as the driver (citing *Maryland v. Wilson*, 519 U.S. 408 (1997)). And finally, the Court noted that when an officer has a reasonable belief that a person is armed and dangerous, the officer may conduct a protective "pat down" to ensure his or her safety and that of the public (*Johnson v. Arizona*, ___ S.Ct. ___, 2009WL160434, p. 7).

Note:

This case does not overrule the holding set forth in *In re Ilono H*, 210 Ariz. 473, 113 P.3d 696 (App. Div. 2, 2005) wherein the Court of Appeals overturned the defendant's conviction because the police had a generalized suspicion that the defendant might be involved in gang activity largely by virtue of the fact that the defendant was seen loitering in a park area that was noted for gang activity.

Gang investigator associations and meetings

- Utah Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ugia.org>
- Arizona Gang Investigators Association: <https://www.arizonaagia.com>
- Northwest Gang Investigator Association: <http://www.nwgia.com>
- New Mexico Gang Task Force: <http://www.dps.nm.org>
- International Latino Gang Investigator Association: <http://www.ilgia.org>
- International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigator Association: <https://www.iomgia.net>
- Colorado Security Threat Intelligence Network Group: <http://www.coloradosting.org>
- National Major Gang Task Force: <http://www.nmgf.org>
- Idaho Gangs: www.idahogangs.com
- Montana Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators
- Treasure Valley Regional Gang Task Force (Idaho)
- Idaho Department of Corrections
- Tri-State Intelligence Association (Nevada, California, Arizona)
- Salt Lake Area Gang Project
- Skinhead Information Network
- East Valley Gang and Criminal Information Fusion Center (Mesa, AZ)
- Western States Gang Intelligence Network
- Midwest Cycle Intelligence Organization
- Consolidated Gang Intelligence Team and Regional Gang Unit (Carson City, NV)
- East Valley and West Valley Gang Task Forces (Arizona)
- National Gang Center: <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov>
- National Major Gang Task Force: <http://www.nmgf.org>
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/spotlight/gangs/summary.html>
- Florida Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.fgia.com>
- East Coast Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ecgia.org/>
- Gang Related Legislation: <http://www.iir.com/nygc/gang-legis/#State>
- California Gang Investigator's Association: <http://www.cgiaonline.org/>
- Colorado Security Threat Intelligence Network Group (STING): <http://www.coloradosting.org/>
- Georgia Gang Investigator's Association: <http://www.ggia.net/>
- Great Lakes International Gang Investigators Coalition: <http://www.gligic.org/>
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Gang Investigators Network: <http://www.maringangs.org/>
- Midwest Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.mgia.org/>
- Virginia Gang Investigators Association: <http://vgia.org/web/news.php>
- Texas Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.tgia.net/>
- Connecticut Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ctgia.org/>
- South Carolina Gang Investigators' Association: <http://www.scgia.com/main.htm>
- NorthWest Gang Investigator Association: <http://www.nwgia.com/>
- Oklahoma Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ogia.us/>
- Northern California Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ncgia.com/>
- North Carolina Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ncgangcops.org/>
- New York Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.nygia.org/>
- New Jersey Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.njgia.org/>
- Ontario Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ongia.org/>
- National Alliance of Gang Investigator's Associations: <http://www.nagia.org/>
- Tennessee Gang Investigators Association (TNGIA): <http://www.tngia.ning.com/>
- International Latino Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ilgia.org/>
- Arizona Gang Investigators Association: <http://arizonagia.com/>
- Utah Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.ugiaonline.org/>
- Idaho Gangs: <http://www.idahogangs.com/>
- National Gang Intelligence Center Public Information: <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/ngic/>
- Pennsylvania Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.pagia.org/>
- Kansas Gang Investigators Association: <http://www.kgiakansas.com/>
- Central Coast Gang Investigator Association (CCGIA): <http://ccgia.org/index.html>

Resources within the RMIN region:

- National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations:
<http://www.nagia.org>
 - Arizona Gang Investigators Association:
<https://www.arizonaaagia.com>
- New Mexico Gang Task Force: <http://www.dps.nm.org>
- International Latino Gang Investigator Association:
<http://www.ilgia.org>
- International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigator Association: <https://www.iomgia.net>
- Colorado Security Threat Intelligence Network Group:
<http://www.coloradosting.org>
 - National Major Gang Task Force:
<http://www.nmgtf.org>
 - Idaho Gangs: www.idahogangs.com
 - Utah Gang Investigators Association:
<http://www.ugia.org>



RMIN produces a Gang and Domestic Terrorism Newsletter that's distributed electronically. The e-newsletter contains RMIN region state-by-state gang and domestic terrorism updates and analysis. Contact Brian Novotny, Criminal Intelligence Analyst with RMIN, at bnovotny@rmin.riss.net if you'd like to be added to the distribution list.

Gangs defined by Arizona Statute 13-105

"Criminal street gang" means an ongoing formal or informal association of persons in which members or associates individually or collectively engage in the commission, attempted commission, facilitation or solicitation of any felony act and that has at least one individual who is a criminal street gang member.

"Criminal street gang member" means an individual to whom at least two of the following seven criteria that indicate criminal street gang membership apply:

- Self-proclamation.
- Witness testimony or official statement.
- Written or electronic correspondence.
- Paraphernalia or photographs.
- Tattoos.
- Clothing or colors.
- Any other indicia of street gang membership.

Sentencing guidelines defined by statute 13-709.02

C. A person who is convicted of committing any felony offense with the intent to promote, further or assist any criminal conduct by a criminal street gang shall not be eligible for suspension of sentence, probation, pardon or release from confinement on any basis except as authorized by section 31-233, subsection A or B until the sentence imposed by the court has been served, the person is eligible for release pursuant to section 41-1604.07 or the sentence is commuted. The presumptive, minimum and maximum sentence for the offense shall be increased by three years if the offense is a class 4, 5 or 6 felony or shall be increased by five years if the offense is a class 2 or 3 felony. The additional sentence imposed pursuant to this subsection is in addition to any enhanced sentence that may be applicable.

How to: Create a historical document for gang investigations



When a gang arrives in a community, it often takes time before the gang appears on law enforcement's radar screen. Many gangs no longer dress as gang members, congregate in groups or commit highly visible crimes to establish credibility. Instead, many gangs are attempting to fly under the radar screen to avoid interference by local law enforcement.

The following is an example of a "gang historical" document that was created by members of the Tempe (Arizona) Police Department. Names and addresses have been redacted.

The creation and continued ongoing maintenance of a gang historical document has several benefits.

First and most importantly, the document creates the necessary "backbone and foundation" for any attempt at prosecuting a member of the gang. Without a historical perspective on the gang, law enforcement could only hope for a conviction against a member of the gang.

The two most important questions you will be asked to prove in a criminal trial are:

Q1: Is the defendant a member of a criminal street gang?

A: If you answer yes, you will be asked to justify your answer.

Q2: What gang does the defendant belong to?

A: You will be asked to justify why you think the group is a criminal street gang.

CONTINUED...



The ability to answer these two questions may hinge on having a historical perspective on the gang.

We have also included a “what to include guide” for historical gang documents. The guide was prepared by Tempe Police Department Gang Unit Detective Tim Moriarty.

If you have known criminal street gangs within your community, someone within your agency should be asked to

complete a gang historical document on each and every gang. The person completing the document could utilize the following tips:

- Start the historical perspective as far back as possible. Talk to retired officers who worked the area when the gang was formed.
- Find and talk to people who were in the neighborhood when the gang was formed.

- Research your state corrections department and find the “OGs” (Old Gangsters) and determine where they are incarcerated.

Work with your state corrections Security Threat Group experts to set up an interview. With the right approach, most people will talk to you because they want you and everyone else to believe their gang has credibility.

- Talk to current gang members about their thoughts on the gang, and what they know about the history of their gang.
- Obtain and download copies of newspaper articles featuring the gang.

It doesn't matter how large or small your agency is, there are two simple facts:

First: Every agency that has a gang (or gangs) in its community needs to complete a gang historical document on each gang.

Second: People within your agency who knows something about the gang will someday retire and as they walk out the door, they'll take their knowledge with them unless it has been saved.

Compiling a Historical Document on Street Gangs

By DET. TIM MORLARTY
TEMPE (AZ) POLICE DEPARTMENT GANG UNIT

When did the street gang start and when did it become active (looking for dates)?

1. Where/how the street gang's name originated.
2. Who were the founding members of the gang?
3. Does gang have/feel responsibility to protect "barrio"?
4. Who do gang members have to protect the barrio from?
5. Who are considered rivals; main rival historically?
6. Boundaries of the neighborhood the gang claims.
7. Size of gang in the beginning and estimated size currently.
8. What is the racial make-up of the street gang?
 - Are there exceptions if it is through family?

Is the street gang multi-generational?

1. How can someone get into the gang?
 - a. Jumped in
 - b. Born-in
 - c. Commit criminal act
2. Can a gang member be from outside the neighborhood and still join the gang?
 - a. If not, will family ties change that rule?
3. Gang's main area or hangout inside the neighborhood?
4. Chain of command or rank structure within the gang?
5. Have the gangs rivals changed over the years?

Does the street gang derive its beliefs from racial pride, its barrio, its religion, or its culture?

1. Are there families or persons of major influence in the gang?
2. Is the street gang money oriented or more focused on the barrio pride?

What type of criminal activity is the street gang involved in?

1. Motivation for criminal acts.
2. Do criminal acts change one's status or rank within gang?
3. Does prison change/effect status in the gang?
4. How does the gang perceive civilians?
5. How does the gang react or treat other non-rival street gangs?
6. How does the gang react to Mexican Nationals or Paisas?
7. How does the gang react to "snitches"?
8. How does the gang react to other races?

What is street gang's link to the prison Security Threat Groups (i.e., New Eme, AB, Mau Mau)?

1. Does the gang commit crimes for STGs and if so, what kind of crimes?
2. Does STG have control over the gang's neighborhood (i.e., taxes)?

3. Does the STG choose the gang because of the gang's reputation?
4. Do the gang's members show immediate allegiance to STG once in prison?
5. Are there members of the street gang who are patched members of the STG?
6. Are there members of the street gang who are high ranking members of the STG?

Tattoos, clothing and hand signs

1. Common tattoos for the street gang.
2. Any tattoos that show allegiance to STG or that a gang member has done work in prison for the STG.
3. What are the hand signs?
4. What color or type of clothing do gang members wear to identify themselves as members of the gang?

Females in the gang

1. Can women be members of the street gang?
2. What do the women have to do to gain membership in the street gang?
3. What is the status of women in the gang?

What is the street gang's reputation and how did it get the reputation?

1. Major events in the gang's history.

La Victoria Locos: A historical perspective

BY TEMPE (AZ) POLICE DEPARTMENT GANG UNIT

In 1945, the Victory Acres neighborhood was established several miles east of town, next to the Tempe Canal. George Tibshraeny, a Lebanese immigrant, subdivided 80 acres of farmland and offered one-acre lots for sale to soldiers returning from World War II. The long lots were good for raising gardens and animals, and the land was priced low. Word of these lots spread among the Mexican families, and most of the first settlers were returning Hispanic servicemen who built their own homes. A small tight-knit community that included St. Margaret's Catholic Church, two stores and a saloon quickly developed.

The hope for a "victorious" war effort, as well as a reference to the configurations of the lots being conducive to planting "victory" gardens on the one "acre" size lots lead to the name "Victory Acres." These lots were large and allowed the new land owners to use the space to make a living various ways. The original streets in Victory Acres were also named by the Tibshraenys: George and Maryland after themselves; Lebanon after their country of origin; Roosevelt (now Evergreen) after the popular president; Victory as the central street of the subdivision; and McArthur after the revered general.

Victory Acres, or La Victoria, was annexed by Tempe in 1960. It remained a relatively undeveloped neighborhood of mostly low income Hispanic families. In the early 1970s, the City of Tempe decided to deal with the lack of

public works and substandard housing in the area. The Escalante Center was built in 1971 to house county-funded social programs that had started at St. Margaret's Catholic Church. Soon after, a federal Community Development Block Grant provided sewers, storm drains, underground utilities, paved streets and sidewalks to the neighborhood. In 1974, an area of 230 households was designated as a redevelopment area, and the city received HUD funds to rehabilitate housing in the neighborhood. New homes were built without displacing the homeowners. The large one acre lots were divided and new houses were built on back lots facing new streets. The old houses were then cleared and more new homes were built.

During the 1960s, the Hispanic Street Gang "La Victoria Locos" (LVL) had developed and become active in the area subsequently giving the Victory Acres community a bad reputation. The La Victoria Locos continued to claim this neighborhood as their territory or "barrio" and had now become a second and third generation gang. Since the inception of the gang, La Victoria Locos gang members have held the belief that it is their duty and responsibility to protect their barrio from outsiders, including other rival street gangs. Examples of this mindset are cases of LVL gang members assaulting people who unknowingly would stop at the Sunshine Convenience Mart at University and Evergreen. LVL gang members would assault these unsuspecting citizens simply for being in

their barrio, which included the mart.

The territory La Victoria Locos gang members protect has gradually changed since the Loop 101 freeway was built in the early to mid-'90s. The freeway runs directly through the middle of the old Victory Acres neighborhood, now creating two separate neighborhoods. Prior to the arrival of the Wet Back Power (WBP) street gang that is LVL's main rival street gang, La Victoria's boundaries stretched from McClintock Drive east to Evergreen and from Apache Blvd. north to University Drive. Since the arrival of WBP, and more importantly the construction of the Loop 101 freeway, the main concentration of La Victoria's barrio is now east of the Loop 101 to the Mesa border, and still, Apache Boulevard north to University. Some members of LVL have begun to move outside Victory Acres into west Mesa, the Salt River Reservation just north of Mesa, and different areas of the East Valley, including Gilbert and Chandler.

Second and third generation LVL gang members grew up attending Thew School, followed by Connolly Middle School, and then McClintock High School. Some of the past and present local LVL gang hangouts include the intersection of Victory and George, where large groups of LVL gang members, sometimes up to 100, will hang out on any given corner and loiter, harass and assault "outsiders" as well as starting bonfires and hosting rock throwing parties. There are houses near

APPENDIX C

the intersection of Victory and George belonging to the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families where family members, as well as LVL gang members, will hang out in the front yard, have parties, and stand watch over the intersection. Other hangouts of LVL gang members include the Sunshine Convenience Mart and Escalante Park.

Currently, the main rival for LVL gang members is the Wet Back Power North Tempe and East Side Wet Back Power street gangs. Problems between LVL and these two street WBP sets started when Mexican immigrants started moving into the neighborhood between McClintock Drive and Smith. Many of these immigrants and children of the immigrants were degraded and beaten by the LVL gang on a continual basis at which time the immigrants formed WBP to protect themselves. As stated before, WBP began to claim the west side of the old Victory Acres as their territory, causing an obvious problem for the non-gang related citizens as well as police. WBP now claims the area between McClintock east to Smith, and Apache, north to University, as its territory. Adding to the feud between LVL and WBP, most of the children related to both gang's members go to the same schools (Thew, Connolly and McClintock).

LVL's original main rival was Los Cuatros Milpas (LCM) street gang from South Phoenix. LVL's current rivals include WBP, Southside Chandler, and any gang from Mesa regardless of its location in Mesa.

Currently there are 270 documented gang members and associates of LVL. Many of the "older" gang members including members from the [REDACTED] families have been in and out of

prison for numerous offenses in the past 30 years. More recently, members of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] families are now serving long prison terms for numerous violent offenses they have been prosecuted for in the past 10 years.

The years 2003-2006 were very active for the rivalry between WBP and LVL. The Tempe Police Department's Gang Unit worked continually with School Resource Officers and community members to identify problem areas and the gang members likely perpetuating the rivalry. Members of both LVL and WBP were arrested on various charges including assault, aggravated assault, threatening and intimidating to promote a criminal syndicate, and assisting a criminal syndicate. Some of the victims who were targeted were not documented members of either gang and investigations revealed they were only targeted because of their perceived relation to the rival gang (e.g., Mexican Nationals were thought to be members of WBP and assaulted just because they were "wetbacks").

In December 2004, the Tempe PD Gang Unit completed a five-year investigation into drug sales from the [REDACTED] house at [REDACTED] in Tempe. This house was run by [REDACTED] who is known as "[REDACTED]" in the neighborhood. [REDACTED] and LVL gang members used the house to sell methamphetamines, heroine, and marijuana for profit. The drugs being sold by [REDACTED] were reportedly linked to the New Mexican Mafia (an Arizona Department of Corrections prison gang). The house was seized by the City of Tempe during a criminal forfeiture process and subsequently destroyed in May 2005. Before the house was torn down, LVL mem-

bers made numerous taggings in and on the property showing support for [REDACTED]. The City of Tempe is working with members of the community to determine what the property should become. Several community members from the Victory Acres neighborhood have thanked the Tempe Police Department for tearing down the house.

On Mother's Day, May 14, 2006, several LVL members were having a party at the corner of [REDACTED]. The members were drinking and some were using drugs (including methamphetamines and marijuana) and jumped in a new gang member. During the party the group was talking about taking the neighborhood back from outsiders, specifically "the wetbacks." The group was stirred up by a passing vehicle believed to be occupied by members of a rival gang who were throwing up gang signs as they drove by the corner of [REDACTED]. The group of gang members left the corner and chased after the vehicle which sped away. The gang then stopped in front of [REDACTED] where a Mexican family was celebrating Mother's Day. The gang began to threaten and intimidate the family by claiming the neighborhood to be "their barrio" and told the family members to "go back to Mexico...this is the Victoria." In an attempt to calm the situation, the homeowner approached the gang members, telling them there was no problem and asking them to leave his family alone. An LVL member assaulted the slightly built homeowner, knocking him to the ground. The owner's brother-in-law called police and tried to break up the fight. At this time, LVL member [REDACTED] shot and killed the brother-in-law with a

.44 caliber handgun. All the LVL members fled the scene, leaving the man to die in front of his wife, his newborn son, pregnant sister and other family members.

Within a few days [REDACTED] (aka "[REDACTED]") had tagged the area of [REDACTED] and other parts of the neighborhood, bragging about taking the neighborhood back. A three-month investigation led to the arrest of [REDACTED] for the Mother's Day homicide. Others involved in the threatening and intimidating were used as witnesses in the homicide or charged in the crime. The Tempe PD Gang Unit received tips that LVL gang members were threatening family members of the witnesses to the homicide and those witnesses were warned about "snitching" against the gang. At this time no valid threats have been sustained. The Tempe Gang Unit continues to work and develop relationships within the community to assure any threats aren't acted upon.

In 2006 during the Mother's Day homicide investigation, it was learned that members of LVL were upset about the conditions of the Acres, especially the way that Mexican Nationals and other gangs such as West Side Mesa and WBP North Tempe had been allowed to enter into their neighborhood. The Tempe Gang Unit has learned information that members of LVL have stated they are going to take their neighborhood back.

As a result of the homicide investigation, members of LVL were labeled "snitches" and attempts have been made to run specific individuals out of the neighborhood. On 02-03-07, [REDACTED] was arrested [REDACTED] for punching [REDACTED] then giving a shout out to

LVL. On 03-02-07 [REDACTED] aka [REDACTED] was arrested [REDACTED] for assisting a criminal street gang, threaten and intimidating to further a criminal street gang and failure to obey a police officer when.

Detective Campbell has been working with Mesa PD over the last three weeks on a shooting that occurred in their city. It has been learned that [REDACTED] Cousin [REDACTED] was attempting to shoot at witnesses to the Tempe murder trial. It is believed that [REDACTED] backed out at the last minute and was seen by witnesses handing a .45 caliber hand gun to a subject we only know as [REDACTED] and he then did the shooting. Two rounds entered a garage several houses down and went through one side and out the other. This particular night a boy in that house was having a sleep over with several friends in the garage. The bullets went over them by two feet as they slept on the garage floor.

In September 2007 the Tempe Gang Unit received information that a new house built on the S/W corner of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is occupied by a White college student. Complaints have arisen from the landowner/investor/parent of the student stating his son has been approached by people in the neighborhood who are complaining about the parties the college student is throwing and the trash being found on the street because of them. The neighbors reportedly told the student that "Anglos" are not typically welcome in the neighborhood and he should be careful. A comment was also made about the house behind his house a [REDACTED] stating the student should not let his

lights shine in the neighbors yard as the neighbor is the "God Father" of the neighborhood. No direct threats could be established for a criminal investigation though the landowner stated he would move his son out of the neighborhood and rent the property.

The residence at [REDACTED] Don Carlos has long been reported to be a drug house. The occupants are an elderly couple [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s son, [REDACTED], has been sentenced to the AZ DOC for numerous charges including narcotics charges and vehicle theft. Search warrants have been served on the property by the Chandler Police Department Auto Theft Division and the Tempe Gang Unit for narcotics crimes.

Currently the Gang Unit is still seeing a rivalry between WBP and LVL on the McClintock High School Campus. WBP and LVL members and associates were contacted at the McClintock High School and Tempe High School as both gangs were representing their respective colors and a lot of posturing was occurring at the game. After the game a fight between 6 LVL members/associates and 2 suspected members of WBP broke out in the middle of the street (Del Rio just east of McClintock). The fight was broken up by police just as it started and no punches were thrown. The LVL members/affiliates had a gun with them at the fight but the gun was not displayed.

On February 10th 2008 Documented LVL gang member, [REDACTED], and a female associate, [REDACTED], conducted a carjacking of a resident living in the Oaks (condos border-

APPENDIX C

ing the Acres to the East). Immediately after stealing the vehicle they went into Mesa where they did a home invasion. Both Mesa and Tempe Police Officers were in the area and contacted the vehicle. [REDACTED] began firing on Officers from his vehicle that [REDACTED] was driving. [REDACTED] surrendered and jumped out of the moving vehicle while [REDACTED] exited also. [REDACTED] walked up to officers while firing at them as they tried to retreat. [REDACTED] was killed by returning gunfire. According to Mesa PD [REDACTED] family is upset with the police for killing [REDACTED]. It should be noted that [REDACTED] was also being investigated by MCSO for two drive-by shootings against affiliates of Varrio Guadalupe Locos and striking a female passenger of a vehicle driving eastbound on Guadalupe into Tempe. The vehicle was again shot at while turning northbound on Rural Road from Guadalupe. The female was reportedly an ex-girlfriend of [REDACTED].

At the end of February 2008 LVL member [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (not a documented member) conducted a home invasion on a suspected drug house near [REDACTED] in Tempe. [REDACTED] tied up the five occupants of the residence at gunpoint and stole approximately \$7,000 in property from the residence. Both suspects were later arrested and charged with robbery and kidnapping.

During the month of March 2008 the Acres received more than 50 new LVL taggings throughout the neighborhood including every entrance to the neighborhood. Some of the tags depicted anti-snitching slogans. The Mother's Day [REDACTED] homicide trial was scheduled to begin on March 31,

2008, and it was clear these tags were directly related to the upcoming trial as one of the witness's [REDACTED] grandmother's homes was tagged with large letters "FUCK SNITCHES" as well as LVL tags directly across the street. Photos of the graffiti along with several hours of recorded jail tapes of [REDACTED] talking to family and friends about snitches and how to deal with them were turned over to [REDACTED] defense attorney. Members of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] family were notified of the potential cases against them and asked not to intimidate or hurt any victims or witnesses related to the Mother's Day Homicide Investigation. [REDACTED] pleaded guilty to the Second Degree Murder on March 24th 2008, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison on May 23rd 2008.

The symbols for LVL now also include the Tempe "T," ASU (maroon color and ASU symbol) as well as the ASU Sun Devil (Sparky). The Sparky tattoo has been seen on both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (both LVL member). On 5-24-08 a vehicle occupied by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (both LVL members) was displaying a Sparky sticker on the rear window. The annual LVL football game also has all LVL members and affiliates dressed down in ASU clothing and maroon colors. A group photo of the LVL team was discovered on a MySpace account of an LVL member. Maroon colored flags (or bandanas) have been displayed by LVL members at McClintock High School Football games in 2007-2008. LVL claims these symbols as synonymous with the gang as their territory is adjacent to the ASU campus and housing facilities.

Tempe PD has received several fight and assault calls between

October and November 2008 in and around Escalante Park though all suspects are gone by the time police arrive. On Nov. 7, 2008, several male subjects that were hanging out at [REDACTED] (a common LVL hangout just south of Escalante Park) confronted another LVL member [REDACTED] who was leaving the house after talking with a female subject [REDACTED]. The group surrounded [REDACTED] and at least five subjects assaulted him causing serious physical injury. Two of the suspects were identified and arrested for aggravated assault, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (LVL members). A notice was mailed to [REDACTED] (the suspects' grandfather and RP for the residence) from the Crime Prevention Unit notifying the residents about the illegal activity occurring at the residence and the notice included a warning about the Criminal Abatement statutes.

On Dec. 13, 2008, LVL and Guadalupe (VGL gang members seen at the event) had their annual football game at the new park on McArthur (Esquer Park). The event was well attended with many of the LVL subjects wearing maroon or Black t-shirts with La Victoria written on them along with a skull logo. The Tempe Gang Unit and Mesa Gang Unit conducted surveillance and ensured the safety of the surrounding citizens. The Gang Unit originally learned about the game through a phone call from a concerned citizen from the neighborhood who was fearful violence might break out between the two gangs. There was one small fight that broke out on the field during play but was broken up by both sides. [REDACTED] (LVL) signed for the event permit.

RISSGang Project™

Think of RISSGang as one of many tools you can use in the battle against gangs. RISSGang can serve as your agency's sole gang intelligence database or it can be used to supplement the gang database you are now using.

WHAT IS THE RISS® NATIONAL GANG PROGRAM?

The RISS National Gang Program is a suite of applications, known collectively as RISSGang, that provides a comprehensive investigative tool to help combat gang-related crimes. The applications include the RISS National Gang Intelligence Database, the RISSGang website, and the RISSGang Bulletin Board.

INTELLIGENCE

The RISS National Gang Intelligence Database provides law enforcement agencies with easy access to gang information – including suspects, organizations, weapons, locations, and vehicles – as well as visual imagery of gang members, gang symbols, and gang graffiti.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

In addition to the multitude of intelligence records contained in the RISS National Gang Intelligence Database, users can access additional tools and resources through the RISSGang website. Gang-specific news, documents, and publications are organized into topical areas including:

- Motorcycle Gangs • Prison Gangs
- Ethnic Gangs • Graffiti • Colors
- Street Gangs • Youth Gangs
- Tattoos • Crypto/Codes
- Drug Gangs • Hate Groups
- Hand Signs • Terminology

Each page contains news items, documents, publications, graphics, pictures, and links to other websites related to gangs and gang-identifying information. Gang-related information that is more general in nature is presented on the RISSGang website home page.

The RISSGang Program also offers the RISSGang Bulletin Board, a collaborative information sharing bulletin board where authorized users can post and share gang-related information, questions and case information. The RISSGang Bulletin Board provides a live chat feature for on-line, real-time communication.

LINKS AND SPECIAL SECURITY FOR YOUR SAFETY

The RISSGang website provides links to websites operated by government and private organizations that have an interest in tracking and combating illegal gang activities, as well as websites of interest to law enforcement agencies. A special filter is automatically applied when a user clicks on one of the links to these websites, eliminating the ability of the target websites to identify agencies and officers visiting the site – you're an anonymous visitor.

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RISS and other organizations develop training materials and conduct training classes on topics of interest to law enforcement agencies involved in combating illegal gang activities. The RISSGang website provides access to a collection of that information on a separate page within the site.

WHO CAN ACCESS RISSGANG?

RISSGang is available to all law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

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Through RISSNET™, the RISS secure intranet, all RISSGang users are provided with a secure e-mail address and access to the RISS Automated Trusted Information Exchange™ (ATIX). RISS ATIX™ provides governmental and nongovernmental agency officials and executive staff with secure interagency communication and sharing of national security, disaster, and terrorist threat information. Through RISS ATIX, users can access secure web pages, bulletin boards, chat sessions, e-mail and other resources.

WHY SHOULD I USE RISSGANG?

- **Easy to Use:** The database enables users to easily submit and search information.
- **Valuable:** RISSGang contains nationwide criminal gang and gang member information.
- **Secure:** RISSGang is only available by accessing RISSNET, which employs state-of-the-art internet technologies to safeguard and provide fine-grained access control to resources.
- **No Cost:** Through BJA funding, there is no cost for users to become activated or maintain their access to RISSGang.

To get started, talk with your RMIN Field Services Coordinator or visit www.riss.net

Documenting, deciphering gang graffiti

Graffiti produced by gang members is different than graffiti produced by non-gang members (“taggers” describes individuals who produce graffiti, often with aerosol paint, and are not associated with a gang).

Graffiti should be removed immediately after the graffiti has been:

- Documented with date/time/location/description and other available information
- Photographed and catalogued or filed for easy retrieval
- Deciphered, including listing any/all names and whether there are indications the person caused the damage or was listed on a “roll call” (a listing of all members of the gang, including the person who caused the damage)
- Reviewed for threats. Treat all threats within the graffiti as if they were verbal threats and take the threats seriously.

Deciphering gang graffiti:

- When something is painted upside down, split in half or crossed out using an “X,” these are signs of disrespect to the particular gang.
- Arrows pointing down in gang graffiti is a sign of disrespect to the particular gang.
- Arrows pointing up in gang graffiti is a sign of respect for a particular gang.
- Gangs will typically use a directional indicator, such as East Side (ES)
- Gangs will use their own area code to indicate where they are from.
- Gangs will use their state initials or name to “represent” where they are from.
- Gangs often use Roman numerals in place of ordinal numbers.
- Gangs often list their rivals and allies within the graffiti.



Gang signs throughout the RMIN region

Gang hand signs are typically used by gang members to identify their gang affiliation to two distinct groups. Gang hand signs are “thrown up” or “stacked” to gang members within their own gang, to their gang allies, to their rivals and/or anyone that they are attempting to disrespect or intimidate by their actions. If a gang member displays an individual hand sign, it is being “thrown up,” however if the gang member combines several signs of a sequence, it is called “stacking” the signs.

The simple display of a gang hand sign to a fellow gang member may simply imply a high level of respect for their gang and fellow gang members. However, when signs are shown to rival gang members it is very often the catalyst for a violent encounter.



3 point crown - Latin Kings



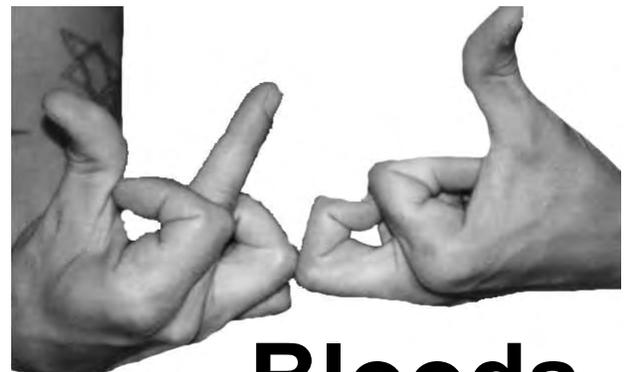
6 point star - Folk Nation



Latin Kings



Heart with wings - Folk Nation



Bloods

Gangs: Their Increasing Grip on the Nation **A special report from Rocky Mountain Information Network®**

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About the illustrator...

Ramon Suarez is the artist who provided the original artwork on the cover of this report. He has been with Corrections Corporation of America for 15 years, the last 10 of which he's served as the Facility Gang Investigator at the Central Arizona Detention Center in Florence, Arizona. Suarez served with the U.S. Air Force as a security specialist and was deployed to Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. He earned his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix. Our very special thanks to this talented individual who developed the concept for the cover illustration and then drew it, freehand. The original artwork has been framed and now is on display at Rocky Mountain Information Network headquarters in Phoenix, Arizona.

Rocky Mountain Information Network® (RMIN) is one of six regional projects in the United States that comprise the Regional Information Sharing Systems® (RISS). Each project links law enforcement agencies from neighboring states into a regional network that interacts with law enforcement member agencies nation-wide. Funded by the United States Congress through the Bureau of Justice Assistance, RISS provides secure communications, information sharing resources and investigative support to help detect, deter, prevent and prosecute multi-jurisdictional crime. Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, RMIN serves more than 15,000 law enforcement officers from 1,038 agencies in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Canada.

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Published 2010 by Rocky Mountain Information Network
P.O. Box 41370
Phoenix, AZ 85080-1370

If you'd like more information about gangs in the RMIN region or are interested in training opportunities available to member agencies at no charge, contact Chuck Schoville, Training Specialist, at cschoville@rmin.riss.net or (800) 821-0640, ext. 122.

For information about gangs and the monthly Gang and Domestic Terrorism e-bulletin produced by RMIN, contact Brian Novotny, CCA, Criminal Intelligence Analyst, at bnovotny@rmin.riss.net or (800) 821-0640, ext. 163.

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BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



This project was supported by Grant No. 2008-RS-CX-K004 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.