

# Hell's Angels Criminal Enterprise

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## Abstract

This paper analyzes the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club and makes the determination that it is in fact a criminal enterprise. As Ralph "Sonny" Barger the president defines the Hell's Angels parenthetically as (a bunch of fun loving guys who just ride motorcycles). The research data will support that the Hell's Angels partake in murder, distribution, and manufacturing of methamphetamine. The Hell's Angels are also involved in cocaine, heroin and marijuana drug distribution, plus prostitution. They are also involved with the purchase and selling of fire arms and other criminal activities (A & E Television Network (Producer)).<sup>1</sup>

Through the courage of undercover operatives, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) a 21-month infiltration into the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club was launched. This infiltration was promulgated after the Hell's Angels showed total disregard for law enforcement and public safety in Laughlin, Nevada where a riot took place between the Hell's Angels and their hated enemy; the Mongols outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG). This riot took place in the Harrah's Hotel and Casino on April 27, 2002.

““Operation Black Biscuit”” was a federal infiltration led by the (ATF). This operation took place in the Phoenix, Arizona area. Ralph "Sonny" Barger, the president of the Hell's Angels for over forty-years, had been released from an Arizona penitentiary after doing a five-year prison term. He found the Arizona climate more to his liking and transferred from the Oakland Charter in Oakland, California and moved to Phoenix, Arizona's Cave Creek Charter (Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K., pp-250).<sup>2</sup>

Lastly, this paper exposes this organization for its criminal activities and illustrates just how dangerous this outlaw motorcycle gang can be with its methods towards law enforcement and the everyday citizen. An example is Ms. Cynthia Garcia. Ms. Garcia fell victim and was allegedly murdered by the Hell's Angels from the Mesa Clubhouse in Phoenix, Arizona.

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<sup>1</sup> A & E Television Network (Producer), (2007). History Channel and reg-ventures, Behind the enemy lines, 50-minutes Television Broadcast]. Marketed and distributed in U.S. by New Video

<sup>2</sup> Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K. (2000). Hell's angel: The life and times of Sonny Barger and the Hell' Angels motorcycle club, Harper Collins Publishers Inc., New York, NY, pp-250

## I. Introduction

This paper will investigate the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club, and based on the data, will prove that the Hell's Angels are in fact a criminal organization.

County Sheriff's Senior Deputy Jeremy Paris stated in (2008):

“Paris has investigated and interviewed motorcycle gang members, testified that the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club has more than 3,000 members and more than 200 Chapters” (pp-3).<sup>3</sup>

This organization's domestic tentacles also reach out globally where there are seven Hell's Angels charters in Europe. There are five charters in England. Germany and Switzerland have one each, as well as their Amsterdam Club (Sher, J. & Marsden, W pp-236).<sup>4</sup>

The violence of the Hell's Angel's world includes murder, manufacturing and the distribution of narcotics, like methamphetamines and cocaine. They are also a large distributor of marijuana. Their enterprise also includes the purchasing and selling of firearms. This will be exposed by ““Operation Black Biscuit””, which was an orchestrated 21-month infiltration by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Agent(s). Jay Dobyns's or (Jay Bird's) infiltration had been so deep that Dobyns and his fellow ATF agents became a prospect (a member in training) (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. pp-324).<sup>5</sup> These undercover operatives were only 6-9-months away from becoming full patched Hell's Angels when the ATF decided to extract them from the investigation for their own safety (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N., pp-305-306).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Hernandez, R. (2008, December 11). Gang expert testifies at Hells Angel's trial, Ventura Star, Retrieved July 05, 2009, pp-1 and 3, <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2008/dec/11/gang-expert-testifies-at-hells-angels-trial/>

<sup>4</sup> Sher, J. & Marsden, W (2006). Angels of death: Inside the biker gangs crime empire, Carol & Graf Publishers: An imprint of Avalon Publishing Company Group, Inc., New York, NY, pp-236

<sup>5</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, , my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-324

<sup>6</sup> ibid, pp-305-306

The fascination with the Hell's Angels began for this writer back in October of 1978. Heading down Route 1's Coastal Highway towards Southern California, my wife and I pulled onto the overlook in Big Sur to view the ocean. After exiting the vehicle, the serenity of the calm was shattered by a deafening roar of engines approaching the overlook. While walking to the berm of the road to investigate, I observed heading towards us hundreds of Hell's Angels. This large group of bikers with their shiny Harley Davidson Motorcycles was reminiscent of the knights of old who rode their horses back in feudal times, and the wearing of their cuts (a biker's vest) was like their coat of armor (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N., pp-322).<sup>7</sup>

My personal observation was that these individuals exuded an attitude of confidence and seemed to have a disregard for everyone, or anything, getting in their way, including law enforcement. I was also amazed by their disciplined biker formation which they maintained at a rapid clip while maintaining a safe distance from their brother bikers who rode in front of them. Getting caught up in the moment, I gave the leader a biker salute. This is when you pump your fist in the air like you are pulling the cord sounding a horn of a big rig, (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N., pp -69).<sup>8</sup> The salute was returned by the rest of the contingent of Angels.

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<sup>7</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, , my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp- -322

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*, pp-69

## II. Historical Perspective

The Hell's Angels are emphatically referred to by "Ralph "Sonny" Barger as a motorcycle club and not a gang. Barger is the President of the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club for forty-years. Barger was inspired by the 1954 motorcycle movie entitled, "*The Wild One*" starring Marlon Brando and Lee Marvin. This movie took place in Hollister, California and depicted a motorcycle riot on July 4, 1947. An article by Frank Rooney in 1951 in Harper's Magazine inspired the movie (Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K., pp-25).<sup>9</sup>

Ralph Barger grew up tough on the streets during the 1950's in Oakland, California's drug scene. His fear of needles deterred him from becoming an addict like his school friends (Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K. pp-26).<sup>10</sup>

According to Barger (1950s):

The Oakland drug scene in the fifties was marijuana on one side, heroin on the other, with pep pills floating somewhere in between. There were a lot of whites and bennies-Dexedrine and Benzedrine-around. I didn't particularly enjoy speed, because even the smallest amount wired me up for days. I've always had enough energy to keep me going naturally (pp-26).<sup>11</sup>

Barger joined the Army as a boy and returned home as a man. When he finished his tour of duty, he returned to Oakland, and for a short-time, lived with his father in a single residence at a hotel. He later moved in with his sister, Shirley, and her kids. Ralph Barger wore Levi jeans with a one inch wide cuff on the bottom of his jeans. This street tough had an attitude and wore V-neck T-shirts with a rolled up pack of Camels up in his

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<sup>9</sup> Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K. (2000). Hell's angel: The life and times of Sonny Barger and the Hell' Angels motorcycle club, Harper Collins Publishers Inc., New York, NY, pp-25

<sup>10</sup> ibid, pp -26

<sup>11</sup> ibid, pp -26

sleeve. He rode his motorcycle with his black engineer boots and his silver belt buckle (Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K., pp-26-27).<sup>12</sup>

Barger joined his first motorcycle club, the Oakland Panthers, back in 1956. This club was a bunch of freewheelers who were locals. This club didn't seem like a real club due to them being just a bunch of kids. Ralph "Sonny" Barger was in search of a club where members could just jump on their bikes and ride cross country whenever they choose. After realizing that the Oakland Panthers was not the motorcycle club (MC) he was looking for, he left the club to look for one that was more suitable (Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K., pp-27).<sup>13</sup>

There was another motorcycle club (MC) formed by ex-GI's who had served in WWII and the Korean War. The name of this club was "Hell's Angels." A (MC) in Detroit who had an association with the American Motorcyclist Association was also called Hell's Angels. There had also been a squadron of Flying Tigers that had flown for the Chinese that was called Hell's Angels (Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K., pp-27-29).<sup>14</sup>

According to Barger (1957):

We talked about starting up another club. One of the bike riders, Boots, Don Reeves, wore a modified Air Force-like patch he'd found in Sacramento, a small skull wearing an aviator cap set inside a set of wings. I thought it was cool as hell. The bottom rocker read "Sacto." (The bottom rocker is an embroidered strip below the patch that identifies the name of the city in which a club's Charter is based.) We later found out that Boot's patch came from a defunct motorcycle club in North Sacramento. Boot's idea was to name our new club after the patch, the Hell's Angels. We all liked the name, so we hit a local trophy shop in Hayward and made up a set of patches based on the design (later called the death head) in April of

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<sup>12</sup> Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K. (2000). Hell's angel: The life and times of Sonny Barger and the Hell' Angels motorcycle club, Harper Collins Publishers Inc., New York, NY, pp-26-27

<sup>13</sup> *ibid*, pp-27

<sup>14</sup> *ibid*, pp-27-29

1957, not really knowing that there were other Hell's Angels motorcycle clubs around the state of California. For almost the first year of our existence we didn't even use "Oakland" as a bottom rocker. Instead, we were "Nomad" Hell's Angels. Yeah, that sounded like us (pp-30).<sup>15</sup>

The Hell's Angel's name would become synonymous with one of the most dangerous and violent motorcycle clubs ever in existence.

The proud emblem for the Hell's Angels is the Winged Death Head. This skull is very angry looking and wears a helmet with streaming feathers behind him. Its meaning is meant to infer "don't fuck with the Angels or we will eat you alive" (Sher, J & Marsden, W., pp-1-2).<sup>16</sup>

The Death Head is the property of the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club. If for some reason a member decides that he does not want to be an Angel anymore, all property of the Hell's Angels is returned back to them. Even Death Head patches that are tattooed on body parts belong to the Hell's Angels and will be removed by force. Methods used could be a belt sander, or removing it by cutting it out with a knife, or, it can even be removed by burning it off with a hot iron. The Angels are firm believers in their Death Head as personal property belonging to their club and they will use any means to recover their said property.

The Angels are considered to be an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG). They fit into an elitist group considered to be a One Percenter.

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<sup>15</sup> Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K. (2000). Hell's angel: The life and times of Sonny Barger and the Hell' Angels motorcycle club, Harper Collins Publishers Inc., New York, NY, pp-30

<sup>16</sup> Sher, J. & Marsden, W . (2006). Angels of death: Inside the biker gangs crime empire, Carol & Graf Publishers: An imprint of Avalon Publishing Company Group, Inc., New York, NY, pp-1-2



According to Dobyns and Shelton (2009):

One Percenter: Moniker stemming from a 1947 Hollister biker riot, following which the American Motorcyclist Association stated that “ninety-nine percent of motorcycle riders are law-abiding citizens and only one percent are outlaws” (pp-323).<sup>17</sup>

Some of these other One Percenters (OMG’s) in the United States are listed in the following examples:

- Outlaws, established in 1935, McCook, Illinois
- Hell’s Angels, established in 1948, Fontana, California
- Pagans, established in 1959, in Prince George’s County, Maryland
- Bandidos, established in 1966, San Leon, Texas
- Mongols, established in 1969, Montebello, California
- Solo Angels, no date, Tijuana Mexico<sup>18</sup>

The (OMGs) Mongols and Solo Angels will play a significant roll later in the paper.

The Mongols are Hell’s Angels mortal enemy. These two (OMGs) will clash in the riot in Laughlin, Nevada at the Harrah’s Hotel and Casino during the River Run Motorcycle Extravaganza, which is held every year in Laughlin This gathering entertains 60,000-100,000 motorcyclists each year.

The Solo Angels are based in Tijuana, Mexico, (OMG) and the Nomad Solo Angels will be the launch pin of “Operation Black Biscuit”, an ATF infiltration into the Hell’s Angels in Arizona.

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<sup>17</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-32

<sup>18</sup> List of outlaw motorcycle gangs (2009, May 29). In Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, Retrieved June 5, 2009, from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_motorcycle\\_gangs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_motorcycle_gangs)

### III. Methodology

Entering the violent, criminal world of Hell's Angels is intended to open the eyes of my readers and inform you just how dangerous and diabolical this (OMG) can be. In the real world, disrespect from one individual towards another individual can be the causation of a violent encounter between those individuals. When it comes to disrespecting a Hell's Angel(s), they take that disrespect to the nth degree.

The following individuals are charged with the alleged murder of Ms. Cynthia Garcia: Kevin Augustiniak is currently awaiting trial. Paul Eischeid (a fugitive from murder charges and placed on the U.S. Marshals' "15 Most Wanted" list). Finally, Michael "Mesa Mike" Kramer, who was a paid informant and, is now in the federal witness protection program and his whereabouts is unknown (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-315-316).<sup>19</sup>.

Ms. Cynthia Garcia fell victim to the Hell's Angel's wrath. Cynthia Garcia, who was in her 40's, was partying with the Hell's Angels on October 25, 2001 in Mesa, Arizona. Through the course of the evening with too much alcohol, Cynthia made the fatal error in her intoxicated state to insult the (HA's) on their own turf. Cynthia was allegedly beaten unconscious by two full patched (HA's), Michael "Mesa Mike" Kramer, Kevin Augustiniak, and a prospect named Paul Eischeid. Ms. Garcia was sprawled out and unconscious on the floor of the clubhouse. Ms. Garcia had a natural brashness about her because when she regained a semblance of consciousness she again repeated this disrespect. This time, they showed her no mercy and began to beat Ms. Garcia. They used their steel toed boots and this beating became a feeding frenzy on an unarmed, defenseless

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<sup>19</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-315-316

woman. Mesa Mike, Augustiniak, and Paul Eischeid then took Ms. Garcia out into the desert. These three Angels proceeded to do some off-roading and dragged her into the bush. On a last attempt by Ms. Garcia, she grabbed Mesa Mike's pant cuff and then Eischeid, who had an old dull buck knife, began to stab her over and over again. These three individuals actually took turns trying to cut off her head. Their intention was to leave her head impaled on a fencepost for the whole world to see. This was never realized due to the dullness of the knife. They were unable to cut through the spine and the head was still attached. This is how a mother of two, who happened to make a bad decision with the wrong company, ended up and was allegedly murdered because of it! Mesa Mike, after this deed, became so full of guilt, flipped (turned informant for the ATF), and helped the ATF in their quest to infiltrate the (HA) in "Operation Black Biscuit" (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-68-69) <sup>20</sup>

Hell's Angels has a saying that they live and die by: "Hell's Angels live for their club and their brothers". One of their credos is: "Step down or aside for no man, no law, no God" (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-74). <sup>21</sup>

This credo is applied to a term used by the (HA), called Rat Pack. It works this way.

According to Ralph Sonny Barger (2000):

"One on all, all on one" means that when you fight with one Hell's Angel, you fight us all. We all know what we have to do if somebody gets out of line, which happens. Assholes get drunk and think they're tough, and there are a whole lot of people out there who like to try to whip a Hell's Angel. If we stood up and fought everybody one-on-one, shit, we'd be fighting nonstop. Instead, it's easier to beat the hell out of the one guy so the next ten guys don't dare try anything. When we

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<sup>20</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-68-69

<sup>21</sup> *ibid*, pp-74

do get down and somebody gets rat-packed, people think that's not fair. We stick up for our own, right or wrong. Think about it. If your own brother is getting his ass kicked, do you give a damn if he's in the wrong or not? Fuck it if he's wrong, fuck it if he's right; you're going to jump in for him. If he's kicking ass, cool; but as soon as he gets hit, then fuck all fair fight. That's the easiest way to relate to a Hell's Angel. If your brother's busted for stealing a car, would you use your house to bail him out of jail, even if he was wrong? We do (39-40)<sup>22</sup>.

This 1960 motorcycle gang known as the Hell's Angels roared into prominence through the California Dream with their leather-jacketed Swastikaed members who got their reputation by terrorizing entire towns with their weapons of choice like lead pipes and bike chains. According to a Time Magazine article published on July 02, 1979, the Hell's Angels had turned into a business conglomerate. There were 18 Angels arraigned in San Francisco on a series of charges where the Federal Courts handed down a 31-page indictment. The gang was charged with trafficking an extensive amount of illegal drugs, including heroin, cocaine, LSD and speed. Also listed in this indictment, the gang members protected their share of this lucrative criminal market by murdering and threatening to commit murder that interfered with their fair share of the pie. According to the FBI, this probe had ranged over a period of two-years in the San Francisco area alone. Hell's Angels have between 250-300 San Francisco members. The other Charters are also in states like New York, Ohio, and the Carolinas (Hell's Angels, pp-1).<sup>23</sup>

According to Mr. Jerry Jenson, Director of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (1979):

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<sup>22</sup> Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K. (2000). Hell's angel: The life and times of Sonny Barger and the Hell' Angels motorcycle club, Harper Collins Publishers Inc, New York Inc, NY, pp-39-40

<sup>23</sup> Hell's Angels (1979, July 02). Time in partnership with CNN, Retrieved on June 17, 2009, pp-1, <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,916827,00.html>

“The investigation established that the organization existed for the purpose of violating the law” (p-1).<sup>24</sup>

The Angels’ by-laws clearly defines that members will distribute drugs to remain a member of the gang, and will maintain a specific quantity and quality of those specified drugs. The drug that is most popular with the Angels is methamphetamines (speed) or (DOA) Dust of Angels. The investigation discovered that the club controlled 90 percent of the trade in Northern California. It was also discovered that the Angels had five labs producing this drug at a daily yield of \$160,000. Also, in the indictment, law enforcement officials seized a pound of speed, heroin in a small amount, and a small arsenal of firearms with 1,000 rounds of ammunition. The California Highway Patrol also found a silk screen device with an insignia and star of California. The Angels allegedly were using this device in the disguise of a vehicle to be members of law enforcement (Hell’s Angels, pp-2).<sup>25</sup>

The National Drug Intelligence Center did an Arizona Drug Assessment. In this study, they found that in Arizona, methamphetamine is the number-one threat. The high purity of the drug and the methamphetamine’s low cost is made readily available for distribution. In some areas, crystal methamphetamine is reported to be of higher levels of abuse than powdered methamphetamine. Demographically, methamphetamine in Arizona, is typically produced by Caucasian criminal organizations like the Hell’s Angels (National Drug Intelligence Center, pp-1).<sup>26</sup>

Crystal methamphetamine is defined in this report as a “colorless, odorless, smokable form of d-methamphetamine that resembles glass fragments or ice shavings. It

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<sup>24</sup> Hell’s Angels (1979, July 02). Time in partnership with CNN, Retrieved on June 17, 2009, pp-1, <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,916827,00.html>

<sup>25</sup> ibid, pp-2,

<sup>26</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center (2003, December). Arizona Drug Threat Assessment, Retrieved, June 20, 2009, pp-1, <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs6/6384/meth.htm>

is produced through the crystallization of methamphetamine powder. Crystal methamphetamine often is referred to as ice, glass, or shards” (National Drug Intelligence Center, pp-2).<sup>27</sup>

According to the N.D.I.C. report it defines tweaking as the following (2003):

As the euphoric effects of methamphetamine diminish, abusers enter the tweaking stage, in which they are prone to violence, delusions, paranoia, and feelings of emptiness and dysphoria. During the tweaking stage, the user often has not slept in days and consequently is extremely irritable. The “tweaker” also craves more methamphetamine, which results in frustration and contributes to anxiety and restlessness. At this stage methamphetamine users may become violent without provocation. Case histories indicate that tweakers have reacted violently to the mere sight of a police uniform (pp-8-9).<sup>28</sup>

The members of the Hell’s Angels Motorcycle Club are producers of the drug methamphetamine in the State of Arizona. They are an independent group who collaboratively work with Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs). Incarcerated Hell’s Angels have cultivated strong criminal affiliations with the Mexican traffickers. These networks have led to a large escalation of their production and distribution of the drug. It was reported by the Gilbert Police Department that the Hell’s Angels, along with Mexican Mafia Prison Gangs, are retailing the drug in their areas. It was also reported by law enforcement in Flagstaff and Yavapai County in Arizona that the Hell’s Angels are also distributing methamphetamine at a retail level in their areas. In Tucson, the police departments have sent out information that there is activity of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) like the Hell’s Angels and the Devil’s Disciples. They are distributing methamphetamines in their city ((National Drug Intelligence Center, pp-12-13 and 16-17).

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<sup>27</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center (2003, December). Arizona Drug Threat Assessment, Retrieved, June 20, 2009, pp-1, <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs6/6384/meth.htm>

<sup>28</sup> *ibid*, pp-8-9

<sup>29</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center (2003, December). Arizona Drug Threat

Lastly, the following illustration of the Hell's Angels organization depicts its own hierarchy. The Hell's Angel's hierarchy levels of hangaround, prospect and full patched members will be discussed later in "Operation Black Biscuit". This illustration is listed on the next page, under Table- I

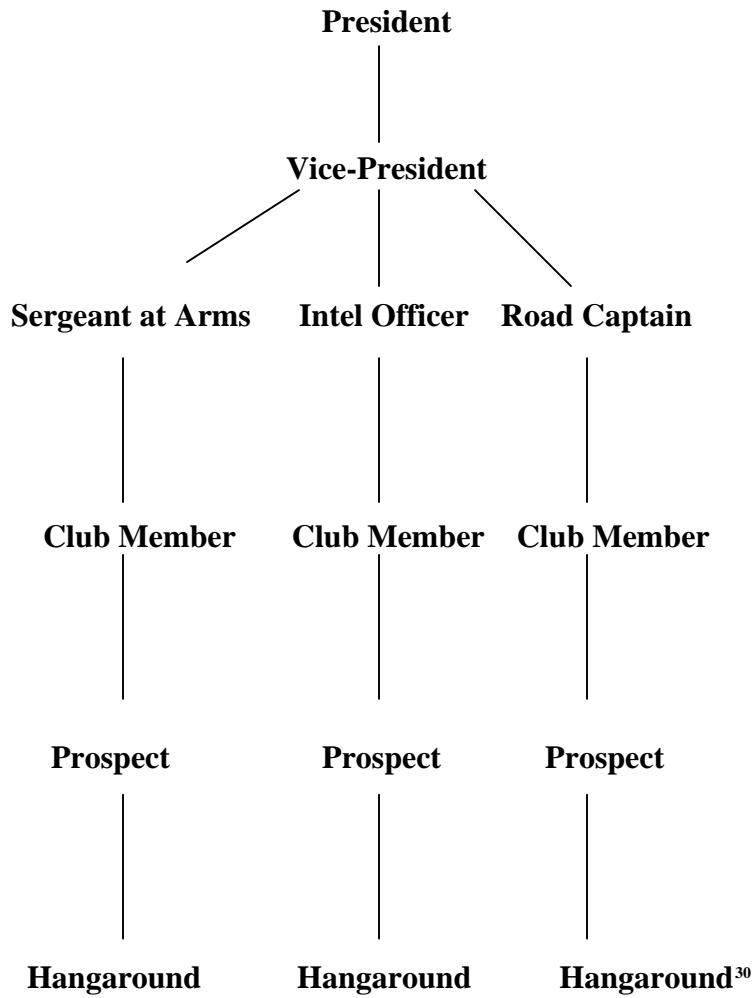
#### **IV. Table-I**

### **Hell's Angels Charter**

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Assessment, Retrieved, June 20, 2009, pp-12-13 and 16-17 ,<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs6/6384/meth.htm>

# Hierarchy



## V. ATF Undercover Agent Jay Dobyns (Jay Bird)

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<sup>30</sup> A & E Television Network (Producer), (2007). History Channel and reg-ventures, Behind the enemy lines, 50-minutesTelevision Broadcast]. Marketed and distributed in U.S. by New Video



In 1982, Jay Dobyms attended the University of Arizona and played wide receiver for the Wildcats. By the time he graduated, he made All-Pac-10. He had been lightly scouted and did participate in the Combine, but his heart and his athletic ability could not compensate for his slow speed at 4.6 in the 40 yard dash. In that particular NFL class of wide receivers that year, Dobyms was competing with mega talents such as: Vance Johnson, Al Toon, Andre Reed, Eddie Brown, and Jerry Rice. His dreams had been dashed to have a football career in the NFL and eventually, Dobyms turned to law enforcement (Dobyms, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-9-11).<sup>31</sup>

After considering the FBI and the Secret Service, he decided to choose the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Fire Arms and Explosives (ATF), and went from a top collegiate athlete to a hard core undercover cop. As a rookie, when attempting to secure an arrest, Agent Dobyms had been shot in the chest and almost died. By being shot he felt a rush for the streets and, through this feeling, he thought that working undercover was the only job for him. He was convinced that sitting behind those large desks were for castrated dummies (Dobyms, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-15-16).<sup>32</sup>

After the shooting, Jay Dobyms came to the realization that his job was not a glamorous one like the undercover agents Crockett and Tubbs who were depicted on the television show Miami Vice. These undercover agents wore Armani Suits, drove fast cars, and piloted fast cigarette speed boats. Their beat was Miami and they were always surrounded by beautiful women lying around poolside with their scant bikinis in those luxurious hotels located in Miami Beach. For ATF Agent Dobyms, his beat was dealing with sleazy toothless strippers and ex-Vietnam Veterans who were disgruntled with life.

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<sup>31</sup> Dobyms, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-9-11

<sup>32</sup> *ibid*, pp-15-16

He would do dope deals with tweakers who used methamphetamines and lived in trailer parks. He still loved his job and, after the shooting, he went back to the academy for more training. After graduating, the ATF then sent him to Chicago where he learned from a younger and a very intelligent undercover agent, Chris Bayless, who is still one of his closest friends today (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-17).<sup>33</sup>

In the years that followed the shooting, and especially the summer of 2001, Agent Dobyns had experienced things that citizens could not even begin to fathom. He'd been in another shootout and had a number of handguns pointed in his face. During this period, he had purchased and sold an abundance of drugs and arrested hundreds of criminals. Agent Jay Dobyns's street name was (Jay Bird) or just (Bird). Bird had worked previous cases and was portrayed as a biker who had business cards printed with *Imperial Financial*. His business was collections (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-20).<sup>34</sup>

When asked about his business, he would explain in the following way:

According to Dobyns (2009):

“You know, a John Doe fucks up at the Bellagio and goes back to Omaha with a line of unpaid credit, they can't send a security detail to beat the gold out of him on his front lawn. Bad publicity. That's where I come in. Yeah, I guess it's pretty cool, if I stop to think about it, which I don't. Pays the bills, keeps the lawn green, and doesn't take up too much of my time (p-20).<sup>35</sup>

As an undercover agent portraying a collector who rode a motorcycle, he was asked by a gun shop owner, Bob Abraham, if he was a One Percenter. Being a One Percenter gives a person instant credibility with an individual such as Abraham (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-21).<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp -17

<sup>34</sup> Ibid, pp-20

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, pp-20

<sup>36</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown

“One Percenter” had been coined in 1947 at the Hollister, California melee. This melee had been instigated by a roughshod bunch of bikers that the American Motorcyclist Association labeled as One Percenters. This criminal element, or outlaw type, was proud of this moniker which became a household name. Now, by today’s standards, the One Percenters are outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs). The rest of the other bikers are called the Ninety- nine Percenters. These bikers are law abiding citizens who ostracized these outcast outlaw bikers. Any (OMG) respects the badge of a One Percenter that they wear proudly. These bikers’ vests are easily identified by having their sleeves cut off and the material is usually leather or denim jackets called cuts. These cuts are ornately decorated with the “three piece patch” of the outlaw biker. The patch has three separate areas located on the back of their cut. It has a large center patch that depicts the logo of the motorcycle club (the Infamous Hell’s Angels Patch is the laughing winged skull or “Death Head”). The second patch is a curved rocker-shaped “top rocker” that contains the name of the club, and lastly the “bottom rocker” which depict the wearer’s affiliation to his charter, which holds the name of a city or state. The club could also have international ties listed on the back of their cut and represent a listing of the internationality of their club and country. The top outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) in the country are: the Pagans located in the East, the Outlaws in the Midwest, the Bandidos in Texas, and finally, the Hell’s Angels, which is considered to be the premiere (OMG) in the United States and the World for that matter (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-21).<sup>37</sup>

According to Dobyns (2009):

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Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-21

<sup>37</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-21

(Bird explained away to Abraham the gun shop owner)

Yeah, I ride. You see a patch on my back? Well, then I'm not a One Percenter, so quit asking. Yep, that's my bike, the one with the baseball bat strapped to the sissy bars. What's it for? I'm a huge D-Backs fan, Luis Gonzales is my boy. Naw, man. Whaddya think? That's right, dude, the collections. Baseball bat can come in handy in my line. But, listen, I got another business, maybe you can help me out? I need guns. Small ones, big ones, fast ones, slow ones. No papers. Hit-and-run deals I can throw in the river, you know what I'm saying (pp-20)?<sup>38</sup>

Abraham's knowledge of guns was very vast and he was aware of every make and model. Abraham sold Jay Bird two .45s with no papers or forms attached. It was strictly a cash and carry deal. It was a ridiculously easy purchase.

According to Dobyns (2009):

Through the years I was often amused by how quickly suspects decided to trust me. Criminality is a brutal, sometimes comical, game of one-upmanship. Bad guys are constantly trying to prove to one another-and themselves-that they're badder and harder than the next guy. This is one reason Abraham wanted to know if I was a "One Percenter" (pp-21).<sup>39</sup>

After more gun purchases, Abraham made introductions to Scott Varvil, John Core, and Sean McManama, who then introduced Bird to a machinist by the name of Tim Holt. Holt made a bunch of silencers. These men were very important because of their commonality. They loved guns and they were white. These individuals were also poor, but the most important tie-in, they all knew Smitty who was high on the chain of the hierarchy for the local Hell's Angels Arizona Nomad Charter. These Nomad charters are divisions within the clubs that belong to a state such as Arizona. Arizona for example, has fixed charters in Tucson, Mesa, Phoenix, Cave Creek, and Skull Valley. Their Nomad charter has a state covered small clubhouse located in Flagstaff, Arizona. Varvil interested Bird the most out of the entire Mohave Firearms sect. Varvil said that Smitty loved him

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<sup>38</sup> ibid,pp-20

<sup>39</sup> ibid, pp-21

and that the Angels wanted to recruit him, but because of his job as a school nurse, his stature in the Hell's Angels was not considered to be bad enough to suit them. Because of this, they could not include him in their ranks. Abraham vouched for Bird to Varvil, who then showed him his gun vault. Varvil had every gun from every decade of the twentieth century and guns from dozens of countries. Varvil handed Bird an AR-15 with a fully auto three-position switch. Weeks passed by and Jay Bird did a ruse deal with John Core. Core was told by him that he was selling guns to Mexican gangsters at this local body shop and asked him to come as a back-up. Prior to arriving at the shop, Jay Bird and Core stopped at a gas station to get a Big Gulp. Jay Bird emptied it on the ground and then filled it up with gasoline. Bird said, "These Mexican Gangsters are some pretty bad asses". He told Core that when they enter the body shop, if the shit hits the fan, Bird would throw the gas on the main dude, throw his cigarette at him, and light his ass-up and run the hell out of there. Bird told Core, "In these type of situations, when they go off, your rep is at stake, and you need to take care of business (TCB)". Unbeknownst to Core, these Mexican Gangsters were all cops and this was never going to happen (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-21-23).<sup>40</sup>

After setting up some deals, McManama solicited Bird to murder his wife's ex-husband and even supplied him with the handgun that he wanted him to use. Bird's modus operandi or (MO) has been in this position before. How he would handle this is to slow down the request. Bird would demand that if the suspect was considering doing such a serious crime, it would have to be on his own terms so that it could be done correctly. During that interim, usually and hopefully, the suspect had a change in heart and would

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<sup>40</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-21-23

cancel the murder for hire. This is just what McManama did a few weeks later. Canceled the hit! The credibility that Bird established because he was willing to do a hit would be highly beneficial for his street rep, and in the interim, the prosecutors would have a very good conspiracy charge to level on that suspect. Bird continued buying a shit load of guns from Varvil. In a twelve week period, some of the weapons that Bird purchased were the following: a Czechoslovakian .32-caliber semiauto pistol, a Rohm .22-caliber revolver, an FIE model A27 .25-caliber pistol, an Intratec Tec-22, 9 mm pistol with a compatible silencer; a Sites Spectre HC 9 mm semiauto pistol; and many more. Bird was able to purchase 40 silencers from Holt and McManama who brokered the deal. On the weekends, Bird, the hard core undercover agent, would become Jay Dobyms, the family man, and would settle down for some innocence time with his family. Dobyms's family lived in Tucson and he made it a point to drive down there at least twice a week. There he coached his son's T-ball league. During the Riverside case, Dobyms never missed a game. On Sunday, Bird's wife, Gwen, would give him a trunk load of food to take back to his other life. Later that evening Bird was back at it, hanging in the Inferno-Lounge with Abraham and Varvil. This bar was the place to be for everyone to see in Bullhead City. Varvil and Bird sat at the bar discussing the upcoming Florence Prison Run, which was known by everyone. All of the Arizona Motorcycle Clubs would jump on their bikes, ride up to Florence Prison, and pay their respects to their incarcerated brothers (Dobyms, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-23, 25-26).<sup>41</sup>

Agent Dobyms (Jay Bird) had his cover established and didn't realize it, but because of the "Brawl Down At Harrah's" that happens on April 27, 2002, law

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<sup>41</sup> Dobyms, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-23, 25-26

enforcement was at its end with the Hell's Angels and "Operation Black Biscuit" was being put together by the ATF's Special Agent Joseph "Slats" Slatalla to end their criminal reign.

## **VI. Brawl Down At Harrah's**

Bird participated in the Florence Prison Run. Varvil, who didn't ride this time, said it right, "It was a sight to behold". Bird rode with Mesa "Mike" Kramer, who was our confidential informant (CI) from another case out of Los Angeles who was one of the Angels that ATF got to flip. Special Agent John Ciccone wasn't aware exactly why he did flip? The importance of having a (CI) like Mesa Mike was the friends he kept. Mesa Mike introduced Bird to his closest friends from the Mesa Angels like Cal Schaefer, Kevin Augustiniak, and Paul Eischeid. He also had the Solo's focus on other friends of his from the group at a distance, such as Mesa Angels' president, Bad "Bob" Johnston, and vice president, Whale Smitty from Bullhead. Lastly, a humongous guy, named Chico, who hailed from the Phoenix Hell's Angel Charter. Mesa Mike let Bird know that Chico was very dangerous and that he'd kill anyone, even a brother Hell's Angel if he thought they'd deserve it (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-28-29).<sup>42</sup>

Laughlin, Nevada is a small town just a short distance from Las Vegas, Nevada. There is an extravaganza held there every year called the River Run. This is a motorcycle event held each year which can attract anywhere from 60,000-100,000 motorcyclists from all over the country. On April 27, 2002, The Hell's Angels and their mortal enemy, the Mongols, would clash at Harrah's Hotel and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada. During this event, the Angels were currently staying in the Flamingo Hilton and the Mongols were

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<sup>42</sup> *ibid*, pp-28-29

staying at the Harrah's. Laughlin had plenty of cops there. Speaking for the ATF, we had Special Agents Ciccone and Slats, and in support of them, were Gregg "Sugarbear" Cowan and Jay Bird Dobyns. Also, some of our other fellow undercover ATF agents were agents like John "Babyface" Carr, Sean "Spiderman" Hoover, and Darren "Koz" Kozlowski. These agents were also supported by Jenna "JJ" Maguire, a female agent. The team was staying at the Flamingo Hilton because this is where the Angels were staying. The team's main intention was to meet Donald "Smitty" Smith. He was in the Hells Angels Nomad Arizona Charter. Koz and Bird made their way to the bar and introduced themselves to Smitty. When Bird told him who he was, Smitty nodded and said he knew who he was. Bird told him that he felt flattered. Smitty said, "It was nice to meet you, and hope to see you around", then walked away. During the rest of the evening, Koz and Bird planted themselves at the bar looking over the situation. On different occasions, they eyeballed Smitty who crossed the floor a few more times that evening. During that time one memory stands out vividly. Another Hell's Angel whispered to Smitty on two different occasions. This Angel was identified as a Skull Valley member and had a Filthy Few Patch. This patch symbolizes that he committed an act of extreme violence like killing someone for the club. This Angel reminded Bird of the Nestlé's Quick Rabbit. Later, Rabbit and Smitty reappeared at a black jack table for a few minutes, then as fast as they appeared; they disappeared with every other Hell's Angel in the Flamingo Hotel (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-32-33).<sup>43</sup>

When the agents were at the Flamingo Hotel, our team witnessed their rapid departure of Smitty and his Angels. Unbeknownst to the team, there was another

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<sup>43</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-32-34



development with ten Frisco Angels and the Mongols at a long bar at Harrah's called Rosie's Cantina. This rectangular bar has purple columns, and behind these corners, people play games like Keno. There are video poker and slot machines. These ten Angels from the San Francisco Charter walked into Harrah's wearing their cuts and were at the northern end of the bar where they tried to drink. The Mongols did not want the (HA) there, and the Angels knew this and called their brothers at the Flamingo. They immediately emptied the hotel and responded to Harrah's to protect their brothers. There is a saying used by the (HA), "Take Care of Business" (TCB), which means to do whatever is necessary for the club (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-35, and 325).<sup>44</sup>

The Angels cleared out of the Flamingo, arrived at Harrah's, and ran into the lobby where they intended to take care of business (TCB) with their mortal enemies, the Mongols. The (HA) moved toward their Frisco brothers to protect them with their metal clinking in their waistbands. As the groups faced off, an Angel named Ray Ray Foakes, kicked a Mongol in the chest and that was the spark that started the fire storm. The Angels had hammers and took out cheeks and ears. Some of the Angels had heavy Mag-Lites and took out knees and legs. The bikers then unsheathed their knives, dripping with blood from sheathing and re-sheathing their knives after stabbing each other in a repeated fashion. Guns were pulled out and fired. After the gunfire, three bikers were killed; two were Hell's Angels and one was a Mongol. In this two to three minute riot, no Angel ran or removed his cut. That can't be said for the Mongols who tried to avoid Angels in waiting. Once the Mongols felt they were at a safe distance, they turned and ran. After the riot, police found Mongol cuts stuffed into garbage cans. The Angels stood tall and held their ground. Every

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<sup>44</sup> *ibid*, pp-35 and 325

Hell's Angel's cut was in place and proudly worn. Later on that evening on a dark highway outside of Laughlin, another Angel was gunned down. To date, the Laughlin riot remains the most violent casino violence in Nevada history. These gangs showed no respect for authority and turned a tourist vacation resort into a blood bath between motorcycle gang rivalries. By far, this disrespectful criminal act was the final causation that challenged law enforcements' authority, such as the ATF, to infiltrate the violent criminal world of the Hell's Angels and take it down. The following undercover operation, would be called "Operation Black Biscuit" (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-34-38).

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## **VII. "Operation Black Biscuit"**

Courageous individuals such as ATF agents Jay Dobyns, aka (Jay Bird), Jenna Maguire, aka ("JJ"), and William Long, a detective for the Phoenix Police Department, aka (Timmy), and Carlos Cannino and any other law enforcement officer who works undercover is a special breed. Carlos was an excellent addition to the group. He hailed from the Miami Field Division where he spoke fluent Spanish. In his deep cover experience, he worked Mexican drug pushers in the Pacific Northwest area, along with Cuban Miami mobsters (Droban, K, pp-10).<sup>46</sup> Also, there are Special Agents like Joseph Slatalla aka (Slats) who had the fortitude to develop this complex and dangerous plan. There were also other unsung heroes that had taken part in this very successful infiltration into the Hell's Angels, one of the most dangerous Outlaw Motorcycle Gang criminal enterprises (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-.IX).<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-34-38

<sup>46</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF's infiltration of the Hell's Angels, Guilford, CT, pp-10

<sup>47</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp--IX

The mission of “Operation Black Biscuit” was to infiltrate the Hell’s Angels by placing ATF agents into the organization as club members or full patched club members. This would be a very difficult task-oriented undercover project. Before becoming a full patched Hell’s Angel you have to go through the following levels: hangaround to prospect, then the ultimate level, full patched member. Hangarounds are also called “slick backs”. When you are a hangaround your vests had to be bare. These individuals wear tabs or license plates around their necks. The reason for this is in case a melee would occur; the Hell’s Angels were bound to defend their own. The prospects were one-level higher than the hangarounds and considered probationary club members (Droban, K, pp-8-9) <sup>48</sup>

The infamous Ralph “Sonny” Barger, the president of the Angels for a forty year run, did a five-year prison term in the Phoenix area and fell in love with the climate of Arizona. He decided to transfer from the Oakland California Charter to the Cave Creek Charter. This is a suburb located just outside of Phoenix (Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K., pp-250).<sup>49</sup>

The following fact is very important. For a club like the Hell’s Angels to come from being a nonexistent environment to the main feature within a five year time span is very significant. This was proof enough to Slat that the Angels were exercising their influence on another dangerous (OMG), the Dirty Dozen Motorcycle Club. This club is also located in Arizona and was being influenced to patch over to the Angels or just

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<sup>48</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF’s infiltration of the Hell’s Angels, Guilford, CT, pp-8-9

<sup>49</sup> Barger, R.S. & Zimmerman, K & Zimmerman, K. (2000). Hell’s angel: The life and times of Sonny Barger and the Hell’ Angels motorcycle club, Harper Collins Publishers Inc., New York, NY, pp-250

disappear. Organizations like the Angels are tailor-made for the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) cases (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-.30).<sup>50</sup>

Joseph “Slats” Slatalla was a top notch Special Agent for the ATF. When he contacted Agent Dobyns about working his Hell’s Angels case, Dobyns jumped at the chance to work with him. The undercover agents’ team that Slats put together would be working with Dobyns. Special Agent Carlos Canino, an old friend and partner of Dobyns was from the Miami Office. A veteran, Billy “Timmy” Long, a Phoenix police detective, and other support team members were undercover police officers from departments such as the ATF from Phoenix, Glendale and Tempe police departments. Also involved were the Arizona Department of Public Safety; the Maricopa County Sheriff’s office; and the Drug Enforcement Agency. They were all on board with the operation. There were two other team members which were informants. Rudy Kramer, who Slats got to flip and another informant on the team, was Pops. Pops was a fifty-something paid informant. Dobyns met him back in 1996 through other investigations. At the time, Pops was a tweaker! A tweaker uses methamphetamines and Pops was heavily involved with the meth game. Dobyns laid the law down and explained to Pops that there was a zero tolerance on using any type of drug. If he lied, Agent Dobyns would let him loose. The name “Operation Black Biscuit” originated from Slats who was a big time fan of the Detroit Red Wings Hockey Team. Black Biscuit is the slang for the hockey puck. This was a perfect situation because the Slats family and Dobyns family socialized because their wives were friends (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-.39-41 and 43).<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp--30

<sup>51</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-39-41 and 43

Rudy Kramer was a repeat offender and a longtime biker who could identify prominently three mug shots of the Hell's Angels that he knew personally from the Mesa Arizona Charter. These photos ranged from Robert "Bad Bob" Johnston, Mesa Charter president, Daniel "Hoover" Seybert, and Ralph "Sonny" Barger himself. He also knew accurate information that Sonny rode with a windshield protector to protect his throat after having laryngeal cancer. Rudy was an inactive member from the Solo Angels Motorcycle Gang which is based in Tijuana, Mexico. The Solos have a small representation in the San Diego-Los Angeles area. The plan was to approach the Hell's Angels and ask them permission to start a Nomad Charter for the Solo Angels in the Arizona area and Rudy would be the president. The objective was that once they established themselves in Arizona, they wanted to work their way into the Hell Angels good graces and earn their respect. This would be very significant in formulating a case on the Angels for RICO charges because the Angels would control the (OMGs) (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-44-45).<sup>52</sup>

The Angels asked Rudy why he was so hot in starting the Solos in Arizona. Rudy told "Bad Bob" that it was the proximity of Mexico to Arizona for the running of drugs and guns. "Bad Bob" asked Rudy about Solo's standing on the Mongols. Rudy said that, "The Solos have not taken a formal position, but would give the Angels a heads-up when they would see them on the border". On July 13, 2002, the deal was formalized at Church a club meeting referred to by the Hell's Angels. It was agreed upon that the Solo Angels could operate freely within Arizona as long as the Solos didn't fly an Arizona rocker. The Solo colors were orange and sewn with pumpkin-colored thread. On the back of the cuts

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<sup>52</sup> *ibid*, pp- 44-45

were three patches. The top rocker said SOLO ANGELS and the bottom rocker said TIJUANA. Additionally, there was a side rocker saying NOMADS (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-51-52).<sup>53</sup>

The undercover operatives' first objective was to roll as a (OMG) into a biker spectacle, "To Broke for Sturgis", where the Hell's Angels would be. Our team made their first contacts at Sturgis as an (OMG). Rudy knew Cruze from the Red Devils (OMG) and Cruze took Rudy over to the Angels' tent and made Rudy's introduction as the president of the Solo Angels to Dennis Denbesten. Denbesten is a drug felon and was recently released from prison. Denbesten was close to Smitty and Rudy acknowledged the group as his Solo Angels. Denbesten said, "Bad Bob, our president, said you would be stopping in". Denbesten said, "We knew about your club". The Solo Angels then intermingled with the Hell's Angels and talked highly about Bad "Bob" Johnston and how glad they had received the Hell's Angels' blessing. They ate and drank, and thanked the Hell's Angels for letting them pay their respects. Everything at Sturgis went pretty smooth with the exception of Timmy almost losing it on Rudy. Rudy was overdoing that president bull shit and Timmy was on the receiving end of him demeaning him as a prospect in front all of those (OMGs). After talking to Timmy, Bird needed to calm him down. Timmy regained his composure and was back on track. The Solo Angels had accomplished what they set out to do (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-57-58).<sup>54</sup>

The connection was made and the Solo Angels were now entering the Mesa Hell's Angels' Clubhouse, which is located in a residential neighborhood. This clubhouse is a

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<sup>53</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-51-52

<sup>54</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-57-58

single level ranch with a carport outside. When the Solos arrived they were met by five Hell's Angels. Rudy knew them as Ghost, Trigger, Bighead, Stroker Dave, and Rockem, who was the prospect. The Hell's Angels wanted the Solos to give them their guns, but they explained to them that they don't give-up their guns to no one, and that they didn't mean any disrespect by it. They were escorted to Bad "Bob" Johnston who stood 6' 5" and weighed 230 lbs. Jay Bird reflected back on Johnston's rap sheet in his mind with his arrests on extortion, assault, reckless endangerment, narcotics distribution, and a felon who was in possession of a firearm. Bad Bob said he made the rules, but signaled to the other Angels saying that it was okay. The Hell's Angels let them in as the Solos heard them lock the deadbolts on the door behind them. One person had already been killed on the floor of the clubhouse. This victim was Cynthia Garcia.

Bad Bob went behind the bar and rummaged through a box and came out with stickers with the acronym, HAMC (Hell's Angels Mesa Club). These were support stickers and patches that he wanted the Solo Angels to have. Bird's cell phone then rang and he heard his son, Jack, say, "hello daddy". Bird blew it off and answered, "What's up Big Lou?" Lou was Bird's imaginary boss and was also the code for his family to put their mother on the phone. When his wife got on the phone, he exhaled his smoke and she began to lecture him on smoking and how disgusting it was. Bird acted like he was getting instructions by Big Lou on his next collection job and hung the phone up. They questioned him as to who it was and he told them that it was Big Lou. Bad Bob then led them to the V.I. P. area where music was being played by a DJ. As we walked in behind Bad Bob, it was like the Red Sea parting. The Solos were taken to an area where there were scantily-clad women. Some of these women were good looking and others were scraggy looking.

Bad Bob gave his approval of the business ventures between the Solos and Cruze, who was with the Red Devils (OMG). “Man has to make a living”, Johnston retorted. Johnston then told Bird that, “I heard good things about you”, and the vibe was that Bad Bob seemed to trust them. Bird told him, “We have your backs if we run into the Mongols down in Nogales, Mexico and we will let you know”. The Hell’s Angels were always trying to give the Solos a bump with meth. The undercover team always had to dodge that bullet, and fortunately, they did (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-67-70 and 72).<sup>55</sup>

There were still trials and tribulations ahead of them. The president of the Solos was a criminal informant who hated cops. Rudy would have loved to see our agent’s smoked, because they were ATF Agents. He was a dooper and undependable. As the Solo’s president, he said everything was cool as a Nomad Charter. Although, the undercover operatives found out that it wasn’t cool. Rudy then informed our team that the Solo Angels were not official in the Solo Angels World Headquarters in Tijuana, Mexico, and it wasn’t okay to fly their colors in Arizona”. This is what happens when you have to deal with a criminal like Rudy.

Immediately, drastic measures had to be taken. The team had to send Pops and Rudy down to Tijuana. By the time the case had ended, the amount of dues that had to be paid out to the Headquarters of the Solo Angels in Tijuana totaled \$3000.00 (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-89).<sup>56</sup>

Agent Dobyns decided to clear his head and went to Mission Beach down in San Diego to do some surfing. Bird passed a bar called the Lahaina Beach Club when he heard

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<sup>55</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-67-70 and 72

<sup>56</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-89



someone say, “Hey Baldy”. There sat Smitty, his wife Lydia, and Pete Eunice. Pete was the Dago Angel (San Diego Hell’s Angel Charter) in Laughlin. He was the shooter in the riot there. Smitty asked Bird what he was doing there. Bird replied that he was there on collection business, and was heading to Tijuana on Solo Angels’ business. Pete asked if Bird surfed. Bird said, “fuck yeah I surf” (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-92).<sup>57</sup>

Bird invited Smitty, Lydia and Pete out to dinner at Jose’s in La Jolla for surf-and-turf later on that evening, and they accepted. At the Holiday Inn where a bunch of agents were at a conference, Bird gathered Carlos and other agents, as well as J.J. McGuire, who was the young female agent. Bird filled Agent Jenna “JJ” McGuire in about the plan for the evening for a couple of hours before dinner. She would be at the bar at Jose’s, and as per chance, Bird and they would meet as old flames. After the per-chance meeting, he would invite her back to their table. If “JJ” found that she became uncomfortable, she could just leave without creating any suspicion. It was very important that eventually Bird had to have a girlfriend who would not take any shit, and be able to survive the biker world. Jenna “JJ” McGuire was that person. She was fearless, had intelligence, and a positive attitude. The main attribute that “JJ” had is that she was very attractive. This would be the first thing the Angels would remark upon. The team was polished and very professional when Carlos made the introduction to everyone as Solo associates. Everyone on the team fell all over Smitty, and told him just how honored everyone was to have this opportunity to sit with him. Smitty and Lydia loved “JJ”. It was a great performance

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<sup>57</sup> *ibid*, pp-92

because she was such a natural. At this juncture, Smitty then leaned over and asked Bird if he'd do a collection for him (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-93-95)?<sup>58</sup>

Agent Carlos Canino (aka) Carlos Jimenez had been recalled back to Miami's Field Office. Bird met Carlos in Tucson to assist in a gun deal that Timmy and Pops had set-up with Doug Dam, who is a Tucson Hell's Angel. In this deal our undercover (UC) team was able to purchase a .38 Taurus blue steel five-shot revolver, a 9 mm, which was a dirty gun with an unknown make, and a .40 caliber. Our operatives paid \$800.00 for them and our team also purchased a Chinese Model 213 blue steel 9 mm semi-auto and a Hi-Standard Model A .22 long round semi-auto target pistol. After deals like these, they were recalling him. Carlos was a real asset to the team. He had to be extracted in a way that didn't bring any suspicion. Slats happened to read the Arizona Republic Newspaper where he saw that a Phoenix landscaper had been arrested in Chicago for drug trafficking, and ironically, he happened to have the same last name Jimenez, as Carlos. Bird and Carlos looked at Smitty and Lydia who were talking about the Laughlin Grand Jury. They were nervous with anticipation as to when it was going to come down. Carlos told Smitty that it was reported in the Arizona Republic Newspaper that his cousin had been busted the day before. He showed Smitty the article! Smitty told Carlos just how sorry he was. Carlos said that his cousin was a piece of shit, but unfortunately, he and his cousin did some things together. The cops would be coming for him if he didn't leave the area. He didn't want to put anyone in a jackpot, so Carlos was leaving and would come back when he could (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-104,107, 112-114).<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp- 93-95

<sup>59</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp-104, 107, 112-114

Rudy had been on the team's mind and it was a given that he was going down. On the other hand, "JJ" started her part-time assignment on November 5<sup>th</sup> and from that point in time, she was assigned to "Operation Black Biscuit". "JJ" was a very important part of the group. This courageous young female agent would be a major buffer zone between Bird and the Hell's Angels. Her portrayal as Bird's girlfriend dissuaded the Angels with attempts of giving him their daughters and any other Biker Babe they wanted to throw at him. Plus, she was able to fit in with the women bikers who rode with the Angels. As one example given, they offered "JJ" and Bird a bump of meth, and Bird reminded them that he didn't do that anymore. "JJ" was then able to say, "No thanks, not as long as Bird is my old man". She was a very important cog in this investigation (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-143 and 188).<sup>60</sup>

Rudy Kramer had become a liability to the team. The Solo Angels were riding in a bike formation that was standard with Rudy leading the way as president. A police helicopter was swooping in from a westward direction. There were marked and unmarked police units. Rudy told the Solo Angels to follow him. Bird told him, "Today ain't my day to die, Rude. These dudes don't look to be fucking around." Bird knew that they had their orders to take him down. They executed the warrant on Rudy Kramer, a felon with a possession of a firearm. They placed the Solo Angels flat on the ground and on their stomachs. They found in his saddle bags a loaded pistol with a three-ounce bag of meth. He was handcuffed and led away. Slats, by this genius play, cut out the weak link and Rudy was gone (Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N, pp-150-151).<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>60</sup> *ibid.*, pp-143 and 188

<sup>61</sup> Dobyns, J. & Johnson-Shelton, N. (2009). *No angel, my harrowing undercover journey to the inner circle of the hells angels* Crown Publishers, an imprint of the Crown Publishing Group, a division of Random House, Inc, New York, NY, pp- 150-151

Word soon leaked out that Rudy was talking to federal agents behind the prison walls. Bad “Bob” Johnston, Mesa Hell’s Angels’ president, confided to an undercover operative that Kramer might have to be “shanked” in prison (Wagner, D., pp-3).<sup>62</sup>

In 2002, Bird came up with a ruse by deceiving the Hell’s Angels when he told them that they were out of the Solo Angels because they supported the Mongols. Hell’s Angels’ Skull Valley Charter vice president, Egg Head, told Bird that after they finished their business with the Solos, they would become hangarounds for the Skull Valley Charter of the Hell’s Angels. They made a giant forward step. The next step was prospect, then full patched member (Droban, K., pp-129-130).<sup>63</sup>

As a hangaround you ran with the Angels attending events that included motorcycle runs and attended meetings with the members. Timmy stated, “We’re fucking waiters”. The ATF operatives chose the Skull Valley Charter of the Hell’s Angels to be sanctioned as hangarounds because of the arms deals that continued along with all of the drug deals. “Operation Black Biscuit” had approached their 16<sup>th</sup> month and everyone was wired tight (Droban, K., pp-135).<sup>64</sup>

In May of 2003 the operatives had a close call when Joby Walters, of the Skull Valley Charter, called Bird and told him to bring all of his guns because they were going to Las Vegas to (TCB). The Banditos wanted to infiltrate Arizona which is the Hell’s Angels territory. The plan was that the Banditos were coming to Vegas. The Hell’s Angels, along with their new prospects, (Bird, Timmy, and Pops, who had just been promoted), were ordered to kill every Bandito. If they didn’t, they would get killed. There

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<sup>62</sup> Wagner, D (2005, January 23). Hell’s Angels: The Federal Infiltration, Retrieved, June 21, 2009, pp-3, <http://www.azcentral.com/specials/special42/articles/0123Hell'sangels23.html>

<sup>63</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF’s infiltration of the Hell’s Angels, Guilford, CT, pp-129-130

<sup>64</sup> *ibid*, pp -135

had been no time to warn Slats. They were traveling to Vegas and Bird said that he needed to pull in for gas. He also said that he had to use the men's room. There he was able to make the following 2-minute phone call to his boss, Slats (Droban, K., pp-167 and 169).<sup>65</sup>

According to Dobyys (2003):

“We've been ordered to kill Banditos. Get every cop you can on line in Vegas and make sure you tell them to stop, arrest, harass, do whatever the fuck they have to do to keep the Banditos away from the Eagles Lodge”(pp-169).<sup>66</sup>

Slats pulled it off. No Bandito showed up at the Eagles Lodge. At 8:00 p.m. the Angels called it off and we returned as conquering heroes, because we were willing to kill for the club. As far as the Skull Valley Charter was concerned, it was bad luck that the Banditos did not show up (Droban, K., pp-169).<sup>67</sup>

Bird came up with a scheme to remove Pops who was getting too stressed out and needed extracted from the operation. There was a Mongol down in Mexico who was badmouthing the Hell's Angels. His plan was told to the Skull Valley Charter. Bird told them that Pops would go down to Mexico and scout out this Mongol. Bird heard from Pops who said that the Mongol was in Zacatecas, Mexico. Bird discussed this with Joby Walters and said that he and Timmy were heading down south. He told Joby that he couldn't bring a murder weapon back into this country, and asked if there was any weapon he would like us to sell down there? Joby retrieved a .380 9 mm semiautomatic, which had the serial number filed off (Droban, K., pp-177 and 181).<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>65</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF's infiltration of the Hell's Angels, Guilford, CT, pp-167 and 169)

<sup>66</sup> ibid, pp-169

<sup>67</sup> ibid, pp-169

<sup>68</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF's infiltration of the Hell's Angels, Guilford, CT, pp -177 and 181

The stage was set and a detective, who worked for the Phoenix Police Department named Woody, would play the slain Mongol. His role would be played out by using a cow's stomach which was placed on the head of the detective, illustrating the head wound on the alleged dead Mongol. The cow's blood was smeared onto a Mongol's cut. This wound would resemble a gunshot wound to the head. Pictures would be taken and the Mongol would be tossed into a ditch with his feet and hands bound by gray tape and then placed in a shallow grave (Droban, K., pp-183).<sup>69</sup>

At 2:00 a.m. Bird telephoned Butcher, another Hell's Angel from the Skull Valley Charter, and left a message on his answering machine. Bird told him that Pops had been killed by the Mongol. Bird made his call from the ATF's safe house. This call sent a commotion through the Skull Valley Club House with repeated calls to "JJ". There had been many messages left from members and their wives to the undercover trailer at 3:00 a.m., 3:15 a.m., and 3:20 a.m. "JJ" found satisfaction from these calls and a little smile crept into her lips (Droban, K., pp-.183).<sup>70</sup>

"JJ" received a Fed-Ex from Bird and told Butcher that she would not open it until Bird returned. Bird would return in a few days. The officers of Skull Valley Charter were summoned by Butcher. When Pop's sponsor, Dusty, heard about Pops, he took it quite hard and broke down into heavy sobs. Bird was feeling very anxious when he went to Skull Valley. He wasn't sure if Dusty would feel anger for placing Pops in jeopardy and take it out on him. Bird then opened the Fed-Ex box where he removed the dead Mongol's bloody vest. The members received this moment as a real triumph for the club. One of the Angel's named Galliano stated, "How does it feel to be a Hell's Angel?" Bird thought he

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<sup>69</sup> Droban, K. (2007). *Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF's infiltration of the Hell's Angels*, Guilford, CT, pp-183

<sup>70</sup> *ibid*, pp-183

reached the objective, which was becoming a full patched Hell's Angel (Droban, K., pp-184, 186- 187).<sup>71</sup>

Bird was getting pressure from his bosses about extricating them from the operation because it was becoming too dangerous. Bird wanted to become a full patched Hell's Angel. He was told by Butcher that the Angels would have to wait. Bird approached Joby and asked what this wait bull shit was about. Joby would present this to the West Coast Hell's Angels and try to sell it to them. Joby's justification was that if they were fast tracked, this would bring attention to the club from the law. The law would then start looking at everyone. That is not good (Droban, K., pp-190-191).<sup>72</sup>

Lastly, because of this latest development, the operation came to a rapid conclusion. There were sixteen high ranking Hell's Angels indicted on charges that ranged from murder, murder for hire, violation of RICO laws, and drug trafficking. These charges carried possible life sentences in prison. The operation had recovered an unbelievable amount of the following evidence: There were 650 fully automatic firearms which were illegal weapons. There were also machine guns, silencers, bombs, and 30,000 rounds of ammunition. This government operation compiled 800 hours of conversations that were bugged conversations, consisting of 92,000 phone calls and a seizure of 8,500 documents(Droban, K., pp-195).<sup>73</sup>

## **VIII. Conclusion**

“Operation Black Biscuit” resulted in failure by the prosecution in proving their burden of proof on the RICO charges.

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<sup>71</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF's infiltration of the Hell's Angels, Guilford, CT, pp -184, 186-187

<sup>72</sup> *ibid*, pp-190- 191

<sup>73</sup> *ibid*, pp-195

Arizona Republic Newspaper reporter, Dennis Wagner, reported the following

(ND):

“A much ballyhooed racketeering case against Arizona’s Hells Angels motorcycle club has all but ended in federal court with the U. S. Attorney’s office dismissing charges against some defendants and settling for lesser convictions against the rest” (pp-201).<sup>74</sup>

A feud between federal prosecutors and undercover agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives hindered their cases of drug violations, gun running, murder, racketeering and other crimes. This case came to a close. The sixteen defendants were not convicted on the key charges of racketeering or running a criminal enterprise. Half of the defendants pleaded out on lesser offenses. Five other defendants had federal charges dismissed. Under those indictments they would have been facing life sentences. According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, from these plea agreements, they will serve no more than five years in federal prison. The positive result of this prosecution is that the eight defendants pleaded guilty (Droban, K., pp-.201-202).<sup>75</sup>

Finally, ATF Agent, Jay Dobyms, went from a hero to a man deserted by his agency.

According to Dobyms, the Arizona Republic Reported on January 14, 2007:

I am now a man without a country. I am up against the crime syndicate that I infiltrated and the agency that abandoned me...My family lives in fear (pp-202).<sup>76</sup>

Jay Dobyms (aka Bird) has assumed an alias and has filed a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the ATF. He has accused the bureau that it has failed to protect him and his family from credible death threats.

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<sup>74</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF’s infiltration of the Hell’s Angels, Guilford, CT, pp-201

<sup>75</sup> *ibid*, pp-201-202

<sup>76</sup> *ibid*, pp-202



According to Domenech who responded to Dobyne's accusations (2006):

In his "notice of grievance decision" that if any mistakes were made in the agency's communication with Dobyne about possible death threats, they were "unintentional." As added emphasis, ATF denied Dobyne personal protection, accused him of fraud and of being psychologically unfit for duty, ordered his multiple transfers, and ultimately blocked Dobyne from receiving a Medal of Valor (pp-203).<sup>77</sup>

In addition, Agent Dobyne and the others have made sacrifices for the enforcement of the law. As for Bird, his transformation has almost lost him his family by living the life of attempting to infiltrate the Hell's Angels. His mental and physical health suffered. During the operation, he was taking 20-25 Hydroxycut and drank a six-pack of Red Bull a day to get him through his deep cover (A & E Television Network (Producer),<sup>78</sup>

The agency could have removed him and his family under a "threat policy". This policy is similar to the witness protection program that they do for witnesses against the mob. Instead, Bird has moved his own family at his own expense. Now he is responsible for protecting him and his family without any assistance from his agency (Droban, K., pp-.203-204).<sup>79</sup>

The Hell's Angels thought that they were invincible from infiltration. Agent Jay Dobyne, and his other operatives in "Operation Black Biscuit", has flawed their invincibility. They have proved this to every law enforcement agency and every (OMG) that it was possible to infiltrate one of the most violent criminal enterprises in existence today.

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<sup>77</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF's infiltration of the Hell's Angels, Guilford, CT, pp-203

<sup>78</sup> A & E Television Network (Producer), (2007). History Channel and reg-ventures, Behind the enemy lines, 50-minutesTelevision Broadcast]. Marketed and distributed in U.S. by New Video

<sup>79</sup> Droban, K. (2007). Running with the devil: The true story of the ATF's infiltration of the Hell's Angels, Guilford, CT, pp-203-204

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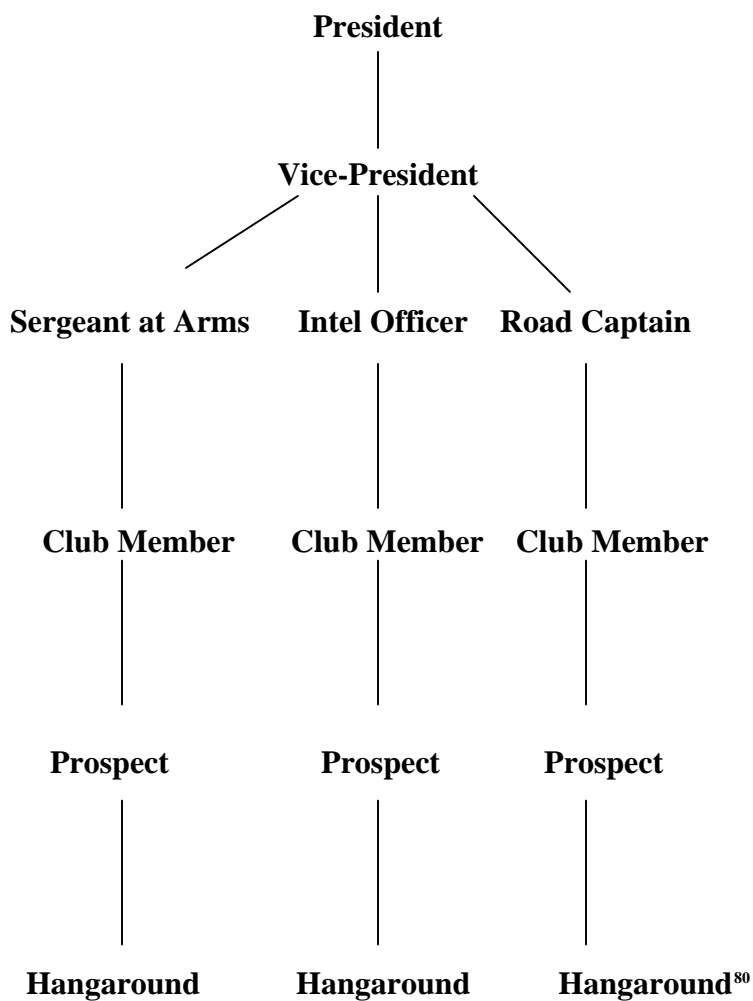
<http://www.azcentral.com/specials/special42/articles/0123Hell'sangels23.html>

# Appendix-A

**Table-I**

## **Hell's Angel's Charter**

### **Hierarchy**



<sup>80</sup> A & E Television Network (Producer), (2007). History Channel and reg-ventures, Behind the enemy lines, 50-minutesTelevision Broadcast]. Marketed and distributed in U.S. by New Video