

A SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN INFORMATION NETWORK

Surrenos 2008



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Surenos 2008

“One rule, one law, one order.”

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Surenos 2008: Foreword

By **CHUCK SCHOVILLE**
RMIN TRAINING SPECIALIST

"I am a Sureno. One rule, one law, one order."

When I heard that comment made by a Sureno gang member in Colorado Springs, Colorado, I knew we were right about the decision to dedicate a Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN) special report to the Surenos movement.

I had not heard such a simple, clear and concise statement claiming allegiance to a gang since the early 1990s when the Gangster Disciples began migrating into Phoenix.

Several months earlier, a group sat in a room and discussed the intent to develop, publish and distribute a document which would be useful to those involved in the fight against gang-related crime. We discussed Crips, Bloods, Arizona Mexican Mafia, and, of course, MS 13.

Although the Mara Salvatrucha gang is a serious national problem, it is clear that the Sureno gang is a major threat within the RMIN region and at this time, is a more imminent threat requiring attention from law enforcement

than the MS-13 gang. This can be attributed to the overall size of the Sureno movement and the proximity of the RMIN region to California. The Mara Salvatrucha gang is a Sureno gang and should be considered one of many California-based Hispanic gangs that are covered by the larger

Without exception, the Sureno gang movement has migrated into every state served by RMIN, into our correctional facilities and into our communities.

Sureno gang umbrella. To pay attention to the Mara Salvatrucha members and to ignore the other gangs loyal to the Sureno cause would be dangerous and costly to communities within the RMIN region.

The Surenos gang movement originated in prisons in the state of California as a result of conflicts between existing inmates and street gang members who were being incarcerated. This power struggle primarily was between the Southern ("sureno") and Northern ("norteno")

Hispanic gang members and inmates.

Over the past decade, Surenos have migrated from California and are now living and active in almost every state in the country. Members of the Sureno gangs operate within and outside prisons across America and are tightly controlled by the California Mexican Mafia. As a result of the gang's notoriety, the Surenos have grown exponentially and are now being emulated by individuals who have no connection to the California Mexican Mafia, yet claim to be Surenos. It should be noted

that not all gang members claiming to be Sureno or a "sur" are from California; these imitators are not controlled by the California Mexican Mafia.

In addition to individuals who emulate the California Surenos, intelligence indicates that documented Surenos are active in every state within RMIN, committing crimes under the guidance and leadership of California Mexico Mafia and Sureno gang members who are incarcerated in federal, state, county, city and private facilities throughout the United States.





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Surenos 2008 is intended to inform and educate the law enforcement and criminal justice communities about the Surenos who are from California and are loyal to the California Mexican Mafia. This loyalty includes the willingness of Surenos gang members to kill or be killed as a supporter of the Mexican Mafia.

The goal of *Surenos: 2008* is to clearly identify what a Sureno is and what types of strategies can be developed and implemented to disrupt and mitigate the impact of Surenos on our communities.

Make no mistake: Every state, every community is in the path of the Sureno movement. The issue is whether your agency will be prepared to deal effectively with

the Surenos or whether you will wait as many did during the migration of the Crips and Bloods throughout the country during the 1980s.

Without exception, the Sureno gang movement has migrated into every state served by RMIN, into our correctional facilities and into our communities.

The movement is a major law enforcement issue that must be addressed before Surenos are successful in infiltrating and controlling all communities and correctional facilities within the RMIN region.

Officials must recognize that Surenos are in their community and are laying the foundation for

future criminal control by the Mexican Mafia.

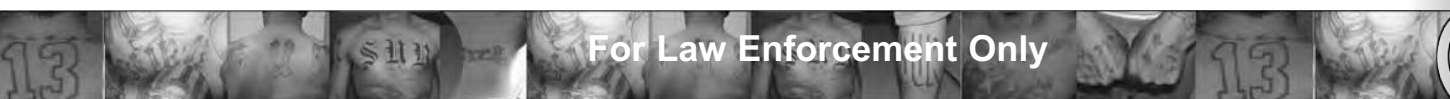
During the research for this report, I conducted or participated in numerous interviews with incarcerated Sureno gang members. From those interviews, combined with 25 years of law enforcement experience, I say with certainty that Surenos are focused on a complete ideology and belief in their gang and that they display a dedication and loyalty that surpasses that of any gang I've ever dealt with.

Surenos believe in their cause. Their loyalty includes the willingness to kill or be killed as a supporter of the Mexican Mafia. ❖



About the author...

Chuck Schoville is Training Specialist with the Rocky Mountain Information Network. He is founder/president of the Arizona Gang Investigators Association and president of the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association. His law enforcement career began as a patrol officer with the Tempe (AZ) Police Department and spanned 25 years until his retirement as a sergeant with the department's Gang & Intelligence Unit. He served as Hostage Negotiations team leader and is a certified Crime Prevention Specialist. Schoville has written for numerous publications and is a certified instructor on all aspects of gangs and gang investigations. He has delivered law enforcement related presentations throughout the United States. Schoville earned his bachelor of science degree in Education from Northern Arizona University.



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ORIGIN OF THE SURENOS

California's Hispanic criminal street gangs are divided into the north (norteno) or south (sureno). The dividing line is generally recognized as being near the city of Delano but others argue the dividing line is Bakersfield or somewhere near the area of Kern County.

Historically, Hispanic gangs north of the dividing line have claimed allegiance to the Nortenos and those to the south claimed allegiance to the Surenos. All California Hispanic criminal street gangs claim allegiance to the Nortenos or Surenos, with the exception of the Fresno Bulldogs. Whether it's on the streets or in the correctional facilities, the Fresno Bulldogs function independently and do not align themselves with Nortenos or Surenos. The Fresno Bulldogs are a unique California-based gang that has the power, strength and a large enough membership to stand on its own and remain free from the politics of the Nortenos and Surenos. All other Hispanic criminal street gangs are forced to choose a side whether they want to join in or not.

SURENO

The word sureno translates to "southerner" in Spanish and the word "sur" translates to the word

south. The Sureno gang or gang movement includes the three California "super" gangs--18th Street, Florencia 13 and Mara Salvatrucha--as well as hundreds of other Hispanic gangs. Surenos include all Southern California



criminal street gangs except the Maravilla* gangs of East Los Angeles.

The Sureno gang structure is very loose and has no formal rank structure but there are well-known veteranos and "shot callers" who have influence within the gangs.

**The early residents of a low-cost housing project in East L.A. nicknamed the housing project maravillosa (Spanish for marvelous). In the early 1950s various maravillas were responsible for the creation of the Mexican Mafia prison gang. Several of the maravilla gangs members became dis-*

illusioned with the newly-formed Mexican Mafia. Many of these maravilla gang members chose to no longer align themselves to the mafia. A gang that developed nearby called itself Maravilla and with the gang's believe that due to its history and standing within the community, it should not and would not have a loyalty to the Mexican Mafia. Gang members determined they would not pay taxes as other gangs willingly had done. This blatant act of defiance and disrespect resulted in members of the Maravilla gangs being placed on a gang "green light" list by the Mexican Mafia. As a result of this kill on sight order by the Mexican Mafia, gangs claiming allegiance to the Surenos were bitter enemies with the Maravilla gangs on the street. Once incarcerated, however, Maravilla gang members sought protection to avoid being killed by members of the Mexican Mafia. It was not until recently that the "kill on sight" order against the Maravilla sets was recalled by the leadership of the Mexican Mafia.

Currently there are several gangs in the Maravilla area that are loyal to the Mexican Mafia. There are also several Maravilla gangs in that area that aren't aligned to the Mexican Mafia that are referred to as Los Maravillosos. They are led by those men that were disillusioned by the original mafia.





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SAME NAME, DIFFERENT RESULTS

In the late 1990s to early 2000s, the term “Sureno” was being used more frequently. Law enforcement believed that Sureno was a name given to a Southern California Hispanic gang that wore blue and generally lived and functioned south of Bakersfield. Surenos were understood to be enemies of the hated Nortenos, the Hispanic gangs north of Bakersfield.

Most traditional Southern California Hispanic gangs rarely migrated into Arizona and as a result, little attention was paid to Surenos. This soon changed as communities outside California were beginning to deal with the arrival of Hispanic gangs into their communities.

THE STREET VERSION SURENO

In the early 1990s, many gang members throughout the RMIN region began to emulate the gangs of Southern California (the Crips and the Bloods), with gangs calling themselves the Rollin’ 30s, Rollin’ 40s and Hoover Street Crips.

These newly-formed gangs had no connection with the Southern California gangs, other than the gang name, which was discovered on television or the Internet. The name of a well-known, well-respected Southern California gang was far superior to naming your gang after an unknown

neighborhood street gang.

The same phenomena occurred with the Sureno name.

Like weeds popping up after a rainstorm, young men and women began claiming to be Surenos. Young gang members who had never been to California started telling anyone who would listen that they were “Surenos,” “Sur Trece,” “Sur,” “Sur 13” or any other derivative of the word sur. They began (and continue) to wear clothing or carry items with the number 13 and the word Sur, Southside or Southsider to claim allegiance to the south side.

Surenos believe in their cause. Their loyalty includes the willingness to kill or be killed as a supporter of the Mexican Mafia.

Individuals from California Sureno gangs would move into communities that were controlled and dominated by long-time neighborhood gangs, bringing with them the California gang member’s criminal mindset.

There was some movement of Hispanic gang members from California to other RMIN region states, but the numbers remained fairly low throughout the 1990s.

It was not until the last several years that the significance of the Sureno movement from California throughout the United States became clear.

WHAT IS A SURENO?

When a Sureno is asked what being a Sureno means, gang members, without exception, answer, “A Sureno is a foot soldier for the Mexican Mafia.”

The majority of Southern California Hispanic criminal street gangs will call themselves Surenos and are loyal and obedient to the Mexican Mafia, also known as the Mano Negra (Black Hand).

Sureno gangs function as a “feeder system” for the Mexican Mafia. In much the same way that college football supplies the NFL with the necessary talent to play football on Sundays, Sureno gangs provide players for the Mexican Mafia to control, intimidate and dominate communities, other criminal organizations and most importantly, to continue to attempt to control all correctional facilities.

Gabe Morales, founder and inaugural president of the International Latino Gang Investigators Association (ILGIA), noted that Surenos are “...a pool from which the Mexican Mafia can recruit, cultivate and develop future Mexican Mafia members.

A Sureno has about the same odds of becoming a member of the Mexican Mafia as does a college football player of making it into a professional football league. But just like the rare football player who has the desire, passion and attitude to do



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whatever it takes to play football on Sundays, the same opportunity exists for the Sureno who is willing to give his life for the cause.

Unfortunately for others, the life that is given during a Sureno's pursuit down the path is frequently someone else's and during the research for this special report, many Surenos discussed killing others as though they were talking about taking a Sunday drive.

Although the majority of Surenos are Hispanics from California, there are exceptions.

As is the case with any gang, an investigator should never say "never" and never say "always."

WHERE DOES THE SURENOS PATH LEAD?

Gang members claiming allegiance to the Sureno movement want something to believe in and want a purpose for living. In a world that often includes dysfunctional families, lower socio-economic status and limited education, gang members want to believe they can become someone others look up to.

Many of those wanting to join the Surenos are addicted to drugs or alcohol, many are sociopaths and many are career criminals. Instead of living an entire life of despair,

becoming a Sureno may seem like a more viable option to many.

Some Surenos believe it's a way up and out of the neighborhood, which is where many of their own family members have lived for generations.

And who are the people most admired in these conditions? They're often the validated and incarcerated older members of the Mexican Mafia



referred to as the "eme," or the "big homies."

These admired individuals are the "unicorns" of the barrios: Larger than life magical beasts that are rarely seen by anyone in the community, yet these individuals are the featured characters in gang legends.

These leaders, known as "shot callers," control the barrios from the inside of an eight by ten cell within the highest security level prisons throughout the United States.

Long before a boy sets out on the Sureno path, he begins as a youngster living within a small, tightly-knit

community, a place where very few things change from year to year, from decade to decade, with the exception of those found hanging out on the gang corners. Often, the names are the same, but the generations have changed.

Youngsters growing up in communities controlled by criminal street gangs often have little choice but to join the gang. Although the gang may be sheltered by the Surenos'

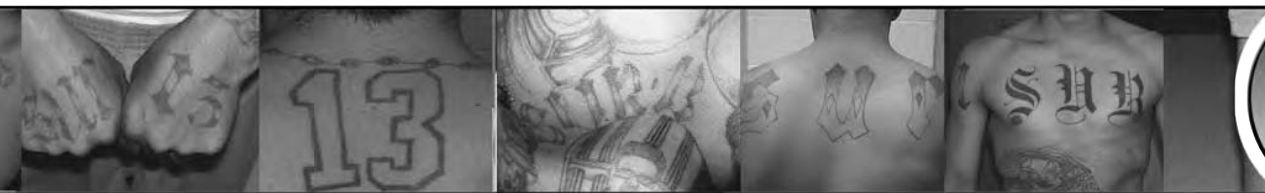
blue umbrella, the young gang member may know little about the Surenos, what the Surenos represent or the future he's committing to by becoming a Sureno. The young gangster is content to represent his loyalty to his community (barrio)

through his new gang and gang members always remain loyal to their neighborhood.

As time passes, the young gang member continues to be mentored and he's trained to be a loyal barrio warrior. Those willing to rise through the ranks of their neighborhood gang often progress to the next level.

After several years of being schooled by veteran gang members, it is clear to gang leaders who the true gang warriors are. Loyal and dedicated gang members are identified and then typically taken into an older Sureno gang member's "crew." The crew leaders choose wisely and





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only those gang members willing to do whatever is necessary on behalf of the Surenos become crew members. Loyalty and dedication are absolute requirements for membership and any sign of weakness is dealt with quickly.

When a group of five Surenos recently was being escorted through a correctional facility by two correctional officers, one of the inmates physically assaulted both correctional officers and the other Surenos joined in the assault.

One of the Surenos was asked why he joined in on the assault, even though he was not initially involved.

His answer, short and direct, proved his loyalty and dedication to the Surenos: "I was obligated," he said.

Failure to comply and take advantage of the opportunity to assault the correctional officers would have resulted in severe consequences for those who didn't participate.

THE SURENO PATH HAS MANY DIRECTIONS

While gangs claiming allegiance to the Surenos were migrating away from California, the path of the Surenos took many directions throughout the United States.

The Sureno movement gained instant recognition from law enforcement professionals on the East Coast with the migration of the Mara Salvatrucha gang. Law enforcement officials in major metropolitan areas including Minneapolis, Washington D.C., Chicago and almost every other major U.S. city have reported gang activity directly related to the Sureno gang movement. Some gang experts have reported that some sets of the Latin Kings gang, which originated in the greater Chicago area, are now starting to claim to be loyal to the Surenos.

GROWTH OF THE SURENOS

Surenos have grown into one of the nation's largest criminal organizations for several reasons.

First, most law enforcement agencies were not prepared to handle the rapid migration of the Surenos throughout the country.

As a law enforcement professional, how many times have you read or been asked about the Mara Salvatrucha (MS13) gang? The answer is most likely many times because of the national and international news coverage of MS-13. But how many times have you been asked about the Surenos, or when was the last time you attended a training conference with a class dedicated to the Surenos?

Second, Surenos enjoy a large membership base from which to draw members. Once a Sureno gang member has made the transition from a neighborhood gang member to a Sureno gang member, he follows the

Sureno clothes/cars/accessories: Each criminal street gang has commonly identifying clothing or related items. Because most Surenos are slightly older than the usual gangster on a street corner hanging out with other gang members, the older Sureno will not typically wear gang-specific clothing or items that indicate Sureno membership. You should remember, however, that many younger Sureno gang members may choose to identify themselves with typical Sureno clothing items that are blue and include anything with the letter S (Southside or Sur, for example) or the number 13 or 213; the city name Los Angeles on clothing also is associated with Sureno membership.



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simple rule that Surenos should never fight each other, but instead must unite to further the cause of the Mexican Mafia.

Gangs that formerly were rivals on the streets and who would kill one another on sight are now allies under the direction of the Surenos while incarcerated. All movements, issues and/or gang-related Sureno business while incarcerated must be approved by Sureno gang leaders.

A Sureno who takes business into his own hands without approval will be dealt with by the Sureno leadership. All Sureno business must be sanctioned by the leadership because any and all actions taken by any Sureno, either as an individual or as part of an organized and approved action, could have a negative effect on all Surenos.

From 1995 to 2003, the Mexican Mafia closed its membership and would not allow any new members to join their ranks. Since 1993, the Mexican Mafia has admitted only 13 new members, all from within the ranks of the Surenos support system.

The majority of Sureno gang members have participated in criminal activity since their early teens, if not longer. After spending many years as a member of their local neighborhood-based criminal street gang, they move to the next level of being a "true blue" Sureno. Those loyal to the cause are considered true warriors.

Once a Sureno, the rules of engagement change. Each and every day for the rest of their lives, a gang member is dedicated to furthering the cause of the Surenos and of the Mexican Mafia.

Many will have the number 13 tattooed on their body which in a true

Surenos world means one thing and one thing only: Mexican Mafia. People who do not belong or align themselves to the Surenos may also use the number 13, which has many interpretations, but there is only one meaning of the number 13 to a "true blue" Sureno.

A loyal Sureno must remain committed to the cause and must be willing to "do the work" necessary to succeed. If a Sureno has been deemed weak or disloyal to the Sureno cause, he will be dealt with severely by his former Sureno brothers.

The crimes that the Surenos are involved in are numerous. Any type of crime that will generate revenue for the Surenos is the crime of choice.

The easiest and most profitable crime for Surenos to be involved in is selling drugs. Surenos often move into a new community and within days have networked with existing gang members. Once established

within a new community, Surenos often "tax" the local businesses as well as current gangs that have been conducting illegal activities.

For example, a citizen owns a successful dry cleaning business. After

Surenos always remember and act according to this unwritten Sureno motto: Unorganized violence causes mayhem. Organized violence causes respect.

the Surenos establish a stronghold in the community, they will visit the business owner and inform him that he will be required to pay a certain amount of money on a weekly basis. In exchange for the weekly fee, the Surenos will provide protection from all other gangs.

Refusal to pay the weekly "taxes" to the Surenos will have a disastrous effect on the business. The result may include frequent damage to the business and violent assaults against the business owner, friends of the owner or to the business owner's family.

Surenos also will tax the existing criminal street gang members for the right to continue to sell drugs in the same area that the existing gang controlled and intimidated for years, if not decades. Failure to comply with the Surenos' request for taxation is rare, because criminal street gangs understand that the consequence of failure to comply equates to a self-imposed death penalty for the violators.





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SURENOS FEMALES

All Surenos are males, however, as is the case with most criminal street gangs, they have a large extended group of females equally as loyal to the Sureno cause. The females are used to conduct illegal activities, and are often the people responsible for running the business for their incarcerated boyfriends or husbands. Numerous investigations have shown that the Security Threat Groups (STG) within the RMIN region rely heavily on female associates to conduct correspondence and communications to facilitate the gang's business. These females are

From 1995 to 2003, the Mexican Mafia closed its membership and would not allow any new members to join their ranks. Since 1993, the Mexican Mafia has admitted only 13 new members, all from within the ranks of the Surenos support system.

often used to collect, store and disseminate drugs on behalf of the gang and to act as an unofficial banker for Sureno members. The females associated with the Surenos should be considered just as dangerous and are equally involved in criminal activities as are the male gang members. Females are occasionally referred to as Surenas, or females loyal to and supportive of the Sureno men. The female associates of the Sureno gang members should be considered dangerous and will also harm or kill

without hesitation for the Sureno cause.

Intelligence is being developed concerning female members of the Surenos claiming to be Surenas.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SURENOS

First, it is important to remember that there are three distinctive types of Surenos: There are Surenos from California and there are Surenos from other states. There are also a large number of Hispanics that are migrating from South or Central America that are claiming they are Sureno members.

Many California Surenos have been asked the same two questions concerning membership or allegiance to the Surenos: 1) Can you be a Sureno if you are not from California; and, 2) Are there female members of the Surenos, aka

Surenas?

Without exception, a look of amazement and bewilderment accompanies the response, as typified by this recent exchange:

In response to the first question, a Sureno answered, "These fools that aren't from California can call themselves Surenos if they want, but a true blue Sureno is from Califas."

This hard core member of the Sureno gang offered that the Surenos have seen youngsters wanting to

emulate the California gang lifestyle but very little attention is given to this type of activity by the gangs.

He added, "Crips and Bloods are Black and the true Sureno is from Califas. That's the way it has always been and that's the way it always will be."

This same Sureno was unable to answer the second question because he was laughing.

Clearly, this Surenos' viewpoint is different than what law enforcement is actually dealing with.

Based on recent research, there are females who have started to call themselves Surenas but do not appear to be associated with the California Surenos. Law enforcement may encounter females who are referring to themselves as Surenas (see page 40).

HOW WILL SURENOS AFFECT YOUR COMMUNITY?

Within Arizona, Surenos are considered a Security Threat Group, a distinction that was first recognized by Ken Lucas of the Corrections Corporation of America (CCA), a nationally recognized STG expert. While working for the Arizona Department of Corrections, Lucas recognized the early warning signs of an imminent danger from the Surenos.

Early in 2000, Lucas wrote, "Universally, they [Surenos] present a high threat level to the public and law enforcement communities.



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Surenos in the Arizona prison system are comprised of an undetermined number of members and associates—more than 100. They are present throughout the Arizona Department of Corrections. They have for all intents and purposes declared war against the Arizona ‘New’ Mexican Mafia. (Author’s note: It is important to remember that the California Surenos are loyal to the Mexican Mafia that originated in the state of California; the Arizona Mexican Mafia, which originated in Arizona, is separate and distinct from the Mexican Mafia.)

“Surenos currently pose the greatest potential for increasingly violent acts and Security Threat Group Activities that will influence the safe and orderly operation of our prison system.”

Many did not recognize the early warning sirens that Lucas was activating, but it was soon clear that he was right. Between the year 2000 when Lucas sounded the warning sirens and August of 2008, the Arizona Department of Corrections has seen a dramatic increase of gang members claiming allegiance to the Sureño prison gang.

Today, the Arizona Department of Corrections identifies Surenos as a validated Security Threat Group (STG). It is probable that as Hispanic gang members from Southern California continue to flee that state’s three strikes law, communities

and correctional facilities throughout the RMIN region and the entire country will be dealing with the negative impact of the gangs’ migration.

A quote from a Sureño incarcerated in the Arizona Department of Corrections mirrors Lucas’ warning, not only to the state of Arizona but to all states: “We represent strength and those who are true will be proud to fly under the bandera of the real mano de negra [Black Hand of the California Mexican Mafia].

“The enemy can know all day long of the common knowledge which is the change that is coming—the change for the better for kanpoleros [brothers]—and that is common knowledge.

“And no matter what they think, they are going to be sneaky or smart. They can never stop or disrupt what is taking place and [expletive deleted] their leaders and the rules that they try and set. We are under our own codes and reglas [rules], and no basura [garbage] is going to tell us what’s right and wrong. I’m riding hasta la muerte [‘til the death].”

Make no mistake about it: The Surenos are a dangerous and violent gang.

The Surenos have one clearly understood purpose, which is to support the Mexican Mafia at all costs, including death. Surenos have many

rivals and few allies. The biggest threat to the Surenos is the Nortenos, who align themselves with a separate powerful California based prison gang, the Nuestra Familia.

The Surenos refer to the Nortenos as *farmeros*, derogatory slang for “farmers,” as a way of indicating that in the Surenos’ opinion, many of the Nortenos are Hispanic migrant farm workers.

Although Surenos are considered a Security Threat Group (STG) with-

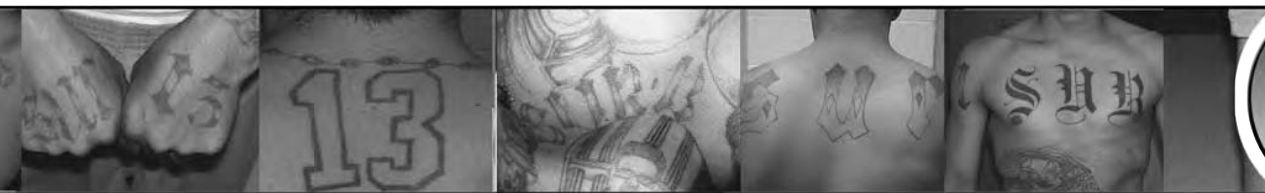
If you make the mistake of stripping a Sureño of his dignity or respect, be prepared for the consequences.

in the Arizona Department of Corrections, Surenos are not considered an STG within the California Department of Corrections but instead, a group which is considered disruptive and is closely monitored. Due to the high number of inmates claiming membership in other validated California prison gangs, the California Department of Corrections does not have the ability to include the Surenos as a STG.

A Sureño gang member recently described how the Surenos have taken and will continue to take over communities one street at a time, one crime at a time.

According to this Sureño, there are many reasons why Surenos gang members are migrating, with one





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being the most compelling: Many California gang members are moving away from their home state as a result of the “third strike” law in California.

Out of fear of being incarcerated for life, many gang members move to states with less restrictive gang statutes. Once these gang members arrive in a new community, they typically find the local law enforcement ill-prepared to deal effectively with a major criminal organization such as the Surenos.

How a Sureno will operate and commit crimes in a new community will vary, depending on the state and existing gangs within the area, and on the current status of the relationships between those gangs.

For example, within the state of Arizona, the majority of Hispanic criminal street gangs are loyal to the Arizona Mexican Mafia.

The California Mexican Mafia (with which all Surenos align themselves and are loyal to) and the

Arizona Mexican Mafia have been “kill on sight” enemies for several decades.

However, with a newly-formed truce between the Arizona and California Mexican Mafia factions, members and supporters of both gangs are hesitant to cause friction between the two powerful groups. *(Editor’s note: How this “truce” unfolds remains to be seen and law enforcement and corrections officials are taking a “wait and see” approach.)*

As a result, when a Sureno moves into Arizona—a state with an established and powerful Hispanic Security Threat Group such as the Arizona Mexican Mafia—Surenos will take the steps necessary to establish themselves in Arizona.

Those steps could include meeting with representatives of the dominant gang in the area and paying “taxes” to the controlling gang as a form of appreciation for the gang’s acts of goodwill and willingness to share in the wealth.

States and communities lacking a powerful Hispanic Security Threat Group are easy prey for Surenos:

- The Surenos will not have to deal with the “politics” that are often involved in states with powerful Hispanic Security Threat Groups, such as Arizona and Texas.

- Without a gang powerful enough to control gang migration, Surenos will move quickly toward domination at all costs.

- States without a valid Hispanic Security Threat Group have seen a dramatic increase in the number of Surenos being incarcerated within their states. Once incarcerated, Surenos move quickly to gain control over what the gang considers its portion of the prison yards, dining halls, housing dorms and every other facet of every correctional facility within the state.

Once settled into their new environment, Surenos quickly establish a reputation and garner respect from

Sureno tattoos: Although there are numerous tattoos associated with being a Sureno, there is just one tattoo that signifies or proves membership. The word “Sureno” is a tattoo that must be earned and can never be taken for granted. If a person has the Sureno tattoo and has not earned it by dedicating himself to the Sureno cause and has proven he is “down for the cause,” he will have a difficult time explaining it to the Surenos if he is incarcerated. As one Sureno responded when asked about the possible scenario, the Sureno smiled and explained, “It wouldn’t be good.” There are other tattoos that may indicate Sureno membership such as “LA” or “213” (a Los Angeles telephone area code), yet these tattoos do not have the same significance as the word Sureno tattooed on a person. Tattoos such as “LA” or “SO CALI” should be considered indicators of possible Sureno membership.



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all other criminal street gangs. Most local criminal street gang members from these communities are fearful of the Surenos, a gang with a reputation for harming or killing if necessary to promote the Sureno cause. Most if not all gang members across America understand the dangers and consequences of crossing the Surenos.

Any gang or gang member refusing to pay the required respect to the newly arrived Sureno is dealt with quickly and violently. An act of violence that would appear to be unlikely or infrequent in most communities is a way of life and a common occurrence for the Surenos and the Mexican Mafia.

As explained by a Sureno, any "SUR"—who he described as a "Soldier Under Recognition"—is obligated to do whatever he is told to do to further the goals of the Surenos.

This same Sureno explained that killing a person on behalf of the Mexican Mafia is expected if a person wants to be considered a strong soldier and has hopes of becoming a validated member of the Mexican Mafia.

He added that when a Sureno kills another person, there are three levels of death:

Level #1: Do it quick and do it close.

Level #2: Do it quick, do it close, but do it real good. Leave no doubt that the person being killed disrespected the

Surenos and/or the Mexican Mafia.

Level#3: Don't let your victim be found. Ever.

Surenos are motivated by the possibility of becoming a validated member of the Mexican Mafia. "I'll make you famous," a line from the movie "Billy the Kid," is a phrase that Mexican Mafia members enjoy using. The mafia's saying is indeed accurate: the Mexican Mafia has made people famous, but for all the wrong reasons.

After Surenos have arrived and garnered the respect of and established a relationship with other criminals in the community, they are ready to become involved in many different types of criminal activity.

Most Surenos are career criminals and are able and willing to commit any type of crime to make money. Generally, Surenos will become involved in drug activity, stolen vehicles, identity theft and associated crimes including fraud and extortion.

In order to be successful, Surenos often will bring several Sureno members, commonly referred to as a "crew," into the community. The crew will work under the direction of a leader chosen and sent to the new location by a Sureno gang member with high authority, typically referred to as a "shot caller." The crew leader will manage the criminal operations and will funnel proceeds from the illegal activity

back to the Surenos.

If a member of the crew is arrested or is no longer able to actively participate in the criminal activity, he is quickly replaced by another Sureno, often from a different geographic area of the country.

As one Sureno recently explained, "Don't think that when a Sureno gets arrested by the local cops that he won't be replaced. He'll be replaced by another Surenos as a replacement for the incarcerated brother." This replacement is often referred to as a carnale [brother].

"This is business," the Sureno said, "and that's why we are everywhere now."

While conducting criminal activity in the new and often naïve communities, the Surenos function under one simple rule: Do whatever you need to do to accomplish the goals of the Surenos, but just make sure you can justify it.

It is important to remember that if a Sureno is arrested in a community and incarcerated in the local jail or correctional facility, he is expected to continue to conduct himself in a Sureno manner to include committing crimes for the gang while in custody. And a Sureno must always remember and act according to this unwritten Sureno motto: Unorganized violence causes mayhem. Organized violence causes respect. ❖

Sureno financial matters: It is difficult to predict or estimate the amount of illegal revenue that is generated by members of the Surenos or to determine the origin or path of the money. Some Surenos and Mexican Mafia members may have access to large amounts of money, yet the norm would be for a Sureno to have limited access to large amounts of currency. Often, money that is generated through illegal criminal activities is spent on drugs or on maintaining the gang lifestyle.





Sureno Gang Activities Across the Rocky Mountain Region

By BRIAN NOVOTNY
RMIN CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE ANALYST

On May 5, 2008, a Sureno 13 gang member was shot and killed by officers from the Blackfoot (ID) Police Department following a chase and fight with officers. After the fatal shooting, members from the suspect's Sureno gang threatened to retaliate against officers and their families.

The events revolving around the shooting and its aftermath highlight how gang expansion across the RMIN region is no longer only a "big city" problem. The Sureno gang has spread across the region like a plague and it is through the sharing of intelligence that law enforcement can work together to combat the Sureno expansion.

Sureno gangs, like so many other gangs, have operated across the region for many years with law

enforcement dealing with them on a local level. Often times, local agencies arrest a gang suspect for crimes in their community and fail to look at the big picture in terms of why that particular gang member is in



their community. What other crimes are gang members committing for the gang? If gang members aren't local, when did they come to the community?

With gang mobility, the need to share information is more vital than ever. Gang members such as the Surenos are now focused on making

money, not just protecting a barrio or turf. They continue to have ties to their original communities but may not live there if more money can be made by moving to another state.

In some cases, the Surenos may direct specific members to locations to "set up shop" for the gang. These members are often long time members who hold rank within the gang and have instant credibility with local gang members. In addition, these same members may come from larger cities and become the proverbial "big fish in a little pond." Money generated by these expansion gangs is typically

funneled back to the larger organization -- the Mexican Mafia, for example.

Surenos have been documented in every RMIN state. The largest numbers have been seen in Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Idaho. They have begun to expand into the remaining states but additional intel-



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ligence is needed to confirm exact numbers and locations.

For example, in Wyoming, the Surenos have a large influence on Hispanic gangs in the Cheyenne area but in terms of numbers they are not as large as in other cities. It is also difficult for an accurate number to be determined when agencies in different states document Surenos in various manners. For example, Sur 13, Sureno 13, Sur X III, and Sureno Thirteen each can be a Sureno gang but shows up differently in database searches. Another issue is that a Sureno is not limited to a "Southern California" gang member only.

Highlights of Sureno activity across the RMIN region include but are not limited to:

Utah – Sureno gang members arrested as part of Operation Community Shield, a comprehensive initiative launched by ICE in 2005 to disrupt and dismantle transnational violent street gangs. This multi-agency operation targeted violent street gangs and their criminal associates in 53 cities across 28 states. Nearly 50 Mexican Nationals involved in gang activity across Utah County and in Ogden, Utah, were arrested.

Idaho – Jerome, Idaho investigated a series of shootings between Sur 13 and Norte 14 gang members in June 2008.

Wyoming – a 19-year-old with Sureno gang ties was charged with attempted second-degree murder for

stabbing and beating a man in May 2008.

Arizona – Surenos and Mexican nationals have been integrated in prison yards over the past several months. Isolated incidents have occurred but the Mexican Mafia still controls the Hispanic prison inmate population.

Federal Prison – Mexican Mafia/Surenos have assaulted various Paisa inmates and it is possible that the Paisa and Border Brothers may form an alliance to protect themselves from EME and Surenos. Additional intelligence/analysis is being sought to confirm this. ❖



About the author...

Brian Novotny is a criminal intelligence analyst with Rocky Mountain Information Network, conducting criminal intelligence work on gang/illegal activity in the eight RMIN states. Prior to joining RMIN, Novotny served as a paralegal/bureau chief with the Maricopa County Attorney's Office and as an instructor in the paralegal program at Long Technical College. A graduate of Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, Novotny is a Civilian Reserve with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, currently with the State Gang Enforcement Task Force. He is a member of numerous gang associations across the nation and serves on the board of directors of the Arizona Gang Investigators Association.





The Rise of Sur 13

**By ANDREW EWAYS, SUPERVISOR, CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
MARYLAND STATE POLICE**

For decades, law enforcement officers in Southern California have seen the transformation of independent Hispanic varrios into a more unified group collectively known as the Surenos. This collective, also known as South Siders or Southern Mexicans, and sometimes called Southern United Raza (SUR), was originally formed by the Mexican Mafia prison gang with the idea that a degree of order and cooperation could be introduced to neighborhood gangs that had been battling for generations. Together, the varrios were stronger and more powerful.

On the East Coast, Sureno gangs first received widespread attention in the late 1990s after a series of high profile crimes by members of Mara Salvatrucha in the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area. In the years since, law enforcement officers in that

area have documented a growing population of Sureno gangs—the largest two being Mara Salvatrucha and 18th Street.

Although East Coast Latino gangs often mirror the Sureno hierarchy on the West Coast, the East Coast has a unique and often misidentified stand alone, with independent Sureno gangs gaining strength from a distant third place. This gang is known only by the generic name Sur 13.

La EME used the number “13,” representing the thirteenth letter of the alphabet, as a symbol of their organization. Members also displayed their affiliation by wearing or carrying blue bandanas while incarcerated (Morales, 2006).

EME recruited largely from the Southern California varrios—a distinction that came to define them in the late 1960s when a violent conflict emerged between

EME and gang members from Northern California who adopted the name Nuestra Familia (NF).

By the late 1970s, the Californian city of Bakersfield was roughly the dividing line between the Nortenos and the Surenos. The varrios or gangs on each side of the line were expected to follow the edicts of EME or NF.

To show their allegiance to EME, Sureno gangs adopted the color blue and incorporated the number “13” into their names. Established varrios like Florencia, Tortilla Flats and Frogtown began marking their territory with the identifiers F 13, CVTF 13, and FTR 13, signifying the birth of the Sureno gang identity. Terms such as Sureno, Trece and Sur 13 came to be generic representations of a gang or gang member’s affiliation with La EME and that the gang member was from Southern California.

Since the emergence of Sureno



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gangs as a unified group, many members have left Southern California for other parts of the country in search of social change or other opportunities both legal and illegal (Egley and Ritz, 2006). With this migration, members of rival varrios have found themselves thrown together in small groups.

Their common bond drew former enemies closer: They were all Surenos. The perceived need for self-protection or to work together to commit crimes drove these groups to organize as gangs who identified themselves as Sur 13. This trend was first noticed by law enforcement officers in Texas and other parts of the southwestern United States and gradually spread across the country.

In the Baltimore/Washington

metropolitan area, Sur 13 operates as independent geographically based gangs with little or no hierarchy, rank structure or regional interaction. Each Sur 13 set claims its own territory and commits its own criminal activities independent of other Sur 13 sets.

Young Sur 13 members who have been interviewed by capital area law enforcement officers seem to have little understanding of their Sureno roots and have no direct or indirect contact with EME. Many have spent little or no time in L.A. Others have come to the United States from Mexico already claiming membership in Sur 13.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that despite being only loosely related to the West Coast Surenos, today Sur 13 is among the ten

largest gangs in the Baltimore/Washington metropolitan area. Sur 13 members are involved in crimes ranging from illegal drug sales to homicide and their numbers continue to swell. If Sur 13 remains under the radar of law enforcement officers, the gang will continue to grow unabated in the shadow of other nationally recognized Sureno gangs. ♦

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About the author...

Andy Eways is a sworn police officer currently holding the rank of sergeant with the Maryland State Police. He has served as a member and supervisor of Gang Enforcement Unit and is currently a Criminal Investigation supervisor, overseeing major investigations, tactical and field operations and helping coordinate gang intelligence between municipalities and the Office of the States Attorney. Sgt. Eways is a member of the East Coast Gang Investigator's Association, International Latino Gang Investigator's Association, New York Gang Investigator's Association, New Jersey Gang Investigator's Association, California Gang Investigator's Association and MARGIN. He is a nationally known speaker on gang interdiction and investigation strategies.





The Sureño Influence in the Southern California Gangs

**BY GABRIEL C. MORALES, FOUNDER AND VICE PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL LATINO GANG INVESTIGATORS ASSOCIATION**

Editor's note: This portion of the Sureños 2008 special report provides you with an overview of individual Sureño gangs or "sets." It may be of use when a member of your agency encounters a gang member from one of the following gangs. It recently has been confirmed that there are more than 500 Hispanic criminal street gangs under the Sureños alliance in California with an estimated 50,000 members. This overview does not include every Sureño gang but it does include the well-established gangs. We are grateful to Gabe Morales for his permission to reprint this material which originally was published in 2006.

"Sureño" means Southerner in Spanish. When you are dealing with Mexican-American or Chicano gangs, this term refers to Hispanic gangs in Southern California. It also refers to those gangs who have copied the Sureño style outside of Southern California or are part of the "Sureño Movement." These gangs differ in size, tradition and sophisti-

cation. In Southern California, the gang structure is very loose; the make-up is more horizontal than the vertical hierarchy of many Midwest and East Coast gangs. There are no generals or presidents, but there are veteranos and "shotcallers" who have influence within their gang. Most Sureños do not personally know any Mexican Mafia (EME) members, but will still put "13" for the 13th letter "M" after their name as a matter of respect (Sur 13). Sureños are not so much foot soldiers for La EME, but are more like a pool from which La EME will recruit the best and most feared ones.

Mara Salvatrucha 13, 18th Street, Florencia 13, 38th Street and hundreds of other gangs originating in Southern California are all Sureño gangs. These Sur 13 gangs often have established themselves in large cities to small towns all across the country and war for control of drug trafficking with other local gangs. Law enforcement in these small towns often do not initially recognize these gangs as Sureños. Sur 13 gangs are often rivals on the streets and

usually have few links to each other. They seldom wear unified colors in Los Angeles as they do not want to bring attention onto themselves by law enforcement or their enemies. Outside of Southern California, Sureños may wear blue to signify a unified group especially at parties or funerals. Sureños from different and sometimes warring gangs in Los Angeles may come together in other parts of the country. They may make truces with other gangs, but when they grow large enough, will often declare war on them. In the California Department of Corrections, Los Angeles County Jail, and on the street in South Central L.A. they are often at war with African-American gangs.

Sureño gangs in Los Angeles, California, will often use their area code, such as 213, in gang graffiti. Sureños in and out of Los Angeles may also don blue L.A. Dodgers baseball caps as another identifier.

There are also Sureño gangs in other Southern California counties. Again, not all Sureños or Sur 13 gangs get along in California, but when they go to prison they are forced to band together on orders of La EME and because of the higher



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threat from other gangs such as Crips, Bloods, 415 and Norteños.

Sureño migration has continued at a very fast pace throughout the United States and even across international borders. There may be local Sureño 13 gangs with no direct connection to Southern California. Many have been developed by Mexican immigrants on the East Coast who spent little to no time in Los Angeles. Also, the Sureños or Sur 13 gangs may have non-Hispanics as members. It is not uncommon to see Native-American, Caucasian, or other races in Sureño gangs.

Sureños are widespread, can be very violent, and are a very complex group to deal with.

EAST L.A. GANGS

MARAVILLA

The Maravilla (MV) gangs, also called varrios, cover a large part of East Los Angeles and are broken up into various cliques such as Hoyo Mara (the "Hole" because of the lowered terrain it sat in), Ford Mara (after Ford Blvd.), Arizona Mara (a main street in East L.A.), Marillana Mara (MMV, sometimes confused with Mexican Mafia, they were around way before), Rock Mara (after a big rock in the projects), etc. Maravilla predates the Mexican Mafia but at one time there were a lot of Maravillas in la EME. Joe Morgan, a figurehead for the EME for over 20 years was well known in East Los and Maravilla. There are other Maravilla gangs in the U.S.,

some may be connected to the East L.A. groups, and others may have just used the same name. Some MV and former EME members did not like the EME trying to tax them and telling them what to do in their own varrio. There was a green light put out by the EME on the MV's for their rebellion. The MV had to be separated from EME and Sureño sympathizers in the L.A. County jail. To date this green light has not been lifted. One of the shotcallers for la EME is Alfred "Chato" Sandoval from Arizona Maravilla, so there are some MV still loyal to the EME and Sureños.

WHITE FENCE

One of the first barrios in Los Angeles to form its own gang was "White Fence." The gang was called that because of a white picket fence that ran along much of its territory near railroad tracks near the Los Angeles River and downtown. WF's original barrio is all of Boyle Heights and WF is still strong along Lorena Street. They allegedly used to have cliques throughout the San Gabriel Valley and Northeast L.A. Maravillas' original barrio is farther in East L.A. These two gangs have a decades old rivalry, the longest ongoing feud in L.A. Both of these barrios have lost extensive territory and are now midjets compared to their former size, but in actual gang members, they are bigger than ever. There is some evidence that the Hazards, Avenues, Toonerville, and Frogtown were all once cliques off of White

Fence, according to veterano members from White Fence. Kilroy Roybal is with Victory Outreach and was recently in an accident.

PRIMERA FLATS AND 4TH FLATS

These gangs were both historically part of the Aliso Village government housing projects. Primera Flats is of course more notable as far as street gangs are concerned. It lies approximately three miles east of the Los Angeles City Hall. This area also has street gangs that came into prominence in the early 1940s. It also was originally built for military personnel, but like Hazard, it became a low-income housing project. Primera Flats also had some bitter fights with some of the same gangs that Hazard fought with. It, being closer to downtown, however, also had problems with many of those downtown gangs. Primera Flats, like Maravilla, have fights with street gangs within their own turf.

HAZARD

The government housing project called Ramona Gardens is the oldest type of housing in the East Los Angeles area. It was built for the families of the military in 1941. As World War II waned toward the end of 1945, most of the military families had relocated and families that were either dependent on a stipend from Social Security, or were a low-income family started moving in. This "barrio" has actually two separate areas: Big Hazard and Little





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Hazard. Hazard got its name from a park at the end of Lancaster Avenue and Soto Street. There also is a street named Hazard. Big Hazard encompasses all the housing area and also the park. Little Hazard, is that area from west of Soto Street along Norfolk and to the railroad tracks across from Lincoln Park.

Robert "Robot" Salas (deceased Dec. '04) was from Hazard and was involved in the first major EME confrontation with the NF at San Quentin Sept. 16, 1968. Old EME shotcaller in the Fed-BOP Adolf "Champ" Reynoso is also from Hazard as is Manuel "Cricket" Jackson. This varrio has also been the focus of much violence over the years. EME David "Big

As explained by a Sureno, any "SUR"—who he described as a "Soldier Under Recognition"—is obligated to do whatever he is told to do to further the goals of the Surenos.

Smilon" Gallardo from Hazard, "Pee-Wee" Aguire from the Aves, and "Cowboy" Therrien from Big Basset were found guilty of killing "Rocky" Luna who was from Hazard and an advisor on the movie by Edward James Olmos, "American Me." Ana Lizarga, another movie consultant, also was killed. They were angry at her for snitching off a "dope house" and "Charlie Brown" Manriquez for not taking care of business and living like a bum when he got out. "Lives in Hazard" depicts some of these people and also includes a fairly new gang called M.C. Force, or Michigan

Criminal Force, named after a street east of there in East L.A. street east of there in East L.A.

Hoyo Soto

Deceased EME shotcaller Benjamin "Topo" Peters claimed this varrio. EME Gilbert "Shotgun" Sanchez (deceased) also lived there. His son "Ray-Ray" dropped out.

VARRIO NUEVO ESTRADA

Hazard Gang also had trouble with Varrio Nuevo Estrada. The Estrada Courts Projects are just off of Olympic Street and just east of Soto Street and west of Lorena. There are many colorful murals in this project.

VNE are not found much outside of the Estrada Courts area. Many other L.A. gangs are known even outside of CA. Ray "Mundo" Mendoza and "Eddie Sailor"

Gonzales claimed VNE and rolled on the EME in the 70s. VNE has a reputation for being EME informants. EME Jimmy "Smokey" Sanchez is ok at the Bay.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY (SGV)

The San Gabriel Valley grew tremendously in the 1960s and '70s. Many families who were originally from East L.A. moved to the SGV. Later, some from SGV moved out to the Inland Empire. Gangs like El Monte Flores, El Monte Hicks, La Puente, Basset Grande, Bolen Parque

(Baldwin Park), have been around for decades and have gang members very involved in La EME.

SANGRA

"Sangra" is a very old gang. A former member, "Stumpy" Valencia, was involved in a sanctioned homicide of EME member Alex "Moe" Ferrel. Ferrel had been involved in the rape of a woman outside of Sacramento soon after being paroled. This, combined with his siding with the Nico Velasquez of the Folsom EME faction and against Joe Morgan of the San Quentin faction concerning the BGF war, put him "in the hat." Velasquez was later killed.

EL MONTE FLORES

El Monte Flores is an old clique that dominated gang activity in the City of Monte for decades. El Monte Hicks is another gang located in the city. David Alvarez from EMH was a SUR/EME rep at the L.A. county jail who would pass green-light lists. Both gangs declared war on North Side Monte and that clique was near the top of the EME green light list for years. Many members of EMF are also EME members. Louie "Pelon" Maciel was a EMF member involved in one of the RICO trails. He was found to be involved in a large drug running group at the L.A. Co. Jail that was busted up in "Operation Hard Candy." Jo-Jo Perea was a "money man" for the prison gang. "Danger" Validivia was a EMF member who would do hits for La EME and was known to secrete a razor blade under his dentures.



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LA PUENTE 13

La Puente or just Puente 13, is another large and old clica. They have since broken up into smaller factions who do not always affiliate with one another. The Happy Homes varrio (not to be confused with Happy Town in Pomona) does affiliate with La Puente on occasion. La Puente can also be found in the Valinda Flats area where they have intruded. Their rivals are Valinda Flats gang members and in recent years there has been violent gang activities in this area. Deceased Folsom EME Nico Velasquez was from La Puente.

BASSET GRANDE

Basset Grande, also known as Big Basset, dates back to the 1950s. The turf boundaries of BG varrio are roughly Fransiquito Blvd. on the north, Don Julian on the south, the 605 Freeway on the west, and Sunquist Blvd. on the east. It has had several members involved with La EME. The Huguez brothers are similar to the Grajeda family in that many of their blood relatives have been involved with La EME. A member named "Cowboy" Therion was involved in a RICO trial in L.A. of EME members. Cowboy has "Mafioso" tattooed across his abdomen and has now dropped out of the prison gang.

BOLAN PARQUE 13

Bolan Parque, in the city of Balwin Park, has several gangs in its area. Local citizens and community

activists have resorted to painting dark green ivy murals on major streets to keep the tagging down. Gangs are very active in East Side Bolan Parque.

POMONA VALLEY GANGS

Pomona is a large and isolated city in the extreme East of the San Gabriel Valley in L.A. County. It is home to the L.A. County Fair at the famous Ganesha Park. It is home to many different various gangs. The biggest and oldest is the Pomona 12 Street gang named after a street there. It claims its origins back to the 40s. P12 is also called Sharkies and at one time they had their own "official" park which the city has tried to reclaim back from the gangsters. Their symbol is a shark with a "cherry" in its mouth. P12 has had several members in the past in La EME. A few P12 are in Oregon, Washington State, and even some in PA!

The secondary gang is Cherry Ville, P12's longtime rivals, which is at least from the 60s. Their territory lies right up to P12 and centers around Hamilton Park. Then there is P Michoacanos, E/S Carnales, W/S Happy Town, Pomona Sur XIII who are also rivals with P12 and many have now moved to the La Puente area or out to Las Vegas. There was a group which is now mostly defunct called North Side Pomona. There is a West Side Pomona who are also in Washington. There is even a Hazard clique, and a Dog Town clique, 18th Street and MS clique there too.

Pomona is in L.A. County but closer to the Inland Empire than it is to L.A. so rivals with most varrios in the Inland Empire. Recent suppression efforts by law enforcement have reduced some of the violence.

INLAND EMPIRE GANGS

The San Gabriel Valley grew tremendously in the 1960s and '70s, just as the Inland Empire did in the 1980s and '90s. The greater L.A. area is very spread out; many families from East L.A. moved to the San Gabriel Valley, and some from SGV moved out to the Inland Empire past Fontana, Colton, and Rialto as land became more and more scarce, eating up valuable farmland, orchards, and vineyards.

The Ontario Black Angels are infamous for being the clique of disgraced EME shotcaller "Tupie" Hernandez' varrio. They have junior cliques such as OVS or Ontario Varrio Sur. One member recently tried to make his bones by attempting to shoot at an Ontario cop. There are the Chino Sinners which "Tupie" got in trouble for when he stepped in while the EME wanted a "green light" on them. His mother also got involved in EME politics that resulted in several of his family being assaulted and in combination with his insults about Joe Morgan and not making a phone call for the carnales (brothers), led to him being stabbed in federal detention. Daryl Castellon had the Black Angels' reins in California Department of





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Corrections, but since parole has picked up "the Bible." There is still a lot of money to be made in the fast growing Inland Empire!

Back in Arizona in 1999, Officer Dale Thrush identified, with help from a CI, a Black Angel member named Frank "Smoky" Alcala, as OVS. He was wanted out of California on a parole violation. He had all the other gang members, from different gangs, scared of him and thinking he was EME. Reports were coming in that he was taxing other members, allegedly for the EME and was a suspect in a home invasion where a stabbing occurred.

Alcala was a suspect in a stolen vehicle pursuit then fled

on foot and two loaded pistols were left behind. That night he was in the parking lot of a Circle K, having just done a strong arm robbery on a 38th Street gang associate. He was in the process of carjacking the vehicle of a 38th Street gang member. Shots were fired and law enforcement responded. Dale pulled in and was about to exit the vehicle when "Smoky" drove the Dodge Ram right into the driver's door. Luckily, Dale was able to jump inside. Alcala then rammed the door again. We put 16 rounds into the vehicle and would you believe he was only hit in the arm and butt! These guys are very serious! Along with other tattoos he had a large letter "B" on the back of his left arm

and a large letter "A" on his right arm, along with "Ontario" on the back of his neck.

"Spider" Arriaga was an old EME members mistakenly killed a few years ago by his crime partner "Colorado" Arias from Colton (also EME) during a robbery. Members like Roland Berry have been involved in disputes around Bloomas. Recently, there was a police sting operation on EME operating in the IE. Unfortunately, police hit them too late so evidence was minimal. Word is, the EME carnales at Corcoran and Pelican Bay found out what was coming down, got

word out and all mail stopped, which just goes to

When it comes to Sureno gangs, MS13 is not the biggest, but by media accounts is the most violent in the U.S. today.

show they have a better network than we do! In Riverside, Casa Blanca, out in Rancho Cucamonga, the Cuca Kings, and Corona has various cliques, the oldest which centers around 6th Street.

Verdugo Gangsters are from San Berdoo (San Bernardino). West Side Verdugo is the predominant gang in the middle of the valley. The major cliques of WSV are 7th Street (CSL), Sur Crazy Ones (SCO), and Little Counts. As a whole though, the entire Verdugo gang has a lot of problems and is constantly being challenged by other gangs from mostly the Los Angeles areas. The two that are currently showing a

presence here are Florencia Trece and King Boulevard Stoners (KBS). Then there is the perpetual WSV enemy East Side Trece. We see a lot of LA gang members moving into the area and causing problems, 18th Street being one of them.

NORTH L.A. GANGS

HIGHLAND PARK 13

This gang is located in the area just west of Pasadena. It has a high Hispanic population, and as the case in many of the barrios, a small percentage belong to HP13. They claim origins going back to the early 1940s.

AVENUES

Northeast Los is an old region of LA barrios. Its most famous, and perhaps most infamous gang is the Avenues or Avenidas gang, which is named after the numbered avenues off of Figueroa. They themselves have several cliques such as 43rd Avenue and Cypress Avenues and did not get along at first but later joined together for convenience. The 43rd allegedly broke off of Hazards and the Cypress allegedly broke off of Frogtown. The Avenues is a very large gang in numbers and been subject to City/County Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR). Alfred "Tigre" Salinas is from the Aves. EME member "Pee-Wee" Aguirre is from La EME. His brother "Lil One" had been causing problems in the L.A. Co. Jail. EME Black Bob Ramirez (deceased Sept.



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'05) claimed Aves and Canta Ranas.

TOONERVILLE

Another old Northeast Los Angeles gang is Toonerville. Timothy "Timo" McGee was a EME member from this varrio who was captured in Arizona Feb. '03 and involved in politics at the L.A. Co. Jail. Their relationship with Frogtown is hard to follow. Some say Toonerville started Frogtown, others say Frogtown started Toonerville, others say they had nothing to do with each other. Some

Surenos have many rivals and few allies. The biggest threat to the Surenos is the Nortenos, who align themselves with a separate powerful California-based prison gang, the Nuestra Familia.

say Toonerville started The Rascals; others say Frogtown did. This may be evidence that the two are interconnected. Then some say they all started off of White Fence.

PACAS 13

The San Fernando Valley has a rich past history. It is located just north of L.A.'s Hollywood and has many movie studios located in and around Burbank. It was a agricultural area that quickly became a suburban area in the 1960s populated with people from the growing L.A. Basin. The San Fernando Mission was founded by Padre Junipero Serra in the late 1700s. Its full name is San Fernando, Rey de Espana. It was at

one point the largest and most prosperous mission in a golden chain of 21 California missions. The famous rock-n-roll star Richie Valens was from Pacoima. Cheech Marin had a well-known character in his early career, "Pedro de Pacas" (Pacoima).

SAN FER 13

Varrio San Fer is one of the oldest gangs and now has members who have spread to the more affordable Antelope Valley and High Desert.

Pacas at least 20 cliques sub-varrios, with a minimum of 50 members, such as Pacas 13, Pacas Flats, Latin Times, Project Boys, Criminals, Vaughn Street, etc. Latin Times apparently only claims Pacoima because

of geography, but does not get along with many of the other Pacoima cliques. Some of the cliques like Vaughn Street may have started out as a separate varrio, joined Pacoima, ended up not getting along with some Pacoimas, but refused to stop claiming Pacoima. They are mainly divided into Boys and Locos cliques, which originally did not get along with each other. San Fernando Valley gangs will often write (SFV).

BLYTHE STREET

Blythe Street is another varrio with a large veterano group which claimed the original Diablos clique. Many of the varrios in the Valley

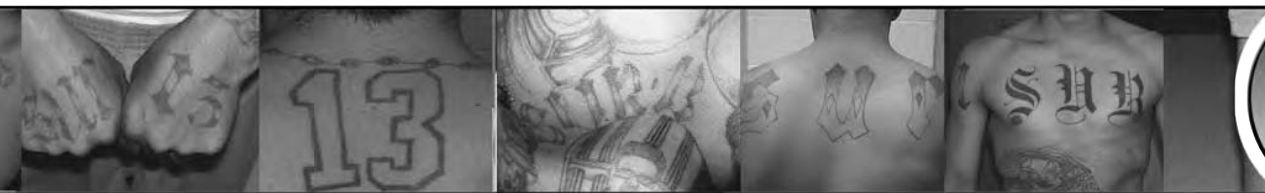
have also had a original clique called Diablos. They started probably around 1970, in south Panorama City. They, like many varrios in the Valley, started as protection groups against the San Fer's. Blythe Street was very active and violent in the early 1990s going to war with other L.A. varrios. They also absorbed tagging crews to strengthen their numbers. Blythe St. is very violent.

VAN NUYS 13

Barrio or Varrio Van Nuys is another old and traditional varrio in the Valley. Their neighborhood is around the high school campus and Delano Street in South Van Nuys which dates to at least the 1940s. They are formally divided into North Side and South Side, but they are mainly in the South Side and Delano Street. They allegedly started as a Pachuco Club and claim to have actually participated in the Zoot Suit Riots. Van Nuys has been invaded by MS and has had other varrios start in their neighborhood, like Vanowen Street, Haskells, Valerio Street. They have held strong to the L.A. invasion in general, except for MS, which claims the Van Nuys area as one of its original cliques.

In the North Hollywood/Burbank region, both Playboys and Carnales have started. The Playboys still claim W/S, and the Carnales may already claim North Side. Allegedly these Carnales and the Granada Hills Harpys are aligned. Allegedly, some of these other varrios started out as football teams in parks, such as





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Blythe Street, NHBZ, Langdon Street, Columbus Street, and probably Reseda and Vineland Boyz. Another varrios in this area is Bryant Street in the Northridge area. This mostly well to do area was devastated by earthquakes and is now largely rebuilt. Bryant Street is very violent.

CANOGA PARQUE

Canoga Parque - Alabama Street is one of the oldest and most unique varrios in the alley. They are from at least the 1950s, and have a large veterano group. They are rivals with Barrio Reseda. Allegedly, they have one of the strictest initiation processes in the L.A. area. A CPA member has to go on a probation period for two years, and the ruling vet committee is very picky. The whole way you have to prove yourself, and the veteranos are very strict. Canoga Park has a very large ratio of its members in state pens, with fewer on the street.

The city of Glendale is west of the Valley and has a large population of Armenians. Some are affiliated with a gang called Armenian Power 13 and there have been several recent gun battles between these groups. Some residents in the Valley have suggested succession for this area. There are actually physical mountains that seem to separate this area from the rest of L.A. The LAPD and L.A. County Sheriff's Office is presently focusing on the area; they have jurisdiction to crack down on crime and gangs.

There is also a L.A. jail facility

just north of this area. There have been many disturbances between Black and Hispanic inmates in these facilities. The Black and Brown riots claimed two lives in 2006 with many more injured. Just north of San Fernando is Palmdale and Lancaster, where a CDC prison is located.

Frank Fernandez of the San Fernando Valley branch of the Mexican Mafia was among 40 members of La EME to be indicted by a federal grand jury in 1999 under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act. Fernandez had been taxing local gangs. He was convicted in October of 2000. His wife, Petra Cecilia Gonzales, was arrested in February of 2001. She has been arrested on suspicion of running a mail and identity theft ring. She is reportedly the mother of Dominique "Nick" Gonzales, a Mexican Mafia member who also was also convicted in the RICO trial.

WEST L.A. GANGS

18TH STREET

This gang started on the West Side of Los Angeles around 1965. It was originally made up largely of second generation Hispanic immigrants. As the 18th Street gang began to battle with more established Chicano gangs, they began to recruit outside of the Hispanic community. ILGIA estimates their size in 2006 to be 20,000+ members in over 120 U.S. cities. They are also big in Latin America. According to the Department of Justice, an estimated

60% were illegal immigrants. Colors are often black and grey (Raider colors), dark blue (to show support for SUR13), but they may wear red on the East Coast and beads as well. Common hand signs are forming an "18" or thrown sideways "E" (for Eighteen). Common 18th Street tats include 18, XV3, XVIII, Diesiocho, 666 (=18).

The 18th Street gang has chapters on the North (Hollywood area), in East L.A./County, and in South Central Los Angeles where their traditional enemies are the Florencia 13 gang. They also fight Black P-Stones (R20s) in South Central and in jail. They now have cliques in San Diego, Las Vegas, Inland Empire, the Bay Area, Chicago, Texas Florida, and even a clique in New York. They are big in Portland, Oregon, and in Washington state where they have a web site. They are seen in New Jersey where they fall under La Raza Unida umbrella. They have whole towns claiming allegiance to them in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico with large cliques in Mexico City DF and Tijuana. They even show a clique from Australia on their main 18th Street website!

MARA SALVATRUCHA

When it comes to Sureno gangs, MS13 is not the biggest, but by most accounts is the most violent in the U.S. today. The Mara Salvatrucha (MS) gang was originally made up of mostly Salvadorans and originated in the Los Angeles area. During and after the civil war that was going on



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during the 1980s in El Salvador, many Salvadorans migrated to the Pico-Union District around the area of McArthur Park, which has the highest population density in the United States outside of New York City. Other neighborhoods that they moved into in Los Angeles County were Westlake, Hollywood, San Fernando Valley and East L.A.

When the MS first started out, many of their members were called "MS Stoners." They had long hair and would listen to loud heavy metal music and would drive souped-up muscle cars. A common MS hand-sign is the index finger and pinky finger held up. Some of the members were also into Satanism and were involved with a Salvadoran National Guard Unit called "Santanas." There is another MS clique called "Sailor's" allegedly started by former military members. Allegedly many MS were initially members of soccer teams. Later, they evolved into a full-fledged gang, in part, to protect themselves from the 18th Street gang that was nearby and victimizing them.

This is how Mara Salvatrucha was originally translated from Spanish to English by law enforcement when they first learned of this violent gang. "Mara" meant gang, "Salva" was for El Salvador, and "trucha" for beware. However, it turns out that many MS gang members and the Central American community are in agreement that "Mara

Salvatrucha" simply means

Salvadoran Gang. "Mara" means gang or group, and "Salvatrucha" slang for Salvadoran, hence the meaning Salvadoran Gang.

The MS did not consider themselves Sureños for approximately 15 years. Many of the older MS do not have any "13" markings, just "MS" tattoos. Finally the Mara Salvatrucha joined the Sureño back in 1994, during the Black vs. Brown riots in the Los Angeles County Jail system. Several Mexican Mafia RICO suspects had strong ties to MS and it is now common to see MS13. Their

Surenos always remember and act according to this unwritten Surenos motto: Unorganized violence causes mayhem. Organized violence causes respect.

original colors were black from their Santanas roots, but they will also wear blue and white colors, which match the Salvadorian flag. On the East Coast they often wear blue and white beads. The MS have started taxing street vendors, prostitutes, small businesses, and street level drug dealers working in their turf. Failure to pay will most likely result in some type of violence. Mexicans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and other Central Americans may join MS, but not exclusively.

TEMPLE ST.

Temple Street started in the 1920s. Other gangs in West L.A. are W/S Crazy's, Diamond St., Big Top Locos,

La Mirada St. Locos, The Magicians Club, Rockwood St., Armenian Power (who claim 13 but will fight other Surenos), Mid-City Stoners, and of course the large 18th Street and Mara Salvatrucha gang.

CLANTONE 14

There are many gangs on the Westside of L.A. in the Rampart District (see 18th Street and MS briefs). 18th Street started in large part to defend itself from C14, and MS started in large part to defend itself from 18th St. Clantone 14 is one of the very few Sureño gangs that has a 14 in front of its name which stands for the street on which they started. Gang members were grandfathered into Sureños and allowed to keep the 14 because they preyed on La EME and NF, 13 vs. 14 conflict. Clantone has been recruiting again lately and on the net.

HARPY'S

According to varrio legend, Harpy's gang started off as a football team. They fight 18s.

PLAYBOYS

Westside Playboys started on the corner of Pico Blvd and Fedora St. They were originally a car club in the mid-50s called "Latin Playboys Car Club" and also have South Side Playboys faction. Playboys use the Playboy bunny as a symbol, not to





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be confused with Playboy Crips or Midwest groups that use the same symbol.

VENICE 13

Old EME Veterano "Rube" Soto is from Venice. So were former EME "Psycho Mike" Gaxiola and Luis Talamantes. Venice 13 are fighting Culver City and Blacks as well.

SOUTH SIDE L.A. GANGS

FLORENCIA 13

The Florencia 13 is the second biggest Hispanic gang in L.A. and strongest in South Central L.A. along Florence Avenue between the I-110 and I-710 freeways. This area is located very close to the flashpoint of the L.A. Riots and the F13 were heavily involved in looting. They have battled with many of the larger Crip sets surrounding their varrio including Grape Street and the East Coast Crips. There have been many deaths based on a 2005 false rumor of a F13/EME dope rip-off by the Crips. Their theme song is "Florence" which is an old 1950s song by the Paragons. Florencia allegedly started near Florence and Atlantic and at one point claimed all of Florence Street from Inglewood to Santa Fe Springs. They are very large and have many cliques in South L.A., Huntington Park, South Gate, Paramount, Downey, Bellflower and more. They have clicked up other gangs and crews to fill their ranks. Florencia has many cliques outside L.A. including some toward Orange

County. The F13s are heavily involved in drug dealing and have been courted by the EME for many years. "Topo" Garcia is an EME shotcaller. This gang has been found as far away as the East Coast. The F13 has been found in Mexico, and all over the West Coast, especially in Southern California, parts of Oregon, and is also very active in Washington.

38TH STREET

The F-13 has a long running feud with the hated 18th Street gang with dozens of deaths attributed to the feud between these two major groups. Florencia and 18th Street have always been rivals but the situation got worse when the 18s started a South Side clique around the late 1980s. On December 1, 1996, four Florencia gang members were gunned down by rival members of the notorious 38th Street gang of "Zoot-Suit" fame. The old 38th Street gang has taken the Western territory of Florencia and Barrio Mojados which is nearly gone.

COMPTON-SOUTH GATE-NORWALK AREA GANGS

The California Three Strikes law has been enforced quite often compared to some other states like Washington where it is on the books but not used that often. This fact combined with the L.A. County Sheriff's takeover of law enforcement duties in the city of Compton has forced many gang members

away from this area to move to other jurisdictions or states. Compton gangs are notoriously violent! Black gang (Crips and Bloods) vs. Brown gangs have feuded for years. EME Phillip "Blackie" Segura claimed Clover but also grew up in Compton. He is mentioned in BOP disturbances many times.

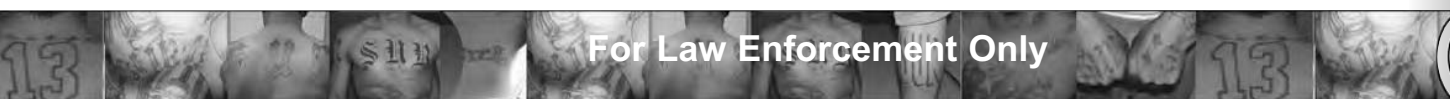
On Nov. 30, 1996, a Los Angeles Sheriff's deputy responded to a disturbance call. Once he arrived, he saw a suspect, from Compton Varrio Segundo, fleeing the scene. He gave chase on foot and when he came into contact with the suspect, a struggle occurred. The suspect shot the deputy several times; one shot broke the deputy's arm, causing the officer to drop his service weapon. The suspect picked it up but accidentally discharged it and shot himself in the leg. He was later apprehended. The gang member was a CDC parolee and Three-Strikes candidate.

Some of the Hispanic gangs in Compton (CPT) are Tiny Gangsters, Tiny Locos, 70s, 117s,

125s, 131s, 155s, Varrio Largo 36s, Varrio Segundo, Varrio Tres, Barrio Pobre, and of course, Tortilla Flats.

LYNWOOD

Nearby Lynwood has several cliques including the CPT- 131s which spill over into its city as does Barrio Los Padrinos. There is a fairly large gang called "Kansas Street" and one called the "Paragons." There is a Rebels 13 clique. A member of "Young Crowd" killed an officer in



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recent years when officers responded to a shots fired call at a party house and YC members opened fire. The YC suspect who killed the officer was Samoan. Young Crowd has been at war in the past with the Lynnwood Dukes. The Dukes have been at war with "Rude Boyz," also called "Lynwood Mob."

BELL GARDENS & SOUTH GATE

Bell Gardens and South Gate have Sinaloan Cowboys, Sinaloan Cowboys often drive four-wheel trucks and may have a Brahma bull decal or one of their state decals in the window or a lasso around the rear view mirror. Anything that symbolizes their way of ranchos or outlaw life. They wear cowboy clothing and like a lot of gold, chains with marijuana leafs and sometimes images of their narco-santo Jesus Malverde. The Sinaloans are often the distributors of black tar heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. Rookstown in Bell Gardens has caused a lot of problems lately. This gang often poses, throwin' up the "R" for Rookstown, in Teen Angels magazine (gang mag). Bell Garden Locos were big in Sunnyside, Washington and now some have moved to Yakima. The Playboys & Playgirls 13 have a clique in Bell Gardens. Another gang in this area is known as "Krazy Ass Mexicans" or "KAM." Both street gangs are big into the production of methamphetamine.

DOWNEY

The Downey Boys were made famous in the pre-Zoot Suit Riot incident of Downey Boys vs. the 38th Street gang. On the night of August 1, 1942, a zoot-suiter named Henry Leyvas and other members of the 38th Street gang were involved in a fight with another group of pachucos at the Williams Ranch by a lagoon. Later the next morning, a man named José Díaz, a member of the Downey Boys, was found bleeding and unconscious on a road near the lagoon (later named the Sleepy Lagoon by a reporter). Díaz later died.

The autopsy revealed that Díaz was drunk at the time of death

and that his death was the result of blunt head trauma. Though one medical examiner stated that Díaz' injuries were consistent with that of being hit by a car, Henry Leyvas and 24 other members of the 38th Street gang were arrested and charged with the murder of Díaz. Led by the local tabloids, a public outcry for "justice" and vengeance against the zoot suiters caused the Los Angeles Police Department to conduct a roundup of over 600 people on the nights of August 10th and 11th. Charges included suspicion of assault, armed robbery, etc., and 175 people were held on these charges. Of the 600 plus people arrested during this

roundup, every single one was a Spanish surnamed individual!

During the time leading up to the trial and for two weeks into the trial, Leyvas and his co-defendants were not allowed to change their clothes by order of the trial judge, Charles Fricke. The district attorney reasoned, and Judge Fricke agreed, that the jury should see the defendants in the zoot suits, which were obviously only worn by "hoodlums." During the trial, 22 of the 24 co-defendants, including Leyvas, were tried together. This entire incident is documented in the 1981 movie by Luis Valdez, "Zoot Suit," starring Eddy Olmos as the "pachuco conscience" of Henry.

As is the case with any or all gangs, a gang investigator should never say 'never' and never say 'always.'

Another gang in the Downey area and also Paramount is called "Dogpatch." Brown Nation is closely tied to Dogpatch. A member of this gang recently killed a member of Tortilla Flats. The victim Michael "Wreck" Roybal was the nephew of Adolph "Champ" Reynoso, longtime EME figure still incarcerated in the federal prison system.

EAST SIDE PARAMOUNT 13

Probably the biggest gang in this area is East Side Paramount. It is just south of Downey. ESP has a clique in Mt. Vernon, WA and can be found in other areas. Paramount has dealt with gangs rather successfully with its Paramount Gang Prevention





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Program that is used in schools in many areas. Just east of Paramount is the city of Bellflower.

BELLFLOWER & HAWAIIAN GARDENS

Bellflower has a gang called "Varrio Bellflower Locos" and there is a BGL clique in Yakima County, Washington. "Brown Nation" is another big gang and has been targeted by recent injunctions. Nearby, Hawaiian Gardens was the varrio of EME founder "Huero" Flores.

LAKEWOOD

This area of South L.A. County just above Long Beach also has its fair share of Sureños.

NORWALK

Varrio Norwalk, sometimes called "The One Ways," is a large and old gang dating from around the late 1940s or early '50s. They have a NWK Chicos clique. Both have been at odds with Carmelas. Another gang in this area are called "Chivas" which also runs into the cities of Artesia and Downey. There is a gang called, ironically, "Peaceful Valley." Other gangs are "8-Ball Posse" and "Canta Ranas," not to be confused with "La Rana." Several members of VNWK have been on the EME green light list.

ARTA

Varrio Arta in Artesia, California, began in the late 1950s and is actually in L.A. County but borders near

Orange County. It has ties to F-Troop. Former EME shotcaller Rene "Boxer" Enriquez is from Arta. Emero "Huero Shy" Shyrock claims Arta as does Sammy Villalba.

LONG BEACH-LONGOS

Long Beach has a wide variety of gangs, some of which include several Long Beach Crip sets (seen in rap music with Snoop Dogg and Warren G), Sons of Samoa, Tiny Rascal Gangsters, Eastside, Westside, and Northside Longos. Gangs in this area are well known for their violence and Brown vs. Black and Asian conflicts have arisen with changing ethnic demographics. The Tiny Rascal Gangsters, who started off in the Long Beach area, have been at war with other Longo gangs for years and are still on the EME green light list. Several Skinhead and Aryan factions live in this area but keep a very low profile. Eastside Longos and Westside Longos have had times of conflict and times of peace. Many of these gangs have had gang suppression injunctions by Long Beach PD, which has a Gang Unit of 42 detectives and sergeants, and with assistance from other agencies including CDC and County Probation. This is good for the city of Long Beach, but what often happens is these gangsters leave town and end up in other cities and start cliques, as seen with Longos, TRG, Asian Boyz, Insane Crips, and Rollin 20s Crips, etc.

Some of the ESL cliques are Niteowls, Santos, Chicos, Malditos, 8th Street-Latin Times Playboys,

14th St. Dukes, 17th Street Tiny Locos, 19th Street, Barrio Viejos. Some of the WSL cliques are Cyclones, Summit/Canal, Corner Boys, and Termites.

RANCHO SAN PEDRO

The RSPs have had a history of violence in the area. They appear to be aligned with the Westside Longos. Rancho San Pedro has been at war lately with the Dodge City Crips. Turf areas controlled by RSP overlap between LAPD-Harbor Precinct and the LASD Carson Station. Gangs in this area caused so much trouble that local communities started to organize "Community Reclamation" projects and seek street injunctions against gang members so the community could literally "take back the streets." Some community members and politicians in some San Pedro and Wilmington neighborhoods have sought to succeed from L.A. Similar efforts have been tried in the Hollywood and San Fernando areas.

LA RANA

One of the old EME vets, Manuel "Gordo/Tati" Torres, was from La Rana. He was killed in April 2005 by EME members at the ADX-BOP in Florence, Colorado. The large Grajeda family is also from La Rana which is located in the South Bay area. They have been very involved in La EME in the past, but most appear to be on the outs now except Senon Grajeda.



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CARSON 13, HAWTHORNE 13, AND GARDENA 13

One problematic gang in Carson and areas that LAPD Harbor Division patrols is the Harbor City Boys. This gang is also known as Varrio Harbor City. This group was hit hard with an injunction by the L.A. City Attorney's Office. The abate injunction notice outlawed acts of murder, narcotics trafficking, consumption of alcohol, assault, use of dangerous weapons, vandalism to include graffiti, blocking traffic, congregating in the areas they were terrorizing, wearing gang clothing, displaying signs which denoted narcotics peddling, possessing beepers and cellular phones in drug areas, yelling out gang jargon, blocking the sidewalk, encouraging vehicles to go through their drug areas.

Some of the varrios in the City of Carson are Dominguez 13, T-Flats, La Loma, Varrio Keystone, and Varrio Carson.

Hawthorne has been known for a predominately Black population, but Hispanics have been increasing and as we often see, a small, but very disruptive, percentage of Hispanic gangsters. Carson 13 has had past hostilities with E/S Wilmas. Lil Watts is a small but violent gang there. Another gang in this area are Lil' Mobsters. Gardena 13 is fairly strong.

INGLEWOOD 13

This neighborhood, like many others, is turning more Latino (with the

accompanying fraction of Latino bangers in the community) and there is friction with the more established Black gangs. Inglewood 13 has been fighting with Queen Sreet. Bloods, Hawthorn Pirus, and Legend Crips. They even had to cancel Black History Month and Cinco de Mayo celebrations at the high school in the past because of racial conflicts-- Inglewood 13 vs. Black gangs and Inglewood 13 also bragging that they are "cop killers." As we have seen lately, many Sureño gangs have targeted law enforcement!

We hope you see that Sureños are widespread, can be very violent, and are a complex group to deal with.

LAPD Officer Brian Brown was gunned down in November, 1998, by an Inglewood 13 gangster. Brown's killer, a gang member named Oscar Zatarain, was slain by police only moments after a bullet from Zatarain's assault rifle struck Officer Brown in the head. Zatarain's crime partner, Jaime Alejandro Mares, 23, faced the death penalty. Mares was accused of driving the car from which Zatarain fired, and therefore can be held equally culpable under the law. Deputy District Attorney Danette Meyers described the cop killing as an unfair fight. "Brown didn't have a chance," she said, "because his seat belt was still on, his gun was still in his holster, and

he was still sitting in the driver's seat of the car." Mares' crime spree began when he and Zatarain armed themselves with assault rifles, borrowed a woman's car and drove to rival-gang territories. Their apparent motive was to retaliate for the death of one of their gang friends the night before.

Mares and Zatarain evidently saw two men walking down Centinela Boulevard near Culver City, exited the car and opened fire. One of the victims, an 18-year-old Santa Monica man named Gerardo Sernas, was killed; the other escaped. Brown

and his partner, Francisco Dominguez, heard the shots and spotted Mares' vehicle moments later, giving way to a police chase. The chase ended near Fox Hills Mall, when Mares allegedly crashed the car

and Zatarain started shooting. In the confusion of the gun battle, Mares slipped from the driver's seat, stole a taxi from a nearby gas station and led another high-speed police chase to Los Angeles International Airport. He crashed the cab into two cars and, again, fled the vehicle with police right behind him. Mares turned around at police, shouted something (and) pointed what police believed to be a gun. At that point in time, Los Angeles police officers ... shot (Mares) numerous times. Mares sustained wounds to his back, leg, shoulder and forehead, but he lived. The family of Officer Brown is still grieving.





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LENNOX

Lennox is a fairly large gang that is centered just east of the LAX Airport. Lennox gang members have been targeted for injunctions, but again many of them just leave the area to start doing crime in another area. According to law enforcement gang specialists in Sonoma County, California, Lennox 13 had a reported presence since 1998, starting with a trio of brothers who moved up from L.A., claiming Compton Varrio Lennox 132nd Street. Recently the presence, membership, and activities of Westside Lennox 13 have taken off. Large "in your face" tagging in Norteno neighborhoods, and assaults on other members of different Sureño sets, have set this group apart from other main Sureño sets in the Santa Rosa, California area (Puro Sureño Cholo, and Varrio Sur Loco). They have been fighting Hawthorne Pirus.

TEPAS 13

Tepas has been a very active gang. Tepas 13 has also gone to war with 18th Street. Tepas 13 and Inglewood 13 have fought against Lennox. These two gangs have been rumored to be called upon by the EME to do enforcement toward Lennox which has been on a green light list in the past for not paying taxes to the Mexican Mafia. A Lennox gang member was allegedly killed in December of 1996 for this reason.

WILMAS (WILMINGTON)

There is a Northside, Southside,

Westside, and Eastside Wilmas. These different cliques have been known to shoot at each other. There are several EME members from Wilmas varrios. For instance, a kite confiscated from EME members at New Folsom stated, "I saw Big Sleepy from Wilmas at Chino (CIM), he gives serious regards."

TORRANCE

Eastside Torrance gangs have been involved in many local gang wars in the past including against T-Flats in Carson. Many ESTs were originally from 204th Street.

LAWNDALE 13

Lawndale 13, primarily a Hispanic turf oriented gang, has been NSR's chief rival since the '70s. Many current members of either gang do not know why they don't get along. The rivalry has been past from generation to generation, like the "Hatfield and McCoy" feud. Los Compadres clique in Lawndale are alleged to have EME ties.

NORTH SIDE REDONDO (NSR, REDONDO 13, R13, NSR 13)

Redondo has had its share of hardcore gang members, as early as the 1960s. "Willy-Boy" Geovia was in La EME. North Side Redondo is a primarily Hispanic turf oriented street gang, claiming the entire city of Redondo Beach. However, NSR gang members live primarily in what is referred to as North Redondo.

NSR has a total membership of about 120 members, however at any given time the active (unincarcerated) membership is closer to 30. While NSR is predominantly Hispanic, membership includes other races.

NSR started in the 1960s as Los Tules, a named derived from the plant known as Tulipanes that was a predominant plant in North Redondo before the area was developed for residential use. As Los Tules grew old, moved away or died off, the gang simply became known as Redondo 13 or North Side Redondo. During the 1980s, NSR developed a clique, Los Nietos, which was the third generation of members. Members would identify themselves on NSR graffiti with LNS (Los NietoS). Around the middle of 1996, as Los Nietos members were reaching adulthood, a second clique emerged claiming to be Los Diablitos (DBS). These members were younger and less respectful. Los Diablitos clique was not looked on too highly by the older generations because they were harder to control and brought about a lot of police attention.

In 1990, North Side Redondo was declared a violent street gang under 186.22. In 1996 the City of Redondo Beach petitioned for a civil injunction against 20 named members and 40 John Does. The injunction has had a crippling effect on the visible congregating of gang members on the streets of Redondo. Many members now live and conduct their



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“business” outside of the city. Because of the impact of proactive enforcement, the cliques are not as divided as they have been in the past and officers can frequently find several generations “kicking it” together at known hang outs or parties.

North Side Redondo has been in conflict with the gangs that share common borders with NSR. Redondo refers to Lawndale as Loppdale or Clowndale and Lawndale 13 gangsters as Loppes for disrespect. Other enemies of Redondo are Lil Mobsters, Lennox 13 (derogatory name: Kleenex). Most recently, four NSR gang members awaiting trial on other crimes (including 211/187 PC) in the Los Angeles Men’s Central Jail, added Eastside Torrance to the list when they got carried away with an EME ordered regulation and killed the Eastside Torrance gangster. All four were convicted in that jailhouse homicide.

While NSR is primarily always at war with Lawndale 13, it has a strong bond with Lil Watts, a predominantly Hispanic turf oriented gang in Hawthorne. There are “marriages” between the two gangs. Gang graffiti is allowed by each gang in the other’s turf and is even thrown up together showing their allegiance. Lil Watts and NSR are “business” partners and are frequently contacted and/or arrested together. Their joint enterprises include narcotics, vehicle burglaries and vehicle thefts.

Commonly displayed tattoos on North Side Redondo gang members:

“H.A.” in reference to the Harbor Area, “Round Town,” “Redondo (R13),” “North Side Redondo (NSR)” and “King Harbor” to define their location as in the picture of a local gangster’s tats; Los Nietos (LNS), Los Diablitos (DBS) or a devil tat to show their clique. Brown Town, Brown Pride, Sur 13, and Surenos have been seen on three members so far. Tags of Lil Watts and Redondo have been shown together in Lawndale’s turf, a sign of disrespect.

ORANGE COUNTY GANGS

Orange County lies between Los Angeles and San Diego Counties in Southern California. It has some very beautiful land and neighborhoods and is famous for its amusement parks. It also has some gang activity in and around some of the poorer neighborhoods and varrios. It is called Orange County because at one time, it had vast orange orchards which now are sprawling cities.

Many Orange County gangsters will sport the five-point star. Norteno-Northern Structure also wore this symbol with an entirely different meaning and is usually above the shoulders. Orange County Sureno gang members will usually wear it below the shoulders and say it only stands for Orange County and the star resembles the stem on top of an orange. One of the bigger cities in Orange County is Santa Ana. No city in Orange County has suffered more at the hands of gangs than Santa

Ana, which has recorded more than 200 gang-related killings in the past decade!

In June, 2005, Peter “Sana/El Señor,” Ojeda, was arrested by authorities. Ojeda and 23 associates of the Mexican Mafia were business-savvy “shot callers” who used threats and violence to lord over Hispanic street gangs and about 3,400 Hispanic inmates in Orange County Jail, according to a federal indictment. Once, the career criminal “allegedly” tried to turn away from crime. In 1992, Ojeda unsuccessfully tried to broker a gang truce among local street gangs to stop a spree of drive-by killings. But two years later, he was arrested again for possessing a handgun. He was sent back to prison for seven years.

F-TROOP

There are several large gangs in the area with various clicas like F-Troop. It was called F-Troop after the TV series. This gang has multiple clicas throughout the area including Santa Ana and in Anaheim. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, many F-Troop cliques broke off and became independent. The Salvador Park clique of FxT was overbearing and controlling so many gangs that were associated with F-Troop wanted nothing to do with them. Pete “Sana” Ojeda, long-time EME member who recently got out of the Feds, was rumored to be in the hat for not putting in work; however, he again has been associating with members of F-Troop.





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JEFFREY ST.

Jeffrey St.-Anaheim is near the Disneyland theme park and there have been several efforts to clean the area around J Street up, also referred to as Tijuana because there are so many Mexican nationals living there. There are other gangs nearby including Penguin City of Anaheim Blvd., which got its name because many members' parents of the gang worked at a local ice factory, and Jungle City just south of the 91 Freeway in Anaheim, in an area known as "The Jungle."

5TH STREET

The 5th Street-Lopers around Main Street in Santa Ana and in Garden Grove recently had a "green light" put on them by none other than Pete "Sana" Ojeda, major EME figure who has been in and out of the Federal system. The rumor was \$5,000 is required to lift it. 5th Street gained some turf after a war with the now defunct gang called "Silver Acres." Its main rival is 17th Street.

TOKERSTOWN 13

Fullerton-Tokerstown lies near several college campuses. FTT started in the 1940s in the Lemon Street and Valencia Drive area of Fullerton. There is Los Coyotes in Buena Park which started as a bicycle club called "Momentos," Mexican Posse and Underhill Street Cyclones which started out as West Coast Kings. Varrio Cypress in Orange was part of F-Troop; Barrio Chico in San Clemente will fight San Juan Boys from San Juan Capistrano and West Trece in Westminster.

SAN DIEGO AREA GANGS

SHELLTOWN

Shelltown 38th Street (ST38th) has a well-established rivalry with Logan, a Hispanic gang which exists just south of its location. Cross Highway 15 overpass and you're into Shelltown. Two separate gang sets exist within this community: the Shelltown 38th Street; the other, Shelltown Gamma Street Boys (ST/GB S). They will associate and ally with each other, but often feud with each other as well. Primary rivalry is Shelltown 38th Street vs. Logan sets because of their close proximity. The Gamma Street Boys' primary rivalry is with National City gang sets, which exist just south of their location and across Division Street. Within the 38th Street area is a tagger crew that is working its way into the gangster world. This crew is SE73 or (Southeast San Diego). It is allied with Logan gang sets and therefore rivals the Shelltown gang. They have primarily been victims, but that will likely change within a short period of time.

SHERMAN

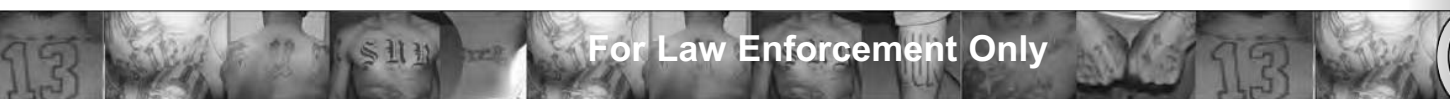
East of the Logan Community is the Sherman Heights area. The Sherman Grant Hills Park (SM/GHP) gang exists there. In early 1990s, a second Sherman gang emerged, calling itself Sherman 20th Street. Members initially feuded with Sherman Grant Hills Park, but that eventually died out. They are not allied closely with one another. Their closest allies are Shelltown gangs

and they rival Logan gangs. Just east of Sherman Heights is the Golden Hills community. Within this community is the Lomas 26th Street gang. Lomas rivals Sherman gangs and has been rather quiet recently.

South of Sherman/Lomas area and east of Shelltown is the Market Street gang. Shelltown and Market Street gangs are separated by a large cemetery. The primary rival of the Market Street gang is Varrio Encanto Locos (VELS) in the Encanto community of San Diego. Encanto is situated just east of the Market Street area or east of Euclid Avenue, south of Highway 94. South and east of Encanto sits the Lomita Village area and turf for the rival, Lomita Village 70s (LV70s). South and east of that is the Paradise Hills Community, turf for the Paradise Hills Locos (PHL) gang. PHL rival LV70, but ally with Varrio Encanto Locos. PHL also rival all National City gangs, which sits just west of their community.

BARRIO LOGAN

Some of the biggest gangs in the San Diego area are Barrio Logan gangs. Barrio Logan sits next to Chicano Park which is filled with murals painted underneath the Coronado Bridge which goes right over the park. Of course the majority of its residents are not gang affiliated. Logan Heights is a community of San Diego that is predominantly Hispanic, just on the outskirts of the downtown area. Within that community exists the Logan Heights Calle Treinta (LH30ta) gang, the Logan Heights Redsteps, the Logan Heights



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33rd Street gang, and the Logan Heights Trece gang. Within this area are several "tagger" groups, including ALS (Another Logan Soldier), that associates closely with the various Logan gang sets. Probably the most well-known Logan gangs are the LH30ta and Redsteps, some of which have close ties with the Mexican drug cartel in Tijuana. Their exploits are well-documented; however, much of it is overstated.

A hired gunman from San Diego, David "C.H.-Popeye" Barron Corona, had over a dozen skulls, all believed to be hits, and the letter "M" for Mexican Mafia tattooed on his body. He was killed by ricocheting bullets after he made an attempt to assassinate Tijuana newspaper editor Jesus Blancornelas. More recently, Marco "Pato" Quinones had worked as a gunner for the AFO. "Bat" Marquez from Del Sol had been hiding out in the Tijuana area for quite some time. There were rumors of his death by the Tijuana cartel; however, these may have been an attempt by him to try and fool authorities. He is now in custody.

Another member of the Mexican Mafia was sentenced in the summer of 2000 to 29 years and four months in prison for a conviction on charges of extortion and distributing methamphetamine. Frank "Chino"

Macias Madriaga, was found guilty of demanding cash payments from drug suppliers as tribute to the Mexican Mafia, also known as La EME, for the phonetic Spanish pronunciation of the letter "M." Madriaga of National City was a significant "made" or inducted member of the Mexican Mafia, prosecutors said. He sports the black-hand tattoo of La EME on his chest.

Federal and state authorities were tipped off to Madriaga's operation in July, 1998, when they arrested Mark Anthony Mendez, one of Madriaga's main gang or "crew"

Sureños from different gangs may band together for protection or work together for criminal enterprises when they set up shop outside of Southern California.

members. Mendez began cooperating with investigators and led them to Madriaga and dozens of other methamphetamine traffickers in San Diego County. Madriaga also was implicated by Juan Carlos Lopez, a National City marijuana trafficker who went to police the same month, contending that Madriaga was demanding thousands of dollars in payment as a "tax" to La EME. During the trial, experts testified that La EME exerts control over the drug-trafficking world not only by demanding payments and drugs, but

by requiring lower prices for drugs. Many of the identified members of the gang are incarcerated in the maximum-security Pelican Bay state prison in Crescent City, where Madriaga served time. Another EME tax collector on Sureños is rumored to have taken his place.

In January, 2005, Operation La Mano Negra was launched. La Mano Negra is Spanish for "the black hand," one of the identifying insignias of the Mexican Mafia. A prison guard, Jessica Chavez, was among 37 people arrested after a two-year undercover investigation of the Mexican Mafia prison gang and its street-gang associates in San Diego. Authorities believe that the involvement of a guard with a prison gang was an isolated incident, but "this case sends a message to guards and employees in the prison system that activities on behalf of the Mexican Mafia will not be tolerated," said FBI supervisor Max Regula of the San Diego office. The original target of La Mano Negra was Richard Buchanan, 50, a former prisoner described by the FBI as a high-ranking member of the gang. Charges, both state and federal, will range from possession and distribution of methamphetamine to conspiracy, kidnapping for extortion, criminal street gang activity and being a felon in possession of a firearm. In addition to the arrests,





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agents seized at least 35 firearms, more than seven pounds of methamphetamine and more than \$36,000, much of it acquired in the course of 25 undercover purchases of weapons and drugs.

Remember, only a very small number of active and former members of these gangs are connected with the cartel or EME and give the rest of their gang a sense of "notoriety" they readily exploit. The media has portrayed these gangs as outrageously vicious, but those connected to the cartels don't come into the U.S. very often. The locals feed on their notoriety, using it to build stature. The Logan sets have actually been rather quiet recently, and involved in more money-making operations than rivalry confrontations.

There are Sureño gangs in other Southern California counties: Bakers, Colonia Oxnard or Chiques in Ventura County; Santa Barbara 501, Indio, Calexico, the list goes on and on.

Again, not all Sur gangs get along in California, but when they go to prison are forced to get together on orders of La EME and because of the higher threat from other gangs, Crips, Bloods, 415, and Norteños. Sureño migration has continued at a very fast pace throughout the United States and even across international borders!

Sureños from different gangs may band together for protection or work together for criminal enterprises when they set up shop outside of Southern California. There are local Sureño 13 gangs with no direct connection to Southern California. Many

have developed by Mexican immigrants on the East Coast who spent little time in Los Angeles.

Also, the Sur gang may have non-Hispanics in it. It is not uncommon to see one Native-American, White kids, or other races in Sureño gangs.

We hope you see that Sureños are widespread, can be very violent, and are a complex group to deal with.

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About the author...

Gabe Morales, founder and current vice president of the International Latino Gang Investigators Association, gave RMIN permission to reprint the article that appears here. Morales recently was appointed to the Washington Gang Study Group and serves as an advisor and consultant to many groups on gang issues. After serving with the U.S. Marine Corp, Morales worked at Folsom State prison as a corrections officer and then worked with youth in Los Angeles group homes and with gang members on probation. He has worked at the King County (WA) jail in Seattle for approximately 15 years in the Classification Section where he specialized in Security Threat Groups and is considered an expert on the subject. He is the lead Gangs Instructor at the Washington State Academy for police agencies and most corrections staff and has taught at numerous conferences around the country. He is author of two books, "Varrio Warfare: Violence in the Latino Community" and most recently, "La Familia - The Family: Prison Gangs Across America" and is currently producing "For Our Kids, For Our Community," a video on gang prevention. His private company, Gang Prevention Services, assists Puget Sound (WA) service providers and local agencies including Job Corps, Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration and the Washington Department of Social and Health Services.



For Law Enforcement Only



Surenas: Female Gang Members

**NATIONAL GANG INTELLIGENCE CENTER
INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

SUREÑO GANGS DEVELOPING FEMALE

SUBSET ORGANIZATIONS
Sureño gangs are developing female subsets that have female leaders appointed by the male leaders of the gangs. The identified subsets—Sureñas Locas, Southside Bitches, Sureñas Malditas, Prima Loca 13, and Barrio Locas—are currently subordinate to male Sureño gangs. However, as the leadership skills of Sureñas mature and their responsibilities increase, they may develop the potential to split from the Sureños and form independent gangs.

- The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) reports that in Portland, Oregon, local Sureño gangs Pas Robles Boys and Southside 13 each have devel-

oped Sureña subsets called Sureñas Locas that function interdependently within the Sureño gang. Both of these subsets are comprised of wives, girlfriends, and other women who are “shared” by

male gang members. Male Sureños in Portland generally refer to the females as “Jainas,” Spanish slang for “my bitch.” Sureñas are viewed by Sureños as gang property, and even the highest-ranking female is subordinate to the lowest-ranking

SUREÑA SUBSET STRUCTURE

In each female subset, select Sureñas are charged with organizing the subset, coordinating female participation in Sureño activities, recruiting other females, and in some cases, recruiting male Sureño associates. Sureñas in each subset are also actively involved in hiding and transferring drugs and weapons for Sureños. Some females even attend Sureño meetings where they voice opinions and participate in the planning of gang activities. While they do not hold equal rank with their Sureño counterparts, Sureñas participate in all types of criminal activities and are often instrumental in organizing crimes that benefit both their subset and the Sureño gang as a whole.

- Source: Portland (OR) Police Bureau, 2008; FBI Seattle, 2008





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male. Like their male counterparts, Sureñas Locas align with and are rivals to other female subsets. Members of the female subsets partake in all criminal activities committed by their male counterparts. Sureños also use Sureñas as decoys to lure rival gang members for attack.¹

SOURCE AND CONFIDENCE STATEMENT

Information relative to female Sureño subset groups was derived from national law enforcement contacts that have good to excellent access, in addition to open sources. The FBI has high confidence in the reliability of the reporting from these sources.

- According to FBI investigative information, there are at least two active Sureña subsets in Seattle attached to Sureño gangs: Sureñas Malditas of the Gangster Sureño Clicka, and

Barrio Locas of the Barrio Locos. Each subset has between 8-10 members that range in age from 12-22 years old. Both subsets are comprised of wives, girlfriends, and associates of Sureños. Female leaders are selected by shotcallers² and are referred to as either “manager bitches” or “Queen bitches.” Female subsets in Seattle use MySpace.com to recruit new members and to communicate with rivals and allies.³

- The Rogers Police Department (RPD) in Rogers, Arkansas, has identified at least one Sureña subset, the Southside Bitches, that is affiliated with an all male Sureño group, the Southside Devils.⁴ The Southside Devils and Southside Bitches were founded by a Sureño gang member who migrated to Rogers from California. The Southside

Bitches are subordinate to the Southside Devils, but have one female who oversees the female subset. The Southside Bitches participate in crimes committed by Sureño gang members.

RPD intelligence indicates that several females have been accomplices in burglaries and various acts of criminal mischief in the area. Sureño gangs, including female subsets, constitute 40 percent of the overall gang population in Rogers.⁵

1 - PPB, telephone interview, April 2008.

2 - A shotcaller is an individual of elevated status in a gang who delegates to lower-ranking members and “calls the shots.”

3 - FBI Seattle, telephone interview, April 2008.

4 - FBI IIR 4 214 2208 08, January 2008 (UNCLASSIFIED).

5 - RPD, telephone interview, April 2008.



For Law Enforcement Only



Officer Safety

The biggest concern for you as a police officer when dealing with gang members is SAFETY. Always be cautious when dealing with gang members and their associates. A large percentage of them will have weapons on their person or within their immediate area. Most gang members have been involved in violent confrontations, with some having survived multiple shootings. This gives them experience in confrontations that many of you do not have. Many gang members are committed to violence and believe they will have a short life. Therefore, they will be willing to take extreme risks when dealing with law enforcement officers and the public. You should always look for warning signs and treat gang members according to their behavior. Always be professional and treat them with respect until they give you a reason to act differently.

Whenever making contact with gang members:

- have a backup if possible.
- pick the spot for contact and if the gang members are now allowing this, a mental flag should signal you to a greater level of caution.
- be familiar with gang areas so gang members don't have the ability to maneuver you into a hostile environment
- don't allow gangsters to control

the stop and achieve their comfort zone

- furtive movements by gang members should raise a caution flag, and may turn a contact from casual to high risk
- utilize contact and cover position so that at least one officer is always watching the person(s) being contacted.

In addition, whether it's a traffic stop or field contact:

- take occupants out of the vehicle one at a time;
- pat each one down for weapons;
- have them sit down and cross their legs straight out in front of them; keep their hands in their lap or fingers interlocked on top of their head;
- have them keep their hands visible at all times;
- tell them "no talking" to each other during the stop (this will help keep them from making a coordinated plan on how to assault you or make a getaway).

During these contacts, you should also be cautious of female gang members. Do not treat them as any less of a threat to your safety. Female gang members often conceal weapons and contraband for male gang members and most gang members know that a male officer will not thoroughly

search a female gang member. Use your judgment and follow department policies when checking female gang members for weapons.

It is also important to be aware of your nonverbal communication when making contact with gang members. Command presence is very important. If gang members see an officer utilizing poor tactics or lacks safety precautions, gang members will take advantage of the situation. Be conscious of your appearance and actions in order to deter a negative response from gang members.

If you're unable to control the contact with the officers on hand, request additional backup immediately. Once you get behind the curve, it's very difficult to regain control. Gang members know your intentions during the contact but you don't know their intentions or frame of mind. Your job is to be as safe as possible and not let the gang members get the upper hand.

Editor's note: A special note of thanks to Lt. Charlie Consoliano of the Violent Crimes Bureau, Gang Enforcement Unit of the Phoenix Police Department (PPD) for allowing RMIN to reprint this column. It originally appeared in the April 2008 edition of the PPD's Gang Enforcement Unit's Crackdown Bulletin.





Strategies/Recommendations for Law Enforcement

By **CHUCK SCHOVILLE**
RMIN TRAINING SPECIALIST

Although this publication has covered the Surenos that are loyal to the California Mexican Mafia, the reader should always be aware of the following:

If a gang member is claiming allegiance and loyalty to the Surenos and Mexican Mafia, he should be treated and approached with the understanding that **he will commit violent crimes in furtherance of his cause.**

Any and all gang members should be treated with respect and treated equally in all aspects of your encounter. Do not allow yourself to grow complacent based upon who you are dealing with. **All gang members, regardless of their place of origin,**

height, weight, ethnicity or the gang they are loyal to should be treated as if they were capable of committing violent crimes in furtherance of their cause and gang.

During the 1970s and 1980s, law enforcement experienced the growth and migration of the Los Angeles based Crips and Bloods throughout the United States. This was followed with the migration of the Chicago based Folks and People gangs to all parts of the country. As the Hispanic gangs of California continue the “second wave” of California based migration, law enforcement managers within the RMIN region and else-

where must be willing and able to address the issues they will be confronted with concerning the Surenos.

I was recently talking with Robert “Moco” Morrill, one of the original California Prison Task force members (Monterey Park PD) about the migration of the Surenos. “Once the Sureno graffiti starts showing up, it’s too late,” said Morrill.

In order for law enforcement to stay ahead of the Surenos, a multi-pronged approach must be utilized which must include the entire community. During the 1980s, the gang problem across the country appeared to be a major issue as a result of media coverage.



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During the 1990s, the gang problem continued to grow while media coverage declined and gangs became "old news." As a result of less attention being given to gang crimes and gangs, community members became complacent, as did many police administrators. As we continue on, the gang problem is worsening.

Gangs that once remained within their own gang neighborhoods have started to move freely into other parts of their cities in order to make money and commit crimes. Gangs that once were bitter rivals have now formed alliances in order to expand their territory, allowing them to increase profits. Gangs started moving not only from neighborhood to neighborhood, but continued moving from one city to another to commit crimes and increase profits. Gangs have now grown to be known as transnational gangs, moving from one country to another to form alliances and to again, expand their market into areas with endless opportunities.

This is the time for strategic planning and preparation within the RMIN region for the inevitable continued migration of the Surenos.

1. Law enforcement administrators must recognize the imminent threat posed to their communities by the sudden and unparalleled growth and migration of the Surenos.

- Police managers must ensure that their employees understand the significance and dangers involved with the Sureno gang migration

- This should include forming an intelligence network with states within the RMIN region that are now facing the consequences of being unprepared

2. Law enforcement officials must provide the necessary support and training to gang specialists to battle the threat of the Surenos. Law enforcement management must remember that the key to the success of any project, including the influx of recent fusion centers, is that without information being developed on the street level, failure is certain. Provide the necessary staffing at the patrol and street level and the necessary leadership to effectively address the Sureno movement.

- The Rocky Mountain Information Network can provide gang training to RMIN member agencies at no cost to

the requesting agency. The RMIN training can be tailored to be specifically about Surenos or any other criminal street gang, outlaw motorcycle or prison gang.

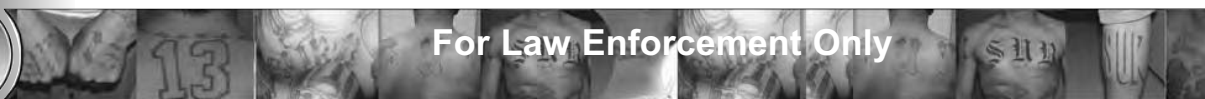
3. Law enforcement officials at the local, county, state and federal levels must agree to work together, share intelligence and take the necessary steps to ensure a joint agency, multi-faceted response to the threat. Information is meaningless unless it is shared with others who have a need to know.

4. Sureno gang members are loyal to the gang and should be dealt with appropriately. Your approach must be safe and made with sound planning. Your approach will determine the Surenos' response.

- As in the case with any gang-related or motivated crime, Surenos must be identified, investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent if they commit crimes in your jurisdiction.

- Plea bargaining should not be an option for Surenos convicted of violent felony crimes in your jurisdiction.

- Local prosecutors should be included in any Sureno gang training and should be consid-





ered and contacted from the onset of a Sureno gang motivated criminal investigation.

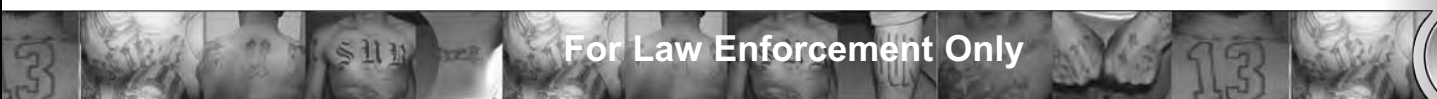
5. The successful preparation for the migration of the Surenos into your state and community must include jail and correctional intelligence components. Officers who work the streets (gang investigators) should be encouraged to work closely with investigators who work in correctional facilities to include the necessary cell searches on a routine basis. By working together, a significant amount of intelligence can be gathered and shared.

6. Law enforcement/Corrections must conduct thorough background and classification screenings to determine the validity of a Sureno gang member. Intake classification staff members and police investigators should consult with the Security Threat Group investigators from other states if the person being interviewed is from another state.

7. Documentation should be completed on all Sureno gang members, Sureno graffiti or crimes involving Surenos. Investigators must remember that everyone claiming to be a gang member was or is a member of a criminal street gang. Investigators need to determine which criminal

street gang and neighborhood the Sureno came from and who his associates were in his previous community. Based on the interview, the person could be documented as a member of the criminal street gang such as 18th Street, White Fence, etc., and as a Sureno. This is the same information an investigator would want to know if the investigator was interviewing a Crip or Blood gang member from California. The investigator should try to determine what type (gang set) of Crip a person is, such as a Grape Street (Los Angeles), Westside City (Phoenix).

8. Police managers and fusion center directors should strongly consider assigning a specialized criminal analyst to collect, analyze and disseminate all Sureno information that is collected in the field and prisons. Based on the amount of criminal activity being committed by the Surenos, the coordinated law enforcement response should be quick and decisive. Surenos (Mexican Mafia) should not be allowed to become established in a community. ❖





GLOSSARY

Ariza Raza: Arizona Hispanics

Basura: “garbage” in Spanish; a term used to describe most rivals and enemies of the Sureños

Big Homies: a validated member of the California Mexican Mafia

Busters: person misrepresenting something that he/she is not; a fake

Calles: “streets” in Spanish

Camaradas: comrades

Carnales: a name used to describe validated California Mexican Mafia members

Car: A slang term used to gang members to describe their gang or crew

Eme: Mexican Mafia

Farmeros: “farmers” in Spanish; a derogatory term used by Sureños to describe the Arizona Mexican Mafia or any gang members claiming allegiance to the Nortenos in California

Guerra: “war” in Spanish

Hasta la muerte: “until the death” in Spanish

Kanpol: soldier

Lechuga: “lettuce” in Spanish; refers to the Arizona New Mexican Mafia

Mano: refers to the hand, or the Black Hand of the Mexican Mafia

Mexican Americans: A term used to describe Arizona Hispanics, who are clearly separated from the Sureños (California Hispanics) and the Border Brothers (illegal immigrants who are incarcerated)

Nuevos: “new ones” in Spanish; derogatory term used to describe the Arizona Mexican Mafia

Paisas: “brothers” in Spanish; a term used to describe the Border Brothers prison gang. Note: Not all “paisas” are members of the Border Brothers but all Border Brothers are paisas (Mexicans from Mexico)

Paisa: “countryman” or a person from the same country as the others (Mexico). The term paisa is often used to describe a person from Mexico who has been in the United States a short time. Conversely, the term “Chicano” or “Mexican American” is often used to describe a person of Hispanic ethnicity who has lived in the United States most of, if not their entire, life.

Patched: a person considered a member of the Mexican Mafia by the leaders of the Mexican Mafia

Sur: “south”

SUR: Soldier Under Recruitment; Soldier Under Recognition; Southern United Raza

True Blue: loyal to the color blue, the color used by Sureños

True Blue Riders: a loyal Sureño (may also use the term True Blue and/or True Riders)

Validated: a person considered a member of the Mexican Mafia by the correctional authorities

Verde: “green” in Spanish; refers to the “green light” or list upon which a person is placed when they are to be killed; permission to kill a person





Surenos Reglas - Rules

These are Surenos reglas or rules confiscated from a Los Angeles County Jail cell. These rules may not be uniform throughout the correctional system – they represent only the rules as applied in one facility.

1. There is to be no fighting.
2. There is to be no horseplay.
3. No getting in the *judas*' (correctional officers') face. Stay off the nurse, store clerk, etc. Show respect.
4. Stay off the *truchas* (inmate workers).
5. The program starts after lunch is served and ends at 10:30 p.m., except Friday and Saturday. (The term program here refers to the Sureno commitment to the Sureno lifestyle—being loyal, a good, solid “standup” Sureno; staying in good physical condition, educating himself to the Sureno lifestyle while incarcerated.)
6. Keep conversations in your cell.
7. No yelling down the *tira* (tier).
8. No illegal activity is allowed until the last chain has gone to visiting on visit days. (Nobody gets ‘stupid.’ Illegal activity that’s caught can result in lockdown and visitor restrictions.)
9. No mad-dogging the Homies in the high power cages. (Don’t provoke the older, established members from the other Security Threat Groups).
10. No disrespecting or name calling on the *tira*.
11. There is to be one person up for the *gallo* (pruno) and the person up that day is responsible. (One person per day is responsible for all transactions. There isn’t anything in a correctional facility that isn’t bartered and all transactions go through a designated person.)
12. All *clavos* (drugs) are to come to me; I will cut the third. (The author—or shot-caller—explains drug transactions go through him and that he will take one third off the top of any drug exchange.)
13. All personal transa (transactions) are susceptible to a South Sider, and double up





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when late. (A fee or tax is applied by a South Sider to transactions and this fee is doubled when payment is delayed.)

14. All South Side business or anything else discussed on the *tira* remains on the *tira*, unless told.

15. All Homies are responsible for *llaves y dulces* (weapons and drugs).

16. Guard your conversation on the phones.

17. Mandatory workout of your choice, minimum of one hour.

18. Keep the *tira* clean. No trash unless the *tira* is being swept.

19. All *wilas* ("kites" or letters), verbals, items being brought from *corte* (court) or just down the *tira* are not to be short stopped. (Make sure material reaches its intended destination.)

20. All cell reps are to run down the rules to the new arrivals on their *tira*.

21. Gang Module Homies (shotcallers) blast (assault) all *verdes*, *varrios*, and personals (gang or individual green lights). MANDATORY blast unless otherwise stated. Lista *verdes* (green light hit lists) shall be passed every night.

22. It is mandatory to pack *dules* (weapons) to court if you are under 30 years old. All blasting must be reported to me (the shotcaller) ASAP, no ifs and or buts. If the courts are hot (searched for weapons), that should be reported to me also for further notice to pack or not.

23. All 38s are to be handled with care and respect for the Homie who owns it.

24. Any issues or complaints are to be taken up with your cell rep. After, and only after, will I accept *wilas* (letters) to settle the matter.

25. Homies going to court should choose *camaradas* (brothers/partners) and relay *verdes* and personals.

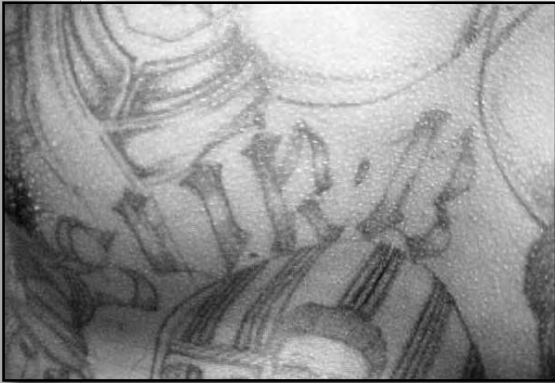
26. All Homies representing this module should show respect and set an example for mainline *camaradas*.

27. Anyone wanting to go to another cell must get the OK from the white house (EME headquarters).

28. If one of the Homies feels disrespected and takes off (attacks) on the *judas* (correctional officers), all Homies will follow (back him up).



Surenos Tattoos



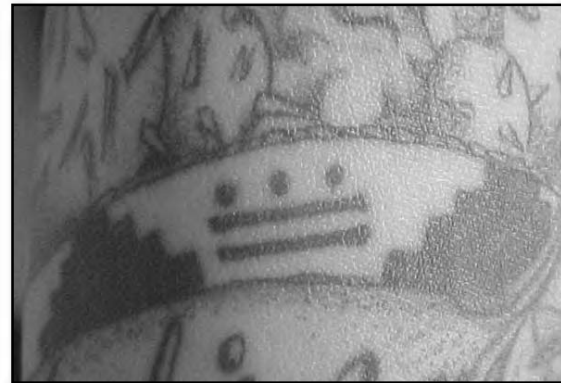
Sur 13



SUR



Aztec 13



Aztec 13



Los Angeles Area Code



13



Sureno



Big Hazard



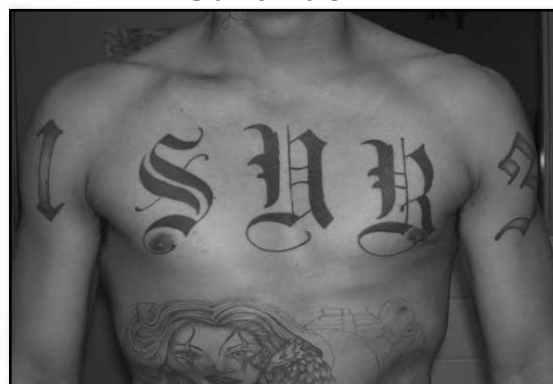
South Side Resenda



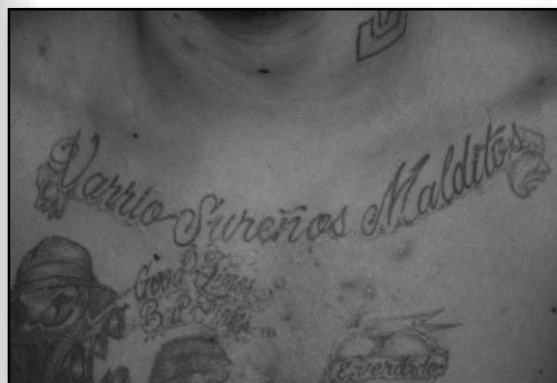
Surenos



SUR



SUR 13



Barrio Sureños Malditos



Barrio Sureños Trece



Barrio Sureno Trece



18th Street



Surenos 3CE



Lopez Maravilla



13



San Fernando Valley



Logan Heights San Diego



SUR 13



Orange County



Eternal Sword Shield With SUR



Varrio Lokos 59th St.



South Side 42 Street



Long Beach



Orange County



Highland Park



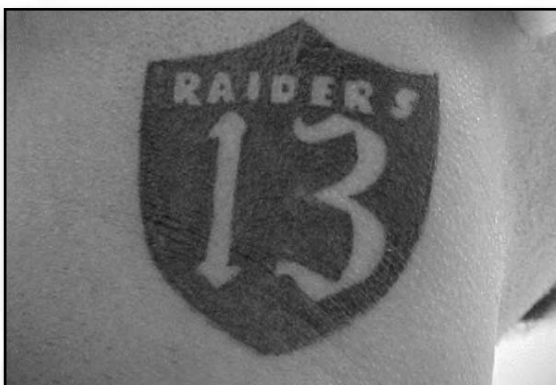
San Gabriel Valley



Southsider



East Side Torrence



13



Southern United Raza X3



18th Street



18th Street



Orange County



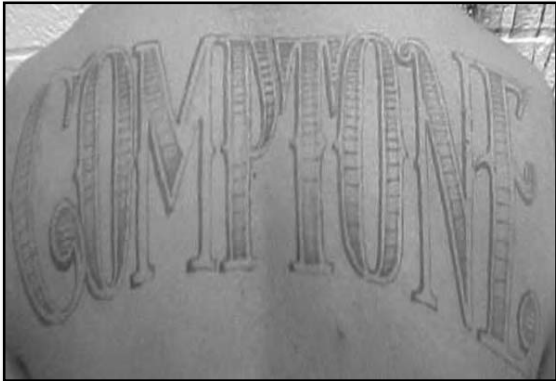
SUR



White Fence



Orange County SUR Califas



Compton



Gangster Life South Side



Florencia 13



13



Eternal Sword Shield



Lynwood Sureno 13



CONTACTS/ORGANIZATIONS/WEBSITES

Call or click the contacts listed here for additional gang-related information. Every effort was made to ensure the contact information provided here is accurate and up-to-date (as of November 2008). In some instances, you'll note that only phone numbers—no individual contact names—are provided: This is an intentional, precautionary measure and is not an oversight.

A

Arizona Gang Investigators Association
www.arizonagia.com
Chuck Schoville, president
www.president@arizonagia.com
Jeff Cutler, vice president
www.vicepresident@arizonagia.com

Arizona Department of Corrections
1601 W. Jefferson
Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-364-3945

Arizona G.I.I.T.E.M. (Arizona State Gang Task Force)
www.azdps.gov/gitem

Asian Gang Investigator's Association of California
www.agiaonline.org

B

Boise-Nampa-Caldwell, Idaho Police departments

C

California Gang Investigators Association
www.cgiaonline.org

Colorado Department of Corrections
2862 S. Circle Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
719-579-9580

Colorado Security Threat Intelligence Network Group (STING)
Irene Basta, President
719-406-4040
basta@co.pueblo.co.us

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)
U.S. Department of Justice
www.cops.usdoj
1-800-421-6770

E

East Coast Gang Investigators Association
www.ecgia.org

East Valley (Maricopa County, AZ) Gang Task Force

F

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Florida Gang Investigators Association
www.fgia.com

G

Georgia Gang Investigators Association
www.ggia.net

I

Idaho Department of Corrections
1299 N. Orchard St., Suite 110
Boise, ID 83706
208-658-2000

Idaho Gangs
www.idahogangs.com

International Latino Gang Investigator's Association (ILGIA)
Nelson Arriago, President
www.ilgia.org
P.O. Box 655552
University Place, WA 98464
Gabe Morales, Vice President
www.gcmorales2007@gmail.com
International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association (IOMGIA)
www.IOMGIA.org



M

Mid Atlantic Reginal Gang Investigators Network
(MARGIN)

www.gomargin.us

Midwest Cycle Intelligence Organization

Midwest Gang Investigators Association
www.mgia.org

Montana Department of Corrections
1538 11th Ave.
Helena, MT 59620
406-444-0409

Morales, Gabe
Vice president, International Latino Gang Investigator's
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gcmorales2007@gmail.com

N

National Alliance of Gang Investigator's Associations
www.nagia.org

National Criminal Justice Reference Service

National Gang Crime Research Center
www.ngcrc.com

National Major Gang Task Force
www.nmgtf.org

National Youth Gang Center
www.iir.com/nygc/

Nevada Department of Corrections
P.O. Box 7011
Carson City, NV 89118
702-486-9916

New Mexico Department of Corrections
4337 NM 14
Santa Fe, NM 87508
505-827-8674

New Mexico Gang and Terrorism Task Force

New York Gang Investigators Association
www.nygia.org

North Carolina Gang Investigation Association
www.ncgangcops.org

Northern California Gang Investigator's Association
www.ncgia.com

Northwest Gang Investigator's Association
www.nwgia.com

Novotny, Brian
Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Rocky Mountain
Information Network
Editor, Western States Gang Intelligence Network
newsletter
Editor, RMIN Gang Newsletter
623-587-8201, ext. 163
1-800-821-0640
bnovotny@rmin.riss.net

O

Oklahoma Gang Investigator's Association
www.ogia.net

P

Phoenix (AZ) Police Department

S

Salt Lake Area Gang Project

San Diego County Sheriff's Department

Schoville, Chuck
Training Specialist, Rocky Mountain Information
Network
Founder/president, Arizona Gang Investigators
Association
President, International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang
Investigators Association





623-587-8201, ext. 122
1-800-821-0640, ext. 122
cschoville@rmin.riss.net

South Eastern Connecticut Gang Activities Group
www.segag.org

T
Tennessee Gang Investigator's Association
www.tn-gia.org

Texas Gang Investigators Association
www.tgia.net

Tri-State (Nevada, California, Arizona) Intelligence Association

U
Utah Department of Corrections
14717 S. Minuteman Dr.
Draper, UT 84020
801-545-5500

Utah Gang Investigators Association

V
Virginia Gang Investigator's Association
www.vgia.org

W
Western States Gang Intelligence Network

Wyoming Department of Corrections
700 W. 21st St.
Cheyenne, WY 82002-3427
307-777-7209

Miscellaneous Gang-Related Websites

USDOJ: Gangs
The Impact of Gangs on Communities (PDF)
National Gang History
Know Gangs
Gangs Across America
Gangs OR Us
SafeYouth.org (Gang Fact Sheet)

Gang Resources

Arizona Drug and Gang Resource Center -
<http://129.219.180.202/proginvento-ry2004/FormsIndex.htm>
Arizona Security Threat Group -
<http://www.adc.state.az.us/adcd/divisions/support/stg.asp>
Gangs 101 - <http://www.gangs101.com/>
Gang Prevention Services -
<http://www.angelfire.com/biz4/stopvarriowar/gps.html>
Gangstyle - <http://gangstyle.com/>
Questia.com Book Search - <http://www.questia.com>
Street Gangs - <http://www.streetgangs.com>

Graffiti Sites

Nograffiti.com - <http://www.nograffiti.com>
www.graffiti.org - <http://www.graffiti.org>

Federal Law Enforcement websites:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
<http://www.atf.gov/>
Bureau of Justice Assistance -
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/>
California State Juvenile Officer's Association -
<http://www.csjoa.org>
Customs and Border Protection - <http://www.cbp.gov>
Department of Homeland Security - <http://www.dhs.gov>
Federal Bureau of Investigation - <http://www.fbi.gov>
Federal Bureau of Prisons - <http://www.bop.gov>
Immigration and Custom Enforcement -
<http://www.ice.gov>
International Organization of Asian Crime Investigators
and Specialists - <http://www.ioacis.com/>
MAGLOCLN -
<http://www.iir.com/riss/magloclen/index.htm>
Military Connection.com -
<http://www.militaryconnection.com>
National Association of School Resource Officers -
<http://www.nasro.org>
National Drug Intelligence Center -
<http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/doj/ndic/index.html>
Office of National Drug Control Policy -
<http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/>
RISS Centers - <http://www.iir.com/riss/>
U.S. Department of Justice - <http://www.usdoj.gov>





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Jerry Dunn, Arizona Department of Corrections
Andy Eways, Maryland State Police
John Feeney, Federal Bureau of Prisons
Steve Garcia, Arizona Department of Corrections
Ken Lucas, Corrections Corporation of America
Steve Lucero, Colorado Department of Corrections
Frank "Paco" Marcell, Maricopa County (Arizona) Sheriff's Office
Robert Marquez, California Department of Corrections
Mike Micu, Montana Department of Corrections
Gabe Morales, King County (WA) Jail/International Latino Gang Investigators Association
Bryan Schwab, Corrections Corporations of America
Ramon Suarez, Corrections Corporation of America

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Arizona Gang Investigators Association
Colorado S.T.I.N.G.
International Latino Gang Investigator's Association



NICAH TLACUILLOPOL KANPOL
AXAYACA CE YE

XOZ NITL IHUAN CHIMALLI
TETECH XOZ NOCHIPA
MOCILOQUICHTLI

THE SPEAR
POINTING
DOWNWARD'S
SYMBOLIZES
UNTIL DEATH

THE SPEAR AND SHIELD
OF THE ETERNAL
WARRIOR.

FOREVER

THE SHIELD OF
THE ETERNAL
WARRIOR

THE SPEAR POINTING
UPWARD'S SIGNIFYS
FOREVER...

• • •
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EACH DOT IS ONE
THE TWO LINES ARE 10 - EACH ONE
IS 5
TOGETHER THEY MAKE - 13

EZTLI MEXICA
SANGRE AZTECA

UNTIL DEATH

