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Gang Awareness

Supervising Gang Members In Rural
Communities by Brian Parry



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Training Objectives

- Identify scope of problem
- Gang definitions and level of involvement
- Types of gangs
- Characteristics and methods of identification
- Safety and supervision issues
- Collaboration and partnerships

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Gang Perspectives

- Every instructor has a different perspective
- 34 years of practical experience
- National perspective (NMGTF)
- California gangs
- Professional organizations

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Collaborative Approach

- Societal problem
- Requires collaborative effort
- Law enforcement/courts
- Corrections
- Communities/schools/faith based groups
- Families

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National Epidemic

- 
- 30,000 gangs, 800,000 members
 - LA Daily News article
 - US Attorney: Terrorism, Violence, Gangs
 - Every state, urban, suburban and rural
 - Crosses racial lines, all ethnicity's

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Scope of Problem

- Growing in numbers and influence
- Migrating to all areas including rural
- Responsible for increase in violence
- Increased narcotic trafficking
- Disruption to school, work place, military
- Decrease in public safety and quality of life
- Gangs are becoming a life style

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Short History of Gangs in US

- Gang violence not new in US
- 19th century ethnic gangs in NY
- Irish gangs
- Migration westward to large cities
- Immigrant gangs emerged
- Inner city Black gangs, Chicago etc

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History of Gangs

- LA gangs emerge
- Crips and Bloods
- Urban street gangs
- Prison gangs
- Gang migration
- Prison gang migration
- Outlaw motorcycle gangs

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Gang Definitions

- A group of three or more persons
- common identifying sign, symbol, name
- engage individually or collectively in a pattern of crime
- create an atmosphere of fear and intimidation within a community

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Why Join A Gang

- A sense of belonging, family
- Acceptance and sense of identity
- Self-esteem
- Protection and peer pressure
- Money and financial gain (drugs)
- Life style, glamour, excitement
- Family history

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Why Gangs

- I will be accepted
- People will fear me
- I will feel accepted
- I can get easy money
- Someone always has my back

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Profile of At-Risk Youth

- Poor social skills
- No role models
- No work skills
- Low education
- Low expectations of themselves & others
- Negative peer influence
- Few positive strokes

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Myths of Gang Culture

- Protection- many get injured, shot or killed
- Belonging to a family- family members would not direct young people to use drugs, commit crimes and injure others
- Respect- Gangs mistake fear for respect, people gain respect by treating others well



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Gang Truths Everyday in America

- Youth become homicide victims
- Youth commit suicide
- Get arrested for violent crimes
- Drop out of school
- Become teen mothers and fathers
- End up in jail or prison, or on probation and parole

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Types of Gangs

- Street gangs
- Prison gangs
- Party crews
- Tagger crews
- Outlaw Motorcycle gangs
- Female gangs



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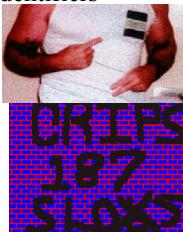
Levels of Involvement

- Leaders and shot callers
- Hardcore members
- Associates and affiliates
- Fringe or marginal members
- Torpedoes
- Wannabees

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Gang Identifiers

- Colors
- Tattoos
- Posturing/stance
- Hand signs
- Drawings, artwork
- Clothing
- Graffiti



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Gang Identifiers

- Written material, letters
- Jail/prison correspondence
- Group photographs
- Gang rules, codes, constitutions
- Visiting lists and trust accounts
- Turf behavior and hang outs
- Collateral contacts-police, informants etc

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Gang Migration

- Relocation of families
- Avoid apprehension and prosecution
- Avoid retribution of rival gangs
- Expansion of drug markets
- Limited law enforcement resources and gang awareness
- Incarceration in Federal prisons

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Major Street Gangs

- Surenos (18th Street)
- Nortenos
- Crips
- Bloods
- Latin Kings
- Chicago based gangs
- MS 13
- Skinheads

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Surenos



- Color Blue, 13, Sur
- Street rivalries, prison truces
- Largest Sureño gang is 18th street, with many Mexican nationals
- No longer, strictly from So. CA

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Nortenos



- Formed in 1983 at Folsom
- Rank structure
- 14 Bonds likened to the NF Constitution
- Extensive education
- Channels/Filters
- Lifetime commitment
- Largest, fastest growing

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Crips



- Primarily located in So. CA
- Approx. 50,000 members
- Will war with other Crip sets- territorial
- BK's- Cuz
- Most "sets" align with each other
- Enemies are the Bloods
- Color is blue
- Involved in narcotics trafficking, legitimate businesses and music industry

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Bloods



- Color Red
- More Crips than Bloods- made up for lack of numbers with rep for violence
- May align with 415's, No. Hispanics & Imperial Gangster Disciples of the People Nation in prison

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Almighty Latin Kings

- Originated in Chicago
- Migrated to East Coast, Southeast and Southwest regions of US
- Chapters in at least 34 states
- Affiliate with People Nation
- Enemies with Folk nation

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Almighty Latin Kings

- Highly structured and organized indoctrination ceremony
- Constitution, bylaws, policies, oath
- Five pointed jeweled crown
- Numerous symbols to signify relation to gang
- Typically wear black and gold, or yellow, red or green

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People Nation

- Many gangs or sets
- Black P-Stone
- Latin kings
- El Rukns
- Vicerlords
- many others



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People Nation

- All for one, One for all philosophy
- Code of conduct (gang before family)
- Numerous symbols: five point star etc
- Left identifiers: left hand signs, rolled up left pant leg, hats tilted to left, wear jewelry to left, left hand in left pocket, may untie left shoe

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Folk Nation

- Many sets and gangs
- Black Gangster Disciples
- Gangster Disciples
- La Raza
- Latin Disciples
- Cobras



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Folk Nation

- Numerous symbols
- Devils horns,six point star
- pitchfork
- Winged heart
- Number six
- Use right identifiers, caps, pant leg, jewelry

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MS13

- Mara Salvatrucha
- Originated in El Salvador-civil war
- Migrated to LA-split with 18th Street
- Recruited other immigrants (Honduras)
- Deported back to El Salvador after war



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Skinheads

- Began in England in early 1960's-response to long hair drug users
- Not turf oriented
- Not organized beyond local region
- Evolved into racist philosophy
- Have allied with W.A.R. factions in Oregon



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Gang Information

Gang members are ten times more likely to get involved in serious incidents and crimes



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General Gang Information

- General Gang Information
- gangs continually changing
- shaky agreements, fleeting alliances
- no longer blood in-blood out
- some gang members never been to prison
- recruited for skills: meth cooker, dope connections, computer skills
- difficult time to be a gang cop- rules always changing

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Evolution of a Gang Member



Monster Kody Scott

- from 8-trey gangster crip to BGF and Black Revolutionary
- best selling author "Autobiography of a LA Gang Member"
- they get younger-you get older

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Gang Operations

Street Crews

- tax local gangs (\$500-\$3,000 per month)
- commit armed robberies and dope rips
- contract hits
- extortion, protection and prostitution
- restaurant owner extorted \$15,000 per month

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Gang Funerals



- most gang members don't expect to live long
- they live fast-guns, dope, violence
- life is cheap-dangerous attitude for public and you
- surveillance at funerals- work them
- identify leaders, fugitives and vehicles

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Gang Recruitment



- gangs are recruiting younger kids
- sad state of affairs
- some gangs are 2nd and 3rd generations
- gangs are becoming a way of life- music, clothes, web sites
- we need to break the cycle- spend money in the front end

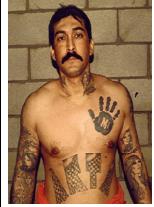
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Major Prison Gangs

- Mexican Mafia
- Aryan Brotherhood
- Black Guerilla Family
- Nuestra Familia
- Neta
- Asian Gangs
- Border Brothers

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Mexican Mafia



- 1950's at DVI, by East LA Hispanics, predominantly from the Maravilla area
- Control criminal activities inside and outside of prison
- Allied with the AB, So. faction of the TS and most Sureno street gangs
- Enemies are NF/NS, Nortenos, BGF, No. faction of the TS and Black gangs

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Aryan Brotherhood

- Formed in 1967 at SQ
- Originally called the Diamond Tooth or Blue Bird Gang
- Racial philosophy
- Allied with EME, Sureno, NLR
- Enemies with BGF, NF, NS

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Aryan Brotherhood



- SF RICO
- LA RICO
- War With Mexican Mafia
- Disorganized

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Nazi Low Riders

- Formed in the California Youth Authority in the 1970'S
- May have originated at Preston School for Boys - CYA
- NLR fills void created by the placement of AB members in SHU
- NLR membership grew rapidly in size and were unable to maintain quality control of their members

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Nazi Low Riders

- AB instructed NLR leadership to check credentials of their members
- House cleaning of membership
- Freeze on recruitment on new members, with some exceptions by influential seniors

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NLR



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Nuestra Familia

- Organized in 1967 at SQ
- Formed as self-protection group against EME exploitation
- Originally paramilitary group
- Constitution
- Now governed by "La Mesa"
- Lifetime commitment
- Recruit primarily from the NS

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Nuestra Familia



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Neta

- Began in Puerto Rico
- Spread to US
- Northeast, Southeast, Great lakes regions
- Well organized, chapters and rank structure
- Drugs, assaults, home invasions, extortion, weapons and explosives
- Wear beaded rosary-like necklaces

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Asian Gangs



- Tend to be young (13 to 25)
- Small in numbers, but growing with recent developments of Asian Organized Crime
- Nomadic and extremely violent -narcotics, prostitution, extortion, home invasion and electronic related crimes
- Common tattoos -Eagles, dragons & tigers

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Border Brothers



- Predominately Mexican Nationals
- Small chapter from Baja, California (BC/BB)
- Depending on location align with Surenos
- At war with most Texas Based Gangs
- Prey on other Mexican National creating a new sub-group called Piasas.

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Motorcycle Gangs



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Female Gangs



- high of 11,000 in state prison-declining
- increase in violence
- used to hold the guns and narcotics
- now shooting and assaulting and dealing
- great communicators- runners, mail drops, 3-way calls
- switchboard operators for the gangs

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Impact of Prison Gangs On street crime

- compromise staff
- direct street crews
- extortion and prostitution
- murder and contract hits
- direct correlation between prison and street crimes



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Prison Gang Operations

- Communication is the lifeblood of the gangs
- Security Housing Units (SHU)- where it all begins
- SHU are the HQ for gangs
- plot, plan, organize and direct



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Communications

- Written Communication
- coded written messages
- use of Aztec and Runic alphabets
- mail drops and re-envelope
- Project X- EME rewrite of letters

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Communications

Dec 8, 1988

Say sugar pie I remember when you peel your lip off me it had that shady feeling. Especially when the pressure hit my cap to where I would just explode... Seriously for you! How have you been? I hope giving yourself plenty of food because your skinny up on top and those backs I'll send info to you on how to gain weight, end of that subject.
Now I'll tell you of your sweetness latest adventure in life, this message is a lesson to you so listen close

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Communications

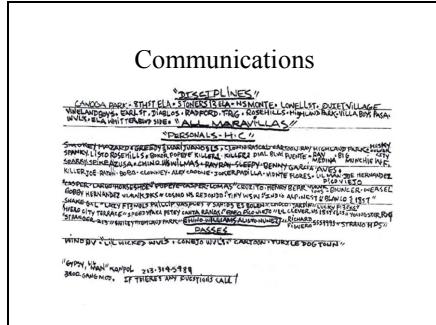
- parolees take messages to streets
- visitors pass info to streets
- cross visits pass info to other inmates
- hand signs with visitors and other inmates
- abuse law library- talk, leave messages and weapons
- crooked lawyers and compromised staff

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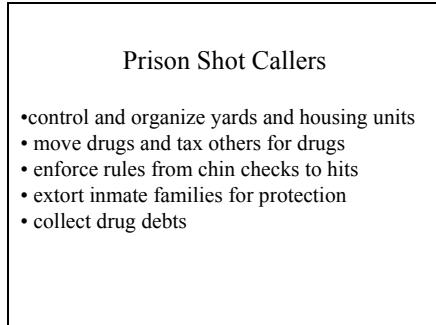
Communications

- use of written correspondence
- 150 crimes uncovered using US Mail
- Inmate corresponded with 100+ inmates in 12 prisons
- crimes included attempted murder and assaults
- directed major gang and race riots
- drugs deals in prisons and streets
- threats to kill or be assaulted

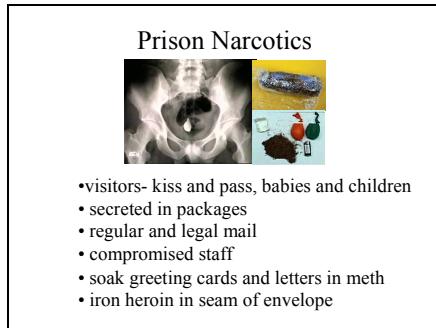
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Gang Supervision

- Know gang status of probationer/parolee
- Knowledge is power
- Know the characteristics of the gang
- Closer supervision of gang members
- Special Conditions of Parole/Probation
- No-gang association,flying colors,hangouts

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Gang Supervision

- Know the gangs in your area
- read the graffiti
- Know the rivalries/alliances
- Know the boundaries and gang locations in your area
- Know gang membership of family members

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Gang Supervision

- Use caution during home visits
- Be aware of rival gang members in the office at same time
- Take appropriate law enforcement back up during searches and arrests
- Share information with local police

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Interviewing skills

Don't Threaten

- prison is too good for most of them
- jail and prison are their homes
- most state raised
- life on the installment plan

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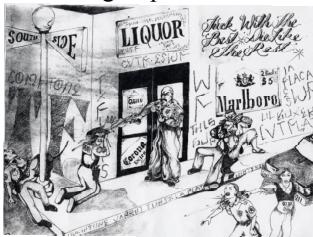
Interviewing

Don't Demean

- will get you nowhere- shuts down communication
- everyone talks- gives information
- someone dropped a dime on you
- they are conditioned to lie- stay at it

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision



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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Be Safe

- You are responsible for your safety and life
- take no short cuts regarding your safety
- short cuts lead to fatality
- eliminate safety lapses and bad habits

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Threats, Fear, & Intimidation

- were the gangs tools toward wits and victims
- now used against law enforcement
- no one is immune: cops, po's, co's, DDA's, judges etc
- gangs are increasingly more dangerous
- aggressive toward law enforcement
- "I'll get you when I get out"

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Threat Assessments

- person or gang who made the threat
- their criminal background and history of threats
- motive or reason for threat
- person's state of mind
- likelihood of follow through
- need thorough threat assessment

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Awareness and Response

- know your habits- don't get followed
- be aware of counter surveillance
- vary your route to home, to court
- be on code yellow at all times
- depositions and gang attorneys

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

- use cover team if necessary
- alert to anniversaries of shootings and major incidents
- gangs don't forget- long grudges, Black August
- parking lots and park and rides- AB's
- auto burg's for home address, door openers

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Information Sources

- license frames- hometown
- know your neighbors
- gangs in your kid's schools, sports
- data bases- Nexus Lexus

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Retaliation

- don't personalize case- stay out of their face
- ambushes of patrol units
- Folsom AB's- Ruffo shot
- followed staff home shot at co
- threat to hijack school bus full of staff kids

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Loose Talk

- gang members listen- their associates and families as well
- no personal talk when in court hallway, transport and booking
- no loose talk about where you live, recreate, eat and party
- gangs share info about staff

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Officer Safety
Gang Supervision

Off-Duty

- adapt your safety thinking to off duty practice
- develop a personal safety plan for you and your family
- what if confronted in public? What should your family do?
- use communication skills to buy time
- home security
- code word for you and your family if in trouble

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Police Partnerships

Why Share Information/Intelligence

- officer safety- prevent violence toward officers
- prevent violence between gangs
- prevent/ solve crimes in streets and prisons
- increased arrests and weapons seizures

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Police Partnerships

Types of Partnerships

- enhanced supervision partnerships
- fugitive apprehension units
- information sharing
- specialized enforcement partnerships
- inter-agency problem solving

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Police Partnerships

- develop informants and drop-outs
- identify trends and patterns
- threat assessments toward staff, public and opposing gangs
- target planning of gangs and suspects
- improve training of all law enforcement

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Community Based Organizations Interaction and Collaboration

- Community anti-gang programs
- Schools
- Faith based programs
- Get families involved
- Youth sports programs
- Self-help programs

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Strategies For The Future

- Increased collaboration with police and community groups
- After school activities
- Alternatives to joining a gang
- More educational opportunities
- Use of technology (electronic monitoring)
- Smaller specialized case loads

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Resources

- USdoj.gov/ndic (links to DOJ and Criminal Justice topics)
- Knowgangs.com
- ncjrs.gov (National Criminal Justice Reference Service)
- JUVJUST@usdoj.gov (Juvenile resources)
- NMGTF.org

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