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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U. S. ARMY CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION COMMAND
6010 6TH STREET
FORT BELVOIR, VIRGINIA 22060-5506

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

OCT 24 2007

U.S. Army Crime Records Center
(FA07-2310)

This is in response to your September 16, 2007 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Privacy Act (PA) request received on September 18, 2007 for information on "Gang activity assessment, January 2004-August 2005".

We located one record that is responsive to your request, "Gang Activity Assessment January 2004-August 2005". We are partially releasing it to you and enclosing it with this letter. The portions of it that we are not releasing to you are being withheld pursuant to Exemption 7(A) of the FOIA. This exemption, codified at 5 USC Section 552(b)(7)(A), allows an agency to withhold information compiled for law enforcement purposes whose disclosure "could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings". The affected information is derived from information that was compiled for law enforcement purposes, and it pertains to enforcement proceedings that are pending.

Should you wish to appeal our determination, your appeal must be submitted within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter. You should state the basis for your disagreement with the response and you should provide justification for an additional administrative search to be conducted or reconsideration of the denial. An appeal may not serve as a request for additional or new information. An appeal only addresses information denied in this response. Your appeal is to be made to this center to the address contained on the letterhead for forwarding, as appropriate to the Secretary of the Army, Office of General Counsel.

It should be noted that this study was not intended to encompass all aspects of gang activity in the Army. Rather, it is limited to a review of felony criminal investigations that included suspected gang activity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. J. McGuire', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Phillip J. McGuire
Director, Crime Records Center

SUMMARY REPORT
GANG ACTIVITY THREAT ASSESSMENT

January 2004 – August 2005



A Review Of Gang Activity Affecting The Army

30 September 2005

Summary Report: Gang Activity Threat Assessment Calendar Year 2004-2005

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

- During August 2005, U.S. Army Soldiers connected to gangs were involved in two homicide cases. In Germany, a Soldier undergoing a gang initiation rite died after receiving numerous punches and blows from fellow gang members. In Alaska, three Soldiers in one gang got into a dispute with rival civilian gang members off-post, and after an exchange of gunfire, one civilian was killed. The incident occurred just days prior to the Soldiers' deployment to Iraq.
- On 23 August 2005, the Chief of Staff of the Army tasked CID to do an assessment of gang activity in the U.S. Army and provide a report to him no later than 30 September 2005.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS IN BRIEF

- There are indicators that gangs remain active in some military communities. All CID field offices provided Gang Threat Assessment briefings to their local supported Commanders during the month of August 2005.
- Overall, reports indicate there are a small number of Soldiers involved in gangs or gang related activity. However, there was an increase in violent gang related investigations to 9 in CY05 from 7 in CY02, 6 in CY03, and 3 in CY04. Gang related violence has resulted in the loss of life of two Soldiers. Between Jan 02 and Aug 05, a total of 25 CID investigations were identified as incidents with gang related activity.
- The majority of subjects in gang related investigations appear to be junior enlisted (E1-E4) and/or youthful civilian dependent family members.
- Overall, military communities continue to be a more stable, secure and lawful environment than their civilian counterparts, especially given recent access control and other security enhancements.
- Much of the gang growth across the U.S. can be attributed to the influence of the gang subculture rather than actual gang migration. Many communities, and the Army as well, are experiencing gang emulation of nationally recognized gangs.¹
- Few gangs have been found to associate with terrorist organizations. The susceptibility of gang members to any type of terrorist organization (especially domestic) appears to be highest in prison.
- Forming multi-agency task forces and joint community groups is an effective way to combat the problem. However, decreases in funding and staffing to many task forces have created new challenges for civilian communities.² Limitations placed on funding for authorized criminal intelligence and joint terrorism task force spaces has had a similar effect on CID.

¹ National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA), 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment Report

² National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA), 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment Report

I. METHODOLOGY

The methodology required each CID unit to review its own criminal intelligence and investigative case files, and to coordinate with other appropriate local law enforcement and civic organizations. The goal was to capture available criminal intelligence in which an Army nexus existed on gang related activity. The resulting data was consolidated at Headquarters, USACIDC for this report. Once approved, it will be provided to Army Commanders and their staff to assist in planning and implementing Force Protection measures.

The distinction between the terms "incident" and "investigation" should be noted. For this report, an "incident" was considered to be any complaint, information or pertinent intelligence that was collected, evaluated and retained. An "investigation" was the subsequent investigative effort expended, which resulted in a formal CID report of investigation (ROI). Definitions of other terms used in this report are contained in Appendix C.

CID units process gang incidents using one of two courses of action (COA). In the first COA, if the reports of suspected gang activity are deemed to be not credible and/or if CID lacks investigative jurisdiction and responsibility, the incident is documented, retained and shared with the appropriate agency. In the second COA, if the reports of suspected gang activity are credible and within CID jurisdiction and responsibility, they are investigated.

This summary report gives visibility to gang activity that has actual or potential influence on unit readiness or community safety and security. This report presents data through August 2005.

II. SUMMARY OF GANG ACTIVITY

This section analyzes suspected gang activity reported to CID units in terms of suspected gang incidents and investigations of cases involving gang activity.

A. GANG INCIDENTS, INVESTIGATIONS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

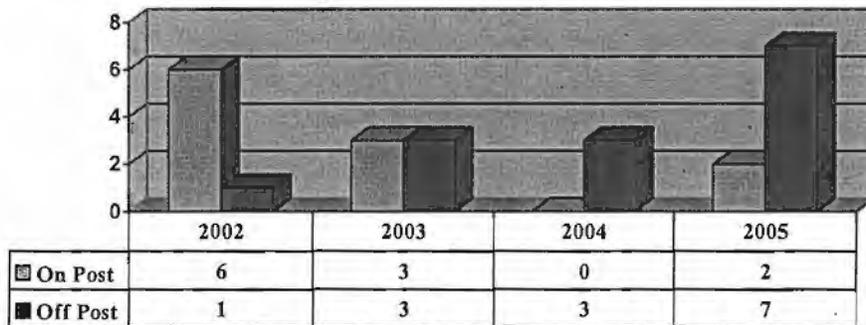
A total of 72 suspected gang related incidents were reported to Military Police/CID during CY02 through CY05. The total number of incidents includes CID investigations and those situations wherein MP level investigations were initiated or the information was of sufficient intelligence value as to justify its retention. There has been an increase in the number of gang related cases reported during the first eight months of CY05 when compared to previous years. Table 1 provides a breakdown of all suspected gang related incidents and investigations reported for CY02-05.

Table 1

TOTAL (JAN 2002- AUG 2005) SUSPECTED GANG RELATED INCIDENTS					
Calendar Year	CY 2002	CY 2003	CY 2004	CY 2005	Total
Reports of Investigation (ROIs)	7	6	3	9	25
Other Suspected Gang Incidents	22	8	4	13	47
Total	29	14	7	22	72

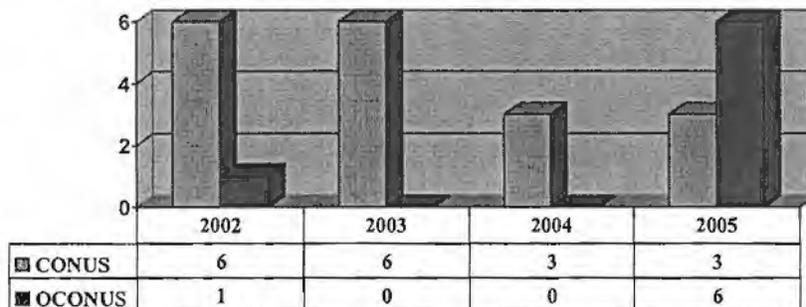
There has been an increase in gang related investigations so far in CY05 over previous years. This is a reversal of the trend of declining incidents noted in the previous two years (CY03-04), both on and off post. Graph 1 depicts the investigations of suspected gang activity from 2002 through 2005, on and off post.

Graph 1- Gang Investigations, On and Off Post



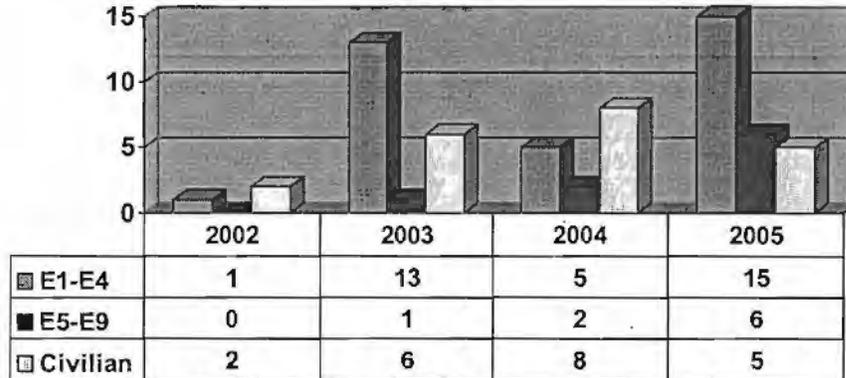
The relatively low number of investigations may be attributed in part to the enlistment standards of Soldiers and to the continued command awareness of gang-related activities and elimination of gang members from the Army. Graph 2 depicts the investigation of suspected gang activity from 2002 through 2005, CONUS and OCONUS. Specific details of the CY04-05 cases are included in Appendix A.

Graph 2- Gang Investigations, CONUS and OCONUS



The 25 gang related investigations for CY02 through CY05 identified sixty-four (64) offenders. Thirty-four (53%) were in the grades of E1-E4, nine (14%) were in the grades of E-5-E6, there were no Commissioned Officers or Senior NCOs, and twenty-one (33%) were civilian subjects. Graph 3 depicts a breakdown of offenders by rank or status. There were no offenders identified above the rank of E-6.

Graph 3 – Gang Investigations, rank or status of offender



The number of gang related investigations continues to be a very small percentage of the overall number of CID investigations Army wide. Table 2 depicts the total number of all investigations opened by CID, the total number of investigations determined to gang related, and the percentage of that relationship:

Table 2

TOTAL CID INVESTIGATIONS AND TOTAL GANG RELATED INVESTIGATIONS			
CY	Total Investigations	Gang Investigations	% of Total CID Investigations
2002	11,704	7	0.06
2003	9,513	6	0.06
2004	9,679	3	0.03
2005	7,178 (30 Aug 2005)	9	0.13

B. DISTRIBUTION OF CID UNITS REPORTING

To provide a sense of the incidents by geographic location, this section of the report presents the total incidents and investigations of gang related cases for CY04-05. Many CID units support several installations. For example, Fort Lewis' area of responsibility includes the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Incidents occurring at the Yakima Training Center, Fort Lawton or Umatilla Chemical Depot, as well as at Fort Lewis, would all be listed for the reporting CID unit at Fort Lewis.

During CY04-05, twelve CID units reported 29 incidents and/or investigations of cases with suspected gang activity within their areas of responsibility. Table 3 represents all reporting CID units and their total number of actions where "incidents" or "investigations" were documented. A total of 65 CID offices reported zero incidents.

Table 3
REPORTED INCIDENTS AND INVESTIGATIONS WITH SUSPECTED GANG ACTIVITY

Installation	Incidents	Assessment	Installation	Incidents	Assessment
Aberdeen PG	0	Low	Ft. McPherson	0	Low
Carlisle Barracks	0	Low	Ft. Meade	0	Low
Ft. Belvoir	0	Low	Ft. McCoy	0	Low
Ft. Benning	0	Low	Ft. Monmouth	0	Low
Ft. Bliss	0	Low	Ft. Myer	0	Low
Ft. Bragg	0	Low	Ft. Polk	1	Low
Ft. Campbell	0	Low	Ft. Richardson	0	Low
Ft. Carson	0	Low	Ft. Riley	0	Low
Ft. Drum	0	Low	Ft. Rucker	0	Low
Ft. Eustis	0	Low	Ft. Sam Houston	0	Low
Ft. Gordon	0	Low	Ft. Sill	0	Low
Ft. Hamilton	0	Low	Ft. Stewart & Hunter	0	Low
Ft. Hood	4	Low	Ft. Wainwright	2	Low
Ft. Huachuca	0	Low	Hawaii	0	Low
Ft. Irwin	1	Low	Monterey	0	Low
Ft. Jackson	0	Low	New England BO	0	Low
Ft. Knox	0	Low	Redstone Arsenal	1	Low
Ft. Leavenworth	0	Low	Rock Island	0	Low
Ft. Lee	0	Low	Tampa	0	Low
Ft. Leonard Wood	3	Low	Walter Reed	0	Low
Ft. Lewis	0	Low	West Point	0	Low

OCONUS

Installation	Incidents	Assessment	Installation	Incidents	Assessment
Ansbach	0	Low	Kosovo	0	Low
Bamberg	0	Low	Livorno (Camp Darby)	0	Low
Baumholder	1	Low	Mannheim & Heidelberg	0	Low
Camp Carroll	0	Low	Netherlands	0	Low
Cp Casey, Howze	0	Low	Okinawa	0	Low
Camp Humphreys	0	Low	Puerto Rico	0	Low
Darmstadt	0	Low	Schweinfurt	0	Low
Friedberg/Giessen	0	Low	Stuttgart	0	Low
Grafenwoehr & Hohenfels	3	Low	Taegu & Camp Carrol	0	Low
Hawaii	8	Low	Pusan	0	Low
Honduras	0	Low	Vincenza	0	Low
Iraq & Kuwait	2	Low	Wiesbaden	0	Low
Japan	2	Low	Wuerzburg	0	Low
Kaiserslautern & Netherlands	1	Low	Yongsan	0	Low

C. SPECIFIC GANGS IDENTIFIED DURING INVESTIGATIONS

A review of 25 gang related CID investigations for CY02-05 disclosed individuals in 17 cases claimed affiliations with at least ten known gang organizations. Specific gang affiliation was not determined or claimed in the remaining eight investigations, but gang related activity was noted during those investigations. The crimes involving Gangster Disciples (GD) appear to be more sophisticated and widespread than those committed by other gangs. Table 4 depicts the different gang organizations identified by name, and the offenses associated with their activity in the investigations.

Table 4

GANG	INSTALLATION	INCIDENTS	OFFENSES
Banditos	Fort Bliss, TX	1	Assault
Bloods	Fort Wainwright, AK	1	Murder/Assault
Crips	Baumholder, GE	1	Assault
Crips	Schofield Barracks	1	Drugs
Crips	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	1	Murder/Assault
Folk Nation	Fort Polk, LA	1	Robbery
Gangster Disciples	Fort Hood, TX	1	Drugs
Gangster Disciples	Fort Hood, TX	1	Wire Fraud
Gangster Disciples	Fort Hood, TX	1	Conspiracy/Assault
Gangster Disciples	Fort Hood, TX	1	Tax Fraud
Gangster Disciples	Kaiserslautern, GE	1	Murder
Gangster Disciples	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	1	Aggravated Assault
La Familia	Schofield Barracks	1	Attempted Murder
Marne Woods	Fort Stewart	1	Burglary
Nazi Low Rider	Fort Irwin	1	Drugs
Phaze-1ne	Grafenwoehr	1	Aggravated Assault
Yakuza	Camp Zama, Japan	1	Larceny

A reference and review of each gang organization mentioned above can be found in Appendix B

D. COORDINATION WITH CIVILIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Across the law enforcement community, gang related statistics are maintained sporadically, making it difficult to obtain exact measurements of gang activity. This report, and reports obtained from civilian law enforcement, are only estimates of actual gangs and gang related activity. The most recent survey (2002) by the National Youth Gang Center estimates the number of youth gangs in the United States to be 21,500, with 731,500 gang members. The 2002 National Youth Gang Survey found that all U.S. cities with populations of 250,000 or more reported a youth gang problem; and 87 percent of cities with populations between 100,000 and 249,999 reported youth gang problems.

The pervasiveness of gangs throughout society is undeniable. They incite fear and violence within our communities. Gangs threaten our schools, our children, and our homes. Gangs today are more sophisticated and flagrant in their use of violence and intimidation tactics. As they migrate across the country, they bring with them drugs, weapons and criminal activity. Acceptance of the problem

and joint community and law enforcement responses are our best defense.³ A few of the general trends noted by 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment are:

- Gangs remained the primary distributors of drugs.
- Gangs are associating with organized crime entities.
- Gang members are becoming more sophisticated with their use of computers and technology.
- Prison gangs pose a unique threat to law enforcement and communities.
- While the number of all-female gangs remains low, the role of women in gangs is evolving.
- Forming multi-agency task forces and joint community groups is an effective way to combat gangs.

While the general trends mentioned above were apparent across the nation, each region also noted specific trends affecting their communities.

Northeast:

- Neighborhood or home-grown gangs and hybrid gangs are being seen with increasing frequency.
- A growth of gangs within Hispanic immigrant communities has occurred recently, bringing increased violence and crime to many communities.
- This region is particularly vulnerable to drug distribution by gangs because of the compact nature of the region and the well-developed transportation infrastructure.

South

- Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) is one of the newest threats to the region, especially in Washington DC, Virginia and the surrounding areas.
- The growth of the gangs within the Hispanic community has brought increased levels of violence and crime to the region.
- Gangs in this region are most likely to be involved in the distribution and sale of marijuana and cocaine.

Midwest

- Gang activity around schools and college campuses has increased.
- Gangs are concealing their affiliation and colors to hide from law enforcement.
- Native American areas are being affected by the high level of drug trafficking. Hispanic street gangs are reportedly using Native Americans to transport narcotics onto reservations.

West

- Gangs are employing an increased level of sophistication in the planning and execution of criminal acts, especially against law enforcement officers.

³ National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA), 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment Report

- The number of cases of identity and credit card thefts perpetrated by gang members has increased.
- Reports indicate an increased use of firearms by gang members.

There continues to be unverifiable allegations and anecdotal remarks concerning the infiltration of gang members into the Army to gain skills that they could then take back to their gang in the civilian community. There is no information in CID or Military Police records that would substantiate this allegation. As noted in the 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment, much of the perceived gang growth across the U.S. can be attributed to the influence of the gang subculture in youth culture, rather than an actual gang migration. Many communities are experiencing gang emulation of nationally recognized gangs.

Few gangs are associated with any domestic or international terrorist organizations or extremist groups. Despite their vigilance in looking for associations between gangs and terrorist groups, few investigators have identified any associations. Of those who have, they describe the connections in terms of speculation supported by little evidence. According to investigators, suspected associations focused on credit card fraud and sales of drugs, weapons and false identification. Most of those gangs, possibly associated with terrorist organizations, were from the Western region of the U.S.

CID offices, CONUS and OCONUS, are actively engaged with local Provost Marshal Offices, Military Intelligence units and local community law enforcement agencies to identify and combat the level of gang related activity in their areas of responsibility (AOR).

A complete copy of the 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment is in Appendix C.

E. SUMMARY - CY04-05 GANG ACTIVITY IN THE ARMY THREAT ASSESSMENT

- Overall, the assessment of the threat of gang activity in the Army is considered low.
- There are indicators that gangs remain active in some military communities. All CID offices have provided Gang Activity Threat Assessment briefings to their local Commanders during the month of August 2005.
- Reports indicate there is a small number of Soldiers involved in gangs or gang related activity. However, there has been an increase in violent gang related investigations in CY 2005. Gang related violence this year has resulted in the loss of two U.S. Army Soldiers lives.
- The majority of subjects in gang related investigations appear to be junior enlisted (E1-E4) and/or youthful civilian dependent family members. During the period of January 2002 to August 2005 a total of 25 CID investigations were identified as incidents with gang related activity.
- Military communities continue to be a more stable, secure and lawful environment than their civilian counterparts, especially given recent access control and other security enhancements.

- Much of the gang growth across the United States can be attributed to the influence of the gang subculture rather than actual gang migration. Many communities are experiencing gang emulation of nationally recognized gangs.⁴
- Forming multi-agency task forces and joint community groups is an effective way to combat the problem. However, decreases in funding and staffing to many task forces have created new challenges for civilian communities.⁵ Limitations on resources for authorized spaces, especially criminal intelligence spaces, has had a similar effect on CID's ability to be proactive in this area.

⁴ National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA), 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment Report

⁵ National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA), 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment Report

APPENDIX A

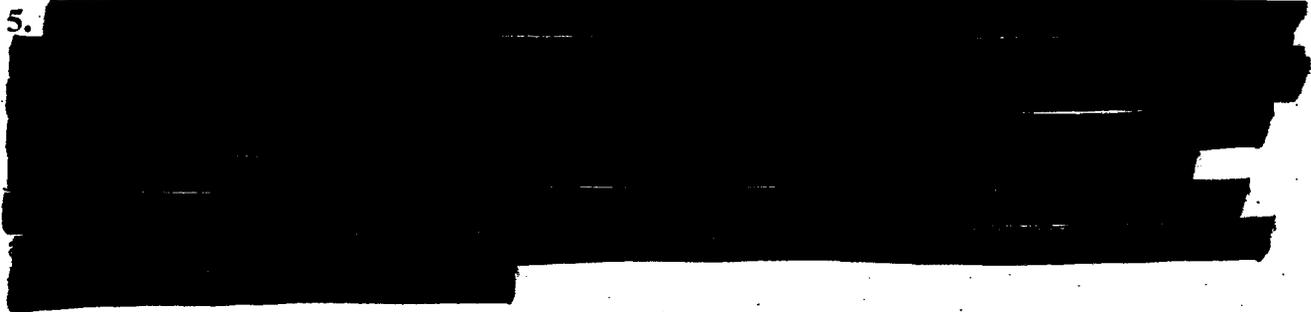
INVESTIGATIONS (ROD) WITH GANG RELATED ACTIVITY DURING CY 2004-2005

1. **Fort Irwin, CA: 0129-04-CID146-71439 (Murder)** was the joint investigation of a drive-by shooting of a service member assigned to Fort Bragg, NC by two civilian suspects. The incident occurred following a verbal altercation between the Soldier and the suspected gang members. The incident occurred outside a private residence in Victorville, CA while the Soldier was on leave. Both subjects were charged with murder by San Bernardino County, CA.

2. **Fort Hood, TX: 0130-04-CID034-72342 (Larceny of Government Funds)** was an investigation of larceny and computer fraud by members of the *Gangster Disciples (GD)*. Four Soldiers acted in concert to prepare and submit fraudulent income tax returns electronically to collect refunds to which they were not entitled. Adjudication is pending in this case.

3. **Fort Hood, TX: 0121-04-CID034-72327 (Attempted Murder)** was an investigation of a solicitation to commit murder by a service member. The Soldier was reportedly a member of the *Gangster Disciples (GD)*, and he solicited other members of the GD to assault a former service member (now civilian) in an effort to dissuade him from talking to local law enforcement authorities. The incidents occurred in the Killeen Mall, Killeen, TX and along Highway 190 near Ft Hood. The Soldier was convicted in civilian court and sentenced to 99 years in prison on related charges.

4. **Grafenwoehr, GE: 0146-05-CID147-14792 (Assault)** was an investigation in which two Soldiers became involved in a physical altercation with another Soldier while at a club in Vilseck. The incident occurred during a party sponsored by *Phaze-Ine*. A witness reflected "Every time there is a big fight at the club, expect *Phaze-Ine* to be in it". While *Phaze-Ine* claims to be a Car Club, there are indicators that *Phaze-Ine* is gang oriented (see Appendix B).

5. 

6. **Baumholder, GE: 0099-05-CID167-13033 (Damage to Private Property)** was an investigation of Soldiers who urinated on and damaged a bank ATM machine in the city of Baumholder. One Soldier, observed on a surveillance camera, used hand signs thought to be gang affiliated. During subsequent interviews, the Soldier admitted the hand signs were gang related, but he denied any involvement with gang activity and said he was simply emulating signs he had seen before. Another Soldier stated he had affiliations with gangs prior to military service, denied he was currently in a gang, and refused to provide further information about his prior gang affiliations.

7. **Schofield Barracks, HI: 0084-05-CID108-32775 (Drugs)** was an investigation of the wrongful possession of marijuana by a 20-year-old military dependent, who claimed to belong to a gang known as the *Crips*. The incident occurred in the parking lot of an on-post Burger King. The

suspect is the husband of an active duty Soldier from Ft Lewis, WA. Investigation established the suspect was observed operating a motor vehicle and was known by law enforcement personnel to not have a valid driver's license. Upon contact with the subject, a small amount of marijuana was found in the vehicle. During the interview of the subject, he admitted to being a *Crip* member, and he was found in possession of various gang paraphernalia.

8. Schofield Barracks, HI: 0346-05-CID108-32953 (Murder) was an investigation of the attempted murder of two civilians by a 20-year-old military dependant and an active-duty Soldier assigned to Schofield Barracks. The Soldier and the civilian were involved in a verbal altercation with another civilian at an off-post location, which resulted in the civilian suspect shooting the civilian victim. During the investigation, it was discovered that the Soldier was a reported member of the gang *La Familia*. The Soldier has been released on bail and is pending weapons charges in civilian court. The civilian suspect remains a fugitive.

9. Camp Zama, Japan: 0046-05-CID018-33525 (Drugs) was an investigation of marijuana trafficking involving a U.S. Army civilian employee. During the course of the investigation, it was determined the U.S. civilian employee sold approximately 100 grams of marijuana off-post to a Japanese national who was a member the *Yakuza*, a Japanese national type of gang.

10. Fort Wainwright, AK: 0130-05-CID209-2⁷8920 (Murder) was the investigation of three Soldiers who engaged in an exchange of gunfire with two civilians who were known members of the local *Crips* gang. One of the civilians was shot and killed during the incident. Two of the soldiers were identified as members of a local rap group known as the "Ground Up". One Soldier member of "Ground Up" began wearing red and representing himself as a *Bloods*, changing the image of "Ground Up" to a *Bloods* related gang. The shooting was reportedly as a result of one Soldier's red clothing "flag" being taken from his vehicle and burned, which reportedly was a sign of disrespect.

11. Fort Leonard Wood, MO: 0223-2005-CID045-31572 (Assault) was the investigation of an aggravated assault of two individuals attending a block party in the housing area on post. The incident occurred when two alleged gang members discharged weapons into the air and into the crowd, resulting in two individuals receiving minor gunshot wounds. Although not believed to be affiliated with any nationally known organized gangs, the individuals interviewed referred to others attending the party as members of the *Crips* gang or the *Bloods* gang. This identification was made according to what colored clothing items the individuals were wearing (red for *Bloods*, and black/blue for *Crips*). Nine of the individuals involved in the party were dependents of active duty service members. This incident may have been an example of persons emulating gang members.

12. Fort Leonard Wood, MO: 0249-2005-CID045-31582 (Murder) was the investigation for aggravated assault and murder/attempted murder at a local nightclub. Although not believed to be a gang-motivated incident, as the Soldier subjects were not gang members, two of the civilian subjects involved in the affray were individuals previously identified as alleged gang members. The incident occurred when some civilians, alleged to be members of the *Crips*, confronted active duty Soldiers, who were trying to obtain their money back from a prostitute who had not rendered services for which she was paid. In the ensuing affray, two Soldiers stabbed five civilians, three of whom were alleged gang members, and one Soldier attempted to run over a female bystander in his vehicle, but instead struck and killed another Soldier who attempted to save the female.

APPENDIX B

GANG ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

Banditos - The gang was formed in 1966 in Houston by Donald Eugene Chambers. He formed the outlaw motorcycle gang to control drug trafficking and prostitution in Texas. Reportedly, the gang name came from a television commercial in which the Frito Bandito makes a ruckus to sell potato chips. Chambers has adopted the fat, machete and pistol welding cartoon cowboy as the gang's colors.

The Banditos, also called the Bandito Nation, are the fastest growing outlaw motorcycle gang in the U.S. The gang has about 30 chapters and 500 members. It even has an Australian chapter, acquired with much bloodletting. The club is concentrated in Texas and extends into Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, New Mexico, Colorado, South Dakota and Washington State. The Banditos are run by a mother chapter made up of a president, four regional vice presidents and regional and local chapter officers.

The Banditos are involved in drug trafficking, prostitution, contract murder, fencing, extortion, thefts, gun running, welfare and bank fraud, and arson. However, the bikers make most of their money manufacturing and selling methamphetamine. Gang members, and associates who are pilots, smuggle drugs and guns across the U.S. border and state lines.⁶

Bloods - The Bloods are one of the original Los Angeles gangs. The Bloods (Black Liberation Organization Of Defense) are identified by the red color worn by their members, and the gang is largely composed of African Americans. The Bloods are made up of various cliques known as "sets", between which significant differences exist. The Bloods have an intense rivalry with the Crips. The Bloods was formed in response to the growth of the Crips, who at one point had outnumbered non-Crips gangs by 3 to 1. When several members of the LA Brims and the Pirus gangs were killed by the Crips in 1973, the two embattled gangs met to form an alliance called the Bloods, joining another existing gang called "The People". Other smaller gangs besieged by the Crips soon joined the Bloods.



Examples of Bloods Graffiti



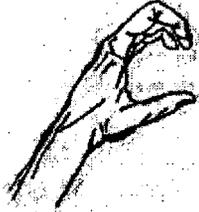
Bloods Sign

While there have been bloody rivalries between the Crips and Bloods, a peace treaty was reportedly negotiated recently, partly by Crips' former member and founder Stan "Tookie" Williams. The Blood gangs have branched out throughout the U.S. and even internationally. During the 1990s, some Bloods gangs in the New York City became infamous for a number of stabbings of people on public streets. Various rappers are affiliated with the Bloods, such as DJ Quik, Death Row Records

⁶ www.segag.org/mcggangs/bandido.html

CEO Suge Knight, and especially Black Wall Street artist and G-Unit member The Game. The Bloods are known to feud with Hispanic gangs.

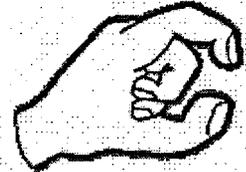
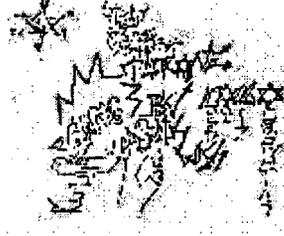
Crips - The Crips are a street gang which originated in Los Angeles, CA in the late 1960s. During the early 1970s, the gang grew and branched out to other parts of Los Angeles County. These new subsidiary or realigned existing gangs were known as sets, and they used the term Crips in their individual gang name.



Crips "C" Sign



Examples of Crips Graffiti



Crips "C" Sign

Originally, most Crips activity took place on or around school campuses, and these gangs created a reputation for violence and extortion. Although a predominately Black gangs in most areas across the nation, many other ethnic groups have adopted the Crip name because of the on-going notoriety of the Crips and their rivals, the Bloods.

Crips usually identify with the color blue in several different shades and usually wear a blue rag or handkerchief as an identity item. They often wear jogging suits and tennis shoes, professional sports team jackets and caps bearing the names of Los Angeles teams, and sometimes Adidas sweatshirts. They also may wear Dickey brand cotton work pants or bib-style overalls. Nike and British Knights shoes are also popular.

Crips refer to each other as "Cuzz" and use the letter C to replace the letter B in their conversations and writings. They have an intricate communication system which involves not only graffiti on walls (which mark their particular territorial boundaries), but also the use of hand signals (flashing), displaying their colors, and wearing selected athletic clothing. The initials BK represent their status as "Blood Killers."

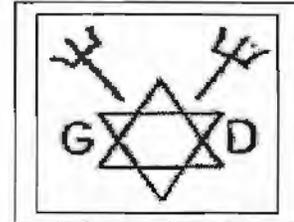
Crips seldom wear tattoos. Crips gangs are found in nearly every city in the U.S., and they have been identified in several foreign countries. The most prominent traits of Crips are individualism and maintaining a commitment to foster violence upon other gangs. The Crips rivalry with the Bloods gang presents a likelihood of violent encounters between members.

Should the Crips ever become more structured, they could present even more serious problems. The gang is still heavily involved in urban warfare, drug sales and recently violent take-over robberies and warehouse burglaries.⁷

Gangster Disciples (GD) - Thought to be the largest and most successful gang in the history of the U.S., they are a highly sophisticated organization. Mafia-like in structure and military-like in discipline, they run an estimated \$100 million dollar a year drug enterprise that stretches into 40+ states. The GD are extremely well connected, and funnel drug proceeds to gang-linked political

⁷ www.knowgangs.com, an organization comprised of current and retired law enforcement officers from across the nation.

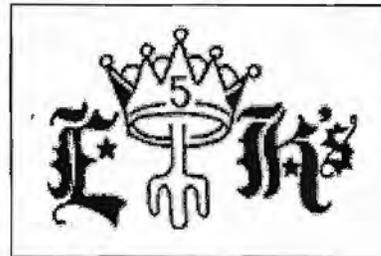
groups that back certain political candidates they feel might be beneficial to their organization. In addition to their drug empire, the G D are involved in a variety of other criminal enterprises, which includes prostitution, gambling, and the collection of "street taxes." They also have received financial support from prominent businessmen and entertainers. In addition, the GD have penetrated and exploited legitimate authority structures, such as the media, government, social service agencies, academia, churches, and the penal system.



Latin Kings - The Latin Kings are the oldest and largest Hispanic gang in Chicago. In the mid-1970s, this gang originated in two Hispanic communities within Chicago, South Chicago and the Humboldt Park area. Later, additional factions of this gang developed in almost every Hispanic community in Chicago. Originally, this gang developed as a traditional street gang. Their main desire was to protect their neighborhood. Occasionally, they would do battle with rival street gangs from other neighborhoods. During these battles, the Latin Kings developed a reputation as a very violent street gang. This reputation is still with them today



Images courtesy of Maria Greenfield "The Latin Kings" en masse



Latin Kings
5-pointed "Star"
with Pitchfork pointed down
for People Nation

The Almighty Latin King Nation (ALKN) was started in the New York City prison system. They have grown from a prison gang into a street gang in recent years. Presently, the Latin Kings are one of the fastest growing street gangs in New York City; they actively recruit young people from the age of 8 and up. Frequently, the recruitment takes place within schools and is directed to both males and females. Factions of this gang have spread throughout New York City correctional facilities, and they are now a strong gang within all five boroughs.

The Latin King Nation (LKN, ALKN, ALKQN) on the East Coast has affiliations with the Latin King members in Chicago, and ALKN members use the terms ALKN and LK interchangeably.

The Latin Kings have been found to have factions in cities in Connecticut, New Jersey, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, and Florida. ALKN has a population base of mostly Hispanic members.

There has been a movement by the Latin Kings nationally to recruit white youths, and the formation of a predominantly white faction of the LK on the southwest side of Chicago is an example of this trend.⁸

La Familia - The gang originated in the prisons of Hawaii to protect the members from other gangs. The gang consists of approximately 100 male members aged 18 to 45. Members are predominantly of Pacific Islander race with a few of its members being from other races. The gang tends to recruit anyone who is willing to join. The gang's main rivals are the United Samoan Organization (USO) gang, which is the largest organized gang in the state of Hawaii (with no known military nexus). Tattoos are normally displayed on the members. Tattoos can be found in all locations on the body. Several members are reported to have Japanese Kanji symbol on their forearms, which translates into "The Family".

Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) - A primarily El Salvadoran street gang that originated in Los Angeles, CA in the 1980s. Since then, the gang has successfully migrated from southern California to the East Coast, establishing a significant presence in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and New York.

Mara Salvatrucha members identify themselves with tattoos, such as the number "13" or *trece* in Spanish. MS gang members will also use the Spanish word *sureno*, meaning "southerner" to identify themselves. Sometimes *sureno* is abbreviated to SUR. These terms make reference to the fact that MS gang members like to claim they are from southern California as opposed to northern California, and are rivals with northern California gangs. Often, this rivalry is taken outside the state of California. Additionally, Mara Salvatrucha gang members have several ongoing rivalries with large southern California gangs, including the 18th Street gang. In California, MS gang members commonly attack 18th Street gang members on sight. There are many Hispanic gangs, including MS, which use the number "13," and the terms *sureno* and SUR as identifiers, including street/prison gangs outside of California. Thus, it is important to identify specific tattoos used by the Mara Salvatrucha gang, which include "M" or "MS," in addition to the 13 or SUR identification. Another common tattoo seen is "Salvadorian Pride." There is also a good chance that the member will also have the name of his particular clique tattooed on his/her body. Other tattoos encountered with MS members have included pentagrams and other occult symbols. These can be confusing when found in conjunction with gang tattoos and can cause misconceptions of Satanic involvement by the gang. The most common hand sign used by MS members is the letter M formed by using three fingers and pointing the hand downward. This hand sign can resemble the pitchfork sign used by Folk/People Nation gangs from the Midwest, and can be made with the fingers pointing up or down. The symbols used as tattoos are also used in graffiti and personal writings.



Mara Salvatrucha Graffiti

In general, Mara Salvatrucha members show no fear of law enforcement. They are not easily intimidated and frequently act defiantly. Mara Salvatrucha gang members have been responsible for the execution of three federal agents and numerous shootings of

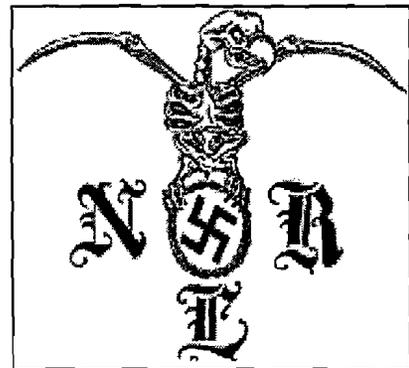
⁸ NAGIA 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment, Almighty Latin King Nation By Detective Wes Daily, Jr. Suffolk, County Police Department

law enforcement officers across the country. MS gang members have been known to booby-trap their drug stash houses using explosives on the assumption that these structures will be searched by law enforcement. MS members at one time often bragged of assaulting law enforcement officers as a means of showing their loyalty and commitment to the gang. However, these claims have never been confirmed. Today, assaults on law enforcement officers are not required for membership, but are always an option. Thus, officers dealing with MS members (or any street gang members, for that matter) should always use extreme caution.⁹

Marne Woods Clique - This group was identified, but it appears to be a local small gang emulating other nationally recognized gangs and not a group with a formal alliance with any gang.

Nazi Low Rider - The Nazi Low Riders first gained recognition as a street gang in Costa Mesa, CA in the early 1990s. Since then, NLR street units have sprung up in other cities and areas throughout Southern California. More recently, NLR members, who are mostly in their teens and early 20s, have begun moving into Central and Northern California and are slowly traveling east when they are released on parole. Today, NLR is probably the fastest-growing white gang in California, and the group is already spilling beyond state lines. While the group is still considered to be in its formative stages, it is continually expanding. In 1996, there were only 28 confirmed NLR members. In 1998, that number had risen to 331, with an estimated additional 1,000 members.¹⁰

It was first organized as a gang in the early to mid-1970s among inmates housed by the California Youth Authority, the state agency responsible for the incarceration and parole supervision of juvenile and young adult offenders. The NLR believe in White supremacy. The gang is primarily located in Southern California, but also scattered among other states, including Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois. The NLR criminal activity involves narcotics trafficking, murder, and assault. It is affiliated with the Aryan Brotherhood, and various California-based skinhead gangs. Gang members often wear tattoos of Swastikas, SS lighting bolts, and "NLR".¹¹



Phaze-1ne- This possible gang started in Kosovo sometime in 2003, during a deployment. It was founded by a PFC from Vilseck, Germany. It claims to be a car club, which consists of approximately 33 members, five of whom call themselves council members (leadership positions). It consists of males, from various racial and ethnic backgrounds (Black, Caucasian and Hispanic), between the ages of approximately 20 and 35. Most of the members are or have been assigned to the Vilseck area. According to a source, the members wear military ranks, both enlisted and officer, on their civilian clothing when at a club meeting. The ranks supposedly indicate their positions within

⁹ 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment, Bureau of Justice Assistance

¹⁰ 1999 Anti-Defamation League Gangs Publication, http://www.adl.org/issue_combating_hate/nazi_low_riders.asp

¹¹ 2005 Law Enforcement Agency Resource Network, www.adl.org

the group. Phaze-1ne developed a website, www.phaze-1ne.com on the internet, which posted



photographs of some of the members. The photographs depict members displaying gang signs, particularly the “piru sign”, which signifies the Bloods; one is holding a jacket with the name of their group printed on the back; and all members dress similar. Based on such indicators, it is likely that Phaze-1ne is a possible gang.

Yakuza (from Japanese) also known as “Boryokudan”. Known or suspected criminal acts attributed to the gang are Arms Possession, Rape, Money Laundering, Human Trafficking, and Drug Trafficking (Marihuana and Ecstasy). Yakuza, also known as Gokudō, are members of traditional organized crime groups in Japan. In Japanese legal terminology, Yakuza organizations are referred to as Bōryokudan, literally “violence groups”, or more traditionally “samurai heritage”. In the Western press they are frequently called the “Japanese mafia”.



The gang establishes dominance of a geographical area by instilling fear in the residents through criminal acts. The Yakuza finance their lifestyle through criminal activities such as the illegal sale of controlled substances. The actual number of members is unknown. Yakuza strength rises and falls according to the tides of Japanese society, with estimates of core membership ranging from 80,000 to more than 110,000. The number of splinter groups supporting the Yakuza is unknown. The group is comprised primarily of Japanese males of all ages. Common characteristics are tattoos, sunglasses, slicked down hair and frequently, missing fingers.

APPENDIX D

DEFINITIONS

For clarification, definitions of the following pertinent terms are provided:

GANG: An ongoing group, club, organization or association of five or more persons that has as one of its primary purposes the commission of one or more criminal offenses.¹²

INCIDENTS: Complaints, allegations or pertinent information that was collected, retained and appropriately shared.

INVESTIGATIONS: Incidents that resulted in investigative effort being expended and formal Reports of Investigation (ROIs) being issued.

¹² 18 USC Section 521 (a)