



BLOODS STREET GANG INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE
VIRGINIA FUSION CENTER

NOVEMBER 2008

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OVERVIEW



The Bloods street gang has become one of the most violent and notorious criminal organizations, spreading its influence in the U.S. from coast to coast. A traditionally African American gang, Bloods membership today includes Caucasians, Hispanics, and Asians. Blood members are involved in a variety of criminal activities including murder, assault, robbery, and narcotics distribution. Nationally, gang membership in the Bloods has been estimated between 15,000 and 20,000 members.¹ Blood sets range from highly organized and structured groups similar to the Italian Mafia to loosely organized cliques with little discipline and loyalty. The

Bloods have grown in popularity over the years thanks in part to the proliferation of music, movies, and television shows glorifying the “gangsta” lifestyle as well as social networking sites and the vast amount of information on the gang available on the Internet. Current intelligence gathered by the Virginia Fusion Center and other law enforcement agencies indicates the Bloods are a significant criminal threat to the Commonwealth and will continue to grow in numbers and operational scope.

HISTORY



The Bloods gang sets today are influenced by the organizations founded in Los Angeles, New York City, and Chicago. The Bloods were originally a West Coast gang; however, their rise to power on the East has undoubtedly surpassed their presence on the West, and Blood sets commonly describe themselves as being affiliated to the East or West Coast. The Bloods are part of the People Nation, a street gang alliance that includes the Latin Kings, Vice Lord Nation, and the Black P-Stone Nation. Although the Bloods may appear to be a large umbrella organization, each set has different rules, codes, alliances, and rivals. Therefore, what is true for one set may not be true for another.

Understanding the gang set’s culture and symbology may indicate a great deal about the group’s structure, history, and operational scope.

¹ National Drug Intelligence Center: *Gang Profile - Bloods*, February 2003



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West Coast

The Bloods began in the early 1970s in Los Angeles, CA, for protection against a larger more domineering gang, the Crips. The Crips had formed following the dismantling of the Black Panther Party and had quickly grown in numbers by absorbing local street gangs. Several local gangs refusing to join the Crips or submit to their takeover of their neighborhood formed an anti-Crip alliance. The local sets of anti-Crips included the Piru Street Boys, the LA Brims, the Denver Lanes, the Inglewood Family, the Swans, and the Pueblo Bishops.² The members of these anti-Crip alliance groups began calling each other “Blood” leading to the united sets becoming known as the Bloods. By the end of the 1970s, the Bloods had significantly increased their numbers and expanded their territory; however, they were still outnumbered by the Crips sets by a margin of three to one.³ This underdog status contributed to the Bloods making a reputation for being one of the most violent and ruthless street gangs. The Crips still outnumber the Bloods on the west coast, but the Bloods have maintained their notoriety as a significant criminal organization. During the 1980s, the Bloods became heavily involved in the distribution of crack cocaine. Their successes in narcotics distribution led to the Bloods expansion eastward.



Chicago Influence

In Chicago, Illinois, during the 1980s, two large coalitions of gang affiliates were created to protect those members within federal and state prison systems. The two alliance names that emerged were the People Nation⁴ and Folk Nation.⁵ All gangs that were originally aligned with the Black P-Stone Nation fell under the People Nation. Those that were originally aligned with the Black Gangster Disciple Nation aligned with the Folk Nation. Many gangs are aligned with one of the two Chicago nations, and the Bloods align with the People Nation.⁶



² MAGLOCLIN, *Bloods Intelligence Report*, July 2007

³ National Drug Intelligence Center: *Gang Profile - Bloods*, February 2003

⁴ People Nation Gangs: Bishops, Black Peace Stones, Bloods, Cobra Stones, El Rukns, Future Stones, Gaylords, Insane Popes, Insane Unknown, Kents, King Cobras, Latin Counts, Latin Kings, Latin Dragons, Latin Pachucos, Latin Saints, Spanish Lords, Vice Lord Nation

⁵ Folk Nation Gangs: Black Gangster Disciples, Black Disciples, Cobras, Crips, Gangster Disciples, La Raza, Eagles, Latin Disciples, Maniac Latin Disciples, Simon City Royals, Spanish Gangsters, Two Sixers

⁶ [Chicago Gangs: People & Folk History](#), accessed September 24, 2008

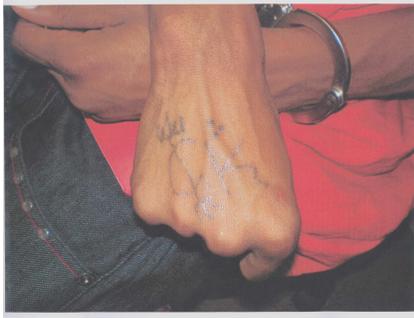
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Blood sets today that are aligned with or influenced by the People Nation will use symbology and cultural references tied to the People Nation. These symbols include



the number five, a five-pointed star, and a five-pointed crown. Those gangs aligned with the Folk Nation, including the Crips, will use the number six, a six-pointed star, and a six-pointed crown.⁷ Rival gangs will often invert or cross out each other's symbols as a sign of disrespect. For instance, Blood members may draw an upside-down pitchfork or draw a line through the number six when writing graffiti as an insult to their rivals. Not all Blood sets are aligned with the People Nation, but many of them use the symbols, particularly

the number five in their graffiti, tattoos, and clothing.

East Coast

By the early 1990s the Bloods presence had spread across the country, but it was not until two inmates at Riker's Island correctional facility in New York joined together that the gang gained popularity in the East. During this time period, the Latin Kings and Netas gangs dominated the prison system, harassing and intimidating the African American inmates. In 1993, Omar "OG Mack" Portee along with Leonard "Deadeye" McKenzie formed the United Blood Nation (UBN) as a way to protect themselves from the Hispanic gangs. Portee and McKenzie adopted the Blood moniker, which by that time had become a household name. Portee and McKenzie were also influenced by the Black Panther Party and adopted a gang philosophy that capitalized on the perception of oppression of minorities.⁸ The duo wished to foster unity among the African American inmates and with their new gang, began targeting Hispanic gang members. Although UBN was started in the same defensive spirit as the original West Coast Bloods, the new East Coast Bloods had not received a blessing from the West, and UBN was not considered a sanctioned Blood set. To this day, West Coast Bloods do not recognize the UBN as "real" Bloods.



⁷ [Gangs or Us: Folk and People Nations](#), accessed October 1, 2008

⁸ National Drug Intelligence Center: *Gang Profile: United Blood Nation*, September 2003

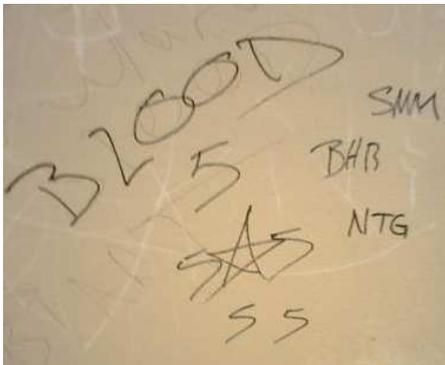
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Despite their unofficial status, the United Blood Nation prospered in the prison systems and was later transplanted to the streets. The UBN perpetrated a reputation of being extremely violent due to their initiation practice known as a “Buck 50.” Potential members would cut non-gang members’ faces to the extent they would need 150 stitches. Attacking non-gang members, or neutrals, went against typical West Coast Blood practices, which preferred to target rival gangs. Sets united under the UBN included Nine Trey Gangsters (NTG), 1-8-3, Sex Money Murder (SMM), and Gangster Killer Bloods (GKB). In its initial conception, the UBN sets had distinctive roles; for instance the NTG set were the enforcers, 1-8-3 were the “teachers and breeders,” and SMM were the money handlers.⁹ While some sets today maintain their historic role in the UBN, other sets have not maintained this regimented organization.



In the mid to late 1990s, the United Blood Nation became a dominant gang on the East Coast, outnumbering the Crips. Their meteoric rise to the top of the gang hierarchy was halted in 2001 when founder Portee was arrested and later convicted of federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges. Portee was sentenced to 50 years and is currently incarcerated in the federal super-max prison in Colorado.¹⁰ In the years since Portee’s incarceration, the UBN has splintered. McKenzie, co-founder and once-prominent member, has allegedly retired from the gangster lifestyle. Other prominent UBN members have either been killed or imprisoned, creating a power vacuum. UBN sets have turned against each other making the East Coast Bloods more dangerous than ever.

Not all East Coast Bloods have ties to the United Blood Nation; however, the UBN gets most of the credit for establishing the gang’s foothold in the East. Sets such as the New Jersey based Double II’s have West Coast ties and sets like these are recognized by the West Coast Bloods. The various Bloods sets present in Virginia display either a West, East, and/or Chicago influence; some sets appear to be an amalgamation of the different influences.

⁹ History Channel: *Gangland: Blood Oath DVD*, 2008

¹⁰ [LA Times](#): *50 Years for Founder of East Coast Most Violent Gang*, April 15, 2003



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GANG ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

Hierarchy within the gang structure may take several different forms depending on the gang's affiliation to the West or East Coast. Sets have been known to adopt a paramilitary structure as well as a mafia inspired hierarchy. Below are two examples of hierarchy used.¹¹

Southside Brim:¹²

1. Triple OG
2. OG
3. Baby OG
4. OYG
5. Young Gangster
6. OBG
7. Baby Gangster

Nine Trey Gangsters:¹³

1. Godfather
2. Big 020
3. Low 020
4. 5 Star General
5. 4 Star General
6. 3 Star General
7. 2 Star General
8. 1 Star General



Gang sets may use additional organizational structures including ranks of ministers, captains, and lieutenants. The head of the set is typically known as an Original Gangster (OG) or Godfather. The set leader may be in contact with other set leaders but the lower level soldiers may have no knowledge of other sets, their activities, or their leadership.

Blood sets that share set names with the larger West Coast¹⁴ and East Coast Bloods¹⁵ may not be directly connected to the larger gangs but usually have knowledge of the gang's history and rules. Many Blood gangs operate as independent sets although

¹¹ Each set may have a different hierarchy and some unorganized sets may have little to no defined leadership. When encountering a new gang set, it should not be assumed they follow previously established hierarchy practices.

¹² Petersburg Police Department: *Confiscated Gang Documents*, April 2008

¹³ Carrboro, North Carolina Police Department: *Confiscated Blood Bible*, April 2008 (According to the confiscated documents, additional sets using this hierarchy include Gangster Killer Bloods, G-Shine, Mad Dog, and Valentine Bloods)

¹⁴ Typical West Coast affiliated sets include the terms Piru or Brim in their name

¹⁵ East Coast sets include Nine Trey Gangsters, Gangster Killer Bloods, G-Shine, Valentine Bloods, and Sex Money Murder

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members may know or be related to Bloods in other areas. Additionally, sets may be connected through inmates in the prison system. Many small local gangs' ties to the larger Bloods sets may be tenuous at best. These smaller sets may mimic the culture of the Bloods in terms of colors, clothing, and tattoos; however, their membership and scope of criminal activity is primarily local.

SYMBOLS AND IDENTIFICATION

The Bloods, like many street gangs, have created a unique form of identification including language, apparel, tattoos, graffiti, and hand signs. The gang has created an entire subculture with variations from coast to coast and set to set.

Colors:

Traditional Blood colors are red and black, but sets have been known to utilize green, brown, pink, beige, and orange as well.¹⁶ The colors a set chooses are determined by their influences, alliances, and preferences; however, a trend has also been noted where gangs are choosing to refrain from wearing their traditional red to deflect attention from law enforcement. Colors are worn as a sign of pride in their gang affiliation as well as an intimidation factor to non-gang members and rivals. Gang members will represent their set by “flagging,” or wearing bandanas. These bandanas or “flags” can be worn around the head, face, wrist, ankles, or in their back pocket.¹⁷ Having a flag is very significant to a gang member; typically flags are given at the time of initiation into the gang. It is considered disrespectful to let a flag fall on the ground and rival gang members will make a show of throwing their rival’s flag on the ground and stepping on it to show disrespect.



Beyond wearing flags to show their gang affiliation, Blood members often wear clothing, jewelry, and other accessories tied to their gang to represent their set. Any type of apparel in their traditional color of red can be exploited by gang members including clothing with cartoon characters and sports paraphernalia. Gang members may also wear handmade bead necklaces and modified rosaries in their gang colors.

¹⁶ Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center, *Intelligence Bulletin 2008-26: Bloods Gang*, January 31, 2008

¹⁷ There have been numerous reports on the Bloods and other street gangs indicating the position of the flag on the body has special meaning. For instance, a flag tied around the head may indicate the member is selling drugs; a flag tied around the belt loop means a member is carrying a weapon. The meaning behind the placement of the flag is not universal among gang members. Caution should be used in dealing with all suspected gang members regardless of flag placement.



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Tattoos:



Many gang members will have at least one gang related tattoo or branding. The photo to the left represents a “dog paw” and is typically made using the heated barrel of a handgun. The dog paws are very common on Bloods members and are often burned into the right shoulder or upper arm area.¹⁸ Gang members may refer to the dog paws as “triple Os” and the marks may be present in graffiti as well. Conventional Blood tattoos may include the word “blood,” the set name, five-pointed stars or crowns, the member’s street name, weapons, tear/blood drops, and pit bulls.¹⁹ The tattoo’s craftsmanship can range from crude jail or homemade designs to intricate professional work. Tattoos and brands, particularly the dog paws, may be given upon initiation into the gang, and they may also signify the rank of the member. When encountering suspected gang members, tattoos should be documented as

they can reveal a member’s set affiliation, rank, involvement in criminal activity, and years of gang participation.

Gang Graffiti:



Graffiti has often been described as the “newspaper of the streets.” Careful analysis of gang graffiti can indicate the gang and set, the artist or tagger, their affiliation, rival gangs, and current gang activity. Gangs use graffiti to claim territory, and where there are several gangs present, graffiti may be marked out by rival gangs and replaced with their own. Gang members may also venture into their rival’s territory to deface property with graffiti as a sign of disrespect and a challenge to their

rival.²⁰ Typical gang graffiti is usually in a single color and will be simple in design. Complex and colorful graffiti is generally not gang related.

¹⁸ Many Blood sets in Virginia “rep” to the right, meaning members wear their flags, have tattoos, and wear their hats to the right side; however, depending on the set, members may also “rep” to the left.

¹⁹ MAGLOLEN, *Bloods Intelligence Report*, July 2007

²⁰ [Entropic Memes](#): *Deciphering Gang Graffiti*, accessed September 29, 2008



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Hand Signs:



Gang hand signs are used by members to greet one another, give silent warnings, and intimidate non gang members and rivals. Common Blood signs include the letter B (top right) and the letters C K for Crip Killer (bottom right). Additional hand signs include blood spelled out and the five pointed star (middle right). Each set may also have its own unique hand signs. Sets have been known to use signs similar to American Sign Language as well as developing their own complex and unique signs to represent words and phrases. The Bloods also use additional non-verbal communications to convey messages to other members in the way they walk, stand, and gesture. Documents recovered by the Petersburg Police Department revealed a complex set of body language used by a Blood set known as Southside Brim.²¹ Common gestures such as rubbing the ear, scratching the forehead, or wiping a shoe could convey to other members a multitude of hidden messages. Bloods members use these signs for casual communication as well as a way to communicate violent intentions. The signs listed below are examples of what one set has used and may not be common to all Blood sets.

Body Language	Meaning
Wipe Face	Identifies Police
Rub Head	Hit a target right there
Scratch Forehead	Fight is about to take place
Blink	Do you have a weapon?
Rub Nose	I don't have a weapon
Leaning on a wall or other object with one leg perched up	I do have a weapon
Rub Ear	Go get your guns and come right back
Right Hand Massages Left Shoulder	I'm about to rob something
Left finger inside right fist, twist then take out	Fight / Attack enemies
Rub stomach	Surround enemy, get ready for attack
Look at fist	Be careful
Wipe Bottom of Shoe	Identifies an enemy

²¹ Petersburg Police Department: *Confiscated Gang Documents*, April 2008

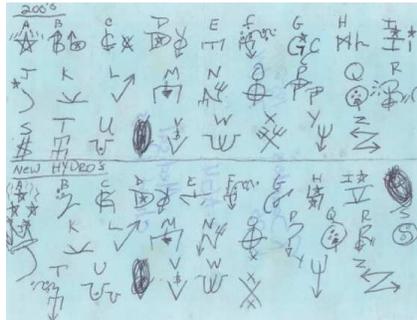


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Codes and Language:

The Bloods' use of coded language was originally designed to prevent correctional officers from understanding inmates' communication, either verbal or written. The codes have been taken to the streets to disguise what gang members say from police. Depending on the Blood set, the gang members may use a variety of numbers, codes, and slang to communicate with each other. Although codes vary, commonalities in greetings, warnings, and general communication exist. A common greeting among Bloods members is "SuWoop!" (representing a police siren) and members will often say "Blaat!" (representing the sound of automatic gunfire) to announce their presence. The numbers 0, 3, and 1 are very significant to East Coast affiliated Bloods and will appear in their graffiti and tattoos. Zero represents Bloods, three stands for the 31 rules they have to follow, and one represents the love for all Bloods under one umbrella.²² Based on these numbers, October 31 has been designated as the "birthday" of the East Coast Bloods and the UBN.²³ Additionally, rumors circulate every year around this date of attacks by Bloods members against law enforcement.



Blood members have created acronyms for names and symbols they use, including "Blood" (Black Love Over Our Depression)²⁴, "Red" (Respect Every Dawg), and the Swahili word for blood, "Damu" (Drama Against Men Unified).²⁵ Coded language used by the Bloods is often unique to the set and varies with location. Confiscated documents recovered by law enforcement reveal the extent to which the gang members go in order to disguise their communications. Codes, slang, and other special language are routinely being modified, and law enforcement should pay careful attention for new trends.

RIVALS



The Bloods' most notorious rivals are the Crips, and tensions between the two gangs are present today in gang related attacks and graffiti (photo at left is a traditional Crip graffiti display where "BK" stands for Blood Killer). Bloods often refer to the Crips as "Krabs" and Crips call the Bloods "Slobs." On the West Coast, the Crips outnumber the Bloods, while the

²² Carrboro, North Carolina Police Department: *Confiscated Blood Bible*, April 2008

²³ Maryland State Police – Homeland Security & Intelligence Division: *Bloods Birthday*, October 17, 2006

²⁴ Additionally acronym translations for BLOOD(S) include Brotherly Love Overriding Oppression and Destruction of Society; Brotherly Love Override Our Demise; Bloods Love Only Our Dawgs (Virginia Department of Corrections: *Slob Knowledge – Blood Gang Knowledge Written by a Crip*, February 2008)

²⁵ Petersburg Police Department: *Confiscated Gang Documents*, April 2008



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opposite is true on the East Coast. The Crips will likely continue to be the target of choice for Bloods, but there is some evidence that certain sets have put aside their differences and formed alliances. Several states have noted alliances between the two when it appears their cooperation will benefit each other financially. Certain sets of the two gangs have cooperated in narcotics sales, prostitution, money laundering, firearms procurement, and armed robbery. The cooperation can extend as far as creating a new gang which may adopt the color purple to show the blending of the red and blue.²⁶ A local gang set known as Purple Haze is an example of such in Norfolk, Virginia.²⁷



Due to Blood sets' often independent nature, their rivals and alliances may be locally based. Additional rivals have been noted but they are not always universal among the Bloods. Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS13) has been identified as a Blood rival; however, other Hispanic gangs such as the Latin Kings have recently been aligning with Blood sets.²⁸

The Blood gang is not immune from infighting between sets. In August 2007, a gang feud developed between the Nine Trey Gangsters (NTG) and the Gangster Killer Bloods (GKB) in Hampton, Virginia. This feud was allegedly over GKB's opposition to NTG's attempts at assimilating the two gangs.²⁹ Additionally, gangs aligned under the United Blood Nation have been known to feud with Bloods aligned with West Coast sets. The Virginia Department of Corrections has noted recent feuding between Blood sets in attempts to eliminate certain sets within state prisons.³⁰

RECRUITMENT & INITIATION



Bloods recruit heavily from the African American youth population in impoverished areas; however, gang membership from Caucasian and other ethnicities as well as from financially stable environments is not uncommon. The factors influencing Blood membership are similar to other gangs which include joining for protection, status, sense of belonging, economics, and peer pressure.³¹ Most Blood sets require a life long commitment, known as "Blood In, Blood Out," meaning to join the gang and to leave a member must shed blood.

²⁶ National Gang Intelligence Center: *Bloods and Crips Forming Alliances to Facilitate Criminal Activities*, June 19, 2008

²⁷ Norfolk Police Department Gang Unit, correspondence, October 3, 2008

²⁸ MAGLOCLIN, *Bloods Intelligence Report*, July 2007

²⁹ FBI IIR 4 214 0148 08

³⁰ VA DOC Gang Management Unit, email correspondence, October 7, 2008

³¹ [Maryland Gangs](#): *Bloods*, accessed September 4, 2008



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Established local or homegrown gangs are also prime recruiting grounds for the Bloods. In Petersburg, VA, recent intelligence information indicates the Bloods are actively seeking to “co-opt” homegrown gangs into more formal relationships, thereby creating a local chapter of the national gang. To facilitate this goal, known Bloods recruiters are engaged in street level canvassing to generate a new crop of affiliates who will identify with the Bloods organization. One indicator of recruitment efforts in a locality is a spike in street strong-arm robberies, as this activity is part of gang initiation processes.³²

In Emporia, VA, the Blood sets have been using two primary methods of recruitment to add new members. The first method targeted incarcerated young men who were initiated into the Bloods while in prison. Upon release, the newly recruited individuals were expected to begin recruiting within their neighborhoods. The second method involved the travel of New Jersey-based Bloods to Emporia, where they would recruit within the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.³³

Once recruited, Blood prospects will typically go through an initiation process. One of the most common initiation practices is known as a “beat-in” or “jump-in.” During this process, recruits are punched, kicked, and beaten for a determined period of time by several gang members. Traditionally, West Coast affiliated sets’ beat-ins last 21 seconds, where as East Coast affiliated sets last 31 seconds.³⁴ Female recruits may be “beat in” or “sexed in”, which involves the female having sex with one or more gang members.³⁵ Some gang members can also be “blessed in” by a set leader. Set leaders may wish to bless in their relatives or other associates rather than have them go through a physical initiation. Upon initiation, new members may have to commit crimes including assault and robbery to prove their loyalty and worth to the gang.

THREATS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT



Bloods gang members have been known to routinely target law enforcement and criminal justice personnel for retaliation or as part of an initiation process. Intelligence received by Newport News Police Department identified a possible scenario in which Bloods members would target law enforcement on Halloween: An officer responding to a call for service to a possible domestic

³² Petersburg City Police Department Analytical Unit, correspondence, April 11, 2008

³³ FBI IIR 4 235 1505 08

³⁴ MAGLOCLEN, *Bloods Intelligence Report*, July 2007

³⁵ Female Blood members are sometimes referred to as “Bloodette” or “Ruby”; if a Blood member has a baby, the child is referred to as a “Blood Drop.”



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situation or street fight would be ambushed with a firearm by a low-ranking Bloods gang member.³⁶

The Bloods in Newport News have also issued “Red Desert” alerts, meaning the streets are dry of drugs and monies, thus making a deceased officer’s duty belt a high dollar item, which could be sold or it could be kept as a trophy.³⁷



Additionally, there have been reports of cryptic threats by Bloods members against law enforcement officers. Jefferson County, West Virginia Sheriff’s Office reported in July 2008 a potential threat to kill a law enforcement officer tied to the Bloods. A deputy discovered an Ace of Hearts card lying in the center of his driveway. Intelligence indicates the Ace of Hearts is used by a gang known as the Damu. Damu is Swahili for Blood, Brother, or Relative. Damu is often used as a greeting between Bloods members; Damu also refers to Bloods from the East Coast. The Ace is worth eleven points in Blackjack; the eleventh letter in the alphabet is “K” which is known to stand for Kill.³⁸ The Ace of Hearts has been used by the Bloods to identify where a law enforcement officer lives.

The Bloods have also developed low-tech counter-surveillance activities targeting law enforcement. In April 2008, Virginia State Police (VSP) personnel in Augusta County reported that the Bloods were monitoring police radio traffic via scanners and were able to intercept traffic on channels used by the Sheriff’s Office, local police departments, and the VSP, including tactical and surveillance channels. The Bloods were also reportedly recording the vehicle registrations of unmarked police vehicles.³⁹

WEB PRESENCE

There is a vast amount of information on the Bloods available on the Internet. Social networking sites such as MySpace enable gang members to recruit new members, plan gang activities, and maintain contact with other members.⁴⁰ MySpace and sites like it are used extensively by gang members and as a result have provided a wealth of information to law enforcement.⁴¹ Because gang members are becoming more and more aware of law enforcement’s ability to monitor and track their activity on social

³⁶ Newport News Police Department Intelligence Unit: *Bloods Gang – Multiple Threats to Law Enforcement*, September 30, 2008

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ Jefferson County West Virginia Sheriff’s Office, email correspondence, August 1, 2008

³⁹ VFC TIPS C081210

⁴⁰ [Philly Metro](#): *MySpace Making it Easier to Join Gangs*, July 25, 2008

⁴¹ A tool known as [MySpace Visualizer](#) is available online as both a free and subscription based service allowing MySpace viewers to establish a visual display in the form of a link chart of a subject’s connections to their MySpace friends. The visualizer tool will only display connections on profiles that are not set to private.



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networking sites, many of them have enabled privacy features where only invited persons can view their pages.

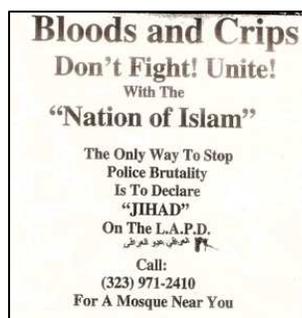


Intelligence also indicates more technically savvy gang members are able to track who is visiting their MySpace profile pages. In 2007, the FBI Cyber Division noted that members of an Outlaw Motorcycle Club were tracking visitors to their profile pages, and in some instances taking down their pages after discovering the visitors were from law enforcement agencies. The FBI assessed that gang members may be using any number of free online tracking tools to determine visitors' Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. These services, users simply rely on a small piece of HyperText Markup Language (HTML) code embedded into the MySpace profile. Users then can log on to the service's site to view the IP addresses of visitors to their MySpace pages. MySpace maintains that visitor tracking tools violate its Terms of

Use and directs employees to strip the HTML code out of a user's profile as soon as it is discovered. However, new tracking codes are being created all the time and being added to MySpace user pages.⁴²

EXTREMIST LINKS

In addition to the threat posed by the Bloods street gang there is also information that indicates the street gang has made alliances with extremist groups including Black Separatists such as the Nation of Islam, the New Black Panther Party, and the Five Percent Nation. These groups may be recruiting Bloods members, and these recruitment efforts may indicate a possible willingness of these groups to employ violent tactics in future events, which would be of major concern to the Commonwealth.



To achieve their ideological goals, Black Separatist groups have been known to recruit and radicalize individuals with violent predispositions, including street gang members, and have incited violent behavior by their members. The Nation of Islam (NOI), a group that calls for blacks to separate from mainstream U.S. culture, has made repeated attempts to recruit gang members.⁴³ In September 2005, NOI circulated a flyer in Los Angeles, CA, encouraging the Bloods and Crips to target law enforcement

⁴² FBI Cyber Division: *Violent Gangs Tracking Law Enforcement Visits to Members' MySpace Pages*, May 23, 2007

⁴³ [Anti-Defamation League](#): *Farrakhan Calls for Blacks to Separate from Mainstream U.S. Culture*, October 30, 2007



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after an alleged assault on a NOI minister by police.⁴⁴ NOI has influenced several black separatist movements including the New Black Panther Party and the Five Percent Nation. In Virginia, NOI has recruited from prison and gang populations.⁴⁵ Nation of Islam has a reported presence in Chesapeake, Norfolk, and the Virginia Department of Corrections.⁴⁶



The New Black Panther Party (NBPP), the largest organized anti-Semitic black militant group in the U.S., has also aligned with street gangs. In December 2006, NBPP met with members of the Bloods and Crips in New York. The NBPP proposed that gang members arm themselves, and discussed the uniting of efforts to retaliate against law enforcement for the shooting death of an African American.⁴⁷ Although several Virginia jurisdictions have reported an NBPP presence, it is unknown if these members are interacting with the Blood sets in the Commonwealth.⁴⁸

The Five Percent Nation (FPN),⁴⁹ also known as the Nation of Gods and Earths, is a splinter group of the Nation of Islam. The FPN embraces a black supremacist ideology and adheres to a radical brand of Islam that believes the black man as a whole is God. The Five Percent Nation has a following in the Virginia prison system, where some members have been linked to gang activity and violence.⁵⁰ Recent intelligence also indicates the Five Percent Nation is trying to recruit the Crips and Bloods street gang members within the Virginia prison system.⁵¹ Bloods members may also claim to follow FPN in order to hold meetings and planning activities under the guise of religious services. Documents recovered in Virginia from a Bloods member included FPN teachings, symbology, and scriptures.⁵² FPN tattoos have also been noted on an identified Blood member in the Richmond area.⁵³



⁴⁴ KFI News: *Flyer Calls for Jihad Against LAPD*, September 1, 2005 (NOI later released a statement denouncing the flyer)

⁴⁵ Suspicious documents synonymous with Black Separatist groups such as Nation of Islam, the New Black Panther Party, and Five Percent Nation were confiscated from an inmate at the South Hampton Correctional Center (TIPS C070697).

⁴⁶ 2008 VFC Threat Assessment Survey: Chesapeake PD, FBI Washington Field Office, Norfolk PD, and VA Department of Corrections

⁴⁷ FBI IIR 4 201 2342 07

⁴⁸ 2008 VFC Threat Assessment: Chesapeake PD, FBI Washington Field Office, Henrico PD, Newport News PD, Norfolk, and VA Department of Corrections

⁴⁹ [5% Network](#)

⁵⁰ Virginia Department of Corrections, July 2008

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Petersburg Police Department: *Confiscated Gang Documents*, April 2008

⁵³ VA DOC Probation and Parole District One Gang Unit, photo, September 2008



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VIRGINIA PRESENCE



Numerous Blood members have been documented in the Commonwealth and law enforcement agencies are beginning to share what they know about their gang members through regional and national databases. Virginia participates in the National

Criminal Information Center's Violent Gang Terrorist and Organization File (VGTOF) database which allows for participating agencies to enter gang members for officer safety and intelligence sharing purposes.⁵⁴ A suspected gang member may be queried through NCIC and, if previously entered, a response from VGTOF will indicate the member's gang and set. As of September 2008, there were 237 Bloods members in VGTOF in Virginia.⁵⁵ As additional agencies incorporate their gang information into the system, that number is expected to grow.

An additional resource for gang information is Regional Information Sharing Systems' GangNet.⁵⁶ The GangNet system is being populated with identified gang members from across the country, and can provide additional information on suspected gang members. GangNet differs from VGTOF in its ability to enter gang associates as well as members and it allows pictures to be uploaded. As of September 2008, there are approximately 377 Bloods gang members and associates in GangNet in Virginia. The number of Bloods members in GangNet is also expected to grow as more agencies use the database.⁵⁷

Although VGTOF and GangNet are growing in use and popularity, the member totals from the two databases represent only a fraction of the suspected Bloods members in Virginia. Sets of Bloods have been found in numerous jurisdictions in the Commonwealth ranging from heavily populated urban areas to small rural towns.⁵⁸ The Virginia Department of Corrections reports there are 1,979 Bloods members recorded in their Security Threat Group Database.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ [Federal Bureau of Investigations: Focus on Information Resources - The Violent Gang and Terrorist Organizations File](#), October 1996

⁵⁵ NCIC Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File: *Bloods Members in VA*, September 25, 2008 (see Appendix B for membership set percentage)

⁵⁶ [Regional Information Sharing Systems: GangNet](#)

⁵⁷ The VFC participates in both VGTOF and GangNet and when applicable enters the same member into both systems in the interest of information sharing and officer safety. Due to this, the two totals for the databases should not be added together as the totals may represent duplicate members.

⁵⁸ See Appendix for a list of known sets and their localities in Virginia

⁵⁹ VA DOC – Gang Management Unit, email correspondence, October 7, 2008

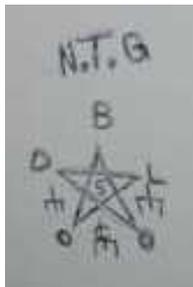
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Two Blood sets have stood out as having a major presence in Virginia: the Bounty Hunter Bloods and the Nine Trey Gangsters. The Bounty Hunter Bloods (BHB) sets have established a significant foothold in the Tidewater area, and are becoming a dominant and violent force for law enforcement to handle. BHB is a particularly violent street gang whose activities include assault, kidnapping, drug dealing, illegal firearms possession, murder, and robbery. BHB was originally established around 1969 in the Nickerson Gardens (Watts) Housing Project in Los Angeles, CA. The BHB is a primarily African American gang and is one of the largest Blood sets in L.A. On the East Coast, BHB adheres to traditional Blood philosophy and may “war” with other United Blood Nation Bloods, Crips, or any other street gang.⁶⁰ Demonstrating their adherence to violence, in March of this year, BHB members in the Norfolk area expressed interest in purchasing homemade grenades.⁶¹ Two leaders of the BHB set in Norfolk were recently found guilty of charges of racketeering, assault, maiming, kidnapping, drug and firearms offenses, and of being accessories after the fact to the East Ocean View mob killing of a subject in July 2007. The gang operated in the Ocean View, Little Creek, and Norview areas of Norfolk for about the last nine years.⁶²



Nine Trey Gangsters (NTG) is also cause for concern in Virginia due to their increasing membership and the growing number of jurisdictions in which they are spreading.⁶³ NTG (aka 9TRE, 9-3) was one of the original sets aligned under the United Blood Nation. The set name comes from the year they were founded, 1993. A majority of the reports of NTG activity in Virginia involve the identification of members; however, NTG sets have also been involved in robbery, assault, gang feuds, and vandalism.

CONCLUSION

The Bloods street gang has demonstrated a capacity and willingness to commit crimes against persons and property in Virginia. Various Blood sets have demonstrated a high intent and willingness to commit murder, and often consider violence against persons an acceptable offensive tactic. Violence against property is also an acceptable

⁶⁰ New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, *Daily Intelligence Briefing*, November 1, 2007

⁶¹ FBI IIR 4 235 1006 08

⁶² [Virginia Pilot](#): *Two Found Guilty of Running Violent Bloods Gang in Norfolk*, August 30, 2008

⁶³ NTG presence or activity has been reported in Accomack, Augusta, Charlottesville, Chesterfield, Emporia, Hampton, Harrisonburg, Henrico, James City, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Norfolk, Northwest Virginia, Richmond, Shenandoah, Staunton, Warren, Waynesboro, Williamsburg (Set Identified in VGTOF, VFC's Tactical Intelligence Processing System, and various other sources)



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offensive tactic; however, the impact of these property crimes is often considered low as the most common gang-related property crimes are vandalism and graffiti. The members' expertise and specialized training is considered low, as most Bloods members have limited to no training in weapons and what they have acquired may be from open source research. Gang members' sophistication in planning criminal acts is also considered low, as many of their attacks and criminal acts can be carried out by one person. While some members of the Bloods have demonstrated a high level of loyalty to their gang and are willing to go to prison without making a deal with prosecution, many members are considered to have a low level of loyalty due to their willingness to cooperate with authorities.

Bloods use of intelligence and counter-surveillance capabilities to defend themselves against law enforcement and rival gangs and to identify new targets is considered low. Gang members have demonstrated a rudimentary knowledge of counter-surveillance with limited to no access to technology. Their level of group cohesiveness is considerably higher, however, than their technological abilities. Members share close bonds, are stable, and require passage of an initiation. Their group discipline varies depending on sets, but some Bloods have demonstrated a high to medium level of discipline. Members have shown a willingness to kill one another and also a willingness to use physical coercion on each other. Many Blood sets demonstrate a moderately stable group environment with infrequent leadership changes and members staying in the group for several years. Their group mobility and scope is typically very limited as most sets confine their activity to a specific community. The Bloods have also demonstrated only a limited number of links to other gangs or extremists, and often operate on an independent basis. The Bloods financial support comes primarily from illegal activity, chiefly narcotics distribution, with some sets also requiring membership fees. The Bloods have established a sizeable foothold in Virginia and will likely continue to be one of the most significant security threat groups in the Commonwealth.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In an effort to develop a comprehensive plan for addressing the threat of the Bloods in the Commonwealth, it is important to fully determine the extent to which the gang is present in Virginia. It is also important to determine if this gang is actively planning to target specific areas, industries, and populations for expansion. To determine this, it is strongly advised that the following intelligence areas be addressed:

- Further develop intelligence sources on members and associates of the Bloods throughout Virginia
- Determine the operational goals of Bloods in regards to Virginia and regionally (MD and NC in particular)
- Further develop regular intelligence reporting regarding gang activity from all regions
- Identify and monitor web forums and social networking sites used by gang members

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- Determine means of communication and emerging technology used by threat groups
- Further identify the current and emerging alliances between Bloods and other identified gangs in the Commonwealth
- Identify evolving tactics and methodology utilized and/or advocated by gangs
- Closely monitor trend information regarding recruitment of members, most notably those individuals seeking affirmation and identity by employing violence
- Further identify the types and extent of identified gang trends affecting Virginia
- Identify, monitor, and document the sources and mechanisms of gang recruitment and control
- Encourage public and private partners to remain alert and report activity indicative of Bloods presence, including gang taggings, symbols, and entries on social networking sites

Gathering information based on these recommendations will allow the Virginia Fusion Center and their law enforcement and homeland security partners the ability to moderate and prevent future gang crime related to the Bloods in the Commonwealth. Any intelligence regarding these recommendations should be forwarded to the Virginia Fusion Center by calling (804) 674-2196 or by e-mail at VFC@vsp.virginia.gov.



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SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Law Enforcement Agencies

Chesapeake Police Department
Chesterfield County Police Department
Federal Bureau of Investigation Norfolk Field Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington Field Office
Henrico Police Department
National Gang Intelligence Center
National Drug Intelligence Center
Norfolk Police Department
Northwest Virginia Regional Gang Task Force - Culpeper Field Office
Regional Information Sharing Systems
Richmond Area Violence Reduction Team
Richmond Police Department - Gang Unit
Virginia Department of Corrections - Gang Management Unit
Virginia Department of Corrections, Probation & Parole - District One Gang Unit
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice – Gang Management Unit
Virginia Gang Investigators Association

Law Enforcement Resources

Carrboro, North Carolina Police Department: *Confiscated Blood Bible*, April 2008
FBI IIR 4 214 0148 08
FBI IIR 4 235 1006 08
FBI IIR 4 235 1505 08
FBI IIR 4 201 2342 07
FBI Cyber Division: *Violent Gangs Tracking Law Enforcement Visits to Members' MySpace Pages*, May 23, 2007
Jefferson County West Virginia Sheriff's Office, email correspondence, August 1, 2008
MAGLOCLEN, *Bloods Intelligence Report*, July 2007
Maryland State Police – Homeland Security & Intelligence Division: *Bloods Birthday*, October 17, 2006
National Drug Intelligence Center: *Gang Profile: Bloods*, February 2003
National Drug Intelligence Center: *Gang Profile: United Blood Nation*, September 2003
National Gang Intelligence Center: *Bloods and Crips Forming Alliances to Facilitate Criminal Activities*, June 19, 2008
NCIC Violent Gang and Terrorist Organization File: *Bloods Members in VA*, September 25, 2008
New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority, *Daily Intelligence Briefing*, November 1, 2007

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Newport News Police Department Intelligence Unit: *Bloods Gang – Multiple Threats to Law Enforcement*, September 30, 2008
Norfolk Police Department Gang Unit, correspondence, October 3, 2008
Petersburg Police Department: *Confiscated Gang Documents*, 2008
Petersburg City Police Department Analytical Unit, correspondence, April 11, 2008
Royal Canadian Mounted Police: *Project Sleipnir: Long Matrix for Criminal Extremism*, April 2006
Universal Adversary: *Dynamic Threat Assessment-American Radical Islamic Converts*, July 1, 2008
U.S. Department of Justice/FBI CJIS Division Intelligence Group, *Violent Gang & Terrorist Organization File*
Virginia Department of Corrections: *Slob Knowledge – Blood Gang Knowledge Written by a Crip*, February 2008
Virginia Department of Corrections Gang Management Unit, email correspondence, October 7, 2008
Virginia Department of Corrections, July 2008
Virginia Department of Corrections Probation and Parole District One Gang Unit, photo, September 2008
VFC TIPS C081210, C070697
Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center, *Intelligence Bulletin 2008-26: Bloods Gang*, January 31, 2008
2008 VFC Threat Assessment Survey

Open Source Resources

[5% Network](#)

[Anti-Defamation League](#): *Farrakhan Calls for Blacks to Separate from Mainstream U.S. Culture*, October 30, 2007

[Chicago Gangs](#): *People & Folk History*, accessed September 24, 2008

[Entropic Memes](#): *Deciphering Gang Graffiti*, accessed September 29, 2008

[Federal Bureau of Investigations](#): *Focus on Information Resources - The Violent Gang and Terrorist Organizations File*, October 1996

[Gangs or Us](#): *Folk and People Nations*, accessed October 1, 2008

[GangNet](#)

History Channel: *Gangland: Blood Oath DVD*, 2008

KFI News: *Flyer Calls for Jihad Against LAPD*, September 1, 2005

[LA Times](#): *50 Years for Founder of East Coast Most Violent Gang*, April 15, 2003

[Maryland Gangs](#): *Bloods*, accessed September 4, 2008

[MySpace Visualizer](#)

[Philly Metro](#): *MySpace Making it Easier to Join Gangs*, July 25, 2008

[Virginia Pilot](#): *Two Found Guilty of Running Violent Bloods Gang in Norfolk*, August 30, 2008

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APPENDIX A

Known Blood Sets in Virginia

Set	Location
B Block	Augusta
Bad Newz	Hampton
Black Hawk Young Gangsters	Charlottesville
Black Blood Gang	Norfolk
Black King Bloods	Norfolk
Black Mob	Hampton Norfolk
Blood Block	Hampton
Blood Diamonds	Halifax
Blood Game 04	Augusta
Blood Stone Gangsters	Northwest Virginia
Blood Stone Villains	Charlottesville Norfolk
Bloody King of Kings	Arlington Shenandoah
Blunt Brothers	Chesterfield
Bounty Hunter Bloods (BHB)	Emporia Norfolk Pittsylvania
Brim	Petersburg
Cape Fear Soldiers	Cape Charles
Centerview Piru	Petersburg
Coleman Place Posse	Norfolk
Damu	Harrisonburg
East Side Piru	Hampton Harrisonburg Montgomery Northwest Virginia Petersburg
East Side Bloods	Norfolk

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East Side Boys	Harrisonburg Southwest Virginia
East Side Rollin Banga's	Fredericksburg
Forth Worth Fleet	Norfolk
G-Shine	Appomattox Lynchburg Petersburg
Gangster Killer Blood (GKB)	Hampton Harrisonburg Henrico Norfolk Pittsylvania
Glenwood Park Bloods	Norfolk
Greenfield Crew	Lynchburg
Grimey Money Boyz	Norfolk
Illtown Piru	Norfolk
Ingleside Posse	Norfolk
Killa Hill	Prince William
Mac Nine	Warren
Mad Dog	Norfolk
Mad Stone Bloods	Norfolk
Mass Bloods	Newport News
MIK9	Northwest Virginia
Niggas Out of Norfolk	Norfolk
Niggaz with Attitude	Norfolk
Nine Deuce Trey	Waynesboro
Nine Techs & Grenades	Augusta Hampton
Nine Trey Gangsters (9TRE, 9-3, NTG)	Accomack Augusta Charlottesville Chesterfield Emporia Hampton Harrisonburg

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Nine Trey Gangsters (9TRE, 9-3, NTG)	Henrico James City Lynchburg Martinsville Norfolk Northwest Virginia Nottoway Richmond Shenandoah Staunton Warren Waynesboro Williamsburg
Ocean View Gangsters	Norfolk
Old Huntersville Posse	Norfolk
Piru Bloods	Appomattox Emporia Pittsylvania
Purple Haze	Norfolk
Queen Street	Hampton
Rip Rap	Hampton
Rockafella Gang	Norfolk
Sex Money Murder	Henrico Norfolk Northwest Virginia Shenandoah
Southeast Bloods	Roanoke
Southeast Bombers (SE Bombers)	Vinton
Southside Brims	Petersburg Richmond
Stay Getting Money	Norfolk
Stick Up Thugz Posse	Hampton
The Brothers	Hampton
Top Oak Piru	Hampton



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Valentine Bloods	Norfolk
VTG	Hampton
Wright Shop Pirus	Amherst
West Side Piru	Augusta
White Rock Crew	Lynchburg
Young Mafia	Newport News
16 th Street Bloods	Lynchburg
1-8 Trey	Norfolk
4 Star Set	Chesterfield
522	Winchester
540	Winchester
5-9 Brim	Charlottesville Chesterfield Henrico Norfolk Richmond
6 2 (6 Deuce)	Richmond
6 th Street Bloods	Lynchburg
76 th Street	Hampton

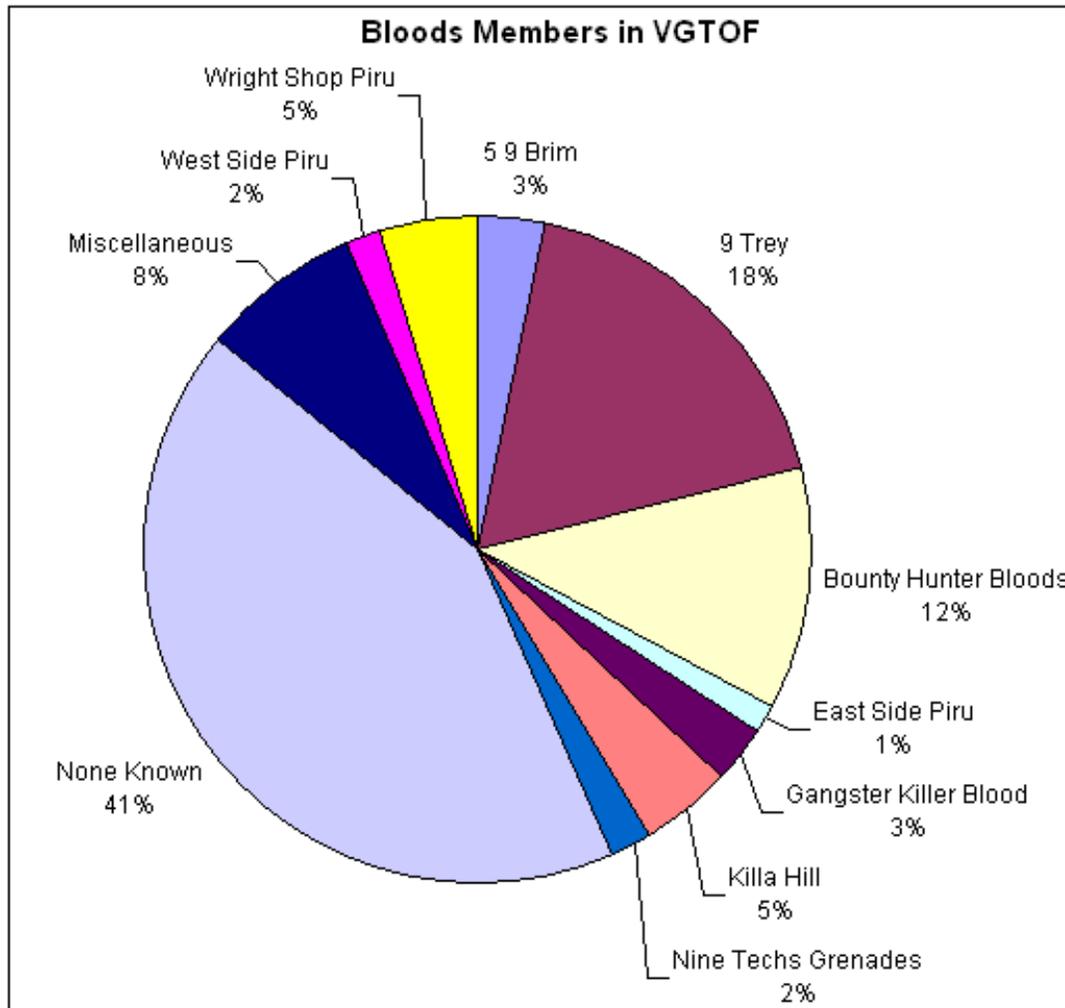
Some of the sets noted may not be currently active. If your agency has updated information on Bloods sets in your area, please contact the Virginia Fusion Center at (804) 674-2196 or VFC@vsp.virginia.gov.



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APPENDIX B



Miscellaneous includes identified sets in which only one or two members have been identified. Sets grouped under the miscellaneous label include: 456 Split, 522, 76th Street, B Mob, Bad Newz, Black Mob, Blood Block, Blood Game 04, BSG, Cape Fear Soldiers, CGK, East Side Boys, East Side Skyline Piru, G Shine, Greenfield Crew, MIK9, Nine Deuce Trey, Rip Rap, SE Bombers, Southside Brims, Piru, Queen Street, Sex Money Murder, Stick Up Thugs, The Brothers, Top Oak Piru, and VTG.

None Known means the gang members were not associated with a specific set when entered into VGTOF.

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