

NEW JERSEY REGIONAL OPERATIONS INTELLIGENCE CENTER



NJ Common Operating Picture

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Prepared by the NJ ROIC Analysis Element, Threat Analysis Program

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Tactics, Techniques, & Procedures

MS-13 Using Gaming Consoles to Conduct Business

(U//FOUO) MS-13 members use features on gaming consoles to direct operational activities.

(U//FOUO) As of June 2010, MS-13 members in Los Angeles have directed operational activities of new MS-13 members in Birmingham, United Kingdom, using gaming consoles such as Sony Playstation and Microsoft Xbox 360. The MS-13 leaders appear to be taking advantage of the devices' voice over internet protocol (VOIP), text chat, virtual world, and video conferencing features, which allow them to communicate with fellow gang members overseas.¹

(U//FOUO) MS-13 members may have used this communications tactic to order at least one murder - possibly part of a new member initiation - as well as the murder of a possible witness, by new gang members.²

(U//LES) The NJ ROIC has previously reported on illicit activities facilitated by gaming consoles. The July 8, 2009, edition of the NJ Common Operating Picture reported that street, prison, and outlaw motorcycle gang members were increasingly using gaming consoles to communicate covertly, recruit members, conduct criminal activity, and minimize detection by law enforcement authorities.³ The May 3, 2006, edition of the Daily Bulletin reported that an adult male in New Jersey used Xbox to communicate with a minor female, lure her across state lines, and persuade her to perform sexual acts. A similar incident occurred in California.⁴

General Knowledge

National Crime Threat Assessment 2009

(U) Criminal activity committed by certain groups, listed at right, pose a high threat to the financial stability of the United States, as it causes substantial direct and indirect economic harm to U.S. consumers, businesses, communities, and institutions.⁵

¹ FBI Intelligence Information Report, "Use of Gaming Consoles to Conduct MS-13 Operations in Birmingham, United Kingdom, from Los Angeles, California, June 2010," 9/13/10

² Ibid.

³ NJ ROIC, Analysis Element, Threat Analysis Program, NJ Common Operating Picture, "Gangs Expand Their Exploitation of Technology," AE200907-571, 7/8/09

⁴ NJ ROIC, Intelligence Center Unit, Daily Bulletin, "Sexual Predators Use Xbox Live to Lure Victims," 5/3/06

⁵ FBI, Directorate of Intelligence and Criminal Investigative Division, Intelligence Threat Study, "National Crime Threat Assessment 2009," 9/2/10

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(U) Gang-related violence presents the most substantial threat to public safety, but most of the criminal actors target the U.S. financial sector to perpetrate highly sophisticated fraud schemes. Some schemes have the potential to disrupt U.S. and global economies and markets, as well as undermine the viability and operations of financial institutions and government programs.⁶

(U) Some organized crime groups and gangs increasingly are willing to collaborate across racial or ethnic lines to expand criminal operations, exercise control over new territories, and recruit new members with specialized skills. Most groups increasingly form transient groups, collaborate strategically with other criminal organizations, outsource key functions, and divide roles and responsibilities as necessary to plan, execute, and boost revenue from sophisticated crime schemes, expand their territories, and improve operating efficiency.⁷

(U) Many criminal groups and actors pursue specialized training in law, police tactics, technology, business, and languages to fill operational knowledge gaps, permit covert communication, employ sophisticated countermeasures, and to plan, evaluate, and adapt their techniques to further criminal objectives. In addition, many gangs, organized crime groups, financial criminals, and corrupt actors many quickly adopt new technologies that pose challenges to traditional law enforcement investigative techniques.⁸

The report evaluates the threat that the myriad of criminal organizations listed below pose to U.S. critical infrastructure, financial stability, public safety, and public confidence:

- African Criminal Enterprises
- Asian Criminal Enterprises
- Balkan Organized Crime
- Bank Failure Fraud
- Child Prostitution
- Corporate Fraud
- Corruption of Public Officials
- Eurasian Organized Crime
- Financial Institution Fraud
- Fraud against the Government
- Health Care Fraud
- Human Trafficking
- Insurance Fraud
- Italian Organized Crime
- La Cosa Nostra
- Mass-Marketing Fraud
- Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations
- Middle Eastern Criminal Enterprises
- Money Laundering
- Mortgage Fraud
- Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
- Pharmaceutical Fraud
- Prison Gangs
- Street Gangs

⁶ FBI, Directorate of Intelligence and Criminal Investigative Division, Intelligence Threat Study, "National Crime Threat Assessment 2009," 9/2/10

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.