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(U) Louisiana Street Gangs

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(U) Louisiana Street Gangs

(U) Purpose

(U) The purpose of this assessment is to identify the different turf oriented gangs in Louisiana and also identify their drug of choice. Information in this assessment is current and accurate as of 15 October 2007.

(U//LES) Introduction

(U//LES) The majority of Louisiana gangs are local, turf-oriented neighborhood gangs concerned only with the "business" activity in their neighborhood. Street gangs can be divided into two categories: turf gangs and transient gangs. Turf gangs are usually associated with a specific neighborhood or geographic area. Transient gangs are not turf-oriented. They travel from one place to another conducting criminal activity. Some gangs are known to be both transient and turf-oriented. Most law enforcement agencies throughout the state reported numerous disorganized gangs or "neighborhood" gangs that have stayed loyal to certain areas in Louisiana. The word, gang has several definitions. For the purpose of this Threat Assessment, a gang is a group of individuals, juvenile and or adult, who associate on a continuous basis, form an allegiance for a common purpose, and are involved in delinquent or criminal activity. Most agencies spend their time trying to identify the members of these gangs because they are the main source of criminal activity.

(U//LES) There are certain areas in Louisiana that have more of a gang presence than others. The cities below are "hot spots" of gang activity in Louisiana.

(U//LES) New Orleans, Louisiana

(U//LES) The City of New Orleans has seen an increase in turf oriented gang activity. There are several rival gangs located in the city that are responsible for several retaliation killings. There are twelve documented gangs in New Orleans which include: 3NG, D-Block, Allen Group, Reed Group, Bienville Boyz, Smoke One Click, Dooney Boyz, Whitney Boyz, Gotti Boyz, Thomas Group, Deslonde Boyz, and the Byrd Gang. Most of these gangs are identified by the neighborhood or housing projects they occupy. The majority of these gangs are comprised of approximately six to ten African American males, ranging in age from pre-teen to early 20's. They typically distribute crack, powdered cocaine, and heroin. Since Hurricane Katrina, many of these gangs are now dispersed throughout New Orleans and are highly disorganized. Because they cannot be anchored to a specific area, they form wider alliances and commit crimes over a larger geographic area. (National Drug Intelligence Center; FBI New Orleans Violent Crime Targeting Initiative; FBI/New Orleans Police Department Gang Task Force)

(U//LES) The Byrd Gang is the newest gang to have formed in New Orleans. This gang was formed by individuals from diverse areas that migrated to repopulated areas of the

city after Hurricane Katrina. Although they are found in many areas, most of the activity from this gang has occurred in the NOPD 6th District. Graffiti found in the area indicates the 6th District may be a focal point for the “Byrd Gang”. (New Orleans Police Department)



(U//LES) Iberia Parish, Louisiana

(U//LES) Iberia Parish has seen a dramatic increase in the number of turf oriented street gangs. The “1100 Boys” and the “900 Boys” are two rival turf gangs comprised of African American males that have been involved in several shootings and other violent crimes. The “1100 Boys” are located at the 1100 block of Paul Street in New Iberia, Louisiana; and the “900 Boys” are located at the 900 block of Mississippi Street in the same area. According to the Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office, the “1100 Boys”, at one point in time, were transporting anywhere from seventy five to a hundred ounces of crack cocaine a day. (Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office)

(U//LES) Another turf street gang comprised of African Americans is the Hater Hurterz. They can be found in Iberia and St. Mary Parish. They vary in age from teens to adults in their 30’s. The Hater Hurterz consists of a hundred identified members and associates. They call themselves a rap group in an effort to conceal their criminal activities which include armed robbery, murder, assault, narcotics distribution, illegal weapons, etc. Their drug of choice is cocaine and marijuana. (FBI)

(U//LES) The Hater Hurterz are rivals of the Head Bussa’s. The Head Bussa’s also consist of African American males from Iberia and St. Mary Parish. Conflicts between these two gangs have caused violent incidents at night clubs, high school events, Mardi Gras parades, Labor Day weekend activities, the Saw Mill Festival, and the Shrimp and Petroleum Festival. (FBI)

(U//LES) Iberia Parish also has an Asian street gang presence. They have the ICED OWT, 19 Dragon’s Alliance, and Oriental Boys Society. The Oriental Boys Society or OBS continues to be a growing turf street gang in the area. OBS members are known to sell ecstasy and methamphetamines. This gang is comprised of clean cut males that are known to dress in nice, neat clothes consisting of the color yellow. The members are often identified by the gang symbol tattoo “OBS”. Most members and their associates have violent criminal histories. (Iberia Parish Sheriff’s Office)



(U//LES) Baton Rouge, Louisiana

(U//LES) Baton Rouge has consistently seen the same neighborhood gangs over the last few years. They include: Brookstown Click, Boot Town, Pecue Click, Baton Rouge Punks, Oak Town Boyz, Glen Oaks, Easy Town, Park Town, Banks Town, Southside, Third World, Valley Park, Scotlandville, Baker, Zion City, Sherwood,



Lakeside Boys, K.O. Boys, and UPT. There is also a group called Youth Uprising that is mostly a white graffiti artist group. (Baton Rouge Police Department)

(U//LES) The largest of these gangs is the UPT or Uptown Boyz. They roughly consist of 80-100 members of African American males who have a hatred for Law Enforcement. Their source of income is the distribution of narcotics, particularly powdered and crack cocaine. (Baton Rouge Police Department)

Since Hurricane Katrina, Baton Rouge has become the home to the rivals Gert Town Boys and the Holly Grove Boys. Holly Grove was an area in New Orleans that has relocated to the Mall City/Melrose area of Baton Rouge. The Holly Grove family has over twenty apartments in the Mall City area. The New Orleans Police Department does not describe these groups as gangs, but simply as groups that are commonly identified by the neighborhood from which they resided in New Orleans.

(U//LES) Lake Charles, Louisiana

(U//LES) Lake Charles has 7 documented street gangs. They are all located in the same general area; however, each one has claimed specific blocks of territory. The gangs are: 3rd Ward, Dawg Pound, Car Shop, Brownsville Crips, Goosport Bloods, North Westpark, and Rice Mill Gang. All are made up of African American males that have been involved in shootings and other crimes; however, their main criminal activity is the distribution of narcotics including cocaine and marijuana. (Louisiana State Police Criminal Intelligence Unit, Lake Charles)

(U//LES) Shreveport, Louisiana

(U//LES) Shreveport, Louisiana has 2 documented street gangs. The Bottom Boyz is located in Allendale, Shreveport; however, most are in jail or dispersed elsewhere. The Bottom Boyz consists of African American males whose drug of choice is cocaine and their criminal activity is robberies. The other gang is the Lakeview Boyz which is a branch of the Rolling 60's Crips.

(U//LES) Alexandria, Louisiana

(U//LES) There are 6 documented street gangs in Alexandria. All of them are a type of Crip or Blood gang. The Crip gangs include: Southside-Sonya Quarters Crips, Northside-Levin Street Crips, Monroe Street Crips, Project Crips, and the Lower Tre Crips (Lower 3rd Street). The Blood gang is the Northside-Levin Street Bloods. At one time there were over 250 documented Crip and Blood members in Alexandria. These gangs are the cause of sporadic criminal activity in the city. (Louisiana State Police North District Narcotics)

(U//LES) Gang Members in Louisiana Prisons

(U//LES) There are 3 federal prisons housed in Louisiana which include: The United States Penitentiary in Pollock, La; the Federal Detention Center in Oakdale, La; and the Federal Correctional Institution in Oakdale, La. There have been reports of high ranking gang members in the federal prisons in Louisiana. One example is the Texas Syndicate which is the oldest prison gang in Texas. Their criminal activities include prostitution, extortion, contract murder, gambling, and drug trafficking. There have been members of the Texas Syndicate reported in the Federal Correctional Institute in Oakdale, La. (Louisiana State Police, North District Narcotics; Insideprison.com)



(U//LES) The National Drug Intelligence Center reported in 2006 that the Public Enemy Number One (PEN1) prison gang had members in Louisiana's prisons in 2003. Public Enemy Number One is the fastest growing Caucasian prison gang. It receives income from distributing methamphetamine and participating in white collar crimes. Their violent activities include murder and assault. This gang advocates white supremacy and aligns themselves with other racist gangs. (National Drug Intelligence Center)

(U//LES) Gangs in the Military

(U//LES) Members of almost every major street gang have been identified on domestic and international military installations. The exact number is unknown because there are many members who conceal their affiliation. It is believed that street gang members join the military to take advantage of military training in weapons, convoy, and combat. After leaving the military, the gang members are equipped to use military tactics against Law Enforcement and rival gangs. There have been many criminal activities associated with gang members in the military. They include robberies, assaults, drug distribution, vandalism, money laundering, weapons violations, domestic disturbances, and drive-by shootings. Many of these members have slipped through the screening process by failing to report past criminal history and using fraudulent documents. Some enter as juveniles whose criminal history is sealed and not allowed to be viewed by recruiters. According to an open source article, the House of Representatives has passed legislation prohibiting service members from associating with street gangs. There is also a push to raise enlistment standards. To date one – in - ten new Army recruits have a criminal record. (CBS News, National Gang Intelligence Center)



Four U.S. Marines in South Carolina were recruiting local kids into the Crips street gang. (CBS/Richland Co. Sheriff)

(U//LES) According to the Military Police/CID, 104 suspected gang related incidents and felony investigations were identified between FY03 through FY06. The number of gang related felony investigations is a small percentage of the overall Army CID investigations. The majority of subjects in gang related investigations appear to be

junior enlisted (E1-E4) and/or youthful civilian dependant family members. Overall, there has been an increase in both CID investigations and gang related incidents with an Army nexus. [National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA)]

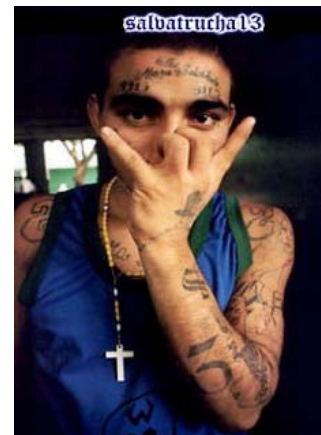
(U//LES) Louisiana has 3 active military installations. They include the Barksdale Air Force Base in Bossier City, the Fort Polk Joint Readiness Training Center southeast of Leesville, and the New Orleans Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Gretna. In 2006, there were reports of an Army soldier belonging to a group called CXF 13 in Fort Polk. They were believed to be from a group called Florencia 13 originating from California. Military soldiers who are trained in military operations and who belong to criminal gangs pose a threat to the community and have the potential to turn a city or town into a crime ridden area. (United States Army)



(U//LES) Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) in Louisiana

(U//LES) Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) is one of the largest and deadliest Hispanic gangs. Members of this gang are willing to kill civilians, law enforcement, and rival gang members. Some members migrate to seek employment or be near family members; however, some recruit new members by absorbing other gangs. MS-13 also recruits through the Internet and often targets middle and high-school-aged students. MS-13 migrated to California from El Salvador and began competing with rival gangs for territory. They are normally tattooed with “M”, “MS”, the number 13, or a combination of the three. Criminal activity includes robbery, burglary, murder-for-hire, auto theft, drug transportation and distribution, extortion, and prostitution. (GCHIDTA, FBI MS-13 Threat Assessment)

(U//LES) In an effort to hide from Law Enforcement, MS-13 members have started getting tattoos in places such as the inside of their lips. The older members are starting to burn their tattoos off of their bodies. For example, on June 14, 2007, the Louisiana State Police stopped a vehicle in Lincoln Parish for improper lane usage. When the Trooper approached the subject, he noticed several tattoos that were indicative of MS-13 membership such as the number “13” and the letter “M”. When given a closer look, the officer noticed that the subject had a tattoo on his neck and fingers that had been burned off of him. He also had a large scar on his left forearm where a tattoo had been burned off of his arm. The subject denied affiliation with MS-13; however, this is a trend being seen with MS-13 members. Although the burning is done to conceal their MS-13 membership, the burned skin is very obvious. Another new trend is the wearing of rosary beads around members’ necks instead of or in addition to their tattoos. Both of these new trends should serve as a red flag to Law Enforcement that a subject might be affiliated with MS-13. (Louisiana State Police, Canadian Railroad Police)



(U//LES) Louisiana has seen a significant increase in Hispanic workers that are coming to help rebuild hurricane ravaged areas. Although Louisiana has had reports of MS-13 sightings, there have been no known criminal activities or violent crimes connected to these members so far.



(U//LES) Conclusion

(U//LES) Overall, Louisiana has an abundance of neighborhood turf gangs that are constantly changing. When Law Enforcement concentrates on a particular gang, members are incarcerated for their criminal activity and the gang is sometimes dismantled. Members that elude Law Enforcement move down the street and form another group and give it a different name. In New Orleans, there are some gang members that have children who get together and form their own gang creating second and third generation gangs. Turf gangs will always be a challenge to Law Enforcement.

(U//LES) Louisiana has areas where nationally affiliated gang members have been documented such as New Orleans, Shreveport, and Alexandria. They include MS-13, Latin Kings, Bloods, and Crips. Our prisons have been known to house violent prison gang members. With the rapid growth and recruiting efforts of these gangs throughout the country, Louisiana Law Enforcement should make it a top priority to stay proactive by documenting suspected members, taking pictures of tattoos, asking questions, and staying informed of new developments in gang trends. Louisiana could easily become a new home to some of these gangs who are looking for new territory to operate.

(U) Trends

- New Orleans continues to have the most number of documented street gangs in Louisiana.
- The Asian gangs primarily use Ecstasy as their drug of choice.
- Louisiana consists mainly of turf oriented street gangs.
- MS-13 members have started burning off their tattoos to elude Law Enforcement.
- Most of Louisiana street gangs use powdered cocaine and crack cocaine as their drug of choice.

(U) Intelligence Gaps

- Other Louisiana cities that have street gangs.
- The exact number of gangs in Louisiana prisons.
- The extent of PEN1 drug trafficking networks in the United States and how it affects Louisiana.
- Determination of link between criminal activity in Baton Rouge and its relation to UPT.
- The exact number of street gang members in Louisiana military installations.
- MS-13's probability of establishing a clique in Louisiana.

(U) Sources

*Baton Rouge Police Department
Federal Bureau Of Investigation
Gulf Coast HIDTA
Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office
National Drug Intelligence Center
New Orleans Police Department
Louisiana State Police/Central Intelligence Unit/Lake Charles
Louisiana State Police/North District Narcotics
Shreveport Police Department
United States Army*