



# **NORTHWEST HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA**



## **WASHINGTON STATE GANG INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN 2010**

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Cover Photo: Members of Lil Valley Lokos (LVL) Street Gang, Sunnyside, Washington  
Source: Internet

## Executive Summary

Outlaw Motorcycle (OMG) and Street Gangs have been active for several years in Washington State. Both Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG) and Street Gangs have now become entrenched in the region. Street Gangs are involved in a variety of crimes to include drug trafficking, fraud, and prostitution, and have formed alliances with other gangs. They often serve as distribution networks for Mexican National Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs).

Gang membership and affiliation continue to rise in Washington State. Many gangs have infiltrated Indian Country and cooperated with DTOs, which has enabled them to recruit additional members. Both street gangs and OMGs pose a serious threat to the safety of law enforcement personnel and to the safety of local communities.

## Background

Outlaw Bikers have been active in Washington State since the 1950's. Aryan Brotherhood members were housed in McNeil Island in the 1970's when it was then a U.S Bureau of Prisons (BOP) penitentiary.

Nuestra Familia and Nortenos were present in Yakima since the late 1970s. The Mexican Mafia aka La EME (La eMe) and Surenos were active in the Yakima Valley since the 1980s. Also Florencia13 and 18<sup>th</sup> Street have been active in the Seattle area since the early 1980s. Crips, Bloods, Surenos and Nortenos emigrated from California in the early 1980s. By the mid-1980s, the Gangster Disciple Nation emigrated from Chicago, Illinois and established a foothold in the Seattle-Tacoma area.<sup>1</sup>

Other Hispanic gangs, such as the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) did not appear in Seattle until the late 1990s. Homegrown street gangs such as the United Latinos were formed in Seattle in the early 1990s.<sup>2</sup>

## Gang Legislation

There are two federal statutes that are commonly used to prosecute gang cases in Washington State: Title 18 USC 924 (c) (1) (A) and Title 18 USC 924 (e). Title 18 USC 924 (c) (1) (A) provides a minimum sentence if a gun is used in a drug or violent crime, and states the following:

“...any person who, during and in relation to any crime of violence or drug trafficking crime (including a crime of violence or device) for which the person may be prosecuted in a court of the United States, uses or carries a firearm, or who, in furtherance of any such crime,

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<sup>1</sup> Gabe Morales, “The Real Deal on Gangs in the Northwest Region of the U.S.” 2008, <<http://www.gangpreventionservices.org/ganghistory.asp>>.

<sup>2</sup> IBID.

possesses a firearm, shall, in addition to the punishment provided for such violence or drug trafficking crime—

- (i) be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years:
- (ii) if the firearm is brandished, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 7 years; and
- (iii) if the firearm is discharged, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not less than 10 years.”<sup>3</sup>

Title 18 USC 924 (e) relates to someone with three prior convictions or crimes of violence or serious drug crimes (federal or state) who commits another, and provides a mandatory minimum of 15 years. Serious drug crime is defined as:

- (i) an offense under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C 801 et seq.), the Controlled Substance Import and Export Act (21 U.S.C. 951 et seq.) or chapter 705 of title 46 for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed by law; or
- (ii) an offense under State law, involving manufacturing, distributing, or possessing with intent to manufacture or distribute, a controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C 802)), for which a maximum term of imprisonment of ten years or more is prescribed by law.<sup>4</sup>

In May 11, 2005, the U.S. House of Representatives passed HR 1279: Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005. HR 1279 includes a number of new mandatory minimum criminal penalties and lengthier sentences for certain crimes of violence.<sup>5</sup>

#### **Definition of a criminal gang**

Source: U.S. Criminal Code, Title 18, Section 521:

A criminal gang is defined as an ongoing group, club, organization, or association of five or more persons that has as one of its primary purposes the commission of one or more criminal offenses and whose members engage or have engaged within the past 5 years in a continuing series of offenses that affect interstate or foreign commerce.

National Crime Information Center (NCIC)/Violent Gang & Terrorist Organization File (VGTOF):

A gang is defined as a group that is an ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons. The group must have a common interest and/or activity characterized by the commission of or involvement in a pattern of criminal activity or delinquent conduct.

In 2005, the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Western District of Washington created a new program called the Federal Leverage Program. The program encourages state guilty pleas in qualified cases by notifying defendants their case will be accepted for federal prosecution if the defendant does not enter a guilty plea in state court. This program has been active in King and Pierce Counties. In the 5 1/2 years since the program was created, a total of 890 cases

<sup>3</sup> Search.USA.gov. Title 18 USC 924. <<http://uscode.house.gov/uscode-cgi>>.

<sup>4</sup> IBID.

<sup>5</sup> “H.R. 1279: Gang Deterrence and Community Protection Act of 2005,” 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, GovTrack.us. <<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=h109-1279&tab=summary>>

were impacted in King County. Of the 890 cases, 172 cases (19%) were prosecuted federally and approximately 234 (26%) of the cases resulted in exceptional sentences in the state system. Additionally, 332 (37%) pled guilty to all charges and 153 (17%) pled guilty to some charges, reduced charges, or advised of additional charges (or other positive results).<sup>6</sup>

On March 31, 2008, Governor Christine Gregoire signed into effect House Bill (HB) 2712 concerning criminal street gangs. The highlights of the bill include:

- Provides funding to Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to set up grant programs to fund local law enforcement activities and community graffiti and tagging abatement programs;
  - Establishes a gang database for help law enforcement in tracking gang activity statewide. The bill provides greater special protocols for the entering, retaining, and purging information in the database to protect civil liberties;
  - Creates a new category of crime to punish adults who involve juveniles in a felony offense, and makes any crime committed for the benefit of a criminal street gang subject to a sentencing enhancement. It also imposes a term of community custody upon release from incarceration for any gang member who commits a crime involving a firearm;
  - Creates a category of crime that targets criminal street gang tagging and graffiti. It allows property owners to recover civil penalties and costs from an offender who caused physical damage to their property;
  - Allows the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development to establish a witness assistance program in criminal street gang trials; and
- Directs the Department of Corrections to study and establish best practices to reduce gang involvement and recruitment among offenders.<sup>7</sup>

Gang Injunctions (a restraining order against a group) are another tool officers have available to combat gangs. A gang injunction is a civil suit that seeks a court order declaring the gang's public behavior a nuisance and asking for special rules directed toward its activity. Injunctions have been used successfully in California where gang members are generally more concentrated and their criminal activities are more localized.<sup>8</sup> In contrast, Washington State has not had much success in instituting gang injunctions, since gang members are extremely mobile and conduct their criminal activities in many counties of the State.

### Street Gangs

According to a King County Sheriff's Office gang expert, Northwest Gangs differ from East Coast, Chicago, and Los Angeles gangs in that they are highly mobile, are profit-oriented and do not always have strong neighborhood ties. Northwest gangs will cross gang-defined borders and work with rival gang members as long as a profit can be made. Gangs typically develop alliances with other gangs and criminal organizations to facilitate the distribution and trafficking of drugs, principally marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine.<sup>9</sup> As of late 2009, some gangs are also heavily involved in dog fights where they can earn approximately \$5,000 per fight.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Vince Lombardi, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), Western District of Washington, Interview.

<sup>7</sup> "Governor Gregoire signs comprehensive gang legislation," 31 March 2008.

<<http://www.governor.wa.gov/news/news-view.asp?pressRelease=837&newsType=1>>.

<sup>8</sup> Los Angeles Police Department, "Gang Injunctions," 2008. <[http://www.lapdonline.org/gang\\_injunctions](http://www.lapdonline.org/gang_injunctions)>.

<sup>9</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), FBI Washington State Gang Assessment. (Washington, 2008): 8.

<sup>10</sup> Vince Lombardi, Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA), Western District of Washington, Interview.





Photo: Examples of gang graffiti in Yakima County, Washington  
Source: Internet

Gangs statewide perpetrate violence ranging from assaults to murders, burglaries to home invasion robberies, drive-by shootings, sexual assault, torture, intimidation, kidnapping, weapons trafficking, and prostitution.

As of 2010 there are approximately 300 active street gangs in Washington State with approximately 15,000 active gang members. This equates to 14 percent of the street gangs and 44 percent of the total street gang members in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Alaska. According to Gang Expert Gabe Morales, one explanation for these statistics is that street gangs in Seattle and King County tend to be large. Many of the smaller gangs were pushed out or members were absorbed by larger gangs. Street Gangs totaling more than 250 members are not uncommon in King County and some have close to 1,000 members.<sup>11</sup>

King County has approximately 40 percent (120) of the street gangs in Washington State. Pierce County has the second largest number with 16 percent (50) of the active street gangs followed by Yakima County with 13 percent (40) and Thurston County with 7 percent (21). Some of the most prevalent gangs in the state are Lil Valley Lokos 13 (LVL), Florencia 13, 18<sup>th</sup> Street, and the 74 Hoover Crips.<sup>12</sup>

Most, if not all, gangs use social networking websites to post their activities and to recruit new members as well as using technologies such as the internet, cameras, and police scanners. Gang members also use Facebook, MySpace, YouTube and other networking sites to communicate with each other worldwide, to enlist new members, and to intimidate or threaten their rivals.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Gabe Morales, STG Gang Specialist, King County Jail, Interview.

<sup>12</sup> IBID.

<sup>13</sup> FBI Gang Threat Assessment: 8-9.



Source: Northwest HIDTA

### Prison Gangs

According to the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC) spokesman Chad Lewis, known gang members make up 18 percent of the state's prison population of 18,000 but account for 43 percent of major violent incidents once inside the prison system. The DOC reported that the gangs with the most members in the state prison system are the Crips with 2,385 members, the Surenos with 1,773 members, and the white supremacists with 1,389 members. The Nortenos and the Surenos are responsible for most of the fights in prison.<sup>14</sup>

The traditional prison gangs include Nuestra Familia, La EME, Black Guerilla Family, Texas Syndicate, and various White Supremacists including Aryan Brotherhood. Lesser known prison gangs include the Neta Association and Asian gangs such as Triads and Tongs. There are also homegrown Washington State prison gangs such as the Aryan Family and Norteno Bigg Doggs.<sup>15</sup>

### Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) are vastly different in structure and operation than street gangs. OMGs function more as Organized Crime than as street gangs. Many OMG members have full time jobs and many OMGs own legitimate businesses which they use to launder illegal funds.

<sup>14</sup> Sharon Pian Chan, "Separating rival Hispanic gangs has reduced prison violence," *Seattle Times* 3 February 2009.

<sup>15</sup> Gabe Morales, STG Gang Specialist, King County Jail, Interview.

OMGs, primarily the Hells Angels, in Canada use their national and international connections to other club chapters to transport Canadian hydroponic marijuana, which is commonly called British Columbia Bud or BC Bud and MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine), also known as Ecstasy, through Washington and into other states. Much like other DTOs, OMGs will use street gangs as drug suppliers and retail distributors. After the State of Texas, which has the highest membership of Bandidos OMG, Washington State is second in the nation for Bandido gang membership



Photo: Hells Angels Nomads Patch, Washington and Bandidos Colors  
Source: Internet

OMGs vary in structure. Generally, most OMGs are organized with a National President, National Vice-President, National Secretary, National Treasurer, and National Sergeant at Arms. Each chapter typically has a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and a Sergeant at Arms.<sup>16</sup>

There are more than 17 OMGs active in Washington State. The dominant gangs are Bandidos, Hombres, Amigos, Destralos, Canyon Riders, Unforgiven, Warriors, Brother Speed, Free Souls, Ghost Riders, Gypsy Jokers, Hells Angels, Nomads, Resurrection, Iron Horseman, Mongols, and Outsiders. OMGs are prevalent in Whatcom, Skagit, King, and Snohomish Counties.

### Native American Gangs

Gang-related crime and violence are also concentrated around major Indian reservations including the Colville, Puyallup, Spokane, and Yakama Reservations. Eastern Washington and nearby Indian reservations have experienced significant increases in violent crimes, marijuana grows, Pharmaceutical abuse (Oxycontin), and methamphetamine abuse.

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<sup>16</sup> Jimmy Packard, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs Investigation and Identification (2008): 7

Some major gangs found on Indian Country are 40 Block, Gangster Disciples, Crips, Indian Pride Organization, Native Gangster Bloods (NGB), Native Gangster Crips (NGC), Native Family, Native Pride, and Northwest Native Bloods.

A significant difference between Native American gangs and other street gangs is that Native American gang member's allegiance is fluid and will change affiliation depending on who they see as strongest within the tribe or area.

As the gang mentality becomes more prevalent in Indian Country, organized gangs with leadership in urban areas have exploited the unique vulnerabilities of the reservation.<sup>17</sup> Remote rural communities with very limited law enforcement resources provide good cover for drug dealing operations; additionally, gang members and drug dealers exploit the complexity of jurisdictional challenges to prosecuting crimes in Indian Country.

Gang-related crimes and violence increased significantly on the Colville Indian Reservation during 2009. Activity between the Barrios Los Padrinos (BLP) and the East Side Bloods (ESB), also known as Native Gangster Bloods (NGB), resulted in a shooting of a BLP member by an ESB member and a homicide of an ESB member by an unknown gang. In another gang related shooting in Omak, a rap artist from an Idaho Indian Reservation was shot by Surenos 13 (SUR 13) gang member from Douglas County. In Nespelem, Washington on the Colville Indian Reservation, an associate of the Native Gangster Bloods (NGB) and an NGB member shot at three vehicles over an earlier confrontation. Other gang related crimes include threats, intimidation, burglaries and drug dealing throughout the Colville Indian Reservation.<sup>18</sup>



Photo: Graffiti at Colville Tribe. 187 denotes California Penal Code for murder  
Source: Northwest HIDTA

The Puyallup Tribe has five identified Native gangs: Native Gangster Bloods (NGB), Native Gangster Crips (NGC), 40 Blocc Crips, Native Family, and Green Ragers.<sup>19</sup> Currently there are 28 active street gangs located on the reservation with 132 gang members traveling throughout different areas of the reservation from within Pierce County. Also present on the reservation are OMG's and military transplanted gangs that are believed to be a prime contributing factor to the increase in criminal conduct on and surrounding the reservation.

<sup>17</sup> Mary Annette Pember, "Gangs in Indian Country," The Daily Yonder 17 September 2009: 3

<sup>18</sup> Don Redfield, Detective, Colville Tribal Police, Interview.

<sup>19</sup> William Loescher, Detective, Puyallup Tribal Police, Interview.



Gang activities throughout 2009 included aggravated assaults, robbery, burglary, drive by shootings, drug trafficking, vandalism, and weapons possession and distribution.<sup>20</sup> Over the last year street gangs on the Puyallup Reservation have communicated threats to kill or assault tribal police officers. This is believed to be the result of gang enforcement efforts that have disrupted the gang's narcotics distribution.

### **African American/Black Gangs**

Black street gangs in Washington State can be loosely associated with four main organizations: Folk Nation, People Nation, Crips, and Bloods. Black gangs can be found in almost every county of Washington with most located in Pierce and King Counties.



Photo: Hilltop Crips, Tacoma, Washington  
Source: Internet

Since 2007, King County in Washington State has seen an increase in gang activity between the South End and Central District gangs. Between 2008 and 2009 alone, there have been more than 17 homicides and numerous shootings attributed to these two gangs.<sup>21</sup>

In February 2010, the Tacoma Police Department, with the assistance of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), targeted the Hilltop Crips - one of the oldest and most active black street gangs in Tacoma. The investigation began with 36 people accused in nearly two dozen violent gang crimes dating back to mid 2008. Twelve defendants have pled guilty to charges ranging from first-degree trafficking in stolen property; controlled substance violation with intent to deliver; drive-by shooting; second degree assault; first degree unlawful possession of a firearm; first degree burglary; first degree robbery and theft of a motor vehicle. On June 2, 2010, the Pierce County judge set new trial dates for the remaining 19 defendants charged in a law enforcement crackdown on the Hilltop Crips street gang. Five defendants will be tried individually in July and August. The remaining 14 will be divided into three groups for trials in September. Those groupings are based on underlying crimes.

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<sup>20</sup> William Loescher, Detective, Puyallup Tribal Police, Interview.

<sup>21</sup> Joe Gagliardi, Detective, Gang Unit, King County Sheriff's Office, Interview.

Some of the most active Black gangs in Washington State are the Hoover Criminals, Hilltop Crips, Grape Street Crips, Deuce 8 BGD, Union St BGD, Valley Hood Piru, Elm Street Piru, Gangster Disciples (GD), and Down With the Crew (DWC).<sup>22</sup>

### Pacific Islander Gangs

Pacific Islander gangs have been present in Seattle since the 1970s. One of the first known Pacific Islander gangs is the United Blood Nation (UBN) who is predominately Samoan and based out of Burien, Washington. The Seattle UBN is aligned with the Samoan Tribe Pirus in the Rainier Valley and the Royal Samoan Pirus in Tacoma, Washington.<sup>23</sup>

The Mad Pak (MP) is an independent Samoan gang that broke off from the Bloods and was based in the High Point Projects area of West Seattle. After the peak of activity in 1990s, the MPs quieted down but recently have reemerged amongst the younger generation.<sup>24</sup>

Sons of Samoa (SOS) who are aligned with the Crips are also active in Washington State. SOS is well known for using intimidation tactics, extortion, drug rip-offs, and homicide. SOS will fight with any gang but more commonly they war with their rival - the Tongan Crip Gangsters. Another predominately Samoan gang is the West Side Mafia (WSM). This group is aligned with the Bloods. In the Seattle/King County area of Washington, most Tongan gangs claim Tongan Crip Gangster (TCG) or Tongan Crip Family (TCF).<sup>25</sup>



Photo: Sons of Samoa, King County, Washington  
Source: Internet

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<sup>22</sup> Joe Gagliardi, Detective, Gang Unit, King County Sheriff's Office, Interview.

<sup>23</sup> Gabe Morales, "Polynesian/Pacific Islander Gangs," 2008. <<http://www.gangpreventionservices.org//pacificislanders.asp>>.

<sup>24</sup> IBID.

<sup>25</sup> IBID.

Filipino gangs have been active in Washington State since the early 1970s. The earliest Filipino gangs were the Tulisans (Bandits) and Ungoys (Monkeys). Presently active in Washington State are Bahalana Gang (BNG), Pinoy Real (PxR), Flipside (F\*S), 23<sup>rd</sup> Diablos, and Zimangots.

Family and racial ties bind Pacific Islander gangs together. Close family ties may cause many Pacific Islander youths to get involved in a gang or be introduced to the gang and later become a full pledged member. The close relationships between the Pacific Islanders make investigations difficult as many will provide false alibis for family members. Additionally, witnesses are often reluctant to get involved due to being labeled as a police informant, are fearful of gang retaliation, or becoming an outcast from the community.

### Asian Gangs

The Vietnam War greatly increased the immigration levels as many Southeast Asians became refugees to escape the communist threat. Cambodians followed the Vietnamese in numbers as they escaped the “killing fields” of Cambodia.<sup>26</sup> The Lao and Hmong fled persecution to neighboring countries and eventually to the United States.

Of all the gangs, Asian gangs are the most difficult to track and identify as they are non-traditional, profit oriented, non-turf oriented, and rarely act like traditional gang members. Asian gangs traditionally have been affiliated with either Blood or Crips and their acts of violence are committed primarily to achieve group goals.<sup>27</sup>

The most active Southeast Asian Gangs for Seattle, Washington are the Tiny Rascal Gang (TRG), SouthEnd Asian Gangsters (SAG), Young Oriental Troop (YOT), Oriental Fantasy Boys (OFB), and Little Ruthless Boyz (LRB).



Photo: Tiny Rascal Gangsters member, Seattle, Washington  
Source: Internet

According to the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), Canada-based Chinese and Vietnamese DTOs and criminal organizations work closely with Asian gangs operating in Canada and the United States. Canadian DTOs are the source of supply for MDMA and Canadian marijuana which is destined to consumers in the United States. The DTOs also use Asian gang members for drug distribution, and other drug-related activities.<sup>28</sup>



Photo: Oriental Loko Boys, Tacoma, Washington  
Source: Internet

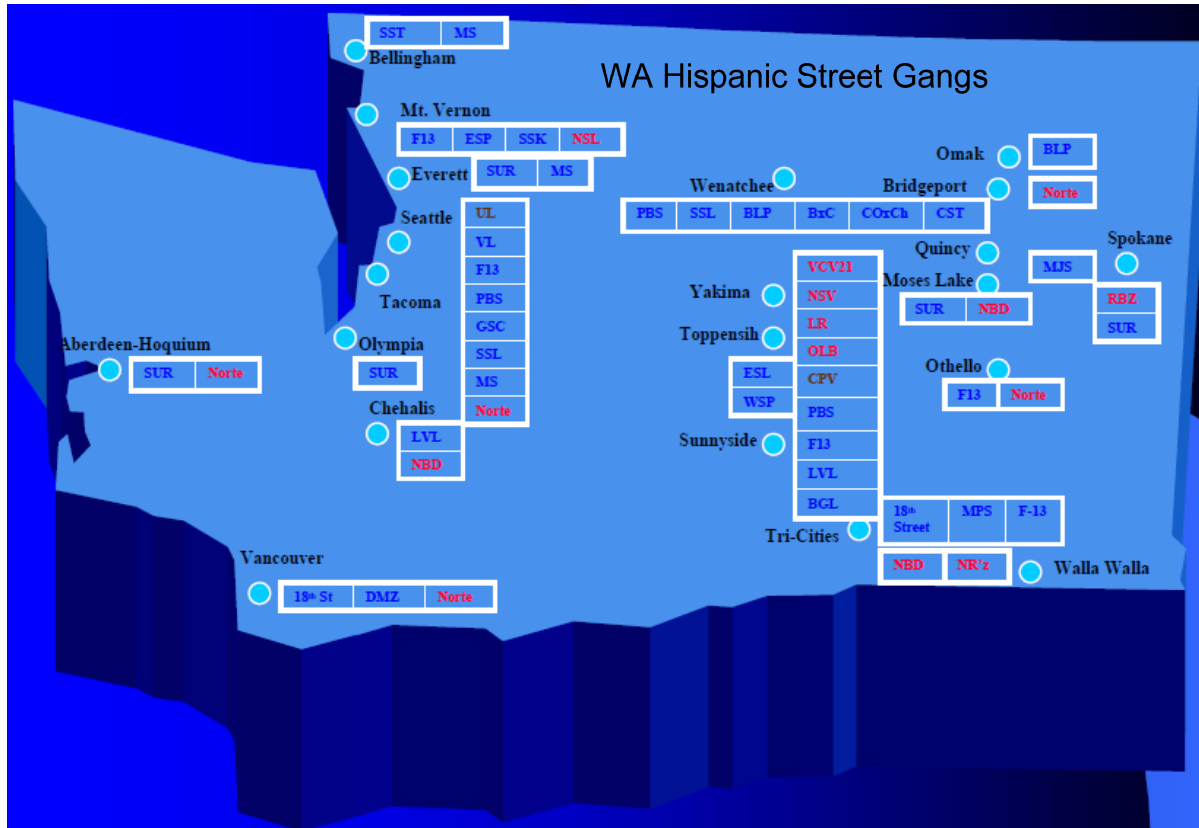
<sup>26</sup> Gabe Morales, “Asian Gangs,” 2008. <http://www.gangpreventionservices.org/asiangangs.asp>.

<sup>27</sup> Joe Gagliardi, Detective, Gang Unit, King County Sheriff’s Office, Interview.

<sup>28</sup> National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC), National Gang Threat Assessment 2009: Product No 2009-M0335-001: 11.

## Hispanic Gangs

California style Hispanic gangs have been in Washington since the 1970s, starting with Nuestra Familia and Nortenos in Yakima. They have continued to increase their presence throughout the state. Much like California, Washington State is split between Nuestra Familia (NF) and Norte 14 and La EME and Sur 13. La EME and Sur 13 are prevalent in Western Washington, while NF and Norte 14 are widespread in Eastern Washington.<sup>29</sup>



Source: STG-Gang Specialist Gabe Morales, King County Jail

According to the Yakima Police Department, Yakima Valley gang members are paramilitary-type organizations with a hierarchical structure. Recent information indicates that gang members are planning attacks on law enforcement officers in the Yakima County area.<sup>30</sup>

The majority of the Hispanic gang activity is located in Eastern Washington. Several cities throughout Washington have active Hispanic gangs including Bellingham, Mt. Vernon, Everett, Seattle, Tacoma, Olympia, Chehalis, Vancouver, Aberdeen-Hoquiam, Wenatchee, Bridgeport, Omak, Spokane, Moses Lake, Othello, Tri Cities, Sunnyside, Toppenish, and Yakima.

<sup>29</sup> Gabe Morales, *GPS-WA state street and prison gangs -2009*, (Washington, 2009):7.

<sup>30</sup> Cesar Abreu, Crime and Intelligence Analyst, Yakima Police Department, Interview 10 June 2010.





Photo: Example of anti-law graffiti in Yakima, Washington  
Source: Yakima Police Department



Photo: Florencia 13, Tri-Cities, Washington  
Source: Internet

### Gangs in the Military

According to the FBI Gang Threat Assessment, gang members constitute a fraction of military personnel nationwide, yet their presence can compromise installation security, disrupt good order and discipline, and threaten military operations. Military-trained gang members pose an emerging threat to law enforcement, since most law enforcement is not typically trained to engage gangsters with military expertise.<sup>31</sup>

In Washington State, there are seven major military bases: Bangor Naval Submarine Base, Bremerton Naval Station, Everett Naval Station, Joint Base Lewis-McChord (a combination of Ft. Lewis Army Installation and McChord Air Force Base), Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, and Fairchild Air Force Base. Members of nearly every major street gang, including the BGDs, Crips, Gangster Disciples, Hells Angels, MS-13, and various white supremacist groups, have been documented on a number of military installations in the state of Washington.<sup>32</sup> Since 2005, approximately 130 gangs and extremist group members have been identified on the Joint Base Lewis-McChord installation.

#### Major Gangs on Military Bases

Aryan Brotherhood  
Asian gangs  
**Black Gangster Disciples**  
Bloods  
Crips  
Gangster Disciples  
Hells Angels  
Latin Kings  
MS-13  
**Nortenos**  
Skinheads  
18<sup>th</sup> Street Gang

<sup>31</sup> FBI Gang Assessment: 9

<sup>32</sup> FBI Gang Assessment: 52.

The most predominant of the gangs are Crips, BGDs, Gangster Disciples, Skinhead, Surenos, Bloods, Latin Kings, MS-13, Nortenos, 18<sup>th</sup> Street Gang, and Asian Gang members. These gangs are believed to be responsible for much of the criminal misconduct incidents reported on base and have been known to commit crime in the surrounding community.<sup>33</sup>

### Future Outlook

Washington State will likely continue to experience an increase in violent crimes attributed to gang related violence. Washington State violent crime rates for gang members are higher than violent crime rates for adolescent not in gangs. Gang membership will continue to rise as the gang culture is viewed as a positive lifestyle alternative. Threats and violence toward law enforcement are likely to increase as gangs vie for territory and dominance. The safety of the public is also threatened when these gangs infiltrate neighborhoods and conduct their illegal criminal activities. Gangs will continue to improve their organizational effectiveness and consolidate their criminal activities. Street gangs will continue to form alliances with other DTOs for drug distribution. OMGs will continue in their criminal activities and increase their membership in the state.

The Northwest HIDTA will strengthen its cooperation with federal, state, county, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies as well as with the drug prevention and treatment community. The Northwest HIDTA will strive to offer innovative approaches in problem-solving and intelligence-sharing, in providing analytical support to gang investigations, and in preparing strategic intelligence products.



Photo: Nisqually Tribe sign shows zero tolerance for gangs and drug activity  
Source: Northwest HIDTA

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<sup>33</sup> FBI Gang Assessment, 52-53.