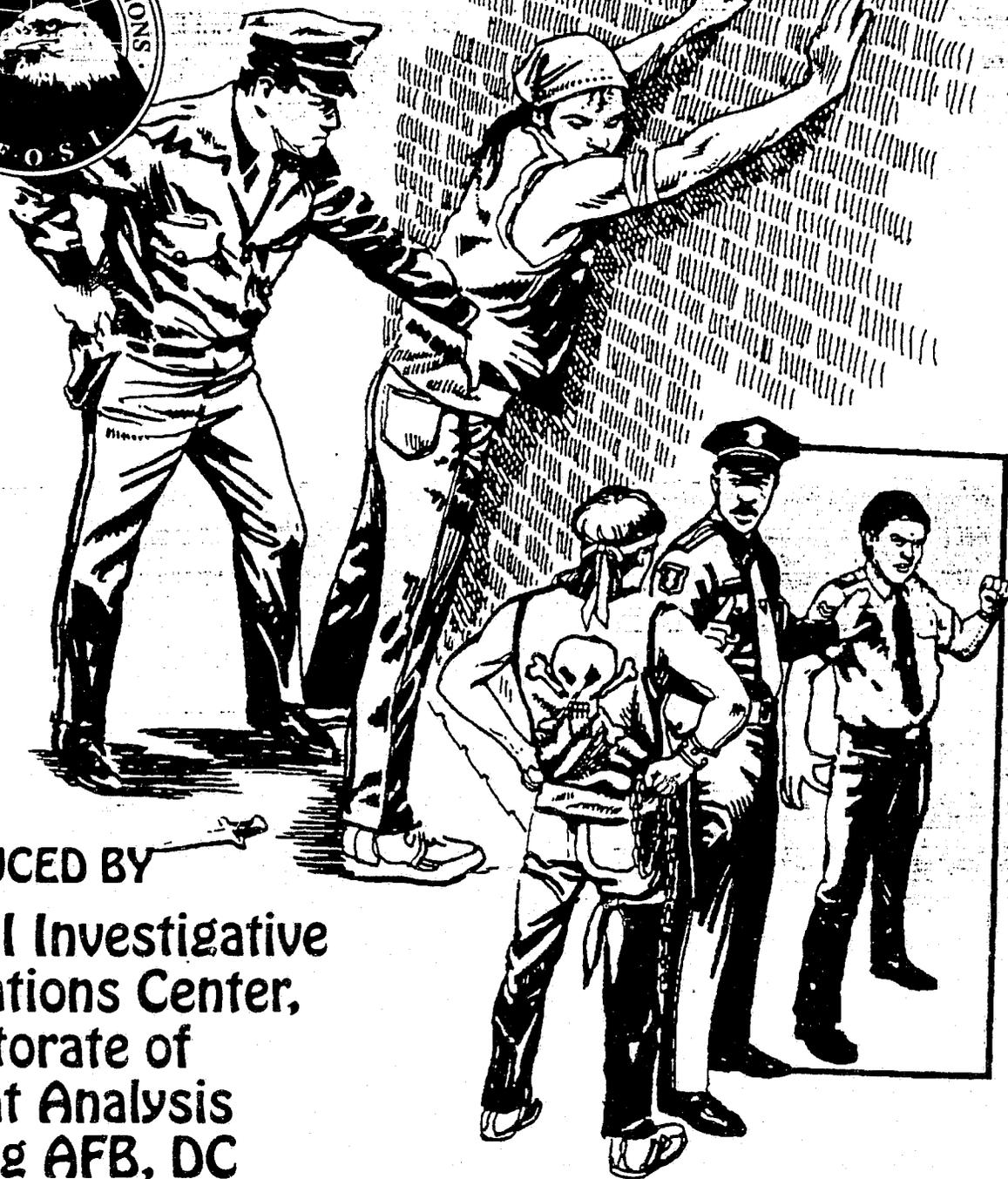


STREET GANGS THE AIR FORCE CONNECTION



PRODUCED BY
AFOSI Investigative
Operations Center,
Directorate of
Threat Analysis
Bolling AFB, DC

MAY 1992

Key Judgements

- O Street gang violence involving the Air Force community is escalating.

- O Active duty Air force personnel and their dependents are being targeted for exploitation or recruitment by street gangs.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS (U)

PREFACE	iii
INTRODUCTION	iv
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
DEFINITION	3
BACKGROUND	3
NAMES AND TYPES OF MAJOR STREET GANGS	5
GANG IDENTITY	7
STREET GANG SURVEYS	9
COMMENTS	19

PREFACE

This report addresses the street gang phenomenon and how it impacts upon the US Air Force. The report is intended to give Air Force commanders and members an awareness of this growing problem. It is hoped this report will provide some insight to problems caused by gangs and aid in finding solutions. Although there are various types of gangs this report is limited to street gangs.

The report was prepared by Special Agents Mike Deshields and George Jackson, of the Directorate of Threat Analysis, Investigative Operations Center, Air Force Office of Special Investigations. The Directorate thanks those US agencies, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department (LASD), Los Angeles, CA; Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF); Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI); California Gang Investigators Association, Los Angeles, CA; Drug Enforcement Administration; Riverside, CA Police Department and AFOSI field units whose contributions helped create this report.

Comments are welcome and may be addressed to AFOSI/IOC-DTA, Bolling AFB, Washington, DC 20332-6001. Telephone commercial (202) 767-5176 or Defense Switched Network (DSN) 297-5176.

INTRODUCTION

AFOSI conducted an assessment of areas surrounding many USAF installations to determine the impact local street gangs have had on the installation. In nearly all surveys each installation was in some manner affected by a local street gang. The impact ranged from selling drugs to assaulting or recruiting USAF members and dependents for membership in gangs. In one instance, USAF members had formed their own gang. The assessments disclosed many local gangs have formed out of a need for self protection from established gangs moving into their areas. In some instances local gangs aligned themselves with established gangs such as Crips or Bloods. Local gangs are usually referred to as "wannabes" by the established gangs. They imitate the behavior of the established gang, and wear their colors but are not considered true gang members. These "wannabes" can be ruthless in their attempts to establish legitimacy and build a reputation for being tough or "bad." They usually do the established gangs bidding to gain their favor.

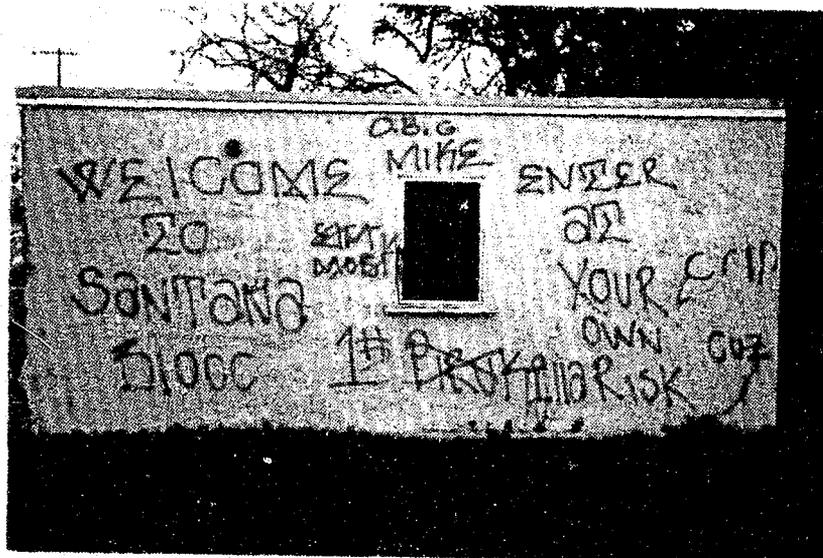
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the past 20 years street gangs have evolved from local, loosely formed groups operating in only large cities to relatively sophisticated, often trans-regional organizations. Until recent years, gangs in general were closed societies content to operate within their established territory or "turf". The growth of the more successful gangs and a proliferation of gangs in general, as a result of illegal but lucrative activities, has led to an increasing number of inter-and intra-city turf wars and violent confrontations between rival gangs. Although reliable figures are not available, the finances generated by some of the larger gangs from narcotics trafficking, theft rings, and other criminal enterprises may rival that of some small US corporations. The logical extension of this increase in finances and in rapid growth has been the desire of gangs to expand their operations to other locations and recruit members from outside the original gang territory's population.

One group of potential members apparently being targeted by gangs is that of active duty USAF personnel and their dependents, especially those still in their teens. Teenaged dependents in junior and senior high school appear to be of most interest to the gangs for recruitment, but active duty military are also sought. The extent of this recruitment effort, and its impact on the USAF is difficult to assess. It is apparently being driven by three assumptions common among the gangs involved. First, gangs see the USAF community as a source of steady revenue (a young population with no unemployment) - either for sales of narcotics or as a pool of potential victims. Some gang leaders also believe USAF personnel can easily facilitate the smuggling of narcotics and other contraband to other regions of the U.S. aboard USAF aircraft. Finally, gangs believe that USAF members have access to military weapons and munitions.

The extent to which gangs have made inroads into the USAF community is difficult to assess for a number of reasons. The majority of gang activities take place outside the confines of the bases during the hours of darkness, and USAF personnel participating in these activities may not be identified by local law enforcement as USAF members or dependents. Activities that do take place on installations, such as thefts, assaults or narcotics trafficking are often viewed as singular incidents and not recognized as gang related. Gang members are not always easily identifiable. Indicators of gang membership, such as hand signals or the wearing of a particular type or color of garment, often are not obvious to those not intimate with gang customs. Airmen involved with a gang are not likely to discuss their association with supervisors and do not exhibit behavior that is apparent in the performance of their daily duties.

The impact of gangs on the USAF varies widely at installations. Although instances of significant gang-related activity affecting the USAF has been relatively limited, the close proximity of USAF personnel and dependents living in the metropolitan neighborhoods of the nation's larger cities, the increasing degree of organization evident in most gangs, and the desire of the gangs to infiltrate the USAF community indicate the problem is likely to increase during the next several years. If left unchecked, gang influenced activities may become a major contributor to criminal activity involving USAF members within five years, particularly in sale and use of narcotics.



DEFINITION

A gang is a group of people who form an allegiance for a common purpose and engage in acts injurious to public health and public morals; who pervert or obstruct justice or the due administration of laws, or engage in (or have engaged in) criminal activity, either individually or collectively; and who create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation within the community.

BACKGROUND

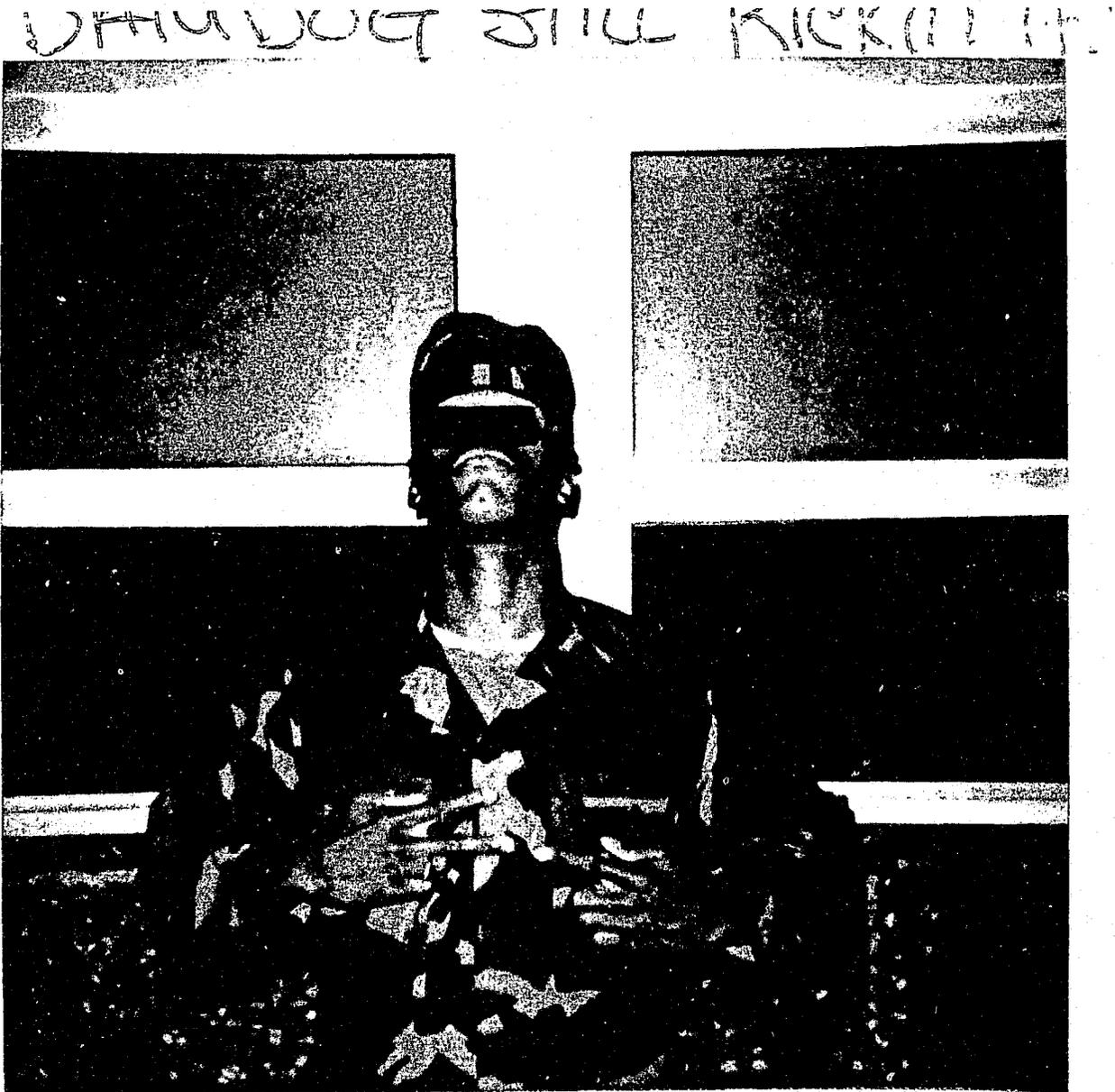
The street gang phenomenon has existed for many years. However, in the last few years street gangs have expanded across the country, primarily because of gang involvement in drug trafficking. The gangs sought to increase drug profits by expanding their operations. The two most noted street gangs are the Crips and the Bloods. These gangs originated in the Los Angeles, CA area, where they formed initially to protect themselves and their territory or turf. When the gangs became involved in the cocaine trade and began to reap vast profits, turf took on a new meaning. As gangs grew, their turf decreased in size and the total number of areas of operation in a given city began to dwindle. This process led the gangs to become more violent toward one other as they competed for drug profits, with innocent citizens often hurt by the violence. When the LA area became saturated, the gangs started to spread across the country. Members with relatives or friends in various cities were sent out to develop new drug markets and cultivate new gang members. This active recruitment effort specifically targeted teen males in junior and senior high school, many of which included USAF dependents. USAF members were also targeted to become gang members to help facilitate drug sales and to secure weapons.

Today's gang members are more educated than most individuals realize. The major gangs are highly organized and have spread throughout the U.S. Like the military or major corporations, these gangs have recruitment and training teams. The gangs use enforcement teams that move into other states to help establish new markets, and their reliance upon rapid and deadly violence and the use of weapons to enforce their will has been demonstrated frequently. Gang members favor high powered, large capacity, large caliber handguns such as 9mm semiautomatic pistols and rifles such as the AK-47 as a way to command respect. However, gangs will use whatever kind of firearm is available. They have proven they will not hesitate to use these weapons, even against law enforcement officers. In fact, the killing of a law enforcement officer may elevate the perpetrator's status and reputation.

The spread of gangs and gang activities to USAF installations and the USAF community is occurring. USAF dependents have high potential for becoming gang members because they are exposed to gangs in the public

school system. This group not only must cope with peer pressure to join these gangs, but also with the pressure to seek protection from rival gangs.

Additionally, gang members who join the USAF bring their gang mentality with them, a phenomenon which will likely increase as gang members grow older and look to the USAF for employment.



A member of the US military forces serving in the Persian Gulf War is shown demonstrating his membership in the Los Angeles 1200 Block Crips gang through his hand signs. His moniker according to the printed words at the top is "Bam Dog." This photo was obtained during execution of a search warrant at a gang member's house by municipal police.

NAMES AND TYPES OF MAJOR STREET GANGS

CRIPS

A black street gang which started in Los Angeles, CA, whose members deal in drugs, intimidation, protection and murder. It is a rival gang to the Bloods; members are violent, known to use automatic weapons to include AK-47s. It is loosely organized with no central leadership. The gang's basic color is blue.

BLOODS or PIRU

A black street gang which also originated in Los Angeles, its members deal in illegal sale of drugs, protection rackets and murder. A rival of the Crips, members are known to use automatic weapons to include AK-47s. The members are loosely organized with no central leadership. Their preferred identifying clothing color is red.

MEXICAN MAFIA and NUESTRA FAMILIA

Two Mexican prison gangs which started in the California prison system, they deal in illegal drugs, intimidation and murder, and are highly organized with a central leadership. They are territorial and have been known to work for other gangs. They are also known for their violence.

JAMAICAN POSSE

A Jamaican organized crime group, known for extreme violence. Posses deal in drugs, intimidation, protection and murder. Different factions are centrally controlled by leaders in Jamaica.

SKINHEADS

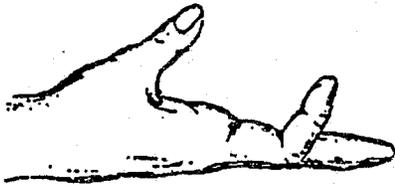
A white supremacist group, known for inciting racial violence. Some have been known to associate with the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist organizations.

ASIAN GANGS

Asian gangs are based on ethnic background. They are known for their violence and primarily victimize other Asians. They are involved in drugs, prostitution, gambling, intimidation and murder.

The aforementioned list includes some of the major street gangs that are prominent in many cities across the country. It does not include the names of numerous local gangs.

CRIPS AND BLOODS HAND SIGNS



Front Street or Hood Crips



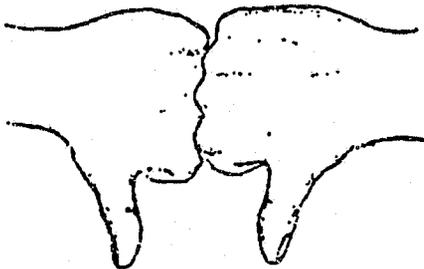
Hoover Crips



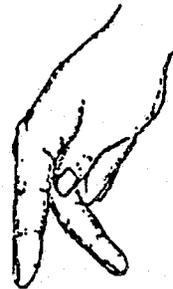
Venice Shore Line Crips



Main Street Crips



Harlem Godfather Crips



Avalon Gangster Crips

GANG IDENTITY

The Crips use the color blue for their clothing to identify themselves from other gangs. They verbally identify themselves as Crip members using the word, "Cuzz", which is short for cousin and used to identify one other. Although blue is the dominant color for the Crips they also wear other dark colors such as black, brown, and purple.

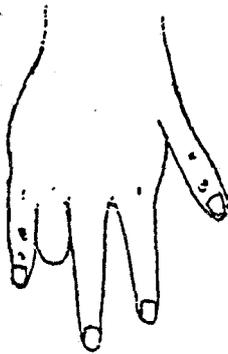
The Bloods, or Piru, have adopted the color red and use the term bloods to identify themselves.

The primary personal accessories which are used to identify gang affiliation are hats, athletic jackets, handkerchiefs, shoelaces, and belts. In recent years the LA Raiders cap and jacket have been worn by both Blood, Crip, and non gang members. Other athletic gear utilized by gangbangers include LA Kings caps and jackets, Chicago Bulls, Oakland As, and so forth. Another item which has been popular and signifies Crip membership are British Knight tennis shoes. The initials on the side of the shoes is "BK", which means Blood Killer in gang terminology. Many Crip gang members wear British Knight tennis shoes to show that they are members of a Crip gang, and enemies of Blood gangs.

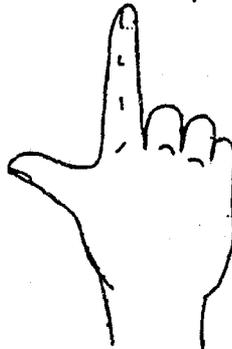
Most gang members use a moniker (alias) to identify themselves. Often members will not know each other by true names, only by their monikers. The first letter of the true name and a gang term often will be used for a moniker, such as C-Bone or T-Loc. These names are intended to express a toughness or craziness to non-gang members. Both gangs have their own rules for speaking or writing to each other. For example, Crips do not use the letter "B"; Bloods will not use the letter "C" and will replace it with a "B", "cigarette" would become "bigarette." Crips refer to Bloods as slob, Bloods refer to crip members as crabs.

Graffiti is used by gangs to display the territorial imperative - to mark their turf and warn other groups away. On a base or in the area surrounding the base it may be evidence of gang activity. If there is more than one style of graffiti or if some of the graffiti is crossed out then two gangs, probably rivals may be involved in a graffiti war. Graffiti wars have led to violence.

CRIPS AND BLOODS HAND SIGNS (cont'd)



Swans Bloods



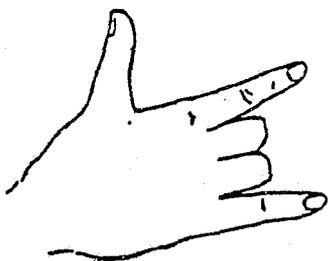
Denver Lanes Bloods



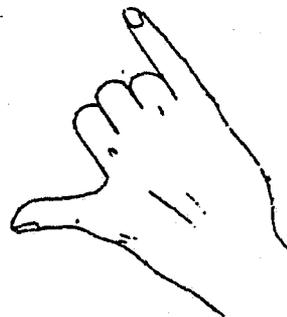
Villians Bloods



Brim's Bloods



Black - P - Stone Bloods



Neighborhood Bloods

STREET GANG SURVEYS

The following gang related incidents are the results of the street gang survey conducted in the areas of USAF installations. Some incidents occurred on installations while the majority occurred at off base locations. As we have indicated these incidents impacted the USAF community in various ways. In some instances USAF members and dependents were the victims of gang violence, some were targets for drug sales while others were gang members themselves. The Crips and Bloods were the most prominent street gangs identified as having the most contact with or impact on the USAF community. The violent incidents ranged from simple assaults to murder. USAF dependents were most involved in these incidents and are most at risk for gang violence

NORTHEAST

Bolling AFB (BAFB), DC: In the past two years there have been at least three incidents of gang activity on BAFB.

The first incident occurred in November and December 1989 and involved a female gang known as the "Fly Girl Posse." This gang was comprised of both Navy and USAF, caucasian, black and Asian dependent females ranging in age from 14 to 18. They were known to have carried knives. Members wore a blue sweatshirt with either "TPF" or "TFG" on the front and their individual nickname on the back. This gang identified with an off-base black male gang. (NFI). Both gangs were observed to frequent the BAFB youth center, and the central business district in Washington DC. The only act of violence they have been linked to was the assault of a white dependent female and her father, in November 1989, at the BAFB youth center. Soon after gang members reorganized under the new name of "South East Angels." They have not since been involved in additional acts of violence and are not currently viewed as a threat.

The second incident occurred during May and June 1990 and involved two separate groups, the "Black Hawks" and the "Rebels." Each group was comprised of nine black dependent males between 14 and 20, who committed vandalism and attempted auto theft. They favored either black or red clothing. They were not known to carry weapons. In the three months of their existence, 28 cases were initiated by Security Police Investigations (SPOI) as a result of their actions. In July 1990, action was taken against the two groups and they quickly disbanded.

The third and most recent incident occurred in August 1991 and involved 10 to 15 off-base Filipino and Black males (NFI) carrying bats, chains and nunchucks on base to assault a dependent black male gang member (NFI). Both groups were stopped by security police officers (SPs) before violence erupted. No further incidents were reported.

Fort Lee, VA: The Chosen Few: Information indicates this gang of soldiers was initially formed as a social organization. The Chosen Few are suspected with being responsible for a robbery in the area. Other gangs (NFI) have formed on Fort Lee and all are involved in marijuana use.

SOUTHEAST

Pope AFB (PAFB), NC: During the past year, there have been several instances where loosely organized gangs, mostly involving dependents residing in base housing, have been subjects of police contact because of their conduct. In each of the instances, baseball bats or other "sticks" were seized by security police. In September 1991, a homicide was committed on PAFB involving several active duty Army personnel and a civilian. Both subjects and victims were members of local gangs. Instances of repeated gang violence have been documented for several years. Several instances involve dependents from both the PAFB family housing and one of Fort Bragg's family housing areas which parallels that of Pope, but is separated by a perimeter fence. On one occasion, an informant provided information concerning a plot to kill one gang leader by a rival gang leader. The potential victim had planned to attend a dance at the base youth center, near the perimeter fence. The security police were prepared when, that evening, the rival leader, with several of his gang members, gained access to the base by climbing the fence. Before the planned murder could be carried out, the gang leader was stopped, identified, and searched. A loaded .38 caliber handgun and 80 rounds of ammunition were seized. No reported acts of gang violence involving active duty USAF members have been recorded at PAFB. An increase in the number of individuals wearing gang "colors," has been noted at the Pope AFB NCO Club.

Homestead AFB (HAFB), FL: There were two gang related incidents at HAFB during 1991. On 22 July 1991, an active duty female AF member was shot during a drive-by shooting, and on 26 September 1991, a member of the International Posse gang was apprehended on base while attempting to steal a privately owned vehicle. The Posse member was armed with a 9mm pistol and 30 rounds.

Hurlburt Field, FL: On 15 September 1991, three USAF members were assaulted by 11 members of the Chinese Connection gang at a local night club called "Jamaica Joe's." The USAF members suffered minor facial injuries and were not hospitalized.

Maxwell AFB, AL: In 1991, the 3800th SPI Section identified 16 USAF dependents as gang members or associated with gangs. Fifteen of the dependents were associated with a Crips gang.

In March 1991, two USAF dependents were apprehended selling marijuana in the base housing annex; they claimed to be members of the Disciples gang. A third dependent was also identified as a member of the Disciples and a supplier of marijuana. The Disciples is a street gang that originated in the Chicago area.

In October 1991, the dependent son of an AF NCO was assaulted by members of the Disciples gang in Robert E. Lee High School, Montgomery, AL, after he allegedly bumped one of the "gangbangers" or members in the hallway. He was treated for minor injuries.

Barksdale AFB, LA: On 8 December 1991, during an altercation in the area of North and Fannin Streets, Shreveport, two USAF members were shot by an unknown black male. This area is a known haven for drug trafficking, prostitution and street gang presence. The two USAF members were dressed in clothing like that worn by local gang members, LA Raiders athletic jackets.

NORTHWEST

Ellsworth AFB (EAFB), SD: There exists a group called, Nation Wide Posse also known as, Niggers with Power and also known as, No White People (NWP, in all three cases). Members maintain that the initials NWP stand for Nation Wide Posse, a local musical rap group. Sources throughout EAFB, SD and Rapid City advise once off EAFB, members claim the initials stand for "Niggers With Power" or "No White People." An investigation was conducted by the 28th Mission Support Squadron, Social Actions unit, EAFB, into allegations of intimidation of Caucasian females and males in dormitories on EAFB. Several of these allegations involved verbal threats and threatened shootings of white dormitory residents. According to witnesses, these incidents were perpetrated by members of NWP. Approximately 75 percent of the members are estimated to be USAF active duty members assigned to EAFB.

NWP is suspected in two separate assaults which occurred on the weekends of 21 December 1991 and 4 January 1992:

The 21 December incident occurred at the EAFB gymnasium parking lot after a basketball game. Several members of NWP allegedly assaulted a USAF member who told them to stop harassing a basketball official during the game. The victim did not report the incident.

The 4 January 1992 incident occurred at Sioux Park, Rapid City. Allegedly, several black gang members surrounded three white males at the park, made several racial comments, then assaulted the men.

Dirty White Boys: The members of this gang are solely Caucasian males. Approximately half the members are believed to be military members assigned to EAFB.

Boyz (The Boyz): Members are mainly native American Indians and blacks, with possible membership of active duty USAF members and dependents who are branded with a symbol on the biceps of one arm (NFI).

GDs (Great Disciples): Their colors are black, blue and purple. Three USAF dependents are members of this group.

Crips: Three USAF dependents were identified as members of this gang.

On 6 December 1991, two local gangs, comprised mainly of black males, both military and civilian, had an armed confrontation. Seven USAF members were arrested in connection with the confrontations.

Nine members of the Nation Wide Posse (seven military and two civilians) went to the residence of a member of an opposing gang, identified as the Original Gangster Posse, seeking retaliation for a prior beating of a member of the Nation Wide Posse. They were arrested by local police.

On 25 November 1991, Rapid City Police searched two private residences occupied by members of the Dirty White Boys gang. Numerous items of stolen property with a total value in excess of \$20,000 were recovered during the searches. The recoveries solved several burglaries which occurred during November 1991. Four USAF members and several other civilians from this gang were arrested on charges ranging from third degree burglary to receiving stolen property.

Offutt AFB, NE: The only gang-related incident involving the USAF occurred nearly two years ago when the wife of a USAF sergeant participated in a drive-by shooting (as the driver) with a gang member (her lover). The gang member shot two rival gang members.

Boulder, CO: US Army members were seen in the company of Skinhead members in the Boulder area. These Skinheads are alleged to steal weapons from other locations and sell them in the Boulder area.

Colorado Springs, CO: While there were no reported gang activities involving USAF members, Fort Carson, CO, a large, heavily populated Army post in the Colorado Springs area experienced several incidents where soldiers were either members of gangs or gangs managed to gain access to the installation and had to be removed. A soldier allegedly provoked a group of teens who beat him to death; however, there is no evidence that this was gang-related, although the media portrayed it as such.

Lowry AFB, CO: In the past two years, gang-related incidents affecting the air force base have been limited to gang graffiti painted at bus stops and playgrounds on base and adjacent to base housing areas. On several occasions gang members have been stopped at the gates to the base,

attempting to gain access, en route to clubs and recreation centers possibly to attempt recruitment of USAF dependents.

McChord AFB (MAFB), WA: Two dependent sons of an active duty chief master sergeant are believed to be members of the McChord Vigilantes (Crips) and were reportedly present during the murder of a drug dealer. The sons live in base housing and neighbors complained about vehicle traffic and gang members' presence in the neighborhood.

A Crips gang operating one mile from the MAFB main gate has been selling drugs to USAF members. The gang attempted to recruit a USAF dependent to act as a drug courier and dealer.

A shooting in the NCO club parking lot is believed to have been gang related. The victim, an Army dependent, and the subject, an active duty US soldier, started an argument in the NCO club which escalated into gunfire in the parking lot. The victim was shot in the rectum with a .380 semiautomatic pistol. Friends of both the victim and subject were wearing gang colors and using gang hand signs.

An active duty AF member was shot in the shoulder after 6 to 10 Hispanic and black gang members crashed a party. The AF member asked the gang members to leave his residence. A fight broke out and two AF members were physically injured with one being shot. Gang members were wearing LA Raiders and Kings "freezer" coats.

Fairchild AFB, WA: Unconfirmed reports indicated several USAF members and dependents expressed a desire to become gang members or to associate with known gang members in the Spokane, area.

WEST:

Beale AFB (BAFB), CA: Beale Boys (BB's): This gang is made up of USAF dependents between 13 and 19. They have been involved in theft and vandalism. This gang seems to be centered at Wheatland High School, Wheatland, CA. It is currently disorganized and lacks leadership.

Note: Most high school age military dependents attend Wheatland High School where recruitment is allegedly ongoing by various Crip sets and Asian groups.

Participation in gang activity by military members or dependents on BAFB appears to be mostly teenage dependents. Their activity to date has been limited to theft and vandalism.

Fort Ord, CA: On 4 March 1988, Fort Ord military police investigations concluded that a group of soldiers who wear jackets with the logo "F Troop"

may be organized as a gang and may be responsible for a variety of criminal activity at the Fort.

George AFB, CA: About May 1991, a USAF member's off-base residence was shot at by known gang members. The USAF member's dependent son was a member of a local gang. The USAF member recently placed his dependent in a correctional custody facility because of the gang involvement. Members of the gang with which the dependent was affiliated shot at the USAF member's residence in an attempt to intimidate him into removing his son from the correctional facility.

Fort MacArthur, CA: On 5 October 1991, the main gate guard reported he had been the target of a drive-by shooting by local gang members. The vehicle involved in the incident was identified as being involved in another shooting which occurred minutes prior to the gate shooting.

The Forty Ounce Rollers is a known "wannabe" gang of dependents who live at Fort MacArthur. Recently this gang went to different areas of the city and painted their moniker over other gang monikers. This can be a deadly provocation, as it usually results in retaliation by the gang whose nickname was painted over.

Travis AFB (TAFB), CA: Gang members from the surrounding communities visit TAFB establishments including the NCO and Officer clubs, recreation center and bowling alley, to develop social contacts with USAF members and dependents. Some younger USAF at TAFB are arming themselves with weapons to imitate their civilian associates.

In April 1990, a civilian was apprehended in a TAFB housing area for selling \$300 worth of methamphetamine to a dependent husband. The suspect claimed he was supplied by two Filipinos who were members of the 13 High Gang of Vallejo, CA.

The 119th Down Home Crips (DHC) operate near 19th street Vacaville, CA, and is mainly made up of white and Hispanic male members. Four of the gang members are dependent sons of active duty members from TAFB.

SOUTHWEST

Tinker AFB, OK: On 24 January 1992, a USAF active duty female was shot to death and another USAF active duty member was shot in the thigh during an armed robbery at an off-base residence in Midwest City, OK. The Midwest City Police Department Gang Intelligence Unit indicated four of the suspects had gang affiliations.

Bergstrom AFB, TX: On 10 January 1992, two US Army National Guard members were arrested for allegedly committing a burglary in Jarrell,

Texas with at least two Vietnamese gang members. During the burglary approximately 15 guns were stolen, including two AR-15 semiautomatic rifles.

Goodfellow AFB (GAFB), TX: Lynch Mob: During the summer of 1990, three to four black males came to San Angelo from Houston, TX to establish a branch of the Lynch Mob. To date one active duty US Navy E-5 has been identified as associating with members of this gang. Currently, no members of GAFB, TX have been affected by the Lynch Mob's violence. With the Lynch Mob beginning to become involved in the sale of illegal narcotics it is likely that a connection between this gang and GAFB, TX will be initiated.

Lackland AFB, TX: An active duty security policeman was apprehended for distributing cocaine. He claimed to be a member of a local gang (NFI).

Wilford Hall Medical Center (WHMC), San Antonio, TX: Like USAF hospitals in many places, WHMC has a mutual support agreement with its local community to provide emergency medical services. WHMC is recognized as one of the best trauma centers in the area. Emergency medical care administered to gang members at WHMC creates certain security risks. Victims or subjects admitted to the hospital create potential continuation of hostilities. For example, recently a deputy sheriff was shot seven times by a gang member. Returning fire he hit the gang member three times. Both were taken to WHMC for treatment creating a situation which could have led to additional violence between gang members and sheriff's office personnel.

Cannon AFB, NM: Six USAF black males (ages 18 to 25) participated in two drive-by shootings. One of their targets was a group of civilians and the other was city property.

A number of USAF dependents participated in gang-related breaking and entering within the city of Clovis.

There have been several incidents of intimidation and threats with weapons, including an Uzi, toward military members at the local night clubs.

Kirtland AFB, NM: A USAF staff sergeant was shot and killed by a member of a Hispanic (Cholo) gang. The gang member was jealous because his former girl friend was dating the sergeant.

Hill AFB (HAFB), UT: On 26 August 1991, a member of a gang, 8 - Ball Posse Crip, entered HAFB in a vehicle belonging to his sister, an active duty member. She was away on temporary duty. When the man was stopped for DUI, security police discovered a .25 caliber semiautomatic propped between his legs. His sister is not believed to be involved in gang activity.

Since January 1991, there appears to be an increase in the number of NCO club patrons who match the gang member profile. Word on the street

is that the NCO Club is the place to go since hard liquor can only be served in private clubs. The NCO Club which has no cover charge is inexpensive. Local agencies believe this club is neutral territory for gangs. No violence or confrontations have occurred there.

Holloman AFB, NM: There have been no USAF gang-related incidents in this area. However, there have been minor crimes such as shoplifting and possession of a concealed weapon involving individuals wearing gang colors on base.

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ: On 24 August 1991, a gang related shooting took place at an establishment immediately outside the base. The incident followed a back to school dance for minors. According to witnesses, a fight involving several rival gang members erupted outside the dance hall and soon after, shots were fired by an unidentified gunman. Witnesses stated someone produced what appeared to be a .22 caliber handgun and fired into the crowd, striking a USAF member in the buttocks.

On 14 October 1991, an off-duty SP was assaulted by two civilians outside the NCO Club as he attempted to detain them for disorderly conduct. The subjects attempted to leave the base but were stopped at the main gate. A search of the vehicle disclosed a black waist bag containing a .380 caliber semiautomatic and a .38 caliber revolver. Both subjects were dressed in the type of clothing worn by local "gangbangers" or gang members. Further, the subjects were observed making gang hand-signs to other members.

Luke AFB, AZ, and Williams AFB, AZ: In August 1991, nine people were murdered at a Buddhist Temple. Civilian gang members from Tucson were arrested, but released in October because of a lack of evidence. Two USAF dependents were suspected of taking part in the slaying. They were members of the "After Midnight" gang affiliated with the Mexican Mafia.

Nellis AFB (NAFB), NV: On 9 January 1992, an active duty USAF airman was identified as an associate of a local Bloods gang and was with a gang member during two separate shootings.

In January 1991, a USAF dependent underwent surgery at NAFB hospital to remove a bullet from his knee. A known gang member, he was shot during a drive-by shooting. He may also have been shooting during this incident; records also disclosed the victim has a long history of violence. He was barred from base because of his previous criminal history.

In April 1991, an on-base home was broken into by unknown individuals who took guns and money. The perpetrators spray painted the residence with graffiti indicating San Chucos gang symbols.

In December 1991, a USAF dependent was shot in the leg with a handgun. AFOSI investigation disclosed the victim was a known gangbanger, and the wound appeared to be self-inflicted. Apparently the victim shot himself while playing with the gun.



Piru Bloods



Family Bloods



This soldier was reportedly on duty in the Persian Gulf War at the time he posed for this photo. The markings on the cot memorialize the name of a deceased fellow gang member who used the moniker, "Stew Dog." Presumably, the RIP represents the common phrase, "Rest in Peace." Photo was obtained during execution of a search warrant by police and is related to a street gang in Riverside, CA.

COMMENTS

The influence of gangs on the USAF appears to be growing and the frequency of gang violence related to the USAF will likely increase. Certain communities are inherently dangerous because of gang feuds and reprisals that occur with frequency as gangs fight over turf and distribution of narcotics. The frequency of contact with USAF members and their dependents appears to be increasing.

These threats range from USAF members joining gangs to becoming victims of violent gang activities. USAF personnel are desirable targets for recruitment into the gangs partly because of a perception that all military members have access to military weapons and ammunition.

The biggest USAF group subject to gang recruitment are USAF dependent school children attending the same schools with these gang members. Not only must they cope with the peer pressure to join these groups, but with threats of violence if they fail to join a gang. Gangbangers are in actuality domestic terrorists -they rob, rape, and murder under a flag of colors. Military members are susceptible to becoming gang members/associates or victims. The best way the USAF can combat this problem is through awareness and education.

Being a gang member is not a violation of law. It is the criminal activities that gang members perpetrate that violate the law.

It must be remembered we used the term "wannabe" to describe a person who wants to be a member of a particular gang, or a person who acts like or identifies with a particular gang, but really is not. The fact is there is no such thing as a wannabe. If a person wants to be a gang member, acts like a gang member, dresses like a gang member; *he is a gang member and just as dangerous.*



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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