

**Safe Street  
Violent Crime Initiative Report**



**Fiscal Year 2000**

- ◆ On January 9, 1992, the FBI announced the Safe Streets Violent Crimes Initiative (SSVCI). The SSVCI is an initiative designed to allow the Special Agent in Charge of each FBI field division to address street gang and drug-related violence through the establishment of FBI-sponsored, long-term, proactive task forces focusing on violent gangs, crimes of violence, and the apprehension of violent fugitives.
- ◆ The FBI has developed a model methodology to identify a community's crime problem and develop a strategy to address that problem.

### **SAFE STREETS MISSION**

- ◆ Safe Streets Task Forces (SSTFs) attack street gang and drug-related violence, as well as seek the most significant fugitives wanted for crimes of violence through the establishment of long-term, proactive and coordinated teams of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors.
- ◆ The FBI has developed a National Violent Crime Strategy, National Strategy for Organized Crime/Drug Enterprises, and National Gang Strategy which serve as the frameworks for combating violence in America. Each of these strategies incorporates the task force concept with a comprehensive investigative and prosecutive focus.
- ◆ Through the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution/Confinement Statute, the FBI has traditionally been tasked with seeking the Nation's most sought after state and local violent fugitives. As part of the SSVCI, the FBI has joined forces with state and local agencies to apprehend violent fugitives that are wanted in association with violent criminal activity.

### **TASK FORCE COMPOSITION**

- ◆ As of March 31, 2000, the Safe Streets and Gang Unit (SSGU) has responsibility for 174 SSTFs in 54 FBI field offices. The breakdown of SSTFs is as follows:
  - Violent Crime Task Forces - 55
  - Violent Crime/Fugitive Task Forces - 35
  - Violent Crime/Gang Task Forces - 43
  - Fugitive Task Forces - 24
  - Interstate Theft/Major Offenders (Property Crime/Carjacking Task Forces) - 17
- ◆ SSTFs team 805 FBI Special Agents with 251 other federal Agents, and 1,096 state and local law enforcement participants.

## **BENEFITS TO STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES**

- ◆ The task force concept increases the effectiveness and productivity of limited personnel and logistical resources, avoids duplication of investigation and consequent wasteful expenditure of resources in matters of concurrent jurisdiction, and expands the cooperation and communication among federal and state law enforcement agencies.
- ◆ SSTFs allow the application of sophisticated investigative techniques normally associated with complex organized crime and racketeering investigations. Such techniques are frequently not available to local police agencies.
- ◆ The FBI is authorized to reimburse state and local agencies for the overtime worked by full-time members of SSTFs at a rate of \$744.62 per month or \$8,935.44 annually.

## **GANG INVESTIGATIONS**

- ◆ The FBI is identifying and targeting violent street gangs as a priority matter utilizing joint task forces. These task forces are applying investigative techniques and strategies which the FBI has successfully used to target traditional organized crime, including the development of a solid intelligence base, undercover operations, and the application of various electronic surveillance techniques.
- ◆ The FBI is the principal federal agency charged with investigating criminal activity associated with violent street gangs.
- ◆ By applying the same methods used in the successful war on traditional organized crime, SSTFs are developing racketeering and continuing criminal enterprise cases to remove the leadership and the most dangerous members of violent street gangs and seize their assets.
- ◆ Street gangs and other loosely knit groups are responsible for a substantial portion of the increase in violent crime in the United States. The FBI has determined that gangs pursue their criminal enterprises through an array of violent criminal activity to include murder, extortion, kidnapping, assault, robbery and drug trafficking.
- ◆ In numerous cities, FBI-sponsored task forces are targeting individuals or groups associated with the Bloods and Crips, Black Gangster Disciples Nation, Almighty Latin Kings Nation, Jamaican Posses, and other violent street gangs.
- ◆ The investigation of other local or regional gangs involved in kidnapping,

bank robberies, drug related murders, as well as an intensified focus on the apprehension of dangerous fugitives continues to be a primary thrust of the overall violent crime strategy.

### **VIOLENT CRIMES AND MAJOR OFFENDERS PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- ◆ A measure of the results of the SSVCI can be seen through a comparison of the statistical accomplishments of the FBI's Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Program:

	<u>FY 92</u>	<u>FY 93</u>	<u>FY 94</u>	<u>FY 95</u>	<u>FY 96</u>	<u>FY 97</u>	<u>FY 98</u>	<u>FY 99</u>	<u>FY 00</u>
<b><u>TOTALS</u></b>									
Complaints 52,937	6,429	6,954	6,090	5,877	5,497	6,279	6,401	6,408	3,002
Arrests 187,635	14,026	23,121	24,481	25,146	24,969	25,416	25,181	23,911	11,384
Locates 28,878	2,600	3,327	4,027	3,291	3,152	3,451	3,637	3,720	1,673
Indictments/ 64,403 Informations	6,123	7,197	7,015	6,765	7,382	8,254	8,499	8,930	4,238
Convictions/ 76,079 Pre-Trial Diversions	6,486	8,231	8,188	7,751	9,241	9,175	9,432	9,479	4,048

\* Figures for FY 00 are based on 1st & 2nd quarter statistics which are accumulated through the Integrated Statistical Reporting and Analysis Application. Reporting period is 10/1/99 through 3/31/00.

## EXAMPLES OF SAFE STREETS TASK FORCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ On September 16, 1996, a Safe Streets Task Force in the Salt Lake City Division initiated a pro-active joint law enforcement operation designed to dismantle illegal drug sales and gangs operating within and effecting the designated Weed and Seed site in Salt Lake City, Utah. Specifically, the investigation targeted the leadership hierarchy of the La Raza, Avenues, Diamond Street, 21st Street and Sundowner Motorcycle Gang, and those who support their criminal enterprises by supplying them with firearms and illegal drugs.

The first aspect of the investigation involved identifying and targeting those individuals engaged in narcotics trafficking, primarily at the street level dealer and distributor level in the Weed and Seed site. The second component of the operation focused on evidentiary purchases of narcotics and firearms, as well as efforts geared towards dismantling the leadership of the La Raza, Avenues, Diamond Street, 21st Street and the Sundowner Motorcycle gangs.

- three On January, 28, 1999, 41 members of the Sundowner Motorcycle gang were arrested based on federal and state warrants. In addition to the above arrests, search warrants and nine seizure warrants were executed resulting in the seizure of the Sundowner Clubhouse, a significant methamphetamine laboratory, 81 guns, 10 Harley Davidson motorcycles, five cars and a total of \$251,880 in cash and property. Following the initial takedown, 31 additional members of the Sundowners have been arrested.

- ◆ On September 8, 1999, the Chicago Division's Joint Task Force on Gangs executed nine arrest warrants for members/associates of the Almighty Latin Ling Nation (ALKN). The arrest include two national leaders of the ALKN, Raul "BK" Gonzales and Augustin "Tino" Zambrano.

All subjects, except for one associate of the ALKN, were arrested for violating United States Code, Title 21, Section 846 (Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Substance). Patricia Pagan was arrested for violating United States Code, Title 21, Section 841 (Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Substance). Because of prior drug convictions, the above subjects face federal confinement of between twenty years to life imprisonment. In addition to the above arrests, four semi-automatic handguns were seized.

The ALKN is the largest, most well-organized, and most violent Hispanic street gang in Illinois. Founded in Chicago in the early 1960's, the ALKN's claim nearly thirty thousand members in the city of Chicago, with another ten to fifteen

thousand members in the surrounding suburbs. There are approximately 1600 self-admitted Latin Kings in the Illinois prison system, and these account for over half of all the recorded violent acts on prison personnel and other inmates, making the ALKN the most violent prison gang in Illinois.

- ◆ On July 1993, a Safe Streets Task Force in the Los Angeles (LA) Division, initiated an investigation into the illegal criminal activities of the California Mexican Mafia, aka “LA EME” or “EME”.

The EME was formed in the California Department of Corrections Penal System at the Duele Vocational Institution located in Tracy, California, in the late 1950s, by East LA Hispanics who predominately came from a common neighborhood (barrio). EME (phonetic spelling for the Spanish letter M) was born with the idea of forming a “Gang of Gangs” that would supersede the traditional territorial boundaries set up outside of prison walls.

The well-organized gang built its criteria along ethnic lines and a set of rules modeled after the Sicilian Mafia. With a set of rules governing its members, the EME has become a fundamental criminal enterprise established for the sole purpose of committing criminal activities in furtherance of the organization’s goals. Some of the gang’s activities include expanding its control of heroin trafficking, drug rip-offs, prostitution, business robberies, contract murders, gambling, debt collection, extortion, and other illicit activities.

EME members were also responsible for arranging or participating in a killing spree that took the lives of two advisers on the film “American Me,” a movie depicting EME’s prison and street activities in California; arranging or participating in 12 attempted murders including a failed hit on an El Sureno gang member; directing wide-scale assaults on sheriff’s deputies and inmates in the Los Angeles County Jail; engaging in drug trafficking in Latino neighborhoods throughout Southern California and killing or threatening to kill competitors; and possessing a variety of assault weapons.

Traditionally, EME membership has been comprised mostly of Southern California Hispanics; however, EME membership has been known to expand into Northern and Central California. All EME members abide by a “blood in, blood out” honor code.

On April 29, 1995, this investigation resulted in the arrest of 22 members and/or associates of the EME on federal Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges. Quantities of marijuana, cocaine, 14 vehicles, 10 weapons, numerous documents, and photographs relating to the EME’s criminal transactions and in excess of \$8,000.00 in U.S. currency were seized from targeted locations.

On September 1995, a superseding RICO indictment was handed down by a Federal Grand Jury in Los Angeles, California, against 22 members of the EME.

Of the 22 indicted EME members, seven of the defendants pleaded guilty to RICO charges, one defendant was severed from the others for trial purposes, and one defendant was killed before trial, with the 13 remaining defendants standing trial in October 1996.

In May 1997, following a seven-month federal trial, a federal jury in Los Angeles, California, after a two-week deliberation convicted 12 of the 13 indicted EME members of multiple counts of federal RICO charges, including drug statutes, murder and extortion carried out in a ruthless bid to extend the EME's influence beyond California's prisons. The one remaining EME member was acquitted.

During the week of September 2 - 5, 1997, the 12 convicted EME members were sentenced in Los Angeles, California, with sentences ranging from 32 years in prison to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. Also, at the conclusion of the above mentioned RICO trial, a forfeiture hearing was held; and it was determined that all property claimed in the original indictment was found to have been procured from illegal activities of the organization. This property has been forfeited to the federal government.

In early 1997, the aforementioned SSTF to include officers from the California Department of Corrections launched a new investigation on the Mexican Mafia. Once again, the strategy of this investigation was to penetrate and neutralize the inner leadership of the Mafia, and to ultimately dismantle the criminal enterprise operating within and outside of the California prison system.

On February 2, 1999, the first phase of the above investigation was culminated involving the execution of 30 arrest warrants on Mexican Mafia members for RICO charges.

On July 1, 1999, the second phase of the takedown operation occurred and involved the execution of 40 federal arrest warrants and nine federal search warrants in the Los Angeles, California area. The above arrests on July 1, 1999 represent the conclusion of this two part investigation and essentially dismantles the Mexican Mafia leadership within and outside of the California prison system.

Since the takedown, 35 of the charged subjects have been placed in custody and five subjects remain at large with fugitive investigations in progress. The 40 federal arrest warrants were based on indictments issued out of the Central District of California, for Federal charges to include RICO, RICO conspiracy, Drug Trafficking and Firearms violations. The thirty-five subjects arrested thus far include Mariano Martinez, a reputed Mafia member who was responsible for orchestrating a triple homicide that occurred in Montebello, California. Also arrested for her criminal involvement with the Mafia was a female school teacher who was actively employed by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Moreover, during the above operation, eight firearms were seized, bringing the total firearms recovered during this investigation to 50 altogether.

- ◆ On January 14, 1999, the Safe Streets Violent Crimes Task Force, Washington Field Office, in conjunction with the Washington Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), 7th District, and FBI Baltimore (Calverton RA) executed 20 District Court search warrants, seven District Court booking orders, and arrested 16 members of the 1-5 Mob. These arrest resulted from a 100 count Federal indictment charging Racketeering, First Degree Murder, Assault With Intent to Commit Murder, Armed Robbery, Operating a Continuing Criminal Enterprise, Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess five Kilograms or More of Cocaine, 50 Grams or More of Cocaine Base, One Kilogram or More of Heroin as well as firearm violations. Four subjects are fugitives. Seized in the search warrants were firearms, drugs, drug paraphernalia, and gang related documents and photos.

This operation is the culmination of an investigation into the violent criminal activity and the distribution of crack cocaine, marijuana and heroin by the “1-5 Mob” in Southeast, Washington, D.C. Members of the gang have been known to be extremely violent and have been involved in a number of homicides, assaults and retaliatory disputes with members of other gangs operating in the vicinity. A key arrest was made in this investigation in July, 1998 when an reverse undercover drug buy resulted in the arrest and indictment of TOMMY EDELIN, the reputed head of the organization.

The case was initiated in 1996 and to date the investigation has resulted in 117 search warrants executed, 72 firearms seized, 89 arrests, 24 convictions (to include RICO pleas), 20 murders closed, 21 Assaults with Intent to Kill (AWIKs) closed, one shooting of a police officer closed, over \$60,000 recovered, and seven vehicles seized.

This case represents the largest federal indictment of a violent gang organization ever brought by the District of Columbia, United States Attorney's Office.

- ◆ The San Diego and Norfolk Divisions have been investigating the methamphetamine-trafficking activities of an organization involved in a conspiracy to distribute multiple pounds of methamphetamine to an association of outlaw motorcycle club members in Virginia and Tennessee. This investigation has identified 28 suspected drug packages shipped from California to Virginia on multiple occasions and over 30 subjects.

On October 12, 1998, indictments were returned by a Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Virginia against 4 individuals, charging them with conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.



On October 14, 1998, San Diego, Memphis, and Norfolk FBI Agents executed search warrants in locations that were identified during the course of the above-stated investigations. Seized in Virginia Beach, Virginia, were 15 pounds of methamphetamine, \$230,000.00 in currency, 12 weapons, 2 vehicles and one motorcycle. Seized in Luray, Tennessee, were numerous weapons, to include a grenade launcher, and \$5,000.00 in currency. Seized in San Diego, California, were 22 pounds of methamphetamine, 19 weapons, C-4 explosives with blasting caps, and \$1,000.00 in currency.

On February 18, 1999, 31 members and associates of the Renegade Outlaw Motorcycle Club were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury in the Eastern District of Virginia. Charges included violation of federal narcotics laws and Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicles.

On February 24, 1999, over 100 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers executed arrest and search warrants in and around Norfolk, Virginia taking 28 of the 31 indicted subjects were in custody.

The three remaining subjects were in custody by February 28, 1999. Weapons, including a grenade launcher, 4 hand grenades, and dynamite, in addition to narcotics, have been seized. Numerous residences and vehicles, including 19 Harley-Davidson motorcycles, are expected to be forfeited as part of this investigation.

- ◆ The New York Division (Long Island Resident Agency), initiated an investigation targeting members of the Pagans Outlaw Motorcycle Club (POMC). The POMC is being investigated under the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organization (RICO) statute. The NY Division is working on this investigation with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), Suffolk County Police Department and the Nassau County Police Department.

The Pagans are an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) and are considered one of the FBI's "top-five" (the five largest OMGs). The Pagans are a target of the FBI's National Gang Strategy (NGS), which addresses major domestic violent street gang/drug enterprises which are significant threats to the integrity of American society. The Pagans consider themselves "outlaws" of society. Their members engage in a variety of violent criminal activities, including assault, robbery, rape, murder, prostitution, arson, bombings, burglary, extortion, and drug trafficking.

On April 7, 1998, the NY Division executed arrest and search and seizure warrants at approximately 6:00 a.m. at various locations throughout the Division. Additionally, arrest and search warrants were executed in the Philadelphia Division, Miami Division, and Richmond Division. All warrants were executed without incident.

As a result of these warrants, 27 individuals were arrested in New York, 1 in Philadelphia, 1 in Miami, and 1 in Richmond. Those arrested were members and/or associates of the POMC. These arrests include the National Vice President, Michael Desena, part of the Pagans national governing body.

This investigation continues in New York and Miami in an effort to locate four individuals who are fugitives. Additionally, searches were conducted at 23 locations. Twenty - five motorcycles, approximately \$8,000.00 in cash, approximately 100 firearms, along with numerous knives and other weapons, were seized from the POMC in this investigation.

This investigation resulted in the decimation of the remaining National Leadership of the Long Island Chapters of the POMC. This was the largest single arrest operation of POMC membership in U.S. history. While the individual charges vary, most relate to murder conspiracies against members of the Hells Angels Motorcycle Gang and the manager of a Huntington, New York, exotic dance club. Furthermore, extortion, assault, and the use of a firearm in commission of a violent felony are also being charged in this investigation.

The defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit murder and assault, extortion, arson, and other violent crimes.

- ◆ On January 7, 1999, a Safe Streets Task Force in the Miami Division conducted the execution of 26 arrest warrants in Miami, Florida, which resulted in the arrest of 21 subjects. The arrest warrants were based on indictments issued out of the Southern District of Florida, for violation of federal drug, money-laundering, and firearms laws. This operation represents the conclusion of a 1 ½ year investigation targeting the John Doe street gang and the Cloud Nine street gang, two violent criminal enterprises based in the Liberty City area of Miami, Florida. The 21 arrests included the apprehension of Corey Smith, also known as (aka) Bubba, the notorious leader of the John Doe gang. Moreover, during the above operation, seven firearms were recovered and \$1,000.00 in U.S. currency was seized.

The above-mentioned investigation is a joint Miami Division, Miami Police Department (MPD), Metro Dade Police Department (MDPD), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) Safe Streets Task Force case, in conjunction with the Weed and Seed Initiative, which was initiated in August of 1997. This investigation targets the drug-trafficking and violent criminal activities of the John Doe gang and particularly the leader of the gang Corey Smith. The John Doe gang, and its competitor; the Cloud Nine gang, were both responsible for the majority of cocaine, rock cocaine, heroin, and marijuana distributed in the northwest section of Dade County, Florida. Additionally, John Doe gang members would consistently utilize AK-47 assault rifles and other high-powered weapons to commit assaults and homicides in furtherance of the gangs' criminal activities.

Since 1995, over 40 slayings and ten shootings have been attributed to these drug gangs, including over 20 homicides and shootings since August 1998. As a result, significant media attention in the local Miami area and across the Nation has been given to the hostile gang warfare perpetrated by the John Doe gang and Cloud Nine gang.

Throughout this investigation, the Miami Division utilized a myriad of sophisticated investigative techniques targeting Smith and other John Doe gang members. These efforts led to the seizure of approximately \$250,000.00 in U.S. currency, approximately ten kilograms of cocaine, approximately 70 pounds of marijuana, and the anticipated seizure of approximately 12 vehicles.

The U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Florida, conducted a press conference in Miami, Florida, on January 7, 1999, to announce the above takedown operation.

◆ In 1995, the Los Angeles Division, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Police Department, conducted an enforcement action against the Eight Trey Gangster Crips (ETGC), a violent street gang in Los Angeles, California. This enforcement action focused on an area of South Central Los Angeles that was suffering from an increase in violent criminal activity and allegedly being controlled by the northside faction of the ETGC.

The ETGC were responsible for 80 percent of the violent criminal activity within that neighborhood. This enforcement action involved the execution of 120 search warrants and the arrests of 61 individuals. The individuals arrested were charged with violations ranging from robbery, burglary, and violent assaults to drug trafficking. As a result of this enforcement action the crime rate in that neighborhood was reduced by 40 percent.

The next phase of the ETGC investigation focused on the interstate drug-trafficking activities of Michael Withers, Brady Armstrong, and their Mexican drug suppliers. Withers, Armstrong, and their organizations were responsible for the interstate transportation and distribution of large quantities of rock cocaine, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and PCP to cities across the Nation. This investigation utilized all available sophisticated investigative techniques to demonstrate how this criminal enterprise managed its violent drug-trafficking enterprises.

On November 18, 1997, in connection with the charging of 82 subjects, one of the largest national take downs in recent history occurred that involving more than 400 federal, state, and local law enforcement officers/Agents. The 82 subjects had previously been charged in connection with a multi-jurisdictional Safe Streets Task Force (SSTF) investigation targeting violent street gangs, their intermediary drug suppliers, and ultimately their Mexican suppliers. Federal charges included drug

trafficking, money laundering, firearms, and operating a continuing criminal enterprise (CCE).

A total of 82 subjects were indicted in Los Angeles, California, 52 subjects were charged in 10 indictments and 3 subjects were charged in a criminal complaint. 11 additional defendants were charged in St. Louis, Missouri. Moreover, 16 subjects were charged previously and prosecuted locally, of which 8 have been convicted. A total of 82 subjects have been charged in this multi-agency, SSTF investigation, spearheaded by SSTFs in the Los Angeles, and St. Louis Division's. Furthermore, 67 federal arrest warrants were issued and 12 federal search warrants were executed in Los Angeles, California. Arrest warrants were executed in St. Louis, Missouri; Denver, Colorado; Dallas, Texas; Gastonia, North Carolina; Louisville, Kentucky; Toledo, Ohio; Jackson, Mississippi; and San Diego, California.

These indictments represented the culmination of a two-year SSTF investigation targeting criminal enterprise components of this violent street gang based in Los Angeles, California, and St. Louis, Missouri. Included in the indictments was the Mexican supplier to these criminal enterprises.

Throughout this investigation, the Safe Streets St. Louis Gang Task Force and the Safe Streets Los Angeles Metropolitan Task Force on Violent Crime, gang task force component, utilized an array of sophisticated investigative techniques.

This joint St. Louis Division and Los Angeles Division investigation has recorded the following seizures; \$477,000.00 in U.S. currency, 10 firearms, 30 kilograms of cocaine, 6 kilograms of heroin, 25 pounds of marijuana, 11 ounces of methamphetamine, a half kilogram of rock cocaine, 5 gallons of hydriodic acid, 200 pounds of red phosphorous, 24 gallons of methanol, and a half ton of iodine.

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, the half ton of iodine seized on March 7, 1997, would have produced more than 350 pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of more than \$2.1 million. The street value of the above drugs seized is believed to be over \$3 million. Drug proceeds in the amount of \$390,000.00 have been seized in this investigation.

The financial investigation conducted on all of the indictable subjects of this investigation has resulted in the forfeiture of assets (houses, apartments, vehicles) worth in excess of \$2 million. Additionally, 5 subjects that were arrested have been convicted on drug charges in state court.

- ◆ On March 3, 1999, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas, announced a federal jury returned guilty verdicts against 10 members of the Texas Mexican Mafia prison gang. The jury convicted the Mafia members on charges of participating in a racketeering conspiracy which included murder, attempted

murder, assault, extortion, drug trafficking, and other crimes. In particular, the racketeering acts included 6 murders committed in 1994 and 1995 and 8 murders committed in 1997. Each defendant faces up to life in federal prison. The convicted defendants included Roberto Perez, also known as "Beaver," the reputed General of the Texas Mexican Mafia.

The Texas Mexican Mafia investigation was a joint Safe Streets Task Force (SSTF) case comprised of Agents and officers from the FBI, San Antonio Police Department, and Bexar County Sheriff's Office. This investigation targeted the widespread criminal activity conducted by Texas Mexican Mafia members within and outside of the Texas prison system. The above case began more than two years ago as a result of an internal power struggle within the Texas Mexican Mafia gang following the 1993 federal indictment and subsequent conviction of Mafia President Heriberto Huerta and numerous other Mafia members. Several of the homicides described in the above trial related to the aforementioned power struggle.

Sixteen defendants were charged overall as a result of this investigation. Six other defendants had previously pled guilty to federal charges prior to the above trial.

◆ On January 27, 2000, a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging 20 members in Operation Shop Light with various federal statutes ranging from Continuous Criminal Enterprise (CCE), conspiracy to CCE, sales of drug paraphernalia, and money laundering. On January 31, 2000, the U.S. Magistrate in the District of Maryland, approved 35 seizure and search warrants.

On February 1, 2000, 200 agents and officers from the Baltimore Division, Baltimore Police Department, Maryland State Police, Howard County Sheriff Office, Baltimore County Sheriff Office, Baltimore Housing Police Department, U.S. Customs Service, IRS, and DEA/HIDTA participated in these arrests, seizure, and search warrants. Additionally, the Sacramento and New York Divisions' assisted by executing two arrest warrants and one arrest warrant, respectively.

This investigation was predicated on the high rate of violent criminal gang activity in Baltimore City carried out by numerous local violent gangs, estimated in excess of 300, who patronize store front businesses that laundered money and the sale of drug paraphernalia. These small shops, operate under the guise of "fragrance" stores which sell heroin cut products such as mannitol, gel caps and quinine. The Baltimore Division utilized several sophisticated investigative techniques which successfully concluded a complex, long term investigation targeting criminal enterprise components of violent street gangs based in Baltimore, Maryland.

- ◆ On March 10, 2000, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOSE M. SANTIAGO, a.k.a. "King Monkey," a.k.a. "King Mono," a member of the Yonkers Chapter of the Almighty Latin Kings Nation, plead guilty in White Plains federal court to the March 17, 1995, murder of EFRAIM TORRES in Yonkers, New York. SANTIAGO plead to three counts of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959 (a) 1; Title 18, United States Code, Section 1959 (a) 5; and Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c). SANTIAGO is scheduled to be sentenced to 50 years in prison on April 19, 2000, in the Southern District of New York.

In the fall of 1994, information was obtained that the Latin Kings were establishing a chapter in the Newburgh R.A. territory. In the winter of 1995, a series of crimes occurred which were directly linked to the Latin Kings; the murder of Andre Boone in the City of Newburgh and the slashing of a former Latin King in New Paltz, New York, by Latin Kings from the Newburgh Chapter. The investigation was initiated to identify the Latin Kings gang members and provide assistance to the local police departments where these crimes occurred. A UFAP warrant against HENRY COLON, a.k.a. King Lefty, the First Crown of the Newburgh Chapter, was obtained. COLON was arrested by FBI Philadelphia in June 1995. COLON later plead to Federal charges under RICO.

During the summer of 1996, evidence was obtained which lead to the arrest of five Latin Kings of the Yonkers Chapter on charges of RICO-Murder. These subjects were identified as EDGAR PACHECO, a.k.a. King Blue Eyes; ANGEL ALEJANDRO, a.k.a. King Vamp; JUAN A. FONTANEZ, a.k.a. King Smurf; DANNY BERRIOS, a.k.a. King Danny; and JOSE A. SANTIAGO, a.k.a. King Monkey.

During July 1998, an outstanding arrest warrant was issued for COLON charging him with RICO-Murder at which time he became a fugitive. On October 6, 1999, members of the Connecticut State Fugitive Task Force were conducting a surveillance in Bridgeport, Connecticut, for COLON, based on information information revealed that COLON had been involved in a shooting that past weekend in New London, Connecticut, and that he would be at a surveillance address in order to purchase weapons. During the surveillance COLON was observed driving a vehicle and parking it in front of a surveillance van containing task force members. During the attempted arrest COLON was shot and subsequently died from his wound.

- ◆ The San Diego County District Attorney's Office has attributed 25 percent of all violent crimes in San Diego to violent street gangs. The fact that San Diego shares a common border with Mexico has contributed to the growth in membership of San Diego's gangs by illegal aliens. This has injected an ever increasing element of violence into gang activity. Furthermore, San Diego gangs

are increasingly evolving into violent drug enterprises and have aligned themselves with violent Mexican Drug-Trafficking Organizations (MDTOs) such as the Arellano-Felix Organization (AFO).

In 1996, a Safe Streets Task Force in the San Diego (SD) Division initiated an investigation into the Logan Heights street gang. The SD Division identified a component of this gang as a criminal enterprise gang that was closely aligned with the AFO, also known as the Tijuana Cartel. The AFO is considered to be one of the most vicious, ruthless criminal organizations involved in smuggling drugs into the United States and their subsequent distribution onto American streets. The AFO has used Logan Heights gang members to murder rival drug traffickers, protect drug shipments, and conduct other violent enforcement activity all in furtherance of this criminal enterprise.

In September 1997, following a two-year Safe Streets Task Force violent street gang investigation, Ramon Arellano-Felix, widely recognized as the head enforcer of the AFO, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury seated in the Southern District of California, San Diego, California. Ramon Arellano-Felix was charged with conspiracy to import cocaine and marijuana. Because of the AFO's propensity for violence, Ramon Arellano-Felix was placed on the FBI's Top Ten Most Wanted Fugitive list, in September 1997.

On February 5, 1998, a Federal Grand Jury seated in the Southern District of California, San Diego, California, returned a true bill indictment against 10 Logan Heights gang members for their involvement with the AFO, and cross border violence.

Charged as an overt act in the indictment was the May 24, 1993, murder of Cardinal Juan Posados-Ocampo, at the Guadalajara Airport. Logan Heights gang members, acting on the instructions of the AFO were attempting to murder a rival drug trafficker.

On May 14, 1998, a Federal Grand Jury in the Southern District of California, issued a true bill superseding indictment charging additional overt acts to the above-noted indictment.

The additional overt acts included the July 22, 1996, attack on the Mexican military in Zapopan, Mexico, which left two soldiers dead; and the September 19, 1996, shootout with the Mexican Army in Culiacan, which Hernan Barron-Carona, David Barron-Carona's cousin, and Daniel Benitez Mendoza, a Logan Heights street gang member, were fatally wounded. Three of the above-noted subjects indicted in this investigation have pled guilty and have been sentenced; two subjects are presently in custody, two subjects are deceased, and five subjects are in a fugitive status.

- ◆ On September 22, 1999, a takedown operation by the Denver Metro Gang Task Force occurred in DN Division resulting in the execution of 35 federal arrest warrants in the Denver, Colorado area, based on indictments issued out of the District of Colorado, for violation of federal drug and firearms laws and operating a Continuing Criminal Enterprise (CCE).

The above-captioned investigation was a joint Denver Division, Denver Police Department, Aurora Police Department, Adams County Sheriff's Office, Douglas County Sheriff's Office, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Boulder Drug Task Force OCDETF case in conjunction with the HIDTA initiative which was initiated in October of 1998. This investigation initially targeted the drug trafficking and criminal activities of members and associates of the Mexican Criminal Mafia (MCM) street gang and its leader Manuel Carrillo. Over the course of this investigation, the DN Division initiated a spin-off case targeting Xavier Davis and numerous other Crips Street Gang members who were receiving their supply of drugs from Carrillo and other MCM gang members. Simultaneously, this investigation identified and infiltrated the drug supplier to Carrillo, also known as, Hector Gonzalez. Investigative efforts targeting Gonzalez resulted in the identification of a large scale drug trafficking organization with connections to high-level Mexican supplier Humberto Pelegrina out of Juarez, Mexico. Overall, the above subjects have been responsible for the distribution of multi-kilogram quantities of cocaine, crack cocaine and methamphetamine, from the Mexican border, through Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Dallas, Texas, and ultimately to the streets of Denver, Colorado.

During the investigation, the DN Division utilized a myriad of sophisticated investigative techniques to develop evidence against the charged subjects. These techniques lead to the execution of the above 26 search warrants and resulted in the seizure of kilogram quantities of methamphetamine, cocaine, crack cocaine, the seizure of three firearms and the recovery of \$95,000 in drug proceeds.

The above investigative efforts completely dismantled the MCM organization in the Denver area, in addition to shattering the Gonzalez drug distribution network from Denver to the Mexican border. Although Gonzalez' drug supplier, Humberto Pelegrina, is based in Mexico, he was also charged in this case. Furthermore, the indictments and arrests resulted in a severe disruption in the criminal activities of Crips Street Gang members following the arrest of Davis and his gang associates.

- ◆ On January 14, 1999, a Safe Streets Task Force in the New Orleans (NO) Division initiated, a takedown operation that involved the execution of 12 arrest warrants in New Orleans, Louisiana, which resulted in the arrest of 11 subjects. The arrest warrants were based on a complaint issued out of the Eastern District of Louisiana, for violations of federal drug laws. The takedown operation represents the conclusion of a nine-month investigation targeting the Iberville Warriors, a violent drug gang responsible for controlling the distribution of rock cocaine in



the Iberville Public Housing Development in New Orleans. The 11 arrests include the apprehension of Cordell Thomas, the notorious leader of the Iberville Warriors. Moreover, during the above operation, four firearms were recovered in addition to the seizure of \$25,000.00 in U.S. currency and 1 ½ pounds of marijuana.

This investigation was a joint New Orleans Division, New Orleans Police Department investigation which was initiated in May of 1998. This investigation targeted the drug-trafficking and violent criminal activities of the Iberville Warriors gang and particularly the leader of the gang, Cordell Thomas. The Iberville Warriors gang had been responsible for the majority of cocaine, rock cocaine, heroin, and marijuana distributed, and the related violent crimes committed in the Iberville housing complex. As a result of the increase in crime at the Iberville complex during 1997 and 1998, the New Orleans Gang Task Force began to concentrate its investigative efforts on Thomas and his criminal associates. Many of the Iberville Warriors have been linked to at least 60 violent crimes and drug-related acts committed in the past year. As a result, significant attention in the local New Orleans area has been given to the criminal activities perpetrated by the Iberville Warrior gang.

Throughout this investigation, the New Orleans has utilized all available sophisticated investigative techniques to target Thomas and other Iberville Warrior gang members and/or associates. These efforts led to the above-stated operation. In addition to earlier seizures of ounce quantities of cocaine, rock cocaine, heroin, and the recovery of three firearms, two subjects previously arrested during this investigation have subsequently pled guilty to federal drug charges.

On January 18, 2000, the FBI's New Orleans Gang Task Force (NOGTF) was presented with the Philip L. Frank, Sr. Memorial Award by the Metropolitan Crime Commission. The Metropolitan Crime Commission is a nonprofit, privately financed watchdog organization working to improve the criminal justice system and reduce crime and corruption. The NOGTF was among those honored by the Commission for its "extraordinary service to law enforcement and criminal justice." The award was presented by the Executive Director of the Commission who applauded the NOGTF for successfully solving six homicides obtaining "multiple convictions and lengthy incarcerations for these violent offenders." and preventing countless others.

The New Orleans Police Department newspaper titled "Our Beat" attributes the reduction of murders in New Orleans to NOGTF by closing murder cases at a record arrest rate, with 65% cases solved in 1999 compared to 58% in 1998.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- ◆ Community Outreach is the portion of the Safe Streets Program which seeks to develop a partnership between law enforcement and community leaders to coordinate community resources and community action against violent crimes.

## **POLICE EXECUTIVE FELLOWSHIP**

- ◆ As an extension of the Safe Streets Program, the FBI has established an executive fellowship for a management-ranked police officer (lieutenant or above) who is detailed to FBI Headquarters with managerial elements of the FBI's Violent Crimes and Major Offenders Section on a six-month rotation basis.

A portion of the executive fellowship assignment involves working with the Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs; and Executive Office of Weed and Seed.

## **SAFE TRAILS**

- ◆ On March 3, 1994, the FBI initiated Operation Safe Trails with the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement, Phoenix, Arizona. Safe Trails, a derivative of the FBI's Safe Streets Program, is exclusively designed to address major crime and child sexual abuse in Indian Country. The FBI/Navajo Task Force is comprised of nine FBI Special Agents and 15 Navajo Nation Department of Law Enforcement personnel. The Phoenix Division initiated the Salt River Safe Trails Task Force in 1999 to target the leadership of violent street gangs operating on the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Reservation located in the eastern portion of the Phoenix metropolitan area.
- ◆ Twelve Navajo Department of Law Enforcement police officers attended the FBI Survival Awareness In-Service during June 1994. Survival Awareness training is designed for law enforcement personnel involved with the FBI's Safe Streets and/or Safe Trails Task Force concept.
- ◆ On April 1, 1995, FBI Salt Lake City, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, entered into a Safe Trails Task Force on the Navajo Reservation in Utah. This task force targets the violent crime problems on the Reservation, particularly child abuse, homicides, and youth gangs.
- ◆ On May 1, 1995, FBI Albuquerque, in conjunction with the Navajo Nation Department of Law Enforcement, initiated a Safe Trails Task Force on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. This task force targets the homicide, child sexual abuse, and gang problems on the Navajo Reservation.

- ◆ On July 1, 1996, FBI Las Vegas along with the Nevada Division of Investigation initiated a Safe Trails Task Force. The primary objective of this task force is to identify and investigate the violent criminal activity occurring on the eight colonies and eight Indian Reservations in northwestern Nevada. The task force also targets violent criminal activity to include, but not limited to, child sexual abuse, murder, rape, drug abuse/drug distribution, and gang activity.
  
- ◆ All three FBI offices, which have a portion of the Navajo Nation in their territory, now have a Safe Trails Task Force in operation.

**SAFE STREETS TASK FORCE SUMMARY  
TASK FORCE BREAKDOWN**

**FUGITIVE TASK FORCES (FTF): 24**

FTF's are responsible for locating and apprehending the most sought after federal and state violent fugitives.

**VIOLENT CRIME TASK FORCES (VCTF): 55**

VCTF's address street gang and drug-related violence including bank robbery, armed robbery, kidnapping, extortion, murder for hire, firearms violations, RICO violations, and violent offenses that fall within the Interstate Transportation in Aid of Racketeering statutes and Hobbs Act violations.

**VIOLENT CRIME/GANG TASK FORCES (VC/GTF): 43**

VC/GTF's target violent street gangs and their associates responsible for gang-related criminal activity. Additionally, VC/GTFs place a specific emphasis on the identification of the major domestic violent street gangs/drug enterprises which pose significant threats to the integrity of our society. VC/GTFs pursue these gangs through sustained, proactive, multi-divisional, coordinated investigations under Federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization; and Continuing Criminal Enterprise Statutes.

**VIOLENT CRIME/FUGITIVE TASK FORCES (VC/FTF): 35**

VC/FTF's address both fugitive and street gang and drug-related violence.

**INTERSTATE THEFT MAJOR OFFENDERS TASK FORCES (ITMO): 17**

ITMO Task Forces target violent, major theft groups to include armed truck hijackings, armed automobile hijackings, gangs, and major jewelry robbery rings.