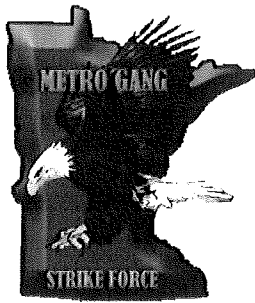


09 - 0568

2008 ANNUAL REPORT





METRO GANG STRIKE FORCE

Date: February 2009
To: Metro Gang Strike Force Advisory Board
From: Jim Heimerl, Assistant Commander *Jim*
Regarding: 2008 Year End Report

The Metro Gang Strike Force (MGSF) experienced a pivotal year in 2008. It was a year of change, growth, and wide-ranging accomplishments. Please keep in mind, as you review this document, the MGSF is nationally recognized as one of the most successful multi-jurisdictional task forces in the country. This is, for the most part, due to the hard work and investigative knowledge of the men and women you have strategically assigned to the MGSF. The goal of this report is to present you with an accurate overview of the numerous things the investigators have done and continue to do on a daily basis. These range from assisting law enforcement agencies, both locally and state-wide, target-specific investigations, dynamic saturations, gang presentations (for police and civilian groups), and many other functions that will be touched on later in this report.

Commander Ron Ryan retired October 10, 2008, after leading the MGSF for eleven years. Ron's leadership and the dedicated work of his investigators contributed to the positive evolution of the MGSF from its meager beginnings in 1997, to our present status as a national role-model for any and all multi-jurisdictional task forces. These are major achievements, of which, the Board and everyone involved with the MGSF should be proud of.

On December 16, 2008, Captain Chris Omodt from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Department was appointed as the new MGSF Commander. Commander Omodt's vision and leadership experience will ensure the continued success of the MGSF as we move forward into a new era.

I have added an introduction to the Investigation Review portion in the back of this document. I realize many readers do not have a comprehensive understanding of long term gang/drug investigations and the mountainous work that goes into making a case. Hopefully, readers will find this portion informative and clarify how labor intensive these investigations are. The final number of people arrested, narcotics seized, guns seized, or major crimes solved are but a small part of the time and effort that goes into a successful investigation.

I want to thank the Metro Gang Strike Force Advisory Board for their continued support of our operations. **Figures just released by the FBI state that 80% of all crime is gang related and the number of gangs are on the rise across the country.** The growth and continued success of the MGSF is more important now than at any time in recent past. The investigations we are involved in, the information we collect and share, and the training we provide throughout the state, makes us a major player in the fight against gang violence in Minnesota.

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METRO GANG STRIKE FORCE MEMBERS

Commander:

Ron Ryan

Assistant Commander:

[REDACTED] (Minneapolis Police Department)

Departments:

Number of Officers:

Brooklyn Park Police Department

1

[REDACTED]

Dakota County Sheriff's Office

1

[REDACTED]

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

1

[REDACTED]

Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE)

2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Lino Lakes Police Department

1

[REDACTED]

Maplewood Police Department

1

[REDACTED]

Metro Transit Police Department

1

[REDACTED]

Minneapolis Police Department

9

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC)	1
[REDACTED]	
North Saint Paul Police Department	1
[REDACTED]	
Ramsey County Sheriff's Office	6
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
Saint Paul Police Department	6
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
Richfield Police Department	1
[REDACTED]	
Washington County Sheriff's Office	1
[REDACTED]	
West Saint Paul Police Department	1
[REDACTED]	
<u>TOTAL OFFICERS</u>	<u>37</u>

MISSION OF THE METRO GANG STRIKE FORCE

The Metro Gang Strike Force is a multi-jurisdictional task force created to coordinate efforts preventing gang activity by identifying, arresting and prosecuting gang members engaged in “criminal activity” in the state of Minnesota and in particular the seven county metro area. The responsibility for carrying out the daily operations of the MGSF is under the command and direction of the Metro Commander.

The primary mission of the Metro Gang Strike Force is to:

1. Target for prosecution, individuals who are most criminally active within a gang or who hold leadership positions. The key here is “criminal gang activity”. The MGSF targets those who benefit from this gang activity, and does not target young people because of their appearance.
2. To coordinate proactive long-term investigations on targeted gang members.
3. To react promptly to requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies.
4. To provide peace officers and prosecutors throughout the state of Minnesota with training on tactics and techniques for investigating and prosecuting gang crimes.
5. To obtain information and intelligence regarding gang membership and related criminal activity and share that information with other law enforcement agencies in the state. This is accomplished by maintaining an intelligence system referred to as GangNET and to continue to monitor and update the Minnesota Gang Pointer File, the state system that tracks confirmed gang members in the state.

METRO GANG STRIKE FORCE 2008 STATISTICS

<u>MGSF Cases / Investigations Initiated:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
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<p>This year MGSF Investigators were involved in numerous long-term investigations which took significant time, effort and manpower to accomplish which was a major contributing factor to our slightly lower case numbers than last year. In addition to the long term cases, the majority of MGSF Investigators were assigned to their home agency during the 2008 Republican National Convention (RNC), therefore, the unit's numbers, as whole, lost weeks of productivity.</p>	1244	1016
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<u>MGSF Arrests Made:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
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<p>Approximately 29%, or 215 of the 615 total arrests made, were for misdemeanor offenses that usually took place during gang saturation details. 84 of these arrests were filed federally and charged through the U.S. Attorney's Office. These observed offenses give MGSF Investigators probable cause to stop, identify, and arrest suspected gang members. Gang saturations are most commonly performed in specified areas of the metro that have a high amount of gang activity, assaults, and / or homicides. It is the goal of the MGSF during these saturations to disrupt any and all gang activity in the area and attempt to prevent any further gang retaliation. These saturations also take place at major events throughout the metro such as, but not limited to; St. Paul's Taste of MN, Richfield's 4th of July fireworks, St. Paul's Hmong Soccer Tournament, Brooklyn Park's Tater Days, and numerous other events where the MGSF is requested to assist by metro and out-state agencies.</p>	783	615
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<u>MGSF Additional Arrest Made:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
--	--------------------	--------------------

<p>MGSF Investigators, on a regular basis, are requested to assist other agencies with their investigations, search warrants, probable cause pick-ups, warrants, etc. This assistance has lead to 270 additional arrests which included 168 people either being identified and / or issued citations.</p>	499	438
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<u>MGSF Search Warrants Executed:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
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<p>MGSF Investigators executed 288 search warrants. Of those 288, 69 were executed by MGSF Investigators after being requested to assist another agency with their criminal investigation.</p>	241	288
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<u>MGSF Firearms Seized:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
-------------------------------------	--------------------	--------------------

During any and all MGSF activities, the following number of firearms were seized and taken off the streets:	178	122
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90 Handguns / 23 Miscellaneous Long Guns / 9 Assault Rifles

<u>MGSF Vehicles Seized:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
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During any and all MGSF activities, 20 vehicles were seized through the forfeiture process.	19	20
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<u>Assets Forfeited, Cleared, Deposited:</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
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During any and all MGSF activities, the following assets were seized through the forfeiture process:	\$198,902 / \$409,385.19
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Federal Sharing Forfeitures: **\$5793.67**

State Forfeitures: **\$403,591.52**

METRO GANG STRIKE FORCE 2008 STATISTICS

<u>Narcotics seized or purchased:</u>	<u>Weights / Amounts</u>
Marijuana	1323.5 lbs.
Cocaine (Crack)	1.8 lbs.
Cocaine (Powder)	78.7 lbs.
Methamphetamine (Crystal)	36 lbs.
Methamphetamine (Powder)	11.5 lbs.
PCP	2 ounces
Heroin	8 grams
Ecstasy	508 pills

<u>Presentations given by MGSF Investigators:</u>	<u>Persons attended:</u>
67	3524

MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE

Part of the Legislature's 1997 original Anti-Gang Initiative was to develop a statewide computer system that could track gangs and the number of "confirmed gang members." The system was to be used throughout the state as a law enforcement tool, an officer's safety tool, and as a tool for the judiciary. The BCA was given the task of creating the system that is now currently operating out of the Metro Gang Strike Force office. A MGSF analyst is responsible for this operation.

The MGSF developed a model, using information from other states, and came up with specific criteria to show gang membership. In Minnesota, a person must have been found guilty of a felony or gross misdemeanor and be at least fourteen years of age to be entered into the system. Additionally, he or she must meet at least three of the following ten-point criteria before the person can be entered into the state pointer files as a "confirmed gang member."

1. Admits gang membership or association.
2. Is observed to associate on a regular basis with known gang members.
3. Has tattoos indicating gang membership.
4. Wears gang symbols to identify with a specific gang.
5. Is in a photograph with known gang members and / or using gang-related hand signs.
6. Name is on a gang document, hit list or gang related graffiti.
7. Is identified as a gang member by a reliable source.
8. Arrested in the company of identified gang members or associates.
9. Corresponds with known gang members or writes and / or receives correspondence about gang activities.
10. Writes about gangs (graffiti) on walls, books and paper.

The MGSF has been very particular in setting up the Minnesota State Pointer System and all information that has been entered has been carefully audited. This process started out slowly, however, as the database increased street officers began getting "hits" throughout the state as they had contact with persons who were entered into the system as "confirmed gang members."

At the end of 2008, there were 2438 "confirmed gang members" that had been entered in the system from throughout the state of Minnesota. This is an increase of 168 members during 2007. A breakdown of race is as follows:

• Asian	134	(5%)
• Black	1324	(54%)
• Indian	209	(9%)
• White	870	(36%)

MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

Statistical Breakdown- As of 2/2/09

<u>Race:</u>	<u>Gender:</u>	<u>Top 5 Gangs/Membership</u>
Black: 1,165 (53%)	Male: 2,414 (99%)	Gangster Disciples: 455
White: 672 (32%)	Female: 24 (1%)	Latin Kings: 126
Indian: 209 (9%)		Vice Lords: 117
Asian: 134 (1%)		Surenos 13: 106
		White Power: 105

Total Number of Confirmed/Convicted: 2,438

Total Number Gang Names: 603

***There was a 159% increase in the number of groups of people who call themselves a gang over 2007 and this increase was anticipated for several reasons.** First, the MGSF doubled its effort to identify gang members and evolving new gangs. Secondly, the MGSF and other local task forces have recently dismantled a number of large violent gangs by prosecuting the gang leaders. When this occurs, the low ranking members of the gang break away and attempt to form their own gangs.

NOTE: Hispanic gang members are not included in the breakdown as they are not considered ethnic by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). They are included as White in this statistical breakdown.

Black gangs comprise the majority of gang members in the Gang Pointer File. However, the increase of Hispanic gang members as an ethnic group in the Gang Pointer File during 2008 is astounding. The Surenos 13 gang has become the fourth largest gang in the Pointer File. Most notably, the Surenos 13 were not listed in the Top Five for calendar year 2007. **The Surenos 13 gang had a 22% increase in gang membership for 2008.** This increase mirrors that of the demographics for the State of Minnesota.

The rise and spread of Somali gangs presents a significant challenge to law enforcement. The Twin Cities has the largest Somali population in the country. In 2008, Somali gang members became increasingly involved in criminal activity. MGSF Investigators have assisted police agencies state-wide in combating this criminal enterprise. Several of the gang members that were identified appear on the FBI's "Terror Watch List".

The demographics of the State of Minnesota have changed. Pointer File contacts and other indicators show that gang activity has spread to every corner of the State.

MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE cont.

As an officer in the field runs a check of an individual who is listed as a confirmed gang member in the Pointer File, he or she will receive, as an example, the following information from their police dispatcher or squad computer:

00922 BCJ324 FEB 02 2003 08:52:57 FEB 02 2003 08:53:17
*****WARNING - MINNESOTA CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER *****
THIS INFORMATION ALONE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE DETENTION, SEARCH OR
ARREST OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR THE SEARCH OF ANY VEHICLE OR DWELLING
SCR/100. ORI/MN0621800. NAM/XXXXX [REDACTED] MIN/41943
DOB/19770210. SEX/M. RAC/B. HGT/600. WGT/212. EYE/BRO. HAIR/BLK. DOE/20000926.
MNK/MONSTER. FBI/298864AB5
OCA/MGSFMETRO. EOR/1,2,8.
CVS/FE. SID/MN95013413.
GNG/FAMILY MOB. SGP/NON KNOWN.
POC/MGSF METRO 651-917-4800. 19981124.
MIS/CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF NARCOTICS 2 AND WEAPON
VIOLATION REMOVAL SERIAL NUMBER, USE CAUTION.

When the officer runs a check, it then generates the following information back to the Metro region indicating where and when the gang member was stopped and which agency was involved in the stop:

TO: GSF-01592 Tue FEB 02, 2003 08:52:57 CZQDOLZMKRJ8
FROM: QDRQDW Tue FEB 02, 2003 08:53:17
MINNESOTA CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILE NOTIFICATION OF INQUIRY
*
THE FOLLOWING GANG MEMBER YOUR AGENCY ENTERED INTO THE MINNESOTA
CRIMINAL GANG POINTER FILES HAS BEEN INQUIRED UPON
*
NAM/LAMONT<CHARLES DOB/19770210 MIN/109863.
INQUIRED UPON ORI/MN00200C1
*
YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS NOTIFICATION BECAUSE UPON ENTRY OF THE ABOVE
INDIVIDUAL, THE NOA (NOTIFY OF ALL HITS) INDICATOR WAS TURNED ON. MARKED
"Y".

Minnesota Pointer File Gangs

<u>Gang</u>	<u>Controlling Agencies</u>							
	<u>MGSF</u>	<u>Duluth</u>	<u>St. Cloud</u>	<u>Clay Co.</u>	<u>Olmsted Co.</u>	<u>Willmar</u>	<u>Rice Co. Probation</u>	<u>Bemidji</u>
915	1							
10Z	2							
18TH STREET GANG	6							
19 BLOCK DIPSET	11							
210 THUGS	1							
26 GANGSTER DISCIPLES	7							
304 BOYZ	1							
3RD AVENUE KILLERS	1							
4 CORNER HUSTLERS	2	1						
5 PERCENTERS	1							
52 BROADWAY CRIPS	2							
6 O TRE CRIPS	1							
603 CRIPS	1							
612 HARDCORE	3							
ALMIGHTY VICE LORDS	16							
APOSTLES	1							
ARYAN BROTHERHOOD	9		1					
ASIAN BLOOD	1							
ASIAN CRIP GIRLS	1							
ASIAN CRIPS	17							
ASIAN GANGSTER BOYS	1							
ASIAN LOVE	3							
ASIAN MAFIA CRIP	1							
BABY BLUE CRIPS	1							
BAD LAND BOYS	1							
BANG M SQUAD	2							
BANG OUT BOYZ	2							
BISHOPS	1							
BLACK DISCIPLES	10		5					
BLACK GANGSTERS	3	1		1				
BLACK P STONES	87	1	7		2			
BLACK PANTHERS	2							
BLACK STONES			2					
BLOODS	35	1	3		1			
BLP 13			1					
BOGUS BOYS CREW	30							
BOGUS DISCIPLES GANG			1					
BOND SLAVES MC	3							
BOT MOB	1							
BPM	7	2						
BROWN FOR LIFE	14							
CASH MONEY BOYS	7							
COB	1							
CONSERVATIVE VICE LORDS	23	3	1					

	<u>MGSE</u>	<u>Duluth</u>	<u>St. Cloud</u>	<u>Clay Co.</u>	<u>Olmsted Co.</u>	<u>Willmar</u>	<u>Rice Co. Probation</u>	<u>Bemidji</u>
CRAZY ASS NIGGERS	3							
CRAZY BLOODS	2							
CRAZY BROTHER CLAN	1							
CRAZY MURDA GANG	4							
CRETIN STREET GANG	1							
CRIPS	51	1	1					
DA TEAM	2							
DETROIT BOYS	13							
DHN	1							
DIRTY WHITE BOYS	3							
DOWN BROTHERS STRIVING	3							
EAST SIDE BOYS	14							
EAST SIDE GS	14							
E-BLOCK	1							
EL FORASTERO	7							
EL RUKN	1							
ELF	1							
EMERSON MURDER BOYS	13							
FAMILY MOB	23							
FOSSILS	1							
FREEMAN MC	3							
GANGSTER DISCIPLES	455	17	26		11			
GLOC	1							
GREEDY THIEVES	2							
HELLS ANGELS	6							
HELLS OUTCASTS	13							
HERMANDAD DE PISTOLEROS L	4							
HILL TOP HUSTLERS	1		1					
HMONG PRIDE	3							
HOOVER DUECE CRIPS				1				
HOT BOYS	1							
HUSTLER CRIPS				1				
IMMORTAL BLOODS	5							
IMPERIAL GANGSTER DISCIPL	4							
IMPERIAL RED NATION	1							
INSANE CRIP			1					
INSANE GANGSTER DISCIPLES	2							
INSANE SPANISH COBRAS	1							
INSANE VICE LORDS	8	6						
IRON CROSS	1							
IRON RANGE M/C (IRMC)		1						
KING MAFIA CREW	1							
KLU KLUX KLAN	2							
LAO BOYZ	8							
LAO CRIP BOYZ	3							
LATIN COBRA	1							
LATIN COUNTS	3							

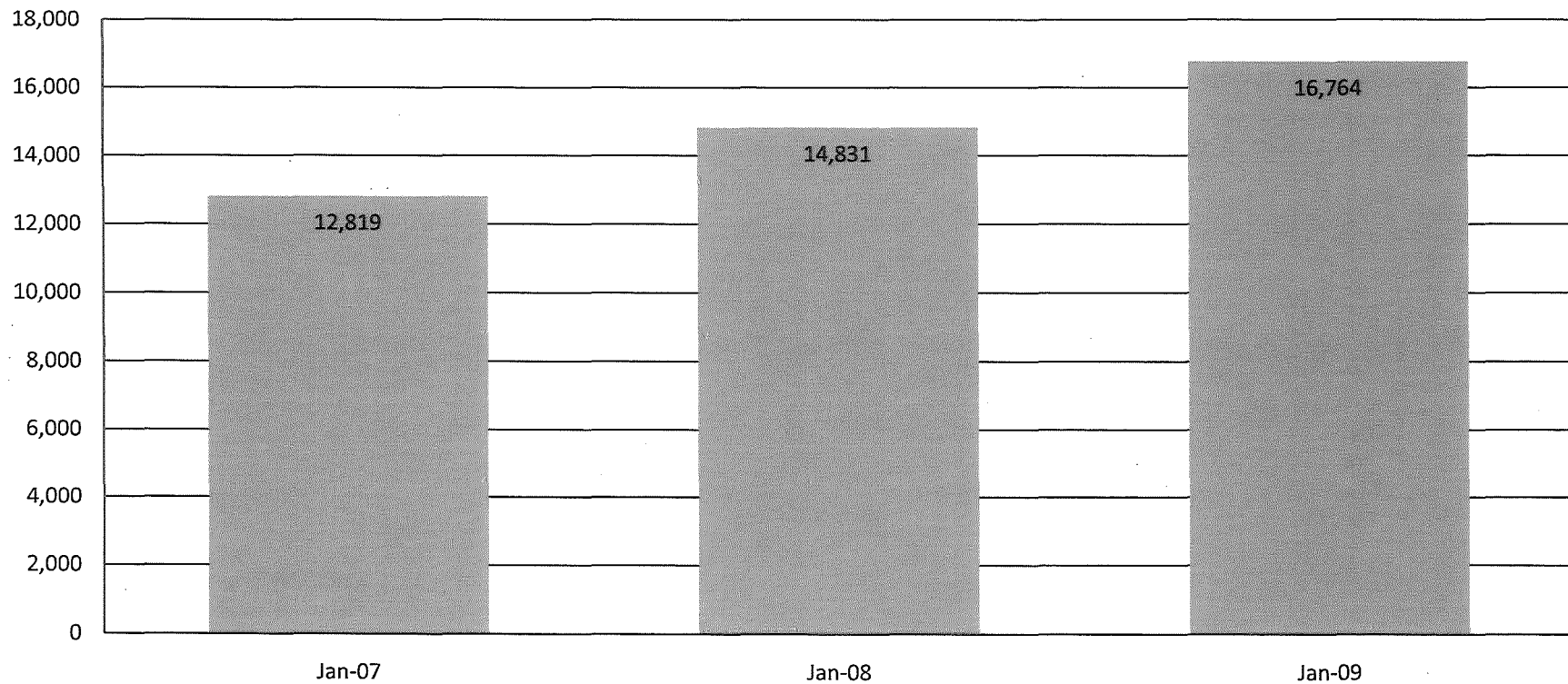
	<u>MGSE</u>	<u>Duluth</u>	<u>St. Cloud</u>	<u>Clay Co.</u>	<u>Olmsted Co.</u>	<u>Willmar</u>	<u>Rice Co. Probation</u>	<u>Bemidji</u>
LATIN GANGSTER DISCIPLES	2							
LATIN KINGS	126	5	5		1	2		
LATIN QUEENS	1							
LG	2							
LITTLE THUGS	1							
LOCO 13	1							
LOS QUEINTES LOCAS	1							
LOS QUINTOS LOCOS	1							
LOS VALIENTES	1							
LOWER TOWN GANGSTERS	30							
M&M	1							
MAFIA CLICK	1							
MAKK MOB	1							
MANIAC LATIN DISCIPLES	2							
MANIAC VICE LORDS	1							
MARA SALVATRUCHA	2							
MASTER PLAYERS	3				2			
MASTERS OF DESTRUCTION	9							
MEXICAN CARNALES	4							
MEXICAN MAFIA	3							
MICKEY COBRA STONES	23	2	1					
MURDA GANG	6							
MURDER SQUAD	4							
NAT SOCIALIST MOVEMENT			1					
NATIONAL CRIMINAL CRIP	1							
NATIVE GANGSTER DISCIPLES	30							
NATIVE MOB	50	1	1					
NATIVE MOB VICE LORDS	13	1						
NATIVE PRIDE			1					
NATIVE STYLE	16							
NATIVE VICE LORD	2							
NAZI LOW RIDERS	2							
NEWPORT MAFIA	1							
NIKE MOB	13							
NORTENOS	2	1					1	
NORTH SIDE GADER BOYZ	1							
NORTHERN HAMMER SKINS	1							
OMB	10							
ORB	2							
ORCHESTRA ALBANY	1							
ORIENTAL RUTHLESS BOYZ	1							
ORIGINAL CRIP DISCIPLES			1					
ORIGINAL LAO THUGS	2							
OUTTA CONTROL GANGSTERS	3							
PEACEMAKERS MC	2							
PECKERWOODS	3						1	
PIRU BLOODS	2		1					

	<u>MGSF</u>	<u>Duluth</u>	<u>St. Cloud</u>	<u>Clay Co.</u>	<u>Olmsted Co.</u>	<u>Willmar</u>	<u>Rice Co. Probation</u>	<u>Bemidji</u>
POSSE	1							
PRISON MOTORCYCLE BRTHRHD	82							
PROJECT BOYZ	5							
PUBLIC ENEMY1 DEATH SQUAD	1							
PUPPY POUND CLICK	1							
PURPLE BROTHERS	17							
QUEENS BLOCK	1							
RAB	7							
RAYMOND AVE CRIPS	5							
RCB	1							
REAL CRIP GANGSTERS	1							
RED BLOOD DRAGONS	1							
RED CAMBODIAN BLOODS					2			
RENEGADE VICE LORDS			1			1		
RENEGADES	2							
RICE STREET GANG	1							
ROLLING 20S	5							
ROLLING 20S CRIP	3							
ROLLING 30S BLOODS	55	1						
ROLLING 40S BLACK ROCKS	2							
ROLLING 60S CRIPS	55							
ROLLING 90S CRIPS	7							
ROUGH TOUGH SOMALI CRIPS	5							
ROYAL CAMBODIAN BLOODS	3							
RUFF RYDERS MC	1							
RUSSIAN MAFIA	1							
RUTHLESS ASS NIGGAS	1							
SATANS DISCIPLES	1							
SELBY SIDER	43							
SHOTGUN CRIPS	36							
SILENCIO	3							
SKINHEADS	18	1	1					
SKYLINE PIRU BLOODS	1							
SOMALI GANGSTER DISCIPLE	1							
SOMALI HOT BOYS	12							
SOMALI OUTLAWZ	1							
SONS OF SILENCE	10				2			
SOUTH SIDE			1					
SOUTH SIDE BOYS	2							
SOUTHSIDE SUR 13	1							
STICK UP BOYS	1							
SURENOS 13	106	1	2					
TALIBAN	6							
TEXAS CHICANO BOYS	2							
TEXAS CHICANO BROTHERHOOD	1							
TEXAS SYNDICATE	2							
THE UNTOUCHABLES	5		5					

	<u>MGSF</u>	<u>Duluth</u>	<u>St. Cloud</u>	<u>Clay Co.</u>	<u>Olmsted Co.</u>	<u>Willmar</u>	<u>Rice Co. Probation</u>	<u>Bemidji</u>
THEMADONES	4							
THUGS	1							
THUNDERBIRDS OUTLAW MC	1	1						
TINY MAN CREW	4							
TINY RASCAL GANG	1		1					
TITANIC BLACK STONE			1					
TLB	1							
TMF	3							
TRAVELING VICE LORDS	1							
TRE DUECE CLIQUE	6							
TRE TRE CRIPS	20							
TREY-SIX VICE LORDS	2							
TRG	2							
TROOP SQUAD	1							
TRUE CRAZY KINGS	1							
TYSON MOB	4		1					
UNKNOWN VICE LORDS	6							
VATOS LOCOS	14							
VICE LORD REBELS	1							
VICE LORDS	117	15	9		5			1
VILLA LOBOS	5			1				
WEST SIDE BLOODS	3							
WEST SIDE CITY CRIPS		1						
WEST SIDE CRIPS						1		
WEST SIDE WHITIES	1							
WHITE FENCE 13	1							
WHITE POWER	105	3	3		1			
WHITE PRIDE	2							
WHITE SUPREMACIST	21	1						
WHITE TIGERS	3							
WILD BOYS		1						
YNT	1							
YOUNG THUGS	5							
Total:	2245	69	86	4	27	4	2	1
Total Gangs:	400							
Total Gang Members:	2438							

GangNet & Pointer File Statistics Calendar Year 2008

GangNet Documented Members



For calendar year 2008, documented gang membership increased by 1933 members. This is a 12% increase from January 2008.

GangNet & Pointer File Statistics

Calendar Year 2008

Top 5 Gangs/Membership

1. Gangster Disciples – 2378
2. Vice Lords – 773
3. Surenos 13 – 646
4. Latin Kings – 534
5. Black P Stones – 368

As of 1/3/2008

Top 5 Gangs/Membership

1. Gangster Disciples – 2595
2. Surenos 13 – 824
3. Vice Lords – 818
4. Latin Kings – 594
5. Black P Stones – 394

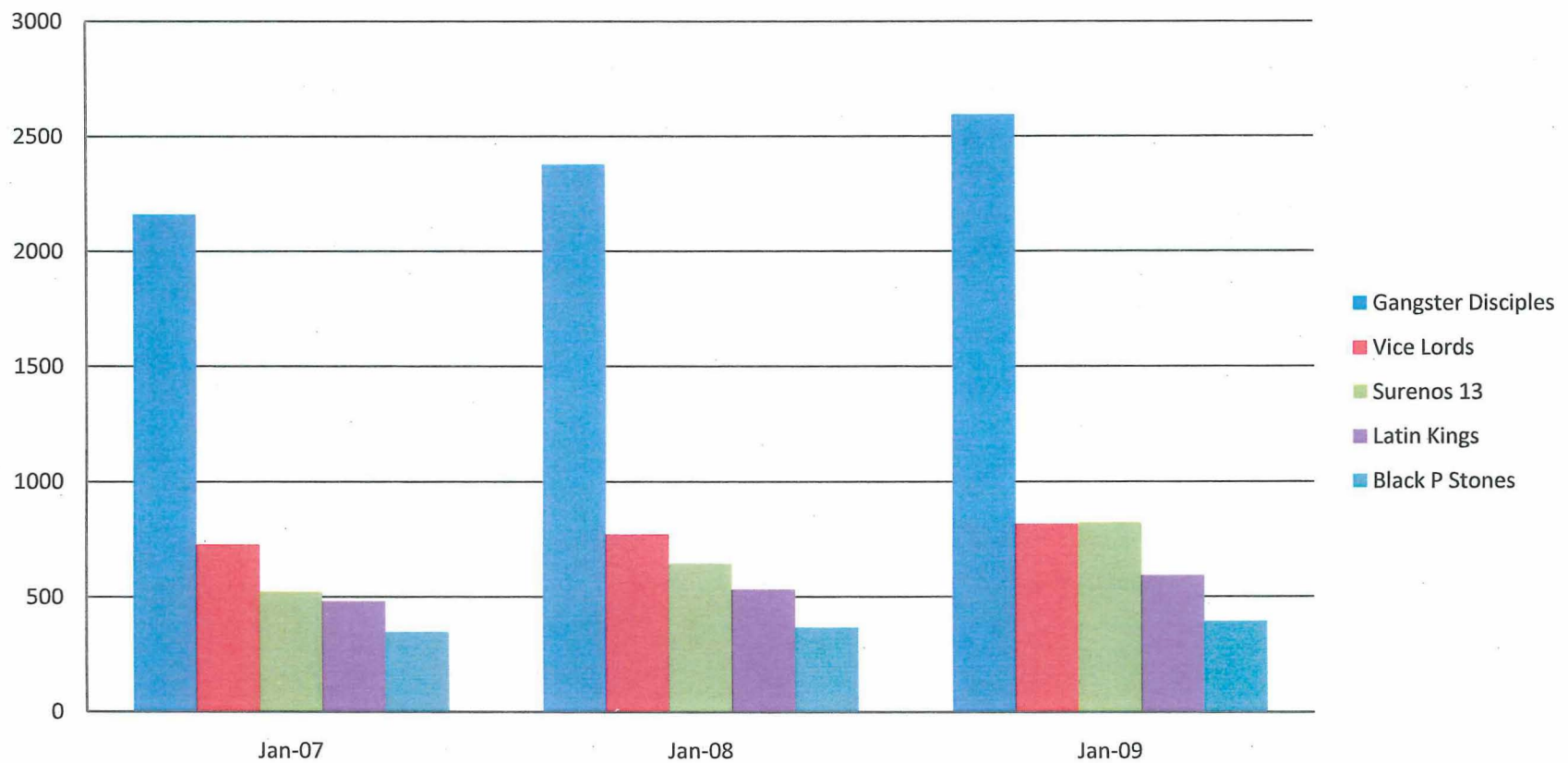
As of 1/2/2009

The Surenos 13 gang showed a 22% increase for the year. The Surenos 13 gang has replaced the Vice Lords gang in documented members. Of the other top 5 gangs, there was a less than 10% increase in documented membership.

GangNet & Pointer File Statistics

Calendar Year 2008

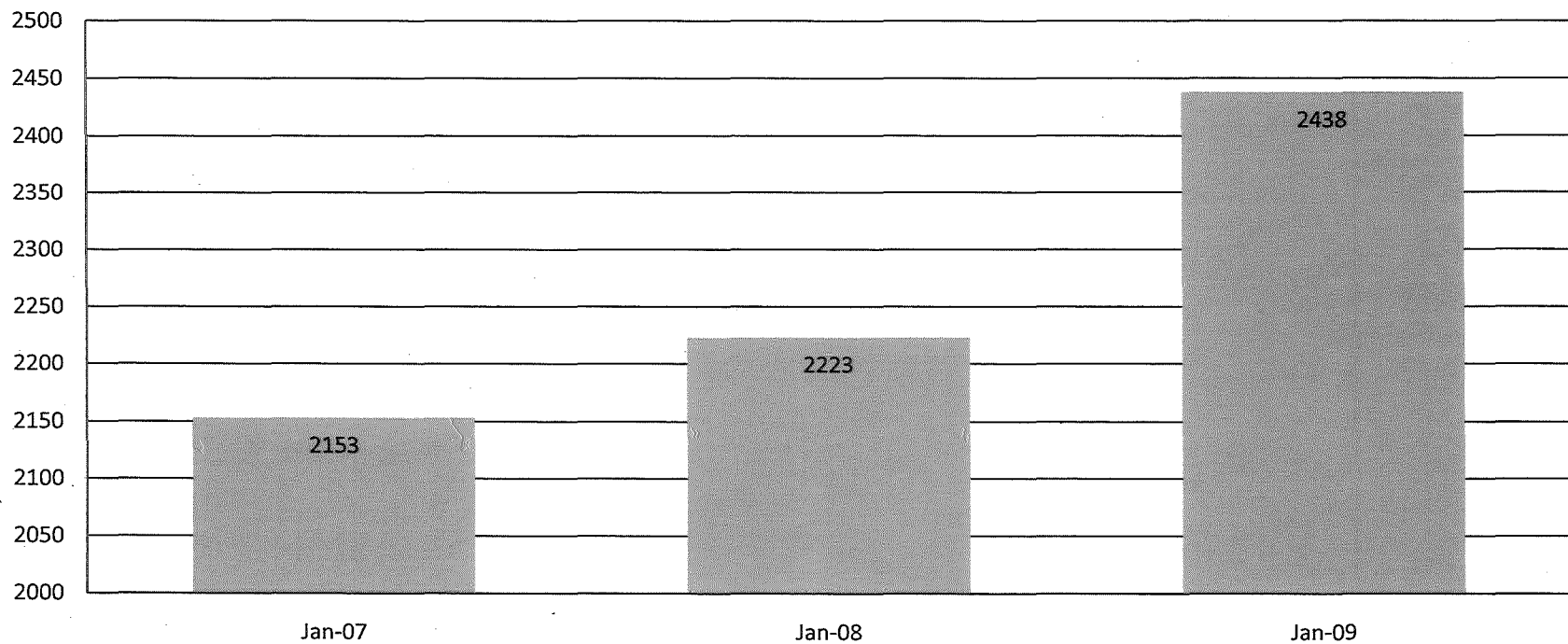
Top 5 Gangs in GangNet



GangNet & Pointer File Statistics

Calendar Year 2008

Total Members in Pointer File



For calendar year 2008, the pointer file had a 9% increase in members.

GangNet & Pointer File Statistics

Calendar Year 2008

Top 5 Gangs/Membership in Pointer File

1. Gangster Disciples – 438
2. Latin Kings – 127
3. Vice Lords – 113
4. White Power – 107
5. PMB – 78

As of 1/3/2008

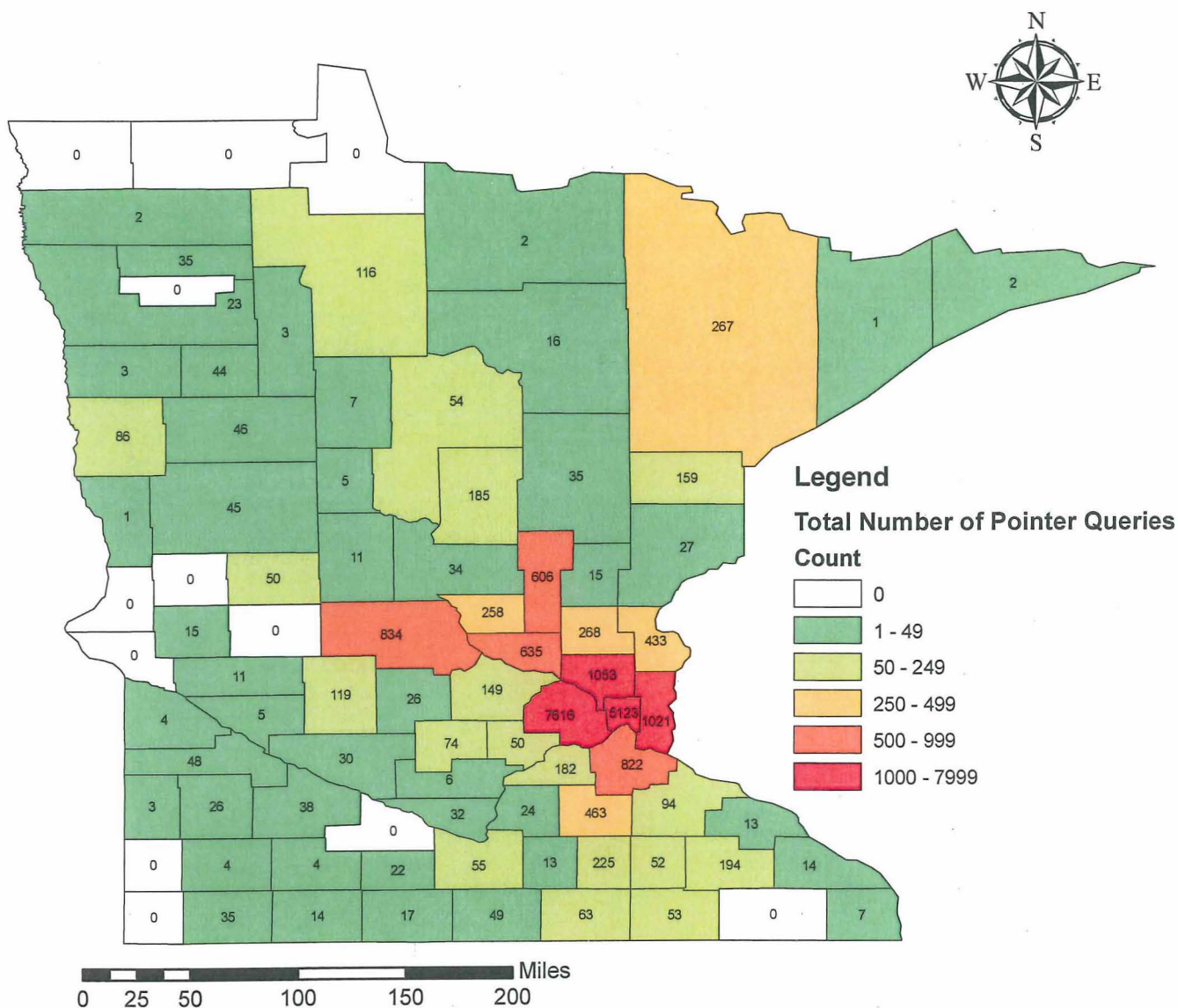
Top 5 Gangs/Membership in Pointer File

1. Gangster Disciples – 455
2. Latin Kings – 126
3. Vice Lords - 117
4. Surenos 13 – 106
5. White Power – 105

As of 1/2/2009

The Surenos 13 gang became the #4 gang in the Pointer File. Most notably, the Surenos 13 was not on the top five for calendar year 2007. This is consistent with the 22% increase in membership from GangNet.

2008 Minnesota Pointer File Queries



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Created by: Jana Hein, Criminal Intelligence Analyst
Metro Gang Strike Force
(651) 582-1247
Date Created: 1/6/09

GangNET

Statistical Breakdown – As of 1/2/2009

<u>Race:</u>	<u>Gender:</u>	<u>Top 5 Gangs / Membership:</u>
Black: 7108 (42.4%)	Male: 15374 (91.7%)	Gangster Disciples 2595
Asian: 3120 (18.6%)	Female: 1387 (8.3%)	Surenos 13 824
White: 3108 (18.5%)	Unknown: 3 (0.0%)	Vice Lords 818
Hispanic: 2180 (13.0%)		Latin Kings 594
Indian: 1105 (6.6%)		Black P Stones 394
Mixed: 84 (0.5%)		
Multiple: 32 (0.2%)		
Pacific Islander: 24 (0.1%)		
Unknown: 3 (0.0%)		

Total Number of Affiliates, Suspected, Confirmed or Confirmed/Convicted: 16,764

Monthly Total through December = 16,652

Total Increase from December through January = 112 members

Total Number of Gang Names: 603

Prepared by: [REDACTED]

Minnesota Gang Pointer File

Statistical Breakdown – As of 1/2/2009

<u>Race:</u>	<u>Gender:</u>	<u>Top 5 Gangs / Membership:</u>
Black: 1324 (54%)	Male: 2414 (99%)	Gangster Disciples 455
White: 672 (28%)	Female: 24 (1%)	Latin Kings 126
Indian: 209 (9%)		Vice Lords 117
Asian: 134 (5%)		Surenos 13 106
Unknown: 99 (4%)		White Power 105

Total Number of Confirmed/Convicted: 2438

Monthly Total for December = 2414

Total Increase from December through January = 24

Total Number of Gangs: 400

Total Pointer File Hits for December: 1811

2008 Total: 23,561

Prepared by: [REDACTED]

2008 GANG TRENDS

During 2008, the MGSF continued to monitor three disturbing gang trends which have evolved over the last several years. The three most prevalent gangs in the Twin Cities metro area are the Surenos 13 gang, the Somali gangs, and the Hybrid gangs.

1. Surenos 13

The Surenos 13 gang is the fastest growing gang in the Metro Area, as well as out state Minnesota. **In 2008, the MGSF documented a 22% increase in the number of Surenos 13 gang members over 2007.** Usually, the gang members are very young and are fiercely loyal to the rest of the gang. Nationwide, the Surenos 13 gang membership is in excess of 50,000; and they have an extreme history of violence. Many of its members have direct connections to the murderous drug cartels coming out of South America.

2. Somali Gangs

The Twin Cities area has the largest population of Somali immigrants in the United States. The Somali gangs that have evolved have direct ties to family clans in Somalia. The Somali gangs are not like the “traditional” gangs in the sense that they are not turf oriented. The gang members place their loyalty to their family or clan above that of the gang. As a result, there have been numerous inter-gang homicides and assaults committed around the Metro Area in 2008. The MGSF has found it difficult to penetrate the Somali gangs because they have an extremely closed and private culture.

3. Hybrid Gangs

The evolution of the Hybrid gangs in the Twin Cities metropolitan area had its beginning on the Minneapolis North Side. The great majority of the Hybrid gang members are young black males who may belong to one or more gangs simultaneously. These gangs have no real hierarchy or code of conduct unlike the older “traditional” gangs. Major decisions can be made by almost anyone in the gang with the other gang members following suit. MGSF Investigators have documented instances where rival gang members will actually work together in a criminal endeavor to benefit each of their gangs. It is extremely difficult to document and track the Hybrid gang members because they are so loosely organized and are continuously moving between gangs. Investigators have determined that these Hybrid gangs will also change their gang name which makes it even more difficult for law enforcement to track. **The Taliban gang is the fastest growing Hybrid gang in the Twin Cities metro area.**

The above mentioned gangs are only but a fraction of the gang dilemma that the Twin Cities metro area and the State of Minnesota now face. Gang enterprises are attacking the core of our society and with their rapid growth in 2008; they will continue to be a formidable hurdle for law enforcement and public officials for years to come.

MINNESOTA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE **INVOLVEMENT/ COUNCILS OF COLOR**

The Attorney General agreed to continue to provide legal representation during 2008 for the Metro Gang Strike Force Advisory Board as well as assisting the MGSF Investigators with legal advice as they work their cases.

Assistant Attorney General John Gross has worked closely with investigators regarding advice and representation in court on data practices requests. He also responded to several subpoenas duces tecum, to protect the confidentiality of the private and confidential data maintained in the Metro GSF gang investigation files. Mr. Gross has also worked with the Metro Commander and analysts regarding procedure and policy for audits of the Minnesota Gang Pointer File as required under Minnesota Statute 299c.091.

Assistant Attorney General David Voight continues to serve as the legal counsel for the MGSF Advisory Board that is made up of the eleven Chiefs and Sheriffs who have officers assigned to the MGSF.

Assistant Attorney General Jim Early handles all the criminal forfeitures for the MGSF exclusively. He also continues to provide advice and representation in court proceedings on criminal forfeitures relating to items lawfully seized in gang investigations.

Community Liaison/Councils of Color

Another part of the MGSF mission is to ensure the community receives information about plans, activities, and decisions of the MGSF. The Minnesota Attorney General's Office continues to serve as a liaison between the Strike Force and the Councils of Color, which include the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, the Council of Black Minnesotans, the Chicano/Latino Affairs Council, and the Indian Affairs Council. Regular meetings are scheduled with the Councils of Color, which are attended by MGSF supervisors and staff from the Minnesota Attorney General's Office.

Major issues that have been addressed by the Councils of Color include:

- What is a "confirmed gang member"? The ten point criteria was explained as well as explaining that law enforcement efforts were geared to "criminal activity" not physical appearances of people.
- Racial statistics for persons entered in the Statewide Computer System.
- Identifying MGSF member, it was agreed that all MGSF members would carry MGSF ID cards and wear distinctive raid jackets during operations.
- The Metro Gang Strike Force has also met with representatives of the various organizations when special issues arise. These are meetings outside the framework of quarterly meetings.

MN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY INVOLVEMENT

The Office of Justice Programs, which is part of the Department of Public Safety, administers the grant monies that have been allocated by the Minnesota Legislature to fund the Metro Gang Strike Force. The grant provides a \$50,000 reimbursement, each year, to the home departments for each officer assigned. The grant also provides funds for the physical office space and the operations portion of the MGSF. In addition, it assists in paying for our Office Manager, Cindy Gehlsen, who plays a vital role in the daily MGSF operations and has for the last eleven years.

We work with John Boulger who is the Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator for Office of Justice Programs. Mr. Boulger identifies training so we can send our investigators to continuing education classes regarding criminal gang investigations. We assist Mr. Boulger in providing training for gang investigators in greater Minnesota as well as law enforcement officers throughout the state, as part of the MGSF Mission.

Bob Bushman, Statewide Coordinator for the Multi-Jurisdictional Gang/Drug Task Forces, has an office in the MGSF facility. Under our organizational plan, developed in 2006, he also acts as the direct supervisor of our criminal analysts who are state employees as well as our student workers and interns. The analysts are responsible for monitoring the input and maintaining the integrity of our intelligence systems as well as the Minnesota Gang Pointer Systems. They are a tremendous resource for our investigators and for investigators from around the state. Their crime analysis has aided in solving several homicides and numerous violent crimes that were committed by gang members.

2008 witnessed the MGSF recommit itself to the mission of gang member documentation. This data, along with link-analysis, is distributed to law enforcement agencies around the state in real-time by our crime analysts in an effort to prevent gang violence and other gang related crimes. Their hard work and dedication to our mission is nothing less than outstanding!

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) originally developed the program for the Minnesota Gang Pointer File, the system that tracks confirmed gang members in the state of Minnesota. Today, the BCA continues to physically house the computer system that provides this important information to law enforcement and prosecutors throughout the state. The Gang Pointer File also continues to be an excellent officer safety tool for street officers throughout the state as they are immediately notified whether the person they are running is a confirmed gang member.

MN DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS INVOLVEMENT

The Department of Corrections (DOC) has been a very important partner for us in combating gangs in the State of Minnesota. As early as 1997, when the Minnesota Gang Strike Force was created, DOC shared intelligence on gang members housed in their institutions. That information was a very integral part of our current information on gang members in the state that we have developed through the years.

In 2006, the DOC became a participating member of the Metro Gang Strike Force by assigning Investigator [REDACTED] from their Office of Special Investigations to the Metro Office. She immediately became an important part in our organization. Currently about 75% of her time is involved in bringing together a long-term investigation involving a major gang in the area.

In 2008, Investigator [REDACTED] provided information on thirteen homicides in Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Bloomington; eleven federal narcotics and weapons investigations, four fugitive investigations, three shootings which occurred in Minneapolis, and other gang related narcotics, robbery, assault and kidnapping investigations.

In 2008, the DOC tracked 174 felony probationers who were either arrested or identified as being part of a MGSF investigation. Of these, sixty-one were DOC supervised releases or former offenders on felony probation at the county level for new convictions. Interestingly, there were forty-one gang groups represented by the 174 felons who came in contact with MGSF Investigators.

It is important to note that DOC and MGSF Investigators have worked together on Project Safe Neighborhood and Safe Trails programs with the U.S. Attorney's Office. These projects deal with violence caused by emerging Native American Gangs operating throughout the state. Since the creation of the MGSF, these partnerships have continued to grow with investigators at the MGSF working along with the DOC to track and investigate criminally active Native American Gangs.

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE INVOLVEMENT

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota continues to be very helpful and committed to working with the Metro Gang Strike Force in helping to address violent gang crimes.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Steinkamp is the prosecutor who is designated to work on crimes committed by organized gangs. Our investigators have a good on-going working relationship with Mr. Steinkamp.

In 2008 the MGSF worked with the U.S. Attorney's office and other agencies on fourteen on-going "Organized Criminal Drug Enforcement Task Force" (OCDETF) cases preparing for federal indictments. MGSF investigators worked together on several large-scale, successful gang prosecutions with Assistant U.S. Attorneys Steinkamp, Wilton, Hollenhorst, Winter and Folks.

The MGSF had 84 arrests filed federally and charged through the U.S. Attorney's Office during 2008. We currently have at least five more secret indictments where defendants have not yet been arrested.

An added benefit of working with the U.S. Attorney's Office is that with all cases presented to the office for investigation or prosecution, MGSF officers must have a federal law enforcement agent as a co-agent. Pairing our investigators with federal law enforcement agents has increased and strengthened our working relationships with these agencies. Our investigators have developed working relationships with federal agents to include the assignment of agents to the MGSF.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (ICE)

INVOLVEMENT

In 2007, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) became an essential partner with the MGSF. Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] work full time at the MGSF Office and have been a fine addition to our success.

The mission of ICE is to protect America and uphold public safety by targeting the people, money, and materials that support terrorism and criminal activities. ICE Agents use both immigration and customs authorities, as well as the additional authorities granted to them under the Homeland Security Act and Patriot Act to enforce U.S. law. ICE Agents routinely arrest people for human smuggling, felonies related to immigration, international smuggling and money laundering, child pornography, narcotics and bulk cash smuggling, and a host of other criminal violations.

It has been very beneficial having Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] assigned as investigators with the MGSF because we now have someone in-house who can present our cases to the U.S. Attorney's Office for Federal Violations. Many of our gang members, we find, are arriving from foreign countries, thus, we now have federal help with the arrest and detention of criminal foreign nationals. In addition, with assistance from ICE, we now have access to their federal database searches as well as their contacts with other federal agencies to assist us in our gang investigations. ICE resources such as overtime pay, surveillance and investigative equipment, and monies are obtained through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement. With this federal assistance, the MGSF can now more easily target gangs with international ties such as Somali gangs and Mexican gangs.

Several of the major 2008 accomplishments ICE Investigators, along with MGSF Investigators, have been involved in are as follows:

1. Fifty documented gang members were charged and deported on immigration violations during an ICE operation named "Operation Community Shield," which MGSF Investigators assisted with.
2. Twenty documented gang members were charged and deported on immigration violations while assisting MGSF Investigators on MGSF cases.
3. Seven federal indictments and convictions on conspiracy to distribute cocaine and methamphetamine. In reference to one of these cases, one of the subjects was a career criminal and was given a life sentence while the others ranged from ten to twenty years in prison.

THE MAKING OF A LONG TERM INVESTIGATION

Investigators receive information about criminal gang activity or specific individuals in various ways. Sources include; other law enforcement agencies, defendants, witnesses, and informants. Often times the person involved are a low-ranking gang member or an associate who is involved in the crime but he/she is not an actual gang member. The investigators must then decide if the information is relevant to an on-going investigation or if it will assist them in targeting a high ranking gang member.

The MGSF Investigators will collectively decide whether to follow up if the intelligence is gang related. A supervisor is part of the initial strategy meeting. Investigators will contact other local, state, and federal enforcement agencies in an effort to avoid conflicts of interest. It is not unusual that several agencies will have had dealings with the target of the investigation. In these situations, information is shared and permission is received before proceeding with any new investigation.

A short-term investigation can last for several months. However, if the investigators decide to move ahead and put together a case that will extend into a long-term investigation, there are several things that normally happen. They frequently employ small scale suppression techniques such as weapon or drug buys. The purpose is to build a solid case on the low-ranking gang member or associate to secure their cooperation as evidence is built against the main target. Remember, when looking at specific actions of the MGSF Investigators, the activities first appear to be non-gang related or drug driven, but in fact each action is part of a larger plan.

Once the investigators believe the elements of their work will meet the standards of a federal case, they will meet with a prosecutor from the U. S. Attorney's Office. It takes multiple meetings before a prosecutor agrees to enter into a larger long-term investigation. The prosecutor will provide the investigators with a "work list." Items on the list contain steps for the investigators to lead them through the process including, reviewing criminal histories, gathering other intelligence by surveillance or additional narcotics buys to secure witness cooperation.

Once the work list is completed, the investigators will re-evaluate the main target and determine the best way to proceed with the investigation. When the target is established, the prosecutor prepares another work list for the case investigators. Items on this list will include interviewing the informants and witnesses, as well as reviewing case evidence.

During the investigation other MGSF Investigators will assist with surveillance, search warrants, suppressions, interviews, corroborating intelligence, locating persons of interest (victims, witnesses or targets) collecting evidence, etc. All of this work from the very beginning is labor-intensive and dangerous. Even though many of the players are low-ranking gang members, this makes them no less dangerous because most if not all have access to guns.

Finally, when the prosecutor and investigators decide that evidence exists to charge the targets, the federal indictments will be presented to a federal grand jury. If a "true bill" decision is returned by the grand jury, the investigators move into the arrest portion of the process. Once the targets are in custody the investigators begin interviewing (or "proffering") the defendants. This

portion takes countless hours. The work and documentation is mountainous! The proffering is followed by the trial and plea portion of the case. Again, this part is tremendously time consuming. The investigators continue their work right through sentencing.

What I have tried to demonstrate is just how dangerous and laborious a long-term investigation is. All of this work is but a portion of the MGSF Investigator's day. They also assist the other investigators with their cases and actions. It is truly a never ending cycle. So when you review the final numbers; arrests made, guns and drugs seize, number of long-term investigations, gang members documented, other agencies assisted and gang presentations made, please know that these numbers are but a fraction of the work that has been done by your MGSF Investigators.

A REVIEW OF SOME SELECTED 2008 MGSF INVESTIGATIONS

MGSF Investigators were involved in an OCDETF case called Operation Blazing Saddles which began in April 2007. In April 2008, the investigation was finally concluded with the arrest of nineteen conspirators. At this time, all nineteen have been charged in federal and state courts for their actions. In addition to the nineteen suspects that were arrested, 78.67 pounds of cocaine, 36 pounds of crystal meth, 7 vehicles and \$613,000 was recovered. This investigation was a collaborative effort between the MGSF Investigators and the Violent Crime Drug Squad of the Minneapolis FBI. Many of the conspirators had close ties to the Mexican Mafia who were delivering the drugs directly to Minnesota from Mexico.

MGSF Investigator [REDACTED] (Lino Lakes PD) was asked by the Columbia Heights Police Chief to assist his investigators with actions against the "Circle Terrace Boys" or CTB. The CTB's had a history of shootings, burglaries, and other gang related crimes. This collaborative action, beginning in the spring of 2008, produced a number of arrests. Investigators served several search warrants where guns and narcotics were recovered. **As a result of this crime effort, the crime rate in that part of Columbia Heights is down 30% according to Chief Scott Nadeau.**

In February 2008, MGSF Investigators joined with Minneapolis VOTF and ATF in an OCDETF case (Flaming Moe). Initial investigation was started in January 2007 by MGSF Investigator [REDACTED] (Minneapolis PD). The OCDETF investigation lasted until the end of April 2008. The targets of this investigation were members of the Black P Stone gang which originated in Chicago, IL. The Black P Stones were primarily located in South Minneapolis and were involved in a major criminal enterprise. At the conclusion of the investigation twenty-nine federal indictments were handed down. A house, half a dozen guns, several vehicles, and a large amount of cash were seized. MGSF [REDACTED] and MGSF Investigator [REDACTED] both of Minneapolis PD, assisted MGSF Investigator [REDACTED] with the case investigation. This is an outstanding example of a collaborative effort by state and federal agencies to dismantle a large, violent gang enterprise.

On March 7th, 2008, Easter weekend, a young Hispanic male was murdered at the intersection of Portland Ave S and E Lake St in Minneapolis. Initial information revealed that the victim had gang ties to the Sureños 13 gang. Approximately three hours later a Vatos Locos gang member was murdered in the city of Richfield in retaliation for the previous Minneapolis homicide. MGSF Investigators teamed up with the Minneapolis Homicide Investigators in identifying the victims and any possible relationship between the two feuding gangs.

In May 2008, MGSF Investigators were conducting a gang saturation at St. Paul's Cinco de Mayo celebration when investigators learned that two people had been shot on St. Paul's West-Side. Investigators were alerted by a Confidential Informant (CI) that the suspects fled the area in a motor vehicle. Contact was maintained with the CI who followed the suspects until they

were stopped by the police. In cooperation with St. Paul's Gang Unit and the West St. Paul Police Department all five persons were arrested and four were charged with crimes ranging from second degree assault, weapons crimes, and crimes to benefit a gang. All five suspects involved are Sureños 13 gang members and the two victims of the shooting are Latin King Gang members.

In June 2008, a MGSF Investigator was informed a Latin King Gang member was the victim of a drive-by shooting that occurred on the Lafayette Bridge in St. Paul during rush-hour traffic. MGSF Investigators, along with St. Paul's Gang Unit, were able to identify the three suspects involved in the shooting and recover the firearm used in the assault. The three suspects involved in the shooting were documented Latin King Gang members; with the three witnesses to the shooting being known Gangster Disciples gang members.

On July 14th, 2008 a Minnetonka gun store was burglarized in which 51-60 guns were taken. The suspects are members of a Somali gang. Approximately 50 conspirators have been identified and 9 guns recovered. [REDACTED] (Ramsey County SO), [REDACTED] (Ramsey County SO), [REDACTED] (State Criminal Intelligence Analyst) and other investigators have been working closely with the Minnetonka PD and ATF to identify and prosecute the perpetrators. The above investigation has opened other criminal investigations related to Somali gang members. Their investigation has led them to Faribault, Rochester, Hopkins and cities in-between.

In July 2008, MGSF Investigators assisted the West St. Paul Police Department investigate a shooting that occurred between known BTMG (Blood Town Mafia Gangsters) and Sureños 13 gang members. By working together, two Sureños 13 gang members were charged with crimes ranging from attempted murder to aiding an offender.

In late July, 2008, ICE Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] along with other MGSF Investigators conducted Operation Community Shield which targeted foreign national gang members within the St Paul/Minneapolis Metro area. During the 2008 Gang Operation, fifty-five targeted gang members were arrested. Three were presented and accepted for federal prosecution. Two firearms and a kilo of cocaine were seized during the two subsequent search warrants. All fifty-five targets face federal ICE charges and removal proceedings. During the operation, five subjects were arrested on other local warrants. **Agents and investigators made contact with over 200 gang members.** This information was documented in ICE Gangs and in the MN GangNET database.

In August 2008, a large number of MGSF Investigators were part of several gang saturations on the East side of St Paul. These saturations were initiated by [REDACTED] (Maplewood PD), [REDACTED] (Ramsey County SO), and [REDACTED] (Ramsey County SO), **after a female cancer survivor, who was walking around Lake Phalen, was severely beaten with a baseball bat by Asian gang members.** These saturations resulted in several criminal and immigration

violation arrests. Substantial leads were uncovered and turned over to the St Paul Homicide Division.

On September 23, 2008 a young male was murdered in the alley behind 4035 28th Ave S in Minneapolis. The shooting was first thought to be a case of mistaken identity. MGSF Investigators were able to provide information that the shooting was gang related. MGSF Investigators along with Minneapolis Homicide Investigators arrested Edgar Rene Quintana-Barrientos for probable cause homicide. Quintana-Barrientos remains in custody and is currently awaiting trial.

In November 2008, MGSF Investigators assisted St. Paul's Homicide and Gang Units with their investigation into the deadly shooting of Jacob McKenzie on St. Paul's west side. Days after the shooting, the suspect, a documented Brown Pride gang member, turned himself into the St. Paul Police Department and was charged with felony murder.

MGSF Investigators performed multiple saturations in and around the funeral services for the two shooting victims. Investigators seized several hand guns and intervened in several possible gang retaliations. Investigators worked closely with the family and local law enforcement officials over the entire Easter weekend and successfully diffused this volatile situation.

Throughout 2008, MGSF Investigators continue to assist the ATF with Operation Smoke-Out, which has focused on the commercial burglaries of tobacco stores throughout the Twin Cities metro area. During the course of the investigation, numerous suspects have been arrested, charged and convicted of an array of crimes from possession of stolen property, weapons charges and burglary. Five of the suspects found guilty were documented Gangster Disciples or associate members of the gang.

On December 17th, 2008 MGSF Investigators opened an Oxycontin case involving several white-collar employees. The Oxycontin was being stolen and distributed throughout the city of Minneapolis with a large amount ending up in the Little Earth Indian neighborhood in South Minneapolis. Native Mob gang members were attempting to establish a distribution network. After MGSF Investigators identified the principle sources from Bloomington to South Minneapolis, they contacted the DEA who became the lead agency. Several arrests have been made throughout the state and the investigation is still ongoing.

Since spring 2008, Investigator [REDACTED] (Hennepin County SO) has been tracking and documenting Hybrid gang members. In late May, Investigator [REDACTED] and a Minneapolis School Liaison Officer were instrumental in disarming several suspects across the street from Patrick Henry High School, where they were waiting to open fire on gang rivals.

Investigator [REDACTED] has been able to document and track eleven known Hybrid gangs, along with the assistance of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] State Criminal Intelligence Analysts. These Hybrid gangs have spread from North Minneapolis to the Northern suburbs into Anoka County.

Investigator [REDACTED] has worked closely with [REDACTED] (Hennepin County SO) and [REDACTED] (Brooklyn Park PD) in serving search warrants and other actions against this flourishing gang enterprise.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The MGSF provides a variety of services to law enforcement agencies state-wide as well as schools and civic groups. **However, our most important function is to provide investigative help and gang intelligence to police departments needing assistance when a critical incident occurs in their city.** The vast majorities of police departments do not have the resources or the manpower to adequately document and work gang related crimes because of budget constraints. The MGSF is an “instant gang resource” for all to use.

A prime example of MGSF Investigators working together with another police department to solve a serious gang related crime is the shooting that just occurred in the City of Edina at the Southdale Mall. On Friday, February 27th MGSF Investigators worked closely with the Edina Police Department from the onset. The MGSF Investigators tentatively identified the gangs involved and the shooter within three hours. On Monday, March 1st, the shooter was taken into custody in south Minneapolis by MGSF Investigators [REDACTED] (Richfield PD) and [REDACTED] (Brooklyn Park PD). It was their unique knowledge of the gang members that enabled them to bring this terrible incident to a rapid and safe conclusion. **This is exactly how a collaborative case investigation should work!**

If I could offer one bit of advice to the Advisory Board it would be this; do not let your local control over the MGSF be wrestled from you. This is one of the top multi-jurisdictional task forces in the country. Each of you has to personally answer for the gang violence in your cities and jurisdictions. Do not let someone without personal stakes in this matter decide what is best for the citizens you serve. The MGSF is one of your best tools in fighting gang violence. With the unprecedented growth of gangs in the metro area and around the state, the efforts of the MGSF will become increasingly important.

PERSONAL CLOSING STATEMENT

Of all the MGSF accomplishments in 2008, it is the series of events that took place on July 4th that captures the spirit of a well trained and well staffed multijurisdictional task force. At 9:00 AM on July 4th, MGSF Investigators met at McMurray Field (south of Como Park, St Paul) for the National Hmong Soccer Tournament. This event draws in excess of 40,000 people from around the country. The investigators understood that they would be doing gang saturations at this and at three other events back to back and that they would be enforcing a "Zero Tolerance" gang policy throughout the day. "Zero Tolerance" simply means that when aggressive or illegal behavior is observed by suspected gang members, the investigators would give a verbal warning to resolve the issue and if that was unsuccessful, arrests would be made when necessary.

At the conclusion of their shift at the Hmong Soccer Tournament and with the temperature being in the 90's, the investigators went directly to the Taste of Minnesota at Harriet Island in St Paul. They assisted the St. Paul Gang Unit in ongoing gang suppression.

At the conclusion of this saturation, the investigators proceeded directly to Veteran's Park in Richfield for the Richfield Fireworks celebration. This is a family event that draws in excess 40,000 people each year. This event was nearly cancelled because of previous gang violence. By the end of the night numerous actions had been taken by the investigators but no major incidents were reported.

At 11:30 PM, MGSF personnel made their way to the Myth Nightclub in Maplewood where they worked with Maplewood officers and members of the Ramsey County SO in gang saturation where 4,500 people from the Hmong Soccer Tournament were in attendance, many of them being known gang members. The action was cancelled at 3:00 AM and no major incidents were reported.

It would be an understatement to say that at the end of the investigators' eighteen hour work day they were extremely fatigued. During my thirty-eight years in law enforcement, and looking back to my service in Vietnam, I have never witnessed a group of men and women work so professionally and unselfishly as they did that day. There is not another law enforcement organization in this state that could have turned out nearly 100% of its personnel on a voluntary basis and accomplish what they did that day.

I personally want to thank each and every investigator and support staff at the MGSF for their dedicated work in 2008. I am tremendously proud of these hard working men and women and I am sure that the Oversight Board completely shares my feelings.