

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT USE ONLY

TEXAS GANGS

An Overview of Security Threat Groups and Other Major Gangs in Texas

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is published by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Criminal Intelligence Service, with the cooperation of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice-Security Threat Group Management Office. It is being provided as a resource to assist law enforcement agencies and correctional staff in identifying possible members of Security Threat Groups (STGs) and is not to be disseminated outside your agency.

This booklet contains historical synopses of all STGs recognized by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), as well as recognized tattoos and other related indicators most often used by STGs and various street gang members. Gang members may change or modify the tattoos as corrections officials and law enforcement identify them as gang-related. The dynamics of these groups are also subject to change.

If you have any questions or comments, or require additional information, please contact the Criminal Intelligence Service at (512) 424-2200 or the TDCJ-Security Threat Group Management Office at (936) 437-8445.

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FOREWORD

The perpetual growth of gangs and active recruitment within the state, compounded by the continual influx of criminal illegal aliens crossing the Texas-Mexico border, threatens the security of not only Texans, but also all US citizens. Furthermore, the established alliances between Texas prison gangs and various drug trafficking organizations pose a significant threat to the state of Texas and the nation. Gangs now have access to a larger supply of narcotics, which will undoubtedly increase their influence over and presence in the drug trade, as well as increase the level of gang-related violence associated with illegal narcotics trafficking. Illegal alien smuggling has also become profitable for Texas prison gangs and other street gangs, and potentially may pose a major threat to national security.

Multi-agency collaboration and networking—supplemented with modern technology, analytical resources, and gang intervention and prevention programs—will be critical in the ongoing efforts to curtail the violence associated with the numerous gangs now thriving in Texas.

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Security Threat Groups

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Overview

Security Threat Groups (STGs) continue to pose a threat to society both inside and outside of prison. Historically, they have been more organized than street gangs and cliques and are involved in large-scale narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, extortion, burglary, and numerous violent crimes. One of the main factors in determining if a group is an STG is whether it has a written constitution with well-defined expectations, rules, and regulations that demand self-discipline from its members. A specific rank and structure will also be established.

Through various recruiting trends, some groups have attained higher levels of organized criminal activities than others. Combined, the Hispanic STGs comprise the largest and most violent of the 12 STGs recognized by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. However, the white and black STGs have also demonstrated a capacity for the same propensity for violence.

Membership in STGs has evolved over time from the traditional “blood in – blood Out” requirement to less stringent requirements that do not necessarily mandate the commission of a homicide. However, once a member is accepted into a group, he may still be required to commit a homicide. Refusal to follow such an order may result in the member being killed. Violent criminal acts committed by a member are often taken into consideration when obtaining status and rank within a group. Membership in an STG is a lifetime commitment. This violent mentality and philosophy, coupled with their highly secretive nature, are what separate the STGs from street gangs and cliques.

Title **ARYAN BROTHERHOOD OF TEXAS (ABT)**

History The ABT was founded in the early 1980s in TDCJ when a group of white Texas inmates petitioned the California Aryan Brotherhood for permission to establish a chapter in Texas. Although the California Aryan Brotherhood refused the request, the Texas inmates still formed the ABT.

Since its founding, the ABT has made several attempts to change its name or hide behind the umbrella of a religious organization, such as the Aryan Reich or the Church of Aryan Christian Heritage. Although the gang experienced severe internal problems and a high dropout rate shortly after these unsuccessful attempts, ABT still remains a formidable group in and out of the Texas prison system.

Structure The ABT is led by a steering committee comprised of five offenders, each of whom is responsible for a specific geographic area and maintains control of the group's activity in and out of the prison system. The steering committee is also responsible for making all rules and regulations for the organization.

Misc. Although the ABT uses "Aryan Brotherhood" in its name, it is not associated with prison gangs in other state and federal correctional facilities that use the same name. It is considered a Texas prison gang and uses the words "of Texas" to distinguish itself from other similar groups. It should be noted that ABT members are incarcerated in various state and federal prisons.

Tattoos The ABT insignia or tattoo depicts a shield with a Nordic dagger running through it, the letters "A" and "B" over the top of the shield, and the words "of Texas" located under the shield. All members are given the choice to put on the tattoo or not. Many have chosen to hide or disguise their tattoos in an effort to thwart detection by correctional and law enforcement agencies.



Title **ARYAN CIRCLE (AC)**

History The AC was designated as an STG by TDCJ in late 1999 after the group declared war on the White Knights prison clique. The group was also engaged in a second conflict with the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT) as a result of attempts by AC to recruit the same white supremacist offenders as ABT.

Structure The AC currently uses a hierarchical structure with a president, vice president, and three “center ring” leaders. This organization is also broken down into various branches, districts, and divisions; however, the president, vice president, and three “center ring” leaders make all rules for the group. The AC is also unique among STGs because its constitution includes provisions for a women’s branch.

Misc. The AC is made up of white offenders who claim that their objective is the “preservation of the white race” and seeks to accomplish this from inside the prison system.

Although the AC claims it is not a prison gang, the group’s activity in the prison system mimics that of all other prison gangs regarding violence, intimidation, extortion, and control of drugs, prostitution, and gambling.

Tattoos The AC tattoo consists of a simple circle containing double lightning bolts and/or the letters “AC.” This tattoo is normally placed in the rib cage area just below the left nipple. In some cases, this tattoo will be found inside a diamond shape. The diamond symbolizes that the member is forever an AC member, just as “diamonds are forever.”



Title **BARRIO AZTECA (BA)**

History In the mid-1980s, a few offenders from the El Paso, Texas area began to heavily recruit offenders who were members of El Paso street gangs. As a result of their efforts, they managed to stop the fighting among the various El Paso street gangs both in prison and on the streets, and united incarcerated gang members from the El Paso area. Barrio Azteca (BA), as the group eventually called itself, was validated as a STG in 1993 after entering a war with the Texas Syndicate (TS).

Structure Ranks:

- Major Captain: Capitan Mayor
- Captain: Capitan
- Lieutenant: Tirilon
- Sergeant: Sargento
- Soldier: Soldado

Misc. The intent and purpose of BA are consistent with those of all other STGs—its members attempt to control their environment through illegal activities, including drugs, prostitution, extortion, staff intimidation, inmate assaults, and murder.

Tattoos The BA uses various tattoos to identify its members, including the name “Barrio Azteca,” the numbers “2-1” (which represent the numeric values for the letters “B” and “A”), and the Roman numeral “XXI.”



Title **BLOODS (BLD)**

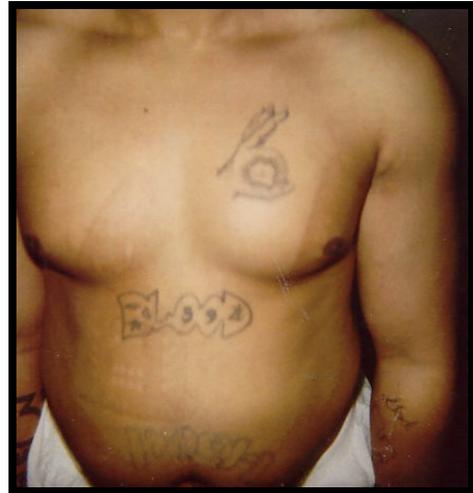
History The first known Blood gang, the Compton Pirus, originated on West Piru Street in Compton, California. They formed to protect one another from the Crips, their traditional rivals. The gang developed quickly and became very strong. The recognition they received spread throughout the county, and other Blood gangs formed. These groups identified with the color red, the school color of Compton's Centennial High School.

As the violence among these street gangs escalated, law enforcement in California began cracking down on gang activity. Many members migrated from California to Texas to expand their drug trade and escape prosecution for crimes committed in California. Since then, law enforcement agencies have identified Blood sets in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and other Texas cities.

Structure The Bloods lack the organizational structure of other prison gangs. Each set may have a separate rank structure and pursue different goals and agendas.

Misc. Within the Texas prison system, the Bloods are known for being one of the groups that is most likely to assault correctional staff.

Tattoos Blood members can be identified by the insignias adopted by the set to which they belong and by their affinity for the color red. Members may also use the five-pointed star, which is known as the "Blood Star" and represents the Blood Nation. The letters at the points of the star represent the five families that comprise the Blood Nation: Bloods, Brims, Bishops, Vice Lords, and Pirus.



Title **CRIPS (CRP)**

History Despite the lack of agreement on the origins of the Crip name, the consensus is that the Crips gang began in West Los Angeles, California. One story purports that the name was derived from a street gang called the "Cribs," which was believed to be an offshoot of the "Slausons," at one time the largest black street gang in south central Los Angeles.

Crips gang activity first started on high school campuses. The Crips preyed on non-gang members by extorting money and committing assaults and robberies on or near school campuses. The Crips quickly earned a reputation as the strongest force in the world of black street gangs. Other gangs then began to incorporate the "Crip" name into their own names, thus becoming Crip sets. The "Main Street" became the "Main Street Crips," with many others following suit: the Kitchen Crips, Five Deuce Crips, and Rollin' 20 Crips. Although these gangs adopted the Crip name, they remained independent and maintained their own individual leaders and membership. Members identified with the color blue, the school color of Washington High School in Los Angeles.

As the violence among these street gangs escalated, law enforcement in California began cracking down on gang activity. Crip members left California to escape prosecution and expand their lucrative drug operation. Since then, law enforcement agencies have identified Crip sets in Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, and other Texas cities.

Structure The Crips lack the organizational structure of other prison gangs. Each set may have a separate rank structure and pursue different goals and agendas.

Misc. Within the Texas prison system, the Crips are known for being one of the groups that is most likely to assault correctional staff.

Tattoos Crip tattoos are specific to the members' local sets, and may include references to a zip code or a particular street.



Title **HERMANDAD DE PISTOLEROS LATINOS (HPL)**

History The HPL was formed by inmates of Latino origin in TDCJ in the mid-1980s.

In the early 1990s, internal problems in the group precipitated the development of two factions: the 16/12s and the 45s. These factions adhered to the same rules and constitution and have since worked out their differences. They are currently united under one name, the HPL. Translated from the Spanish, "Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos" means "Brotherhood of Latin Gunmen."

Structure The HPL hierarchy is structured along military lines, with three ranking leaders known as "Llaveros."

Ranks:

- General
- Captain
- Lieutenant
- Sergeant
- Soldier

Misc. The executive rules of the HPL state that "Pistoleros shall be of any Latin origin; Chicanos, Mexicanos, Puerto Ricans, Venezuelanos, and all persons that speak Latino or are descendants of Latin families." Law enforcement has also identified females as HPL members, which is unique among Hispanic prison gangs that traditionally have not allowed women to gain membership into their organizations.

Tattoos The HPL tattoo consists of the letters "HPL," sometimes with the "H" and "L" combined with the head of a parrot. Some tattoos incorporate the numbers "16" and "12," which represent the letters "P" and "L;" or the number "45," which represents the caliber of a .45 handgun. In addition, a tattoo of a .45-caliber handgun is commonly placed in an area where a gun is normally found on or carried by a person.



Title **MEXIKANEMI/TEXAS MEXICAN MAFIA (EME)**

History The EME is a predominantly Hispanic prison gang that originated in TDCJ's Retrieve Unit in the early 1980s and rapidly spread throughout the system. Initially, this STG attempted to masquerade as a cultural awareness group and not a criminal organization. It should be noted, however, that its constitution states in part: "In being a criminal organization we will function in any aspect of criminal interest for the benefit of advancement of Mexikanemi. We will traffic in drugs, contracts of assassination, prostitution, robbery of high magnitude and in anything we can imagine."

Structure The EME operates under a hierarchical system in which the founder of the organization is considered the absolute leader. Each member must also abide by an extensive set of rules.

Ranks:

- President
- Vice-President
- General
- Assistant General
- Captain of Captains
- Captains
- Lieutenant of Lieutenants
- Lieutenant
- Sergeant
- Soldier
- Prospect

Misc. The EME is extremely influential on the streets, committing crimes such as kidnapping, extortion, narcotics trafficking, and murder. Also known as the Mexican Mafia, La Eme, and the Texas Mexican Mafia, this group is not to be confused with other prison gangs with the same name found in other state and federal correctional institutions.

Tattoos The EME tattoo consists of a burning sun and/or Aztec warrior shield with two crossed daggers, sometimes with eagle heads on the dagger handles. Within the sun or shield will be the Mexican national emblem: an eagle with a snake in its beak on top of a cactus plant. Other common tattoos include the Aztec double-headed serpent in the shape of the letter "M," a Mexican mountain range, and/or Aztec pyramids.



Title **PARTIDO REVOLUCIONARIO MEXICANO (PRM)**

History The PRM was founded in 1987-1988 in TDCJ's Coffield Unit by six inmates who wanted to protect themselves from other offenders and prison groups. Until 1994, the PRM was comprised of only Mexican nationals and individuals of Mexican descent. After 1994, recruitment was opened to individuals of Latin descent from Central and South America. In July 2005, TDCJ formally identified the PRM as an STG.

Structure Intelligence indicates that the rank structure is paramilitary, with its leadership originally consisting of five generals.

Misc. Members of the PRM identify themselves as "Borrachos."

Tattoos The PRM tattoo often incorporates the letters "PRM" and/or the emblem on the Mexican flag (i.e., eagle, snake, cactus, and half wreath). The words "Estados Unidos Mexicanos" may be added above the eagle. The number "6" is a code number used to identify membership (Note: There are six letters in the word "Mexico" and "Mezcal") and the tattoo "P31" is also used ("R" is the 18th letter of the alphabet and "M" is the 13th letter; thus "P" + 18 + 13 = P31). In addition, since the group has used the word "borracho" (Spanish for "drunk") to denote membership, some members may bear a tattoo of a Mexican male sitting on the ground, wearing a sombrero tilted forward, with a bottle of Mezcal or Tequila in his hand or beside him.



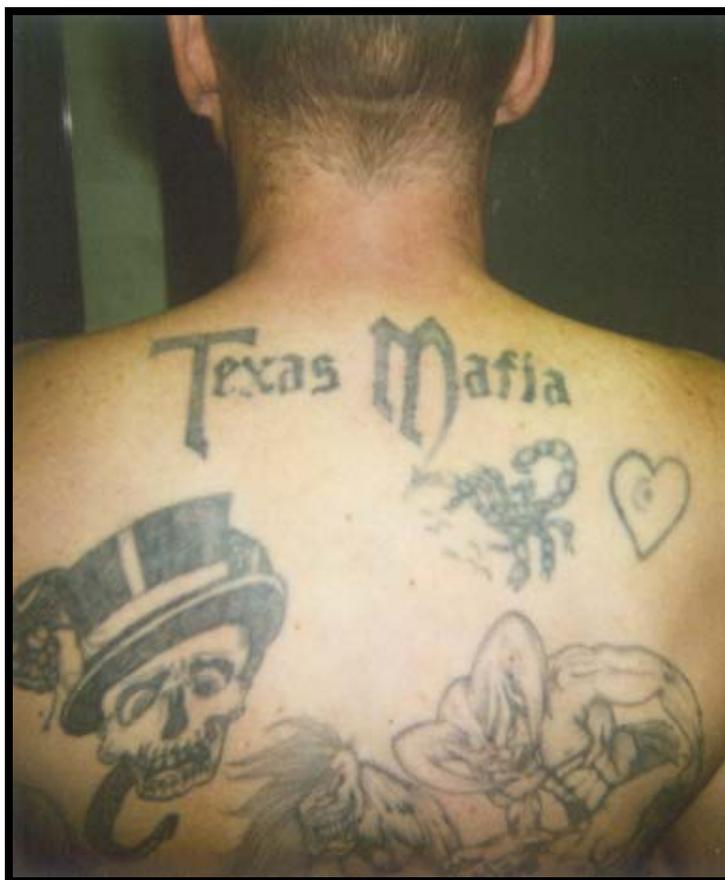
- Title** **RAZA UNIDA (RU)**
- History** The RU was founded in the late 1980s by Hispanic offenders from Dallas, Houston, Corpus Christi, and the Rio Grande Valley area who had been victimized by the Mexikanemi (EME). Their numbers grew rapidly as they evolved from a protection group to a predator group.
- Structure** The RU currently uses a five-ranking-member panel that oversees five regions within the state of Texas.
- Misc.** The RU is involved in all types of illegal activities, ranging from drug trafficking and extortion to assaults and murder.
- Tattoos** The RU tattoo consists of the Mexican and American flags (in some cases, the Texas flag will replace the American flag) with an eagle in the center and a ribbon banner containing the words "Raza Unida," which signifies the unity of Mexican and Mexican-American. The letters "RU" may also be incorporated into tattoos.



Title	<u>TEXAS CHICANO BROTHERHOOD (TXCB)</u>
History	The TXCB was formed in 1989 by several Tri-City Bomber street gang members who wanted to establish themselves as a prison gang. The group was officially recognized by TDCJ as an STG in early 1998. The TXCB eventually became bitter rivals with the Tri-City Bombers.
Structure	The group's rank structure consists of three 5-star generals and three 4-star generals.
Misc.	The majority of TXCB membership and activity is relegated to the Rio Grande Valley.
Tattoos	The TXCB tattoo consists of the letters "TCB" and a star found within the letters. This should not be mistaken for the Tri-City Bomber tattoo, which also consists of the letters "TCB," but with an image of a round fused bomb found within the letters.



- Title** **TEXAS MAFIA (TM)**
- History** The TM was founded in TDCJ in the early 1980s. Unlike most STGs, the TM did not begin as a clique or a protection group before evolving into a prison gang. Instead, the TM identified itself as a criminal organization from the beginning. The group has maintained extremely close ties to the Texas Syndicate (TS).
- Structure** The TM's rank structure is loosely organized, but may consist of two ranking members who oversee the group's activities statewide.
- Misc.** The TM is predominantly comprised of white inmates.
- Tattoos** The TM tattoo consists of the letters "TM" with one or all of the bottom tips of the letters shaped like devil's tails and/or arrowheads.



Title **TEXAS SYNDICATE (ESE TE; TS)**

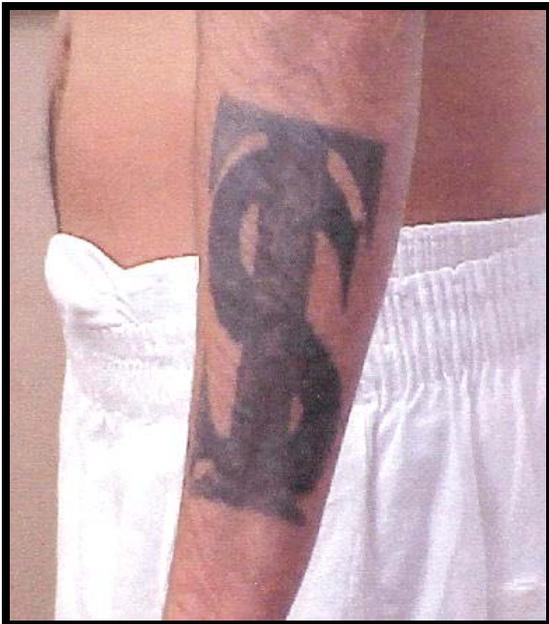
History The TS originated in the California prison system in the early 1970s, primarily to protect the small number of native Texan Mexican-American inmates from existing prison gangs. These Texas offenders banded together for protection and soon grew in sufficient numbers to be formerly recognized in California as a prison gang. According to California officials, the TS quickly became the group "most feared by all offenders in the California prison system, even prior to them becoming organized, due to their fierce loyalty to one another and their swift and absolute retaliation without any regard for their own safety or consequence." Predictably, a large number of TS members who were released from their custodial commitments in California returned to Texas and continued their criminal activities. The TS surfaced in the Texas prison system in the late 1970s.

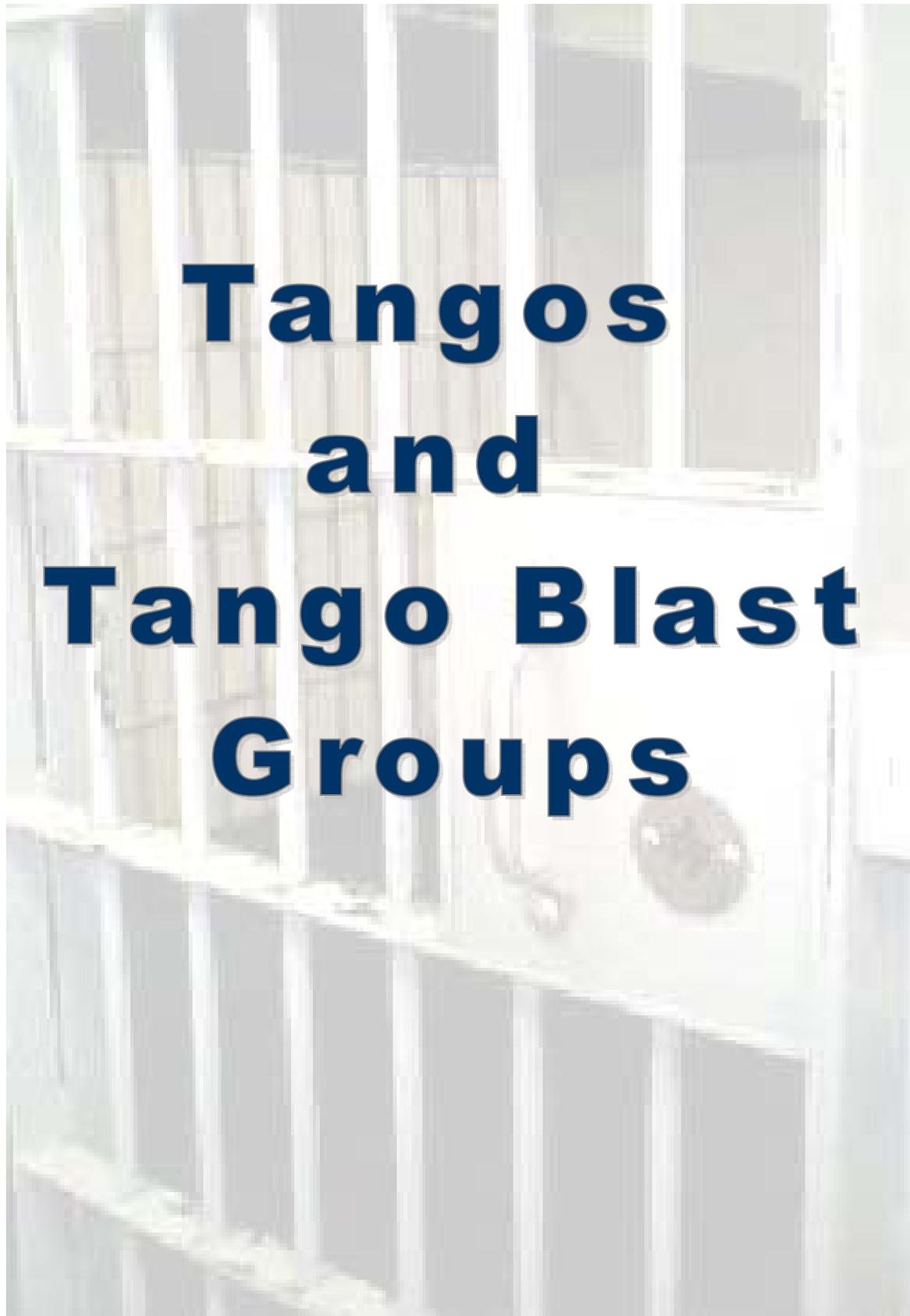
Structure The TS operates under a paramilitary rank structure in which the oldest, most experienced member serves as the organization's "Sillon" or chairman in the unit or area. Lieutenants and sergeants are selected by the Sillon and are assigned responsibilities as needed. The TS does not have one direct person in charge of the organization but operates in cells throughout Texas.

Misc. Illegal activity includes, but is not limited to, drug trafficking, extortion, prostitution, assault, and murder.

Members of the TS are also known to exist in several state and federal correctional systems across the country. The TS has two additional factions: the Texas Syndicate United (TSU) and Texas Syndicate Originals (TSO).

Tattoos The TS has a specific tattoo consisting of a large "T" superimposed over an "S." The term "Cuerno(s)" is the Spanish word for "horn(s)" and is an identifier or indicator of possible TS membership. Although many members will tattoo themselves with horns to signify their membership in the TS, not all offenders who have the horns are affiliated with this STG.





Overview

The Tangos are one of the fastest growing groups in Texas, both within the prison system and on the streets, and are attaining near fad status. The term “Tango” is derived from Spanish slang and indicates a “town or hometown clique.” Membership is usually voluntary and based on the geographic location where the offender resides. The rules governing Tango membership are less stringent than those required for STGs, which have historically adhered to a “blood in-blood out” philosophy. Tangos also abide by an existing set of basic written rules that specifically outline the expectations of their members. The Tangos and their behavior within the prison system are more consistent with other self-protection groups; however, the Tangos have also evolved into groups that, because of their large numbers, have successfully challenged the more established STGs. Presently, TDCJ’s Security Threat Group Management Office monitors the Tango groups, but does not recognize them as a validated STG.

The four largest Tango groups, known collectively as the “Four Horsemen,” are “Houstone” from Houston; “D-Town” from Dallas; “Foritos” from Fort Worth; and “ATX” or “Capirucha” from Austin. Other Tango groups include the “Vallucos” from the Rio Grande Valley; the West Texas Tangos (WTX) from West Texas and the Texas Panhandle; “Corpitos” from Corpus Christi; “San Anto” or “Orejones” from San Antonio; and “EPT” from El Paso.

Some Tangos may also identify themselves as being “Tango Blast” (TB), which is not so much a separate organization as it is an indication that the offender has participated in heightened criminal activity on behalf of the organization. The term “blasting” refers to involvement in violent or disruptive criminal behavior against other gang members or criminal justice personnel, particularly inside the Texas prison system. Most Tangos who claim TB membership come from the Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston areas.

Tango structure and leadership vary in and out of prison. Within the prison system, Tangos elect a representative for each unit, known as a “Spokesman,” as well as a designated speaker for each pod, wing, or dorm who reports directly to the Spokesman. Outside of prison, the Tango groups appear to be more loosely organized. They operate in small groups and cells without a well-defined structure or identified leader.

Tangos are involved in a variety of criminal activity, including auto theft, burglaries, narcotics trafficking, illegal alien smuggling, home invasions, robberies, kidnappings, and homicides—all offenses that have historically been committed by STGs. Furthermore, as a result of technological advancements and easier access to automated information, law enforcement can expect to see an increase in a wide variety of computer-related crimes by the newer and technologically-savvy gang members, including identity theft, fraud, and other financial crimes. The Internet has also provided gangs an avenue of communication and self-promotion that has not been available to them in the past. With the younger generation’s increasing attraction to living the “Thug Life” or becoming a “G,” these groups will continue to pose a legitimate threat to the public, law enforcement, and criminal justice personnel at all levels.

Tango members can be identified by their tattoos, which usually depict a hometown sports team and/or the team logo, a city skyline, area code numbers representing their hometowns, or the slang term for their hometown. Tangos who claim to be TB members may also use the tattoo “16-20-2” to represent the 16th, 20th, and 2nd letters of the alphabet, or “PTB,” which stands for “Puro Tango Blast.”

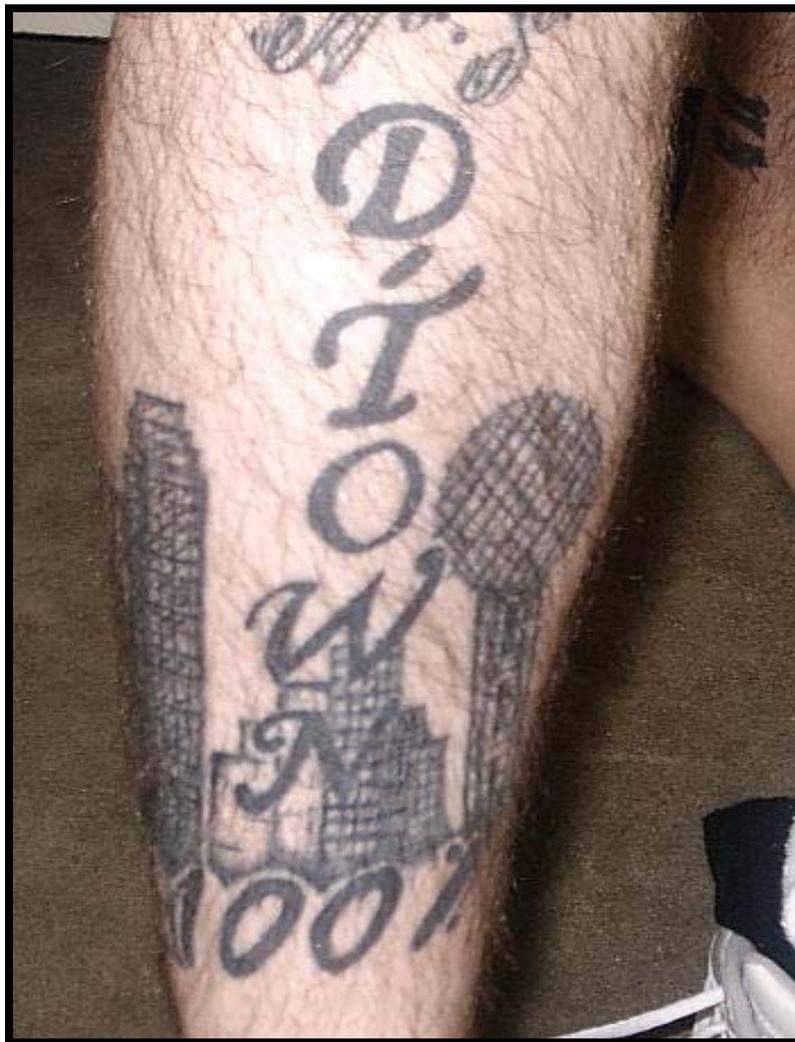
Title **AUSTIN TANGOS (ATX; LA CAPIRUCHA)**



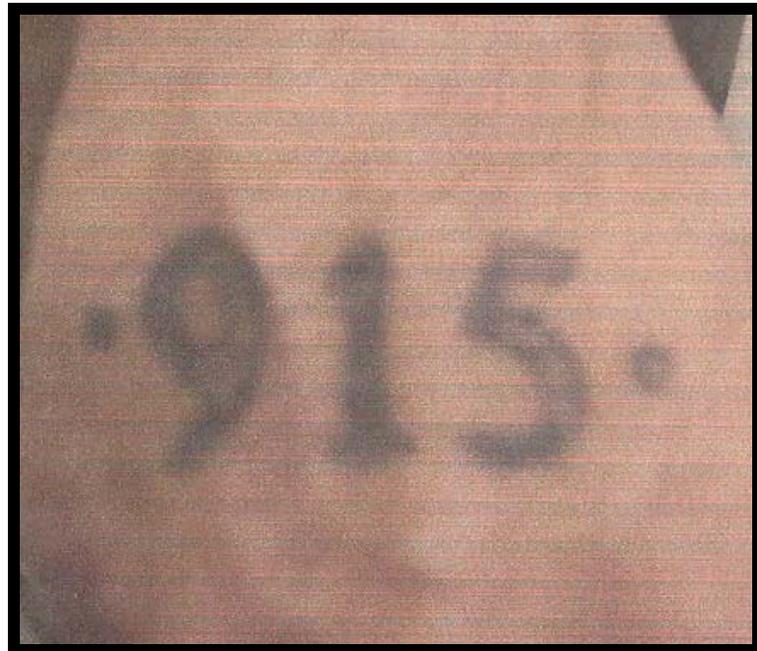
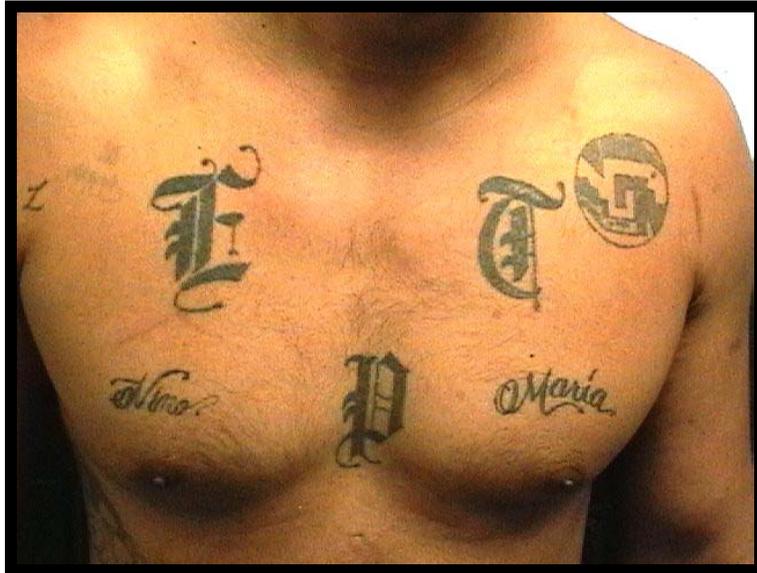
Title **CORPUS CHRISTI TANGOS (CORPITOS; CHARCO)**



Title **DALLAS TANGOS (D-TOWN)**



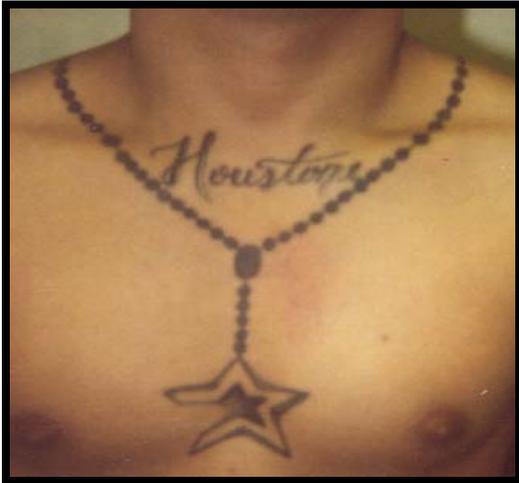
Title **EL PASO TANGOS (EPT)**



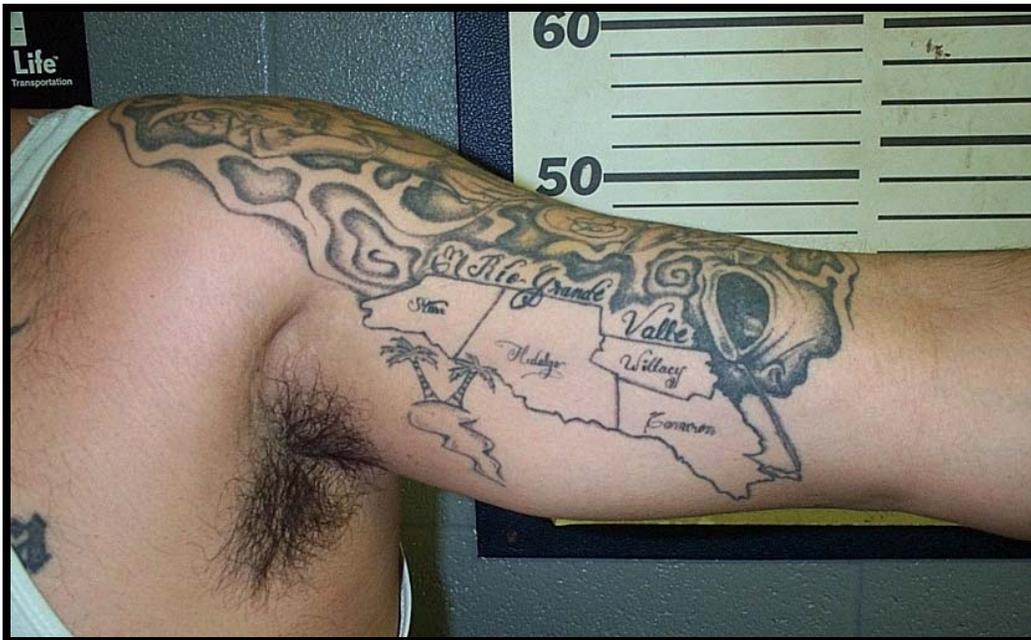
Title **FORT WORTH TANGOS (FORITOS; FOROS)**



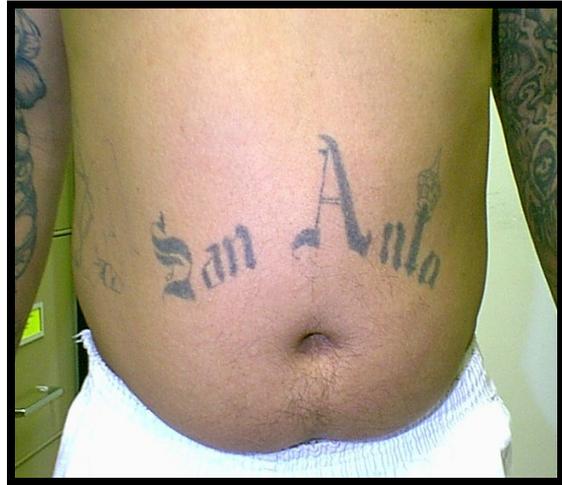
Title **HOUSTON TANGOS (HOUSTONE; H-TOWN)**



Title **RIO GRANDE VALLEY TANGOS (VALLUCO)**

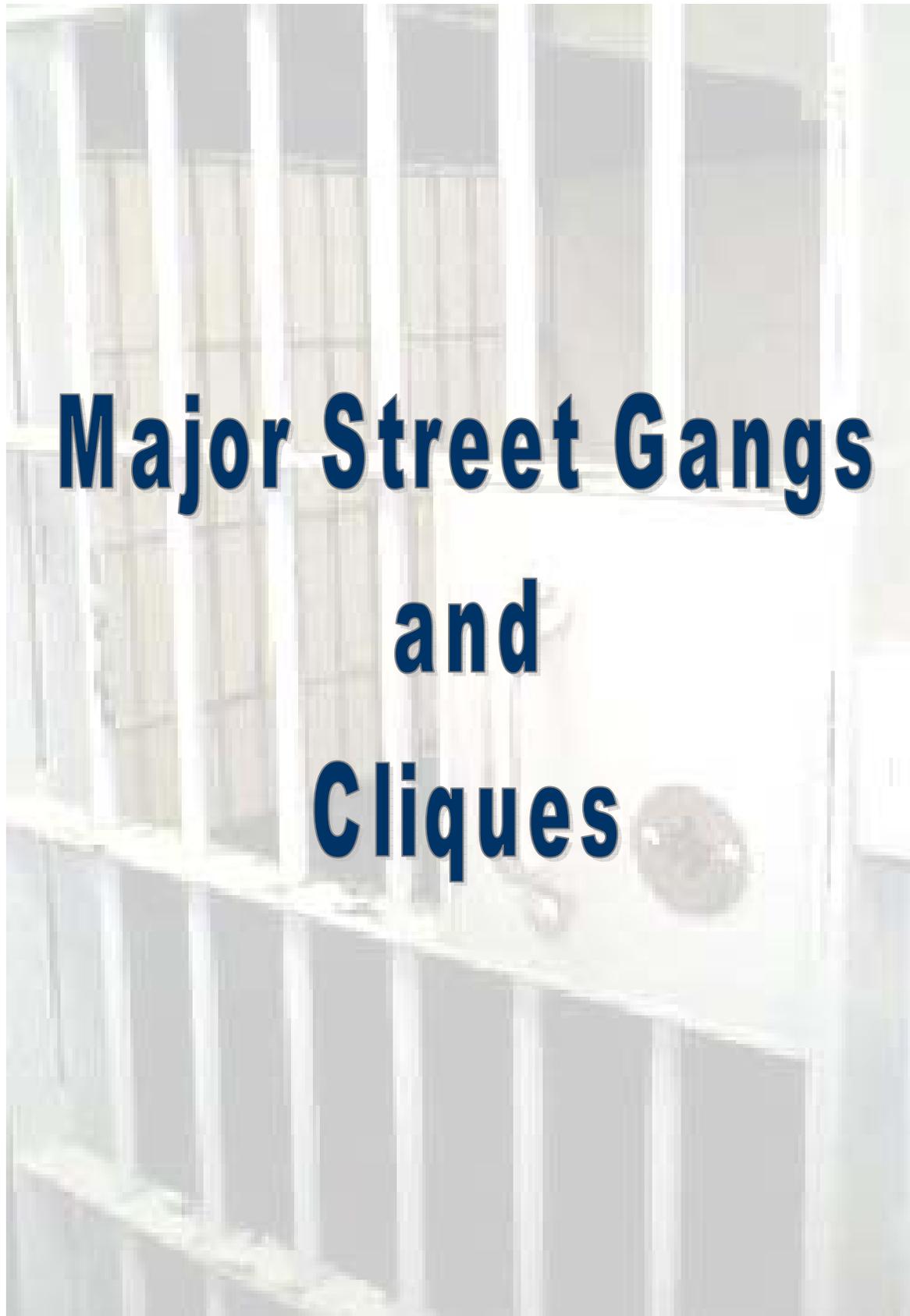


Title **SAN ANTONIO TANGOS (SAN ANTO; OREJONES)**



Title **WEST TEXAS TANGOS (WTX)**





Overview

Criminal Street Gangs (CSGs) generally form when individuals establish an alliance based on various social needs and engage in acts that threaten public health and safety. Surveys and statistics suggest that CSGs pose a more serious crime problem today than in the past. Intelligence indicates that drug trafficking is the primary criminal enterprise that supports gangs; however, drugs are not necessarily the sole purpose for the gangs' existence.

Unlike Security Threat Groups, CSGs are much less organized and less experienced with the criminal justice system, and usually maintain a high profile in public areas. Security Threat groups will often recruit a CSG member once the individual becomes of age and has "proven" his worth to the STG.

Membership in CSGs is becoming more attractive to younger males and females alike. Thus, a large number of reckless acts of violence can be attributed to younger gang members who are attempting to gain respect on the streets.

The following information contains a short description of several major criminal street gangs in Texas, as well as descriptions and photos of known tattoos.

Title **18th Street Gang**

Misc. The 18th Street Gang was formed in California in the late 1960s and consists mainly of illegal aliens from El Salvador as well as from Mexico and other countries in Central America. The gang is not exclusively Hispanic, however, and may include members of all races and ethnicities, and may include both male and female members. Tattoos worn by 18th Street gang members will normally incorporate some variation of the number 18, including "18", "XVIII," or "XV3."



Title **BLACK GANGSTER DISCIPLES (BGD)**

Misc. The BGD originated in the Midwest and has historically aligned with Folk Nation. Members of the BGD may use various tattoos, including the letters "BGD," six-pointed stars, pitchforks raised upward, and a heart with wings.



Title **LATIN KINGS (LK)**

Misc. The LK, or Almighty Latin King Nation (ALKN), originated in Chicago, Illinois. The gang's influence, however, has spread throughout the country. Although various groups may share the "Latin King" name, not all are direct offshoots of or affiliated with the Chicago-based gang. The LK has historically aligned with the People Nation. Members of the LK may use a variety of tattoos, including the letters "LK" or "ALKN," a three- or five-pointed crown, the image of a "crown master," or the words "Amor de Rey" (Spanish for "Love of the King"). Members may also incorporate symbols common to other People Nation gangs, such as pitchforks pointed downward.



Title **MANDINGO WARRIORS (MW)**

Misc. The MW was formed in 1984 by a group of black offenders in order to protect themselves from members of the Aryan Brotherhood of Texas (ABT), the Texas Mafia (TM), and the Texas Syndicate (TS). The gang's hierarchy consists of a Commander in Chief, General, Administer of Defense, Administer of Information, and Administer of Law, who make up "the Committee." The Committee appoints Knights and has the power to remove rank. Other officers include Administer of Finance, Captain, Sergeant, and 1st Corporal. Members of MW refer to themselves as "Demo," which means "Sun." Their colors are red, black, and green.



Title **MARA SALVATRUCHA (MS-13)**

Misc. The MS-13 was originally formed in the late-1980s in Los Angeles, California, by El Salvadoran refugees who emigrated to the US to escape civil war and unrest in their country. Many of these refugees settled in Washington, DC, and the Rampart area of Los Angeles. They formed MS-13 to protect themselves from and challenge other already-established Hispanic gangs. Members of MS-13 use a variety of tattoos, including "MS," "MS-13," "Mara Salvatrucha," or "Salvatrucha." Members may also use tattoos that incorporate the names of their individual cliques or the image of a hand forming the devil's pitchfork.



Title **MEXICLES**

Misc. The Mexicles was formed in the Texas prison system by a group of Mexican nationals and immigrants who banded together to protect themselves from being recruited or assaulted by other STGs. Although members of this gang may be tattooed with the word "Mexicle" or "Mexicles," the term is not used exclusively by them. The word "Mexicle" is a term used to describe a Mexican citizen and thus is sometimes found in tattoos worn by members of other gangs, such as the Partido Revolucionario Mexicano (PRM).



Title **SUREÑOS**

Misc. The term “Sureños” was first used in the 1970s as a result of a California prison war between the California Mexican Mafia (La EME) and Nuestra Familia (NF). This war resulted in a territorial division between gang members from northern California (Norteños = northerners) who were aligned with NF, and those from southern California (Sureños = southerners) who were aligned with La EME. Sureños have a more significant presence in Texas than Norteños, but both groups may be encountered here. Sureños identify with the color blue and the number 13, which represents the 13th letter of the alphabet (“M”) and signifies the group’s association with La EME. Sureños tattoos will vary but will usually contain some kind of association with the word “Sureño” and possibly the number 13. Note: Although many street gangs in Texas may use the “Sureños” name, not all of them are affiliated with the California-based group.



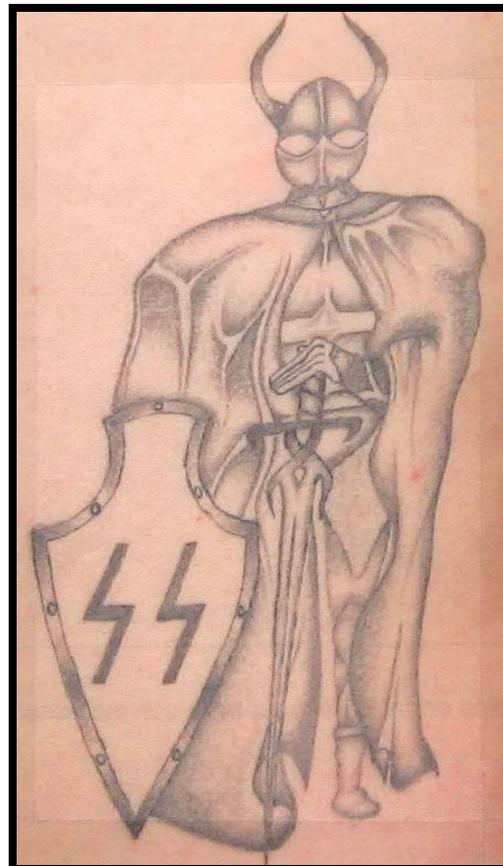
itle **TRI-CITY BOMBERS (TRICB)**

Misc. The TRICB, also known as Bombitas, is a street gang that is primarily composed of Hispanic males. They originated in the South Texas Rio Grande Valley, primarily in an area known as the Tri-Cities (Pharr, San Juan, and Alamo). The TRICB gang is a bitter rival of the STG known as the Texas Chicano Brotherhood (TXCB), which was founded in 1989 by former members of TRICB. A common TRICB tattoo includes the letters "TCB" with an image of a round fused bomb.



Title **WHITE KNIGHTS (WK)**

Misc. The WK is a white supremacist group that was formed in the Texas prison system in May 1991. The gang is known to be active in the free world as well. The gang's hierarchy is composed of five ranking elders who are known as "the Wheel." Members of the Wheel coordinate the decision-making process on behalf of the organization. The gang's motto is "Sworn to Protect, Never to Neglect" and its official colors are red, white, and black. The WK tattoos include the image of a knight in armor and other symbols common to white supremacist groups, such as swastikas and double lightning bolts.





Resources

Texas Violent Gang Task Force (Article 61.10, Code of Criminal Procedure)

The Texas Violent Gang Task Force (TVGTF) has been successful in bringing together diverse personnel from criminal and juvenile justice agencies throughout the state for the common goal of establishing and maintaining a statewide gang networking system. The TVGTF epitomizes the importance of the commitment to collaboration in order to ensure public protection and ultimately restore and empower our communities. For more information regarding the TVGTF, please contact:

Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Security Threat Group Management Office
(936) 437-8445

Gang Resource System (Article 61.11, Code of Criminal Procedure)

The Gang Resource System (GRS) is a secure web site that was created and is maintained by the Texas Attorney General's Office. Access to the GRS is limited by statute to criminal and juvenile justice agency personnel. The system is designed to identify and monitor criminal street gangs and STGs within TDCJ, and to promote the sharing of general gang information and interagency cooperation. Details on local gangs, their identifiers and criminal activities, relevant photos, and local law enforcement contacts can be accessed by county, city, or gang name. Information relating to the identity of a specific or alleged offender may not be maintained in the system. The GRS also includes an extensive prosecutor's section, which includes gang-related state and federal statutes, and gang-related court cases, and a resource section that includes officer safety and intelligence bulletins.

For more information about the GRS, or to request access, please contact:

Juvenile Crime Intervention
Office of the Texas Attorney General
(512) 463-4024
gangs@oag.state.tx.us

Criminal Law Enforcement Online

Copies of this publication, "Texas Gangs: An Overview of Security Threat Groups and Other Major Gangs in Texas," as well as other reference files regarding gangs and gang-related material, can be obtained by members of the criminal justice community through Criminal Law Enforcement Online (CLEO). The CLEO web site is a free password-protected web site that is operated by the Texas DPS Criminal Intelligence Service and is used to disseminate a wide variety of information to criminal justice agencies, including unsolved crimes, wanted fugitives, career criminals, crime trends, concealment methods, hidden weapons, officer safety alerts, upcoming conferences, and more. An application for access to CLEO can be obtained at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/forms/cleo.asp>.

Fill out and sign the application and then mail or fax to:

Texas DPS Criminal Intelligence Service
Attn: CLEO Administrator
PO Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773-0420
(512) 424-5715
cleo@txdps.state.tx.us