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# BASIC COURSE INSTRUCTOR UNIT GUIDE

38

GANG AWARENESS

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THE COMMISSION  
ON PEACE OFFICER STANDARDS AND TRAINING

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

013

**UNIT GUIDE 38**

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Gang Awareness**

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The curricula contained in this document is designed as a *guideline* for the delivery of performance-based law enforcement training. It is part of the POST Basic Course guidelines system developed by California law enforcement trainers and criminal justice educators in cooperation with the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

## INDICATORS OF GANG MEMBERSHIP

Given a description of a person, the student will determine if indicators are present to suggest the person is a gang member or gang associate. The following criteria may be used in assisting with gang member identification when one or more are present.

- A. Admission of gang membership or association
- B. Observed associating with known gang members on a regular basis
- C. Tattoos indicating gang membership
- D. Gang clothing, symbols, etc., that identify the person with a specific gang
- E. Pictured in a photograph with known gang members and/or observed using gang-related hand signs
- F. Name is on a gang document, hit list, or gang-related graffiti
- G. Identification as a gang member by a reliable source
- H. Arrested in the company of identified gang members or associates or participates in a gang-related crime
- I. Corresponds with known gang members or writes and/or receives correspondence about gang activities
- J. Writes about gangs (graffiti) on walls, books, papers, etc.
- K. Attendance at gang functions or known gang hangouts

Performance Objective 8.50.8

## CURRICULUM

- A. Admits gang membership or association
  - 1. Field contacts
  - 2. Mirandized statements
- B. Observed associating with known gang members on a regular basis
  - 1. Gang controlled location
    - a. Cafes
    - b. Clubhouses
    - c. Nightclubs
    - d. Restaurants
    - e. Street corners/neighborhoods
    - f. Member residences
  - 2. Special events
    - a. Funerals

- b. Concerts
- c. Fairs
- d. Court trials
- e. Gang-sponsored charity events (e.g., toy run sponsored by the Hells Angels)

C. Tattoos indicating gang membership

1. Gang specific

- a. Hispanic
- b. Asian
- c. Black
- d. White
- e. Prison
- f. Motorcycle
- g. Organized crime

D. Gang clothing

1. Clothing types

- a. "Colors" - distinctive color such as blue or red item of clothing
- b. Bandannas/hats
- c. Jackets/vests
- d. Shoes
- e. Pants
- f. Jewelry/paraphernalia

2. Other symbols

- a. Patches
- b. Vehicle accessories
  - (1) License plate frames
  - (2) Stickers

- E. Pictured in a photograph/video with known gang members and/or observed using gang-related hand signs
  - 1. Photographs/videos
    - a. Ways in which photos and videos can be recovered
      - (1) Search warrants
      - (2) Parole/probation searches
      - (3) Vehicle searches
      - (4) Incident to arrest
    - b. An example of the kind of thing the officer should look for are photo albums
  - 2. Hand signs
    - a. Identifies the user with a specific gang
    - b. Presents a challenge to rival gang members
- F. Name is on a gang document, hit list, or gang-related graffiti
  - 1. Address books
  - 2. Membership rosters
  - 3. School book covers
  - 4. Computer disks
- G. Identification as a gang member by a reliable source
  - 1. Law enforcement source (e.g., law enforcement agencies, Department of Corrections, Probation, Parole, or other criminal justice agencies)
  - 2. Tested reliable informant
  - 3. School administrators
  - 4. Citizen informant/family member
  - 5. Fellow gang member
- H. Arrested in the company of identified gang members or associates or participates in a gang-related crime

- I. Corresponds with known gang members or writes and/or receives correspondence about gang activities
  - 1. Jail/prison correspondence
  - 2. Jail/prison newsletters
  - 3. Possession of news articles related to gang activity
  - 4. Other correspondence between gang members
- J. Writes about gangs (graffiti) on walls, books, papers, etc.
- K. Attendance at gang functions or known gang hangouts

### INDICATORS THAT A CRIME IS GANG-RELATED

Given a word picture depicting a crime, the student will identify if indicators are present to suggest the crime is gang-related. The indicators that a crime is gang-related are:

- A. Victim is a gang member
- B. Suspect is a gang member
- C. Type of crime
- D. Number of suspects
- E. Suspect descriptions with emphasis on teenagers and young adults
- F. Location of crime (hangout, territory)
- G. Type of vehicle(s)
- H. Victim or witness opinions
- I. Gang attire
- J. Slogans, hand signs

Performance Objective 8.50.9

### CURRICULUM

- A. Indicators that a crime is gang related
  - 1. Victim is a gang member
  - 2. Suspect is a gang member
  - 3. Type of crime
  - 4. Number of suspects
  - 5. Suspect descriptions with emphasis on teenagers and young adults
  - 6. Location of crime (hangout, territory)
  - 7. Type of vehicle(s)
  - 8. Victim or witness opinions
  - 9. Gang attire
  - 10. Slogans, hand signs
- B. Common criminal activities of gang members
  - 1. Sale and use of narcotics
    - a. Drugs represent a major contributory factor in the expansion of gangs and have undeniably caused a considerable increase in the spreading of gang violence throughout the state



- b. Sales of drugs are a large portion of fund raising for the gang's criminal activities
- c. The use and abuse of drugs and alcohol is a major form of recreation for gang members
- 2. Physical violence
  - a. Gang violence has reached epidemic proportions in California
  - b. The main reasons for gang violence are revenge, rivalries and intimidation
  - c. The most violent acts are gang homicides
    - (1) "trademark" drive-by shootings
    - (2) one-on-one shootings
    - (3) stabbings
    - (4) blunt object beatings
  - d. Gangs are continually involved in and becoming more prevalent in rape, kidnap, witness intimidation, shooting at inhabited dwellings and arson
- 3. Crimes of profit by gang members
  - a. The most common crimes of profit are robberies: commercial, residential, bank and street
  - b. Gang members also commit property crimes such as grand theft, auto theft, commercial and residential burglary
  - c. Extortion
- 4. Other gang-related offenses
  - a. Vandalism - Graffiti is the number one property crime costing California in excess of 30 million dollars a year on abatement and clean-up activities
- C. Law enforcement strategies and laws relating to criminal gang activities
  - 1. Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act (STEP Act) (Penal Code Section 186.22)
  - 2. Enhancement for Recruitment of Minors (Penal Code Section 186.26)
  - 3. Enhancement for Drive-by Murder (Penal Code Section 12022.5)

4. Federal statutes (racketeering, car jacking, weapons violations)
5. Asset seizure laws
6. Local laws and ordinances (e.g., civil gang abatement)
7. Application of hate crime laws when gang crimes are directed at specific groups
8. Another law enforcement tool are the automated gang tracking systems. Examples include:
  - a. General/gang Reporting Evaluating and Tracking computer system (G.R.E.A.T). A statewide system that links to other national systems
  - b. Gang Tracking System (G.T.S) operated by the Los Angeles Police Department



## INTERPRETATION OF GANG COMMUNICATIONS

Given examples of tattoos, gang graffiti or other forms of gang communication, the student will identify, either verbally or in writing, the:

- A. Name/moniker of the individual or gang involved
- B. Name/title of the neighborhood or area
- C. The presence of indicators indicating pending or past gang conflicts

Performance Objective 8.50.10

## CURRICULUM

### A. Uses of gang graffiti

1. Graffiti is the "gang newspaper" of the street.
  - a. Used to identify individuals and/or specific gangs
    - (1) Main body of the writing contains gang's name or logo.  
A logo is a descriptive emblem used to identify the gang.  
A logo could consist of names, numbers and/or symbols
    - (2) Near the logo will usually be the moniker or street name of the writer or author of the inscription
      - (a) Placa is the Hispanic term for the gang name
      - (b) Placaso is the Hispanic term for the writer or author of the inscription
      - (c) Other ethnic gangs often copy Hispanic gang graffiti.
    - (3) May reveal which members comprise the active portion of a gang, including new recruits and order of importance of members

NOTE: Instructors should emphasize the importance of officers documenting date, time, location and content of graffiti or other gang communications they encounter

- b. May indicate gang boundaries
  - (1) Graffiti may mark neighborhoods claimed by a specific gang
  - (2) Graffiti may mark a place (i.e., business, residence, or park) claimed by a specific gang

- c. Indicates pending or past gang conflicts
  - (1) Unchallenged graffiti - not crossed out or written over indicates what gang is in control of that area
  - (2) Graffiti crossed out by another gang indicates a challenge by a rival gang
  - (3) Graffiti may indicate threats toward specific individuals including law enforcement (i.e., cross outs, "187," and "DOA")

B. Understanding gang tattoos

- 1. May indicate gang affiliation (most common)
- 2. May indicate the gang member's specific moniker
- 3. May indicate subset or clique
- 4. May include gang-modified religious tatoos (e.g., upside-down cross)
- 5. May include threat toward rival gang (e.g., CK187)
- 6. May identify the institution in which a gang member was incarcerated
- 7. May indicate the types of crimes the gang member was involved in or the propensity for violence
- 8. May indicate the region affiliation
  - a. Northern California
    - (1) Use of 14 or a form of 14
    - (2) Use of Norte or Norteno
  - b. Southern California
    - (1) Use of 13 or a form of 13
    - (2) Use of Sur or Sureno
  - c. Area code
- 9. Other types of markings
  - a. Three dots in a triangular pattern

- (1) Originally used by Hispanic gangs to indicate Mi Vida Loca (my crazy life)
  - (2) Now being used by other ethnic gangs
  - (3) Aryan Brotherhood members may use single or multiple dots to indicate "hits/kills"
- b. A teardrop tattoo (used by gang members to indicate prison time or homicides)
  - c. Cigarette burns
    - (1) Usually multiple burn marks in some type of pattern
    - (2) Examples include cross-shapes and rectangular pattern with burns in each corner and in the center

NOTE: The presence of any of these markings is not confirmation that a person is a gang member. It is information the officer should consider in combination with other factors

C. Other forms of gang communications

1. Hand signs
2. Other written communications
  - a. Drawings
  - b. Correspondence
3. Specialized language
  - a. Slang (i.e., cuzz, homie)
  - b. Calo
    - (1) Calo is a language picked up by Hispanic youngsters from "veteranos" who developed the language in prison
    - (2) Calo combines English and Spanish to form new words, phrases and sentences
    - (3) It is used by gang members to communicate among themselves without being understood by outsiders including law enforcement
    - (4) Examples include "carrucha" or "ramfla" to signify a car, "calcos" to indicate shoes, and "placa" or "jura" to indicate law enforcement

**NOTE:** The use of Calo is not confirmation that a person is a gang member. It is information the officer should consider in combination with other factors

## GANG CULTURE AND DYNAMICS

The student will participate in an instructor-led discussion regarding gang culture and dynamics. The discussion should address:

- A. The definition of a gang (Penal Code 186.22)
- B. Types of gangs to including Hispanic street gangs, Asian street gangs, Black street gangs, White street gangs, organized crime gangs, motorcycle gangs and prison gangs)
- C. Reasons for gang membership
- D. Characteristics common to most gangs
- E. Common criminal gang activities
- F. Enforcement methods that reduce gang activity
- G. Officer safety considerations for gang contacts

Learning Activity 13.38.01

## CURRICULUM

- A. Peace officer contacts with gangs
  - 1. The nature of law enforcement duties necessitates contact with gangs
  - 2. Gangs from major urban areas are spreading their activities to many smaller cities and rural areas
  - 3. Gangs are seeking new territory for their violent and criminal acts
  - 4. Peace officers, during a daily shift comes into contact with potential gang activity during:
    - a. Calls concerning crime or disruptive behavior
    - b. Traffic stops
    - c. Field interviews
    - d. Custodial duties
- B. Definition of a gang (Penal Code Section 186.22)

**NOTE:** Instructors may wish to expand their discussion to recognize that a variety of lesser crimes or activities may suggest evidence of gang presence within a community. Instructors should rely on patterns of activity that are occurring within the geographical region serviced by the academy.



1. Ongoing association of 3 or more people,
2. Whose primary activities are the commission of one or more of the following crimes:
  - a. Assault with a deadly weapon (Penal Code Section 245)
  - b. Robbery (Penal Code Section 211)
  - c. Homicide or manslaughter (Penal Code Sections 187 and 192)
  - d. Sale, possession for sale, transportation for sale, manufacture for sale, or offer to manufacture for sale controlled substances as defined in Section 11054, 11055, 11056, 11057, and 11058 of the Health and Safety Code
  - e. Shooting at an inhabited dwelling or occupied motor vehicle (Penal Code Section 246)
  - f. Arson (Penal Code Section 450 et seq)
  - g. Intimidation of witnesses and victims (Penal Code Section 136.1)
3. Which has a common name, sign, or symbol,
4. Whose members collectively or individually engage in a **pattern of criminal activity**

NOTE: A "pattern of criminal activity" by members of a street gang is defined by Penal Code Section 186.22(e) as the commission, attempted commission, or solicitation of two or more of the offenses listed above, provided at least one of those offenses occurred after the effective date of the chapter and the last of those offenses occurred within three years after a prior offense, and the offenses are committed on separate occasions, or by two or more persons.

C. Types of gangs

1. Street gangs, to include:
  - a. Hispanic
  - b. Black
  - c. Asian
  - d. White
2. Organized crime gangs
3. Motorcycle gangs
4. Prison gangs

D. Street gang culture and dynamics

1. Hispanic street gangs

a. History of Hispanic gangs

- (1) As a result of the Western expansion of the United States, Mexicans in California gathered in small towns known as barrios/varrios where they shared common culture, customs and language.
- (2) Rivalries developed among the immigrants which led to the development of the first gangs. They were very defensive of their barrio and would protect it with a vengeance.
- (3) During the 40's, gang fights occurred in the East Los Angeles area between rival Mexican gangs over turf disputes.
- (4) Hispanic gangs evolved from East Los Angeles and then spread throughout southern California.
- (5) Today, Hispanic street gangs can be found throughout California.
- (6) Some Hispanic gangs are beginning to recruit non-Hispanic members and some Hispanic gang members are joining with other ethnic groups.
- (7) Hispanic female gangs are starting to evolve exclusive of the traditionally male-dominated Hispanic gangs.

b. Identification/recognition of Hispanic street gangs

- (1) Typical clothing Hispanic gang members may wear:
  - (a) Oversized/baggy khaki pants - also can be cut off at knees and worn with high socks (Among Hispanic gang members, the showing of bare legs is considered an indication of homosexuality in the prison system.)
  - (b) Pendelton-type wool shirts and/or white crew neck/muscle T-shirts
  - (c) Knit caps, hairnets, bandannas
  - (d) Athletic shoes

- (e) Use of red or blue colors to identify themselves as a member of a Northern (red) or Southern (blue) California gang

(2) Language

- (a) Hispanic gangs use a language called "Calo"
- (b) Calo combines English and Spanish to form new words, phrases, and sentences
- (c) Use of Calo allows gang members to communicate among themselves, without being understood by outsiders.
- (d) Examples of Calo words and phrases include:
  - 1) "carro", carrucha", and ramfla" which mean "car"
  - 2) "calcos" which means "shoes"
  - 3) "placa" or "Jura" which means "police"

(3) Hand signals/tattoos

- (a) Hispanic gangs utilize hand signals and tattoos depicting their specific gang clique
- (b) Tattoos can include "N" or "14" (meaning the 14th letter of the alphabet - used to signify north") or "13" or "M" (to signify a Southern gang)

(4) Hair styles

- (a) Traditional hair styles such as the short, combed-back look are tending to change
- (b) Hair styles are not a singular indicator of gang affiliation

c. Hispanic gang crime trends

(1) Drug trafficking concentrating on:

- (a) Heroin
- (b) PCP
- (c) Marijuana
- (d) Methamphetamines

(2) Crimes against persons to include:

- (a) Assaults
- (b) Drive-by shootings
- (c) Murders
- (d) Robbery

(3) Property crimes to include:

- (a) Burglary
- (b) Grand Theft
- (c) Vehicle theft
- (d) Receiving stolen property

(4) Gangs members will attack rival gangs in defense of their turf

d. Officer safety considerations when contacting Hispanic gangs

- (1) Weapons are no longer limited to revolvers and knives
- (2) Attacks on peace officers by Hispanic gang members have become more frequent
- (3) Officer safety should be a primary concern because Hispanic gangs traditionally lack respect for authority, which is coupled with "machismo"

2. Black gangs

a. History of Black street gangs

- (1) Crips
  - (a) 225 Crip "sets" - meaning "gangs"
  - (b) Los Angeles County - "Gang Capital of the World"
  - (c) Founded in 1969
  - (d) Raymond Washington was one of the original founders of the group. Because he walked with a cane or was "crippled", the group name became "Crips"

- (e) Stanley "Tookie" Williams was a prominent co-founder of the group and was one of the first persons to be identified as a Crip gang member
- (f) Original area - South Central Los Angeles
- (2) Bloods (Non-Crips)
  - (a) 84 Blood sets in Los Angeles County
  - (b) Bloods sets are outnumbered by Crip sets 3 to 1
  - (c) Founded in 1970 to provide protection from Crip sets
  - (d) Original leaders included:
    - 1) Sylvester Scott ("Puddin") - from Piru Street in the City of Compton started a gang known as the "Pirus". Later they became a subset of the Bloods
    - 2) Vincent Owens and Ralph Nelson were among the original founders of early Blood sets
    - 3) These persons are considered to be O.G. (Original Gangsters) which has now become a term applicable to senior members of a gang
  - (e) Both Crip and Blood sets formed to provide protection from rival gangs
  - (f) Economic gain via narcotics trade

b. Identification/recognition of black street gangs

- (1) ID/recognition of Crips
  - (a) Gang colors and attire:
    - 1) Blue and black clothing
    - 2) Blue bananas (gang rags)
    - 3) Raiders attire
    - 4) Cut out lettered buckles
    - 5) Blue shoelaces
  - (b) Hair style

- 1) Traditional hairstyles included cornrows and dread locks
- 2) Styles are changing to include short hair or shaved heads or gang affiliation sculpted into the hair
- 3) Hair style is not a single indicator of gang affiliation

(c) Crip jargon

- 1) Crib - House or living quarters
- 2) O.G. or O/G - Original Gangster (meaning a senior member of the gang)
- 3) BK - Blood Killa
- 4) Cuzz - Crips acknowledgement of a fellow gang member
- 5) Slobs - Derogatory Crip term for Bloods
- 6) Set - Black gang
- 7) Dog - Used as a suffix to their moniker (e.g., C-dog, mad dog, Crip dog)

(2) ID/recognition of Bloods

(a) Blood gang attire

- 1) Red bananas (gang rags)
- 2) Red baseball caps
- 3) Red shirts and pants
- 4) Red shoelaces
- 5) Red cut out belt buckles

(b) Hair style

- 1) Cornrows
- 2) Dread locks
- 3) Blood jargon

a) Crip killa

- b) Blood - greeting to other gang members
  - c) Crab - derogatory Blood term for a Crip
  - d) Set - black gang
- (3) Both Crips and Bloods use nicknames which are violence-oriented (e.g., Machine Gun, Killa, Forty-five, Shotgun, Insane)
- (4) Most all Black gang members have monikers
- (5) Fellow gang members may not know a member's real name, but will always know the gang member's moniker
- (6) Both Crips and Bloods use hand signals and other nonverbal methods to communicate
- c. Black street gang crime trends
- (1) Gang warfare related crimes - mostly with other Black street gangs to include:
- (a) Gang homicides
  - (b) Gang drive-by shootings
  - (c) Arson of rival's vehicles
  - (d) Drug rip-offs
  - (e) Revenge, pay-back vendettas
  - (f) Gang warfare prompted by rivalry associated with the distribution and sale of rock/crack cocaine
- (2) Drug activity
- (a) Distribution/sale of rock/crack cocaine, which is the Black set's drug of choice
  - (b) Established drug networks throughout California and the nation
- (3) Other crimes include:
- (a) Car jacking

- (b) Bank robberies/takeovers
- (c) Jewelry store robberies
- (d) Arson
- (e) Vehicle theft
- (f) Gun store robberies and burglaries

d. Officer safety considerations when contacting black street gangs

(1) Awareness/recognition regarding:

- (a) Increasing number of assaults and murders of peace officers perpetrated by gang members

EXAMPLE: Compton Police Department Officers Brell and McDonald were ambushed and killed in the winter of 1992 while on a traffic stop. The suspect was a known Blood gang member

Vehicle and pedestrian stops of gang members should be considered high-risk contacts

- (b) Feuds that are taking place on the beat
- (c) Who is "back out on the street" using Law Enforcement Notification (LEN) reports from the prisons
- (d) Need to share information with officers on other shifts and from other agencies

NOTE: Many agencies have designated gang liaison officers to attend regular intra- and interagency meetings to exchange information regarding gang trends and outstanding suspects.

- (e) The fact that size, and sex of the gang member are not always reliable indicators of potential danger. Gang members of all ages, sizes and sex should be considered dangerous
- (f) The fact that recruitment of new gang members often requires the prospective member to commit a drive-by shooting or some other form of felonious assault



- (g) That gangs are becoming more sophisticated and organized with access to greater firepower. Gang weapons now frequently include:
  - 1) Large caliber handguns
  - 2) Shotguns
  - 3) Automatic and semi-automatic weapons
- (h) The need to check potential areas of weapon concealment when contacting gang members
- (i) Females and juveniles may be holding the gang weapons or may themselves become assaultive
- (j) Gang members have little, if any, regard for authority
- (k) The ratio of probationers and parolees who have been convicted of violent crimes is much greater than ten years ago when property crime convictions were dominant
- (l) Female gang members have become more involved in violent acts and other criminally-oriented activities. They take part in drive-by shootings, narcotics trafficking, and have been known to carry weapons and hold narcotics
- (m) Gang counterintelligence measures such as use of police scanners and counter surveillance vehicles
- (n) Luring officers into an ambush situation (e.g., prompting a pursuit and deliberately stopping in a gang-controlled location)

### 3. Asian street gangs

#### a. History of Asian street gangs

- (1) Chinese Organized Crime - started prior to 1975 continuing until the present. (e.g., Tongs, Wah Ching and Wo Hop To)
- (2) Vietnamese/Southeast Asians
- (3) Current Asian street gangs (e.g., Crips\*, Fiiipinos, Samoans, Tongans, Viet Ching, Cambodians, Hmong, Mien, Laotian)

\* NOTE: Crips are cited as an example because some Asian gangs are adopting characteristics of Black Crip sets

- b. Identification/recognition of Asian street gangs
  - (1) Tattoos (e.g., TTTT, dots, animals, ships, Asian characters, etc.)
  - (2) Clothing (e.g., Asian Crips wearing blue)
  - (3) Cigarette burns
  - (4) Hand signs
- c. Asian street gang crime trends
  - (1) Crimes include:
    - (a) Assault with a deadly weapon
    - (b) Auto theft (using techniques including shaved keys, lock picking, ceramic pieces and tennis balls, etc)
    - (c) Extortion
    - (d) Burglary
    - (e) Home invasion robbery
    - (f) Commercial robbery (e.g., computer companies, restaurants)
    - (g) Prostitution
    - (h) Gambling/loan sharking/money laundering
    - (i) Counterfeit credit cards and I.D.'s
    - (j) Illegal drug smuggling and sales
    - (k) Alien smuggling
    - (l) Homicide
    - (m) Arson
    - (n) Possession of dangerous weapons (e.g., assault pistols)
    - (o) Intimidation of victim/witness

- (p) Safe house/crash pads
  - (2) Intra-Asian street gang alliances (e.g., Vietnamese, Cambodians, Chinese, etc. together in one gang)
  - (3) Asians joining other ethnic street gangs (e.g., Hispanic and Black gangs)
  - (4) In 1997, Hong Kong will revert to control by Communist China. The influence of Triads and international organized crime, which is already present in this country, is expected to increase dramatically at that time
- d. Officer Safety considerations when contacting Asian street gangs
- (1) Life has no value or meaning to Asian street gang members
  - (2) Asian street gang members distrust the police
  - (3) Asian street gang members will conceal their hostility toward police. They can become extremely violent without any warning
  - (4) Asian street gang members prefer high capacity assault weapons, shotguns, pistols, explosives
  - (5) Asian street gang members are proficient at concealing weapons on motor vehicles
  - (6) Female Asian street gang members will carry weapons for males. They also form their own gangs
  - (7) Asian street gang members utilize counter surveillance techniques (e.g. tailgunners)

4. White street gangs

a. Skinheads

- (1) Skinhead history
  - (a) Emerged in the United States sometime in 1985 with roots tracing back to England where the lifestyle was first documented in the early 1970's. Around 1978, Ian Stuart of a band called "Screwdriver" was influential in starting a neo-Nazi racist faction of Skinheads through his music. He also popularized the wearing of flight jackets by Skinheads

- (b) Their name was derived from the practice of shaving their heads to eliminate the possibility of their hair being pulled when they became involved in street fights
- (c) The original power base of the Skinheads was founded upon the resentment of Third World immigrants flooding into England and was enhanced by their use of violence as an extension of their beliefs
- (d) Skinhead culture has developed into two categories: "Racist" and "Non-Racist"

- 1) "Racist" Skinheads advocate white supremacy through violent action.

Subgroups of racist skinheads can include:

- a) American Front
- b) Confederate Hammerskins
- c) WAR Skins

- 2) "Non-racist" Skinheads have a multi-cultural membership and adhere to the Skin movement mainly because of the non-conformist music and dress

Sub-groups such as S.H.A.R.P. (Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice) have emerged specifically advertising "No Nazis, No KKK, No Fascist U.S.A."

- 3) "Non-racist" Skinheads are not necessarily a criminal gang

- (e) Racist Skinheads have established links with more traditional white supremacy groups such as the Klu Klux Klan and the American Nazi Party

(2) Identification and Recognition of Skinhead street gangs

(a) Appearance

- 1) Closely cropped hair
- 2) Shaved heads

(b) Clothing

- 1) Air force-style flight jackets

- 2) Dark colored jeans
- 3) Suspenders or "braces"
- 4) "Doc Marten" steel-toed boots or other type of workboot
- 5) Shoelace and/or suspender colors
  - a) White or red to indicate Racist Skinhead
  - b) Black to indicate Non-Racist Skinhead
- 6) Nazi-type emblems

(c) Tattoos

- 1) Swastikas
- 2) Lightning bolts
- 3) Iron crosses
- 4) "SS"
- 5) Crossed hammers
- 6) White Power (the two words tattooed together or on separate parts of the body)
- 7) "SWP" or "Supreme White Power"

(3) Crime trends involving Skinhead street gangs

- (a) Hate crimes directed against minority groups (perpetrated by Racist Skinheads). The most common victims of these crimes are non-whites, Jews and homosexuals.
- (b) Many Skinhead groups are under the influence of adult racist groups and do not follow normal street gang patterns of criminal behavior. Examples of groups who exert influence on racist Skinheads are: KKK, Aryan Nations, and WAR (White Aryan Resistance)
- (c) Many law enforcement agencies consider Skinhead groups as political extremists, rather than as street gangs

NOTE: Organized groups such as the Anti-defamation League (ADL) or the Southern Poverty Law Center can provide valuable information to law enforcement regarding hate crimes.

- (4) Officer safety considerations when contacting Skinhead street gang members
  - (a) Skinhead street gang members may feign injury as an excuse to carry a walking stick that would be used as a club in a confrontation
  - (b) "Lay their braces down" meaning their suspenders are dropped in preparation for a confrontation
  - (c) Heavy jewelry worn by skinhead gang members can be used offensively (e.g., metallic ornaments used as brass knuckles)
  - (d) Skinhead gang members may freshly shave their heads just before a confrontation
  - (e) Skinhead gang members may conceal weapons in a specific location and then either flee to that location if pursued by police or may overtly lure someone to that location
  - (f) Like other gangs, skinheads are using more sophisticated weapons (e.g., semiautomatic pistols, etc.)
  - (g) In some areas, female skinhead gang members are becoming as dominate in the gang as their male counterparts

b. Other White street gangs

- (1) Stoners
  - (a) Stoner street gangs abuse drugs and alcohol to such an extent that their fellow youth dubbed them "Stoners"
  - (b) Stoner gangs tend to be heavily involved in the Heavy Metal music scene and occasionally practice Satanic worship
  - (c) In most instances, Stoners are disenchanting youth going through a phase and do not participate significantly in the excessive violence commonly associated with other street gangs

- (d) Stoner gangs are not exclusively white. Many Stoner gangs have Hispanic members or are multi-racial.

E. Organized crime gangs

NOTE: Several types of gangs can also fall into the Organized Crime category. What distinguishes a gang as being an organized crime gang is the sophistication and level of criminal activity in which they are involved (e.g., maintaining a well-established drug distribution network).

- 1. Triads
- 2. Yakuza
- 3. Some outlaw motorcycle gangs (e.g., Hells Angels)

F. Motorcycle gangs

1. History of motorcycle gangs

a. The "Big Five"

(1) Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (MC)

- (a) Started in March 1948, in Fontana, California, with former members of the POBOB's (Pissed-Off Bastards of Bloomington). The name was taken from a World War II bomber group, the Hells Angels. Their mother chapter was located in San Bernardino (Berdoos) until the 1960's, when it moved to Oakland.

(2) Outlaws MC

- (a) In 1959, the Outlaws organized in Chicago, Illinois.

(3) Pagans MC

- (a) In 1959, the Pagans organized in Prince George County, Maryland.

(4) Sons of Silence MC

- (a) In 1968, the Sons of Silence organized in Commerce City, Colorado. They have been included in the "Big Five" due to their great expansion into the mid-west.

(5) Bandidos MC

- (a) Formed in Houston Texas in March of 1966
- (b) Have since expanded in the mid-West, Pacific northwest and Australia
- (c) They are associates of the Hells Angeles
- (d) Currently have 27 chapters and approximately 400 members
- (e) They earn their money through sales of methamphetamine which is also their drug of personal choice
- (f) The gang has significant influence in the mid-West due to their trafficking of methamphetamine

2. Identification & recognition of outlaw motorcycle gangs

a Local/regional outlaw motorcycle gangs

NOTE: Instructors should concentrate discussions on local or regional outlaw motorcycle gangs which are prominent in the geographical area serviced by the academy and which students are most likely to encounter.

b. Colors/patches/clothing

c. Tattoos

- (1) Gang affiliation/membership
- (2) "1%" mark

NOTE: This originated when an official from the American Motorcycle Association made the comment that 99% of motorcycle riders are "law-abiding citizens". The outlaw bikers took pride in the fact that they were among the remaining "1%" and have adopted that identifier.)

d. Club structure

- (1) Membership
  - (a) Officers
  - (b) General members
  - (c) Prospects



- (2) Hangarounds: Persons who are groomed to become membership prospects and who may be allowed to ride with the club or associate with members
- (3) Associates: Persons who are subdealers and involved in the up front criminal activity for the members

3. Motorcycle gang crime trends

- a. Manufacture, importation, & distribution of narcotics
- b. Extortion
- c. Contract killings
- d. Intimidation
- e. Stockpiling of sophisticated weaponry
- f. Money laundering

4. Officer safety considerations when contacting motorcycle gangs

a. Weapons

(1) Organized runs

- (a) This is when an outlaw biker is most likely to be in possession of weapons because of planned movement of narcotics, expected conflict with another club, protection, or traveling to events such as Labor Day Run, the Sturgis Run (a national gathering Harley Davidson riders in South Dakota)
- (b) Club members normally ride in a formal structure (e.g., president, captain of the run or other senior club officers in the front)
- (c) The run may be followed by enforcers and/or "crash trucks"
  - 1) These vehicles may be some distance behind the pack
  - 2) May be carrying additional weapons and narcotics
  - 3) May be driven by club prospects or female associates

- (2) Outlaw motorcycle gang members may often conceal weapons on their bikes
- b. Outlaw motorcycle gang members will often employ sophisticated counter surveillance and intelligence gathering techniques
  - (1) Source recruitment (e.g., solicitation of inside information such as from a DMV employee)
  - (2) Clubhouses (e.g., fortifications, weaponry, stockpiling of weaponry)
  - (3) Member/associate residences
  - (4) Member or associated-owned businesses

G. Prison gangs

- 1. There are approximately 100,000 males and females incarcerated in the California Department of Corrections prison system. The predominant prison gangs are:
  - a. Hispanic Prison gangs
    - (1) Mexican Mafia
      - (a) Known as E.M.E or eMe (éme is the spanish pronunciation of the letter "M")
      - (b) Geographically located in southern California
    - (2) Nuestra Familia
      - (a) Known as N.F. or NF
      - (b) Geographically located in northern California
  - b. Aryan Brotherhood (A.B./AB)
  - c. Black Guerilla Family (B.G.F/BGF)
- 2. The Mexican Mafia (EME)
  - a. History
    - (1) Mexican Mafia formed in 1957 in Duell Vocational Institution in Tracy.
    - (2) Comprised of southern California street gangs
    - (3) Semi-formal ranked structure

- (4) Blood in, blood out (initiation based upon committing homicide in or out of prison - the only way out is death)
  - (5) Must be sponsored by an active gang member and the active gang member has responsibility for that recruit
  - (6) Mexican Mafia is allied with the Aryan Brotherhood
  - (7) Recent organizational edicts (1993)
    - (a) "EME" officials meeting regularly throughout southern California organizing Hispanic street gangs for their own self-service needs primarily dealing narcotics in the varrios
    - (b) Taxes for all Hispanic gangs will be paid to "EME" - up to \$700 a month and four guns
    - (c) All Blacks must be purged from Hispanic gangs
    - (d) Ordered Hispanic gangs to stop the drive-by shootings of other Hispanic gang members, which is considered by EME to be the coward's way
    - (e) Any Hispanic gang which does not comply with demands, will have a green light status placed on them (meaning they can be hit at any time)
- b. Identification and recognition of Mexican Mafia members
- (1) Officers will not be able to distinguish Mexican Mafia members released from prison by clothing or appearance alone
  - (2) The best indication that someone is a member of the Mexican Mafia is by the presence of Mexican Mafia tattoos. Examples include:
    - (a) Mexican Black Eagle with a serpent in its beak
    - (b) EME
    - (c) "Mexican Mafia"
    - (d) Tattoo of a blackened open hand (Mano Negro - "Black Hand") on the right side of the body
  - (3) Identification by Department of Corrections experts
- c. Crime trends involving the Mexican Mafia

- (1) Contract murders
  - (2) Extortion
  - (3) Narcotics trafficking
  - (4) Robberies
  - (5) Fencing activities
- d. Officer safety considerations when contacting members of the Mexican Mafia

NOTE: Officer safety considerations for contacting gang members are discussed in detail in section "L." of this outline

3. Nuestra Familia (NF)

- a. History of Nuestra Familia
  - (1) Formed in 1965 in Soledad Prison
  - (2) Comprised of northern California street gangs
  - (3) Originally organized to protect themselves against other prison gangs
  - (4) Nuestra Familia allied with Black Guerilla family
- b. Identification and recognition of Nuestra Familia members
  - (1) Officers will not be able to distinguish Nuestra Familia members released from prison by clothing or appearance alone
  - (2) The best indication that someone is a member of the Nuestra Familia is by the presence of Nuestra Familia tattoos. Examples include:
    - (a) Sombrero with a machete through it
    - (b) Machete dripping blood
    - (c) NF
    - (d) "Nuestra Familia"
  - (3) Identification by Department of Corrections experts
- c. Crime trends involving the Nuestra Familia
  - (1) Contract murders

- (2) Extortion
  - (3) Narcotics trafficking
  - (4) Robberies
  - (5) Fencing activities
- d. Officer safety considerations when contacting members of the Nuestra Familia

NOTE: Officer safety considerations for contacting gang members are discussed in detail in section "L." of this outline

4. Aryan Brotherhood (AB)

a. History

- (1) Formed in 1968 at Soledad prison
- (2) Had early roots out of a gang called the "blue birds" that was formed in mid-1965
- (3) White-racist criminal activity - narcotics to other white inmates and protection of other minority prison gangs
- (4) The Aryan Brotherhood is allied with The Mexican Mafia
- (5) Often involved in sophisticated intelligence gathering activities

b. Identification and recognition of Aryan Brotherhood members

- (1) Officers will not be able to distinguish Aryan Brotherhood members released from prison by clothing or appearance alone
- (2) The best indication that someone is a member of the Aryan Brotherhood is by the presence of Aryan Brotherhood tattoos. Examples include:
  - (a) Shamrock with the letters "AB" in or around the shamrock
  - (b) "AB"
  - (c) The word "Bluebird" or the illustration of a bluebird (more common of older members)
  - (d) Swastika with the letters "AB" in or around the swastika

- (e) Lightening bolts or "666" in conjunction with any of the above tattoos

NOTE: Lightening bolts or "666" in or around a member's gang tattoo (or located elsewhere on the person's body) have special significance in that they must be "earned." This almost always indicates that the member has killed someone.

- (3) Identification by Department of Corrections experts
- c. Crime trends involving the Aryan Brotherhood
    - (1) Contract murders
    - (2) Extortion
    - (3) Narcotics trafficking
    - (4) Commercial robberies (particularly of banks)
    - (5) Weapon and explosive trafficking
  - d. Officer safety considerations when contacting members of the Aryan Brotherhood

NOTE: Officer safety considerations for contacting gang members are discussed in detail in section "L." of this outline

5. Black Guerilla Family (B.G.F)

- a. History
  - (1) Formed in 1966 in San Quentin prison
  - (2) George Jackson was the founder and part of the "San Quentin 6" which was an outgrowth of the Black Panther Party
  - (3) Revolutionary Socialism is their doctrine
    - (a) Like other prison gangs, they have formal rules
    - (b) Military system of officers (e.g. generals, captains, lieutenants etc.)
  - (4) Blood in, blood out
  - (5) Self-protection from other prison gangs
  - (6) Distribution of narcotics in and out of prison

- (7) The Black Guerilla Family is allied with Nuestra Familia
- (8) Involved in organizing groups of black Crip sets and training them in bank takeovers
- b. Identification and recognition of Black Guerilla Family members (BGF)
  - (1) Officers will not be able to distinguish Black Guerilla Family members released from prison by clothing or appearance alone
  - (2) The best indication that someone is a member of the Black Guerilla Family is by the presence of Black Guerilla Family tattoos. Examples include:
    - (a) Dragon coiled around a guard tower
    - (b) "276" (the numerical placement of the letters "BGF" in the alphabet)
    - (c) Raised fist
    - (d) Rifle and a sword crossed with letters "BGF"
  - (3) Identification by Department of Corrections experts
- c. Crime trends involving the Black Guerilla Family
  - (1) Homicides to further gang objectives
  - (2) Extortion and protection
  - (3) Narcotics trafficking
  - (4) Robberies (e.g., armored cars, banks, etc.)
  - (5) Conspiracy with street gangs to commit a variety of offenses
- d. Officer safety considerations when contacting members of the Black Guerilla Family

NOTE: Officer safety considerations for contacting gang members are discussed in detail in section "L." of this outline

#### H. Primary reasons for becoming a gang member

- 1. Sociological factors
  - a. Peer pressure

- b. Membership provides an alternative family
  - c. Generally from a dysfunctional family
  - d. Family acceptance of gang membership - other members of family already in gang
  - e. Gang culture provides positive reinforcement of negative behaviors - membership fulfills self-esteem and status.
  - f. Excitement - thrill of gaining a reputation as a member
  - g. Need for recognition and respect from peers
2. Common interest
- a. Use of alcohol and/or drugs
  - b. Economic gain from criminal activity
  - c. Lifestyle (e.g., dress, music, cars, etc.)
  - d. Primary ethnic alignment, some gangs are racially mixed
  - e. Thrill of or propensity for violence
3. Protection and safety
- a. Gangs use intimidation and violence to control territory and to gain recruits - work on principle of join or be subjected to violence
  - b. There is safety in numbers and provides protection from other gangs
  - c. Protection during criminal activity, such as drug trafficking and extortion
- I. Characteristics common to most gangs
- 1. Lack of respect for recognized authorized (e.g., law enforcement, government, schools, etc.)
  - 2. Cohesiveness - Banding together provides means of exerting influence not normally available
    - a. "Home boy" syndrome or attitude in protecting their territory
    - b. Loyalty to group - loyalty outweighs personal interest
  - 3. Code of silence



- a. Members are pledged/committed to not snitch on another member
- b. Violation of silence code may or does result in execution of member violators

4. Rivalries

- a. Territory disputes - protection of their neighborhood (or turf)
- b. Turf and/or dope issues
- c. Flying "colors"
- d. Conflict over recruiting or female associates
- e. Traditional, long standing feuds

5. Revenge

- a. Retribution for perceived or real prior acts, such as being an informant, prior drive-by shootings, dope rip-offs and conflicts with rival gang members
- b. Crossing out rival gang member's graffiti markings

J. Common criminal gang activities

Individual gangs may specialize in a particular type of criminal activity. Criminal gang activities common to most groups include:

1. Sale and use of narcotics

- a. Drugs represent a major factor in the expansion of gangs and have caused considerable increase in gang-related violence.
- b. Sales of drugs represent a means by which gang members provide funds for weapons, jewelry, cars, etc.

2. Physical violence

- a. Cause of violence rests with the fascination and excitement of violence coupled with the hatred of one gang for another.
- b. Violence against members of another ethnic or racial group (e.g., hate-motivated crimes)
- c. Drive-by shootings

3. Other financial gain crimes

- a. Include home invasion robberies, auto theft, burglary, extortion, commercial robbery, and "carjackings".
- K. Enforcement methods that reduce gang activity
- 1. Proactive field enforcement efforts
    - a. Identification of gang activity
    - b. Identification of gang boundaries
    - c. Identification of individual gang members
    - d. Gathering beat intelligence (e.g., developing information regarding gang feuds and rivalries, etc.)
    - e. Provide timely information to gang investigators by patrol officers
  - 2. Recognition and use of the Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act (S.T.E.P. 186.22 Penal Code)
  - 3. Rapid identification, arrest and successful prosecution of suspects involved in violent gang-related cases
  - 4. Coordination and networking
    - a. Sharing of information among members of the same law enforcement organization
    - b. Sharing of information between law enforcement agencies, probation/parole officers, etc.
    - c. Sharing of non-confidential information with school officials, community groups, churches, and social welfare agencies
- L. General officer safety considerations for any gang contact
- 1. Gang members view all forms of law enforcement as the enemy
    - a. May often challenge law enforcement authority
    - b. May receive recognition from other gang members by defying law enforcement
  - 2. They may possess a variety of weapons such as guns, knives, clubs, etc.
    - a. Their clothing often allows them to conceal weapons. (e.g., baggy pants, open shirts, trench coats, etc.)

- b. Gang members often conceal weapons in vehicles (e.g., glove compartment, air ducts, under seats, engine compartment, under fenders, etc.)
3. Gang members may use sophisticated tactics
- a. Use of counter surveillance techniques
  - b. Luring officers into an ambush/sniper situation
  - c. Prison gang members actively practice defenses or countermeasures to established police field tactics
    - (1) Gun take-away
    - (2) Escaping from search and arrest controls
4. Officers should also be aware of the following:
- a. Increased number of assaults and murders of peace officers perpetrated by gang members
  - b. Feuds that are taking place on the beat
  - c. Who is "back out on the street" using Law Enforcement Notification (LEN) reports from the prisons
  - d. The fact that size and sex of the gang member are not always indicators of danger. Gang members of all ages, sizes and sex should be considered dangerous
  - e. The fact that recruitment of new gang members often requires the prospective member to commit a drive-by shooting or some other form of felonious assault
  - f. Females and small juveniles may be holding the gang weapons or may themselves become assaultive
  - g. The ratio of probationers and parolees who have been convicted of violent crimes is much greater than ten years ago when property crime convictions were dominant
  - h. Female gangs members have become more involved in violent acts and other criminally-oriented activities. They take part in drive-by shootings, narcotics trafficking, and have been known to carry weapons and hold narcotics

### LOCAL/REGIONAL GANG ACTIVITIES

Given stimulus material provided by the instructor (e.g., newspaper articles, news videos, intelligence information, crime analysis data, etc.), the student will participate in a facilitated discussion regarding local/regional criminal gang activity occurring in the geographical area serviced by the academy. Examples include:

- A. Gang rivalry and related crimes (e.g., drive-by shootings, other assaults on gang members, murders in the name of the gang, etc.)
- B. Profit-motivated gang crimes (e.g., swarm robberies, narcotics trade, etc.)
- C. Nontraditional gang crimes (e.g., kidnapping, vehicle identification number switching, etc.)
- D. Enforcement methods used to reduce gang activity

Learning Activity 13.38.02

### CURRICULUM

#### A. Statewide gang trends

- 1. Hispanic
- 2. Black
- 3. White
- 4. Asian

NOTE: For information regarding statewide patterns of criminal gang activity related to 1. through 4., instructors should draw material from "Gangs 2000", a report published by the California Department of Justice.

- 5. Organized crime
- 6. Motorcycle
- 7. Prison

#### B. Local/regional gang trends

- 1. Crimes that gangs are involved in within the geographical region serviced by the academy:
  - a. Gang rivalry and related crimes (e.g., drive-by shootings, assaults/murders in the name of the gang)
  - b. Profit-related gang crimes (e.g., robberies, narcotics trade)

c. Nontraditional crimes (e.g., kidnapping, vehicle id switching, grey market)

2. Enforcement methods used to counter gang activity

C. Gang profiling

1. The following elements should be considered when discussing criminal gang activity that occurs within the geographical area serviced by the academy:

a. Gang name

b. Graffiti

c. Geographic boundaries

d. Racial makeup

e. The number of documented members and associate members

f. Gang color(s)

g. Gang dress

h. Rival gang(s)

i. Hangout(s)

j. Other profile information

(1) History

(2) General notes

(3) Trends

**SUPPORTING MATERIAL**

**AND**

**REFERENCES**

This section is set up as reference information for use by training institutions. These materials can be used for instruction, remediation, additional reading, viewing, or for planning local blocks of instruction. This list is not an endorsement of any author, publisher, producer, or presentation. Each training institution should establish its own list of reference materials.

**TOPICAL LIST OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS AND  
REFERENCES INCLUDED IN THIS SECTION**

Interpreting Graffiti (2 pages)

Guide for Reading Hispanic Youth Gang Graffiti

Hispanic Graffiti

Mexican Street Slang Phrases and Their Meaning

Spanish Translations (2 pages)

Mexican Street Slang: Calo

## INTERPRETING GRAFFITI

"Cross-outs" are territorial insults of the gang and can lead to shootouts.

To interpret the photograph: The gang EMF (El Monte Flores) came into it's enemies' turf and left a calling card in the form of a "placa" including a list of monikers. When graffiti is written in rival turf the first person listed will always be the one who wrote the graffiti. Having seen the placa, the gang whose turf this occurred in "crossed out" the names and lashed back with the derogatory term, "Putos!"

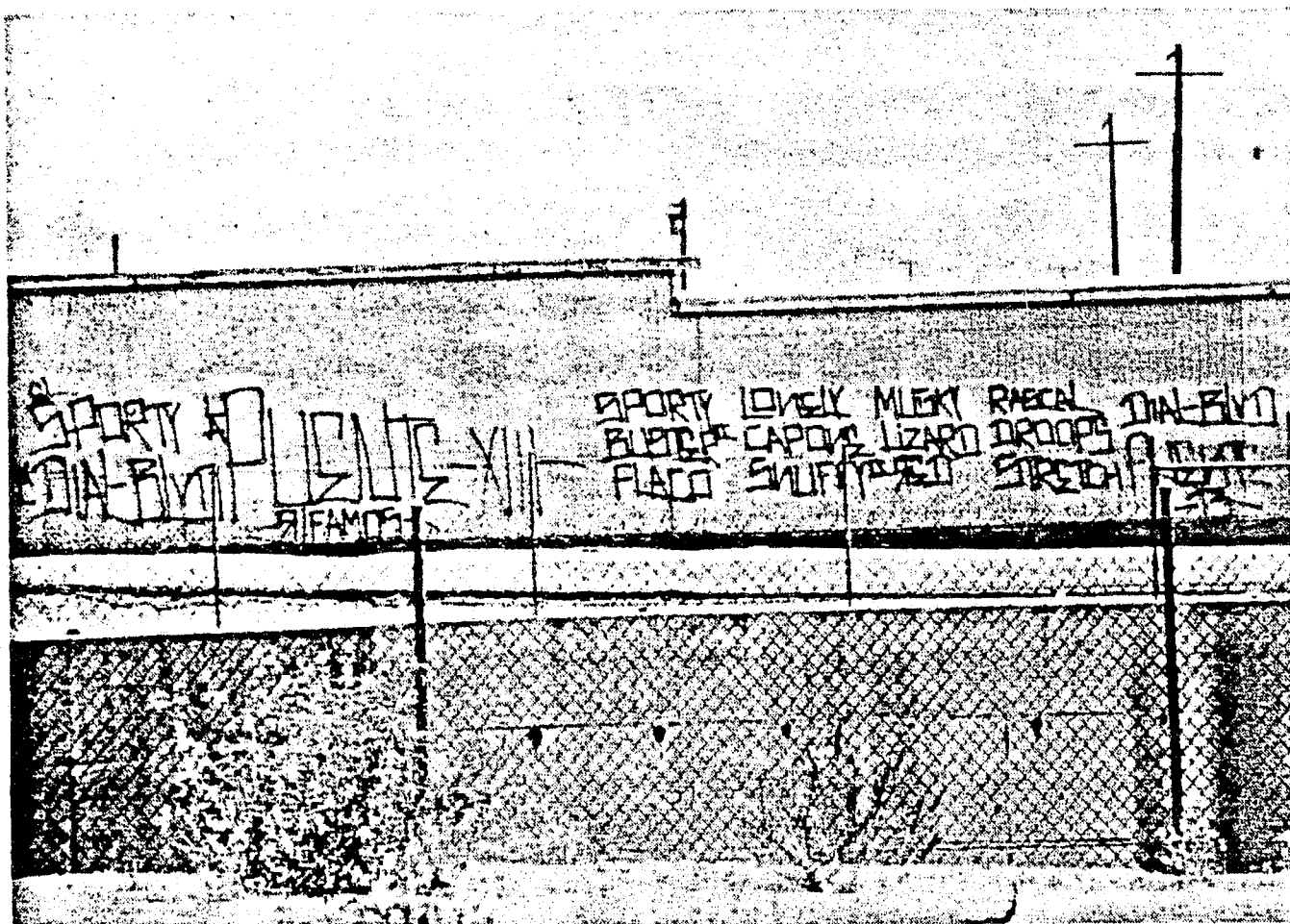




## INTERPRETING GRAFFITI

A "placa" provides a significant amount of intelligence information: the gang name, the sub-clique and the gang members. Because gang members often only know each other by their monikers, it's important for the officer to be familiar with the monikers in order to associate the moniker with an actual individual.

"Sporty" has written this placa in rival turf. His gang's name is "La Puente XIII". His own name is written first and largest over the sub-clique name "Dial Blvd" indicating that he wrote the graffiti. This message is telling the other gang, "I did it... what are you going to do about it?"



GUIDE FOR READING HISPANIC YOUTH GANG GRAFFITI

STEP ONE: Varrio or Barrio, meaning neighborhood or group/gang

→ V O M V ←

STEP THREE: The actual gang/group abbreviation of "MV" meaning Maravilla

STEP TWO: "P" meaning Perris is geographical area and identification of this group or clique

↗ - R - ↖

STEP FOUR: The letter "R" meant to be "RIFA," meaning to rule, reign or control

STEP FIVE: The number "13" stands for "SUR" meaning Southern Calif.

↘ T R E S E

STEP SIX: The letter "L" or "L's", meaning the Locos or the crazy ones/brave ones, not normally a separate gang or clique

↘ L S ←

STEP ONE: The letters "ES" meaning East Side

→ E S

STEP TWO: The word "Riva" meaning Riverside is geographical area

→ R I V A

STEP THREE: The actual gang/group abbreviation of Los Santos, meaning "The saints"

↳ S A N T O S ←

STEP FOUR: The number "13" stands for "SUR" meaning Southern Calif

↘ 1 3 ↖

STEP FIVE: The letter "R" meant to be "RIFA," meaning to rule, reign or control. Sometimes seen as "RIFAMOS" or "RIFA"

→ - R - ←

## HISPANIC GRAFFITI

Graffiti is an important part of the Hispanic gang tradition. These gang members call their inscriptions plaquesos or placas. The terms are derived from the Spanish word for sign or plaque. This writing proclaims to the world the status of the gang and offers a challenge to rivals.

Some of the more common terms seen in Hispanic gang writing are riga, rifan, or rifamos. Roughly translated these words mean that the gang doing the writing rules this particular turf area. Many times these words are merely substituted by the letter "R". Another common symbol used are the numbers "13" or "14". Again, these numbers have different connotations to different gangs, and different age groups within some gangs, and also denote geographical locations to many. The number "13" has meant in the past and, in many quarters, still means that the gang denoted has substituted the number for the 13<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet "M", meaning that they use marijuana. A more common meaning is that the gang is using the number to mean that they are "loco" (crazy) and the number "13" is its "lucky" number. In recent years, the number "13" has adopted a secondary meaning serving both definitions at the same time. Now a common meaning for "13" is to denote that the represented gang is from Southern California.

The number "14" represents the 14<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet "N", and has become a symbol of the gangs representing Northern California.

Latin street gang graffiti usually contains one or more of the following terms:

Barrio	Neighborhood
Chavala	Little Girl
Controlan	Control of this Area
El	The
Este	East
Homeboy	Fellow Gang Member
Hoto or Joto	Homosexual
Lado	Side
Loco	Crazy
Matamos	Killers
Nomas	The One and Only
Norte	North
Oeste	West
P/V (Por Vida)	For Life
Puto	Whore
Y-Que	What are you going to do about it? Here we are.

Source: "Guide For Reading Youth Gang Graffiti"  
by David Tolford, Senior Investigator II  
Riverside County District Attorney

## MEXICAN STREET SLANG PHRASES AND THEIR MEANING

"Hoye carnal, pasame un frajo". - "Say brother, pass me a cigarette".

"Trucha, hay biene la jura". - "Watch out, here come the cops".

"Vamos a chingarlo". - "Let's go beat him up".

"Me importa madre". - "I don't give a damn".

"Trucha, tira la chiva, (carga)". - "Watch out, dump the heroin, (heroin)".

"Trucha, tira (dompea) la crifa". - "Watch out, dump the marijuana".

"Trucha, tira (dompea) el cohete". - "Watch out, throw the gun".

"Trucha, tira (dompea) la fila (el filero)". - "Watch out, throw the knife".

"Ponte al alva ese, me voy a chingar este jura". - "Look out man, I'm going to beat on this cop".

## SPANISH TRANSLATIONS

SPANISH	ENGLISH
Apellido	Last Name
Calle	Street
Oeste	West
Este	East
Orte	North
Sur	South
Direccion	Address
Kilo	Equivalent to 2.2 Lbs.
Velocidad Maxima	Speed Limit
Carretera	Highway
Coyote	Smuggler of illegal aliens
Enfermera	Nurse (female)
Enfermero	Nurse (male)
Maleante	Evil person
Juramento	Oath
Embarrazada	Pregnant
Puerto	Harbor
Mes	Month
Ano	Year
Fecha	Date
Fecha de nacimiento	Date of Birth
Estatura	Height
Peso	Weight
Flanza	Bail
Multa	Fine
Pastillo	Lobby
Llaves	Keys
Apodo	Nickname
Migra	Immigration
Mica	Immigration Card (green card)
Giro	Money Order
Orden	Warrant
Orden	Order
Semana	Week
Enojado	Mad
Pastilla	Pill
Mentirosa	Liar (female)
Mentiroso	Liar (male)
Medico, Doctor	Doctor
Porvenir, Futuro	Future

## SPANISH TRANSLATIONS - (Continued)

### SPANISH

### ENGLISH

Careta	Mask
Escuela	School
Clase	Class
Buenas Nochas	Good afternoon, good night
Buenos Dias	Good morning
Con su permiso	With your permission, excuse me
Precio	Price
Alto	Stop, high, elevated, loud
Drogadicto	Drug addict
Droga	Drug
Tipo	Type, model, standard
Veneno	Venom, poison
Traficante	Dealer
Diferente	Different
Asistencia	Assistance, help
Estado	State, class condition
Jardin	Garden
Proyecto	Project, plan

# MEXICAN STREET SLANG: CALO

Barata	Sale
Coloradas, Rojas, lucas "RD's"	Seconal
Sedativo	Sedative
Borrego	Small Bag
Estimulantes	Stimulants
Cubo de azucar	Sugar Cube
Conexion	Supplier
Chupar, Dorar (suck, cook to brown)	To Smoke
Lucas	Tuinal
Blancas	Whites
Amarillas, lucas	Yellow Jackets
Ungrifo, loco	A weedhead
Anda, grifo, anda	High on drugs
Angelito, polvo	Angel dust, Ad, "dust"
Homeboy, Homie	One of the boys from the neighborhood
Congal	Home, house
Relaje	Snitch
Rata	Rat, snitch
Puto snizzle	Snitch, informant
Comps, Compas	Refers to the person chosen by the parents of a child for the purpose of being that child's Godfather, or co-father
Placa	Name
Tabien	Also
Hueso	Bone (usually used to refer to male penis)
Caca	Drugs
Carta	Letter, card
Primo	Cousin
Mosa, Mosca	Pest, (fly)
Al rato, ese.	Later man
Que paso?	What's happening?
Sabes que ese?	You know that man?
Quete	Package
Pildoras	Pills
Pildo	Pill head
Pistlar	To drink (refers to alcohol)
Ya basta	Enough (not slang)
Tio taco	Uncle Tom
English	Spanish (slang and common)
Benis	Bennies
Cielos, lucas, azules	Blue heavens
Talco	Cocaine
Cuete, pedo, borracho	Drunk, high
Dixis	Dexies
Cola, pegadura	Blue
Alucinagenices	Hallucinogenics
Mota, dura, mota, Concentrada, achi (h)	Hashish
Corazones	Hearts

## ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

California Penal Code

United States Department of Justice Prison Gangs Tattoos

POST Street Gangs Telecourse Part 1, "Hispanic Gangs" (video and workbook available)

POST Street Gangs Telecourse Part 2, "Southeast Asian Gangs" (video and workbook available)

POST Street Gangs Telecourse Part 3, "Black Gangs" (video and workbook available)

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