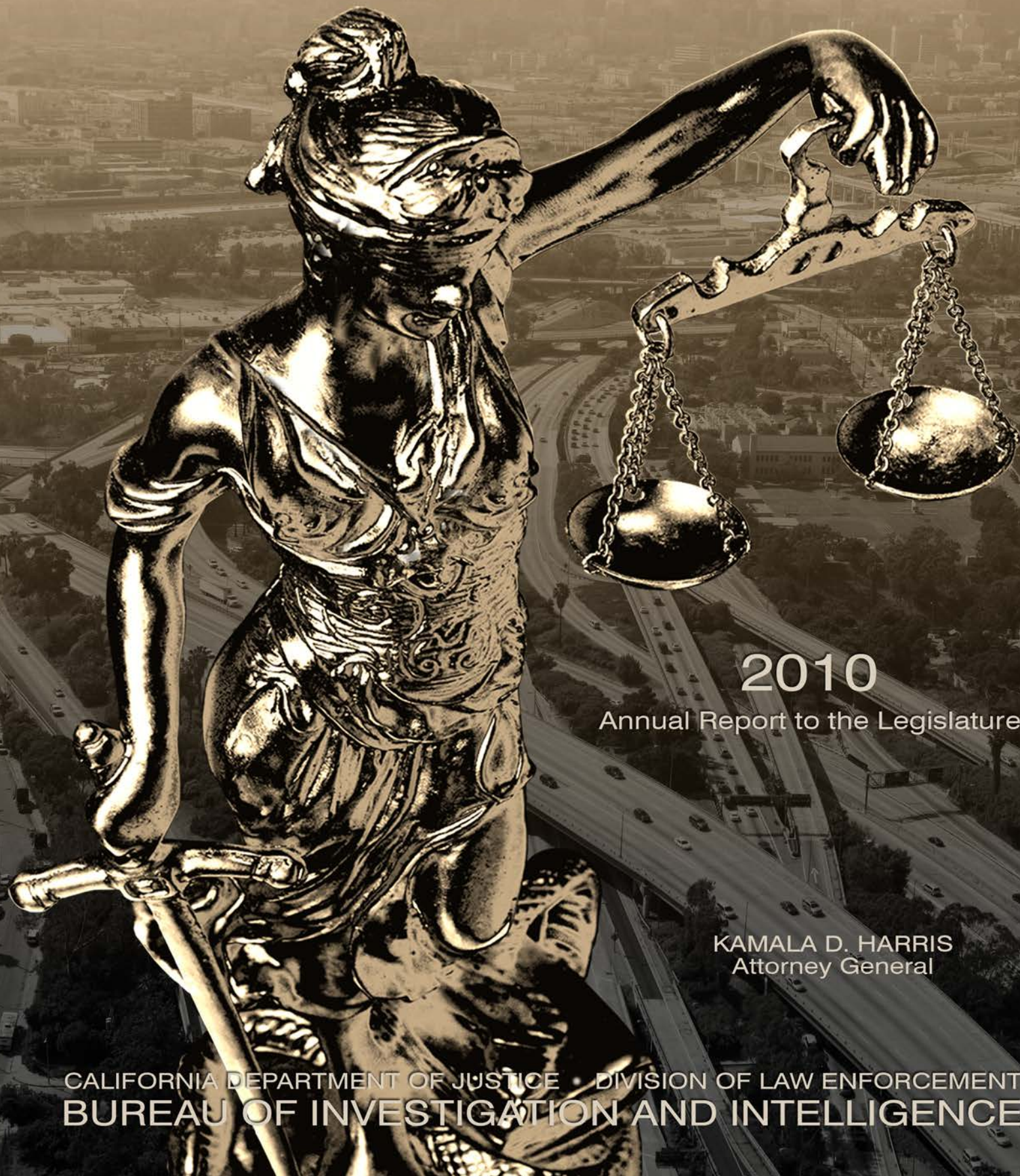


ORGANIZED CRIME IN CALIFORNIA



2010

Annual Report to the Legislature

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Organized criminals continue to proliferate in membership and expand their criminal capabilities. For instance, they continue to improve their use of technology for communications, counter-intelligence, command and control, recruitment, and planning. Cell phones alone have provided prison gang members unprecedented ability to direct street-level criminal activities from the confines of state correctional institutions. Criminal anarchists use Google Maps with real-time data feeds to monitor police at major events and direct diversionary disturbances to lure officials away from primary objectives.

Terrorist threats remain substantial, particularly as international terrorist groups shift strategy to more frequent, smaller attacks against soft targets. Radicalization represents another significant dimension to the overall terrorist threat. With heavy recruitment efforts by international terrorist groups and sympathizers aimed at instigating individuals with violent cause, the threat of an individual or small-cell domestic terror attack grows stronger every day.

Recent and ongoing law enforcement budget cuts threaten the sustainability of concerted successes in crime reduction. It is not clear if or when law enforcement budgets will ever be fully restored. The state faces serious public safety challenges as resources dwindle and organized crime and terrorist strengths rise.

The *2010 Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the California Legislature* is a response to the mandate of California Government Code section 15028. The report summarizes the major criminal activities and crimes attributed to gang members, organized crime groups, criminal extremists, and international and domestic terrorist organizations. Despite the challenges of this ever-evolving criminal threat, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) remains at the forefront in the fight against these major crime groups.

GANGS

Gangs operate in cities of all sizes throughout California and are responsible for much of the crime in our state.

This *2010 Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the California Legislature* focuses on the following three areas of gang activity in California: criminal street gangs, prison gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs.

Criminal street gangs operate in all but a few of the communities of the state. Prison gangs not only attempt to rule California's correctional institution inmate populations, but also control vast criminal activities outside the prisons. Consequently, the lines can be blurred at times whether to attribute certain gang-related crimes to prison gang members or street gang members.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) and their affiliate support clubs are also heavily involved in criminal activity. OMGs are known to engage in extortion, narcotics trafficking, weapons trafficking, assault, murder, rape, theft, witness intimidation, money laundering, racketeering, mortgage fraud, and identity theft. California's most prominent OMGs are the Hells Angels, Vagos, and Mongols. Recent California OMG activities suggest these highly rivalrous motorcycle clubs' criminal activities are on the rise.

CRIMINAL STREET GANGS

Criminal street gang is defined by Penal Code section 186.22(f) as:

Any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having one of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts enumerated in paragraphs (1) to (25), inclusive, of subdivision (e), having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.

The CalGang database, a state-funded criminal intelligence database, is designed to collect, store, and disseminate information on criminal street gangs. The system, which targets members and associates of criminal street gangs, operates pursuant to the United States Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), title 28, part 23 (28 CFR 23), ad seq. as a criminal intelligence system.

The following table provides statistics on California's gangs and gang membership derived from the CalGang database. Although these statistics may not be a true representation of the number of gangs and gang membership because not all law enforcement agencies in California contribute information to the CalGang system, it is the best source of information currently available and is bound by the requirements and protections outlined in 28 CFR 23.

CalGang Database Statistics

	TOTAL GANG MEMBERS*	TOTAL GANGS	HISPANIC	BLACK	WHITE	ASIAN	PACIFIC ISLANDER	UN-DESIGNATED RACE
STATEWIDE	235,579	6,442	156,652	46,277	18,502	6,131	1,381	6,636
ALAMEDA	7,600	248	5,260	1,082	866	172	79	141
BUTTE	1,032	77	545	33	363	26	0	65
CALAVERAS	6	2	1	0	2	0	0	3
COLUSA	36	12	30	1	4	0	0	1
CONTRA COSTA	2,052	120	1,270	311	352	20	8	91
EL DORADO	260	48	142	11	93	4	1	9
FRESNO	12,650	397	9,552	1,139	1,129	577	12	241
GLENN	3	2	2	0	1	0	0	0
HUMBOLDT	116	32	40	6	43	10	0	17
IMPERIAL	13	4	1	0	7	0	0	5
INYO	23	13	13	4	4	0	0	2
KERN	6,740	206	4,264	1,564	852	25	3	32
KINGS	39	19	36	0	3	0	0	0
LAKE	216	48	138	4	58	3	0	13
LASSEN	35	12	16	0	11	0	0	8
LOS ANGELES	94,020	1,264	53,419	27,689	3,405	1,740	566	7,201
MADERA	1,019	116	821	48	121	6	0	23
MARIN	364	66	215	53	74	6	3	13
MARIPOSA	11	8	6	2	3	0	0	0
MENDOCINO	270	29	169	6	48	1	2	44
MERCED	2,268	139	1,887	98	126	74	1	82
MODOC	13	9	3	0	8	0	0	2
MONTEREY	3,401	96	3,145	62	87	13	11	83
NAPA	807	53	636	13	99	3	4	52
NEVADA	238	74	131	13	81	5	0	8
ORANGE	15,076	715	12,105	406	1,234	838	85	408
PLACER	968	79	650	33	235	7	1	42
RIVERSIDE	20,008	1,668	13,260	3,726	2,526	106	42	348
SACRAMENTO	5,513	719	3,064	1,230	665	349	18	187
SAN BENITO	7	4	7	0	0	0	0	0
SAN BERNARDINO	18,131	1,436	11,387	4,261	2,068	176	45	194

Continued

	TOTAL GANG MEMBERS*	TOTAL GANGS	HISPANIC	BLACK	WHITE	ASIAN	PACIFIC ISLANDER	UN-DESIGNATED RACE
SAN DIEGO	7,706	154	4,623	1,793	244	505	258	283
SAN FRANCISCO	465	79	145	274	21	6	5	14
SAN JOAQUIN	2,487	188	1,643	182	149	478	7	28
SAN LUIS OBISPO	612	33	455	5	112	0	3	37
SAN MATEO	1,700	149	1,333	105	130	22	55	55
SANTA BARBARA	2,892	77	2,488	87	204	9	5	99
SANTA CLARA	8,834	258	7,559	163	392	379	95	246
SANTA CRUZ	828	57	725	6	70	2	0	25
SHASTA	266	87	148	9	87	6	2	14
SISKIYOU	102	27	59	4	36	1	0	2
SOLANO	1,159	77	853	120	97	3	3	83
SONOMA	3,413	160	2,265	134	690	92	10	222
STANISLAUS	4,882	148	3,623	140	764	185	16	154
SUTTER	712	51	479	31	148	27	1	26
TEHAMA	210	38	148	3	51	0	1	7
TULARE	1,920	120	1,685	21	76	64	4	70
TUOLUMNE	8	6	6	0	2	0	0	0
VENTURA	2,403	113	2,135	55	122	8	7	76
YOLO	259	42	183	18	34	11	0	13
YUBA	609	60	323	29	176	57	4	20

*Due to the mobile nature of gang members, a gang member may be entered into the CalGang system by more than one law enforcement agency; therefore, the statewide number of gang members and gangs in the CalGang system may be less than the totals reported by each county. In addition, there are seven counties (Alpine, Amador, Del Norte, Mono, Plumas, Sierra, and Trinity) that have no gang members in the CalGang system.

HISPANIC STREET GANGS

Hispanic street gangs can be traced back to the early 1920s when teenage Hispanic males grouped together for neighborhood or barrio social affairs. These groups quickly bonded for personal or neighborhood protection. Before long, they were engaged in criminal activities such as burglary, strong-arm robbery, and vandalism using weapons such as knives, chains, clubs, rocks, bottles, and zip guns.

In 1942, some 38th Street gang members were charged in Los Angeles with the murder of a Mexican national. Dubbed the “Sleepy Lagoon Case,” the criminal charges effectively united the Mexican American community. When the charges were ultimately dismissed for insufficient evidence following a two-year appeal, the alleged assailants were treated as heroes within the Hispanic community.

In June 1943, heightening tensions between United States servicemen and “zoot suitors” or “pachucos” (persons exhibiting gang style dress of the day) in East Los Angeles broke out into the so-called “Zoot Suit Riots.” The violence lasted several days, with more than 500 Mexican American youths charged with rioting and vagrancy. The Los Angeles city officials cited youth gangs as the reason behind the violence. This, too, had the unintended consequence of fortifying the bonds of the young members of the Mexican American community.

During the 1950s and 1960s, as Hispanic street gang members cycled in and out of prisons, the Hispanic street gangs began uniting as sets under three main gangs: Norteños, Sureños, and Fresno Bulldogs. The Norteños claimed the north; Sureños, the south; and the Fresno Bulldogs claimed central California. Most Hispanic gangs, however, fell under the Norteño or Sureño umbrella.

During the 1980s and 1990s, high demand for narcotics led to an increase in narcotics trafficking among Hispanic street gangs. Narcotics trafficking ultimately became their primary source of income, giving rise to violence and criminal activity, particularly throughout urban areas. Additionally, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13), one of the most prevalent gangs today with presence in numerous countries around the world, was formed during this period. MS-13, a Sureño gang, was founded in Los Angeles by Salvadoran immigrants looking for protection from other Hispanic gangs in the community. The gang is known for its violent criminal activity and ability to expand worldwide.

Violence continued during the early 2000s. A Florencia 13 (F13) street gang “shot caller” (leader) reportedly ordered his Los Angeles area turf “cleansed” of African American gang members, particularly East Coast Crips. By the time this Sureño rampage was over there were 80 shootings in this Florence Firestone neighborhood, 20 of which were homicides.

Salinas, one of the communities most affected by Hispanic street gang violence, had a record of 29 homicides in 2009, making Salinas the fourth highest city in state for homicides per capita that year. While homicides declined in the early part of 2009, the summer months had brought a wave of gang violence that left six dead in the span of a month. By the end of 2010, Salinas’ gang-related homicides decreased to 15.

While the majority of Hispanic street gangs consist of Hispanic males, some street gangs will accept other races. Hispanic street gang members’ ages can range from as young as 11 to the 40s. The older gang members, or Original Gangsters (OGs), who are still active tend to be the leaders. Although most of the gang members are male, females do have a presence. If not actual members, they can be associates who provide support to male members. Females are also involved in facilitating gang activity such as posting graffiti, passing information, providing housing, and transporting narcotics and weapons.

Respect and reputation are vitally important traits among Hispanic street gang members. Oftentimes respect is gained through committing acts of violence, which enhances the reputation of the gang and its members. If a member feels he or his gang has been disrespected, whether the disrespect is real or perceived, the member may violently react to sustain the gang’s reputation.

The most common weapons used among Hispanic gangs are handguns, AK-47 assault rifles, sawed-off shotguns, knives, and impact weapons. Unconventional weapons such as edged

weapons, brass knuckles, billy clubs, crowbars, pipes and other blunt objects, bats, golf clubs, and screwdrivers are also used. Weapons are often concealed on the person or hidden in places such as the center console of vehicles. Weapons are also stored at places not immediately accessible to law enforcement authorities, such as the homes of individuals on non-searchable probation or parole.

Hispanic street gang crimes have remained relatively the same over the years, with the most common being drive-by shootings, assaults, weapons possession, shooting into an inhabited dwelling, and narcotic offenses. Law enforcement authorities and rival gang members are often targets of Hispanic street gangs. Hispanic street gang members have also victimized many innocent people within their communities.

The most common method of communication used by Hispanic gang members is the cell phone for both talk and text capabilities. Oftentimes gang members use multiple phones in which some are discarded after use to avoid tracking by law enforcement authorities. The cell phone provides easy communication for social affairs, day-to-day business, and other gang-related activities. The Internet has also become a popular forum for gangs. Social websites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, and YouTube provide street gang members with the ability to promote their gang lifestyle through videos of assaults on rivals, photos of firearms and narcotics, and other gang-related paraphernalia. These websites also allow street gang members to recruit and disrespect rival gang members. All of this online activity is referred to as “net banging.”

Norteños

Norteños, also known as “Northerners,” are a set of Hispanic street gangs mostly affiliated with Nuestra Familia (NF), a prison gang formed in the 1960s. Norteño sets (cliques) that follow NF are usually under the guidance and influence of an NF general or leader. The Norteños are a significant component to NF and commit most criminal activities on NF’s behalf. Presently, Norteño sets are found in most cities located north of Bakersfield and have a nominal presence in southern California. Delano in Kern County is commonly referred to as the separation point between Norteño and Sureño gang territories. Some of the most notable areas of Norteño activity are Sacramento, Salinas, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Stockton.

Norteño street gangs are relatively unorganized. There is no common structure between the various Norteño sets aside from each having a leader or shot caller. The primary rivals of Norteños are the Sureños. However, Norteño sets will dispute with one another over reputation or certain criminal enterprises. Allies include other Norteño sets and can include past enemies for purposes of criminal gain. According to law enforcement authorities, there have been recent connections between some Norteño and Blood (African American) street gang members for the purpose of narcotic sales and combating turf issues with the Sureños.

The most common identifiers used by the Norteños are colors, tattoos, and graffiti. They associate with the color red, which is often displayed in their clothing. Some members will wear sports apparel with the color red and the letter “N” representing Norteños. These gang members are also known to tattoo themselves with Norteño references such as their set or clique name: Norte, Norteño, Northerner, four dots, “N,” “14,” “XIV,” “X4,” the Huelga bird, and a machete and sombrero. Many of these symbols and references are also displayed in Norteño graffiti. The

“14,” an important aspect in the Norteño sets, represents the fourteenth letter of the alphabet. Many gangs add the number 14 to the name of their set so they are identified as a Norteño gang. Additionally, some Norteño members refer to one another as “Ene,” Spanish for the letter “N.” This practice is similar to the Sureño tradition of referring to one another as “Ese,” Spanish for the letter “S.”

Sureños

Sureños, also known as “Southerners,” are a set of Hispanic street gangs whose members are mostly affiliated with the Mexican Mafia (EME), a prison gang formed in the late 1950s. The EME controls an estimated 50,000 to 75,000 Sureños and associates who conduct much of their criminal activity on behalf of the EME. The EME principally communicates with a Sureño set’s shot caller or OG. The shot caller or OG directs the set members or associates to collect taxes (monies collected on all the gang’s profits) on behalf of the EME.

The Sureños’ primary rival is the Norteños. However, Sureño sets will also dispute with one another. Sureños’ allies include other Sureño sets.

The Sureños and the EME have partnered with some of the most active Mexican drug-trafficking organizations (DTOs) trafficking narcotics in this country. In some southern California cities, law enforcement authorities have noticed local rival gangs working narcotics trafficking together for financial gain.

MS-13, 18th Street, and Florencia 13 are notable Sureño gangs whose membership primarily consists of undocumented Hispanic immigrants who are well known for their violent criminal behavior. According to the *2009 National Gang Threat Assessment* released by the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC), MS-13 has an international membership of 30,000 to 50,000; 18th Street has an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 members in Los Angeles, and Florencia 13 has approximately 3,000 members in Los Angeles. Larger Sureño sets generally have an organized chain of command with an OG who directs day-to-day business. Smaller sets are less structured but will have a shot caller or leader.

The most common identifiers used among Sureños are colors, tattoos, and graffiti. They associate with the color blue, which is frequently displayed in their clothing. Tattoos often seen on Sureño members include their set or clique name: Sur, Sureño, Southerner, three dots, and various forms of the number 13, such as X3, XIII, and the Aztec symbol for 13 (two horizontal bars with three dots above in a horizontal line). The number 13 represents the thirteenth letter of the alphabet and also signifies loyalty to the EME. Many of these symbols and references are also seen in Sureños graffiti.

Fresno Bulldogs

Fresno Bulldogs, also known as Bulldogs, “Fresno 14” (F-14), and “Fresno Car,” are located in central California. In the early 1980s, they were united with the Norteños, the NF, and, for a brief time, incarcerated Bulldogs were protected by Sureños in correctional institutions. The Bulldogs have long since maintained independence of any prison or street gang. Both the Norteños and Sureños unsuccessfully attempted to control the Bulldogs, creating rivalrous tensions with these gangs. Bulldogs primarily ally with other Bulldog sets. Recently, some Bulldogs have been

associating with NF for trafficking narcotics. The Bulldogs' principal income is from trafficking methamphetamine, marijuana, and heroin.

According to the NGIC 2009 *National Gang Threat Assessment*, the Fresno Bulldog membership is estimated at 5,000 to 6,000, making them the largest Hispanic gang in central California. The Bulldogs identify themselves with the color red and the Fresno State Bulldog emblem. Bulldog tattoos and graffiti include their set name or clique: "Fresno," "F 14," "F-14," "BDS" for Bulldogs, "FBD" for Fresno Bulldogs, and the numbers "624" representing the sixth, second, and fourth letters of the alphabet. Bulldogs will also display tattoos of a bulldog, the bulldog face, and the bulldog paw. Another Fresno Bulldog characteristic is barking. Bulldog members will bark to each other or at rival gang members.

Operation Crimson Tide

June 2010

This Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement investigation in Yuba and Sacramento counties resulted in the arrest of 34 street gang members and associates, the seizure of \$19,635 in cash, 32 weapons, 38 pounds of methamphetamine, 1 pound of marijuana, 6 marijuana plants, 87 Oxycontin pills, 40 Vicodin pills, and the recovery of a stolen minivan.

Hispanic Street Gangs Significant Events

- In July 2010, ten alleged gang members from the Conejo Valley Locos, a violent Hispanic street gang, were indicted in Thousand Oaks for beating a 22-year-old man. The suspects were captured on video beating the victim with a tire iron. The victim attempted to run away but the assailants caught up with him and continued the attack.
- In August and September 2010, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) targeted the West Park Sureños gang as part of ICE's ongoing anti-gang initiative Operation Community Shield. Eleven males and one female Mexican national were arrested during the two-month investigation.
- In December 2010, six Hispanic males were shot in a suspected gang-related South San Francisco area attack that left three dead and three wounded. The attack occurred at a location that had been the scene of homicides earlier in the year. The victims would not cooperate with the law enforcement investigation.

Hispanic Street Gangs Analysis and Trends

The increase in violence among Hispanic gangs has continued, especially as young gang members are compelled to act more boldly to attain notoriety. Young gang members are now known to walk up to their victims to get a better "kill shot," as well as shooting at law enforcement authorities. Hispanic gang members are also more apt to shoot rivals on sight with very little provocation.

Hispanic gangs continually seek to increase their numbers by recruiting new members from the younger generation. Most of these younger gang members are extremely active, committing a variety of crimes in furtherance of their gang. And, when convicted as juvenile or first time adult offenders, they often serve less time.

Hispanic gang members are becoming more creative criminals. Their evolving tactics pose a significant threat to law enforcement authorities. For instance, Hispanic gang members will wear excessive amounts of lotion, cream, or other lubricants on their hands, wrists, and arms in order to better evade authorities.

Hispanic gangs continue to migrate throughout the state to conduct criminal activities. Law enforcement authorities have seen an increase in Sureño gang members migrating from the Los Angeles area to cities such as Salinas, Bakersfield, and Sacramento where they seek to victimize Norteño gangs. These rivalries naturally result in increased violence.

Because narcotics trafficking is a lucrative business for criminal street gangs, the use of extended networks is imperative. Hispanic gangs, Sureños in particular, have aligned with Mexican DTOs to bolster their market. Competition for control of narcotics markets is another root cause of increased violence among these groups.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STREET GANGS

African American street gangs have existed in California for over 85 years. Originally referred to as clubs, these groups were juvenile in nature. Mainly composed of family and neighborhood friends, the early African American clubs were unorganized, non-territorial, and rarely violent.

From the 1940s to the 1960s, additional African American clubs began to appear in response to racial tensions. During this time, law enforcement started identifying the clubs as gangs.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, California's two most violent African American street gangs arose, the Crips and the Bloods. The Crips formed in the east side of South Central Los Angeles and quickly became well known for their ruthless violence. The Bloods formed in Compton around the Piru Street area, as many gangs did, to protect themselves from the Crips.

During the 1980s the sets within African American street gangs varied in size from few members to several hundred, ranging in age from 14 to 24. While they had yet to develop an organized leadership during this time, the gangs became increasingly violent and motivated to protect their neighborhood from rival gang members. They began using colors, monikers, hand signs, and graffiti as basic trademarks unique to the gang. For example, the color blue was adopted by the Crips and the Bloods adopted the color red. Monikers were often a reflection of the gang members' criminal abilities, graffiti identified the gangs, and hand signs conveyed symbols generally representing the gang's name.

Common criminal activities during this period included assaults, burglaries, drive-by shootings, robberies, and narcotics trafficking. The increasing availability of crack cocaine was a major contributing factor to the expansion of African American gangs during this era. The Los Angeles area gang problem soon became a problem for several law enforcement agencies in California and around the country. According to a Western States Information Network (WSIN) publication, there were approximately 15,000 African American gang members by the late 1980s in Los Angeles County alone. However, the presence of the Crips and Bloods was soon evident throughout Oregon, Washington, Texas, Hawaii, and Alaska.

By the 1990s older gang members, or OGs, began recruiting and training new and younger gang members. This resulted in new second and third generation gang members. While most gangs

remained unstructured, a few started becoming more organized, and some began forming alliances with gangs of other ethnicities. A number of African American gang members also started concealing gang affiliation, abandoning the display of gang colors in attire. During the early 2000s, law enforcement officials witnessed African American street gang members increasingly committing home invasion robberies. Officials believe incarcerated African American street gang members learned this technique from other gang members while together in correctional settings.

The majority of African American street gang sets currently operate under the umbrella of Crips or Bloods, with members ranging in age from 10 to 40 years old. Most sets still lack organized leadership. While most African American street gangs throughout California consist of black males, in some cities and counties these gangs may also consist of Caucasian, Hispanic, or Asian members.

African American street gangs' criminal activities include armed robberies, home invasions, burglaries, assaults, drive-by shootings, narcotics trafficking, carjacking, white collar crimes, murders, rapes, and pimping and pandering.

African American street gang members' principal weaponry includes a variety of handguns. Law enforcement authorities in various cities are reporting increased possession of assault weapons by African American street gang members. African American street gang members have also been known to wear bulletproof vests.

According to law enforcement authorities in a number of counties, African American street gangs remain extremely violent. In December 2010, two men entered a south Sacramento barbershop and opened fire on two men getting haircuts. The men returned fire, and the gun battle quickly moved into the parking lot where an innocent 30-year-old woman was shot dead as she was putting her 2-year-old son into a vehicle. This gun battle, which involved validated African American street gang members, left two dead and five wounded.

The wives and girlfriends of African American street gang members will transport narcotics and weapons and even prostitute themselves in support of the gang members. Pimping and pandering is now thought to be the second largest source of income for some African American street gangs. Female victims can be pimped repeatedly, earning \$500 to \$1,000 a night. In April 2010, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge issued an injunction prohibiting 35 prostitutes and five pimps, most of whom had street gang connections, from entering a particular area for ten years.

African American street gangs continue to use common non-verbal gang communications such as graffiti, hand signs, symbols, colors, and tattoos to challenge, intimidate, and recruit individuals. African American street gangs' use of colors to represent their gang is still common, especially at large gatherings such as funerals or parties. However, gang members dress more subtly in the general public, incorporating their gang colors in belts, shoe laces, hats, or sports attire meant to represent their gang.

Additionally, while it remains common for gang members to have tattoos representing their gang membership, some gang members have incorporated unique ways in which to thwart gang membership recognition by law enforcement. All these methods continue to evolve.

African American street gang members also engage in “net banging,” using the Internet extensively for communications. Websites such as YouTube, Twitter, MySpace, and Facebook allow gang members to glorify the gang lifestyle, recruit new members, and intimidate or disrespect rival gangs.

African American Street Gangs Significant Events

- In May 2010, one member of Broke Niggas Thieven (BNT), an African American street gang in the San Francisco area, was convicted of first-degree murder and robbery. Other BNT members and associates await trials relating to three different murders. According to sources, there are 77 witnesses to these three murders.
- In June 2010, the Alameda County Superior Court ordered an injunction to restrict the gang activity of the North Side Oakland street gang. The city attorney stated the gang had been involved in multiple shootings, murders, and gun possession since 2007 and have “terrorized our community, intimidated witnesses and recruited children to their criminal enterprise.”
- In August 2010, dozens of alleged Pueblo Bishop Blood gang members were arrested and indicted on federal racketeering charges for murder, drug dealing, and assaults. The two-year investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Los Angeles Police Department, and other law enforcement agencies resulted in 19 persons arrested on federal charges and ten on state narcotics charges. Others named in the indictment were either already in custody or are currently believed to be fugitives.
- In November 2010, a United States district court judge sentenced a leader of the Santana Block Crips street gang for conspiracy to manufacture and distribute large quantities of the drug phencyclidine (PCP). The conspirators reportedly produced hundreds of gallons of PCP at various locations in South Los Angeles and San Bernardino County, including a house purchased through a straw buyer solely for the purpose of manufacturing PCP.

African American Street Gangs Analysis and Trends

African American street gang membership continues to grow in many localities, creating a potential for increased gang violence. Criminal acts committed by African American street gangs are becoming more brazen, some occurring in public locations.

As African American street gangs spread into more suburban areas they are able to recruit younger members. Younger gang members can be very dangerous because they can be eager to prove themselves by committing a variety of crimes on behalf of their gang. And, when convicted as a juvenile or first-time adult offender, they often serve less time.

As use of the Internet and social networking websites such as YouTube, Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter continues to grow, African American street gang members can reach individuals they may have never communicated with previously. Gang members’ use of the Internet can also incite conflicts with rivals or intimidate witnesses.

As African American street gang members are arrested and prosecuted, the gangs practice “counter-intelligence” by studying the enforcement and criminal justice tactics employed and

devising new strategies to avoid or beat the criminal justice system. These ongoing changes in tactics and methods of operations create a serious challenge for law enforcement.

WHITE STREET GANGS

Many of today's white criminal organizations or gangs can be categorized into prison gangs, white supremacist/hate groups, or criminal street organizations. White prison gangs, like the Aryan Brotherhood (AB) and Nazi Low Riders (NLR), control the white prison population, and the California prison inmates will segregate themselves by race in the institutions. White power skinheads like American Front, Volksfront, Hammerskins, Public Enemy Number One (PENI), Sacramaniacs, and Peckerwoods also emerged from hate ideology. White criminal street organizations such as the Family Affiliated Irish Mafia (FAIM), Contra Costa County Boyz, Fresnecks, Highly Insane Criminals, Humboldt County Gangsters, and Crazy White Boyz are loosely organized and do not all have racist ideologies.

These white street groups may align themselves with the white prison groups while incarcerated, but they will associate with other races outside of the prison system. Although hierarchy and organization is more apparent in the institutions during incarceration, the AB still has a high influence of authority over the white gang population on the streets. Founded in the 1960s, the AB endeavors to be the major influence of all white gangs inside and outside the prison. During periods of incarceration in the prison system, white gangs follow implicit AB instructions. AB's control extends outside beyond the prisons. Certain groups like the PENI are used for the enforcement of street politics while the FAIM is used for criminal enterprise operations outside prison walls.

The white gangs in California and across the nation are mainly composed of skinheads. Not all white gangs are considered racist and some remain explicitly anti-racist. Today's white gangs in California and across the nation consist of white males from the ages of 12 to 27 years old.

Law enforcement officials report rising levels of criminal activity by the white gangs, including credit card theft, fraudulent checks, vehicle theft, home invasion robberies, aggravated assault, and murder.

White gang members tend to dress similarly, almost emulating California Hispanic gang member dress. White gang members will wear sleeveless t-shirts, long shorts, and pocket chains. White power tattoos incorporate significant numbers, phrases, and symbols that identify with Nazi beliefs such as swastikas and lightning bolts. White pride groups can be identified with their "laces and braces" (shoe laces and suspenders). White gangs are commonly involved in weapons violations, property and narcotic crimes, as well as racially motivated violence. These groups are extremely vocal about supporting and protecting the white race and are rarely involved in turf-related crimes.

The skinhead movement started in the late 1960s in England. Initially, skinheads were mostly working class youths and came from varied social backgrounds. They shaved their heads to avoid their hair being caught in the factory machinery and wore steel-toed boots to protect their feet. By the late 1970s, the British National Front, a neo-Nazi group, helped fund and promote the skinhead bands and their music for recruiting new members. It was at this time the skinheads were officially recognized as a "hate group" due to the violent hate-filled lyrics in their music.

Migrating to the United States, skinheads came to the attention of California law enforcement in the late 1980s when skinhead members were becoming foot soldiers to the Aryan Nations, National Alliance, White Aryan Resistance, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and other established homegrown white supremacist groups. The skinhead groups embraced and espoused pro-Nazi ideology and led the movement to commit racially motivated hate crimes ranging from vandalism to murder. Throughout the 1990s, the California Department of Justice had identified 16 distinct skinhead groups active in California with a membership of 300.

Since 2005, according to law enforcement authorities and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), most sections of the country, including California, have seen a significant resurgence of racist skinhead activity. This renewed growth included a rise in the membership and associations of organized racist skinhead groups, as well as a rise in the number of “independent” or unaffiliated skinheads. This growth also included a rise in the amount of skinhead-related criminal activity. Incidents and hate crimes ranging from vandalism to more serious crimes, like homicides, were on the rise.

In 2010, recruitment was reported to have been heavily active and increasing within the white gangs. The DOJ, ADL, and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) estimate there are approximately 100 white gangs within the state with loose membership and associations of approximately 15,000. In addition, these agencies estimate that there are more than 65 extremist white power groups with hardcore membership and associations between 8,000 and 10,000.

The skinheads heavily use the Internet. “RadioWhite,” an online white power Internet radio station, has allowed music of the white power movement to become a global phenomenon.

Social networking websites are also a prevalent means of communicating within the skinhead subculture. These websites have created an increased risk of exposure and attraction to the white supremacist propaganda. Alienated white youth find a welcome reception online among white supremacist groups eager for new recruits. International white supremacist websites, such as Stormfront, provide communication among skinheads and white nationalists around the world.

Skinbyrds or Chelseas, the female skinhead associates, are extremely active in light of the high rate of incarcerations of the male skinhead members. They tend day-to-day drug trafficking and communications for various skinhead groups. The Skinbyrds also hide weapons and contraband for male associates on probation or parole. The Skinbyrds, who may claim a certain membership affiliation, may also cross over to assist other white gangs.

White Street Gangs Significant Events

- In January 2010, two PENI members were sentenced to death for first-degree murder with special circumstances, murder in the commission of kidnapping, lying in wait, murder of a witness, and committing a crime benefiting a street gang. The teenaged victim was reportedly suspected by PENI members to be providing law enforcement information about their activities.
- In March 2010, a high-ranking member of the Sacramaniacs pled guilty to drug charges in a federal court. He was arrested in his home with 1/4 pound of methamphetamine and

two firearms. The member is considered a “council member” of the Sacramaniacs, with known ties to the AB.

- In July 2010, six Fresneck gang members were arrested following a series of home invasion robberies. Four warrants were also issued for outstanding subjects on multiple charges of assault with deadly weapons, robbery, and kidnapping.
- In July 2010, a FAIM member stabbed to death a San Quentin State Prison inmate in what investigators reported as a hit in retaliation for the vehicular killing of a 9-year-old girl by the victim. Prosecutors allege the killing was premeditated given the fact that he had fashioned a prison-made weapon, known as a bone crusher, made from a piece of steel from his bed.
- In December 2010, a multi-agency investigation coined Operation Stormfront resulted in the arrests of 34 members and associates of various white gangs, including PENI, AB, NLR, La Mirada Punks, West Coast Costa Mesa Skins, and the Orange County Skins. Local, state, and federal charges were filed on various parole and probation violations, extortion, criminal fraud, illegal firearms possessions, narcotic sales, conspiracy, and solicitation to aggravated assault and murder.

White Street Gangs Analysis and Trends

Dramatic growth of membership and associations of the skinhead movement is anticipated to continue. The growing memberships and influence within the correctional facilities suggest an increased public safety threat by white gang members.

Skinhead criminal activity continues to rise with the group’s day-to-day operations successfully managed by the Skinbyrds. With many of the male members incarcerated, the Skinbyrds are expected to provide income to the gangs. It is important to recognize these female associates can be just as dangerous as the male white gang members.

ASIAN STREET GANGS

Asian street gangs began emerging in the 1970s when thousands of Asian refugees fled to the United States to escape communist control at the end of the Vietnam War. These immigrants came from countries such as Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines. There were three waves of Asian immigrants, which brought over a million refugees into the United States. As a result, major counties in California including San Francisco, Santa Clara, Sacramento, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego quickly became populated by communities of Asian immigrants. Members of these cultures began forming gangs to protect themselves against threats and discrimination by other gangs and became commonly referred to as Southeast Asian street gangs.

During the early 1980s, the various Southeast Asian street gangs were generally organized by nationality. However, by 1989 Vietnamese street gangs were accepting Cambodians, Chinese, Laotians, and Hmongs as members. The Southeast Asian street gangs grew in number and power and became notorious for their residential robberies. By the 1990s, the Southeast Asian street gangs’ criminal activities expanded to computer chip and computer parts thefts. During the

1990s, the Southeast Asian street gangs began accepting non-Asian members including Caucasians, African Americans, and Hispanics. Vietnamese street gangs continued to rob and burglarize homes, and Cambodian street gangs feuded with Hispanic gangs over territory and revenue.

Southeast Asian street gangs now represent the third largest group of active gang members in the state. Members' ages range from 8 to 30 and a few of the gangs accept females. The primary Southeast Asian street gangs in California today include the Tiny Rascal Gang (TRG), Asian Boyz (ABZ), Menace of Destruction, Asian Crips, Loc Town Crips, and Vietnamese Boys. Other gangs such as the Wah Ching, Hop Sing Tong, and Crazy Town Crips are active in northern California. Although smaller in size, these gangs are just as violent. The TRG and ABZ are the two largest and most active Southeast Asian street gangs in California. While these gangs are based in northern California, they are also criminally active in southern California.

Southeast Asian street gang members commit crimes such as homicides, felony assaults, robberies, auto thefts, narcotics trafficking, gambling, pimping and pandering, vandalism, fire bombing, rape, financial crimes, burglaries, and gun sales. Southeast Asian street gangs also steal and strip vehicles, and they are notorious for home invasions, theft, and extortion. Southeast Asian street gangs criminally target Asian-owned businesses and others within their community. Oftentimes many crimes go unreported because victims fear retaliation from the gangs.

Southeast Asian street gangs' main source of income is narcotics trafficking. Some gangs are known for producing, transporting, and distributing methamphetamine, ecstasy, and marijuana.

Southeast Asian street gang members are known to be armed with handguns, rifles, shotguns, knives, and other assault weapons. Many Southeast Asian gang members are extremely proficient in handling these weapons and are now using the Internet to discover new tactics. Law enforcement authorities report a vast number of Southeast Asian street gang-related drive-by shootings, car-to-car shootings, and assaults against rival Hispanic and other Southeast Asian street gang members.

Southeast Asian street gang members use cell phones for voice communication, text messaging, emailing, and recording videos. Additionally, they use social networking websites such as MySpace, Facebook, and YouTube to send- and receive photos and videos to promote their gang, and they use websites to recruit new members and intimidate rival gangs. Southeast Asian street gang members will speak in their native language in the presence of law enforcement authorities to impede communication efforts.

Tiny Rascal Gang

The TRG is the most recognized Southeast Asian street gang in southern California. The gang began in Long Beach and originated among Cambodian refugees. According to the Long Beach Police Department, there are over 1,000 TRG members in California. TRG members adopted traditional street gang characteristics by observing local Hispanic gangs, but an initiation process was not required for gang membership. However, influences of traditional street gangs have inspired a "walk in" or "jump in" process. "Walking in" is the first step of joining the gang, where the prospective member must commit a crime such as stealing a car, shooting an enemy, or invading a home. At this point the prospective member is then "jumped in" or assaulted by

fellow gang members. Law enforcement authorities have reported seeing members of the TRG and other Asian gangs penalized for leaving the gang, therefore employing a “jumping out” process.

Most TRG members associate with the colors gray and black. Some northern California members wear red, gray, and black. Tattoos, hand signs, and graffiti are other ways that members display association with the gang. Members also represent gang affiliation using the letters “TRG” or other symbols such as dragons, tigers, and snakes.

Although female membership is minimal, females can join the gang. They are referred to as Lady Rascal gang members and provide support to male members. Lady Rascals are known to fight females associated with rival gangs and assist male members with home invasion robberies and drive-by shootings. Female members will also commit petty theft and assault.

TRG members align themselves with other gangs that have similar gang cultures such as the Original Asian Gang, Crazy Brother Clan, and Wah Ching. Their rivals include the Vietnamese Boyz, ABZ, and most Hispanic gangs.

Gang Takedown

November 2010

The Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement and numerous local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies simultaneously served 23 search warrants throughout Solano, Alameda, Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties in the takedown of the notoriously violent Insane Viet Thugs (IVT) street gang.

Authorities arrested 26 street gang members and associates, including the leader of the IVT. Authorities also seized \$200,000 in cash, 13 weapons, 22 vehicles, 2,000 marijuana plants, and gram quantities of methamphetamine, MDMA, heroin, and cocaine.

Asian Boyz

The ABZ is one of the largest and most deadly Southeast Asian street gangs. The gang originated in Long Beach and is extremely active in Van Nuys, Rosemead, Garden Grove, and Westminster. Members of the ABZ are predominantly Vietnamese and Cambodian males, and their rivals include the Wah Ching, TRG, and most Hispanic gangs. However, the ABZ is known to align with some Norteño gangs, Vietnamese Boyz, and Loc Town Crips. ABZ members associate with the color blue and may wear the Oakland A’s hat to represent the “A” in Asian Boyz. ABZ members display tattoos including dragons, tigers, snakes, and the numbers 1, 2, and 26 to represent the letters “ABZ.”

Asian Street Gangs Significant Events

- In January 2010, TRG members in a dispute with a tagging crew shot into a crowd of innocent bystanders at a Tustin party, killing a 16-year-old boy. Six people were arrested for the shooting.
- In August 2010, in Stockton, a 14-year-old boy was beaten, kicked, and stomped to death by seven Crazy Town Crips members while “jumping out” the victim from the gang. Seven suspects were arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

Asian Street Gangs Analysis and Trends

Southeast Asian street gang crime has reportedly increased in the last year. Authorities also report increases in violent gang confrontations involving numerous shootings between rival Southeast Asian street gangs.

Law enforcement officials report Southeast Asian street gangs are becoming more structured, and new members are significantly younger and extremely violent.

Southeast Asian street gangs are reportedly accepting members of all ethnicities to increase their memberships.

PRISON GANGS

The CDCR recognizes seven prison gangs throughout California institutions. The designated prison gangs are: the Aryan Brotherhood (AB), Black Guerrilla Family (BGF), Mexican Mafia (EME), Nazi Low Riders (NLR), Northern Structure/Nuestra Raza (NS/NR), Nuestra Familia (NF), and Texas Syndicate (TS). The CDCR defines a prison gang as any gang which originated and has its roots within the CDCR or any other custodial system.

The EME is a Hispanic prison gang. It is the oldest prison gang within the CDCR, originating in the late 1950s at the Deuel Vocational Institution (DVI). It is one of the largest, most violent, and most notorious of all prison gangs. During the 1960s, the EME controlled criminal activities within the DVI including prostitution, gambling, tobacco trading, and heroin trafficking. As their need for power and financial gain increased, so did their membership. By the late 1960s, the EME had become the dominant prison gang in California. In an effort to curb their criminal activities, the CDCR transferred many members to other institutions throughout the state. Today, their criminal enterprise extends beyond CDCR institutions.

Today the EME is one of the most widespread prison gangs in California. While actual membership is relatively low, the EME's strength stems from its use and control of extensive criminal networks. Members and associates are involved in extortion, money laundering, murder, assault, and the manufacture and distribution of narcotics such as methamphetamine and heroin. Many Sureño sets are controlled by the EME. The EME also works with Mexican DTOs such as the Arellano Felix Organization. Sureño "foot soldiers" and associates traffic narcotics and transport money at the EME's behest to provide a vast EME-arranged distribution network for the methamphetamine produced by the cartels in Mexico.

The EME also taxes the criminal profits of the Sureños. They use this tax money to purchase weapons, narcotics, and legitimate businesses and use female associates to launder money and deposit cleansed profits into inmate trust accounts. Females play an extensive role for the EME, collecting profits, holding and selling weapons and narcotics, and coordinating day-to-day business.

Transfer of EME member inmates to other states has allowed influential EME members and associates to export gang activity to other areas. Inmate transfers have contributed to the nationwide growth of California prison gangs.

The AB is a white prison gang that originated in San Quentin State Prison in 1967. Some of the original members migrated from a 1950s gang known as the Blue Birds. The racially motivated gang originally formed for self-protection from African American and Hispanic gangs. During the 1980s, the AB sought financial gain and increased its power and wealth through criminal activities such as murder, assault, threats, witness intimidation, and narcotics manufacturing and trafficking.

The NF is a Hispanic prison gang that originated in Soledad State Prison during the mid-1960s. The CDCR did not recognize the NF as a prison gang until 1979. NF membership consists of mainly Hispanic gang members from northern California. At inception, these gang members aligned in an effort to protect themselves from the EME. As their numbers increased, the NF became organized with a formal, centralized leadership structure operating under a constitution.

The NS gang, sometimes referred to as the NR, is a splinter group that was formed in 1984 at Folsom State Prison. This gang was established to divert law enforcement's attention away from the NF. Narcotics trafficking is the gang's primary criminal activity, followed by robberies, assaults, and murder.

The BGF is the only African American prison gang within the CDCR. The BGF originated in San Quentin State Prison in 1966 and formed in an effort to consolidate all African American inmates into one structured force. The BGF is considered to be more political than other California prison gangs, and it was established with some of the political and revolutionary influences of the Black Panther Party. Foundational BGF goals include the eradicating of racism, maintaining dignity during imprisonment, and overthrowing the United States government.

Operation Knockout

April 2010

Centered in Salinas, this major Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement investigation concluded with the arrests of 93 street gang members and associates and the seizures of \$70,000 in cash, 28 weapons, 20 kilograms of cocaine, 8 pounds of methamphetamine, 16 pounds of marijuana, and 32 marijuana plants.

The NLR is another white prison gang within the CDCR, originating during the 1970s inside a California Youth Authority facility. NLR members associate with other white gangs such as the Peckerwoods, PENI, FAIM, and the AB. During the early part of the NLR's existence, most members aspired to join the AB's membership. However, during 2005 to 2006, the NLR established its own identity. NLR members also operate outside the prison institutions and engage in criminal activities including extortion, narcotic sales and manufacturing, assault, and murder.

Established for self-protection from other prison gangs, the TS gang was created in San Quentin State Prison in 1973. By the mid 1970s, other prison gangs recognized the TS for its ability to traffic contraband within the prison system. During the 1980s, the gang divided into two factions due to internal strife. One faction aligned with the EME, the other with the NF. Today only a handful of TS members remain.

Prison gangs are responsible for much of the crime committed in California communities. They are highly sophisticated, extremely organized, and use many connections to attain power and financial gain. Despite incarceration, prison gang members direct a variety of illegal activities

inside and outside the institutional settings including weapons and narcotics trafficking, assaults, and murder.

Prison gang members frequently communicate with coded messages, small notes known as “kites” or “wilas.” These codes or messages are passed through mail and telephone conversations, and during inmate transfers and visitation. Prison gang members will also hold meetings on the exercise yard, leave messages in books in the law libraries, and use hand signals to pass messages to other incarcerated members.

Inmates are increasingly using cell phones to direct criminal activities. The CDCR reports it confiscated 261 cell phones in 2006, 2,629 in 2008, and 6,995 in 2009. Small cell phones can be easily passed to inmates. The CDCR has documented cell phone usage in planning escapes, ordering hits, and coordinating contraband trafficking. Cell phones circumvent the monitored inmate telephone systems, impeding proactive investigative and crime prevention efforts.

Correctional authorities also report inmates have recorded riots and uploaded them to YouTube as a way of glamorizing their gang activity. The use of social networking sites allows prison gang members to recruit as well as conduct gang activity.

Disruptive Groups

In addition to prison gangs, the CDCR also recognizes disruptive groups. Disruptive groups include precursor gangs that may become prison gangs, street gangs, revolutionary groups, motorcycle gangs, and terrorist groups or affiliates. The CDCR defines a disruptive group as any gang, other than a prison gang operating in the correctional setting.

The Northern Ryders/Riders (NR), 415 Kumi Nation, FAIM, Crips, and Bloods are examples of disruptive groups in California prisons. The NR poses the greatest threat to the California public due to its rapidly growing membership and potential for violence. In fact, the NR is such a highly developing threat that the CDCR is evaluating whether to reclassify the NR as a prison gang.

The NR formed in the DVI in 2000. Many members are individuals who dropped out of, or are no longer associated with the NF. The NR distinguishes itself from other dropout gangs in that it is extremely organized. Yet the NR does not have a ranking structure or chain of command. Membership inside and outside the prisons has significantly increased, and members engage in criminal activity including car theft, firearms trafficking, narcotics trafficking, intimidation, and extortion.

In December 2009, five NR members assaulted a fellow inmate at the Monterey County Jail. In September 2010, the Monterey County district attorney attained a precedent-setting conviction of the five with enhancements for assault in the furtherance of the gang’s influence. A deputy district attorney stated that the gang admissions by the defendants paved the way for future prosecutions of NR members with street gang enhancements.

Prison Gangs Significant Events

- In April 2010, a 17-month multi-agency investigation spearheaded by the Ontario Police Department resulted in the arrest of 52 members of street gangs with ties to the EME. More than 60 federal indictments were issued for murder, attempted murder, firearms and

narcotics trafficking, and smuggling narcotics into prison. Authorities seized four firearms, 7 1/2 pounds of methamphetamine, and \$68,000 in cash.

- In August 2010, 40 NF prison gang members and associates were arrested in Visalia at the culmination of a joint Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) and Visalia Police Department investigation dubbed “Operation Street Sweeper.” Authorities seized guns and narcotics, including marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine worth approximately \$15,000.
- In November 2010, two Folsom State Prison inmates escaped from a minimum-security work detail. The CDCR reports a contraband cell phone was used to arrange for their pick up.

Prison Gangs Analysis and Trends

The EME will continue to control street gangs and partner with Mexican DTOs and continue to expand its criminal activities throughout California and beyond. As the EME expands its territory, violent competition with criminal rivals for lucrative drug markets can be anticipated.

As prisoners are shipped out of state, influential prison gang members will continue to spread their criminal activities to those facilities. California prison gang members will continue to manipulate, train, and recruit out-of-state gang members while out-of-state correctional staff are relatively inexperienced in combating the structure and organization of California prison gangs.

Cell phone usage in prisons is a significant safety threat to correctional staff and the community. Cell phones facilitate the conduct of illegal business by providing incarcerated prison gang members the ability to make phone calls, text, access the Internet (particularly social networking sites), and email.

OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

Outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs) have been in existence since the late 1940s. Returning World War II veterans formed motorcycle clubs as a way of adjusting to post-war life. Although members sought adventure, they also engaged in criminal activity. As they continued to become more organized, the United States Department of Justice validated the groups as OMGs. Both the United States Department of Justice and the California DOJ define OMGs as organizations whose members use their motorcycle clubs as conduits for criminal enterprises. OMGs are highly structured criminal organizations whose members engage in criminal activities such as violent crime, weapons trafficking, and drug trafficking.

OMGs are highly organized with a well-defined chain of command, and the club president and other ranking members often wear patches displaying their status in the club. (Retired members hold the lowest position in the organization.) Colors and logos worn by OMG members have a unique association with a particular club. The club patch includes the name, emblem, and county where the OMG chapter was established. Other items that identify specific clubs include articles of clothing, flags, signs, stickers, and banners.

OMG members engage in many organized events such as bike runs, toy runs, parties, rallies, and concerts. These events are often coordinated with the use of cell phones and through Internet social networking websites such as Facebook and MySpace.

The role of females in OMGs can vary. They are often associates but will also form their own support clubs, sometimes known as puppet clubs. Support clubs, made up of either men or women, provide assistance to the OMG. Females are often responsible for holding weapons and drugs, especially during bike runs. They are viewed as “property” to the club and “shared” with all the members. Females are referred to as “old ladies” within the biker community.

According to California law enforcement authorities, OMGs are most notoriously involved in narcotics trafficking. OMGs also engage in criminal activities including homicide, rape, witness intimidation, assault, money laundering, racketeering, mortgage fraud, identity theft, and weapons trafficking. Methamphetamine and marijuana are the most common narcotics trafficked. The support clubs aid the OMGs in their criminal activities and are often themselves associated with organizations or businesses such as motorcycle shops. OMGs also establish alliances with criminal street and prison gangs; they use street gangs to buy or traffic drugs and weapons. Many OMG members are armed with weapons purchased illegally through the Internet from gun traffickers, or through “straw” purchases where a third party makes the buy with OMG money.

OMGs often conduct counter surveillance on law enforcement authorities and will attempt to corrupt police officials to gain intelligence on law enforcement or rival gang members. The members display direct violence to law enforcement authorities to show loyalty to the club and will use weapons and explosives. The most prominent OMGs in California are the Hells Angels, Vagos, and Mongols motorcycle clubs.

Hells Angels

The largest OMG, the Hells Angels, also known as Big Red Machine, Red and White, or 81, was formed in 1948 in San Bernardino after splitting from the Pissed Off Bastards of Bloomington, the original outlaw motorcycle club. The Hells Angels adopted its name from the World War II 303rd Bomber Squadron. In 1958, Sonny Barger assumed leadership and established the Hells Angels headquarters, also referred to as the mother chapter, in Oakland. The Hells Angels soon expanded across the United States and throughout the world, with the first international chapter opening in New Zealand in 1961.

The Hells Angels logo was originally designed with a red and white female silhouette, halo, and wings outlined in white. It was eventually replaced with the “deathhead,” insignia, the current official insignia. Most Hells Angels members identify with the colors red and white displayed on a three-piece patch. They also display the numbers 8 and 1 representing letters “H” and “A,” on their jackets or integrated into a tattoo.

The Hells Angels are known for their involvement in toy runs, and while these events are typically charitable functions, they have also been associated with criminal activity. In an effort to avoid law enforcement authorities, the Hells Angels have begun to ride in fewer groups, avoiding the freeways. Support clubs are used for methamphetamine production and marijuana

cultivation as well as membership recruitment purposes. Law enforcement has reported an increase in membership in the state among young white males as the older members are retiring.

The Hells Angels and the Mongols have engaged in an ongoing rivalry for years. Tension has recently increased as the Mongols have expanded in California. The Vagos have also expanded their membership and have recently opened chapters in areas already established by the Hells Angels, increasing the rivalry between these two clubs as well.

Vagos

The Vagos, also known as Green Nation or Green Machine, were formed in San Bernardino in 1965, evolving from the Psycho Motorcycle Club of Corona. They identify with the number 22 which represents “V,” the twenty-second letter in the alphabet. The Vagos also have members residing in Hawaii, Nevada, and Oregon, and have established chapters in Mexico. Unlike the Hells Angels, the Vagos typically do not participate in public charitable events, focusing more on parties and bike runs. They are not as organized as the Hells Angels, but are successful due to their fierce intimidation and violence. During 2010, law enforcement authorities increased surveillance on the Vagos as part of Operation Green Day. The operation resulted in multiple arrests and inflicted serious, albeit temporary, setbacks to the Vagos’ criminal capabilities.

Mongols

The Mongols were established in 1969 in Montebello. Hispanic Vietnam veterans formed the club after they were refused Hells Angels membership due to their ethnicity. In the first five years, the Mongols established chapters in Los Angeles, San Diego, Bakersfield, Long Beach, and the San Gabriel and San Fernando valleys. The Mongols name originated from the Mongol Empire, and the club emblem is a representation of Genghis Khan, the founder of the empire. The club is associated with the colors black and white. Like the Vagos, the Mongols focus primarily on parties and bike runs, rather than organized events.

In 2008, Operation Black Rain, a multi-jurisdictional investigation, targeted the Mongols. The operation resulted in more than 70 arrests. Many Mongols were charged with racketeering. Mongols members continue to serve prison time but as they are released, they are attempting to rebuild the gang with the help of Hispanic street gangs.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs Significant Events

- In January 2010, a Hells Angels member assaulted a Vagos member in Santa Cruz. The assault was suspected to be in response to the Vagos establishing a new chapter in the same area.
- In May 2010, a Vagos prospect was fatally stabbed in Kern County during a fight between Vagos and Hells Angels members. A high-ranking Vagos member was also stabbed, but survived. Four Hells Angels members are under investigation for the attack, including one member who, according to outside sources, allegedly fled to Oregon.
- In September 2010, during a search of a Hells Angels member’s residence, investigators learned that the OMG was receiving confidential law enforcement information from a Santa Clara police officer. The officer was arrested in October 2010. As of December 28,

2010, the officer is facing federal criminal charges for allegedly supplying confidential information to a Hells Angels member.

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs Analysis and Trends

Rivalrous tensions between the Hells Angels and Vagos, and between the Hells Angels and Mongols, are anticipated to continue, creating a significant threat to the safety of law enforcement officers and the public. The threat posed by the Hells Angeles and Vagos rivalry is particularly poignant. The Vagos have attempted to establish chapters in two areas that the Hells Angels are known to frequent. In both instances, the Hells Angels have run the Vagos out.

All three OMGs use the Internet. The OMGs announce upcoming events such as parties and bike runs on their websites, resulting in increased participation by support club members. Social networking websites display event photographs.

Rival OMG attendance at the same parties, motorcycle conventions, and bike runs can pose an immediate threat of violence at otherwise safe events.

OMG investigators generally believe that OMG criminal activity has increased over the last five years. Investigators believe this trend will continue, signifying a growing threat to law enforcement officers and the public.

ORGANIZED CRIME

The California Department of Justice's focus on organized crime is defined in California's Government Code section 15026 as follows:

It is the intent of the Legislature that the department focus its investigative and prosecutive endeavors with regard to organized crime in controlling crime which is of a conspiratorial and organized nature and which seeks to supply illegal goods and services such as narcotics, prostitution, loan sharking, gambling, and other forms of vice to the public or seeks to conduct continuing activities, a substantial portion of which are illegal, through planning and coordination of individual efforts. The department shall also investigate and prosecute organized criminal violations involving intrusion into legitimate business activities by the use of illegitimate methods, including, but not limited to, monopolization, terrorism, extortion, and tax evasion.

This broad definition encompasses a number of groups and various illegal activities. Organized crime groups operate a variety of criminal enterprises within California that inflict significant financial losses to the state. These groups are remarkably adept at a range of fraudulent schemes producing substantial profits. Organized crime groups remain active in narcotics trafficking, murder, and kidnapping, and they remain notably violent, particularly along the state's southern border. This report, the *2010 Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the California Legislature*, focuses on Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) and Eurasian organized crime groups.

The quest for great financial gain has strengthened the criminal relationships among organized crime groups and criminal street gangs. Mexican DTOs and Eurasian organized crime groups have been linked with certain criminal street gangs and other organized criminal enterprises.

These fraudulent activities penetrate all aspects of society, from welfare and Medi-Cal fraud to insurance and tax fraud to narcotics trafficking and kidnapping. This criminal collaboration poses a huge challenge to law enforcement and is a significant threat to public safety.

MEXICAN DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS

Organized crime in Mexico has a long history dating back to the nineteenth century when outlaw gangs operated in northern Mexico with limited power. In the 1970s, Mexican organized crime groups increased their involvement in the manufacturing and trafficking of narcotics across the United States/Mexico border as the demand for cocaine in the United States rose. During the late 1980s, the role of Mexico-based narcotics traffickers expanded significantly when United States enforcement efforts targeting Colombian narcotics shipping routes increased in south Florida and the Caribbean. This prompted Colombian organizations to form partnerships with Mexican-based traffickers. Mexico serves as the model transit point for cocaine produced in South America because it is strategically positioned between the source and the consumer nations.

During the 1980s, Mexican DTOs began to form and evolve into the powerful organizations they are today. Throughout the 1990s, Mexico continued to serve as a key transit point for United States bound cocaine, as well as the source for other types of narcotics. Mexican DTOs proved to be a significant crime problem in Mexico and demonstrated the ability to corrupt high-ranking officials in key positions. The Mexican government was prompted to action in 1998, launching an initiative to combat narcotics-related corruption, crime, and violence. Current Mexican President Felipe Calderon has significantly increased the pressure on Mexican DTOs and has made targeting organized crime in Mexico one of the principle agenda items of his presidency since he took office in December 2006. President Calderon's strategy involves the deployment of the military to restore law and order, expansion of law enforcement operations, and the formation of international partnerships against organized crime.

Narcotics Related Crimes

Today, a handful of Mexican DTOs and their extended criminal organizations dominate the drug trade, generating tens of billions of dollars annually from the trafficking of illicit drugs and its related activities. Mexican DTOs are the primary illicit drug producers, traffickers, and distributors of narcotics in the state, and they constitute the greatest organizational drug threat. These organizations produce large quantities of marijuana and methamphetamine in the state and frequently move wholesale quantities of ice methamphetamine, marijuana, powder cocaine, and black tar heroin from Mexico into California. They primarily focus on wholesale-level illicit drug sales, supplying smaller criminal organizations for distribution at the mid and retail level. Mexican DTOs continue to expand their presence and strength in the United States by increasing their cooperation with criminal street gangs and prison gangs.

Mexican DTOs smuggle illicit drugs into the state primarily in private or commercial vehicles through one of the California/Mexico ports of entry. Mexican DTOs also use other methods of smuggling narcotics into California including hand-carry, ultra-light aircraft, and boats. Narcotics from Mexico are often staged in California and then moved to other locations across the United States along established distribution points. Underground cross-border tunnels are being used by Mexican DTOs with increasing frequency. Some of these tunnels are highly

sophisticated with built-in ventilation and rail systems and are often used in narcotics and alien smuggling operations.

Mexican DTOs have increased their cultivation operations in the United States. California produces more marijuana from outdoor grow locations than any other state in the nation. Domestic cultivation operations are often large-scale and involve illegal immigrants. Many of the marijuana cultivation sites are on public land, are heavily guarded, and have a strong potential for violent encounters involving the public or law enforcement authorities. Several incidents of violence occurred in 2010 on and around California marijuana cultivation sites including six officer-involved shootings.

Mexico is the primary source of methamphetamine consumed in California and the country. Most of the Mexico-produced methamphetamine available in the United States is trafficked by Mexican DTOs. In 2007, the Mexican government placed restrictions on imports of the methamphetamine precursor chemicals ephedrine and pseudoephedrine. This caused an increase in the production of methamphetamine in the United States, as users and distributors attempted to augment the reduced foreign supply. Methamphetamine production in Mexico has since resumed because Mexican DTOs have changed their operating procedures by altering their production methods, obtaining precursor chemicals from alternate sources such as China and India, and importing non-restricted chemicals. Methamphetamine production in the United States has remained constant despite the resurgence of methamphetamine production in Mexico. In 2009, 13 of the 14 methamphetamine “super labs” capable of producing ten or more pounds of product in one production cycle were seized in California.

One of the largest methamphetamine seizures recorded in the United States occurred in California. On August 19, 2010, state, local, and federal law enforcement officers seized approximately 475 pounds of crystal methamphetamine and cocaine from a residence in Gilroy. The Gilroy residence served as a large-scale methamphetamine production and distribution hub for California’s Central Valley, as well as illegal drug operations throughout the United States. Seven Mexican nationals with ties to a Mexican DTO were arrested as part of the operation.

Violence

Mexican enforcement operations combined with increased competition among rival Mexican DTOs have caused significant increases of violence in Mexico. Mexican officials announced that 34,612 people died as a result of narcotics-related violence in Mexico between December 2006 and January 2011. The United States concern over violence in Mexico has increased over the last year as a result of several high-profile incidents, most notably the murders of an American consulate worker and her husband and the detonation of a vehicle-borne explosive device in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Rivalries between organizations and competition for smuggling routes have caused many Mexican DTOs to employ trained assassins. The paid assassins, known as “sicarios,” act as part of the enforcement arm for the organizations. The use of women and children as assassins is an emerging trend among Mexican DTOs. This tactic has proven effective for Mexican DTOs because women and children are usually presumed innocent and non-threatening by assassination targets. On December 2, 2010, the Mexican army arrested a California born 14-

year-old suspected of working as an assassin for the Cartel Pacifico Sur (CPS), a faction of the Beltran Leyva Organization. The boy is alleged to have carried out at least four executions, including several decapitations in Mexico. He told reporters that he has worked for the organization since he was 11 years old and had carried out his crimes because he was drugged and under threat from the organization.

Non-Narcotics Related Crimes

Despite unprecedented levels of violence in Mexico, no significant increase in crime in the United States has been evidenced. However, communities in California and along other parts of the southwest border have seen localized upticks in violence. Mexican DTOs conduct a myriad of non-narcotics related activities including alien smuggling, kidnapping, firearms trafficking, bulk cash smuggling, murder, and robbery. Some of these activities are an attempt to supplement the revenue losses caused by narcotics enforcement efforts on both sides of the border.

The southwest border is the primary entry point used by alien smuggling organizations or undocumented aliens from Mexico, Central America, and South America. Alien smuggling organizations generate millions of dollars per year, and Mexican DTOs have increased their involvement in this crime, taking advantage of its revenue generating potential. Typically, these alien smuggling organizations pay Mexican DTOs a fee to use their smuggling routes along the border. Illegal aliens often smuggle narcotics across the border or work at illegal narcotics operations in the United States for Mexican DTOs as payment or partial payment for their smuggling fee.

Mexican DTOs typically smuggle narcotics and aliens into the United States from Mexico, sending the proceeds from these illicit activities back to Mexico. It is estimated that between \$19 billion and \$29 billion USD in illegal proceeds are transferred from the United States to Mexico each year. The most common method is bulk cash smuggling. Mexican DTOs smuggle large amounts of bulk cash drug proceeds from the United States through the southwest border into Mexico. The bulk cash is typically consolidated in staging areas such as Los Angeles and San Diego and prepared for transport across the border. In addition to transferring money out of the United States, Mexican DTOs transfer large quantities of weapons, purchased in the United States, into Mexico. The government of Mexico has estimated that over 80 percent of all firearms seized and traced since 2006 originated in the United States.

The majority of Mexican DTO kidnappings are conducted as a form of drug retribution. Kidnappings are used by the organizations as retaliation for lost drug loads, debt collateral, and territory enforcement. American kidnapping victims often have a connection to drug trafficking entities, although in some cases the victims are innocent family members or relatives of those involved in smuggling or trafficking activities. Mexican DTOs have also increased their involvement in “for profit” kidnappings. Kidnappings frequently occur in connection to alien smuggling when smugglers demand more money for their services while en route to the United States. Many kidnappings go unreported by victims out of fear of retaliation against them or their families, or the potential for law enforcement authorities to discover their involvement in illegal activities.

Major Mexican DTOs

The seven major Mexican DTOs are the Arellano Felix Organization (AFO), Beltran Leyva Organization (BLO), Gulf cartel, La Familia Michoacán (LFM), Los Zetas, Sinaloa cartel, and Vicente Carrillo Fuentes Organization (VCFO). The DTOs maintain control over specific geographical regions in Mexico, which generally correspond to lucrative narcotics shipping routes. Most of these groups have been successful in establishing and sustaining criminal operations in California and across the United States.

The AFO is based in Tijuana, Mexico, and has controlled illicit drug routes into California for over 25 years. At one time, the AFO was considered one of the most powerful and violent DTOs in the world but it has weakened over the last eight years due to pressure from the Mexican government and the loss of its founding generation of leaders. The AFO has seen competition in Baja California from the Sinaloa cartel, which has been expanding its operations in the region.

The AFO has split into two competing factions. The mainline faction is headed by Luis Fernando Sanchez, aka “The Engineer,” the reported protégé of AFO founding leader Francisco Javier Arellano Felix. The competition faction had aligned with the Sinaloa cartel and was headed by Teodoro Garcia Simental, aka “El Teo,” prior to his arrest by Mexican authorities in January 2010. The arrest of Simental has severely weakened the faction and may cause the group to be reabsorbed by the mainline faction or the Sinaloa cartel. Although the AFO has weakened and split into competing factions, it remains the predominant organized crime entity in Baja California.

The AFO maintains a presence in California and has been successful in sustaining operations in the state. On July 23, 2010, the San Diego Cross Border Violence Task Force (CBVTF) obtained indictments against 43 individuals with ties to the Fernando Sanchez Organization (FSO) for state and federal crimes including murder, kidnapping, robbery, drug trafficking, and money laundering. The indictments were the result of a long-term investigation by the CBVTF called Operation Luz Verde, or Green Light. The indicted Mexican DTO associates were successful in setting up sophisticated operations in southern California, including the formation of partnerships with Hispanic gang members. The criminal complaint filed as a result of Operation Luz Verde also alleges that the former director of international liaison for the Baja California Attorney General’s Office was aware of the FSO’s illegal activities and used his position to obtain confidential law enforcement information for the FSO.

The BLO originally formed as part of the Sinaloa cartel. In 2008, the BLO became an independent organization under Arturo Beltran Leyva and aligned with Los Zetas. Since its split, the BLO began a heated feud with Joaquin Guzman Loera’s faction of the Sinaloa cartel. As a result, violence between the two groups has erupted in several Mexican states. The BLO quickly became one of Mexico’s most powerful DTOs, but it has weakened following the death of Arturo Beltran Leyva in December 2009. The organization has since split into competing factions, one of which has been named the CPS, which is headed by Hector Beltran Leyva. The other faction was headed by Edgar Valdez Villarreal, aka “La Barbie,” prior to his arrest by Mexican Federal Police in August 2010. The arrest is a major blow to this faction’s leadership and it remains unknown who, if anyone, will replace Villarreal. The BLO maintains a moderate operational presence in California.

The Gulf cartel is headquartered in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas and was once considered one of the most powerful DTOs in Mexico. This DTO has been weakened by Mexican law enforcement and military efforts following the start of President Calderon's offensive. At its peak, the Gulf cartel garnered a significant portion of its power from its former enforcement arm, Los Zetas. The Gulf cartel and Los Zetas split into independent organizations in February 2010 and have been feuding since. On November 5, 2010, Ezequiel Cardenas-Guillen, one of the Gulf cartel leaders, was killed during a shootout with Mexican marines on Mexico's northern border. Cardenas-Guillen was responsible for coordinating multi-ton shipments of marijuana and cocaine into the United States. The death of Cardenas-Guillen may present an opening for Los Zetas to attempt to take over the smuggling routes he previously controlled. The Gulf cartel maintains a limited presence in California.

The LFM is a violent DTO based in the southern Mexican state of Michoacán. The LFM has a strong religious background and was originally formed to protect local citizens against the violence of DTOs. The LFM controls a significant portion of the drug manufacturing and distribution in Michoacán and smuggles large quantities of marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine from Mexico into the United States. In early December 2010, Nazario Moreno-Gonzalez, a recognized LFM spiritual leader, was killed by Mexican federal police. The death of Moreno is a major blow to the LFM, which has weakened recently due to increased pressure by the Mexican government and the arrest of several high-ranking members. In one estimate, up to 65,000 farmers in Michoacán are involved in marijuana production, many of which work for the LFM. The LFM is very active in California, and its associates maintain a strong presence in marijuana cultivation sites in northern California.

Los Zetas formed in the late 1990s and served as the enforcement arm for the Gulf cartel. Los Zetas were originally made up of deserters from the Mexican Army's Special Forces Airmobile Group. The group quickly integrated itself into the drug trade and broke free from the Gulf cartel in February 2010. Under the leadership of Heriberto Lazcano Lazcano, Los Zetas have become one of the most violent and powerful Mexican DTOs.

Los Zetas have been feuding with the Gulf cartel since their split. A new alliance known as the New Federation (comprising the Gulf cartel, LFM, and Sinaloa cartel) was formed to oppose Los Zetas. The New Federation has temporarily gained the upper hand on Los Zetas as they have taken territory from the organization in Mexico in the states of Reynosa and Tamaulipas. Despite the loss of key areas, Los Zetas have remained strong and continue to expand by working with other organizations such as the CPS. The death of Gulf cartel leader Cardenas-Guillen may present an opportunity for Los Zetas to reclaim some of their territory taken by the New Federation. Los Zetas have a limited presence in California but are beginning to increase their influence in the state.

The Sinaloa cartel is a powerful confederation that controls the majority of Mexico's marijuana and methamphetamine production and distribution and is also heavily involved in the trafficking of cocaine from South and Central America into the United States across the southwest border. The organization originated out of the Mexican state of Sinaloa and conducts operations along the Pacific coast of Mexico. The Sinaloa cartel is an alignment of DTOs headed by Joaquin Guzman Loera, aka "El Chapo," and Ismael Zambada Garcia. The organization has a decentralized leadership structure and generates a steady revenue stream from its narcotics

related activities. As a result, arrests of high-ranking members have not weakened the organization or caused any infighting.

The Sinaloa cartel has adopted an aggressive expansion strategy, which has led to wars with other cartels. The organization has made significant inroads into the AFO's territory by setting up operations in Baja California. On October 18, 2010, in Tijuana Mexican authorities made one of the largest busts in their history, seizing approximately 105 tons of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$340 million USD. Police arrested 11 individuals believed to be associates of the Sinaloa cartel as a part of this seizure and confiscated multiple trailers and vehicles. Mexican authorities stated that local criminal gangs in Mexico were in the process of gathering the marijuana packages for distribution in the United States. Tijuana's proximity to California continues to make it a key staging point for the shipping of illicit drugs into the state.

The Sinaloa cartel has also established and sustained narcotics trafficking operations in California and throughout the United States. In February 2009, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration announced the results of a 21-month law enforcement investigation known as Operation Xcellerator, targeting Sinaloa cartel narcotics trafficking activities in the United States. To date, the operation has led to the arrest of 755 individuals and the seizure of roughly \$59.1 million USD, approximately 12,000 kilograms of cocaine, 16,000 pounds of marijuana, 12,000 pounds of methamphetamine, eight kilograms of heroin, 1.3 million ecstasy pills, 149 vehicles, three aircrafts, three maritime vessels, and 169 weapons.

The VCFO or the "Juarez Cartel" is based out of Ciudad Juarez and conducts a variety of narcotics crimes. The leader of the organization is Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, who took control in 1997 following the death of his brother and founder of the organization, Amado Carrillo Fuentes. The VCFO has seen heavy competition from the Sinaloa cartel for control of the lucrative smuggling routes in the region and has lost ground throughout the Mexican state of Chihuahua. In order to supplement some of its sustained losses, the VCFO has increased its involvement in other crimes such as extortion and kidnapping for ransom. The VCFO has managed to stay relevant in Ciudad Juarez through use of its enforcement arm, La Linea, and the organization's partnership with the local street gang Los Aztecas. The inter-cartel fighting in Chihuahua for the local drug market and smuggling routes has escalated, causing violence in the region to increase. Ciudad Juarez is the most violent city in Mexico and among the most violent in the world. The VCFO has a limited presence in California.

Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations Significant Events

- In March 2010, an American consulate worker and her husband were murdered in Ciudad Juarez. Several Barrio Azteca gang members have been arrested in connection with the killings.
- In April 2010, a man was shot in the chest by a marijuana grower after he came across a marijuana grow site in Mariposa County.
- In May 2010, the body of a 32-year-old Mexican national was found alongside a road in rural Tuolumne County. His hands and feet were bound and his body was wrapped in plastic. The man reportedly came from Cotija, Michoacán, to grow marijuana.

- In June 2010, a Mendocino County Sheriff's deputy's rear vehicle window was shot out as he drove away from a marijuana grow site near Ukiah.
- In June 2010, officers from a multi-agency drug task force were confronted by an armed suspect at a marijuana grow site near Lake Berryessa in Napa County. The individual was armed with a handgun and was shot and killed by officers.
- In July 2010, a Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED) exploded in Ciudad Juarez. The attack killed several police officers and first responders. This attack raised concerns that Mexican DTOs may be using domestic terrorism or insurgency tactics.
- In July 2010, Santa Clara and Alameda County Sheriff's deputies shot and killed a suspected marijuana grower at a marijuana grow site in Santa Clara County.
- In July 2010, a marijuana grower was shot and killed by a Mendocino County Sheriff's deputy after pointing a rifle at the deputy near a marijuana grow site in Mendocino County.
- In August 2010, a marijuana grower was shot and killed by Mendocino County Sheriff's deputies after pointing a rifle at the deputies during the execution of a search warrant at a marijuana grow site in Mendocino County.
- In August 2010, Lake County Sheriff's deputies and Bureau of Land Management agents were confronted by a man guarding a marijuana grow site in Lake County. The man leveled a rifle at the officers and was shot and killed.
- In August 2010, Mexican marines discovered the bodies of 72 immigrants from Central and South America who had been shot by narcotics traffickers in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas.
- In September 2010, a marijuana grower was shot after he leveled a rifle at local and federal officers executing a search warrant at a marijuana grow site in Kern County.
- In September 2010, an American tourist was shot while jet skiing on Falcon Lake, located on the Texas/Mexico border. Associates of Los Zetas are suspected to be responsible for the killing.
- In November 2010, the multi-agency San Diego Tunnel Task Force discovered a sophisticated 600-yard underground cross-border tunnel. The crawlspace-sized tunnel connected a warehouse in Otay Mesa with a similar building in Tijuana. The tunnel was equipped with rail, lighting, and ventilation systems. Seizures on both sides of the border have linked approximately 30 tons of marijuana to the tunnel.
- In November 2010, a sophisticated 2,200 foot underground cross-border tunnel linking Otay Mesa and Tijuana was discovered. The tunnel was equipped with lighting, ventilation, and a rail system. United States authorities believe the tunnel was created and actively operated by the Sinaloa cartel.

Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations Analysis and Trends

Violence in Mexico has reached an unprecedented level throughout the country. In 2010, the Mexican government made significant strides in the offensive against Mexican DTOs, arresting several high-ranking leaders and disrupting multiple organizations. These disruptions have had an adverse effect on the violence level, as they have further upset the balance of power among criminal organizations in Mexico.

The public safety concern over Mexican DTOs smuggling narcotics and undocumented aliens across the United States border is compounded by the threat that international terrorists could just as easily be smuggled into the country.

The tactics employed by Mexican DTOs are becoming increasingly violent. Mexican DTOs frequently employ trained assassins and often display severed heads or dismembered bodies in public places to intimidate Mexican law enforcement and the public. The use of the VBIED in Ciudad Juarez against first responders shows that the Mexican DTOs have adopted tactics previously used in insurgency operations.

Although narcotics-related violence in Mexico has not caused significant increases in violence in the United States, there have been localized spikes in violence in some areas, including several incidents in California, most notably the shooting deaths that occurred in 2010 near marijuana cultivation sites in the northern part of the state.

Mexican DTOs will continue to represent the greatest organized narcotics threat to California in the foreseeable future. Enforcement efforts in the United States have been amplified to counter this crime problem. The number of law enforcement personnel assigned to the southwest border has increased significantly.

Multi-agency United States law enforcement operations such as Luz Verde and Operation Xcellerator have proven to be highly effective in disrupting Mexican DTO narcotics and non-narcotics activity in California and across the United States. These focused and collaborative efforts are vital to combating this crime problem and eventually dismantling these powerful criminal organizations.

EURASIAN ORGANIZED CRIME

Eurasian Organized Crime (EOC) refers to organized crime groups originating from one of the 15 republics of the former Soviet Union. While some of these organized criminal groups originate from Russia, others are from regions in Central Asia (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan), the Caucasus (Georgia, Azerbaijan, Chechnya, and Dagestan), and the Ukraine. While the majority of Soviet immigrants coming to the United States in the past 40 years have been law abiding, a criminal population also emerged and constitutes the base of domestic EOC.

During the 1970s and 1980s, the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) reported thousands of Soviet émigrés fleeing to the United States to escape religious and political persecution. It was suspected that during this time the Russian Committee for State Security, or KGB, emptied their prisons of hard-core criminals, exporting them to the United States. In 1989, Congress enacted the Lautenberg Amendment, which allowed up to 50,000 refugees to enter the

United States each year. The last major wave of Soviet émigrés to the United States began as a result of eased travel restrictions after the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991.

During the 2000s, EOC criminal endeavors became increasingly sophisticated. EOC members continue to familiarize themselves with state and federal government healthcare processes, and they concentrate their criminal efforts on a wide variety of frauds. In the past, EOC schemes often involved large organized criminal syndicates, but smaller individualized groups have developed during the last decade.

Many Soviets who migrated to the United States settled in Brighton Beach, New York, which became the hub of EOC. Over the last few decades, EOC syndicates have spread to many metropolitan areas of California, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Washington. Currently, concentrated areas of EOC activity in the state include Burbank, Fresno, Glendale, the greater Los Angeles area, Sacramento, San Diego, and San Francisco.

EOC groups in the state are predominantly Armenian, Russian, and Ukrainian. Members are highly successful in adapting to a variety of criminal schemes. This, in large part, is due to their flexible structure, global connections, and desire for wealth and power. The most economically threatening crimes that EOC groups conduct in the state are healthcare and financial frauds. EOC groups also engage in criminal activities including firearms trafficking, auto theft, cargo theft, extortion, murder, prostitution, money laundering, drugs, insurance fraud, recycling fraud, smuggling, immigration fraud, and human trafficking.

EOC groups can adapt to changing circumstances almost instantly and shift to new criminal schemes as needed. It is not uncommon for EOC groups to shut down a criminal activity and move to different regions or change criminal activity altogether once law enforcement is alerted to them. This ability to react to circumstances and adapt makes EOC a continuing problem for law enforcement.

Unlike other organized crime groups, EOC is unique due to its extremely fluid structure. Levels of EOC organization and sophistication vary depending on the group. The most organized of the EOC groups are referred to as “Vory V Zakone” or “Thieves in Law,” which have been in existence for several decades. This structure of EOC typically has a boss, a hierarchical structure, and a chain of command. Other types of EOC criminal enterprises have loosely based criminal networks that form relationships for mutual benefit. These networks are venture specific and consist of individuals who possess certain positions or roles based on their knowledge, personal characteristics, or experience. Once the criminal enterprise is no longer profitable, the network disbands. At this point, the EOC criminals will move on to form new networks.

Healthcare fraud continues to be one of the most prevalent EOC crimes. Members establish medical supply companies, also known as durable medical supply, or medical clinics to bilk public healthcare programs. Some companies may be legitimate while others exist only on paper as “shell” companies. Using identity theft, EOC groups will obtain business licenses for these companies and set up business accounts for direct deposits of Medicare payments. EOC members will steal or make black market purchases of professional license numbers from medical personnel and patient lists with Social Security numbers or other identification. Once patient medical information is obtained, Medi-Cal or Medicare is billed for fraudulent products or services. EOC groups form extensive networks in bilking public health insurance programs.

The FBI considers EOC groups to be the top organized crime threat to the United States, estimating roughly 60 percent of FBI cases targeting EOC involve fraud.

EOC groups are also proficient with financial fraud, stealing vast amounts of money from unsuspecting victims and quickly adapting new modus operandi to remain one step ahead of law enforcement. Two of the most common EOC financial frauds are credit card identity thefts and automated teller machine (ATM) or point of sale (POS) credit card skimming. Credit card thefts can occur in numerous ways, and EOC members often sell the stolen information to third parties who make criminal use of the information.

ATM or POS credit card skimming takes advantage of unsuspecting consumers using ostensibly legitimate ATM or POS transactions such as gasoline pump credit card devices. Electronic skimming devices are used to capture account information, such as the name on the account, the account number, and the personal identification number that is embedded in the magnetic strip on the back of debit or credit cards. Once a card is swiped through a skimmer, the information contained in the magnetic strip is stored in the electronic device and eventually downloaded to a computer. The account information that is captured can be used in a variety of ways: criminals may sell the account information to other criminals, order products and services online with the stolen account information, use the account information to create new counterfeit cards, or simply withdraw cash. According to law enforcement sources, it is very difficult to stop this type of activity once account information has been compromised.

EOC groups also stage auto accidents that yield high profits at relatively low risk. Staged accident rings typically consist of cooperative doctors and clinics, lawyers, chiropractors, and office administrators. The EOC ring thoroughly rehearses its drivers and witnesses prior to a staged accident so they provide detailed and consistent stories. The accident is staged, a police report is obtained, and the ring files fake claims for legal and medical services. The ring reaps thousands of dollars in insurance settlements for each phony incident.

Auto theft has become an extremely lucrative way for EOC groups to generate profits. Vehicles are stolen and shipped overseas where EOC members can receive up to three times the value of the car in the United States. EOC members will also sell stolen vehicles domestically under market value through print or Internet advertising. Unsuspecting buyers discover their newly purchased vehicles are stolen when attempting registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles. EOC groups also steal vehicles, disassemble them, and store the stripped parts. When the stripped vehicle is recovered by law enforcement authorities and is designated a salvaged vehicle, the EOC group purchases the stripped vehicle at the auto auction and reassembles it with the stored parts. The vehicle is then sold for a profit.

Some EOC groups can be extremely violent and will use extortion and kidnapping as a way to send a message or to gain control of criminal markets. Extortion and kidnapping rings are typically aimed at victims within their own ethnic communities because they are generally afraid to report criminal acts to law enforcement authorities for fear of retaliation.

EOC rings are active in human smuggling and trafficking. Their international network of contacts and expertise in counterfeiting documents enables them to import women from Eastern Europe and Russia with falsified visa applications. If they are unable to obtain documentation, the women are smuggled into the United States through Mexico. Once in California, EOC

members force them to work in prostitution, strip clubs, and massage parlors. EOC groups frequently confiscate their victims' travel documentation while forcing them to pay off their travel debt.

EOC groups are closely aligned with the criminal street gang Armenian Power (AP). AP members are primarily from Armenia or the former Soviet republics. AP began in Hollywood in the 1980s. Today it exists in a section of Hollywood known as "Little Armenia," including North Hollywood, Van Nuys, Burbank, and Glendale. AP is also in Fresno. AP differs from most street gangs because its members support organized crime, and the gang is primarily interested in making money rather than competing for territory like most street gangs. AP members engage in credit card and identity theft, extortion, insurance fraud, Medicare fraud, and money laundering. EOC groups use AP to perform their street level crimes and they provide AP members protection. AP members occasionally leave AP to become full-fledged EOC members.

EOC members may associate with other criminal organizations. The drug trade has not been without EOC influence, and some EOC groups traffic heroin, cocaine, marijuana, and ecstasy. It is suspected that some EOC members may exchange weapons for drugs with Mexican DTOs. According to law enforcement authorities, EOC groups have been known to have ties to the EME and African American street gangs.

Eurasian Organized Crime Significant Events

- In February 2010, two individuals linked to AP were arrested for their involvement in the installation of skimming devices at gas stations. A 7-Eleven clerk in Martinez discovered a skimming device that had been installed inside a gas pump. This case developed into a multi-state investigation resulting in the discovery of 11 skimmers in several northern California cities. The skimmers recorded debit and credit card numbers from approximately 200 customers.
- In October 2010, the FBI arrested numerous EOC members in a major Medicare fraud scheme reportedly bilking more than \$100 million from the healthcare system. The organization billed Medicare with stolen physician names and provided phony provider addresses. The scam operated out of 25 states, including California. Among those arrested in California was the Vor, a high-level criminal in the EOC organization.

Eurasian Organized Crime Analysis and Trends

EOC groups continue to challenge law enforcement with their ability to undertake multiple criminal activities simultaneously. EOC groups often network with other criminal groups, and law enforcement agencies are challenged with the large volume of subjects involved in each case. Large, complex cases that involve multiple jurisdictions, resources, and personnel strain law enforcement budgets and are difficult to sustain.

EOC figures in California will continue to engage in high profit, low risk, or transnational crimes. Profitable healthcare fraud will remain a major EOC criminal activity. Healthcare fraud does not result in long prison terms, and EOC members do not fear prison time in the United States.

While medical, financial, and auto theft fraud are the foundation of EOC activity, these groups are extremely ingenious and will devise new criminal activities. It can be expected that EOC groups will continue to grow and evolve with new ventures for creating profits.

TERRORISM

Domestic criminal extremists and international terrorists continue to pose a significant threat. Domestic criminal extremists have been involved in criminal acts such as arson and firebombing, costing the state millions of dollars in damage. International terrorist groups and their affiliates continue to conduct legal and illegal activities in the state to raise money to support terrorism.

Terrorism is defined under several United States Code (U.S.C.) sections. Under 18 U.S.C. 2331 Section 1, international terrorism is defined as violent and dangerous acts meant to intimidate or influence a population or government through the use of coercion, intimidation, mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping. 18 U.S.C. 2332b (g)(5) defines terrorism as an offense that is calculated to influence or affect the conduct of a government by intimidation or coercion, or to retaliate against government conduct is a violation of multiple other sections of United States Code. Finally, under 18 U.S.C 921 Section 22, a person may be charged with terrorism for engaging in the regular and repetitive purchase and disposition of firearms for criminal purposes or terrorism.

The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 makes fundraising and criminal participation in international terrorist activities on United States soil a criminal offense.

Recent investigations tied to California have spawned suspicions that both domestic criminal extremists and those with connections to international terrorist groups continue to use a variety of criminal measures to support their respective organizations. Fraud, narcotics trafficking, and smuggling of contraband are just a few criminal activities linked to international organizations. Furthermore, it is believed these individuals will engage in any criminal activity promising high returns.

Since 2005, the growth of inmate radicalization in our correctional institutions has received attention from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Inmate radicalization, for some a precursor to domestic terrorism, is difficult to eradicate. Jails and prisons are filled with disenfranchised individuals and gang members highly susceptible to radical ideologies and anti-United States teachings.

This *2010 Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the California Legislature* focuses on domestic terrorism, radicalization, and international terrorism.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM

Domestic criminal extremists who have employed terrorist tactics tend to be “single-issue” groups committing crimes in furtherance of environmentalism, animal rights, anti-globalization, anti-capitalism, or overthrowing the government. Some of these groups want to live by their own laws and have no regard for law enforcement, government, or the general public.

Eco-terrorism/Animal Rights Criminal Extremism

Eco-terrorism began in 1992 with the establishment of the Earth Liberation Front (ELF) in England. The first suspected ELF attack in the state occurred in 1997 with the arson of a church/school construction site in Orange County. ELF has since claimed responsibility for committing arson, vandalism, and sabotage, including the arsons of auto dealerships, a \$50 million development in San Diego, and the attempted arson of a Pasadena residential construction site. ELF also has claimed responsibility for the arson of Street of Dreams homes in Seattle and the toppling of two radio towers near Snohomish, Washington.

In the early 1970s, the Band of Mercy formed in England to aggressively commit militant crimes in furtherance of animal rights. The Band of Mercy reformed as the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) in 1976. The first significant attack on the United States by ALF was the 1987 multi-million dollar arson of the Animal Diagnostic Center under construction at the University of California, Davis.

ALF, ELF, Justice Department (JD), Animal Liberation Brigade (ALB), and other environmental and animal rights criminal extremist groups are underground organizations posing significant challenges to law enforcement investigation and apprehension. They have no leader and are decentralized in isolated groups or “cells.” The small cells of one to several people make law enforcement infiltration extremely difficult. Cells do not know one another, making widespread compromise more challenging. Their objective is to stop perceived abuse, exploitation, and destruction of animals or the environment, and they resort to sabotage, arson, bombing, and vandalism. They target forestry services, car dealerships, logging companies, research laboratories, restaurants, fur retailers, and housing developments.

During the past few years, the majority of attacks in the state targeted University of California (UC) researchers. In 2009, attackers smashed a UC Berkeley researcher’s window, vandalized a UC Los Angeles (UCLA) van, and burned a UCLA researcher’s vehicle. On November 16, 2010, a UCLA researcher received a package allegedly laden with AIDS-contaminated razor blades and a threat message. JD claimed credit for the attack. JD’s communiqué again threatened the UCLA researcher stating, “STOP YOUR SICK EXPERIMENTS OR HELL AWAITS YOU.”

Animal rights criminal extremists also target biomedical research and pharmaceutical companies such as Huntingdon Life Science, Shaklee, Novartis, and Chiron. ALB claimed responsibility for two 2003 bombings, Chiron Corporation in Emeryville and Shaklee Corporation in Pleasanton.

Anti-government Criminal Extremism

Anti-government criminal extremism can be divided into two major groups: anarchist and patriot.

Anarchist criminal extremism consists of individuals who reject all forms of authoritarian organization in favor of a society based on individual freedom. Anarchist criminal extremists reject external authority and oppose centralized leadership, professing a revolutionary, socialist doctrine. They regard themselves as protectors against capitalism and imperialism. Anarchist criminal extremists believe their objectives can only be achieved through violent acts.

Anarchist criminal extremists are most prevalent in the western United States. Anarchist criminal extremists violently protest capitalism, racism, and corporate globalization. To do so, they commit vandalism and arson and assault law enforcement authorities. When protesting, anarchist criminal extremists dress to conceal their identity as much as possible. During a May Day Rally in Santa Cruz, anarchist criminal extremists wore black while rioting. In that incident, they caused more than \$100,000 in damage to 18 businesses and police vehicles.

Anarchist criminal extremists observe strict security measures in communications and operations. They use the Internet, list serves, blogs, and social network websites to plan and announce events, provide news, and exchange information. During the 2010 G-8 economic summit, anarchist criminal extremists used Google Maps to track police movement and rally points in real time, updating data using wireless Internet connections. This intelligence enabled the anarchist criminal extremists to stage decoy incidents to mislead law enforcement away from critical security needs.

The anti-tax, militia, and sovereign citizen extremists are collectively considered the patriot movement.

The anti-tax criminal extremist movement originated during the 1950s in opposition to federal income taxes. It is the oldest and most active anti-government movement in the United States. Anti-tax criminal extremists generally believe income tax laws are invalid or do not apply to the citizenry and they have a legal and moral right not to pay taxes.

Anti-tax criminal extremists have been known to simply refuse to pay taxes, engaging in complicated schemes using onshore and offshore trusts to hide income. Anti-tax criminal extremists have been documented attacking Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents or other law enforcers. During February 2010, a pilot deliberately crashed his small plane into an IRS building in Atlanta, Georgia, killing himself and an IRS worker inside. Investigators later found an anti-government manifesto by the pilot.

The militia and sovereign citizens believe the United States government and its laws are invalid. They do not believe they answer to the courts, taxing authorities, motor vehicle departments, or law enforcement agencies. While such ideology is not a crime in itself, these criminal extremists commit crimes including murder, assault, threatening government officials, impersonating police officers and diplomats, and fraud.

During the late 1990s, militia members plotted to explode a propane tank in the Sacramento County town of Elk Grove. The suspects reportedly believed the explosion would lead to a citizen uprising and overthrow of the United States government. In 2002, two right-wing militia members were convicted of threatened use of a weapon of mass destruction and sentenced to 22 to 24 years in prison.

Patriot criminal extremist groups subscribe to ideologies of militia, sovereignty, constitutionalism, and “common law.” Many of the patriot criminal extremists reject local, state, or federal laws and are intent on forming a common law-based court system. They challenge the government’s authority to impose taxes, govern, and maintain order.

Patriot criminal extremists stockpile illegal assault rifles and explosives, conduct paramilitary training, and threaten and assault government employees. A May 20, 2010, traffic stop of a

sovereign criminal extremist in Arkansas resulted in the shooting deaths of two law enforcement officers with an AK-47 assault rifle. The sovereign citizen shooter and his son were subsequently killed in an ensuing gunfight with authorities.

Patriot criminal extremists also commit “paper terrorism,” which is the use of property liens, bogus legal actions, and citizens’ grand juries to attack law enforcement authorities, members of the courts, municipal officials, and others. In 2008, a Chula Vista woman bought a house only to discover that two criminal extremists had changed the locks and posted a “deed” and “no trespassing” and “spiritual sanctuary” signs. It was later determined that the criminal extremists bogusly possessed six additional homes. One subject was subsequently convicted of 15 counts related to false documents and forgery.

Sovereign citizens manufacture their own identification documents, such as passports, driver licenses, and license plates. They attempt to invoke “diplomatic immunity” with the bogus documentation to bypass security and avoid traffic tickets or arrests.

These patriot criminal extremist groups accept members without regard to sex or race. While female involvement in the patriot criminal extremist movement has always been high, females are reportedly assuming prominent leadership roles. Patriot criminal extremists communicate via the Internet, underground radio, social networking, and blogging. They also employ public speakers to espouse their ideologies and solicit funding.

The County Rangers is a sovereign criminal extremist group that purports to be a law enforcement arm of the movement. The County Rangers have reportedly served bogus legal papers, arrested judicial officers, and impersonated police officers. Found predominately in the Pacific coastal region, the County Rangers are believed to have approximately 400 members and associates throughout 45 states. The County Rangers are granted their “authority” by “County Assemblies” made up of elected delegates. High-ranking individuals in the assemblies are charged with coordinating the national recruitment for the Rangers.

Domestic Terrorism Significant Events

- In February 2010, a Lodi couple claiming to be sovereign citizens were sentenced to prison for conspiracy, mail fraud, and money laundering in connection with a fraudulent insurance scheme involving Puget Sound Agricultural Society, Limited (PSASL). This anti-government criminal extremist group offered auto insurance in exchange for a single lifetime membership fee.
- In March 2010, sovereign criminal extremists occupied vacant properties in Sacramento County, posting notices declaring homes seized by the sovereign republic. The squatters threatened violence against anyone entering. “Sovereign squatting” appears to have become a more serious problem along the coast of California.
- In March 2010, ALF posted a communiqué stating that an incendiary device was planted in the exhaust pipe of a UCLA vivisectionist’s vehicle. This claim turned out to be a hoax intended to intimidate the researcher.

- In May 2010, a UC Santa Cruz marine biologist’s vehicle was vandalized. The vehicle brake lines and emergency brake cable were cut. No one claimed responsibility, but an ALF spokesman would not rule out the group’s involvement.
- In July 2010, an Orange County resident was indicted by a federal grand jury for filing false liens against federal employees and obstructing the administration of Internal Revenue laws. The subject filed 22 bogus liens in Nevada against a variety of Securities and Exchange Commission employees, United States Department of Justice officials, Secret Service and IRS agents, and four federal judges.
- In August 2010, a self proclaimed “Aboriginal Preamble Sovereign Posterity National of the De Jure Republic United States of America” was arrested for making terrorist threats after sending correspondence to Wells Fargo Bank threatening to “level” the bank and the city of Los Angeles.
- In November 2010, a UCLA vivisection researcher received a package laden with tainted-blood razor blades and a threat. JD subsequently claimed responsibility.

Domestic Terrorism Analysis and Trends

Although animal rights criminal extremists post claims on websites for criminal acts, they also post false claims to intimidate and harass their targets.

The animal rights and environmental criminal extremists are very technically sophisticated and maintain anonymity extremely well, making investigation and apprehension difficult.

Anti-government criminal extremists continue to make threats of force or violence against law enforcement and government officials. They pose an increasing threat to law enforcement officer safety, as well as the public safety.

RADICALIZATION

The FBI defines radicalization as a process that leads to behavior that encourages, endorses, condones, justifies, or supports commission of violent acts or other crimes against the United States to achieve political, social, or economic changes.

The radicalization process is not unique to the correctional environment. Radicalization can occur in any setting permissive to the spreading of radical ideology. The correctional setting is a particularly conducive environment to the influences of radicalization, especially for gang members. Inmate radicalization is increasing in California’s jails and prison system and is a major domestic terrorism threat to California and the nation. Radical prison groups recruit by offering friendship and support networks to inmates inside and outside of prison. Recruitment can occur through one-on-one proselytizing by other radical inmates. Recruitment can also be accomplished by charismatic individuals visiting the inmates.

Law enforcement initially recognized inmate radicalization in California prisons and jails in the 1960s among black separatist and anti-government groups including the Black Panther Party and the Black Guerilla Family (BGF). Inmate radicalization is not exclusive to any one ideology, ethnicity, or culture.

Jamiy'yat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh (JIS) is a prison-based radical group founded in 1997 by an inmate at the California Correctional Institution in Tehachapi. With at least 12 original members, the group now reportedly has members in other California state prisons and the Los Angeles area. JIS membership primarily consists of African Americans, Caucasians, and Hispanics. JIS's leader bases the group's doctrine on his interpretation of Islam. With an ideology similar to that of al-Qa'ida, JIS actively encourages waging war against enemies of Islam, or "infidels" (non-believers). The infidels purportedly include United States government representatives, United States government facilities, and supporters of Israel. JIS members must swear allegiance to the leader and vow to maintain secrecy.

During the early 2000s, JIS planned to conduct terrorist attacks on United States military facilities, Israeli government facilities, and Jewish synagogues in the Los Angeles area. In July 2005, a Torrance Police Department investigation of a string of gas station robberies revealed the robberies were perpetrated to raise monies to support the JIS terrorist attack plans. Four JIS members were arrested and ultimately convicted of terrorism charges.

Radicalized inmates can be paroled back into society, affording a great deal more freedom to execute terrorist criminal activities. Before his release in 2005, Michael C. Finton converted to Islam in prison while serving a six-year sentence for aggravated assault and robbery. He was arrested by an FBI undercover agent on September 24, 2009, after attempting to detonate what he thought was a truck bomb outside the courthouse.

Homegrown terrorists who have been radicalized and recruited present a new threat of smaller-scale attacks by perpetrators who are harder to detect and disrupt.

United States Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has stated that domestic extremism is a top concern and Americans involved in terrorist plots against the United States now share the same level of concern as international terrorists.

Radicalization Significant Events

- In November 2010, the last of the JIS suspects convicted of terrorism charges for planned terrorist attacks on United States military facilities, Israeli government facilities, and Jewish synagogues, was deported to Pakistan.
- According to a report by the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee, officials believe as many as 36 radicalized American ex-convicts traveled to Yemen during 2010 to join militants in that country.

Radicalization Analysis and Trends

Radicalization is a growing concern for the safety of law enforcement officers and the public. Instances of radicalization are on the rise, aided by the anonymity of the Internet and access to virulent radical messages via social media and extremist online communities.

The identification of early onset radicalization patterns and trends will be important in the coming years to interdict would-be terrorists before they mobilize for action.

Many local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities in California and numerous other states now train jail and prison personnel, screen religious service providers in correctional

facilities, and employ tracking tools for radicalized individuals who are released from the correctional system.

INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

International terrorist groups with a potentially significant California nexus are al-Qa'ida and al-Shabaab. Members or sympathizers continue to support their groups' goals through fundraising and recruitment. Some of these activities include intellectual property theft and narcotics trafficking. Other international terrorist groups known to have similar ties to California include Abu Sayyaf, Hamas, Hizballah (also spelled "Hezbollah"), Jama'at ul-Fuqra, Jemaah Islamiyyah, and Mujahedin-e-Khalq.

Al-Qa'ida

Al-Qa'ida constitutes the greatest terrorist threat facing the United States today, both through operations planned overseas and through the inspiration and guidance al-Qa'ida and allied groups give to would-be terrorists on United States soil. Al-Qa'ida, whose name means "the base," was established in 1988 by Osama bin Laden to continue the jihad, or "armed conflict in defense of Islam," after driving out the Soviet Union from Afghanistan. Al-Qa'ida's ideology focuses on waging war against Western countries, especially the United States, Britain, and Israel. The tribal belt along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan remains a safe haven for al-Qa'ida today, and though counterterrorism operations by the Pakistani and United States governments have disrupted al-Qa'ida's operations and chain of command, the group is nevertheless adept at replacing lost leaders and moving plots forward.

The training camps al-Qa'ida maintains in Pakistan's tribal belt attract operatives from the Middle East, Southeast Asia, Africa, Europe, and even the United States. Two Californians, John Walker Lindh, captured with Taliban forces in Afghanistan in late 2001, and Adam Gadahn, the spokesman in al-Qa'ida's English-language propaganda videos, converted to Islam while in their teens and made their way to Pakistan before 9/11. In recent years, other examples have come to light of Americans making al-Qa'ida's cause their own. In September 2009, the FBI arrested Najibullah Zazi, an Afghan immigrant, in Aurora, Colorado, in connection with a terrorist plot against the New York subway system. He and his co-conspirators had traveled to Pakistan months earlier for training and direction from al-Qa'ida. Faisal Shahzad, the naturalized United States citizen who attempted to set off a vehicle bomb in New York's Times Square in May 2010, received training and support from an al-Qa'ida ally, the Pakistani Taliban, to prepare his operation.

Al-Qa'ida activities in California are primarily fundraising by sympathizers and the radicalization and recruitment of new al-Qa'ida members and lone terrorists. Males and females of non-Middle Eastern descent are sought for recruitment to make terrorist identification by law enforcement more difficult. Al-Qa'ida operatives and affiliates have been known to visit and reside in California in the past.

Al-Qa'ida has struck targets repeatedly in the past and has previously targeted California locations. Authorities have thwarted an al-Qa'ida planned attempt to bomb Los Angeles

International Airport during millennium celebrations and a 2002 al-Qa'ida plot to fly an airplane into the Liberty Tower building in Los Angeles.

Leading terrorism experts Bruce Hoffman and Peter Bergen argue that, though the capabilities of al-Qa'ida have diminished, we face a persistent threat from groups and individuals inspired by al-Qa'ida's example. These groups trained in its camps and are flexible enough to attempt smaller-scale, even lone-wolf, operations. Tactically, they foresee continued reliance by al-Qa'ida and its affiliates on suicide operations, Mumbai-style armed assaults, and assassination attempts.

By way of contrast, Hoffman and Bergen downplay the likelihood that these groups can successfully deploy a true weapon of mass destruction such as chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear. In June 2009, an al-Qa'ida recruitment video depicted threats to smuggle a biological weapon into the United States via tunnels at the United States/Mexico border. In 2010, FBI Director Robert S. Mueller, III, advised Congress of ongoing al-Qa'ida efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction to attack the United States, repeating an al-Qa'ida-tied sheikh's statement that "four pounds of anthrax in a suitcase carried through tunnels from Mexico into the United States would guarantee to kill 330,000 Americans within an hour if properly spread." While al-Qa'ida may harbor the aspiration, the capability may still lie beyond the group's reach.

Al-Qa'ida affiliates have mostly remained focused on struggles in their respective regions (Iraq, Algeria, and Pakistan). However, the attempt to bring down a Detroit-bound airliner on Christmas Day 2009 signaled a shift by al-Qa'ida's affiliate in Yemen, al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP). The group's operational cadre includes the influential American-born imam Anwar al-Awlaqi, whose sermons and lectures on YouTube have inspired a wide audience, including homegrown terrorists in several Western countries.

These twin developments, al-Awlaqi's charismatic appeal and AQAP's willingness to target the United States, have transformed the al-Qa'ida threat. Al-Awlaqi's justifications for waging jihad, charismatically expressed in colloquial English, appear to have inspired individuals as diverse as the attempted Times Square bomber, the United States Army psychiatrist who killed 13 soldiers and civilians at Fort Hood, the Nigerian "underwear bomber" aboard the Detroit-bound flight, and members of terrorist cells in Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and elsewhere. The pervasive reach of his extremist views and his advocacy of violent jihad require greater vigilance by law enforcement in California and throughout the nation to detect individuals motivated by al-Awlaqi to commit violent acts.

Al-Shabaab

Al-Shabaab (Arabic for "the youth") is an Islamic militant group determined to create an Islamic state in Somalia by eliminating foreigners and outside influences from the country through jihad. The group reportedly formed in 2004 as a militant wing of the Somali Council of Islamic Courts Union. Al-Shabaab is now an international terrorist group comprising a network of militant Somali clans that control much of southern Somalia. In February 2008, the United States government designated al-Shabaab as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist Group.

Al-Shabaab does not appear to be centralized. It is made up of members from many Somali clans, as well as recruits from overseas. Somali youth from large immigrant communities in the United States have left the country to join al-Shabaab in recent years. They reportedly come from San Diego; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Washington, D.C.; and Columbus, Ohio. According to United States authorities, approximately 20 Somali men from the United States have joined al-Shabaab in Somalia since 2006.

The jihad in Somalia has also gained United States adherents from outside the Somali community. In July 2010, authorities arrested radicalized American convert Zachary Chesser when he sought to travel to Somalia to join al-Shabaab. Chesser posted online threats against the creators of the television show *South Park* over an episode depicting the prophet Muhammad. Omar Hammami, who was raised a Baptist in Alabama but radicalized after choosing to become a devout Muslim, is now a foreign fighter with al-Shabaab and has recorded a number of inspirational YouTube videos for the group. These recruitment videos are specifically aimed at Somali and non-Somali Muslims in the United States.

Al-Shabaab appears to depend on fundraising efforts among Somali communities across the world, including the United States.

In 2009, a Somali American volunteer from Seattle killed 21 African peacekeepers in Mogadishu with a truck bomb. To date, al-Shabaab's only terrorist attack outside Somalia was a series of suicide bombings in Uganda in July 2010 that targeted soccer fans gathered to watch the World Cup.

International Terrorism Significant Events

- In July 2010, al-Qa'ida's Yemen affiliate posted the first issue of its English-language magazine *Inspire* to the Internet. Al-Awlaqi is a principal contributor to the publication. *Inspire* offers instructions on carrying out "individual jihad" or terrorist operations. Articles provide bomb-making instructions and ideological justification for jihad. Subsequent issues have encouraged readers to execute small-scale terrorist attacks.
- In August 2010, prosecutors in the United States Southern District of California unsealed an indictment against a United States citizen and former resident of San Diego charging that he provided material support, including himself, to terrorists, conspired to provide material support to al-Shabaab, and provided material support to al-Shabaab. The defendant is a fugitive and currently believed to be in Somalia.
- In November 2010, a California woman living in San Diego was charged with conspiring to provide material support to terrorists and making false statements. The permanent United States resident allegedly conspired to support al-Shabaab by sending money to Somalia and to provide people to join the international terrorist group.
- In December 2010, a man was indicted in San Diego for conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist organization, conspiracy to kill in a foreign country, and money laundering in connection with al-Shabaab. The suspect is from Anaheim and allegedly worked in San Diego raising money for al-Shabaab under the pretense of helping the poor.

International Terrorism Analysis and Trends

Al-Shabaab's ongoing attempts to recruit and train Somalis in the United States raise public safety concerns for California and the country. Although al-Shabaab's American volunteers have so far remained in Somalia to fight on the group's behalf, there is concern that they could be turned around and used as operatives to conduct terrorist attacks in the United States. For now, attacking rivals in Somalia and the peacekeepers supporting the transitional government appears to take precedence over attempting attacks in the United States.

Al-Qa'ida has seemingly switched its strategy to engage smaller, more frequent terrorist attacks. Smaller attacks are more difficult to detect and disrupt and require fewer resources. Al-Qa'ida can be expected to continue scaled-down terrorist operations to maintain pressure between large-scale undertakings.

So long as al-Qa'ida and al-Shabaab remain highly flexible, learning-based organizations, the groups will remain a major threat to rule-based, bureaucratic societies such as the United States.

The ranks of homegrown terrorists are likely to grow, not diminish. Even near misses like the failed Christmas Day 2009 passenger jet bombing and the explosive air cargo packages intercepted in October 2010 require proactive, preventive measures by governments. Consequently, these near misses are successes for terrorist groups. While the number of homegrown terrorism cases remains extremely small, the trend bears watching.

GLOSSARY

AB	Aryan Brotherhood
ABZ	Asian Boyz
ADL	Anti-Defamation League
AFO	Arellano Felix Organization
ALB	Animal Liberation Brigade
ALF	Animal Liberation Front
AP	Armenian Power
AQAP	Al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula
ATM	Automated Teller Machine
BGF	Black Guerrilla Family
BNE	Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement
BLO	Beltran Leyva Organization
BNT	Broke Niggas Thieven
CBVTF	Cross Border Violence Task Force
CDCR	California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CPS	Cartel Pacifico Sur
DOJ	Department of Justice
DTO	Drug Trafficking Organization
DVI	Deuel Vocational Institution
ELF	Earth Liberation Front
EME	Mexican Mafia
EOC	Eurasian Organized Crime
F13	Florencia 13
F-14	Fresno Bulldog
FAIM	Family Affiliated Irish Mafia
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
FSO	Fernando Sanchez Organization
ICE	Immigration and Customs Enforcement
INS	Immigration and Naturalization Service

IRS	Internal Revenue Service
IVT	Insane Viet Thugs
JD	Justice Department
JIS	Jamiy'yat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh
LFM	La Familia Michoacán
MDMA	Methylenedioxyamphetamine
MS-13	Mara Salvatrucha
NF	Nuestra Familia
NGIC	National Gang Intelligence Center
NLR	Nazi Low Riders
NR	Northern Ryders/Riders
NS/NR	Northern Structure/Nuestra Raza
OG	Original Gangster
OMG	Outlaw Motorcycle Gang
PCP	Phencyclidine
PENI	Public Enemy Number One
POS	Point of Sale
PSASL	Puget Sound Agricultural Society, Limited
TRG	Tiny Rascal Gang
TS	Texas Syndicate
UC	University of California
UCLA	University of California Los Angeles
U.S.	United States
U.S.C.	United States Code
VBIED	Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device
VCFO	Vicente Carrillo Fuentes Organization
WSIN	Western States Information Network

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