



If you actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, dor more and become more, than you are a leader." John Quincy

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Next Edition September 5



N.J. lawmakers introduce bills to deter street gang activity

TRENTON — New Jersey congressional representatives are pushing new legislation to combat street gangs.

U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez is introducing one bill in the Senate and Rep. Frank Pallone introduced a version in the House of Representatives.

The legislation approaches gang problems from several angles. It would fund billions of dollars in programs for at-risk youth over five years, including \$5.5 billion in grants for state and federal programs and \$500 million for a community service initiative.

Menendez and Pallone also want \$3.5 billion in grants for police departments to fight gangs over five years.

Representative Pallone said, "The

federal government needs to step up and provide money." The legislation would also create or increase federal penalties for gang activities.

The bill would also place a 20-year penalty on recruiting minors into gangs. Pallone said they're not trying to crowd prisons but hope to deter gang activity.

Menendez and Pallone held a roundtable meeting in June with leaders from New Jersey government, law enforcement and community groups to develop new ideas for the bill.

Pallone said gangs are an increasing concern for residents, mentioning a recent town hall meeting in Plainfield focusing on violence in the community. "They've been around for awhile," he said. "But more attention has been called to it."

A 2009 federal report on gang activity estimated there are more than 1 million gang members in 20,000 gangs nationwide. In addition, gangs are increasing their foothold in suburbs and rural areas, the report said.

New Jersey municipalities reported similar findings in a 2007 statewide study. That year 43 percent of towns reported street gangs, up from 33 percent in 2004. However, gangs are usually "thin on the ground," with probably about a dozen members in most places, the report said

Source: nj.com

Mexican Drug Cartels: What the Future will Hold!

What the future will hold involving the United States and the activities of the various Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations is extremely difficult to say. What is known is that in the last several years the carnage that they have raged across Mexico has reached into the United States.

To gauge the impact here of how the U.S. is effected by the Cartels one only needs to turn to local media in certain regions of the country. But the National Drug Intelligence Center did release a report detailing the effects back in 2008 just when the war began ramp up in Mexico.

in 195 U.S. cities. "Mexican DTOs [Drug Trafficking Organizations] are the most pervasive organizational threat to the United States," the report said.

The activities are of such a concern that even the Department of Homeland Security Director Janet Napolitano says that the drug cartels and the violence associated with them are a threat to U.S. Security. If DHS believes that the issue of the cartels needs to be address from a Security standpoint then why has the Obama Administration not proposed a new strategy?

What is at stake?

There is money to be lost on both sides of this war. But to better understand what the costs may be one has to understand what the margins for loss and profit are.

Mexico is the number one source of Marijuana into the United

States. This accounts for roughly 50-60% of the MDC's profits annually. The \$320 billion annual global drug industry now accounts for 1 percent of all commerce on the planet. Mexico is a major provider of methamphetamine and heroine. The United States consumption of these drugs revenues range from 13 billion to 38 billion annually.

The profits at stake rival some medium sized countries and some large size global corpora-



tions.

However, what is frequently forgotten is that beyond the costs of what the drug trade makes on the sale and distribution of their illegal products. But also what other criminal activities the Drug Trafficking Organizations and their support organizations immerse themselves in as well. Many of these crimes adversely affect legitimate businesses on both sides of the border.

How does that affect us here in seeking to come to the United States for a better life. Gangs extort money from drug and illegal aliens transiting the U.S. Mexican border. The Mexican Drug Cartels have also become extremely good at recruitment, both here in the U.S. and in Mexico. Los Zeta's, and enforcer gang turned to Drug Cartel has utilized new methods to recruit young people either to be drug couriers or into their organizations as employees. Mexican Drug Cartels are utilizing recruiting including the use of the underground radio stations, internet advertisements and print ads to recruit young people to work within the cartel or to transport narcotics across the U.S. Mexican Border.

### **The Risk to American businesses**

The impact on the U.S. economy is also being effected. Through higher cost passed on to the consumer as the cost of doing business. As well as increases in taxes at the local, state and federal level which further burden to general public.

Industries impacted in the United States include the Oil Industry, tourism, Military, Politics, Education, Housing, Crime Rate, Banks and the Firearm Industry. For example, Mexico is a major provider of oil to the U.S. providing one third of all imported oil. Several of the drug cartels have interdicted oil from the oil producing companies for their own their own profit, costing the oil companies millions. The U.S. automotive industry has been impacted as well. General Motors was extorted by the MDC's for months before GM finally paid. This ultimately impacts the consumer here in the U.S. through higher costs. One could speculate since the United States taxpayer now owns 51% of General Motors that they are now extorting money from the United States Government, and we have now made a dramatic policy shift of "Paying ransom."

There are more than 18,000 U.S. based companies doing business in Mexico. The impact on businesses operating and investing in Mexico has been severely impacted in 2009. A survey conducted by the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico found that over 58% of their members felt less safe in 2009, then in previous years.

Twenty-seven percent were reconsidering investments in Mexico due to security concerns, according to a poll of the American Chamber's members.

Of particular concern is the impact domestically that the Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations have within the United States. Because many street gangs are exclusively involved in narcotics sales, either at the retail level or wholesale level the improved transportation and distribution that the MDTO's provide are lucrative. Additionally, because of the vast profit margins the MDTO's have also began to squeeze out competition from other major distributors, which has resulted in hundreds of kidnappings, executions and home invasions on rival's distributors safe houses.

In the NDIC's 2009 Gang Threat Assessment they indicated that MDTO's and street gangs, including prison gangs have moved into new relationships for distribution. American gangs will continue to develop and build upon existing relationships through material support, smuggling, and transportation on a regular basis into the United States. In addition, because of the United States failure to address the immigration issue, street gangs and the MDTO's continue to exploit those who are both sides of the border.

### **Risk to Law Enforcement**

Since the violence has continued to increase in Mexico and routinely spills over in to the United States, the increase risk to law enforcement continues to grow. Many of these Law Enforcement Agencies and their officers' may not realize the risk that they are facing. Of particular are the increased use of military style weapons, including grenades and Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPG's), but also in military style tactics. Los Zetas add a level of sophistication not seen by law enforcement previously. This includes intelligence gathering, with insider information, coordinated military actions, deployment with concentrated levels of fire power.

Recently reported by the Mexican Government was the discovery recently that several MDTO's have begun using Improvised Explosive Devices(IED). In February, the Mexico Military disabled an IED in Oaxaca. In March the Mexican Military seized 50 rifles, 60 hand grenades and eight IED's. One only has to wonder how long it will take for either American Street Gangs to utilize this technique here in the United States or for the MDTO's to use it to protect their investments here?

As an additional industry for the MDTO's to be involved in is their involvement in Ransoms and Extortion in Mexico. Because the MDTO's see a large profit in these two crimes the volume of kidnappings for Ransom and Extortion have gone up each year. As a result Mexico has passed a law that all cellular telephones must be registered to a name. This was initiated to impact the use of pay as you go phones that have been used for ransoms, drug dealing and extortion activities in Mexico. How would that work here in the United States, where we are already seeing this occur in sev-

eral of our border or destinations states for the Drug Cartels? The NAACP would never allow such an action to be put into law.

The risk to American Law Enforcement is extremely grave when you factor in the economic down turn that has hit so many communities. Resulting in the reduction of police officers through layoffs and hiring freezes imposed by reduced tax revenues. Law Enforcement is already spread thin and the line gets thinner as the economy continues to falter. American Law Enforcement Officers are already being tasked with increased responsibilities involving the threat of terrorism, but now coupled with a potential risk from in reality what are Narco-terrorists, the ability to effectively deal with the threat locally is almost impossible.

If not to make things worse, the MDTO's may be utilizing tactics that are utilized in Special Warfare training manuals, such as what Los Zeta's would have knowledge of. A series of actions that the MDTO's may be contributing to either indirectly as a group or individually will continue to de-stabilize Mexico and should be considered a direct threat to the security of the United States. These tactics include infiltrating enemy ranks and organizations, which would point to Mexican government, law enforcement and military organizations. Gang order of battle, intelligence, penetrates security systems and disrupting supply lines. Create damage, dissension and demoralization, which they MDTO's have done extremely well through the execution of Police Chiefs, Prosecuting Attorneys, Generals as well as executions of rival MDTO's and the general public.

The last area of control or disruption is the media. The media in Mexico and abroad has been dramatically impacted both domestically and internationally. The editor of the Mexican paper "Reforma", based out of Monterrey Mexico must commute from Texas to Mexico weekly out of fear for his life and his family after being threatened. If you control the media you control the method and way to get information out to the masses. That is why in almost every coup, radio, print and television are always seized. Could the MDTO's be very close to actually taking over Mexico and dividing the country up into MDTO, City States?

### **Conclusion**

The perilous state that Mexico is in, poses a direct threat to the security of the United States. Failure on the part of the Federal Government to act within a timely manner may result in a dangerous financial impact to the United States. Through increased drug addiction, violence at a volume never seen before and increased corruption and criminal activity. Only time will tell if our legislators and those who have sworn to protect us act for the good of the people.

## CHILDREN ON DRUGS BY RICHARD WILMOT PH.D DR.DOCWILMOT@GMAIL.COM

Whenever a politician wants to rouse the public to champion a policy all he or she has to do is invoke the name of children: "it's all about the children"; "it's for our children," "it's to protect the children." There is a lot of hypocrisy and disingenuousness attached to such an invocation, as poverty and the lack of health care - two of the most manifest endangerments to children - seem to be perennially ignored.

Likewise, if one wishes to provoke intense public scrutiny all one has to do is mention children and drugs in the same sentence. If they are so juxtaposed, then the link between them had better emphasize their contrast and conflict. There is nothing good to say about the use of drugs by children ... except by children themselves and only when adults are not present. Perhaps we should put down the Ritalin and simply listen to them.

Of course children know better than to say anything to an adult that could in anyway be construed as favorable towards drugs. Although among themselves, they will reveal their true feelings. It is too dangerous to talk frankly with an adult about drugs. There are sanctions. There is pain and punishment ... hurt feelings. Why bother? And it is just such a conspiracy of silence and self-censorship that places us in the position we are today: awash with drugs and drug problems with only clichés to say out loud about them.

We are now engaged in yet another war - a civil war (for the children) against drugs, except it appears that the "enemy" is becoming a little more devious, a little more stealthy, and is hiding in common, ordinary household products and personal grooming aids such as finger nail polish and nail polish remover, spray paint, marking pens, spray on solvents, and whip cream dispensers. These are the products used in inhalant abuse, and although one does not necessarily need to be a child to use them, it is understood that a troublesome percentage of both adolescents and preadolescents do so.

Who is this enemy in these products that threaten our children? NIDA director Nora Volkow, MD, identified the enemy in her article "Youth and Inhalant Abuse" - the enemy is the "quick high" (Volkow, 2006).

Tell us more about this "quick high" threat to our children. But alas, throughout the remainder of the article, "quick high" is never mentioned again. Perhaps that is because of the profane reputation of the word "high" itself. It is really a "quick (& dirty) high".

Be that as it may, now that the "enemy" has been identified, let us bring on the war! What should be our weapons to keep children off inhalants? Aerosol sprays, propellants, and solvents are not good things to inhale; on that we can all agree. However to ban such products because of their possible abuse would be absurd. It is incredulous to consider the makers of glue, shoe polish, paint thinner or gasoline as drug pushers. So the weapon of prohibition seems out of the question. What about propaganda? Perhaps if children knew just how

bad it was for both their mental and physical health, they would cease and desist. Yet, as Volkow points out, studies indicate that users report that they "abuse inhalants in spite of known negative consequences." And after a lengthy description of just how negative those negative effects can be, Dr Volkow concludes with this prevention tip: "A solution to this problem ... aims to educate children and others about the dangers and risks involved." In other words: more propaganda about the negative effects of "huffing," "snorting" and "bagging" that children, as Volkow reports, do not listen to anyway (Volkow, 2006).

How can we get the children to listen? Perhaps we should listen to them, and if not through words, at least from a different angle - through their actions (i.e., behaviorally).

Dr. Volkow made the comment: "It is difficult to understand why anyone would stuff a solvent-soaked rag in their mouth, and begin huffing the concentrated vapors." Perhaps the reason has to do with that "quick high" mentioned at the beginning of her article.

When Sigmund Freud first proposed "infantile sexuality" his conjecture was considered absurd. Nowadays, childhood erotica is viewed as a normal part of psychological development and genital manipulation is observable behavior in infants. Our knowledge about psychoactive drugs and particularly drug use by children seems to be at a similar parochial stage of understanding as was sex at the turn of the last century.

However, just as Freud postulated sex as a universal drive, many experts in the field of drug studies are beginning to recognize that "getting high" is also a universal drive. Ronald Siegel, Andrew Weil, Stuart Walton and others have observed that "getting high" or altering one's consciousness is an evolutionary inevitability having to do with our human biology. To paraphrase Siegel: "getting high" is as natural as falling in love (Siegel, 1989).

Weil also calls our attention to the natural orientation of children to alter their consciousness: The desire to alter consciousness is an innate psychological drive arising out of the neurological structure of the human brain. Strong evidence for this idea comes from observations of very young children, who regularly use techniques of consciousness alteration on themselves and each other when they think no adults are watching them.

These methods include whirling until vertigo and collapse ensue, hyperventilating and fainting. Such practices appear to be universal, irrespective of culture, and present at ages when social conditioning is unlikely to be an important influence (two and three years old). Psychiatrists have paid little attention to these activities of all children.

Freud noted them and called them 'sexual equivalents' which they may be, although that formulation is not very useful. (Weil, 1972).

In his book *Out of It* (2002), Walton describes the death of a 15-year-old boy at Eton College resulting from a game of recreational asphyxiation, which had been all the rage in Britain's famous public school. In this asphyxiation game, intelligent adolescents from functional homes choked each other into unconsciousness by tying cloths around each other's necks and tightening them until one's playmate collapsed. When asked to explain the reason for such behavior one of the participants said: "The attraction was that it was something different. It makes you feel abnormal."

Spinning until dizzy or asphyxiating until close to passing out and experiencing the disorientation and hilarity that such an altered state can produce are the same motivational triggers for doing drugs, whether it be inhaling nitrous oxide from an empty whip cream dispenser or smoking marijuana. The need to alter one's consciousness is a perfectly natural drive. When children attempt to "get high" they are doing something natural. They are playing. Adults who use spinning to promote spiritual mysticism (Sufi Dervishes) or enhance their sexual foreplay through erotic asphyxiation are using a child's game to do the same thing: alter their consciousness.

If we can view a child's motivation for getting "high" as part of a universal desire to alter consciousness, we will have a better understanding of how to deal with abuse. What the child is doing is natural, but the tools he or she may be employing may be dangerously inappropriate. Approached in this way, we will have a better rapport with the child, and on that basis, be better informed as to what our children are doing. No longer do we have to threaten the child by saying: "What in the hell are you doing that for or why in the hell are you taking that stuff." Such a prohibitive reaction simply 'shouts' down further communication. We can bypass the inquisition because we will already know. We can then say: "I know how you feel when you do this or take that ... this is natural ... I'm just concerned you might hurt yourself. Here is why."

In conclusion, it should be noted that one of main propellants used in aerosols is nitrous oxide, considered the most abused of all other gases. William James, the father of modern American recovery psychology, used nitrous oxide himself in his experiments on human consciousness. He titrated his dose and created for himself a uniquely religious experience that he wrote about in his now classic work *The Varieties of the Religious Experience*.

Do children have such experiences themselves when they ingest such drugs as nitrous oxide? Perhaps it is time that we ask them. Maybe the answer to childhood drug abuse is to begin a dialogue with children on drugs that recognizes the fact that what they are doing is natural (not necessarily pathological or immoral) but also can be dangerous, and that our concern is over the danger and not about the alteration of consciousness itself.

## G.A.T.E. AMERICA INC.

410 Cardinal Drive  
Bartlett, Illinois 60103

Phone: 630-398-4811  
Fax: 630-233-8312  
Email: [info@openthegate.org](mailto:info@openthegate.org)

[www.openthegate.org](http://www.openthegate.org)

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Chicago, IL  
Location to be Announced.

#### October

G.A.T.E. America Inc, is an organization that works daily to protect America's young people from violence. Our goals are to provide law enforcement, educators and parents with the appropriate training and resources to reduce gang activity in and around their communities. We achieve this through programs such as G.A.T.E., a school based gang education intervention/prevention program for grades 5th through 8th. The G.A.T.E. program has two new programs available GATE Kids for grades K-4 and RADICAL for teenagers.

Check out our new website, we have a new improved look, with easy navigation bars and the resources for parents, instructors and teachers.

## TIPS FOR DE-ESCALATING JUVENILE AGGRESSION

Attempting to address Juvenile Aggression safely is extremely difficult to do. Having a plan in place, a firm understanding of the phases of juvenile aggression and as well as strong control of your own emotions are paramount. A future article in the gazette will cover this topic in-depth. In a class room setting teachers should stick to prescriptive strategies.

1. The adult should focus on developing a positive relationship with students based on mutual respect.
2. Provide effective, relevant and motivating instruction.
3. Develop a plan for managing each aggressive student's behavior in the classroom, include instruction in pro-social skills training.
4. Develop a plan for self-control in which both personal triggers and a plan of action are identified. The plan should be a problem solving model and include self-monitoring, self-evaluation and self-reward.
5. Lastly remember to monitor each cycle to determine if the adults actions terminates the cycle or furthers along the continuum.

## 28 arrested in Chicago area during ICE operation targeting gang members

CHICAGO — U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, in close partnership with local law enforcement officers, made 28 arrests during a three-day operation targeting illegal aliens with ties to violent street gangs in the Chicagoland area. This is the latest local effort in an ongoing national ICE initiative to target foreign-born gang members.

The arrests were made as part of Operation Community Shield, a national initiative whereby ICE partners with other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to target the significant public safety threat posed by transnational street gangs. Partnerships with local law enforcement agencies are essential to the success of Operation Community Shield.

The multi-agency operation, which ended April 27, targeted foreign-born gang members and associates. All 28 men arrested are documented members of the following gangs: Latin Kings, Maniac Latin Disciples, Sureño 13s, Insane Deuces, Norteño 14s, Spanish Cobras, Latin Counts, Spanish Gangster Disciples, Latin Eagles and OMC Street Crew.

Of the 28 gang members arrested, 26 have prior criminal histories. Some of their arrests and convictions include: robbery, aggravated battery/weapon, aggravated battery/great bodily harm, aggravated battery on a government official, residential burglary, mob action, domestic battery, and unlawfully using a weapon with a silencer. Of those arrested, 25 were from Mexico, one from Honduras and

one from El Salvador.

One U.S. citizen with an outstanding warrant was also arrested; Carlos Gonzalez, 18, of Elgin, was arrested April 25 and turned over to local authorities on an outstanding state warrant for drug possession.

One of those arrested was Abraham Monroy-Perez, a Mexican national who was previously deported in 2005. ICE agents arrested Monroy-Perez, 27, of Elgin, on April 25. He was charged in U.S. District Court in Chicago on Thursday for illegally re-entering the U.S. after being formally deported, which is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Also turned over to local authorities was Oscar Anicua, a Mexican national and Latin Kings gang member with three outstanding warrants in DuPage County and Kane County. Anicua will be returned to ICE for deportation once the local charges against him are completed.

Arrests were made in the following communities: Aurora, Chicago, Elgin, Mount Prospect, Prospect Heights, West Chicago, Wheeling and Wood Dale.

The 25 currently in ICE custody are charged with administrative immigration violations and are pending removal from the United States. ICE does not release the names of those arrested on administrative immigration charges.

"Street gangs are responsible for committing a significant amount of crime in our neighborhoods and communities," said Gary Hartwig, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of

Investigations in Chicago. "ICE works closely with our local law enforcement partners to identify, locate and arrest these gang members in the name of public safety. Ultimately, we remove those who are deportable from the United States."

ICE was assisted in the operation by the police departments of Aurora, Elgin, West Chicago, Wheeling and Prospect Heights. Since Operation Community Shield began in February 2005, ICE agents nationwide have arrested more than 16,700 gang members and associates linked to more than 900 different gangs. More than 200 of those arrested were gang leaders.

The National Gang Unit at ICE identifies violent street gangs and develops intelligence on their membership, associates, criminal activities and international movements to deter, disrupt and dismantle gang operations by tracing and seizing cash, weapons and other assets derived from criminal activities.

Through Operation Community Shield, the federal government uses its powerful immigration and customs authorities in a coordinated, national campaign against criminal street gangs in the United States. Transnational street gangs have significant numbers of foreign-born members and are frequently involved in human and contraband smuggling, immigration violations and other crimes with a connection to the border.

(Source: ICE)

*Opening the GATE for our youth's Future!*