



B.P.D.

STREET GANG

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UPDATE

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STREET GANG UPDATE

A Publication for New Mexico

**Department of Public Safety
Special Investigations Division
Criminal Information and Analysis Bureau**

GOVERNOR

Bruce King

DPS CABINET SECRETARY

Richard C de Baca

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

ACTING DIRECTOR

Major James O. Jennings

CRIMINAL INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS BUREAU

Casandra Encinias, Bureau Chief

Carole Tindell, Special Agent Supervisor

Don Bullis, Special Agent

Ellen McCann, Special Agent

J. Vince Torrez, Special Agent

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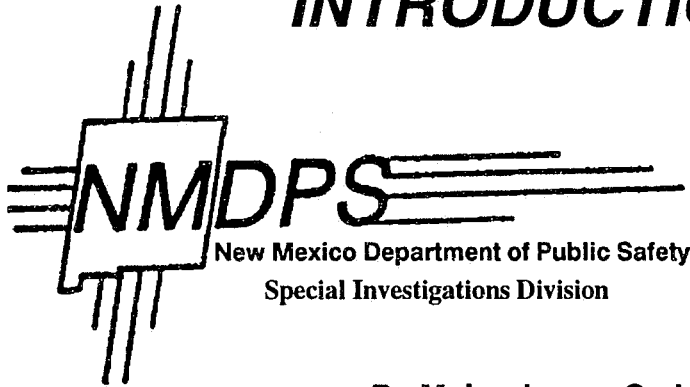
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INTRODUCTION



By Major James O. Jennings, Acting Director
Special Investigations Division

The street gang problem in New Mexico has escalated in the past few years from a relatively few traditional neighborhood gangs, located primarily in the state's urban areas, to a network of organized criminal gangs statewide. Where once street gang criminal activity was generally limited to vandalism, minor violence in defense of "turf," and petty theft, today it involves major criminal damage to property, aggravated assault and battery, drug trafficking, and murder.

It is a mistake to believe that the state's gang problems are concentrated in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe. No community in New Mexico is free from the activities of street gangs. Clovis is coping with crack houses operated by street gang members with ties to Lubbock, Texas, and Los Angeles, California. Alamogordo has experienced drive-by shootings. Raton police have identified street gang members with ties to Albuquerque

gangs. Street gang members in Las Cruces have sold stolen guns to gang members in Silver City. The Farmington Police have assigned officers to the schools, in part to cope with gangs and gang members.

In May of 1991, the Governor's Organized Crime Prevention Commission issued a report called *New Mexico Street Gangs* which was intended for use among members of the law enforcement community. It served as a bellwether of things to come. In the spring of 1993, the Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau (CIAB), Special Investigations Division, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, was assigned the task of updating *New Mexico Street Gangs* and broadening its scope for distribution to the public at large.

Inquiries into the gang problem were made by CIAB personnel in several ways. Bureau Chief Casandra Encinias mailed a survey

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to law enforcement agencies statewide (see page 4). Senior Special Agent Carole Tindell addressed the gang and graffiti problem in Albuquerque and interviewed a broad spectrum of law enforcement and other personnel involved. Special Agent Vince Torrez addressed the problem of prison gangs and the relationship between them and street gangs. Special Agent Ellen McCann investigated youth and other programs -- successful and unsuccessful -- designed to deal with the street gang problem. Special Agent Don Bullis examined the gang problem in communities outside of Albuquerque and looked at legislation effecting gang enforcement. The New Mexico Street Gang Task Force provided one of their handouts for use in this report.

What follows are the products of these efforts. These articles are based primarily on interviews and a review of current gang literature and do not necessarily reflect the views of the New Mexico Department of Public Safety or the Special Investigations Division.

There are a few things you will not find on these pages. The names of street gangs have been omitted for the most part. This was

done to avoid promoting any particular group which has evolved into a criminal gang. For editorial purposes in this report, it is believed that street gangs are equally negative influences on the community; no one of them deserving more or less recognition than any other.

Street names (*placa*) of gang members have also been omitted for much the same reason. Acknowledging *placa*, and publicizing it, gives gangs a degree of legitimacy which should be avoided. Movies, television and popular music already publicize and legitimize street gangs and gang activity to an extent which is not deserved.

The intention of those who contributed to this report was to focus attention on, and generate interest in, the street gang problem in New Mexico. Some questions about gangs were answered, while at the same time, some new -- and unanswered -- questions were developed. Accurate information about gangs is sometimes hard to come by, and every effort has been made to confirm the contents of this report.

Comments dealing with this report and suggestions about the gang problem are welcome.

DEFINITIONS

A street gang is an on-going organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, which has a common name and/or common identifying signs or symbols, whose members individually and/or collectively engage in any pattern of criminal activity.

A street gang member is any person who participates in, or with, a criminal street gang, with knowledge that the gang's members engage in, or have engaged in, a pattern of criminal activity, and willfully promotes, furthers, or assists in any criminal conduct by members of that gang.

A SURVEY OF NEW MEXICO'S STREET GANG ACTIVITY

By Casandra Encinias, Bureau Chief
Paula Sanchez, Student Intern
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

In an effort to gather information on street gang activity in New Mexico from as many sources as possible, the Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau (CIAB) of the state Department of Public Safety mailed questionnaires to police and sheriffs' departments

statewide. A total of 43 departments responded, which amounts to more than 47 percent of the agencies queried.

The three part questionnaire asked for data on responding departments, evaluations of gang activities and interactions, and de-

<p style="text-align: center;">NORTHWEST</p> <p>ALBUQUERQUE AZTEC BELEN BOSQUE FARMS BLOOMFIELD CORRALES FARMINGTON GALLUP LOS LUNAS LAGUNA MILAN RAMAH RIO RANCHO SAN YSIDRO ZUNI</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">NORTHEAST</p> <p>ANGEL FIRE CIMARRON LAS VEGAS MORIARTY SANTA FE SPRINGER TAOS TUCUMCARI WAGON MOUND</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHWEST</p> <p>CENTRAL DEMING HATCH LAS CRUCES MOUNTAINAIR SOCORRO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTHEAST</p> <p>ALAMOGORDO ARTESIA CARLSBAD CARRIZOZO DEXTER HOBBS LOVINGTON MELROSE PORTALES ROSWELL RUIDOSO DOWNS RUIDOSO TATUM VAUGHN</p>

A SURVEY

scriptions of gangs, gang members, and criminality.

Only two responding departments maintain full time gang units. Thirty-four other respondents do not. (Seven departments did not respond to the question). Twenty-three of them, however, indicated that officers do gang enforcement as a part of their regularly assigned duties. Gang related duties include tracking street gangs, tracking graffiti, enforcing curfew, handling street gang intelligence cards and data bases, sharing street gang intelligence, investigating criminal cases, and conducting seminars in the schools.

Thirty-three of 43 respondents agreed that street gangs were active in their communities or counties. Nine said they have no street gangs, and one respondent had no opinion on the subject. Thirty-one agencies reported an increase in gang activity in their respective communities. Nine agencies reported no increase in gang activity, and three offered no opinion.

In response to a question regarding gang violence toward society in general, 37 respondents agreed that gangs have become more violent in recent times. Four dis-

agreed, and two had no opinion.

Thirty-one agencies agreed that street gangs recently have become highly structured and organized. Eight departments disagreed, and four had no opinion.

The area of least agreement has to do with the correlation between street gangs and prison gangs. Fifteen agencies expressed no opinion on the subject; twenty-two agreed there was a strong correlation between them; and six respondents said there was not.

Asked to describe identifying gang characteristics, questionnaire respondents listed the following:

- Nike or black tennis shoes
- Undershirt
- Black slip-on shoes
- Parachute pants
- Black leather jacket
- Baseball caps
- Tattoos
- Long trench coat
- Khaki trousers
- T-shirt with name on back
- Flannel shirts
- Sports team clothing
- Bandannas
- Unusual hair styles

A SURVEY

The final part of the questionnaire had to do with gangs, gang members, and criminality. There is no general agreement as to the ages of street gangsters. A few departments reported ages of gang members at between 12 and 14, or between 12 and 16. A larger number of respondents reported gang members ranging from 12 to 20.

Types of gangs have changed in recent times. Respondents generally agreed that today graffiti gangs predominate in New Mexico. Twenty-six communities report Hispanic gangs, 14 report "hybrid" gangs -- those made up of members from more than one ethnic or racial group -- and three report skinhead gangs. In the "other" category, two respondents reported American Indians involved in street gang activity in their respective areas.

Asked to list the types of crimes in which gangs are active in respective communities, the following were cited from most frequent to rarest: graffiti, assault, loitering, burglary, illegal carrying of firearms, intimidation, shooting inhabited dwellings, drug trafficking, auto theft, robbery, and homicide. Other crimes cited include shoplifting, receiving stolen property, and har-

boring run-aways from the Boys' School at Springer.

Respondents were also asked to denote the types of weapons being used by New Mexico's street gangs. The most popular remain knives with .22 caliber guns -- automatic pistols, revolvers, derringers and rifles -- running a close second. Law enforcement agencies also report confiscating shotguns, .25 and .45 caliber, and 9 millimeter automatic handguns, as well as a variety of bats, clubs, and nunchakus. Not reported in use in New Mexico are any of the well-known assault rifles.

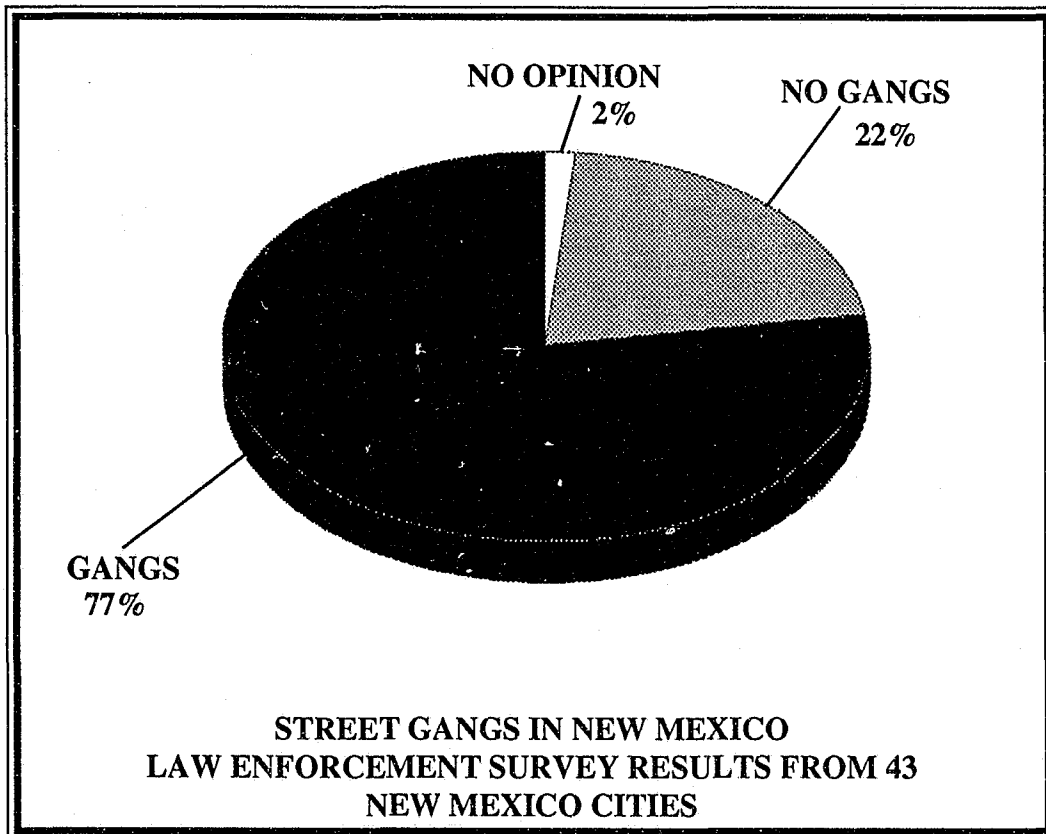
One of the most significant changes in New Mexico gang activity is that it is now being observed on the state's Indian reservations. Three tribal police departments responded to the CIAB questionnaire and all reported interaction with street gangs. One respondent indicated that there were no gangs on his particular reservation, but his department has been impacted by gang members from Albuquerque and Gallup. The other two reported organized gang activity on tribal lands.

The characteristics of these gangs closely parallel those of other gangs as developed by this questionnaire.

A SURVEY

Additionally, it has been reported to the New Mexico Street Gang Task Force that street gang activity on reservations is increasing. It is accompanied by an increase in the use of marijuana and cocaine, which has reached down to the fifth grade level. Pueblo fiestas are now experiencing more violence among youths, and they have two documented cases of drive-by shootings on reservations.

(Editor's Note: The results of this survey are important because they show the scope of the street gang problem in New Mexico. It should be noted, however, that the results are based to a large extent on empirical data rather than hard statistical data. This is true because, historically, law enforcement agencies have not maintained records which indicate what criminal activity was gang related. A new incident based reporting system is currently being put into place by many departments. It will allow this data to be captured in the future.)



GANGS IN NEIGHBORING STATES: TEXAS, COLORADO & ARIZONA

By Casandra Encinias, Bureau Chief
Paula Sanchez, Student Intern
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

Street gangs seem to have overwhelmed law enforcement in many major cities according to a survey conducted by the National Institute of Justice in 1990. Fifty-six percent of more than 2,000 criminal justice professionals reported

signed to gang enforcement. Denver, with 1,255 officers has a gang unit of 55 officers. Phoenix, with 1,800 officers in the department, maintains a gang unit of 15.

All three gang units agreed that there has been an increase in

No substantial differences were noted between street gangs in Texas, Colorado, and Arizona and those in New Mexico. They are a problem everywhere.

an increase in organized crime activity in their jurisdictions.

The Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau surveyed three major police departments in neighboring states -- Dallas, Denver and Phoenix -- in an effort to learn the extent of their respective problems, and what they are doing about them.

All three departments have operational gang units. The Dallas Police Department, made up of 3,000 officers, has 18 officers as-

signed to gang enforcement. Denver, with 1,255 officers has a gang unit of 55 officers. Phoenix, with 1,800 officers in the department, maintains a gang unit of 15. All three gang units agreed that there has been an increase in gang activity, an increase in violence between rival gangs, and an increase in violence toward society in general. They do not agree that gangs have become more structured nor that there is a strong correlation between prison and street gangs.

The appearance of gang members varies considerably among the many gangs in these three cities. Many street gangs in Dallas have discontinued dressing

NEIGHBORING STATES

in a distinctive way but do continue to wear baseball caps with monikers on the underside of the brim or sweatband. They also continue to use hand signs.

As for weapons used by gangs, in Dallas they are much the same as those used by New Mexico gangs (see "Survey of New Mexico's Street Gang Activity" on page 6). In Denver and Phoenix, however, weapons run the gamut from zip-guns to Uzis. No department reported the use of M-16 military assault weapons.

Gang members in all three cities are in about the same age range as those in New Mexico, with the majority from 15 to 18. Dallas

reported identifying gang members as young as ten years old. The ethnic and racial make-up of gangs in Dallas, Denver, and Phoenix is very much the same as it is in New Mexico gangs (*Ibid* page 6), with the exception that Dallas reported that they have not observed the formation of hybrid gangs -- those made up of members from different ethnic or racial groups.

The crimes committed by gangs in neighboring states are much the same as those committed by New Mexico gangs.

In the final analysis, no substantial differences were noted between gangs in Texas, Colorado, and Arizona, and those in New Mexico.

STREET GANGS IN NEW MEXICO:

FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF THE NORTH TO THE PLAINS OF THE SOUTH

By Don Bullis, Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

The type of criminal vandalism better known as graffiti can be found in nearly every community in New Mexico. It profanes the walls of churches and schools. It uglifies bridges and highway overpasses. It besmirches fences and other struc-

-- Juvenile street gang members have been identified by police in Raton.

-- Gang shootings and gunfights on the streets are under investigation by police in Belen.

A young girl was virtually blinded in a gang shooting in Alamogordo

tures. And while the eyesore of graffiti is bad enough in itself, it is but one symptom of a much greater problem: the problem of street gang activity in New Mexico.

-- More than 40 drive-by shootings were recorded by police in Las Cruces in 1992.

-- Eight "crack houses" operated by gangs have been closed down by police in Clovis.

-- Police have apprehended gang members doing vandalism at Angel Fire.

-- A young girl was virtually blinded in a gang shooting in Alamogordo.

It is safe to say that every community in New Mexico is, or will be, effected by street gangs as a group or by individual members.

GANGS IN NEW MEXICO

Some communities do not have resident gangs, but that does not exempt them from the scourge of gang activity. Angel Fire, for instance, does not have street gangs, but that does not prevent gang members from Las Vegas or Raton from visiting and committing crimes. If they can visit Angel Fire, they can visit any town in the state.

Some years ago, street gangs in southern California (Los Angeles and Compton) decided to expand their crack cocaine dealing operations. They moved eastward and established operations in cities like Phoenix, Tucson, Albuquerque, Lubbock, Amarillo, and El Paso. Once operations were in place there, they cast greedy eyes on markets in communities the size of Clovis, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Farmington, and Hobbs. In some cases they invaded even smaller towns.

Not all of these communities may have been infected as yet with crack cocaine (although it is probably safe to say that powder cocaine is available in any city in the state), but it is likely to happen. At some point in the future, dope dealers will attempt to tap the mar-

ket in every community in New Mexico. Too often that market consists of school children of virtually all ages.

Vigilance on the part of police, educators, and community leaders is the only way to minimize the result.

Drugs, by themselves, are a serious threat to any community; but more than drugs accompany the presence of gangs. There is, obviously, profit in drug dealing. Where there is profit there is competition. Among street gangs, competition translates as violence, and no one is safe from it. One gang member has been quoted as saying that it is not his problem when an innocent bystander is shot by accident. The fault is with the bystander for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Gangs get started in smaller communities in several ways. When California drug gangs are involved, they will often send one of their members into a community to co-opt a relative or a friend of the family. Using that as a base of operations, they expand operations and create "sets" of the gang. In some cases, gang members from larger communities are given pro-

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bated sentences or are paroled to smaller communities where they promptly form their own gang. In yet other cases, juvenile offenders who are not gang members are introduced into the juvenile justice system where they meet and interact with established gang members. They are then "ranked in" or made members of the gang, and they take gang membership home with them where they then build new gangs around themselves.

facilitated because of these associations. It is known by Las Cruces law enforcement personnel, for example, that gangs in one community will call upon gangs in other communities to do drive-by shootings for them, with the promise of reciprocity. They also know that guns are exchanged between gang members, city to city, town to town. One young gangster interviewed said that *all* guns in circulation among street gang members

Vigilance on the part of law enforcement, educators, and community leaders is the only way to minimize the result [of gang activity].

The role of the juvenile justice system is important here. Not only are gangs formed out of the system, but established gang members who are placed into the system are given an opportunity to network with other gangsters from other towns. A gang member in Las Cruces said that all of his contacts and associations with Albuquerque gang members were the result of spending time with them in a juvenile detention facility.

Some criminal acts may be

are stolen. Another gangster agreed but said he knew of a gun dealer who was also a cocaine user, and guns and ammunition were often traded for drugs.

The important thing to keep in mind about gang members is that many are children, age 12 to 17, and they have access to drugs and to guns of all kinds. One gang member boasted that he could have an automatic weapon delivered to his doorstep in Las Cruces by Federal Express from Los Angeles within

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24 hours. Given this particular gangster's background, there is every reason to believe he was telling the truth. Gang members report that the more popular guns, .22 and .25 caliber semiautomatic pistols, can be purchased from other gang members for as little as \$30 to \$40.

Officials in some communities have reported that they have no gang members in their towns only *wannabes*. Conventional wisdom is that wannabes are probably more dangerous than actual gang members because they try to prove their "badness" to actual gangsters. The fact is that there are probably no such people as wannabes except for those described by Sgt. Ralph Kemp (see page18). If there is a

group of young people in a community who dress like gang members, talk like gang members, and act like gang members, they are most likely gang members, and whether or not they are formally associated with a gang in a "big city" is irrelevant. This is especially true if members of the group are involved in any kind of illegal activity, from graffiti to possession of narcotics to burglary and violent crimes.

Street gangs **must not** be ignored. Unless something is done to deal with the potential problems they represent, gangs and gang membership in a community will grow, and once gangs become established, they are difficult to remove.

ALBUQUERQUE'S PROBLEM

CITY BLIGHTED BY GRAFFITI

By Carole Tindell, Senior Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

Albuquerque is swimming against a rising tide of graffiti. Where once it was seen only in ghettos, graffiti is now seen on the walls of country club mansions, high rise buildings, and in middle class neighborhoods. There are no "safe" areas.

What can be done about this problem?

The Albuquerque Police Department favors both criminal and civil enforcement. Sgt. Ralph Kemp of the APD Gang Unit says: "It (graffiti) exploded last year (1992). It's a blight on the city. It forces businesses to reconsider locating here. It is vandalism, pure and simple, and the ones getting cited or booked should get hammered for it."

Kemp says that about half of the graffiti is related to street gangs and the other half is done by so-called "taggers."

APD also supports the Albuquerque City Attorney's recommendation that business and home

owners file civil actions against those individuals who are known to have defaced their private property. City Attorney David Campbell, and the current city administration, decided some months ago that something beyond normal crime fighting techniques was needed to combat graffiti vandals. Campbell looked into the use of civil statutes. He issued a press release explaining that the City of Albuquerque would seek civil damages from the parents of children who spray paint graffiti on public buildings or other public property. He also offered to provide citizens with information on how to take action when private property is vandalized.

Assistant City Attorney Luis Robles says that under state statute 31-1-46, a government entity or a private citizen can file a law suit against a juvenile offender to recover money for damages done by him/her. The parent(s) of a minor offender may also be liable for damages in an amount up to \$4,000,

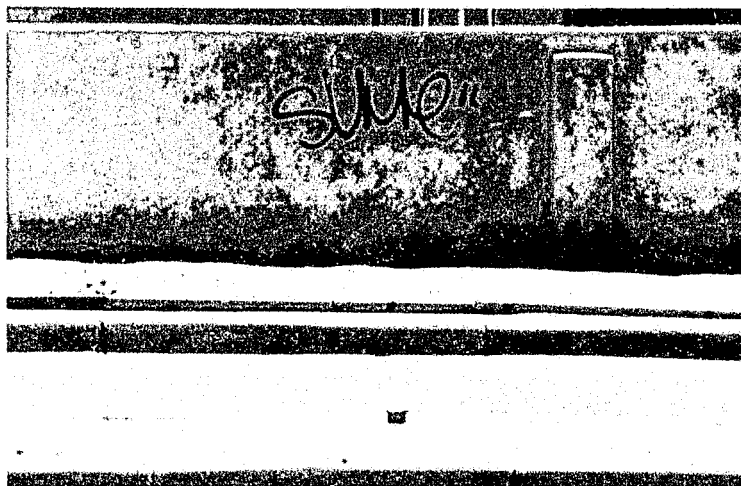
ALBUQUERQUE'S PROBLEM

plus attorney's fees and costs. Anyone who owns property can use the statute. Robles believes that, in time, these actions will serve as an effective deterrent to such vandalism. He advises all private citizens to seek compensation when they have evidence as to who painted graffiti on their property. A packet is available from the Albuquerque City Attorney which contains a copy of the statute, a complaint form, and a lay person's civil procedures brochure explaining how to go to Metropolitan Court, file the suit, and collect on a judgment in your favor.

Shortly after Campbell announced the policy of suing graffiti taggers, one of them created the name *SUME* and painted it on walls all over Albuquerque. Robles said he will be happy to grant his wish when he is apprehended.

For additional information, Albuquerque residents should call the *City Attorney's office at 768-4500*.

Albuquerque's City Council also addressed the problem in August of 1992 by appointing the Task Force on Graffiti Vandalism. The group was set up to provide the city with a comprehensive study of the problems associated with the "...criminal abuse of canned spray paint, and to recommend possible measures the city might take to curtail or eliminate the criminal activity associated with spray paint products." The study resulted in the Graffiti Vandalism Ordinance. The ordinance calls for the creation of an Office of Anti-Graffiti Coordination (OAGC) and a city program to remove graffiti. Carole Rowland, OAGC manager, is cur-



ALBUQUERQUE'S PROBLEM

rently in the process of creating a graffiti removal program.

As a part of the program, OAGC has established a Graffiti Hotline -- 768-4725 -- for use in reporting graffiti on both public and private property. City employees remove graffiti from public buildings and volunteers remove it from private structures.

OAGC is also recruiting volunteers to participate in the Adopt-A-Block program. The program is modeled after the anti-graffiti program in Taylor Ranch on Albuquerque's west side. Graffiti began to appear in the community in 1987, and several members of the Taylor Ranch Neighborhood Association took it upon themselves to remove graffiti from Taylor Ranch property. The association organized the effort, established rules, and obtained written permission from property owners. They also recruited volunteers to do the removal. Board member John Himler said that over the years they have built an extensive anti-graffiti organization.

"We have about a dozen volunteers who are scattered geographically all over Taylor Ranch, and that group -- some of them are

joggers, bikers, and so forth -- see it and they take care of it in their area, get permission, and paint over the graffiti." Himler said.

He believes that about 75% of the graffiti in Taylor Ranch is done by local, non-gang kids.

The OAGC is planning a media blitz for the summer of 1993 to promote Adopt-A-Block and to solicit participation in the program. For further information, call Carole Rowland at 768-3777.

The Bernalillo County Commission has also appointed a task force to study graffiti problems in the county. Pete Gabaldon, Program Coordinator for Youth Development, Inc., was named chairman. The task force is formulating a plan of action to present to the County Commission.

"We are trying to find alternatives for them (graffiti vandals), such as giving them access to walls in the county where they can go and do their artwork. If the kids don't want to cooperate with us, they are going to get busted. They (the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department) are going to have surveillance cameras out and start filming these kids that are doing this stuff," Gabaldon said.

ALBUQUERQUE'S PROBLEM

He said the task force would hold a press conference in the summer of 1993 requesting public assistance and cooperation.

All of these programs are important because there is consensus among those who deal with the graffiti problem that the most effective way to discourage such vandals is to remove graffiti, or paint over it as soon as it appears, and to persist in removing it when it reappears. The vandals should never be given an opportunity to show-off their criminal activity.

Also joining the effort to apprehend graffiti vandals is Albuquerque Crimestoppers which got involved in May of 1993. The organization offers cash rewards to anyone who supplies information on graffiti vandals which leads to arrest, entry into the APD system,

and case clearance. Detective Mike Sandoval said amounts of the rewards are decided by the Crimestoppers twenty-member civilian Board of Directors. Albuquerque Crimestoppers telephone number is 843-7867 (#7867 for cellular phones, free of charge).

Winning the war against graffiti is the responsibility of all citizens. As the Task Force on Graffiti Vandalism report says:

"The blight of graffiti vandalism in Albuquerque indelibly stains our city. It visually assaults both residents and visitors, leaving an impression of a city unable to control the criminals who commit graffiti vandalism, and then unable to clean up after them."

Get involved and take back our city from those who violate it!

GANGS IN THE DUKE CITY: An Interview With Sgt. Ralph Kemp

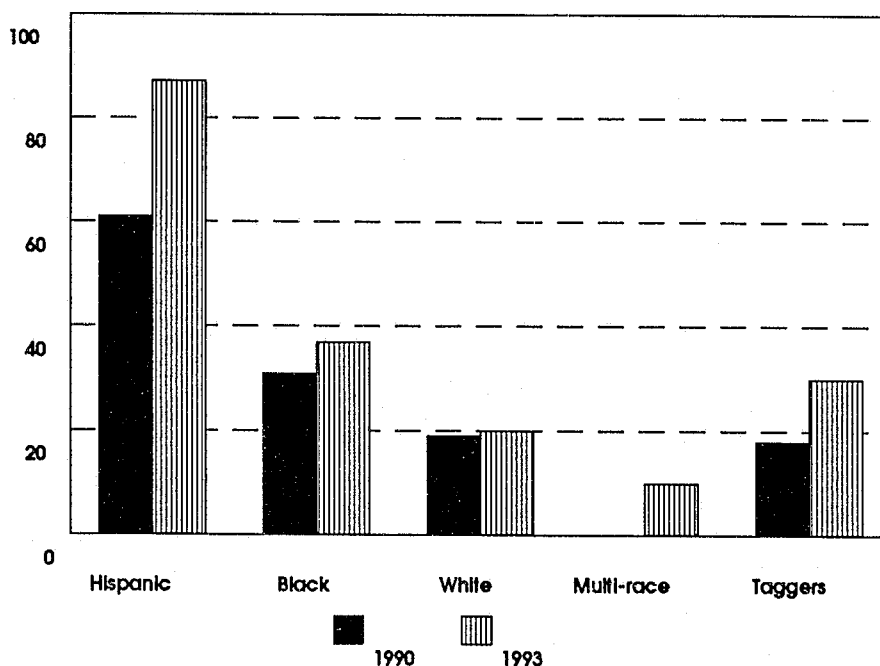
By Carole Tindell, Senior Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

A primary purpose of this report is to update law enforcement in particular and the community in general on the current status of street gang activity in the state. Obviously, Albuquerque, as the state's largest city, has the state's greatest problem. To learn about the current level of gang activity in Albuquerque, the Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau (CIAB) interviewed Sgt. Ralph Kemp of the Albuquerque Police Department (APD) Gang Unit. Sgt. Kemp is a 20 year APD veteran, and he has commanded the Gang Unit since 1989. He feels strongly about the street gang problem and was candid in responding to questions.

In July of 1990, APD documented 111 gangs in Albuquerque: 61 Hispanic, 31 Black (sets), and 19 White. How many are there now?

There are 155 gangs: 87 Hispanic, 37 Black, 20 White, 1 Asian and 10 multiracial (30 of these gangs have been identified as taggers).

ALBUQUERQUE STREET GANGS



DUKE CITY STREET GANGS

At that time, you had documented 2,621 gang members but estimated the total gang membership at 4,000 to 5,000. How do those numbers compare with today?

We have 3,164 documented gang members in Albuquerque today with gang membership estimated at 6,000 to 7,000.

In 1990, there was one White Skinhead gang and all the other White gangs were graffiti tagger groups. How do those numbers compare with today?

There are 30 graffiti tagger groups now which are hybrid; White, Hispanic, and so forth. There are three Skinhead groups.

What is a profile of a typical gang member?

Ninety percent are male, anywhere from 14 years old to their late 20's. The percentages are changing drastically. There are a lot more over age 18. Seventy-five percent used to be under 18 and that percentage has dropped. Race -- that's open. They're recruiting them in all races. Placement on the socio-economic scale covers the whole spectrum, especially when you count the tagger groups.

How are prospective members initiated into the various gangs?

There are several different ways of being "ranked," or "jumped," into a gang. Some are born into a gang. Some form the gang and become like charter members. Ranking or jumping in for turf gangs normally means having to fight two or three members of the group for a certain amount of time. That shows they are willing to fight for the gang, that they won't run, and that they are worthy of being a part of the gang. There's also other initiations where, if you're a female, you may have to give of yourself, if you get my drift, to join the gang. In others you may have to steal or burglarize or do an auto theft.

DUKE CITY STREET GANGS

What is the current dress code for the various gangs?

There's been a definite change in the dress code in the past couple of years. They are not as overt as they once were. As far as the Black gangs are concerned, they're not overt at all. They really have dressed down, which is a good sign. They know if they dress the part of a gangster, they're going to get a lot of attention and not just from law enforcement but from the community. There is a certain point when they definitely want the recognition of being a gangster, but once they have it they stop dressing the part.

"..it's not so much what or how they're wearing it (clothing), but how many are wearing it the same way."

As far as the Hispanic gangs, where they wear the khaki shirt buttoned at the top and flowing or the plaid shirts and khaki pants and the black shoes, that has changed somewhat. They now dress more normally or not as noticeably. They still wear the overt, you know, the shirt with the names written on it and their gang name on the back, but not as often. It's either a formal type setting, like a funeral, or when they're going to do a drive-by, or a gang intimidation type thing, like when they crash a party. Then they'll dress in the traditional stuff, but not very often.

It's getting harder and harder to identify a gang member by what he's wearing. The thing to remember is it's not so much what or how they're wearing it, but how many are wearing it the same way. When they start to identify as a group with "this is the way we wear our pants or this is the way we have our handkerchief," then that's an indicator of their member-

DUKE CITY STREET GANGS

ship. Often, the way gangs dress becomes a fad or dress style among teenagers. It ceases to be an identifier of a gang but more of an identifier of a culture. They are emulating the bad boy image.

For example, BK tennis shoes. When they first came out, Crips wore them because the BK stood for "Blood Killer(s)" as far as they were concerned. They became a fad overnight and kids started wearing them

"[Violence results] not so much from the turf as from the *IDEA* of turf."

everywhere. Society is more and more legitimizing being a gangster. Ice-T has even come out with a line of clothing: Gangster Gear. It's going to be very popular. You can bet on it.

In 1989, there were six drive-by shootings in Bernalillo County. How many were there in 1992?

That depends on your definition of a drive-by shooting. This covers all the calls officers get for "shots fired in the area" and when they get there, no one knows anything. There are so many drive-bys that are not documented, that it is impossible to give a number. APD does not keep separate stats on drive-by shootings *per se*. An educated guess would be 200 - 300 drive-bys in Albuquerque last year. These are just shootings, not necessarily when someone is hit. In 1992, the APD Gang Unit investigated 94 violent felonies involving street gangsters. This does not include the violent felony cases worked by homicide, armed robbery, burglary, and the Impact Team. I would guess there were 20-30 victims shot during the drive-bys in 1992.

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What types of crimes are now associated with street gangs, and which of them are increasing or decreasing?

The same type of crimes. It runs the gambit all the way from vandalism to homicide. Violence is definitely associated with gangs, so most of their crimes are violent. The violent acts -- the aggravated assaults, batteries, homicides -- have increased. We're starting to see cases of car-jackings where you pull up to a stop light and they pull you out of your car, beat you, and take the car. Stealing a car and running it into someone's house, that has increased. They are getting the idea the same place as anybody else gets the idea -- from the news. This helps legitimize street gangs, too.

**Violence is associated with gangs,
so most of their crimes are violent.
Assaults, batteries, and homicides
have all increased.**

Are there specific gang territories in Albuquerque?

Sure. They're kind of fluid, though. It's difficult to say that it [a gang territory] stops at Main Street and somebody else takes up two blocks over. You'll see them move and expand. One of the gang members, say, from the south valley will move to the southeast heights and then you'll start seeing graffiti from the south valley. It's difficult to pinpoint. It's easier with the turf gangs, obviously, because they are based around neighborhoods. Some are everywhere.

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How much of the violence between gangs has to do with turf, and is it still what they fight over?

Sure it is. It's not so much the turf as it is the combination of turf and self-worth. If I belong a north valley gang and I go to the northeast heights and put it out (with graffiti) and nobody challenges me, I become stronger. If someone challenges me, and marks it out, then it becomes a personal thing, especially if I know who's marking it out or they sign their work. It's not so much the turf as it is the idea of turf.

Which areas of Albuquerque are prime gang locations?

I feel that prime gang locations are already established where a turf or narcotics gang has claimed a place as their turf, or the place where they are going to do business. Those are prime gang locations. You also have areas that have very little gang activity. Is that ripe and prime for a gang location? You bet. So, in actuality, the whole city is a prime gang location. The best way to make it less so is to be more aware of what's happening in the neighborhoods. Some of the hardest hit with graffiti have had it around for years and have done nothing to stop it. Now that the violence associated with gangs has risen so dramatically, now they are taking steps to remove it. Obviously, because the kids have a stake in it, they immediately put their graffiti right back on. So it's going to take longer to have an impact on the problem in that area, whereas, if you see graffiti in an area where it has not been before, and if it is allowed to stay there, you will see more of it in a couple of weeks. It continues to expand because, in essence, you are saying, "It's OK to write on this wall." If you address it quickly and get it off, you are sending the message: "No we are not only aware of what's going on here, but we're not going to allow it."

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What purpose does graffiti serve for street gangs?

Number one, to show that they're around. It gives them a feeling of importance. The more they see their name, the more power they think they have. It's also a good way of challenging others, letting people know what they are going to do. If they have a grudge against someone in another gang, they'll put that person's name in a tombstone and that's a threat. It truly is the newspaper of the street.

There are 155 street gangs in Albuquerque, with a total membership estimated at 6,000 to 7,000.

Has graffiti changed in the past three years?

Yes. You see a lot more of the tagger groups taking over. At one time, 75% to 80% of the graffiti you saw was gang related. Now approximately 50% of it is gang stuff and 50% of it is tagger. We're getting about the same amount of gang graffiti, but the tagger graffiti has increased dramatically. It exploded last year.

Can you tell the difference between gang and tagger graffiti?

Yes. Just in the types of names they use. Where you used to see names like OSO and WINO and all that, now you're seeing SODA and TRUST and cosmic names. And gangs are much different. It's not like San Jo or Barales. It's names like OFA (Out For Action or Out F..... Around)

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or ACP (Artistic Crime Posse). Plus, they have a lot more flair in their graffiti because that's the focus of what they do. They consider themselves artists.

What exactly are taggers?

By definition the tagger groups are gangs, but their major push is just graffiti. They do get involved in other criminal activity as well, and it escalates into violence because of the threat seen by the turf gangs and then they become full-blown street gangs. They start out as nothing more than graffiti tagger groups and evolve into traditional gangs. Sometimes tagger groups will start crossing out each other's graffiti and tagging it, then they get mad about it and end up shooting at each other.

Is the incidence of graffiti decreasing?

Yes. The explosion we had in graffiti last year is starting to decrease. The community is having an impact on it.

The worst thing we could do would be to give them a "free zone," a wall they could write on, and all that. They tried that in California and vandalism increased 300% in the surrounding area. The way to decrease the amount of graffiti is to quit coddling the offenders. Quit acting like we have to understand *why* they are doing it. The only thing we have to understand is that it is a blight on the city and it is an illegal activity. It is vandalism, pure and simple. Judges should order that restitution be paid, regardless of whether he thinks they can pay or not. You know, our enlightened society, if you will, is legitimizing an illegal activity -- vandalism. They're saying, "Oh, my God, why are these kids doing that. Let's give them a forum so they can express themselves." There are already programs in place where kids can express themselves. We also have legitimate programs in place to deal with vandals; they are called incarceration and restitution. Let's utilize what we have.

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Is there evidence that Albuquerque gangs are operating in other New Mexico cities in order to establish a larger base and a stronger, tougher reputation?

Yes. We've got Albuquerque gangs all over the state. All it takes is one (gang) kid moving to a new town. We've seen it all over. We've given classes in many cities around the state and that's one thing we key on -- what gangs are where -- and how they spread. Some are regional and some take up the whole state. One Albuquerque gang is into Santa Fe hot and heavy. Another one is statewide. Do they network together? Sure. If you go further south, Las Cruces and Hobbs, you'll see some of the Texas gangs.

A lot of it has to do with where they have relatives. If you're a kid and live in Las Cruces, but your mom lives in Hobbs and you go visit, and there's no established gang there, you'll establish your own. Parents will move a kid out of a certain neighborhood because he belongs to a gang and all of his buddies will go to the new place and then you have a gang in that area. It's the same across the state.

**An educated guess would be
200 to 300 drive-by shootings in
Albuquerque last year, with
20 to 30 victims shot.**

Have the California Black gangs established a crack cocaine network in the western United States?

Yes. When we did the last task force deal, we were making the connections: Los Angeles to Phoenix to Albuquerque to Amarillo and then back. It's just like any criminal enterprise. Prostitution is a perfect

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example. They've got what they call a circuit, and they start out in California and then just come through the southwest states and go up and around through Oregon and back down to California, because in that period of time they are hoping that law enforcement will have forgotten their faces, and they use new names. It's the same thing with drugs.

How would you identify the different types of gang members?

They're three types: hard-core, associate, and peripheral. Is there a place where wannabe fits? I'd say yes, just before hard-core. My biggest problem with the term *wannabe* is people using it to describe any kid, you know, wannabe gangster. A wannabe is not the kid who is just dressing the part. If there is anywhere I would use the term it would be *wannabe hard-core* -- he's already a gangster.

Are there Hispanic members of the Black California gangs which have moved to Albuquerque and New Mexico?

Yes. One west side set is almost exclusively Hispanic. They're using the name for the aura of it.

Are all street gangs involved in narcotics trafficking?

No. Some are taggers. Some are burglars and whatever.

Has drug trafficking by street gangs increased or decreased during the past three years?

There has been a slight increase.

Are those selling drugs mostly gang members from California?

A lot of drug sales are not specifically done by gang members as much as it is *kluckers*, those that use drugs, kids in the neighborhood. They aren't necessarily gang members but they are selling it for the gang, using the aura of the gang for protection.

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Have the drugs of choice changed?

No. The drugs of choice are still crack cocaine, heroin, and marijuana. The gangs have not been seen trafficking meth or ice, which is good.

Do gang members generally bring drugs into Albuquerque or do they get them from upper level drug dealers here? If they bring them in, what is the source?

Both. You've got upper level drug dealers here that have connections. You've also got the hardcore upper level coming in from out of town. That's where you get a lot of violence.

What is the source? You've got it all. Gangs are definitely involved in it at all levels, and it's not just your home-grown but also migrated types.

Can you identify a gang member by his tattoos? How have the use of tattoos changed in the past few years?

They're just like graffiti. They have changed in the sense that they are getting away from the overt. Instead of tattooing the gang name across their stomach, for example, they are going to have a symbol or common denominator they will all have. If one of them has a spider on his left calf, they'll all have spiders on their left calves. Tattoos are a great way of identifying gangsters.

What would you recommend that the Albuquerque school system do to deal with the street gang problem?

The same thing we've been recommending to them for the past six years. The number one thing is not allowing the overt gang apparel in the school, recognizing it as a threat to public safety in the school system. They should take a harder line on gang drawings on books. Don't allow it. Make them get new covers. If they recognize anything that is particular to that one school as an indicator of gangs, disallow it, with a reasonable explanation of why they're doing it.

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What the schools will learn is that if you have a reasonable explanation for why you're going to disallow this type of clothing -- that is that there are gang problems associated with it -- they will get a lot of support. Just saying "we're banning it because it is gang related" will not get a lot of support. It's not reasonable.

I do not agree with what some schools have done when they have what they call a free day, like on a Friday when gang apparel is allowed as long as you don't do it on the other four days. Again, you're giving gangs a sense of legitimacy and this should not be done. You've got to face some hard choices here. You're either going to allow gangsters or you're not. There isn't any middle ground. They don't allow any middle ground. It's not allowed. It's not acceptable. When society decides it is acceptable, then I'm leaving this society. We're in hurt when gangs take a legitimate role, and I for one won't allow it.

In your opinion, what is the most effective way law enforcement can deal with the street gang problem?

The gang problem is just a reflection of society. Society allowed this to happen and now recognizes it as a problem which must be solved. It was allowed to grow into a large problem before we addressed it, so it is going to take several years to effectively have an impact on it, let alone do away with it. We can deglamorize it, we can have a hell of an impact on it, and we can definitely make it less violent. But we can't effectively deal with it unless we are an integral part of the system. I have yet to see law enforcement *not* arresting enough of the crooks. It's the support system that goes along with it that fails miserably; the justice system, if you will. The courts are afraid to sentence them because they don't have any place to sentence them to. They want to go for rehabilitation. The prisons were not built to rehabilitate. They were meant to incarcerate. They were meant to protect society from these individuals.

About ten years ago we began to get into this socialist attitude of, "Gee, we've got to help them, better their lot, give them an education, show them there's another way." They've already been given that in society and they failed to get it. Now we're going to force it on them in a closed environment. I don't care about helping them. I want them removed from

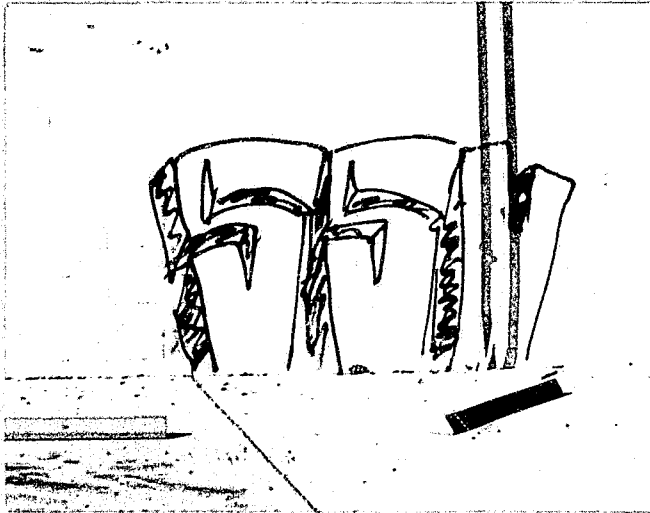
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society. The thing is, the justice system is a mockery right now. The gangs are thumbing their noses at the system, saying, "I ain't worried about it."

The most effective way law enforcement can deal with the street gang problem is to work with the community. We (the police) can't do it alone. It is not our problem alone. There are two ways we can deal with the problem. One is to arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate hard-core gangsters. Take the leadership away, their leader, the guy they look up to, the one that glamorizes what gangs are all about, the violence, the dope dealing. Take him out of play. The rest of the gang you've got to give alternatives. They come from the community. What programs are effective? There's thousands of them in place right now. Thousands. Every fraternal group that I know has them. Moose, VFW, American Legion, Eagles. You name it. Every one of them has youth programs. Are they effective? You bet.

We have to get together and utilize the programs we have. Don't pour any more money into it. We don't need any more money. Are there successful programs? You bet. Boy Scouts. Girl Scouts. Band. What's the first thing to get cut? Arts programs, music programs, athletics, the things that are keeping our kids out of trouble are the first things to get cut.

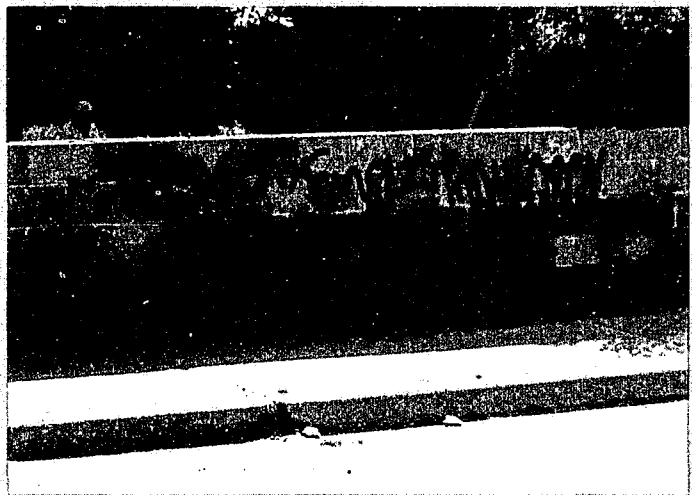
We've got to reprioritize our thinking when it comes to our kids. The best thing to do? Listen to your kids. **We don't have to educate the kids on gangs. They live with them every day. We have to educate the adults. They're the ones who have no idea what's going on.**



GRAFFITI . . .

"To show that they're around"

"It gives them a feeling of importance"



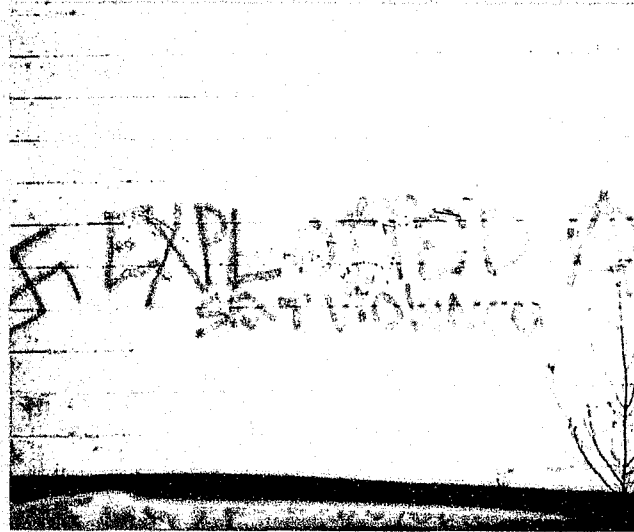
"It is truly the newspaper of the street"



GRAFFITI...

"Deliver a threat"

**"The blight of graffiti vandalism...
indelibly stains our city"**



"It is vandalism, pure and simple"

PRISON GANGS - STREET GANGS: WHAT IS THE CONNECTION?

By J. Vince Torrez, Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

The influence New Mexico prison gangs wield over street gangs is tenuous. Authorities dealing with prison and street gangs have diverse opinions as to what type and how much clout gangs in prisons have over gangs on the street. No one seems to have any hard evidence that shows to what extent these gangs are influenced by one another. Similarities and differences between these two types of gangs are used to argue both sides of the issue.

Material for this article came from discussions with personnel from the Los Lunas Correctional Facility, the Boys' School at Springer, and the Albuquerque Police Department Gang Unit, as well as from various written sources.

In 1990, the Governor's Organized Crime Prevention Commission published *New Mexico Prison Gangs*. This publication defines a prison gang as a "structured, well disciplined group that has bylaws or rules which govern the focus of the group." (p. 2). It also states that:

"Many prison gangs have a 'blood-in blood-out' policy, meaning that an inmate may become a member only after killing or assaulting another prisoner or staffer and that his blood will be spilled before he is allowed to quit the gang." (p. 3).

The prison gangs studied by state and federal organized crime commissions are hardcore criminal gangs. Several of these gangs have taken on the characteristics of true organized crime associations. They have been reported to control most of the drugs and weapons trafficking, prostitution, extortion, robbery, and murder within a prison.

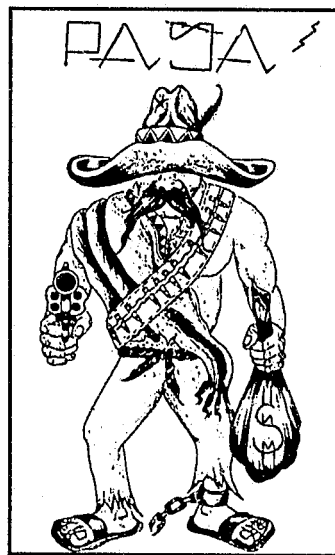
Historically, prison gangs have roots in street gangs. As street gangs grew in size, criminal activity resulted in many gang members serving time together in the same correctional facilities. Gang membership bonds established on the street continued within the institution. Like street gangs, prison gangs were initially formed to provide members with protection and a sense of belonging. Because most

PRISON GANGS - STREET GANGS:

prison gang members once belonged to street gangs, many of their characteristics continued in prison. One such characteristic is loyalty. The gang as a unit is viewed as paramount.

Both prison and street gang members will do just about anything for their gang. A prison gang member may do a hit just as a street gang member may do a drive-by, solely because it is in the gang's

which disputes between rival gangs are handled. A street gang's primary objective in doing a drive-by shooting on a rival gang is frequently to instill terror, not to kill someone. Street gang members usually have to get intoxicated on alcohol or high on drugs in order to muster the courage to do the drive-by shooting. Prison gangs, on the other hand, regard the killing of a rival gang member as being of great-



best interest, often not knowing or caring the reason for his violent act.

However, there are differences between street gangs and hardcore prison gangs.

An example of the differences between the two is the way in

est importance and any terror that results is seen as a plus.

There also are differences in opinion on how much influence and interaction there really is between the two types of gangs.

New Mexico Corrections

PRISON GANGS - STREET GANGS:

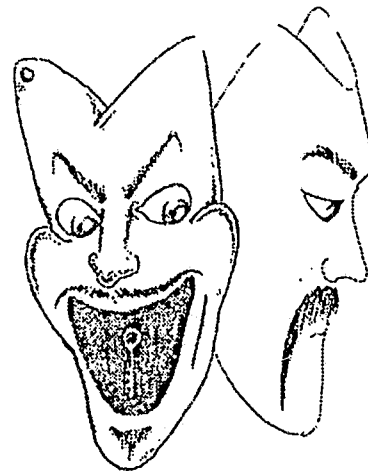
officials believe a strong connection exists between prison gangs and street gangs. They cite continued and frequent communication between members of the two groups, and they note that the majority of the recruiting done by prison gangs is directed towards inmates who belong to street gangs. Corrections officers frequently confiscate letters, photographs, and graffiti from prisoners which show a tight bond between the two types



of gangs. Prison gang members frequently have tattoos displaying the prison gang name or symbol together with that of their street gang.

At the other end of the spectrum are those law enforcement professionals who believe there is no evidence to support the notion

that prison gangs exert undue control over street gangs. They cite the differences between prison and street gangs as major obstacles to the development of alliances between the two. Prison gangs perceive street gangs as unsophisticated groups which often act on pure emotion and in a spontaneous manner. The prison gang sees itself as operating in a methodical and unemotional manner. Some prison gangs will not even recruit street



gang members coming into a penal institution unless they have proven themselves by having gone through all the juvenile correction facilities and adult probation programs before being sent to prison. (Regulas, 1991)

Also, there is no consensus on how much influence either type

PRISON GANGS - STREET GANGS:

of gang has on gang members outside of the prison.

Initially, street gang members back in the neighborhood seem to revere *homeboys* serving time in prison. But this attitude seems to be short lived, and the gang member in prison is soon substantially forgotten. This also occurs with gang members sent to juvenile facilities. In one instance, an Albuquerque street gang member who was about to be paroled stated that upon being released and returning to his *hood* he was going to go *loco*; he was going to go around and *pop* people because he had lost status within the gang while he was locked up.

On the other hand, other prison inmates indicated that street gang members, by and large, regard their *homeboys* -- or *homies* -- who have already served time in prison or juvenile detention facilities with added respect. They are esteemed as *OGs* -- Old or Original Gangsters -- and valued in gangs as members who know what is going on in the penitentiary and on the street. An indication of the importance this kind of respect holds is exhibited by juveniles who, while serving time in the Boys' School at Springer, purposefully violate the rules to get time added

to their sentences. They do not want their homeboys to perceive that they conformed or *skated* while doing time.

This difference in opinion on status may be the reason that some police officials dealing with street gangs have found no evidence indicating an organized network between prison and street gangs. Street gang members themselves have said that prison gangs do have influence over street gangs and that there is a network, of sorts, through which prison gangs use gangs on the street to obtain contraband, such as drugs. This would indicate that while interaction between the streets and the prisons is present, it does not necessarily represent highly organized criminal activities.

Whether prison gangs do have some degree of control over street gangs or not, the continued increase in street gang members in correctional institutions is alarming. Nationally, street gang members are no longer joining prison gangs but are establishing sets of their street gangs within the prison. Youth gangs in correctional facilities are becoming more organized and manifesting a greater solidarity. This probably will result in gangs within prisons exerting much more control over gang activity on the outside.

WHAT'S UP GROUP

Helps gang members get along at Springer Boys' School

By J. Vince Torrez, Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

About four years ago it became apparent to the administration of the Springer Boys' School that there was a gang problem within their facility. Members from different gangs, some of them rivals, were being forced to co-exist in a relatively small area, which caused conflict. In an effort to control the situation, Boys' School officials started a gang intervention program. This program involved identifying gang members and bringing them together to hopefully defuse this potentially explosive situation. The program was not as effective as anticipated. Gang members started wanting to rank-out of one gang and into another, causing even greater tension within the facility. Also, placing gangs together afforded each gang an opportunity to assess the strength of the others, which resulted in the gang with the most members bullying the others.

Even though this first attempt of having gangs peacefully co-exist did not meet its objectives, it was the forerunner of the approach currently being used. Phil Romero,

Juvenile Correction Manager at the Boys' School, started a group called the "What's Up Group." It is made up of members from various gangs who are chosen because of the respect they have earned from other members of their respective gangs.

The formation of this group was no small feat. Having a Crip and a Blood, as well as members from other rival gangs, sitting next to each other was somewhat unprecedented and if unsuccessful could have agitated the situation. While no promises of reduced sentences were made, perspective members were told that the parole review board would be informed of their participation in the group.

The purpose of the "What's Up Group" is to serve as a model, showing that gangs, even rivals, can get along. Members talk to boys coming into the institution and explain that the Boys' School is neutral territory. Members of the group often mediate problems between gangsters or bring a potentially disruptive situation to the

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attention of school officials. In the year and a half the group has been in existence, the demeanor among gangs has remained calm. The group has now started broadening its efforts by venturing into communities and appearing before concerned citizens and schools, educating those in attendance on gang involvement and attempting to dissuade kids from joining gangs.

In gathering information for this report, we were afforded the opportunity to meet with six members of the "What's Up Group." While what they said is obviously from the gangster perspective, it provides some insight into the lives of gang members.

BECOMING A GANG MEMBER

Members of the "What's Up Group" were all exposed to gangs at an early age. Some were associating with hardcore gangsters as early as 10 years of age. The member's family most often consisted of a single parent, usually the mother, who spent most of her time working to support the family, which left the children with no supervision

and a lot of time on their hands. This situation made them susceptible to the influences of friends and relatives who were active in gangs.

The lack of a positive male role model while growing up contributed to the involvement in gang activity, according to members of the group. The absence of a father figure and the mother being away from home the majority of the time created a void in the youth's world. They turned to the gang to fill this void, this need to be loved and to feel a sense of belonging. The gang provided them a place to go and assurance that someone would be there to listen and help with problems. One member said that "You can always go to your homeboys, there is someone there for you. There is love for each other in the gang."

The members did say that the need for a positive male role model is especially crucial around the age of 10 or 11, when the decision to get into a gang is being made. It is at this age that the youth is most vulnerable, looking enviously at gangsters with the customized cars, large amounts of money and the party life and wanting to be like those "dudes."

WHAT'S UP GROUP

LACK OF EDUCATION

Like many youths in their teens, the gang member's attitude towards school is blase. One gangster said that his focus during this time period was on girls and partying. Added to this are the problems which come with being a gang member. Many of the "What's Up Group" members said that a big reason for leaving school was being suspended for fighting with rival gang members in the same school. Some in the group had attended three or four different schools from which they were suspended and finally expelled altogether. Once expelled, they found themselves with more time to "hangout" and party with the homeboys, which usually lead to more encounters with the law.

THE USE AND ABUSE OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Officials at the Boys' School estimate that over 90% of the residents have abused alcohol and drugs. Members of the "What's Up Group" agreed that alcohol was a

significant contributing factor to most of the problems they have had with the law.

Using alcohol and drugs is a big part of gang culture, with the drugs of choice usually being marijuana and cocaine. One substance that is popular with a lot of gangs are "Super Cools" or "Sherm," menthol cigarettes dipped in embalming fluid and then smoked. The effects, according to group members, are comparable to those of PCP. Another concoction members of the group claim they have used is a mixture of alcohol and explosive powder, which they say produces a feeling of being "unconquerable." An indication of the amount of alcohol and drugs used by gang members is revealed in the following incidents related by group members. One said that prior to committing the armed robbery for which he is currently serving time at Springer, he had consumed a 12 pack of beer and a pint of 151 Bacardi rum. He said he has no recollection of committing the robbery and cannot explain why he did the robbery since he had almost four hundred dollars with him at the time. Another member related that

WHAT'S UP GROUP

upon awakening from a night of heavy partying, he was told by his homeboys that he had gone around shooting a gun and had committed several robberies. Still another gangster said that on one occasion he was so high on "Super Cools" that all he recalls is seeing rival gang members and shooting at them.

GANG MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

All of the members of the "What's Up Group" agreed that gangs do not have an organized structure. There are members who are more respected and may have greater influence on gang activities but there is no one person in charge. Even the "Veteranos," the older gangsters within Hispanic gangs, while commanding greater respect do not exert control over the younger members.

Becoming a gang member is not something that happens suddenly. Someone cannot just approach a gang and say he wants to be a member. Usually gang members grow up around the gang, often associating with gang members. There are occasions, in some gangs, when someone who has been around

the gang while growing up will not have to be ranked-in. They just become part of the gang. Most gangs do require that the prospective member undergo the ranking-in ritual. This typically consists of the would-be member having to fight three or four gang members. Ranking-in is used by many gangs to see how much "heart" someone has, and if he will "get down" for the gang. On rare occasions, the ranking in will involve conducting a "drive-by" on some rival gang. This process weeds out gang members from what are often referred to as a "Wannabes." "Wannabes" will often have all the gang veneer but when confronted by rival gang members, will not claim any gang.

Gang members have a problem with the manner in which the news media depicts them. Very often, say these gangsters, the media will broadcast or write that innocent bystanders were shot in a drive-by. The mentality of the gang is that if someone associates with a rival gang they are part of that gang and are not innocent bystanders.

On occasion, while rare, a gang member will want to rank-out of the gang. These instances are uncommon because of what must

WHAT'S UP GROUP

be endured to rank-out. In many gangs a member is not allowed to rank-out. If a gangster decides to settle down to get married, the gang will usually leave him alone with the understanding that if the gang needs him, he will be there. Other gangs, when a member ranks-out, will not only beat him up at the time he requests to be ranked-out, but will beat him up every time he happens to encounter his ex-homies. There have also been occasions where the hostility toward the ex-member has even extended to his family.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

Many gangs continue to be very territorial, however, there is a shift occurring. Many gangs, especially Hispanic, are focusing more on making money through drug trade. This is often to obtain money to purchase weapons with which they can continue their turf battles. The attitude of "business is business" is fast becoming prevalent. This ideology is demonstrated by the networks that gangs are establishing. This is also reflected by the gang population at Springer, where out of the 40 gangs identi-

fied, 34 New Mexico cities are represented. One gang in Albuquerque claims to have affiliated gangs that span the state and cross state lines. This gang is believed to be in Belen, Los Lunas, Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, and Espanola, with connections to California.

Recruitment of gang members frequently occurs in various ways, according to "What's Up Group" members. A gang member can relocate or visit a location and establish a "set." Many times individuals are ranked in to a gang while they are at a juvenile correctional facility, community based youth agency, or at a reintegration center located around the state. Once established, the network for continued gang activity is in place. Very often the small gangs will call on bigger gangs, like those in Albuquerque, for assistance in dealing with rival gangs that may be encroaching on their territory. One Blood gang member said that he had connections throughout the state and in various other states where, if necessary, he could obtain drugs.

The "business is business" philosophy is prevalent throughout all gangs. The Crip and Blood members of the "What's Up Group"

WHAT'S UP GROUP

said that when it comes to making money, they will go as far as venturing into rival territory, often "undercover." Bloods will go into Crip territory wearing black or even a little blue. The idea that Crips never touch red and Bloods never touch blue is "bull sh...", according to a Blood gang member. In fact, a Crip going in to a Blood hood is often called a "Checker Board Crip."

GANG VIOLENCE

The increasing occurrence of drive-by shootings is a good indication that gangs are becoming more violent. Those in the "What's Up Group" had a hard time recalling the last time they were involved in a fight where only fists were used. One said that a fight may start out with fists, but it will not be long before guns appear. One reason for this may be the ease with which guns can be obtained. In many instances, gangs get their firearms from residential burglaries or they will have an older homeboy buy one at a local pawn shop. One of the more interesting means of obtaining firearms is by trading drugs.

Gangs have been known to exchange drugs for guns with an individual working on a military base. They have also obtained guns for drugs from an Albuquerque gun dealer. According to group members, getting a gun is as easy as "getting a pack of cigarettes."

CONCLUSION

Meeting with the "What's Up Group" and asking them questions allowed us to probe and get a little better insight into the lifestyle of a gang member. Even though these gangsters admit that belonging to a gang has resulted in nothing positive, in the same breath they say they will never get out of their gang. The common thread among these youths appears to be a need to feel important, to feel that they are "somebody," and evidently their gang affiliation fills this need. As one member said "I will never get out of my gang, I may just not 'bang' as hard."

The "What's Up Group" has demonstrated that gangsters can co-exist with each other without violence. Hopefully, the interaction between members within the Boys' School will carry over to the streets.

THE NEW MEXICO STREET GANG TASK FORCE

By Ellen McCann, Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

In 1990, the Governor's Organized Crime Prevention Commission (GOCP) formed the New Mexico Street Gang Task Force so that criminal justice agencies in New Mexico could combat the street gang problem more effectively. The purpose of the task force is to assess the statewide impact of criminal street gangs and to develop and implement intervention and prevention programs. It is currently composed of representatives from a number of different agencies:

Albuquerque Police Department
Albuquerque Public Schools
Belen Police Department
Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department
Drug Enforcement Administration
Las Cruces Police Department
Los Lunas Police Department
New Mexico Children, Youth and Family, Juvenile Probation
New Mexico Department of Corrections, Adult
Probation
New Mexico Department of Public Safety
New Mexico District Attorney's Office (Alamogordo
and Albuquerque)
Penitentiary of New Mexico
Central Correctional Facility
Western Correctional Facility
Rio Rancho Department of Public Safety
Santa Fe Police Department
United States Marshal's Office
United States Probation Office
University of New Mexico, Institute for Criminal Justice

STREET GANG TASK FORCE

The original goals of the task force were:

1. To organize multijurisdictional efforts with federal, state, local, and private entities to combat street gang activity.
2. To implement a centralized intelligence system on street gangs, an essential component in combatting street gang activity statewide.
3. To actively gather national and local intelligence on street gang activity.
4. To determine the extent of street gang activity within the state.
5. To develop a uniform definition for a criminal street gang and a street gang member.
6. To develop programs to reduce the attraction of street gangs to New Mexico's young people.
7. To develop and promote legislation to suppress and deter street gangs and street gang activity.
8. To coordinate task force efforts so they are consistent with the State's Drug Control Plan (GOCPC, 1991, page 21).

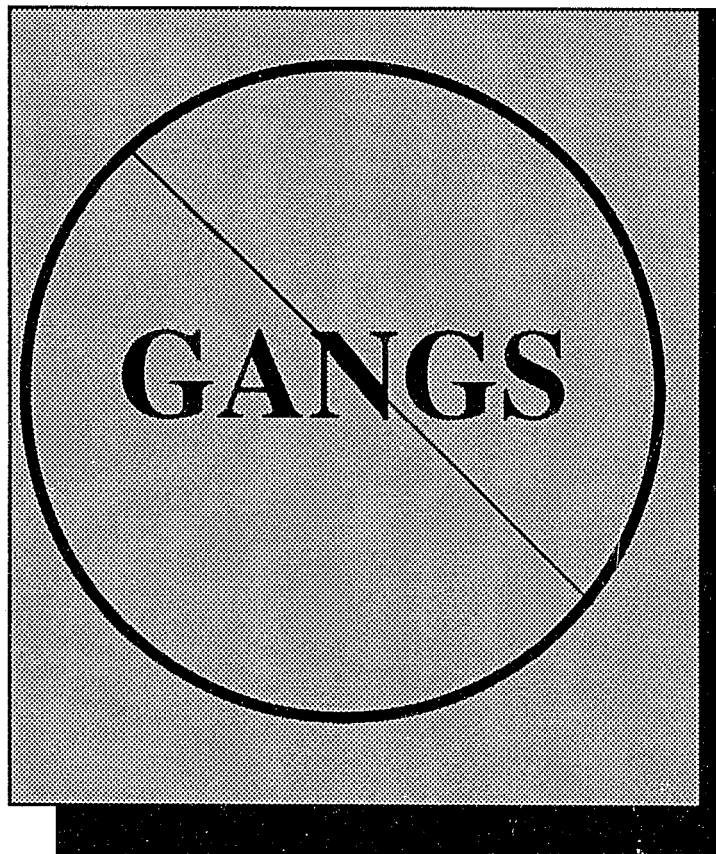
To date, all of these goals are being realized and are part of ongoing projects. A separate multijurisdictional Violent Gang Task Force has been created to investigate violent street gang crime and narcotics related activities. The New Mexico Street Gang Task Force is in the process of implementing the General Reporting, Evaluation, and Tracking (GREAT) System. It is a centralized intelligence system which allows local, state and national law enforcement to share gang related information based on standardized criteria.

The task force has also proposed and supported several items of legislation which are designed to assist law enforcement in street gang

STREET GANG TASK FORCE

enforcement. (See "The Law and Street Gangs: A DA Comments" on page 65.) The task force will continue to be actively involved in submitting new legislation.

At the request of any New Mexico law enforcement agency or school superintendent, task force personnel will assess gang problems in respective jurisdictions or systems and then provide training to community leaders in how to deal with such problems. (See the following page for an example of material developed and used by the Street Gang Task Force in community education.) For additional information, Contact Special Agent Don Bullis, Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau, 841-4660.



WHAT EVERY CITIZEN NEEDS TO KNOW

Developed by: The New Mexico
Street Gang Task Force

The following is excerpted from a New Mexico Street Gang Task Force class handout. It is designed to provide parents and community leaders with some indicators of gang activity and some methods of prevention.

INDICATORS OF GANG INVOLVEMENT

The first and most important step for parents and citizens to take is to become aware of gang members, their characteristics, and activities. As a parent or concerned citizen, you need to know that prevention is the key to controlling gang activity. Learning the warning signs of gang membership will prepare you to better direct your children away from gang involvement.

[**Note:** While many of the following indicators may be *innocent* by themselves, together they may point to gang involvement.]

- Change in hair or dress style
- Not associating with long time friends. Having a new group of friends who has the same hair and dress style
- Overly secretive about new friends and other activities such as not to talk about who they are, how old they are, what they do, etc.
- Change in normal routine when with new friends, such as not coming home after school, staying out late at night with no explanation
- Change in places frequented with new friends, such as going to public parks or different clubs
- Wanting to just "cruise" with friends in vehicles -- not going anywhere specific

WHAT EVERY CITIZEN NEEDS TO KNOW

- Going out with unusually large groups of friends, such as two cars with 15 friends
- Suspected drug use such as alcohol, inhalants and narcotics
- Increase in material possessions such as clothes, jewelry, money or a car
- Change in attitude about school, sports and other normal age appropriate activities
- Discipline problems at school, church or other attended functions
- Lower grades at school, skipping school or certain classes
- Change in behavior at home -- increase in confrontational behavior such as talking back, verbal abuse, name-calling and a disrespect for parental authority
- A new fear of police
- Phone threats to the family from rival gangs (or unknown people) directed against the child
- Graffiti on or around your residence, especially in your child's room
- Physical signs of being in a fight such as cuts and bruises. A new found sense of bravery -- brags that he/she and their friends are too tough to "mess" with; that no one will harm him/her; that they can go anywhere, do anything

If you are seeing several of the above indicators in your children and you suspect that they could be involved with gangs, it is a good idea to search their rooms and vehicles. They could be hiding illegal drugs and/or weapons along with other items that could confirm or deny your suspicions. ***This is not a violation of your children's privacy -- it is your right as a parent.*** You must know what is happening in your children's lives to be able to protect your children as well as the rest of your family.

WHAT EVERY CITIZEN NEEDS TO KNOW

WAYS TO PREVENT GANG INVOLVEMENT

KNOW YOUR CHILDREN'S FRIENDS

- Invite them to your house
 - Get to know them -- they will have a lot of influence on your children.
 - Meet their parents
- Children can use the excuse "my parents said 'No' " to their benefit when they are asked to go somewhere they do not want to go or do something they really do not want to do.
 - It is very important to enforce rules and limits when they are imposed.
 - The same children who resist the wishes of their parents in the home will join a gang and **conform to its wishes because a gang will tolerate nothing else.**

WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE GOING OUT, KNOW:

- Where they are going
 - Who they will be with
 - How they are going
 - What time to expect them home
- ### TALK TO TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS AT SCHOOL
- Be involved with the people who educate your children

SET RULES AND LIMITS AND *ENFORCE THEM*

- Young people need limits in their lives
- Join the PTA at your child's school
 - Attend school functions

WHAT EVERY CITIZEN NEEDS TO KNOW

BE AWARE OF RADICAL
CHANGES IN ATTITUDES, BE-
HAVIOR, FRIENDS, DRESS
AND HAIR STYLE

-- Noticing these changes will alert
parents to their children's pos-
sible interest in gangs.

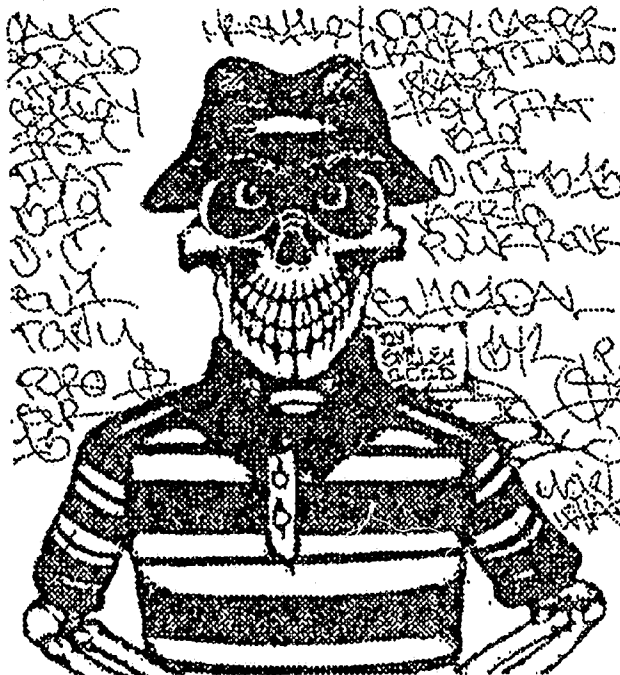
ENCOURAGE HOBBIES AND
SPORTS, OR OTHER LEGITI-
MATE OUT-OF-SCHOOL IN-
TERESTS

-- All children need to belong and
feel they are a part of something.

-- Spark your children's interest in
the many group activities avail-
able in your community.

MOST IMPORTANT

Get involved in your children's lives!!!



YOUTH PROGRAMS IN NEW MEXICO

By Ellen McCann, Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

In New Mexico there are a wide variety of programs available for youth, ranging from locally sponsored sporting events to half-way houses for troubled teens. A number of these programs are aimed at high risk youth or those who already have committed offenses and have been introduced to the program through the justice system.

"Gangs in the Duke City," on page 18. Since there are so many different gangs and gangs members, Albuquerque has a wide variety of programs operating throughout the city. One major program which focuses on community involvement through awareness and education is the Gang Prevention and Intervention Project (GPIP). This program

Gang Prevention and Intervention: A Source Book
may be picked up in person only at the United Way
Office in Albuquerque (302 8th St. NW).

Four examples from around the state were chosen from cities with differing gang problems. While these programs represent a very small sample of what is available, they do demonstrate that it is important for different segments of the community to become involved in working towards resolution of their gang problem. The four cities chosen are Albuquerque, Clovis, Gallup, and Las Cruces.

Details of Albuquerque's gang situation were covered in

began in January of 1991 and until recently has been funded by the State's Children, Youth and Families Division and is part of the United Way of Greater Albuquerque.

GPIP has made a number of contributions since its inception. It sponsors the Gang Strategies Coalition (GSC), which is a group of organizations and agencies, both government and private non-profit, that represent human and social service, law enforcement, education, community residents,

YOUTH PROGRAMS

churches, business, recreation and other institutions, and individuals that deal with youth. Representatives meet on a regular basis to work together to address the city's gang problems. It provides a forum for a diverse group with different ideas about gang strategies to interact when they might otherwise never do so.

- presentations and training programs to educational and community organizations throughout the State;
- television and radio interviews to promote the ideas of community involvement in gang issues;

Youth Opportunities Unlimited of Clovis gets a lot of community support.

Other accomplishments of GPIIP are:

- research, development, and publishing of *Gang Prevention and Intervention, A Source Book*;
- creation of a speaker's bureau;
- promotion of events of Coalition member agencies, such as Teenfest and Street Reach (COA Parks & Recreation), and the South east Community Gang Task Force's Day of Caring '92 (volunteer opportunities for continued community support of the agencies of the GSC);

- assisted GSC members on the *Stop the Violence* documentary produced by KNME-TV and aired in 1993;
- consulted on other KNME-TV presentations, such as town halls on gang violence and a question and answer program with Youth Development, Inc.

While GPIIP works to bring awareness, involvement, and solutions to the entire community, the programs in Clovis, Gallup, and Las Cruces are involved more

YOUTH PROGRAMS

directly with the youth. All three programs currently receive funding through the state's Children, Youth, and Families Division of the Human Services Department. Each agency has a variety of programs dealing with family and youth issues. Each agency also has at least one program directed at real or

officers, schools, and concerned parents. Some of the program's projects include an equestrian program, work projects such as graffiti clean up, and special guest speakers. The program operates on a point system in which participants collect points for grades, probation reports, and staying arrest free. If

It is important that different segments of the community become involved in working towards resolution of the gang problem.

potential gang problems.

After the New Mexico Street Gang Task Force made an assessment of Clovis' growing gang problem in early 1992, local law enforcement agencies made a concerted effort to curtail the problem through suppression. Now, there is wide community support and participation in the gang prevention program operating under Youth Opportunities Unlimited. This program has about 50 participants. Many of these youth are placed into the program by judges who require mandatory weekly attendance. Others are referred by probation

they collect enough points, they can go on the program's annual trip to various places around the country. Youth Opportunities Unlimited believes it receives a lot of community support from law enforcement, the schools, and community action groups for its gang prevention program and its other programs for youth at risk.

According to Connections, the major agency in Gallup, the city only recently recognized that it has an emerging gang problem. Gallup gangs tend to be nontraditional and are not territorial. Statistics given by Connections indicate that

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Gallup's gang composition is 72 percent Native American, 12 percent Hispanic, and 16 percent Anglo and others. While these gangs are not yet very active or well organized, there has been an increase in drug use, abuse and trafficking, as well as violence.

Connections has setup a task force similar to Albuquerque's GPIIP Gang Strategies Coalition to involve the community. Today, task force involvement includes law enforcement, juvenile probation officers, the mayor and some city council members, schools, churches, and some local businesses. Connections believes that one of its major contributions has been to facilitate the various local and tribal law enforcement agencies to work together on gang problems.

Families and Youth, Inc. in Las Cruces stated that gang activity seemed to quiet down for awhile but now seems to be increasing in activity and violence. This agency

has an intensive outpatient gang intervention program which has been in existence for approximately one year and has worked with 80 youth. In order to be involved in the program, a youth must have been involved in some gang-related incident, be a self-proclaimed gang member, or otherwise meet specific guidelines. Referrals to the program come from the courts, juvenile probation and parole, schools, family members, or other programs.

Families & Youth Inc., like the agencies in Clovis and Gallup, have a number of other programs or services they offer. Many of these programs serve youth which may be at risk by dealing with issues such as substance abuse or dysfunctional families.

These are just a few of the programs available in New Mexico. Unfortunately, there is no master list of programs available. Interested parents or citizens should explore the programs in their area. If nothing is available, start one as suggested in the next article.

MODELS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

NATIONAL YOUTH GANG SUPPRESSION AND INTERVENTION PROGRAM

By Ellen McCann, Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

There has been limited research on today's more violent and criminally oriented gangs which has resulted in testable models. One such research project, the National Youth Gang Suppression and Intervention Program, was conducted by the School of Social Service Administration at the University of Chicago in cooperation with The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, United States Department of Justice. This project conducted an initial assessment and published its results in 1990 (Spiegel, et al). Based on these findings, the researchers developed 12 models to provide a framework of policies and procedures for cities and organizations to use in dealing with gang problems (Spiegel, et al, 1991a).

Once the models were developed, technical assistance manuals were written to help various community segments address the gang problem. The 12 models are: the Community-Based Youth Agency, Community Mobilization, Corrections, General Community

Design, Grassroots Organizations, Judges, Parole, Police, Probation, Prosecution, Schools, and Youth Employment. **These models and manuals are based on assumptions which need to be tested before the recommended policies and procedures are shown to control or reduce youth gang crime effectively.**

This summary briefly touches on some of the basics covered by the project. Any community or organization interested in pursuing a model or set of models should contact the **National Youth Gang Information Center, Suite 730, 4301 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203.**

Defining the Problem: Chronic or Emerging

Once a community recognizes and admits it has a problem, it must begin an assessment of the problem and the resources available to deal with it. It must also address the differences in percep-

MODELS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

tion about the situation which will arise from various community groups. The wrong strategy used at the wrong time can worsen the situation it was meant to correct.

Different strategies are recommended in the models depending on whether the gang problem in a community can be described as chronic or emerging. A community with a chronic problem is "characterized by a persistent and often acute pattern of gang violence and gang crime including drug trafficking beginning before the 1980s. An emerging gang problem community is associated with a pattern of gang crime which is less well organized or virulent and more recent." (Spergel, et al., 1990, p. 2). Different levels of intervention and suppression are recommended in each case. (The project does not address issues of prevention.)

What is a Gang?

One of the more difficult problems facing a community is to reach a consensus on a definition of a gang. Some groups may use a broad definition when defining gangs, while others use a narrower

definition. A broader definition often includes many types of criminal behavior, whether the behavior is a direct function of gang activity or not. A broader definition may lead to a predominance of suppression strategies. A narrow definition identifies specific illegal activities, particularly violent crimes, which are usually a distinctive part of gang interests. Intervention programs are often found to dominate in areas using a narrow definition of the problem.

These differences in definition can lead to misunderstandings and disagreements among various community organizations. It is important for all of the groups to recognize that this is occurring, particularly when initially addressing the problem. It is equally important to recognize that both intervention and suppression activities are needed in varying degrees depending on whether gangs are chronic or emerging. Groups should not define gangs so broadly as to lead to the stereotypic assumption that gang affiliation automatically predisposes an individual to a wide range of criminal activities and possibly lead to organized crime involvement. Other groups should realize that

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law enforcement must curtail the activities of gangs, particularly those of a serious and violent nature, and of gang members, particularly repeat offenders.

All of the groups must communicate with each other and work together. Law enforcement should provide leadership, but the problem needs to be addressed by everyone affected by negative gang activities.

Approaches That Do Not Work Today

According to the original project assessment, programs that were developed to deal with more traditional, less serious gang problems tend not to be effective in dealing with today's more organized, violent, and drug related gang problems. In general, these programs do not target specific groups or areas, are too broad in focus, too short-termed to provide significant results, and better benefit the program/organization than the public interest. The following approaches appear not to work (see Spergel, et al 1991b):

1. *Programs developed* simply to keep youth busy and diverted which do not provide positive role models or are not combined with other efforts such as remedial education, job training or placement, and highly skilled counseling.

2. *Social intervention* (counseling group work, street club work, mediation). "Individuals strongly committed to gang norms and behaviors seem not to respond positively to individual psycho-therapeutic efforts. Social group or group therapeutic efforts with formed gangs also give no evidence of success in reducing delinquent gang behavior. Outreach or street gang efforts may serve to cohere gangs and increase rates of gang delinquency. Mediation efforts, including peace treaties sometimes have short-run success; but sooner, rather than later, the resumption of violent inter-gang attacks may be expected. Some efforts at prevention of gang activity through educational programs seem to have some success in attitudinal change of younger youth; but it is not clear that behavior of the more gang committed youth is affected." (p. 13).

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3. *Using the gang structure to control and redirect gang activities.* While this may provide some minor positive results, it has at times resulted in further criminal activity by the gang members involved. It also can result in increased interagency and community conflict.
4. *Simple and non-targeted deterrent approaches.* When a community relies solely on law enforcement to deal with the gang problem, the result may be a high rate of arrest and prosecution. However, the problem may be transferred from the streets to the correctional institutions and then back to the streets in a much more virulent form.
5. *Non-specific community organizing of general inner city concerns.* While some of these efforts may contribute to general community improvement, there has been no measurable positive results in respect to the youth gang problem.
6. *Non-specific structural approaches to provide opportunities (e.g., special education, youth manpower development) and to reduce institutional racism (e.g., desegregation).* While these programs provide better educational, training, and job opportunities to disadvantaged youth, they do not necessarily attract and help gang youth. The same seems true for programs to deal with institutional racism. Busing, for example, may have resulted in increased tension and conflict and to a spread of gang problems outside of traditional gang areas.
7. *Superficial, short-term crisis approaches.* Many of these approaches have not been clearly defined or implemented effectively.
8. *Organizational opportunism and community conflict.* "The youth gang problem presents an opportunity for many local agencies, community and political leaders to augment personal and organizational interests. Programs are supported which are not only simplistic and poorly designed, but serve narrow organizational interests uncoordinated with those of other agencies and organizations. When individual agencies assume and act on the basis that their perceptions and approaches are correct and should be exclusively

MODELS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

or primarily supported, then interagency and community conflict are likely to arise. Not only is the community's approach fragmented but such fragmentation makes it opportune for gangs to survive and develop through manipulation of one program strategy so that it counters another. An inconsistent set of community strategies may contribute to increase rather than decrease in the problem." (pp. 16-17).

Programs That Look Promising

Approaches that appear to reduce or control gangs integrate five basic strategies: community mobilization, social intervention, opportunities provision, suppression, and organizational change and development. The mix and degree of each strategy depend on whether the gang problem is chronic or emerging in a community. Approaches coordinating local community efforts date back to the 1930s and 1940s, but these programs have not been systematically tested and evaluated.

In general, program approaches that appear to work include:

- targeting, arresting, and incarcerating gang leaders and repeat violent gang offenders;
- referring fringe members and their parents to youth services for counseling and guidance;
- providing preventative services for youth who are clearly at risk;
- crisis intervention or mediation of gang fights;
- patrols of community 'hot spots';
- close supervision of gang offenders by criminal justice and community based agencies;
- remedial education for targeted gang youth, especially in middle school;
- job orientation training, placement and mentoring for older gang youth;

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- safe zones around schools;
 - vertical prosecution, (see "Prosecution," p. 63) close supervision, and enhanced sentences for hard core gang youth." (Spiegel, 1991b, p. 6)
- sion, social intervention, suppression, and organizational change and development) are: problem assessment, development of youth gang policy, managing the collaborative process, creation of program goals and objectives, youth accountability, staffing, training, research evaluation, and funding priorities.

Model Highlights

The manuals offer recommendations and guidelines for different groups or agencies to follow, while the models present the theoretical basis for each manual. Since each model and manual taken together is in excess of one hundred pages, the following represents a brief summary of each.

General Community Design

This manual emphasizes the technical planning and analysis required by the policymaker or administrator of a citywide (or interagency) approach to the problem. Action areas to be addressed in implementing the five basic operational strategies (community mobilization, opportunities provi-

Community Mobilization

This manual focuses on the role of the community leader or coordinator of a task force/network of community agencies, groups, and local citizens. Consciousness raising, rational identification of the dimensions of the problem, and commitment to resolve the gang problem are key elements of community mobilization. The major reasons that community mobilization plans fail are because of interagency conflicts and/or insensitivity to distinctive community racial, ethnic, or class interests. The process depends on cooperation among a variety of agencies, groups and individuals, "cutting through" denial and apathy, as well as managing interorganizational suspicion and conflict, so that the process leads to changes in awareness, understanding, and improved response to the problem.

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Grass-Roots Model

Grass-roots organizing focuses on the tasks of local neighborhood groups, mainly non-profit or sectarian, for dealing with the gang problem. The key strategies for grass-roots organizations should be a mix of community mobilization, organizational development, and suppression. These types of organizations may find it necessary to challenge public and non-profit agencies over issues of racism, agency corruption, staff incompetence, and lack of resources in dealing with the gang problem. They can be successful in stimulating community participation, developing constructive policies and programs, and facilitating the development of interagency task forces.

Community Based Youth Agencies

Community based youth agencies should provide a continuum of services to gang youth. The module proposes a six-fold mission including: socialization,

education, family support, training and employment, social control, community mobilization, and agency coordination. The mix of programs should target a different set of youth in emerging and chronic gang problem communities. In emerging situations, agency workers may be able to effectively reach out to youth on the street not yet involved in existing agency programs. In doing so, they need to be careful not to inadvertently set up activities that will organize a loosely knit youth group into a criminal gang.

Youth Employment

The youth employment model is meant to serve as a mechanism to provide legitimate economic opportunities for gang youth. Programs should be designed "to develop entry-level jobs for gang youth that provide adult status, adequate income, and good interpersonal relations and to redirect gang youth to employment and away from street crime and violence." (Spergel, 1991c, p. 4)

Youth employment approaches need to expand commu-

MODELS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Schools

nity based job development and training programs, as well as provide school to work transition services. These approaches include:

1. School based vocational, pre-employment training internship, and apprenticeship programs for high school gang and high risk students;
2. Youth operated enterprises so that youth can develop and manage small businesses;
3. Expansion of Job Corps programs to include more gang-prone youth (these are residential programs where youths receive remedial education, vocational and technical training, and work maturity skills);
4. Establishment of youth conservation (public service) corps on state and local levels that include elements similar to Job Corps.

“...[T]he reduction and control of the youth gang problem require that school and community build coalitions, learn how to communicate, integrate their concerns, and take collective responsibility for dealing with the problem. In this process, the school must take leadership in reaching out to the surrounding community. This approach proposes that primary academic competence objectives cannot be achieved unless social objectives are given attention. It is difficult, if not impossible, to educate all students in an unsafe environment. Therefore, objectives of a special school program must be:

1. Creation of a structure for flexible curriculum and ensuring a safe school environment,
2. Application of consistent sanctions and means to protect school population and surrounding community from gang depredations,
3. Development of an opportunities provision, learning support system,

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4. Appropriate training, staff selection, data retrieval systems, and evaluation to determine program effectiveness,
 - Administrators, teachers, and staff committed to the school and having positive relationships with students.
 - Teachers who are competent and attentive to the academic and social needs of all students.
 - School leadership creates fair and consistent expectations for achievement by all students.
5. Early intervention to prevent and deter gang involvement,
6. Provision of vocational education, job preparation, and employment experiences,
 - Discipline policy that insures clear and consistent treatment of all students.
 - A strong parent organization invested and involved in the school.
 - A good working coalition between school personnel, local churches and community agencies that ensures good interaction, cooperation, and coordination.
7. Parental involvement, and,
8. Liaison, coordination, and out reach to community agencies and programs.”
(Laseter, 1991, p. 25)

Factors which seem to account for successful school programs, even in communities experiencing serious social problems, include:

 - School leadership (School Board, Superintendent, District Administrators, or School Principal) that recognize the beginning of the problem and takes steps to prevent or control it.
 - The schools are neat, attractive, and kept free of graffiti.
(Laseter, 1991, pp. 25-26)

Police

“The functions of the police

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department in its mission to control and reduce gang crime include: investigation, intelligence, suppression, community relations, and training. Of special importance is investigation of gang crimes to obtain information and evidence useful in the prosecution of youth involved in gang crimes; maintaining standardized, updated information on gangs, gang members, and gang incidents; concentrating surveillance on gang leaders and other hard-core members; targeting special locations, particularly selected schools, for special patrol; prevention and control of those circumstances in which youth gang crises are likely to arise; training criminal justice and community based agency staff and local citizens in gang recognition and appropriate intervention procedures; and assessment of the effectiveness of police policies and procedures in relation to youth gang crime." (Spergel, 1991a, pp. 14-15)

It is important for police agencies to agree upon a common definition for gangs and gang members and agree upon what a gang incident or event is. Whether a specific gang unit is formed or not, depending on the severity of the

situation, police officers assigned to deal with gang crimes must receive specialized training.

Prosecution

In serious or chronic gang crime jurisdictions the vertical gang prosecution approach should be used. In this approach, a single prosecutor follows a particular case from start to finish to ensure efficient targeting of certain gang members for investigation and prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. The prosecutor should also work with groups for community mobilization and improved coordination of agency services to gang youth.

Areas of concentration for the prosecutor should be: case selection and data management; collection and presentation of evidence; development of appropriate testimony; victim/witness protection; bail and detention recommendations; appropriate court disposition and sentencing decisions; and interagency collaboration and community mobilization in respect to gang crime control and prevention activities.

Judge

The court model presented

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favors a community-oriented approach, based on the assumption that "a multi-strategy approach by the court is necessary to fulfill its dual mission of protecting the community and resocializing delinquent gang youth." (Chance, 1992, p. 19)

The model proposes that "judges -- because of their stature in the community and their ability to leverage resources -- should assume responsibilities beyond their traditional role of processing and sentencing gang youth.... Thus, it encourages judges to participate in community mobilization activities designed to suppress youth gang crime, and to use court authority to mandate educational and employment opportunities to gang youth and their families." (Chance, 1992, p. 20)

Probation, Corrections, and Parole Models

These three models focus on various aspects of the criminal justice system process in relation to gang-affiliated youth. Youth who have been identified as gang members and prosecuted for various reasons by the justice system often pose a serious threat to the community because of their involvement in gang-related violence and drug trafficking. They are also at risk of becoming career criminals. Each of these agencies have responsibilities to develop strategies of suppression and intervention which address three levels of needs: the individual, the organization, and the community.

THE LAW AND STREET GANGS: A DISTRICT ATTORNEY COMMENTS

By Don Bullis, Special Agent
Criminal Information & Analysis Bureau

District Attorney Bert Atkins of New Mexico's 12th Judicial District (Otero and Lincoln Counties) cites a couple of quotations when he talks about the state's street gang problem and legislation to help address that problem. The first one is attributed to a Juvenile Court Judge and is dated 1946:

"We have just won a world

"Insanity is doing the same things over and over again and expecting different results."

The District Attorney -- former Chairman of the New Mexico District Attorney's Association and a member of the Street Gang Task Force -- believes that law enforcement has to do some things differently if there is any

"We must put an end to those things which produce delinquent children."

war against the Axis enemies. But a new army of 6 million men is being mobilized against us -- an army of delinquents. Juvenile delinquency is increasing at an alarming rate, a disease eating at the heart of America."

Atkins believes the problem as stated by the judge in 1946 was a bit over-drawn, but that it is today closer to the truth. The second quote is from Albert Einstein:

hope of dealing with the street gang problem. Some laws have to be changed, and, Atkins believes, a good start was made in the 1993 session of the state legislature. Changes were made in both the negligent use of a firearm law and the drive-by shooting law. The negligent use law makes it illegal to discharge a firearm within 150 yards of any dwelling or building, inhabited or not. The drive-by

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shooting law was expanded to include shooting at a dwelling -- inhabited or not -- and shooting at or from a motor vehicle. It provides for vehicle forfeiture and driver's license revocation in such cases.

The Children's Code was virtually rewritten by the 1993 legislature. The changes are too extensive for all of them to be reported here, and it is also expected that many provisions of the rewrite will be examined and passed upon by the courts. A few of the major changes, however, should be noted.

There are now three categories of juvenile offenders: Serious Youthful Offenders; Youthful Offenders; and Vulnerable Youthful Offenders. These categories will act as a control for prosecutions of juvenile offenders in terms of treating them as adults, where that is appropriate for certain violent offenses. Juveniles as young as 15 may now be dealt with as adults.

Other changes include statements made by juveniles to law enforcement officials, sentencing to juvenile detention facilities, and limits on diagnostic detention.

Hopefully, these changes will assist law enforcement in dealing with criminal gangs.

Other statute changes which are positive for law enforcement include changes in the DWI law, domestic violence and stalking, sexual exploitation of children, and the Armed Habitual Offender Act. Some other changes in statute, supported by the Street Gang Task Force, and Atkins, are needed. One of them has to do with increasing the penalty for aggravated battery where permanent disability is the result. The need was pointed out by an Alamogordo case in which an innocent 15 year old girl was shot in the head in a gang incident, and left virtually blind. Under current law, the 18 year old gang member/offender could receive no more than four years in prison, which is the sentence he received.

Another is a change in the penalty for second degree murder. Present law calls for 30 years in prison for first degree murder, but the penalty drops all the way down to nine years for a second degree murder conviction. A bill introduced in 1993 called for doubling the penalty to 18 years. It died in committee.

Other enhanced penalties should be considered for use of automatic weapons in gang activi-

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ties and for conspiracy when three or more gang members are involved in criminal acts.

Atkins believes much of the effort involved in effecting these changes must be directed toward educating the public and the legislature as to what changes are needed, and why.

But beyond changes in law, Atkins believes law enforcement must become more proactive, more and more into prevention activities such as the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) and others. The future direction must be to reduce case loads and to prevent violent acts. This is a practical matter in many cases since law enforcement is finding that additional funding is often not forthcoming.

Atkins also strongly advocates that greater emphasis be placed on narcotics enforcement, addressing family problems, and domestic violence. He sees a strong link between problems in the home, illegal drugs, and gang membership. He sees a strong relationship between the number of children living in single parent homes and participation in street gangs and other criminal activity.

Many, if not most, police de-

partments today have narcotics enforcement units, or at least officers assigned to that task. Many law enforcement administrators believe that departments will soon have street gang teams as permanent operational units. Atkins believes similar emphasis should be placed on domestic violence. He cites a 1990 report which says that children who live in homes where there is domestic violence are abused and neglected at a rate 1500% higher than children in the general population. He thinks that law enforcement should be proactive in dealing with domestic violence and that charges in family battery cases should rarely, if ever, be dropped. The message needs to be sent that society will not tolerate such behavior.

As the District Attorney pointed out to begin with, law enforcement cannot continue to do the same things over and over again and expect the result to be different. The street gang problem is serious and innovations in law enforcement are going to be necessary to deal with it. "We must put an end to those things which produce delinquent children," Atkins said.

GLOSSARY

Bloods	Black street gang which began in Compton, California. Originally formed to protect themselves against the Crips, but now known to be involved in a wide variety of criminal activities throughout the western United States.
Crips	First Black street gang from Los Angeles, California, to have evolved from cultural, neighborhood gangs, which now is involved in a wide variety of criminal activities primarily in the western United States.
homeboys	A comrade or fellow associate.
homie	A homeboy.
hood	Neighborhood.
ice	Crystalline form of methamphetamine.
Ice-T	Rap musician, who released a record called <i>Cop Killers</i> , in which he encouraged the killing of police officers.
jumped-in	see ranked-in.
klucker	A young drug user, not necessarily a gang member, who sells drugs for a gang.
meth	Methamphetamine, an illicitly manufactured drug.
moniker	Nickname given to a street gang member by other members in the gang. Birth names are not used in gang associations.
nunchakus	Hand weapon used in some martial arts.
placa	Graffiti on structures that identifies a particular gang and individual.
ranked-in	Process of being initiated as a full-fledged member of a gang (see pg. 40).
ranked-out	Process of leaving a gang (see pg. 41).
set	A subgroup of a larger gang, such as the Bloods or Crips, e.g., Crip Money Grabbers.

Skinheads	White, Neo-Nazi hate groups.
taggers	Gangs which specialize in graffiti vandalism.
turf gang	Street gang primarily formed to protect a specific geographical location, e.g., their neighborhood.
traditional gang	A turf gang, usually Hispanic, strongly identified with their heritage and their barrios.

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