



I've failed over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed – Michael Jordan

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Much has been talked about in the news over the last several months in regards to the Mexican Drug Cartels. What sits in most peoples minds is the astronomical murder rate that is attributed to these organizations, inside Mexico and her in the United States.

The Mexican Drug Cartels are broken down into 7 distinct groups.

1. Oaxaca Cartel, which operates in 7 states in Mexico.
2. Based out of Michoacán, the La Familia Cartel, considered a newer Cartel, lead by Alberto Espinoza Barron called "La Fresa".
3. Also out of Michoacán is the Valencia Cartel, also known as the Milenio. It has operations in six states and deals primarily in Marijuana.
4. Sinaloa Cartel has operations in 17 states, and is lead by Joaquin Guzman Loera "El Chapo". This Cartel created the two enforcer gangs Negros and Pelonies in direct response to the Gulf Cartel's Los Zetas.
5. Gulf Cartel based in

Mexican Drug Cartels

By Robert Tornabene

Tamaulipas has operations in 13 states. The leader Osiel Ordenas Guillien who is incarcerated is rumored to still control the Cartel. The Gulf Cartel uses Los Zetas as an enforcement arm.

6. Juarez Cartel, based in Chihuahua has operations in 21 states and is the Largest of all the Cartels.
7. Tijuana Cartel, based in Baja California is led by the Arellana Felix family and has operations



in 15 states. This cartel is considered one of the strongest and deadliest.

Of particular interest is that these groups will work together in certain areas of Mexico and the United States and they have created an organization called the Federation.

The Federation is made up of the Sinaloa, Juarez and Valencia Cartel.

In direct response to the Federation the Tijuana and Gulf Cartel have formed an alliance.

Although the Cartels have agreed to work together on specific things they remain independent organizations.

Mexico is a major drug producing and transit country and is the main foreign supplier of marijuana as well as a major supplier of methamphetamine to the United States.

Although the Mexican Cartels have existed for many years, they have become more powerful as the Medellin and Cali Cartels in Colombia began to fall apart. The Mexican Cartels realized the immense profits they could make by cutting out the Colombian cartels.

According to the National Drug Intelligence Center they now consider the Mexican drug cartels as dominating the U.S. illicit drug market. The Mexican drug cartels use well established overland transportation networks to transport cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamine and heroin to drug markets throughout the United States. (page 2)

Part 1 of a 5 Part Series

Gang Informant: A Rare View from Inside!

A gang leader while working for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and firearms offers a rare look at the inside workings of a street gang. Jesse Guajardo, a Latin King Inca, a chapter leader of the "Lenzi" Latin Kings in Suburban Chicago had the ear and trust of one of the Corona's of the Latin Kings.

During a multi-year undercover investigation in which Guajardo wore a "wire" he recorded orders to conduct a "violation" on two Latin Kings for mistakenly hitting the wife of the Corona with a beer. In addition, large quantities of narcotics were exchanged for protection

of a drug operation. Guajardo was an up and comer in the Latin Kings. Having gotten his start by selling drugs when he was only 8 years of age.

Guajardo protected the "Little Village" neighborhood through a series of security precautions. Through the use of street soldiers to control perimeters, the use of maps to plot out escape routes that rivals would use to carry out drive by shootings. The gang had armed security teams for "force protection" take swift action against rival gangs.

In July 2008 Guajardo testified in federal court against the reputed

Corona Augustin Zambrano. Guajardo's testimony provided a rare look inside the inner workings of one of Chicago's most organized criminal enterprise.

The Latin King Nation has suffered several high profile federal cases such as "Operation Broken Crown" in the last several years. But the Latin Kings still have strong chapters and membership in Chicago, New York, Florida and other states as well as internationally in Spain and the Dominican Republic.

Source: Chicago Tribune



Highlights from the 2009 National Drug Threat Assessment

The 2009 National Drug Threat Assessment was conducted through the Department of Justice, National Drug Intelligence Center. The actual report was released in December 2008. Below are several of the key highlights of this report.

- More than 35 million individuals used illicit drugs or abused prescription drugs in 2007.
- More than 1,100 children were injured at, killed at, or removed from methamphetamine laboratory sites from 2007 through September 2008.
- The level of prescription drug abuse is very high, and individuals are able to acquire these drugs from numerous sources.
- Southwest Asian heroin availability may increase in some U.S. cities that were not previously considered Southwest Asian heroin markets.



- Mexican DTOs will most likely continue to establish new markets for Mexican heroin in northeastern states.
- Levels of marijuana use are higher than those for any other drug, particularly among adults; however, rates of marijuana use are decreasing among adolescents.

- The average potency of marijuana increased in 2007 to the highest levels ever recorded, likely because of increased demand for higher-potency marijuana and improvements in cultivation techniques.
- indoor cannabis cultivation is increasing nationally because of high profit margins and seemingly re-

...rates of marijuana use are decreasing among adolescents.

- duced risk of law enforcement detection.
- indoor cannabis cultivation is most prevalent in western states; however, indoor cultivation in eastern states, particularly Florida and Georgia, increased sharply in 2007.
- Asian DTOs and criminal groups have increased their indoor cannabis cultivation operations in many states; some of these groups are linked in a nationwide criminal network.
- Heroin trafficking and abuse are most prevalent in eastern states. The strong and lucrative heroin markets in these states are attracting Mexican criminal groups.
- West African criminal groups have recently attempted to expand distribution of Southwest Asian heroin in some areas

- Many abusers of controlled prescription drugs commit insurance fraud to finance the purchase of these drugs, and such activity has an enormous financial impact on society.
- Gangs are becoming increasingly involved in wholesale-level drug trafficking, aided by their connections with drug trafficking organizations, particularly Mexican and Asian DTOs.
- Gangs are increasingly conducting criminal activity across the U.S.–Mexico and U.S.–Canada borders. They are routinely transporting drugs, firearms and currency across borders.
- Gangs pose a growing problem for law enforcement particularly in their growing relationships with Mexico- and U.S.-based Mexican drug traffickers employ advanced communication technology and techniques to coordinate their illicit drug trafficking activities. The DTO's use an array of communication methods, such as Voice over Internet Protocol, satellite technology (broadband satellite instant messaging), encrypted messaging, cell phone technology, two-way radios, scanner devices, and text messaging, to communicate with members.

The complete report can be viewed at <http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/pubs31/31379/index.htm>

Mexican Drug Cartels Series: Part 1 of 5



Continued from Page 1

Although the Colombians still control South American cocaine and heroin smuggling to the eastern United States their role has diminished rapidly as the Mexican Cartels expand.

The DEA believes that the Mexican cartels now have command and control over the drug trade and are starting to show the hallmarks of organized crime, such as organizing into distinct cells with subordinate cells that operate throughout the U.S. Because the Mexican cartels dominate the U.S. illicit drug market they are the leading wholesale launderers of drug money from the U.S.

Mexican cartels produced methamphetamine and marijuana in the United States and have long grown marijuana in the U.S.

often on federal land in California. Many of these operations are increasingly being found to have linked up running very large grow operations across the country.

As they groups continue to expand they are found to be involved with prison and street gangs in the United States. This was in an effort to facilitate their drug trafficking as well as dominate wholesale drug distribution. In 2006 the National Drug Intelligence Center reported that gangs such as the Latin Kings and Mara Salvatrucha buy methamphetamine from Mexican drug cartels for distribution in the southwestern United States. The FBI says the Mexican cartels focus on the wholesale distribution, leaving retail sales of illicit drugs to the street gangs. They cartels also work with multiple gangs, not picking sides in the U.S. gang conflicts.

In addition to drug trafficking, the Mexican

Cartels have connections to both human trafficking and arms trafficking as well as auto theft and kidnapping. The Mexican drug traffickers smuggle money back into Mexico in cars and trucks, likely due to the effectiveness of the U.S. efforts at monitoring electronic money transfers.

The Mexican drug cartels are now operating in over 200 cities in the United States. Currently from January 2007 to the printing of this series there have been 9, 728 murders attributed to the Mexican Drug Cartel drug war.

Part 2: The Enforcer Gangs

Gangs: The Business behind the Bars

The State of New Jersey Commission of Investigation conducted a two year investigation into the level of gang activity and its ability to thrive inside the New Jersey Correctional System. What was discovered was a litany of failures, circumvented security procedures, failures to train staff adequately and a general mistrust of those handling gang intelligence compounded the growing gang problem.

The key findings of the commission report including

1. use of Inmate Financial Transactions to launder money,
2. inmates communicating all over the country via cell phone and Smartphone technology.
3. Lapses in security and correctional officers smuggling in contraband to inmates.
4. Inadequate gang identification and intelligence
5. Systemic vulnerabilities in DOC personnel practices and
6. Dysfunctional Investigation system with the prison correctional setting.

The report conducted through a series of interview, surveillance, procedural review and departmental policy revealed a very interesting state of the gang picture within the New Jersey Correctional System.

New Jersey has 14 prison institutions in

which the New Jersey Department of Corrections is responsible for.



What was discovered is that gang members utilizing cellular telephones smuggled in either by corrupt correctional officers, civilian staff or visitors allows them to communicate with a wide variety of people. Inside the system they can communicate with fellow gang members within the institutional system, fellow gang members on the street or other gang members outside the state.

Identified were the pre-pay disposable cell phones that are smuggled into the system for about \$1000. Once inside the gang members utilize the relatively small size of the SIM card and easily switch the information from one phone to another reducing the risk of discovery.

In addition, the report identifies how gang members bypass the internal telephone monitoring system by having a collect call to a "family" member placed into a third party

mode. Allowing the gang member to communicate with whomever they wish.

The report also details that the sheer volume of regular mail that comes into the prison system is impossible to monitor. The favored method by gang members for distributing operational instructions via mail is heavily coded, and many times unbreakable. But merely identifying the mail that is suspect is hampered by a system that requires all mail to be delivered within 24 hours of receipt at the jail.

The C of I report also revealed that correctional officers receive a scant 8 hours of training in a 14 week academy class when the standards says a minimum of 40 hours is needed.

The Commission of Investigation detailed a series of recommendations that should be carried out both inside the New Jersey Department of Corrections but outside as well. To read the report in its entirety please go to the link below.

<http://www.state.nj.us/sci/pdf/Gangs%20SCI%20Report%20Full.pdf>

Can a survey identify a potential gang member?

Survey says.. Was a common phrase on the television game show "Family Feud" But what famed gang researcher Malcolm Klein is proposing is a comprehensive survey to identify potential gang members later on in life.

Klein is taking is more then 40 years of study into the street gang phenomenon a survey to identify gang behavior later on. The multiple choice screening, 70 questions in length is intended to be used on children between the ages of 10 to 15.

The survey will ask questions ranging from a variety of issues includ-

ing past relationships to drug use and attitudes towards violence. The survey will also examine relationships the youths have and will look inwardly at the youths asking them questions if they are nice to other children.

According to Klein studies that he and other researchers have done suggests that gangs involve a far more narrow segment of youth population, perhaps 15% in gang ridden areas and even lower elsewhere.

The emphasis on data is following a push of what policy makers would call "epidemiological " strategy in-

stead of treating "symptoms" of gang activity such as violent crime.

Currently Klein has administered the predictive test to 958 children in the Los Angeles area, with one third of them identified as potential future gang members. These identified children will then be placed into preventive programs. The results of this will not be available for several years to determine if the test is successful or not.

Source: Wall Street Journal

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May 7 Gang Awareness & Recognition, Chicago

June 2009

June 19 Gang Awareness & Recognition, Cleveland, OH
June 22-26 GATE Instructor Training, Philadelphia, PA

July 2008

No Scheduled Training

August 2009

Aug 18-21 GATE Instructor Training, Cleveland, OH

September 2009

Sept 17 Gang Awareness & Recognition, Chicago

October 2009

No Scheduled Training as of print date

November 2009

No Scheduled Training as of print date

February 2010

Feb 10 Gang Awareness & Recognition, Chicago

March 2010

No Scheduled Training as of print date

April 2010

April 14 Gang Awareness & Recognition, Chicago

G.A.T.E. America Inc, is an organization that works daily to protect America's young people from violence. That violence can be youth on youth violence, adult on youth violence, racial intolerance and terrorism. Our goals are to provide law enforcement officers, educators and parents with the appropriate training in key issues. 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.

In addition, we provide training to school administrators, teachers and parents about other current issues including Gangs, Internet Safety and Violence Prevention.

Our final goal is to better prepare law enforcement officers to deal with youth violence, in-service training and ultimately keep them safe. We achieve this through our training courses and networking opportunities such as Crisis Preparedness for Schools, Crisis Planning In the Workplace, Gang Awareness and Recognition, GATE Instructor Certification and our newest course, First Officer On A Major Incident and a host of more. Check out our website for other courses as they become available.

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

WWW.OPENTHEGATE.ORG

OFFICER TIPS

When interviewing gang members remember to follow these rules.

1. Separate all gang members when you are conducting interviews
2. Ask specific questions, in a two fold approach. First, ask simple questions that you already know the answer to gauge truthfulness. Secondly, when asking questions attempt to illicit information about rivals first before attempting to get information on their own gang.
3. Keep gang members facing you so they cannot see their fellow gang members. It will help them in being more truthful without be emboldened by their compatriots. This is also a good officer safety tool.
4. Do not insult or show disrespect for them or their gang.
5. Never confront gang status, just behavior. By confronting status you may open yourself up to attack later on.
6. Do not mimic gang activity.
7. Drop the term "wannabe", instead utilize the phrase "Claimer" If they wish to claim they are a member of a street gang then all the problems that surround claiming that membership fall to them. Calling a youth a "wannabe" can evoke a challenge and harden the gang member further.
8. Do not underestimate young, smaller or female gang members.
9. Never physically confront a gang member alone.
10. Never assume you are safe. No matter how well you know them.