

Dealing with Gang Members

Officer Safety and Gang Investigations



Understanding The Gang Mindset

- Respect and Reputation are the central to the gang sub-culture.
- Gang Members view authority figures with suspicion, and view the police as the enemy.

We are considered a rival gang.



Gang Contacts

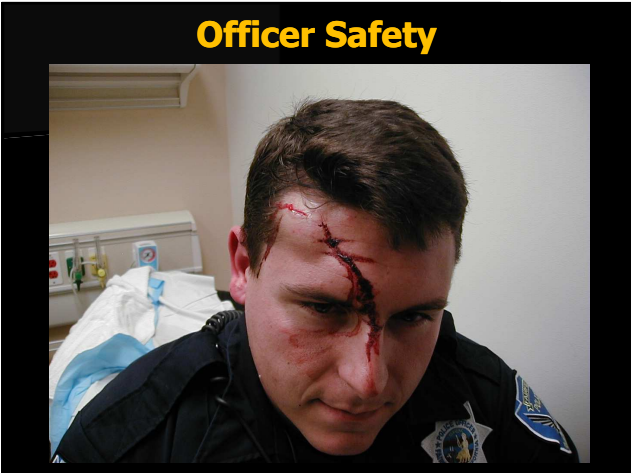
- Always contact from a position of advantage, and use contact/cover if two officers are present. Put the gangbanger in a position of disadvantage.





Gang Contacts

- Control their movement!
 - Don't forget that gangs derive their strength from numbers



Officer Safety

- Gang members are much more likely to have some kind of weapon on their person, or nearby, than the average person. It may not always be a gun, but it can always hurt you.
- Suspected gang member = Terry frisk for weapons.



Officer Safety

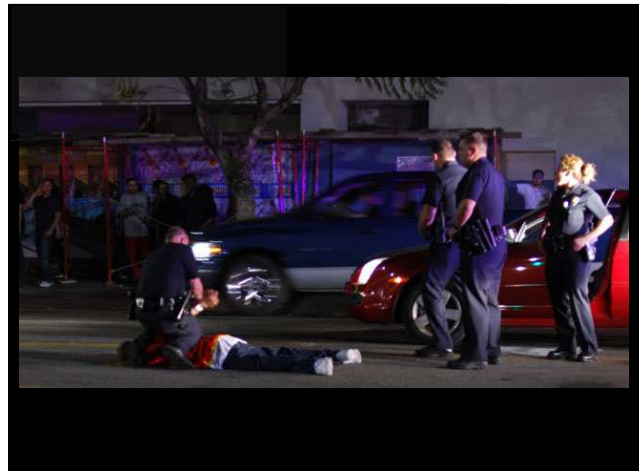
- **NEVER** let them speak to each other in a language that you don't understand.
 - You should probably not let them talk to each other in any language.
- Do not let them use a cell phone freely.
 - If you have legal standing to do so, temporarily take it from them
 - If not, make sure they know not to use it
- **Firm but fair.** Gangs operate on respect, and if you treat them with respect (**Even though they don't deserve it...**) you'll get the information you're looking for.
- Don't let your guard down... **you have no idea what's going on in the gang member's head.**

Officer Safety

Wanna-be's

vs.

Veteranos



Officer Safety

- Stay sharp, and maintain your fitness. For gang members, fighting is a way of life, whether it be with fists or weapons.



Officer Safety

- Do not steal their colors!
 - The way you leave this contact will set the stage for the next officer that contacts them.
 - If you take their colors/belts/hats/etc, you will just make them less likely to cooperate with the next officer.
 - Besides, it's probably against policy, and it's theft.



Officer Safety

- Keep your ears open and your mouth shut.
- Be aware of your surroundings!



Situational Awareness



He doesn't have it.



So, why is all of this important?

- Directed Policing
 - Focus time and resources on the violent offenders, make solid arrests, and remove predators from the community
- Divert the younger, more peripherally involved members away from the gang lifestyle
- ***Gather Intelligence!***
 - Gang Intelligence, not arrests, is what solves or prevents gang crimes.

Gang Contacts

- People join gangs because they are lacking in certain things
 - Respect
 - Recognition
 - Belonging
 - Affection
- If the patrol Deputy understands these factors, they can use them as a psychological tool against the individual gang member in order to gain trust and build rapport.

Gang Contacts

- **Respect**
 - Respect is very important to gang members. Deputies who recognize this are likely to reduce confrontations with gang members and obtain better intelligence from them.
 - Deputies gain more cooperation and intel from gang members when they use a professional and congenial approach. The overly aggressive approach or the use of humiliation or intimidation usually guarantees **ZERO** cooperation.
 - If a deputy humiliates or disrespects a gang member, especially in the presence of other gang members, that gang member may feel compelled to retaliate against either that deputy or the next deputy with whom they come into contact.
 - Gang members who feel that they have been treated fairly will not only become more cooperative, but they will often give deputies valuable information, especially about **rival** gang members.
 - Showing respect to the family and friends of gang members increases the amount of intelligence which may be gathered **from them** concerning the gang member in question.

Gang Contacts

- Lay down the rules at the beginning of the contact, and be consistent.
 - Don't break your word!
- You can give them a certain amount of leeway, but do not take their crap or their disrespect. You'll quickly be labeled as weak.
 - Fear and intimidation are gangster tools of the trade. If you get punked in the streets, the word will make it around before you can clear the scene.
 - Gang members who don't respect you will be more likely to lie to you, run from you, and fight you.
 - Gang members will often disrespect us by:
 - Frequent spitting on the ground near you or your feet
 - Sucking their grill
 - The "Cholo Stance"
 - Whistling to girls or calling out to other gang members while detained
 - Not following specific directions given by LE

Gang Contacts

- Maintain your professionalism. Do not lose your cool!
- **Separate them**
 - Gang Members will always act tough and be disrespectful towards you in front of their buddies. This is one way that they can "earn their stripes"
 - If you separate them and talk to them one-on-one, you have a better chance of getting the intel you want.
 - Be aware of officer safety issues- only do this when you have two deputies, and keep his back turned towards his partners in crime.

Documenting Your Gang Contact



Why does it matter?

- Most criminal cases are the same:
 - Determine crime
 - See bad guy, arrest same
 - File charges
- Rarely is their criminal history a factor, let alone admissible in court.
- However, in gang cases, **EVERY CONTACT** with the suspect is necessary to prove an ongoing affiliation with a criminal street gang.
- So even if the gangbanger is already well-documented, take the extra 5 minutes to do it again.

Why does it matter?

- Gang affiliation is often the motive for a crime
- Gang FIRs can help identify the suspects in later crimes
 - Monikers
 - Co-conspirators
 - Tattoo descriptions
- Gang contacts can provide corroboration for victim/witness statements
- Gang members will ***ALWAYS*** deny membership in court
- **Gang Enhancements!!!!**

Documentation

Important things for your report / Field Interview

- Document
 - Any gang admissions (direct quote if possible)
 - Gang monikers/nicknames
 - Gang-related tattoos
 - Complete clothing outfit
 - Any gang paraphernalia/writings in their possession
 - Any handsigns they throw/show
 - Associated vehicles
- Document the interview situation (custodial or non-custodial)

Documenting Clothing



- White/black button-up Lowrider brand shirt buttoned at top button only, white t-shirt, black Dickies pants

Documenting Clothing



- Red #5 49ers jersey over a white t-shirt, blue jeans, red cloth web belt with a silver N buckle, black and white shoes with thick red laces

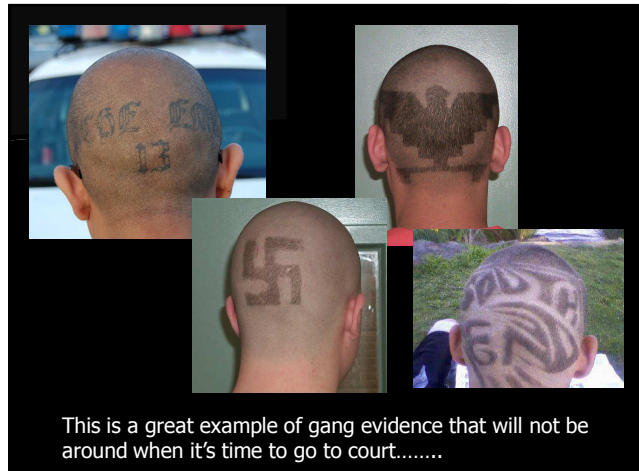
Documenting Clothing



- Blue baseball cap, blue checkered button-up shirt over black T-shirt, blue Dickies shorts, black Converse Chuck Taylor shoes with blue trim.

Documentation

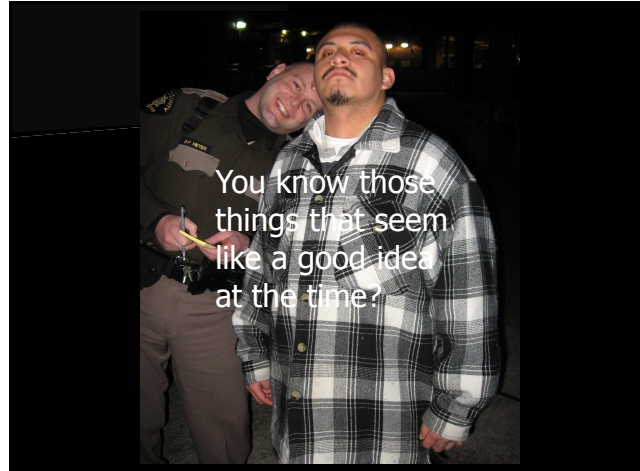
- Whenever possible, **GET PHOTOS!**



This is a great example of gang evidence that will not be around when it's time to go to court.....

Photographing Gang Members

- **Try to get photos of the following:**
 - Head-to-toe clothing
 - Chest/Head shot
 - Individual Tattoos
 - Group shot of everyone contacted together
- **Note in the report that photos were taken**
- **Check you agency for any additional policies**



Photographing Gang Members



Photographing Gang Members



Photographing Gang Members



Photographing Gang Members



Documenting Monikers

- When documenting a moniker, put it in your system exactly as they said it- do NOT translate.
 - Example: Lil Travieso vs. Little Troublemaker
 - Cara Cortado vs. ScarFace
- Make sure you get the correct spelling!
 - Psycho, Sycho, Syco, Syko, Psyko, Siko, Psiko, Cyco, Sicko
 - Lil? Big? Baby? Young? El? Mr?

Documenting Tattoos

- When documenting a tattoo, document the location, put any words in EXACTLY as they're written, and describe any images as best as you can.



"KILOS" upper chest



3 dots in a triangle-right temple

Documenting Tattoos

- Get photos whenever possible – *assume that no one has ever taken them before.*
 - One of the easiest ways to prove that a person is a gang member to the courts is to show the progression of their tattoos.



KCSO Gang FIRs

King County Sheriff's Office		Field Interview Report		KCSO (1/18/09) Form (Rev. 4/03)		
Date	4/11/09	Time	1520	Officer	07-290710	
Subject	Lopez, James A.		DOB	3/10/82	2 AV-5	
DOB	7/14/95	Sex	M	Race	Blk	
Address	1880 4 Ave. #A-202		City	Burien	Phone	407-5827
Officer	Joel Orozco		Date	4/8/09		
Vehicle License		Plate		Make	Model	
Notes	Navy Blue Hoodie over blue Polo shirt, tan Dickies pants, Black web belt w/ "VP" buckle, w/ 200 on @pend web.					
Vehicle License		Plate		Make	Model	
Officer	SURENO 13		Officer	Zil Cyco	2 years	
Subject	Valos Locos		DOB			
Check as many of the criteria listed below that apply to subject's gang membership:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. Member of gang relationship/affiliation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Has gang tattoos <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. Member of professional gang organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Gang clothing or jewelry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. Think a gang member <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6. Identified as a gang member/associate by reliable source <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7. Been in photographs with other known gang members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 8. Used gang hand signs and/or language <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. Associated with known gang members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 10. Involved in gang-related crimes or activities <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Identified as a gang member by another gang member <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Name appears in gang documents or graffiti <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Targets rival gang or crosses out rival gang graffiti					
Photos Taken	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Subject was	<input type="checkbox"/> Driver	<input type="checkbox"/> Passenger	
Notes	Admitted member of Valos Locos. tattoo on @ hand web. Had school notebooks w/ Valos Locos writing inside. Contacted w/ other admitted members.					
Officer	GINSLOW, M. A.		Date	7/21/02		

KCSO Gang FIRs

ESQUIVEL PEREZ, LORENZO ANTONIO				Delete	Help
Person	Linked to...	FCR's/Charges	Inquiry/Weapons	Clothing/SMT	Comments
Order	Association Type	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	
20	SUSPECT	ESQUIVEL PEREZ	LORENZO	ANTONIO	
Alias:					
DOB:	09/15/1991	Age at Contact:	15	Help	
WARNING:	10-66	Sex Offd Level:			
Race:	W	Ethni:	M	Eyes:	BRO
Sex:	H	Hair:	BLK	F/Hair:	
Hgt:	5	Wgt:	130		
Skin Tone:	Citizenship:		Interpreter Needed?		
Bus./Apt. Name:	Address:		District:		
Query	Address:	13115 STONE AV N D101	Address:	Occupation:	THIEF
City, State Zip:	SEATTLE	WA	98133	Employer:	
Home Phone:	206/764-5007	Work:			
Alternate:	Cell:				
Photo	Page:				
Print	State: WA	OLN: PEREZLA0910N	SSN:		

On 7/13/2012 I was randomly viewing Facebook pages belonging to members of the U Valley Lokitas criminal street gang, which is another Seattle gang that happens to be allied with the Varsity Laces. While viewing the public page of a U Valley Lokitas gang member Ricardo Alvarez-Ozga (Chasero), I found two photographs showing a number of known gang members showing backtags. Both of which were uploaded to his page on 7/13/2012. These pictures are part of a series of pictures that were uploaded upon at a house party the previous night, according to the associated comments. In the first picture (attached below) Francisco Artega is seen wearing blue Seattle Mariners gear and a white U-Lokita and blue shirt, showing a "UVALLEY LOKITAS" backtag with his right hand and flipping off the camera with his left hand (which is holding a camera). Also in the picture are U Valley Lokitas gang members Ricardo Martinez ("Martini"), Paul Arce-Ozga ("Hobbs"), Carlos Alvarez-Ozga ("Chasero"), Oscar Alvarez-Ozga ("J. Sheriff") and 1990s Lokes gang member Ricardo Alvarez-Ozga ("Chasero"). Artega is tagged in this first photo as "Chasero".

Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. Electronically signed and dated by me this 13th day of July 2012 at Burien, Washington.

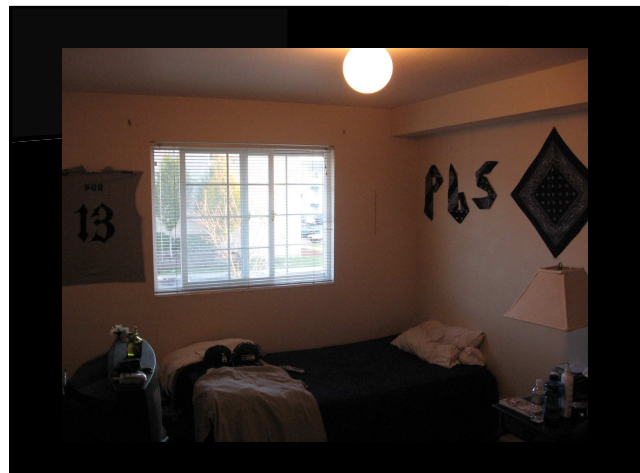
Author: Joseph C. Date: 7/13/12 KCSO - Gang Unit File: 7182012

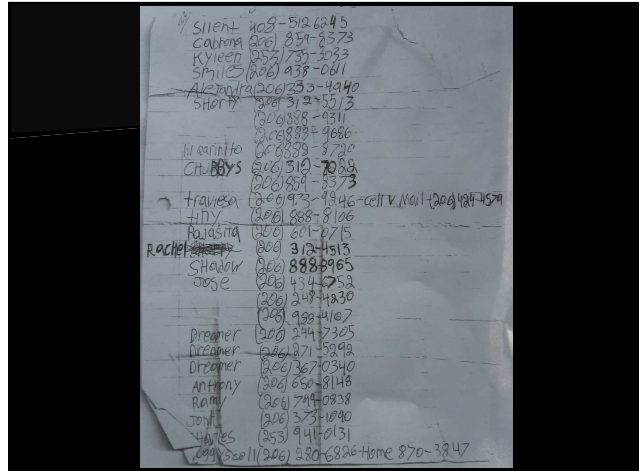
Gang Investigations

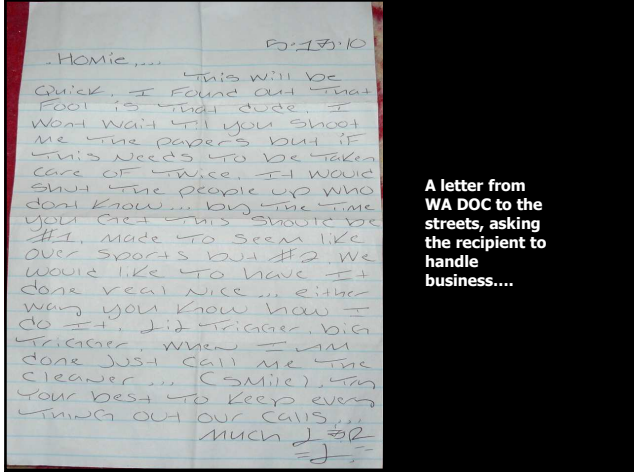
Gang Investigations

- Whenever possible, check the possessions of your suspected gang member for gang writings, phone lists, gang music, journals, etc.
- Especially useful when dealing with students

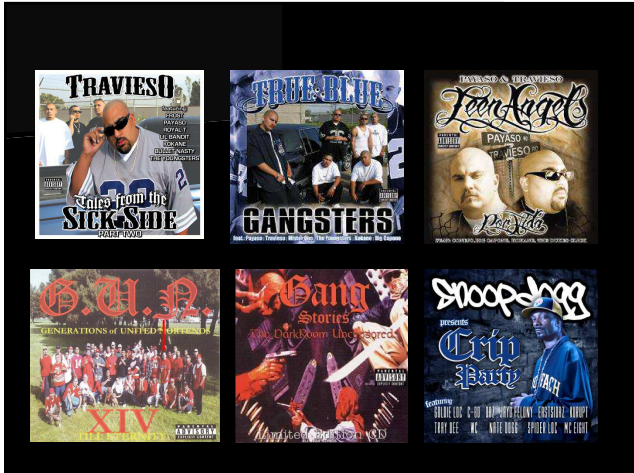
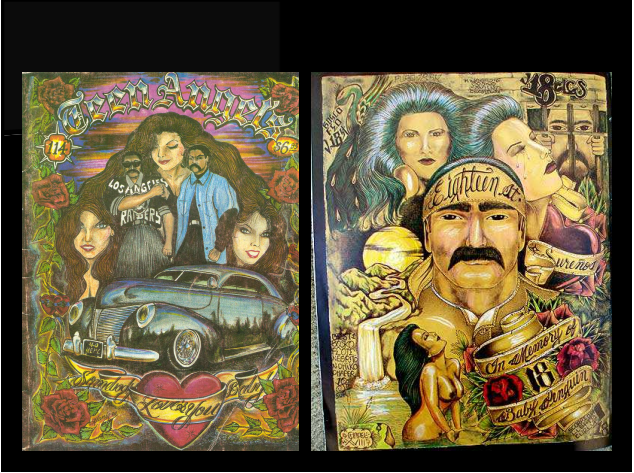
- Whenever you have the legal standing, take a look around your suspected gang members room and note what you see. Take pictures if you can.
- **Document it all!**







A letter from WA DOC to the streets, asking the recipient to handle business....





Gangs and the Internet

- Gang Members may post pictures of themselves in gang attire or throwing gang signs, post gang-related art/images, or use gang slang in their writings (aka Cyber-Banging)
- Gang Members may also post online statements that can help investigators solve gang crimes, as well as provide intelligence on future gang motivations.
- Good sites to check out...
 - Facebook
 - MySpace
 - Twitter
 - YouTube
 - Cpixel



Mr. Snapper

"SOUTH SIDE CE X3 SUR 13"

Mr. Snapper is in your extended network

Mr Snapper's Latest Blog Entry: Subscribe to this Blog

View All Blog Entries

HotEz

United States

by: tagmy.com

Last Login: 4/30/2007

MvHotComments



Address: http://www.myspace.com/rw_gangs

BIG MONSIAH Apr 15 2007 3:47A

THIS BITCH UNDERNEATH ME SURE TALK ALOT OF SHIT BUT HE IS A BIG ASS NOBODY!!!!!!!!!!!!

IF YOU WANT IT KOME TO RAINIER BEACH ON MONDAY..... THE HEART OF THE SOUTH END!!!!!!!!!!!! AND THATS TO ANYONE IN PASSIN OUT FREE ASS WOOPINS AND WHO WANTS TO BE MY FIRST CUSTOMER!!!!!! AND TO LET YOU BITCHES KNOW SOUTH END 286 DID IT BITCH!!!!!!!!!!!!

BUSTERS AINT SHIT BUT HOES X TRICKS Apr 14 2007 8:28A

wup up with all these fagot ass tamposos actin all hard on my space i have lived in seattle for 2 years and only saw like 5 busters and they was all brothes one got flipped the others backed down like lil bitches yall fake as fuck actin black thickin your b degs its all about that south side rax/fla 1-3 or see me ese sleep from that big bad RX3 gang S.C.G

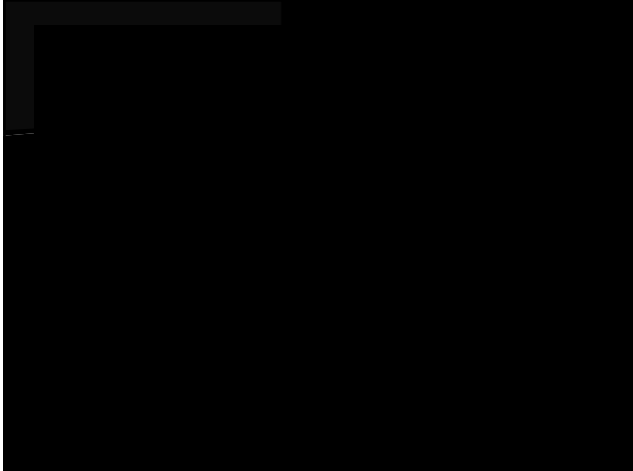
CONFUSED???? Apr 13 2007 11:43P

ALL OF YOU \$KRAPAS 13 KEEP ON SLIPPING EVERY DAY LEVAS AND ALL OF YOU SKRAPAS CANT STAND IT ANMORE RANKERS THAT WHY ALL OF YOU SKRAPAS KEEP ON SLIPPING LIKE A LOW LIFE DOG THAT ALL OF SKRAPAS 13 REALLY ARE FUCKIN CHAVALLAS LEVAS BUSTERS AND ALL OF YOU SKRAPAS KNOW WHAT DIS GROUP IS VERY WACK AS FUK JUST LIKE ALL OF YOU SKRAPAS REALLY IS WACK AS FUK LEVAS AND LIKE WE SAID DEATH TO ALL OF YOU FUCKIN SKRAPAS 13 EVERY DAY FUCKIN HOOD RATS LEVAS AND ALL OF YOU SKRAPAS 13 CANT STOP IT AT ALL WE KEEP ON KILLIN ALL OF YOU SKRAPAS 13 EVERYDAY FUCKIN CHAVALLAS LOW LIFE MOTHERFUCKERS IF YOU KILLED ONE OF NORTENOS X4 AND



Lashawn M. McQueen
5-31-1977
23rd St Hilltop Crip Gang Member
Aka "Macc"

DOC #892666



Detective Joe Gagliardi
Contact info: Office: 206/296-3340
Email: Joseph.Gagliardi@kingcounty.gov

Additional Training
(If time permits)

Recognizing Gang Graffiti



Burien 2 - Club E Doors
6/17/2010 03:08:00.411



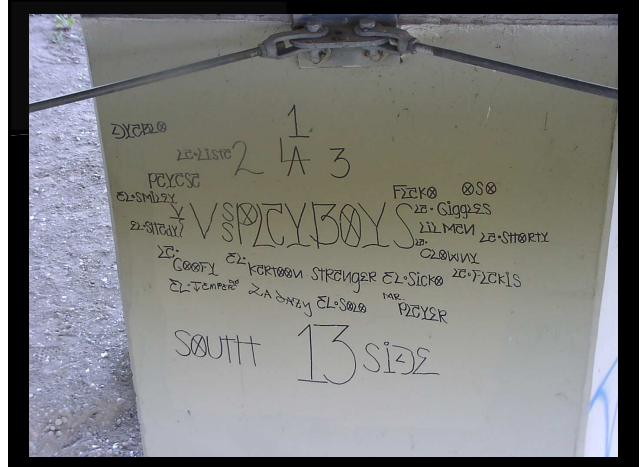
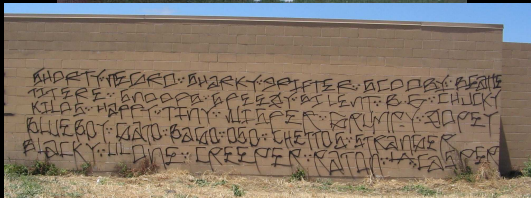
Gang Graffiti

- Graffiti is the "newspaper of the streets". It states who is operating where, who is at war with who, who is allied with who, who claims what territory, and even tells us who is a gang member.
- There are 6 main types of gang graffiti:
 - Publicity
 - Territorial
 - Roll Call
 - Sympathetic
 - Threatening
 - Political

Gang Graffiti

- Graffiti cross-outs are both a sign of disrespect and a direct challenge to the crossed-out gang.
- The only person that will ever tag a certain moniker is the individual gang member that uses that moniker!
 - To do otherwise is both a sign of disrespect and a direct challenge to that gang member.
- There is one exception- A roll call
 - Gang members may tag another's moniker in this case, but they will almost always tag their own moniker first.

Roll Call



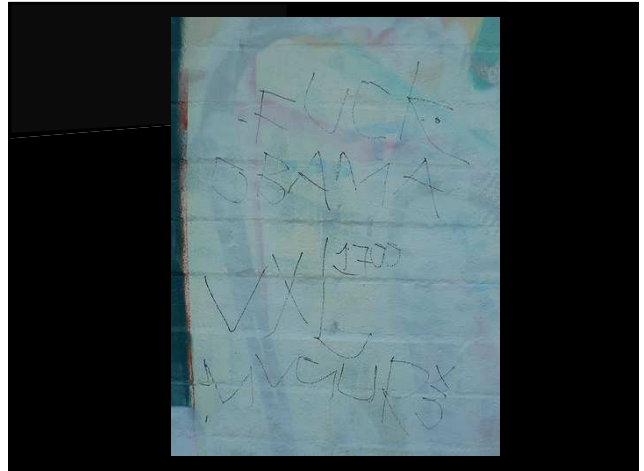
Publicity



Territorial







Territorial / Threatening



Threatening / Political



Graffiti Documentation

- *If you can read it*, put what the graffiti actually says in the body of the report.
- If you know it, document which gang's territory the graffiti is in.
- Try to describe any symbols that you see, where they are, and how they're oriented.
- Make sure you get photos!



Tagger Graffiti

■ Tagger Graffiti

- Usually more artistic, using bubble letters and multiple colors
- 85% of graffiti is done by taggers. For the tagger, it is all about the rush. The tagger's criminal purpose is to use graffiti to gain personal fame and notoriety. He does this by putting it in the highest visibility place where it's most likely to remain



Tagger Graffiti

■ Known King County Tagger Crews

- Born So Wicked Krew (BSWK)
- Wicked Minded Taggers (WMT)
- StompDown Killas (SDK)
- All About Cash (AOC)
- Men Need Knowledge (MNK)
- North West Vandals (NWV)
- Always Chillin Killin (ACK)
- Always Tokin Chronic (ATC)
- City Reckin Kingz (CRK)
- Big Time Markers (BTM)

Tagger Crew Graffiti





