

# ORGANIZED CRIME IN CALIFORNIA

2005 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT - CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

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# **Organized Crime in California**

## **Annual Report to the California Legislature 2005**



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## *Message from the Attorney General*

The *2005 Annual Report to the Legislature* summarizes major criminal activities of street gangs, international terrorists, organized crime groups, and criminal extremists operating in or otherwise affecting this state. Each portion of the report also provides an analysis, then examines and evaluates patterns and trends associated with the crimes listed.

During the past year, the Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB) has remained committed to helping protect the citizens of California. CIB consists of four intelligence sections -- the Gang Analysis Unit, the Organized Crime Analysis Unit, the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center, and the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse. Staff in these units identifies and track criminal suspects and groups, conduct assessments, and offer real-time tactical support in response to threats presented to the citizens of California by these entities. The information that follows highlights some of the projects undertaken by CIB in 2005.

During this calendar year, CIB Task Forces assisted law enforcement agencies around the state with investigations of explosive devices at government facilities, gang sweeps involving a variety of arrests including: narcotics violations, warrants, prior deportation, probation violations, and violation of court orders. Some gang members were identified as suspects in homicides, assaults, sales of narcotics investigations, and auto theft investigations. Task Force agents also assisted the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force in their investigation of four of members of Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is Saheeh, a radical prison gang, for their alleged roles in a conspiracy to levy war against the U.S. government through terrorism.

On March 1, 2005, DOJ's California Anti-Terrorism Information Center (CATIC) officially entered into a new partnership with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to form a State Terrorism Threat Assessment System. In support of this mission, CATIC became the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center (STTAC). During 2005, STTAC diligently worked to address terrorist threats impacting California. The Center broadcasts Advisories, Midday Reports & Intelligence Briefings, and Intelligence Bulletins. It processes terrorism-related inquiries from law enforcement authorities seeking information on a variety of suspects, assists in the identification of suspects, and provides authorities with results regarding their inquiries. STTAC personnel also coordinate and maintain the California Joint Regional Information Exchange System (CAL JRIES). Since its inception, CAL JRIES has evolved to not only focus on combating terrorism but is also used by law enforcement agencies and first responders as the primary source for criminal intelligence information.

## Table of Contents

|                                                                |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Executive Summary .....</b>                                 | <b>1</b>     |
| <b>Gangs .....</b>                                             | <b>2-16</b>  |
| Criminal Street Gangs .....                                    | 2-10         |
| Prison Gangs .....                                             | 10-13        |
| Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs.....                                   | 13-15        |
| Analysis and Trends.....                                       | 15-16        |
| <b>Organized Crime .....</b>                                   | <b>17-23</b> |
| Traditional Organized Crime.....                               | 17-18        |
| Eurasian Organized Crime.....                                  | 18-20        |
| Analysis and Trends.....                                       | 20-21        |
| Human Trafficking Organizations .....                          | 22           |
| Analysis and Trends.....                                       | 22-23        |
| <b>Terrorism .....</b>                                         | <b>24-30</b> |
| Domestic Criminal Extremism.....                               | 24-25        |
| International Terrorism .....                                  | 26-29        |
| Analysis and Trends.....                                       | 29           |
| <b>CIB Efforts .....</b>                                       | <b>30-39</b> |
| Gang Analysis Unit.....                                        | 30-32        |
| Organized Crime Analysis Unit .....                            | 32           |
| State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center.....                  | 32-34        |
| Joint Regional Information Exchange System.....                | 34-35        |
| CIB Task Forces .....                                          | 35-37        |
| California National Guard/Pre-Incident Indicator Project ..... | 38           |

# Executive Summary

This *Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the California Legislature 2005* is submitted in compliance with California Government Code Section 15028, and focuses on crimes attributed to members of street gangs, international terrorist organizations, criminal extremists and organized crime groups. The California Department of Justice Criminal Intelligence Bureau's (CIB) ultimate goal is to forecast and prevent these illegal activities. The following are trends and highlights from the 2005 report:

- An increasing number of law enforcement agencies discovered the effectiveness of gang injunctions at curtailing specific criminal behaviors and providing community relief from street gangs and their illegal activities.
- Historically, gang members have displayed a propensity for violence against rival gang members; however, in 2005, this focus was increasingly redirected at law enforcement authorities, resulting in the murders of more than 10 law enforcement officers in California.
- Officials from the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) launched Operation Community Shield, which is a national law enforcement anti-gang initiative that enabled ICE to focus on the criminal activities of members and associates of MS-13, a Sureno street gang. In April and August, foreign nationals with suspected ties to MS-13 were arrested in California and charged with crimes involving narcotics, vehicle thefts, and parole violations.
- Authorities note that many Asian gang members suspected of serious crimes flee to other states to elude capture.
- Prosecutors continued to successfully employ the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act to assist in indicting members and associates of Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG). This legal tactic has resulted in multiple convictions of OMG members for crimes including conspiracy to commit murder, drug transportation & trafficking, and extortion.
- To date, there has not been a terrorist attack by al-Qaeda in California. This is due in large part to the investigative efforts of law enforcement authorities who foiled the plans of al-Qaeda members to detonate a bomb at Los Angeles International Airport during the 2000 millennium celebrations, and a 2002 plot to crash a plane into the U.S. Bank Tower (a.k.a. Liberty Tower) also in Los Angeles.
- Investigation of a prison-based group known as Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is Saheeh raised awareness of the potential for terrorist radicalization within the prison system, which will continue to garner significant attention from authorities in an effort to prevent the group from becoming a serious threat.

# Gangs

During 2005, criminal street gangs have been active and committed crimes such as assault, auto theft, drive-by shooting, illegal drug and narcotic manufacturing, drug and narcotic trafficking, forgery, fraud, home invasion robbery, identity theft, murder, weapons trafficking, witness intimidation, and violence against law enforcement.

There are different types of criminal street gangs. Some gangs excel in drug trafficking, some gangs rule by turf or neighborhood barriers, some gangs excel in home-invasion and bank robberies, and some gangs have several different crews that manufacture illegal substances for sale

This Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the Legislature 2005 focuses on the following three areas of gang activity occurring in California: criminal street gangs, prison gangs, and outlaw motorcycle gangs.

## Criminal Street Gangs

The definition of a criminal street gang is provided by Penal Code section 186.22(f):

“... any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts enumerated in paragraphs (1) to (25), inclusive, of subdivision (e), having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity.”

The criminal acts as listed in subdivision (e) paragraphs (1) to (25) are:

1. Assault with a deadly weapon
2. Robbery
3. Unlawful homicide or manslaughter
4. Sale, possession for sale, transportation, manufacture, offer for sale, or offer to manufacture controlled substances
5. Shooting at an inhabited dwelling or occupied motor vehicle
6. Discharging or permitting the discharge of a firearm from a motor vehicle
7. Arson
8. Intimidation of witnesses and victims
9. Grand Theft
10. Grand theft of any firearm, vehicle, trailer, or vessel
11. Burglary
12. Rape
13. Looting
14. Money laundering
15. Kidnapping
16. Mayhem
17. Aggravated mayhem
18. Torture
19. Felony extortion
20. Felony vandalism
21. Carjacking
22. Sale, delivery, or transfer of a firearm
23. Possession of a pistol, revolver, or other firearm capable of being concealed upon the person
24. Threats to commit crimes resulting in death or great bodily injury
25. Theft and unlawful taking or driving of a vehicle

Law enforcement authorities continue to use proven and successful tools to aid them in impacting the criminal activities of street gangs; and are constantly searching for additional and creative resources. One such tool is a gang injunction. This is a civil action identifies the gang's behavior as a public nuisance and prohibits its continuance of specific behaviors. Violators of the injunction face up to six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. An increasing number of law enforcement agencies are discovering its effectiveness at curtailing specific gang behaviors and using injunctions to protect communities from street gangs and their criminal activities.

An injunction is a two-pronged approach to combating gang activity. One prong forbids gang members from engaging in a multitude of criminal activities and restricts them from conducting other activities such as associating with other gang members, trespassing, drinking in public, and possessing drug paraphernalia. The second prong

provides those gang members wanting to get out of the gang life the opportunity to denounce their gang membership and leave.

During 2005, some of the injunctions filed were:

- In January, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office obtained a preliminary injunction against the 42<sup>nd</sup>, 43<sup>rd</sup>, and 48<sup>th</sup> Street gangs, three African-American gangs in the south part of Los Angeles. The injunction prohibits members of the three gangs from frequenting a local park, where in the past, they would associate and organize bank robbery crews, and commit drug deals and assaults.
- In April, the Yolo County District Attorney's Office was granted its first permanent gang injunction against the Broderick Boys, a West Sacramento Norteno gang with an estimated 350 members. The injunction prohibits the Broderick Boys from conducting activities such as violating curfew; associating together in public, and possessing alcohol, drugs, and/or weapons within a defined three square-mile safety zone area.
- In May, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office filed the first 10-gang injunction. The injunction enjoined 10 violent Hispanic street gangs (18th Street, Crazy Riders, Down in Action (DIA), Krazy Town (KTO), La Raza Loca, Orphans, Rockwood Street Locos, Varrio Vista Rifa, Wanderers, and Witmer Street Locos) from occupying a 2.9 square-mile area in downtown Los Angeles. The area, known as the "Safety Zone", prohibits members of the gangs from committing crimes such as: associating in public; intimidation of residences, and possessing weapons, drugs, and graffiti tools within the safety zone. A permanent injunction was granted on July 21, 2005. To date, the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office has 26 gang injunctions in effect against 37 criminal street gangs.
- In June, the Ventura County District Attorney's Office was granted a permanent gang injunction against the Colonia Chiques, a local Hispanic street gang. The injunction prohibits members of the gang from committing acts such as: associating with other members of the gang, wearing Dallas Cowboys attire, and staying out past 10 p.m. within a 6.6 square-mile safety zone.

Other counties that have successfully obtained gang injunctions include — but are not limited to — Fresno, San Diego, Santa Clara, Sacramento, Santa Barbara, and Ventura.

Gang members, many of whom have a propensity for violence against rival gang members, often direct their violence towards law enforcement authorities. During 2005, the following incidents involved gang-related homicides against peace officers:

- In January, in Ceres, California, a Nortenos gang member, who was absent without leave (AWOL), from the Marines, ambushed four local law enforcement

officers using a modified assault rifle. One officer was shot twice in the head and died as a result of his injuries and two other officers escaped, uninjured.

- In January, at the California Institution for Men, a California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation facility in Chino, a member of the East Coast Crips, stabbed a correctional officer multiple times with a handmade weapon. (The East Coast Crips is an African-American street gang that originated in Los Angeles.) The correctional officer later died from his injuries. At the time of the incident, the gang member was serving 75 years for the attempted murder of a peace officer.
- In June, a Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputy was searching for a member of the Hawaiian Gardens, a local Hispanic street gang. The deputy was interviewing a female and male when the gang member appeared from behind the male, reached over him, and shot the deputy point-blank in the face. The deputy died from his injuries. Law enforcement authorities began a massive search for the gang member, and located him nine hours later hiding in the bathtub at a home three houses from where he had fatally shot the deputy. The gang member has been charged with murder, attempted murder, and possession of firearm by a felon. The murder charges also include special circumstances for the murder of a peace officer, murder while lying in wait, and murder to avoid arrest; which could result in a death sentence. The deputy was the brother-in-law of the correctional officer killed in January 2005.
- In July, a San Leandro police officer was responding to a routine noise complaint call. The officer stopped several individuals, including the suspect, and was conducting a name check when the suspect pulled out a semi-automatic handgun and fired numerous shots, fatally striking the officer in the head, chest, and leg. The following day, the suspect, who was a Nortenos gang member, was arrested in an apartment in a nearby city. The gang member has been charged with murder, including special circumstances for killing a peace officer, killing to avoid arrest, and lying in wait. The District Attorney's Office is seeking the death penalty.

Throughout 2005, African-American criminal street gangs participated in numerous criminal activities such as bank robbery, sale and distribution of crack cocaine and methamphetamine, conspiracy, murder, attempted murder, witness tampering, arson, and firearms conspiracy. There are several African-American gangs who were active, such as the Black P-Stones and the Blood Stone Villains.

Hispanic street gangs were extremely active in 2005. Most of the gang injunctions that were served in California in 2005 were against Nortenos and Surenos gangs. Nortenos gangs tend to be less discriminating when it comes to allowing membership to individuals who are not ethnically Hispanic. Within many Nortenos gang sets, there are several African-American, White, Asian, and Pacific Islander members. Many times, street gang activity is a direct result of what is occurring within California's state prisons.

Although prison gangs do not control the activities of every criminal street gang in California, there are some street gangs, who operate on behalf of prison gangs, receive instruction and directives from prison gangs, carry out hits for prison gangs, and pay taxes to prison gangs. There are many Nortenos sets whose members are soldiers for the Nuestra Familia (NF) and Northern Structure prison gangs. Nortenos gangs can be found in most parts of the Central Valley, and the northern and coastal parts of California -- including the Bay Area.

During this reporting period Nortenos gang members assaulted and killed law enforcement officers and have been served with law enforcement injunctions. The sentencing and placement of five NF generals in federal prison is a significant event in 2005 for Nortenos. The federal imprisonment of the five NF generals and the possibility of having a new singular NF leadership has already caused a division between Nortenos sets on the streets. Some Nortenos want to remain loyal to the leaders in federal prison, while other Nortenos have opted to report to the remaining structure of NF and Northern Structure leadership. In the interim, Nortenos have been battling their long-time rivals the Sureños, some who have migrated from Southern California and others who were born and raised in Northern California but claim affiliation with the Sureños.

In 2005 Sureños faced similar obstacles to those confronted by Nortenos. Law enforcement has served multiple Sureños gang members with injunctions. There has been a constant surge of Sureños gang members migrating to the Central Valley and Northern California areas for several years. However, one Sureños gang that has increasingly appeared all over California is Mara Salvatrucha also known as MS and MS-13. While MS is a Sureños gang, and has been known to make alliances with some Sureños gangs and Mexican Mafia for monetary profit, it is very much its own gang. California law enforcement authorities, as well as other criminal street gangs, are aware that MS should not be discounted as a powerful force merely because they hail from more distant South American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. On the contrary, the MS is just as sophisticated and in some instances, more sophisticated and more violent, than other criminal street gangs in California.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) launched *Operation Community Shield*, which is a national law enforcement anti-gang initiative that brought all of ICE'S law enforcement powers to bear in the fight against MS-13.

In early April, law enforcement authorities with the DHS, ICE, San Francisco Field Office, in conjunction with the California Department of Justice (DOJ), the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), and the San Francisco County Adult Probation Department — arrested 15 foreign nationals with suspected ties to MS-13 in San Francisco, California. A majority of the subjects arrested had criminal histories, including convictions for narcotics distribution and assault. Of the 15 subjects arrested, seven admitted to being members of the 20<sup>th</sup> Street MS-13 gang; six admitted to being members of the MS-

affiliated “Sur -13” Surenos — also known as the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Surenos; and two are suspected Norteno gang members. Both the 20<sup>th</sup> Street MS-13 and the 19<sup>th</sup> Street Surenos share an area of operation in and around the Mission District in San Francisco. The subjects taken into custody were nationals of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico. Several of those arrested had been previously deported. In addition to the arrests, agents executed searches involving 24 suspected gang members who were out on probation, leading to the seizure of a handgun and ammunition.

In August, as part of the nation’s anti-gang initiative – *Operation Community Shield*, federal law enforcement authorities in San Francisco and Sonoma counties arrested 13 suspects for violations that included drug, vehicle and parole violations. Ten of the suspects also face federal immigration charges that include entering the country without inspection and violating the terms of a visa.

There are several Asian gangs in California. Some of them include: 916 Lao, Asian Family Gangsters, Asian Pride, Tiny Rascal Gang, and Men or Masters or Menace of Destruction (MOD). Many Asian gangs formed for protection against the fast-rising and violent Hispanic, African-American, and white gangs. Some of the Asian gangs acquired or took on the gang characteristics of African-American and Hispanic gangs located within their communities. Asian gangs have been known to be criminally active committing assault, auto theft, burglary, drive-by shooting, home invasion robbery, murder, and weapons violations.

Black Dragons is an Asian gang that originated in Los Angeles and whose membership is comprised mainly of ethnic Chinese from Vietnam. The gang is known for violence towards its victims and rival gangs. The Black Dragons gang reaped financial gain by committing home-invasion robberies and extortion, primarily of prostitution locations throughout the San Gabriel Valley.

The Tiny Rascal Gang (TRG) is comprised mainly of Cambodian members and was formed in Long Beach around the 1980s. However, law enforcement authorities have identified TRG members throughout the Central Valley area and numerous other states. TRG have been known to commit crimes such as auto theft, extortion, home-invasion robbery, and drive-by shooting. TRG has been known to commit crimes with members from other ethnic gangs, as long as it is monetarily advantageous to TRG.

During 2005 criminal street gang members were responsible for the following:

- In December 2004, in Sacramento two Asian gang members belonging to MOD were serving time in the California Youth Authority, and were given the opportunity to provide assistance at a charity project. However, sometime during the day both gang members escaped by walking away. In January 2005, one of the gang members turned himself in to local authorities. During the first week of February, in Columbia Heights, Minnesota, the other escaped MOD gang member and some local MOD gang members were at a pool hall where they mistook a couple of Asian patrons for rival gang members. A verbal altercation

ensued and escalated into gunfire, resulting in the death of the pool hall patrons. Six days later in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, the escaped MOD gang member was involved in the shooting of a convenience store clerk three times in the back. Later that same month in St. Paul, Minnesota, the escaped MOD gang member and local MOD gang members were observed walking by local law enforcement authorities. When asked by authorities to stop, one MOD member turned around and began firing a gun at two deputies, striking one in the abdomen.

- In February, in Sacramento a member of the Hmong Nation Society (HNS) was stopped at a light alongside a school bus filled with numerous children. A vehicle containing several MOD members pulled along the other side of the school bus. Two of the MOD gang members exited their vehicle wearing bandannas over their faces, skirted around the bus, and fired nearly 18 rounds into the HMS victim, killing him instantly. In April, the female driver of the MOD's vehicle was arrested at her place of employment. Days later, two male MOD members were arrested, and the last, MOD involved was arrested several days later as he stepped off a bus in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- In April, in Pomona an aspiring gang member was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the April 2004 murder of a California Highway Patrol officer outside the Pomona courthouse and an additional 25 years to life for the use of a handgun to commit the crime. The suspect admitted killing the officer in order to impress members of the 12<sup>th</sup> Street gang (also known as the Sharks), a local Hispanic gang.
- In the early morning hours on a day in June in Southern California local and federal law enforcement authorities concluded an 18 month investigation with the arrest of 23 members and associates of the Vineland Boys (VLB), one of the most violent Hispanic street gangs in the San Fernando Valley. The VLB was indicted on federal racketeering charges that allege VLB members were involved in narcotics, weapons, and violent crimes – including the 2003 murder of a Burbank police officer and a 16-year-old female witness. The indictment also detailed arrangements the VLB made with the Mexican Mafia, a Hispanic prison gang, to pay them “taxes” in exchange for assistance with their illegal narcotic operations.
- In June, in Fresno law enforcement authorities with Fresno's Multi-Agency Gang Enforcement Consortium (MAGEC), arrested numerous gang members for various criminal acts that were captured on a 90-minute DVD titled, “Fresno Uncensored,” which was sold at some local stores. The intent of the video was to give exposure to some of the local hip-hop artists and their music. However, the video glamorized gang life in Fresno and had clips of gang members publicizing their illegal activities, including firearms and drug offenses. As a result of the video, law enforcement authorities were able to arrest numerous gang members for various criminal charges.

- In June, in Southern California, three leaders of the Black Dragons were each sentenced to 24 years and eight months in prison for the attempted murder of two other Black Dragons gang members. According to another gang member, the execution of two gang members was ordered because the leaders believed they were pocketing money extorted from a local brothel.
- In July, two members of the Blood Stone Villains, an African-American street gang that originated in Southern California, were sentenced to federal prison for their participation in the conspiracy to distribute crack and powder cocaine. One gang member, the co-founder of the gang, was sentenced to 27 years in federal prison, and the other gang member was sentenced to 22 years in federal prison. In June 2003, local and federal law enforcement authorities concluded a two-year investigation with the arrest of 28 suspects, which included several women, all who were federally prosecuted and received prison sentences ranging from 51 months to 132 months.
- In September, a member of the TRG pleaded no contest to the May 2002 shooting of a member of the Asian Boyz, a rival Cambodian gang. As part of an on-going war between the two gangs, the suspect and two other TRG gang members gunned down the victim as he sat in front of his grandparents' home.
- In October, after a yearlong investigation, a federal grand jury indicted 12 members of the Down Below Gangsters, an African-American street gang, on charges of terrorizing residents of a San Francisco housing project while conducting a major narcotic enterprise that resulted in seven murders. The indictment also included numerous weapons violations, including the use of assault rifles, semi-automatic pistols and revolvers, and witness tampering. In addition, the indictment also alleged that gang members attempted to smuggle narcotics into the San Francisco County jail.
- In November, law enforcement authorities in Southern California concluded a 2004 investigation into the criminal activities of the Black P-Stones, an African-American street gang that originated in Los Angeles. In the early morning hours nearly 1,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities served multiple warrants, resulting in the arrest of eight of the sixteen gang members who had been federally indicted on drug-related charges including conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine. Also seized in the raids were numerous amounts of rock and powder cocaine; and multiple weapons, including an AR-15 assault rifle and an AK-47.
- In November, the leader of the MGC was sentenced to 16 years and 8 months for conspiracy to distribute cocaine. Following the April 2004 murder of a Merced police officer, the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement; Drug Enforcement Administration; Merced Police Department; Merced County Sheriff's Department; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives; and the Merced County District Attorney's Office, embarked on a 21-month investigation into the criminal activities of the gang.

## Prison Gangs

According to the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 15, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 3000, a prison gang is defined as:

"Any gang, which originated and has its roots within the department or any other prison system."

Currently, there are seven prison gangs recognized by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). They are the Aryan Brotherhood (AB), a White prison gang; the Black Guerilla Family, an African-American prison gang; the Mexican Mafia, a Hispanic prison gang; the Nazi Low Riders, a white prison gang; the Northern Structure, a Hispanic prison gang; the Nuestra Familia, a Hispanic prison gang; and the Texas Syndicate, a Hispanic prison gang.

CDCR also recognizes other criminal groups and members of these groups operating in prisons, but who are not considered prison gangs. They are known as disruptive groups, which according to CCR, Title 15, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 3000, means:

"Any gang other than a prison gang."

Disruptive groups may or may not have started in prison, but do not yet meet the criteria of being classified as a prison gang, such as the Northern Ryders, Bloods and Crips, Public Enemy Number One (PEN1), and Ansar El Muhammad (AEM). The Northern Ryders is believed by law enforcement authorities to have originated inside CDCR's Deuel Vocational Institution as early as December 2000. The gang's original intention was to exist without a ranking structure – with all members being equal. While the founder of the gang is from Sacramento many of the gang's associates are from the Central Valley and Bay Area. PEN1 was formed in Long Beach during the early 1980s. Many members espouse a white supremacist philosophy and have a propensity for committing violent crimes. AEM is a gang comprised of African-Americans who share anti-government and militant ideologies.

The Aryan Brotherhood (AB) is one of the largest white prison gangs within CDCR that has not only demonstrated its violence and viciousness but also the ability to be organized. The gang was formed in San Quentin State Prison in the mid-1960s to provide protection for white inmates from the African-American and Hispanic gangs, which had larger numbers. Some AB members support a white supremacist maxim,

while some have embraced symbols such as the swastika, lightening bolts, and/or a three-leaf clover with the numbers 666 and/or the letters AB inside of it.

The Black Guerilla Family (BGF) was formed inside CDCR's San Quentin State Prison in 1966 as a means to consolidate all African-American inmates into one structured force. In 1971 CDCR authorities recognized the BGF as a prison gang. The gang was originally established with some of the political and revolutionary influences of the Black Panther Party, and aligned itself with groups such as the Republic of New Africa and the Black Liberation Army. The BGF has been known to recruit from African-American street gangs such as Bloods, Crips, and 415 Kumi.

The Mexican Mafia (EME) was formed in the late 1950s at CDCR's Deuel Vocational Institution located in Tracy, California. The EME is one of the largest and oldest prison gangs in California, whose membership is comprised primarily of Mexican-Americans, Hispanics and some Mexican Nationals. Although the EME is a prison gang, they have managed to maintain authority over many cliques of Sureños gangs on the streets.

Prison gang members and associates typically engage in a multitude of criminal activities which include the extortion of gang members and non-gang members both in and out of prison; smuggling contraband via fake legal mail (i.e., packages which contain food, books, stationary, etc.); manufacturing and trafficking of illegal substances, murder, assault, weapons violations, and money laundering.

The Nazi Low Riders (NLR) is a white prison gang that originated during the 1970s inside a California Youth Authority facility. NLR members associate with other white gangs such as Peckerwoods, Public Enemy Number One, and the AB. During the early part of NLR's existence, most members aspired to someday join AB's membership. However, the NLR has since become its own gang with its own identity. The NLR is still an active prison gang; however, they have been in a continual state of change in leadership.

The Nuestra Familia (NF) became recognized as a prison gang by CDCR in 1979, which began locking up its members in the Security Housing Unit that houses prison gang members and associates. The NF membership is based on an organizational ranking system consisting of a governing body, which has a high command, an inner council/general council, which controls everything inside CDCR facilities; and a street regiment, which controls everything on the streets. Under each of the inner council/general council and street regiments are general and several subordinate associates who are separated by categories.

In 1984, the NF formed a splinter group at CDCR's Folsom Prison called Nuestra Raza, also known as Northern Structure (NS). This gang was created to divert law enforcement's attention away from the NF, while members maintained a continuum of criminal activities on behalf of the NF. Although the well-publicized 2001 indictments were of NF members and associates, the indictments also affected the leadership and hierarchy of the NS, as some members dropped out of the gang, took on new

leadership roles within NF or, became free agents as a result of too much law enforcement attention and becoming disgruntled with the NF leadership.

The Texas Syndicate (TS) was formed inside CDCR's San Quentin State Prison in 1973. Like most prison or street gangs, TS was formed for protection against other gangs and violent inmates. The gang original membership was comprised of Mexican-Americans from Texas. In the mid 1970s through the early 1980s, the TS was recognized by other gang members for its ability to traffic drugs within the prison system. However, in the early 1980s, due to an internal conflict the gang became divided into two factions; one faction aligned with the EME, and other faction aligned with the NF, resulting in the two factions becoming enemies of each another. Throughout the years, once members are paroled, the TS has been unable to organize on the streets or make a significant impact on the law enforcement or criminal community.

During 2005 prison gang members were responsible for the following:

- In January, local and federal law enforcement authorities in San Diego concluded *Operation La Mano Negra*, a two-year investigation that targeted the EME and several Southern California street gangs. During the early morning hours, over two hundred local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities served federal and state search warrants at over 27 locations throughout San Diego County. The charges included assault with a firearm, criminal threats, conspiracy to commit robbery and residential robbery, distribution of methamphetamine, felon in possession of a firearm, and kidnapping for extortion. In addition to the arrest of 22 gang members, authorities also seized large amounts of illegal drugs, two bulletproof vests, numerous firearms, several hundred rounds of ammunition, and thousands of dollars in cash.
- In June, 15 members associated with the Ojeda Organization were arrested after a federal grand jury handed down a three-count indictment charging members with engaging in extortion and assault, as well as assisting in the distribution of narcotics throughout Orange County. More than 100 local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities arrested 15 members of the organization; an additional ten members were already in state custody. The Ojeda Organization was named after the leader, who was also a top boss with EME. Upon his release from prison, the EME member organized several of Orange County's Hispanic street gang leaders to exert their influence over the gangs on the streets of Orange, and in Orange County's jail system by collecting "taxes" in exchange for controlling a section of the county.
- In September, five members of the NF had their life sentences in California's state prison commuted to "time served" so they could begin serving life sentences in the federal prison system. The five gang members were serving time for numerous counts of murder, attempted murder, assault, drive-by shooting, drug-related offenses, and conspiracy-related crimes. Law

enforcement authorities are hoping the distribution of the gang members to various federal correctional institutions will hinder the gang's ability to continue committing and ordering criminal acts from prison on behalf of the gang.

- In November, in Los Angeles a leader of the NLR pleaded guilty to federal racketeering charges. The charges stemmed from a February 2002 federal grand jury indictment charging the leader with the 1999 racial attack on three African-American inmates. The prison gang member also admitted to ordering the assault of a white inmate who dated a female whose child had been fathered by an African-American male.
- In December, law enforcement authorities in the Inland Valley area arrested the suspected leaders of a burglary and theft ring, who were also members of the NLR. Members of the theft ring stole trash bags full of mail in order to obtain credit card applications and other information used in identity theft. Many of these thefts have resulted in hundreds of victims.
- In December, in San Diego three members of the EME were found guilty on charges that included extortion, conspiracy, residential robbery, and kidnapping. The EME prison gang members face possible life sentences. The original charges stemmed from a January 2004 indictment of 32 EME members.

## Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

DOJ defines an outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG) as:

“Organizations whose members utilize their motorcycle gang affiliation as a conduit for criminal enterprises. The nature of their criminal activity is generally conspiratorial and includes crimes such as extortion, business infiltration, trafficking in drugs, illegal weapons, and stolen property.”

OMG members are typically identified by their “colors” or patches, which can be sewn on a denim jacket or black leather vests, referred to as “cuts.” OMGs favor a three-piece patch that has their gang name on the top, the gang’s emblem in the middle, and the geographic location of the gang on the bottom. Generally, the letters MC, which stand for Motorcycle Club will be next to the gang’s symbol. Some OMG members also wear a diamond shaped patch with “1%” on the front of their cuts. This patch stands for a well known statement made by the American Motorcycle Association (AMA) in 1947 after the Fourth of July weekend where a fight broke out between members of two motorcycle gangs and resulted in the arrest of two members and later led to a riot in the town. The president of the AMA declared that 99% of motorcycle riders are law abiding citizens and only 1% caused trouble. This was the birth of OMGs using the 1% phrase to show their outlaw status.

OMG members have been involved in criminal activities such as the manufacturing and distribution of drugs, illegal weapons trafficking, witness intimidation, and murder. OMG members routinely carry weapons or have access to weapons nearby, and pose a threat to the safety of Californians.

In California, there are 47 OMGs and the three most prominent gangs are the Hells Angels, Mongols, and the Vagos. In California, the Hells Angels and the Mongols have been the dominant OMGs for several years. However, in recent years, the Vagos, which was founded in Southern California, has increased its presence in Northern California. In addition to these three main gangs, there are other smaller gangs that function as support clubs to some of the larger OMGs, which use them for various tasks, such as providing security at Hells Angels functions. Members of these OMGs are often recruited and prepared for possible membership into the Hells Angels. It is common to see the members of these support clubs wearing patches indicating they are supporters of the Hells Angels.

California has the most concentrated population of Hells Angels with 19 chapters. There are over 200 international chapters of the Hells Angels that can be found in 30 different countries including Canada, Germany, Spain, and Switzerland.

Currently the Vagos OMG are located mainly in the Western United States, with chapters in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Mexico, and Oregon. In California, there are an estimated 33 chapters with approximately 300 members. The Vagos OMG has been the subject of recent criminal investigations by the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement for their involvement in narcotics and illegal firearms.

In California the majority of the Mongols OMG members are located in Southern California with chapters in Colorado, Mexico, Nevada, and Oklahoma.

The Hells Angels and the Mongols OMGs are in the midst of a bitter and often violent rivalry. This rivalry was recently reinforced when a violent fight broke out at Harrah's Hotel and Casino at the 2002 Annual Laughlin River Run in Laughlin, Nevada. Two Hells Angels and one Mongol died as a result of injuries sustained during this confrontation. As a result of this incident, several Hells Angels and Mongols OMG members are currently awaiting trial on various state and federal charges. Since the 2002 incident, there have been several other encounters between Hells Angels and Mongols OMG members.

OMG criminal activities are still ongoing as demonstrated by the following incidents that happened during 2005:

- In January, in San Bernardino County three Vagos OMG members and four associate members assaulted two bar patrons when they refused to relinquish their position at a pool table. Both victims received minor injuries and one victim

also lost a tooth.

- In January, in San Diego a Mongols OMG member was sentenced to 178 years to life in prison for the murder of a Hells Angels associate and the wounding of another man outside a bar. The incident occurred in September 2003. As the victims were leaving the bar and the suspect was entering the bar, one of the victims announced that the Mongols were there. The doorman informed the suspect and the members of his group that they could not enter the bar unless they took off the Mongol paraphernalia that they were wearing. The suspect then confronted the victims, and the confrontation quickly escalated into the suspect pulling out a gun and shooting the victims.
- In February, law enforcement authorities with the Vacaville Police Department, stopped a group of Mongols OMG who were reported to be displaying large knives. A search of the OMG members was conducted and two members were found to be in possession of illegal narcotics. All of the Mongols OMG members were charged with conspiracy to transport methamphetamine for sale and committing a crime to benefit a criminal street gang. In addition, two of the OMGs were charged with possession of a dangerous weapon.
- In September, the president of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels OMG was sentenced to 70 months in federal prison for conspiracy to commit racketeering when he admitted to conspiring to kill members of the Mongols. In June 2003, the Hells Angels president along with eight other members of his chapter were indicted by a federal grand jury on various charges including conspiracy, drug trafficking, and extortion.
- In December, the sergeant-at-arms of the San Diego Chapter of the Hells Angels OMG was sentenced to 92 months in federal prison on charges of conspiracy to commit racketeering. In June 2003, the OMG member was indicted by a federal grand jury for participating in a pattern of racketeering, which included conspiracy to extort money and property from drug traffickers.

## **Analysis and Trends**

- The Nortenos have increased their violence on both the streets and in correctional facilities. Not only have they increased their violence towards other gangs, its members have also increased their violence towards law enforcement authorities.
- Many law enforcement authorities are learning about and reaping the benefits from gang injunctions. The presence of a gang injunction provided local law enforcement authorities with cooperation from community members in taking back control of their neighborhood from street gang members.

- Northern California law enforcement authorities will continue to prevent Sureños gang members from Southern California migrating into Northern California areas, and causing conflicts with local Nortenos gangs.
- Local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities will begin to see the results of their long-term gang investigations with long prison sentences and continued state and federal grand jury indictments.
- Many Asian gangs will continue their violence against rival Asian gangs and then flee to other states to avoid capture and prosecution by local law enforcement authorities. Their ability to remain mobile by crossing law enforcement jurisdictional boundaries is something that Asian gang members have utilized to their benefit for numerous years.
- The changes the NF and NS have undergone in 2005 have not made the gangs stronger and more cohesive, and instead have added confusion, angst, and insecurity among the ranks. With some of the members maintaining contact with the old leadership who were recently sentenced to life sentences in federal prison; some of the membership reporting new captains; and some reporting a new singular leadership, this leaves much room for members to either form their own groups or join the ranks of strong Nortenos cliques in California's Bay Area and Central Valley.
- The EME will continue to remain strong and powerful, relying on local street gang members and female associate members to financially supplement and support incarcerated members. The support of other gang members and associates has allowed the EME to remain in existence for numerous years.
- The use of the Federal RICO Act has been used to assist in the indictment of members of OMGs participating in criminal acts. The continued use of the RICO will aid in successfully prosecuting multiple members of various OMGs.
- Rivalries between the Hells Angels and Mongols OMGs have continued to heat up in California. It is expected that the violence between these two gangs will continue, especially as retaliation from past acts of violence are sought.

# Organized Crime

CIB's goal is to identify and investigate criminal organizations operating in California and analyzing the impact the organizations have on public safety in California. Organized crime represents a threat to California and elsewhere, as members network and expand with each other to operate globally. Identified organized crime cells include Traditional organized crime, Eurasian organized crime and human trafficking cells in California. These groups cooperate and communicate globally. While most of the law enforcement focus is on counter-terrorism, these criminal enterprises continue to increase in power and flourish worldwide.

## Traditional Organized Crime (TOC)

CIB recognizes the need to reevaluate where resources are best allocated in assisting with dismantling the criminal enterprises. One of the oldest criminal organizations in the United States is La Cosa Nostra (LCN) or American Mafia. LCN first grew by preying upon fellow immigrants. They expanded to the broader population, eventually spreading throughout the United States. LCN members continue to generate large profits from their involvement in illicit activity as well as in legitimate businesses. In California, their involvement mainly in infiltration of businesses in the entertainment side of the gambling industry. It should be noted, experts do not concur on the degree of their power on the West Coast. However, they do agree on the decline of LCN's influence and power on the West Coast due to law enforcement arrests and the aging leaders. With that said, the East Coast families continue to operate and are firmly established as a criminal group and often associate with power brokers in California.

The roots of TOC in the United States are found in Europe, more specifically Italy. Members and associates of Italian-based criminal groups are working and residing in the United States to generate money for their criminal activities. The main three groups operating in Italy that affect the United States is the Sicilian Mafia, 'Ndrangheta, and the Camorra. In the past, the Sicilian Mafia has been the most influential of the Italian based criminal groups. Italian authorities have noticed a shift with the 'Ndrangheta gaining more influence worldwide. However, the Camorra appears to be the largest threat to the United States at this time and law enforcement personnel are reporting an increase in Camorra criminal activity operating throughout most of the major tourist cities across the country.

## Recent Developments

There are significant reports from local, state, and federal agencies reporting Camorra members traveling between multiple cities to commit counterfeiting activities. The cities include: Denver, Chicago, Kansas City, Newark, Miami, Atlanta, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. These Camorra members target these cities because of the large volumes of tourists.

The Camorra is generating significant profits and damaging legitimate businesses through counterfeit goods sales. It is using this counterfeit business to expand its criminal network internationally, with several clans operating throughout the United States - including California. The lucrative profits of the counterfeit goods sales provides the Camorra with the financial means to strengthen other illegal businesses, such as firearms trafficking, drug trafficking, and alien smuggling, which pose an even more significant threat to the United States.

Identified Camorra members are defrauding tourists in California cities in a variety of ways. Some groups are using intimidation tactics to sell expensive camera and video equipment to unsuspecting buyers for hundreds of dollars offering them a significant discount. The camera or video equipment is switched at the last minute of the sale with a cheaper item valued at \$10 to \$15. Other members use the same method to sell counterfeit clothing, leather goods, and tools throughout the state.

## ***Eurasian Organized Crime (EOC)***

Criminal groups that originated from the 15 republics that once made up the former Soviet Union are commonly referred to as Russian organized crime (ROC) groups by law enforcement authorities and the media. Most of the people who engage in organized crime in the former Soviet Union are not typically ethnic Russians, but they are from regions which commonly spoke the language and were dominated by Russia for generations. While some of the criminal groups originated in Russia, others are from Central Asian (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan), Caucasus (Georgian, Azerbaijan, Chechen, and Dagestan), and Ukraine regions. This is why one might refer to organized crime groups from the former Soviet Union as EOC and Eastern European organized crime.

According to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), during the 1970s and 1980s, approximately 200,000 former Soviet Union citizens immigrated to the United States to escape religious and political persecution. Additionally, it is suspected that the KGB (the Russian-language abbreviation for State Security Committee) emptied their prisons of hardcore criminals and exported them to this country; much like Cuban dictator Fidel Castro did during the "Mariel boat-lift." Many former Soviet Union emigres that came to the United States settled in an area of New York known as Brighton Beach. As of this date, Brighton Beach is the hub of EOC in the country.

EOC groups, striving to achieve power and wealth, have established patterns of criminal activity throughout the major cities of this country. Eurasian groups on the East Coast cooperate and communicate with West Coast groups. Additionally, groups in the United States communicate with groups in the former Soviet Union. They have formed alliances with other criminal organizations and their enterprises have proven to be sophisticated and lucrative as they operate using international networks.

## Recent Developments

EOC members have engaged in several criminal pursuits including auto theft, extortion, counterfeiting, money laundering, prostitution, human trafficking, and murder. However, their focus is largely on white-collar crime including identity theft and various forms of immigration, insurance, medical, and credit card fraud. Some of these criminal endeavors are mentioned in this report.

California is a major target for auto thieves because of the numerous automobile auction centers. At the auction centers, insurance companies often recover stolen vehicles or damaged vehicles that can be purchased legally with valid Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN's). Investigators often recover vehicles that have been stolen for parts only. In this situation, the thieves disassemble the vehicle, being careful not to damage body parts. According to the California Highway Patrol (CHP), the thieves hide all the stripped parts at a storage facility and begin to track the recovered shell.

Automotive body shops involved in the conspiracy are often used to reconstruct the vehicles after they have been bought from the auction centers. The stolen vehicles with the salvaged VINs are then taken out of the state and re-registered in an attempt to clear or 'wash' the salvaged title. Ten percent of the stolen vehicles are never found and authorities believe they are sent -via shipping containers- to foreign countries anywhere from Mexico to Moscow. Northern California law enforcement authorities have noticed an increase in the amount of stolen vehicles from places like Sacramento being transported to port cities, such as Oakland. These stolen vehicles are shipped overseas where they can sell for three times the value of the car.

Members of an Eurasian criminal enterprise were arrested this year for their involvement in a major stolen merchandise ring. Members of the criminal cell were arrested for returning stolen merchandise to department stores using forged store receipts. They began their operations along the California border with Mexico and worked up the coast to Los Angeles, hitting up to approximately 12 stores a day. They would often recruit people outside of the criminal ring to return the stolen merchandise after the leader provided them with merchandise and forged receipts, and debit cards. The leader of the ring was arrested ten years ago for the same crime.

Medi-Cal fraud continues to be a profitable field for EOC criminals. In March 2006, EOC members were arrested for their involvement in a Medi-Cal fraud ring operating in Los Angeles, Glendale, and Pasadena from 1997 to 2005. The crime ring bilked more than \$20 million from Medicare by operating medical clinics and laboratories that paid for patient referrals and then billed Medicare for tests that were unnecessary or not performed at all.

EOC groups are viewed as experts in white-collar crimes, such as fraud and money laundering. The EOC groups are becoming increasingly more creative in their efforts to launder money. Not only do they funnel money through their legitimate businesses, but

they also use shell companies to accomplish their goal. Shell companies are fictitious and legitimate businesses used most often for criminal activity such as laundering money and immigration fraud. Oftentimes, the fictitious businesses use an apartment for a business location. However, they sometimes only exist on paper using a suite number to give the appearance of a legitimate commercial building address.

Eurasian criminals are masters at fraud and have been described as always having one foot in the criminal underworld and one foot in legitimate business world. It is this blend that makes it difficult to detect when a crime is taking place. Billions of dollars in criminal proceeds from fraud are being transferred to accounts overseas and within the United States. There are concerns that these funds will be used to further finance criminal activities in the United States.

EOC networks are involved in organized alien smuggling through fraudulent visa petitions and border crossing. Law enforcement authorities have learned that EOC networks established shell corporations in California to facilitate the illegal movement of money, and people as well. A United Nations official explained why EOC groups become involved in the trafficking of people, "Trafficking in human beings is like investing in bonds. The money can keep coming in for years and years, and the risks are much lower."

Prostitution and white slavery of Russian and Eastern European women is a significant problem for California law enforcement. The EOC imports women and children from eastern Europe and Russia with falsified visa applications and obtain false California drivers' licenses and other identification using counterfeit documents. Many are coming into the United States through Mexico into Southern California. These women are forced into prostitution and provided to escort services, strip clubs, and massage parlors. Some willingly work in the sex industry for money to escape severe living conditions in the former Soviet Union while others are forced into it through indentured servitude. The women are threatened and beaten into submission. The EOC groups that bring them into the United States confiscate their visas and force them to pay off their travel debt, which they are rarely able to do.

## **Analysis and Trends**

- The Camorra members and affiliates are typically in the country for a short amount of time to commit the counterfeit schemes. They often stay in hotels and pay the bill in cash. However, towards the end of their stay, they have been known to skip out and not pay the hotel bill at all. Often, large amounts of packaging trash are left behind in the hotel room because the members are repackaging the merchandise to give the items a legitimate appearance.

- The Camorra members will also rent multiple sport utility vehicles under one member's name using a valid Italian driver's licenses and passports. The rental bill is often paid in cash but, sometimes, reserved with a valid credit card.
- The counterfeit goods trade can surpass the drug trade because of the low risks involved and the lucrative opportunities. Italian law enforcement reported in 2003 to 2004 that goods confiscated from 68 counterfeit operations were estimated to be valued at \$750 million.
- Law enforcement can anticipate an increase in the Camorra criminal activity in the United States as they have successfully generated large amounts of money with very little law enforcement detection.
- The violence potential continues to increase as Camorra members become more successful, almost appearing impatient if the scam does not move quickly enough.
- The sale of counterfeit goods is often viewed as a victimless crime. However, the danger exists not necessarily in the act but in the profits generated. These profits contribute to the organization's power and strength in society.
- In order to conduct sophisticated criminal activity, such as fraud, or to take advantage of government- sponsored programs, EOC figures generally have an inside person to facilitate the criminal activity.
- EOC identifies and utilizes weaknesses, regulations, and policies regarding INS, entitlement programs, and law enforcement to illegally extract money from the programs
- Generally, investigators will find multiple layers of ill-gotten gains in any criminal activity that EOC is involved in. For example, EOC members might bring in illegal aliens (collecting a smuggling fee from them) assist them in receiving welfare and other benefits (receiving a percentage of the government money), and then employing them in criminal activity that benefits the EOC trafficker.
- There is extensive use of mail drops and residential addresses to establish the appearance of legitimacy for immigration fraud, money laundering operations, and receipt of government assistance documents.
- Once EOC figures determine they are under investigation in one area, it is not uncommon for them to shut down that activity and move it to another jurisdiction to conduct the same crime.

## ***Human Trafficking Organizations***

While analyzing organized crime trends CIB has identified an increase in alien smuggling and human trafficking for purposes of debt bondage and prostitution in California. Additionally, research indicates that this crime area is attracting a more violent offender, due to the high profit, low risk nature of the crime. The crime of trafficking people for exploitation is a form of modern-day slavery. The victims come from various ethnic backgrounds and are forced into prostitution and involuntary servitude in the garment and agricultural industry in the United States.

The global journey of these victims makes this issue an international problem. Historically, victims have originated from South East Asia and Latin America, however, an increasing number are from Eastern Europe. Cases involving the United States as a destination country for human trafficking will continue to increase due to an ever-increasing demand in this country, few employment opportunities in the country of origin, low risk of prosecution, and potential high profits. It is estimated by immigration officials that the profits of alien smuggling worldwide are \$8 billion a year.

### **Recent Developments:**

The low risk of prosecution in this area is due in part to lack of awareness, communication, and training of local, state, and federal law enforcement. In the past, local and state agencies perceived this as a vice or immigration violation not recognizing the magnitude of the criminal operations. Federal agencies were overwhelmed or considered certain cases the responsibility of immigration agencies. These training and communication shortcomings were exploited by the criminal elements and allowed the crimes to escape prosecution in the past. In an effort to address this issue in California, a multi-discipline effort was adopted. Several task forces were formed statewide and are currently investigating trafficking organizations throughout California.

In furtherance of this effort, California passed a new Penal Code section regarding human trafficking, effective January 2006. Any person who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to effect or maintain a felony violation of Penal Codes sections 266, 266h, 266i, 267, 311.4 or 518 or to obtain forced labor or services, is guilty of human trafficking. The definition of human trafficking in this section is equivalent to the federal definition of a severe form of trafficking. The law establishes trafficking of a person for forced labor or services as a crime and allows a victim to bring a civil action for actual and punitive damages against the trafficker. It is anticipated this new legislation will assist in enforcing human trafficking cases in California and draw much needed awareness on the topic locally.

## Analysis and Trends

- Human trafficking is underreported in the country and most victims have a distrust of law enforcement in general due to their circumstances in the country of origin.
- There appears to be two elements....an organized crime element in control and a less sophisticated group structure which could be referred to as a business alliance. Traffickers have contact points in source, transit, and destination countries that facilitate the movement of people for lucrative profits.
- Studies indicate the nationality or ethnicity of perpetrators closely match that of illegal aliens.
- The ongoing demand in this country for low cost workers and prostitutes drive the need to supply victims from originating countries. Most victims are leaving countries with depressed economic opportunity and/or harsh living conditions, particularly China, India, Asia, Mexico, and Eastern Europe.
- Once trafficked to the destination country, first responder personnel, such as medical, firefighters and local law enforcement personnel will more than likely come in contact with the victims of trafficking.
- Organized crime continues to represent a threat to our state and groups are increasing in scope and power as they expand through criminal networks worldwide. While law enforcement authorities are expected to focus on counter-terrorism issues, they must still contend with more traditional operations, including emerging criminal enterprises and Traditional and Eurasian organized crime groups.

# Terrorism

Domestic criminal extremists and international terrorists continue to pose a serious threat to California. Environmental and animal rights criminal extremists have continued their attacks against businesses and individuals they believe are harming the environment and animals. A recent investigation into a prison-based group aspiring to wage war against the U.S. government and Israel has increased attention on the issue of prison radicalization. Authorities uncovered a possible al-Qaeda sleeper agent living in Lodi. This portion of the *Organized Crime in California Annual Report to the California Legislature 2005* will highlight the key events related to domestic and international terrorism, and this state.

## Domestic Criminal Extremism

Over the last several years, animal and environmental rights criminal extremists have become the most pressing domestic threat within California. One such group is the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), which has committed acts of sabotage and vandalism in an effort to stop medical research on animals and the production of animals for food and consumer products. One of the ALF's first criminal acts was in 1987 when members were suspected of setting fire to the Animal Diagnostics Laboratory at the University of California, Davis, causing \$4.5 million in damages. Another group active in this state, which often works in concert with members of ALF, is the Earth Liberation Front (ELF). The ELF grew out of the environmental movement of the 1980s, and the group targets industries and businesses it perceives to be destroying the Earth's natural environment. Both groups adhere to a loose organizational structure in which individuals act in the name of the group with little to no command structure and claim responsibility on their respective websites. This makes it extremely difficult for law enforcement authorities to investigate their crimes and infiltrate their cellular structure.

While their violent activities have decreased in recent years, white supremacist groups still maintain a presence in this state. These individuals adhere to the principles of racial supremacy and often embrace anti-government beliefs. Groups such as the Aryan Nations, Ku Klux Klan, National Alliance, White Aryan Resistance, and the Creativity Movement are five of the major organizations impacting California. In the past, members of these racist groups have engaged in a multitude of criminal activities – assault, vandalism, robbery, weapons violations, and murder – that are typically directed at minorities.

During 2005, members and/or associates of domestic criminal extremist organizations were engaged in the following criminal activity:

- In January and February, the ELF was suspected of placing incendiary devices at several construction sites in Auburn and Sutter Creek. Graffiti spray-painted on one of the home sites and a tractor stated, "Enjoy the world as is-as long as

you can,” “U will pay,” “Quit destroying their homes,” “Evasion,” “Leave,” and “Disarm or die.” In February, an animal rights extremist was arrested for these acts of vandalism. A few weeks after his arrest, three additional suspects were arrested in connection to the crimes. In October, three of four defendants pleaded guilty while the remaining defendant will receive a jury trial.

- In February, the ALF claimed responsibility for vandalizing a major fast food restaurant in Torrance. The ALF was suspected of vandalizing this same establishment again later that month.
- In March, an animal rights criminal extremist who had been a fugitive since 1998 for allegedly releasing mink from a farm in Wisconsin was arrested in San Jose, for shoplifting. In September, the defendant pleaded guilty to two counts of animal enterprise terrorism. In November, he was sentenced to two years in prison and ordered to pay \$254,840 in restitution to the mink farmers.
- In May, the ELF claimed responsibility for vandalizing several sport utility vehicles and trucks at a Fair Oaks neighborhood.
- In August, members of a prison-based group known as Jamiyyat Ul-Islam Is Saheeh (JIS) were indicted on federal charges for conspiracy to levy war against the United States government through terrorism and to discharge firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence. The individual accused of leading the conspiracy is believed to have founded the JIS group in Tehachapi state prison and recruited fellow inmates into its ranks. Members of the group are believed to have committed nearly a dozen gas station robberies in the Los Angeles area for the purpose of raising money to fund attacks on U.S. military facilities, Israeli government facilities, and Jewish synagogues in the Los Angeles area.
- In October, law enforcement authorities were dispatched to the home of a Los Angeles County veterinarian in Chino Hills when a suspicious device was found on her porch. The package contained two red cylinders, which were visible from one end and an antenna protruding from the other end. It was determined the device was designed to resemble a bomb in order to scare the veterinarian for her practice of euthanizing animals, but was not a bona fide explosive device. ALF later claimed responsibility for placing the package on her porch.
- Also in October, members of the National Alliance began distributing racist literature at an illegal immigration rally at the State Capitol. The white supremacists were asked to leave the premises, which they eventually did. Based in Hillsboro, West Virginia, the National Alliance recently splintered into two separate groups after a new leader was appointed over its ranks.

## International Terrorism

International terrorist groups, which have a direct and indirect impact on this state, include al-Qaeda, Hamas, Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK), and Jamaat ul-Fuqra (JUF). Al-Qaeda is an international terrorist network that seeks to unite allied Islamic extremist groups to overthrow regimes it deems as “non-Islamic” and purges Muslim countries of Western influence. While al-Qaeda has not successfully committed a terrorist attack in California, authorities did foil plans to detonate a bomb at Los Angeles International Airport during the millennium celebrations and a 2002 plot to crash a plane into the U.S. Bank Tower (a.k.a. Liberty Tower) also in Los Angeles. Another publicized connection al-Qaeda has had to this state is in the form of operatives and affiliates residing in California. This list includes key al-Qaeda figures who were involved in the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania in August of 1998; the first bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993; and the second attack on the World Trade Center in 2001.

Hamas is a U.S. State Department-designated international terrorist organization that aims to destroy the state of Israel and establish an Islamic Palestinian state in its place. While the organization has become involved in the region’s political system and taken an active role in providing social services to needy Palestinians, it is most notorious for perpetrating terrorist attacks against Israeli citizens. The group’s most notable link to California has been in the form of fund-raising. Founded in southern California in 1989, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLFRD) was Hamas’ chief fund-raising arm before its assets were frozen in December 2001. The U.S. Department of State reported that during 2000, the group raised more than \$13 million dollars before it was shutdown in 2001. Since that time, the HLFRD has fought a continuous court battle to have access to its frozen funds.

The Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK) was formed in Iran during the early 1960s based on an ideological mix of Marxism and Islam. The group is designated as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) by the U.S. Department of State based on its history of anti-Western attacks as well as terrorist attacks on the Iranian regime. In 1999, law enforcement authorities dismantled a Los Angeles-based immigration and visa fraud ring operated by members of the MEK. The ring is believed to have facilitated the illegal entry of more than 300 individuals into the U.S. from 1996 through 1999, including members of the MEK. In 2001, seven individuals suspected of being MEK members were indicted for soliciting funds for a terrorist organization under the auspices of a humanitarian organization. As stated in the indictment, the individuals solicited charitable contributions at the Los Angeles International Airport, and subsequently transferred the proceeds, via wire transfers and credit cards, to MEK bank accounts overseas.

Jamaat ul-Fuqra (JUF) is an international terrorist organization based in Pakistan. According to the U.S. Department of State’s (DOS) 1998 Patterns in Global Terrorism, “Jamaat ul-Fuqra was established in the United States during the early 1980’s in Brooklyn, New York, by Pakistani Suffi cleric Sheik Sayed Mubarik Ali Gilani, for the purpose of purifying Islam through violence.” The JUF has been linked to approximately

13 compounds located in 10 states across the country. Individuals from these compounds have been convicted of fraud, murder, bombings, and weapons violations. One of the compounds was located in the Central Valley, but is now closed. The compound was, at one time, advertised as a site for a chapter of an international Islamic school and a charitable organization that were both founded by Gilani. Furthermore, neighbors close to the compound reported hearing what sounded to be automatic weapons fire and explosions coming from the commune. Law enforcement authorities suspect that the compound may have been owned and occupied by individuals connected to JUF, in part, because the terrorist organization, Islamic university, and charitable organization are believed to be linked due to their crossover membership and all the groups operate under Gilani's authority.

During 2005, members and/or associates of international terrorist organizations were engaged in the following criminal activity:

- In January, two of the defendants in a charter school fraud investigation linked to the Central Valley compound pleaded not guilty to charges including the misuse of public funds and embezzlement. One of the defendants had already pleaded not guilty in December 2004. A joint investigation was initiated by the California Department of Justice, the Fresno Police Department, and the Fresno County Sheriff's Department in January 2002 on the charter school system that was headed by the same charitable organization that held the deed for the Central Valley compound. Since 1998, the charter school allegedly established over a dozen satellite campuses in Alameda, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, and Tulare counties. Investigators believe the suspects embezzled state funds through the Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) by submitting claims using inflated attendance figures to garner additional funding. The FUSD revoked the school's charter after it failed to comply with audit requests and provide an explanation for a \$3 million deficit. The trial is scheduled to take place in May 2006 and if convicted the defendants face 5 to 17 years in prison.
- Also in January, a defendant charged with the shooting death of a Fresno County Deputy Sheriff appeared in Fresno County Superior Court. The former resident of the Central Valley compound is charged with shooting the officer who was investigating a burglary near the compound in August 2001. The defendant pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity and in June 2003 was ruled incompetent to stand trial. The suspect's trial was then taken off calendar pending further psychological evaluation at a state hospital. In a reversal of earlier conclusions, the suspect was found mentally competent to stand trial in a later competency hearing. After several additional delays, a status hearing was scheduled for June 2006, to ascertain the readiness of the attorneys to commence the trial in August 2006. If convicted of the murder charge and three counts of attempted murder, he is eligible for the death penalty. The defendant remains in custody in the Central Valley.

- In February, a Federal Magistrate recommended the release of a Buena Park man arrested on immigration violations and believed to have raised money for the HLF RD. In June 2004, leaders of the HLF RD were indicted on 42 counts of funneling millions of dollars to Hamas. Five of the seven founders of the HLF RD who were arrested resided in California.
- In June, two men, a father and son, were arrested for allegedly lying to federal officials as part of a terrorism investigation in Lodi. Two others were detained on immigration violations as part of the same investigation. The son reportedly returned from Pakistan where he attended an al-Qaeda training camp and prepared to conduct attacks on U.S. targets. Although he initially denied his trip had any connection to terrorism, the son eventually admitted to attending six months of an al-Qaeda terrorist training course at a camp in Pakistan in 2003 and 2004. Instruction included paramilitary training including weapons training, hand-to-hand combat, and explosives training. He also stated that attendees, including him, were being trained on “how to kill Americans.” The son was indicted in September for one count of providing material support to a terrorist group by offering himself for jihadist training and returning to the U.S. with the intent to wage jihad, as well as, two counts of making false statements to officials. He faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison for the terrorism charge and 8 years for each count of lying to an official. The father allegedly lied to officials when he denied having knowledge of his son’s involvement in the jihadist training camp in Pakistan and about his financial contributions to his son while he attended the camp. The father faces a maximum penalty of eight years in prison. It was determined that the other two individuals detained in the investigation were not U.S. citizens and they were deported in August 2005.
- In July, a California resident who had lived at the Central Valley compound and was a suspected member of Fuqra was convicted on two separate counts of attempting to possess cocaine with the intent to distribute and five charges of unlawful use of a communication facility (mail) to commit a drug-related felony. The suspect was arrested in November 2003 by federal authorities in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and charged with shipping 52 kilos of cocaine from Oakland, California to Atlanta, Georgia, and Philadelphia. In March 2004, the suspect was released due to a processing error. On November 14, 2004, he was re-arrested in York, South Carolina, during a traffic stop. The suspect remains in federal custody and is awaiting sentencing.
- In September, a video featuring “Azzam the American” was released to the media in which he stated “Yesterday, London and Madrid. Tomorrow, Los Angeles and Melbourne, God willing. At this time, don’t count on us demonstrating restraint or compassion.” Law enforcement officials believe “Azzam the American” is a former California resident who grew up in Riverside and Orange counties before moving to Pakistan. “Azzam the American” first appeared in a video released in late October 2004 in which he threatened more violent attacks against the U.S. in support of al-Qaeda that will be bigger than

those on September 11, 2001. He also claimed, “the streets of America will run red with blood.”

- In October, the Ninth Circuit Court issued a 3<sup>rd</sup> opinion, again reversing the dismissal of the case against the seven defendants in Los Angeles accused of providing monetary support to the MEK through fundraising. The court also gave a revised opinion that permitted the defendants to file a petition for re-hearing in front of additional judges of the Ninth Circuit. In 2002, a Central California Federal District Court judge dismissed charges against the seven defendants stating the process by which the U.S. State Department determines and classifies a group as a “foreign terrorist organization” deprived members of due process and, thereby, precluded criminal charges being brought against persons supporting the organization. As a result, this case has continued to go through a series of legal proceedings challenging this initial ruling.

## **Analysis and Trends**

- Members of the environmental and animal rights criminal extremist movement are likely to continue committing acts of destruction in an attempt to promote their belief system. Urban development and sport-utility vehicle dealerships are likely to remain high on their list of targets.
- The recent investigation into JIS has raised awareness of radicalization in the prison system. While the defendants involved in this particular case did not appear to have any connections to international terrorists, they did promote a similar platform to that of al-Qaeda that was focused on waging war against the U.S. and Israel. As a result, the possibility of prison-based terrorism will continue to garner attention from authorities in an effort to prevent this issue from becoming a serious threat.
- The past and present presence of al-Qaeda operatives and affiliates in California could indicate additional operatives are within this state's borders. If so, it is likely these individuals will attempt to recruit U.S. citizens into its ranks, establish and conduct training, and plan future attacks.
- Over the last several years, terrorist groups have used this state as a means to raise money. It is likely they will continue to engage in varying types of criminal enterprises such as drug trafficking and fraud to accumulate funds.
- While the JUF's initiation of acts of terrorism has declined, their members and affiliates involvement in criminal activity has continued. Recent arrests and legal proceedings may cause its U.S. membership to become fragmented. As a result, members may attempt to maintain a low profile by committing criminal activities that do not garner as much law enforcement attention.

# **CIB Efforts**

During the past year, the Criminal Intelligence Bureau (CIB) has remained committed to helping protect the citizens of California and providing assistance to law enforcement authorities in combating the criminal activities committed by gang members, organized crime groups, and terrorist organizations. CIB and the California Attorney General's legal staff also prepared and distributed the report, *California Attorney General's Criminal Intelligence File Guidelines*, to assist law enforcement agencies in the proper gathering and maintenance of criminal intelligence information.

The CIB consists of four intelligence sections -- the Gang Analysis Unit, the Organized Crime Analysis Unit, the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center, and the Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearinghouse (LACLEAR). Staff in these units identify and track criminal suspects and groups and assess threats presented to the citizens of California by these entities. The information that follows highlights some of the projects undertaken by CIB in 2005.

## **Gang Analysis Unit**

The Gang Analysis Unit collects, evaluates, analyzes, and disseminates criminal intelligence on California's criminal street gangs as well as prison and outlaw motorcycle gangs. They provide assistance to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the identification, investigation, and prosecution of gang members involved in criminal activities and are responsible for maintaining a statewide file of criminal intelligence information. They also prepare in-depth assessments, special reports, bulletins, advisories, and publications pertaining to criminal activities, trends, and patterns of these groups, as well as their potential for violence. In addition to preparing intelligence products for allied agencies, they coordinate and host various intelligence briefings and conduct gang-related workshops and training for law enforcement authorities throughout the state.

During 2005, the Gang Analysis Unit produced written documents such as advisories and special operations bulletins for the purposes of alerting law enforcement to officer safety situations and new gang-related crime trends. In addition to being a valuable resource for law enforcement officers, these intelligence products are also a valuable training resource for investigators. The Gang Analysis Unit prepared and disseminated an advisory, which alerted law enforcement authorities to an increase in officers being fired upon or targeted for violence by armed gang members. The advisory also highlighted the difference between the incidents.

Gang Analysis Unit analysts prepared and issued additional bulletins and advisories on topics such as assaults on authorities; resourceful methods in combating increasing gang violence; how natural disasters affect gang demographics; active duty military

personnel who are gang members; prison gangs, such as Nuestra Familia; and violent criminal street gangs such as Mara Salvatrucha.

The Gang Analysis Unit received a request from the Director of the Division of Law enforcement to prepare an assessment regarding the potential threat to deputy attorneys general assigned to the death penalty phase of the Stanley “Tookie” Williams case. A report was completed and forwarded to the Director of the Division of Law Enforcement.

The Gang Analysis Unit was also responsible for the observation of gangs and the different types of individuals involved with these gangs, and provided law enforcement authorities with information on the gangs’ criminal activities, their members, and their associates. Some of the gang activities analyzed by the Gang Analysis Unit included military personnel who are also gang members. Gang members have been enlisted in the military services since the mid-1980s; however, law enforcement authorities began paying closer attention to gang members in the military, and discovered that the skills, tactical knowledge, and access to military weapons were being used to benefit other gang members. The Gang Analysis Unit prepared a three-part *Intelligence Operations Bulletin* describing the types of criminal activities the military gang members were involved in, including property crimes, illegal narcotic sales, and assaults. The bulletins also provided information about the street gang affiliations of these military gang members.

The Gang Analysis Unit receives requests to assist with law enforcement training, and either presents information to gang investigators or assist allied agencies with the coordination and facilitation of training. In 2005, it presented information about the resources available through the Criminal Intelligence Bureau, investigative strategies, gang-related assaults on peace officers; and officers killed by gang members. During this reporting period the Gang Analysis Unit analysts presented this information to more than 600 law enforcement authorities.

Gang Analysis Unit analysts also initiated and provided gang and intelligence training in response to increasing crime trends and officer safety issues. During 2004, several law enforcement authorities throughout the state became concerned about the increase in the gang-related assaults on police officers. In order to validate those concerns and determine the reasons for the increase, analysts conducted a verbal survey and prepared a two-part intelligence bulletin with the results. The overwhelming interest in this particular topic spearheaded a series of 11 Gang Strategies Workshops throughout California. The one-day workshops provided information on techniques that increase officer awareness and can be used by authorities in combating gang violence. Topics included gang injunctions, gang enhancements, the CalGang database system, the importance of task forces, and the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement’s Gang Suppression Enforcement Team. The workshops were attended by nearly 800 law enforcement authorities, representing nearly 250 law enforcement agencies.

Gang Analysis Unit analysts also conducted six one-day workshops throughout California that provided training for law enforcement authorities on the EME, one of the oldest and most violent Hispanic prison gangs. The workshop covered topics such as: the history of the gang; gang characteristics; current criminal activities inside and outside prison; association between those activities and the local street gangs; prosecution, including the use of the RICO Act; officer safety issues; and resources available through the CDCR's Special Services Unit and CIB within DOJ. The workshops were attended by nearly 650 law enforcement authorities, representing over 150 law enforcement agencies.

Over a one-month period, Gang Analysis Unit analysts conducted six one-day workshops throughout California on MS-13, currently one of the most violent Hispanic gangs in the United States. The workshops provided attendees with information on the history and formation of the gang, gang characteristics, their current criminal activities, officer safety issues, MS East Coast activities, and resources available through the DHS ICE. Nearly 600 law enforcement authorities, representing nearly 200 agencies including representatives from Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Texas, attended the workshops

### **Organized Crime Analysis Unit**

The Organized Crime Analysis Unit coordinates statewide investigative efforts targeting organized crime groups. It also serves as the statewide clearinghouse for information regarding these groups. Analysts gather, analyze, and disseminate criminal intelligence on these targets; prepare and disseminate in-depth reports on the scope, patterns, and structure of organized crime; and assist local, state, and federal agencies in special projects such as link-analysis diagrams, telephone-toll analysis, event-flow diagrams encompassing charting, and report preparation. The unit also houses the state liaison program for Interpol, which processes California requests for assistance from foreign countries and assists California agencies in obtaining criminal investigation information for foreign countries.

At the request of the Attorney General's Office of Legislative Affairs, the Organized Crime Analysis Unit provided background information on human trafficking and its impact on California to assist it in analyzing several Assembly bills on human trafficking.

An analyst from the Organized Crime Analysis Unit gave a presentation on EOC at an Anaheim conference where more than 1,700 law enforcement authorities were in attendance.

### **State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center**

On September 11, 2001, the United States was subjected to the deadliest terrorist attack in modern history. While law enforcement authorities in California had already

begun to actively assess and improve terrorism-related prevention and intervention strategies since encountering acts of domestic terrorism years earlier, the attack demonstrated drastic measures needed to be implemented if any such attack on California's soil was to be thwarted. In an effort to reduce the threat of terrorism in this state, former Governor Gray Davis and Attorney General Bill Lockyer created the California Anti-Terrorism Information Center (CATIC) on September 25, 2001. Housed within the Criminal Intelligence Bureau at the California Department of Justice (DOJ), CATIC established itself as a leader in the state's anti-terrorism efforts by putting in place a mechanism for collecting, investigating, and sharing terrorist-related information with law enforcement authorities. In addition, CATIC served as the state's primary point of contact for law enforcement-related inquiries by providing authorities with tactical and strategic intelligence analysis — as well as immediate case support for investigators and prosecutors.

As of March 1, 2005, CATIC — represented by the California Department of Justice — officially entered into a new partnership with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security (OHS) and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to form a State Terrorism Threat Assessment System. The mission of the State Terrorism Threat Assessment System and its collaborative information-sharing tools, the California Joint Regional Information Exchange System (CAL JRIES), is to integrate multi-agency law enforcement intelligence and anti-terrorism operations; establish partnerships with non-law enforcement agencies responsible for homeland security; increase involvement of the private infrastructure sector; and provide a secure, statewide information network for collaboration, information exchange, and coordination. In support of this mission, CATIC became the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center (STTAC) and is jointly operated by OHS, CHP, and DOJ/Criminal Intelligence Bureau. The STTAC is a strategic intelligence organization with statewide responsibility for supporting state leaders, the other components of the State Terrorism Threat Assessment System, and the departments and agencies of the state and federal governments. Its core mission is serving as California's central all-crimes and anti-terrorism criminal intelligence center. In addition, the STTAC is charged with integrating its law enforcement intelligence resources with homeland security-related civil representatives from state and federal agencies to function as a California State Fusion Center. The STTAC also provides program management for the CAL JRIES program. In performing these roles, the STTAC operates in close cooperation with the Office of Emergency Services (OES), the Regional Terrorism Threat Assessment Centers<sup>1</sup> (RTTACs), the Terrorism Early Warning Groups (TEWs), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

STTAC is housed at the California DOJ's Broadway facility and is divided into four key units: Group Analysis, Tactical Deconfliction/Situation Awareness, Predictive Incident

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<sup>1</sup> There are four RTTACs across the state located in Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. These entities are responsible for gathering, integrating, analyzing, and disseminating collected information along with processing tips and leads within their respective regions. The TEWs, which are often co-located with the RTTACs, coordinate consequence management operations.

Indicator, and Information Research. STTAC's core functions include gathering information and intelligence from all sources for analysis; producing timely, relevant, and accurate situational awareness and threat assessments for the state; perform strategic analysis and reporting; operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; maintaining close, cooperative, coordinated, and mutually supporting working relationships with all RTTACs and TEWs; supporting DOJ and other agency criminal investigations throughout the state; monitoring national reporting and collection systems; maintaining a pre-incident indicator database accessible via the state CAL JRIES portal; serving as the link between regional, state, and federal agencies; preparing terrorism-related information for release to the public through appropriate state channels; and sharing and exchanging terrorism-related information with public and private sector organizations that have public safety and infrastructure protection responsibilities.

During 2005, STTAC worked to address the terrorist threats impacting California. The program has broadcasted 49 *Advisories*,<sup>2</sup> issued 255 *Midday Reports*,<sup>3</sup> 253 *Midday Intelligence Briefings*,<sup>4</sup> and 5 *Intelligence Bulletins*.<sup>5</sup> It received 275 terrorism-related inquiries from law enforcement authorities seeking information on a variety of suspects, identified 378 suspects, and provided authorities with 301 results regarding their inquiries.

### **Joint Regional Information Exchange System**

During this calendar year, CIB created the California Joint Regional Information Exchange System (Cal JRIES) which is an initiative that grew out of the original JRIES application. The original JRIES was exclusively an intelligence-sharing network designed to combat terrorism. Deployment of CAL JRIES began in September 2005 and provides participants with the capability to share information across jurisdictions and organizations throughout California. Since its inception, CAL JRIES has evolved to not only focus on combating terrorism but is also used for all criminal intelligence. CAL

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<sup>2</sup> *Advisories* are brief descriptions of local, state, national, or international issues that are of immediate concern to law enforcement authorities regarding suspicious activity. These *Advisories* are designed to provide timely information of a specific nature and address matters pertaining to officer safety and potential threats against the public.

<sup>3</sup> *Midday Reports* provide law enforcement authorities with timely and valuable international, national, and statewide intelligence and information in the ongoing effort to combat terrorism. The information is a collection of terrorism-related summaries from various media sources and includes law enforcement-sensitive information relative to terrorism data gathered from military, federal, state, and local government agencies.

<sup>4</sup> *Midday Intelligence Briefings* further the dialogue between the private sector and law enforcement agencies throughout California. These briefings consist of "open-source" terrorism intelligence from local, state, federal, and international media and law enforcement sources.

<sup>5</sup> *Intelligence Bulletins* are in-depth reports regarding current and specific criminal-related issues. These bulletins equip law enforcement authorities with detailed information that assist them in identifying and investigating members of terrorist-related organizations.

JRIES has two main components — a web portal for storing information (documents, photos, etc.) and a highly secure information-sharing working environment for law enforcement and public safety. Cal JRIES has two main workspaces, one for law enforcement intelligence and one for public safety personnel. These spaces will be available for use through the STTAC and at each of the four RTTACs for California law enforcement agencies and first responders. The law enforcement workspace is only for the use of vetted and approved law enforcement intelligence participants. The public safety workspaces are for public safety personnel (non-law enforcement personnel and law enforcement personnel who are not intelligence officers) who are part of the STTAC, RTTACs, or who work with a local law enforcement agency or TEWs. Sensitive law enforcement intelligence and operational information is not shared in the public safety workspaces. CAL JRIES is principally for law enforcement intelligence and operations information sharing to combat terrorism, with priority on preventing attacks. It may also be used for “all crimes” intelligence and operations information exchange. Public safety personnel participate in CAL JRIES to share public safety “all hazards” and other information, and to support their unique public safety mission. CAL JRIES is a secure, encrypted communications network certified to handle information classified as Law Enforcement Sensitive (LES), Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU), For Official Use Only (FOUO), and Sensitive Homeland Security Information (SHSI). CAL JRIES is designed to improve information sharing and cooperation in order to prevent terrorist attacks, and to improve performance in combating all criminal activity. CAL JRIES provides the technical means to share intelligence and operations information within a trusted community, and to do it faster, easier, and in a highly secure manner.

### **CIB Task Forces**

During this calendar year, the CIB Task Forces received 1,930 inquiries; identified 2,640 suspects within these inquiries; provided authorities with 2,333 results regarding their inquiries; and responded to 1,092 requests for assistance. In addition, they opened 101 cases; identified 389 criminal acts; identified 795 suspects; closed 70 cases; and referred 659 cases to other agencies for investigative follow-up. The following is a brief description of some of the cases the task forces have been involved in.

- In February, the Sacramento Task Force assisted the Auburn Police Department with an investigation into two explosive devices found at government facilities in Placer County. The first explosive device was found at the door of the Historic Placer County Courthouse in Auburn. A second device of similar construction was found at the backdoor of the Department of Motor Vehicles office in Auburn. Neither of the devices detonated. A suspect was arrested in connection with the crime.
- In March, the San Francisco Task Force coordinated and supported a joint ICE surveillance and enforcement operation named “Operation Possible.” The operation targeted members of the 20<sup>th</sup> Street MS-13 gang in San Francisco. In April, the operation led to the arrest of 16 suspects. The gang members were

arrested on charges including: narcotics violations, warrants, prior deportation, probation violations, and violation of court orders. There were approximately 29 subjects interviewed with approximately 25 subjects identified as gang members. One firearm was also seized from a probation search. The operation has developed information on activities of the MS-13 cliques operating in the San Francisco Bay Area. Members of the gang have been identified as suspects in homicides, assaults, sales of narcotics investigations, and auto theft investigations.

- In April, the Sacramento Task Force assisted the Placer County Sheriff's Office with the collection of information and surveillance of a suspect believed to be a member of an automotive theft ring. The members of this ring have a history of drug, automotive theft, and burglary offenses. Agents received information that the suspect would be in the Yuba City area and was planning on taking stolen property to Humboldt County. The task force conducted surveillance and placed the suspect under arrest.
- In May, the Sacramento Task Force assisted the California Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) with a search warrant at a bar believed to be used by gang members to traffic Ecstasy. CIB task force staff conducted information collection and surveillance on one of the locations prior to execution of the warrant.
- In July, the Fresno Task Force assisted the San Benito County Sheriff's Department with the 2005 Hollister Independence Motorcycle Rally, which took place July 1 to July 3. The task force was specifically asked to support the OMG Intelligence Unit with the operation of the intelligence center in regards to collecting, evaluating, and disseminating information with the intent of protecting officers, citizens, and participants in the event. At one point during the rally, there was a potential for violence between two rival OMGs although authorities were able to control the situation. The Fresno Task Force helped process over 400 field interview cards and over 500 intelligence related photographs including a video of the before-mentioned confrontation to be used for training purposes.
- In August, four members of JIS were federally indicted for their alleged roles in a terrorist plot. The indictment charged all four defendants with conspiracy to levy war against the U.S. government through terrorism and conspiracy to possess and discharge firearms in furtherance of crimes of violence. Three of the men were also charged with conspiracy to kill foreign officials. Two are further charged with interference with commerce by robbery and using and carrying a firearm in connection with a crime of violence. All four defendants are currently in custody awaiting trial. Special agents and criminal intelligence analysts from the Fresno and Los Angeles Task Forces, along with CIB headquarters began working with CDCR in May 2004, on an investigation into the criminal extremist group based out of the state's correctional facility in Tehachapi. Between May and July 2005, two men involved in the group committed nearly a dozen gas

station robberies in the Los Angeles area. During a search of a residence connected to the case, authorities seized materials indicating the group had plans to perpetrate terrorist attacks upon U.S. military facilities, the Israeli Embassy, and Jewish synagogues in the Los Angeles area. Due to this terrorism nexus, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) opened a full investigation into the group and its violent agenda in July 2005. The FBI established a command post in Los Angeles to lead the initiative and requested that CIB personnel knowledgeable in the group's activities assist with the multi-agency investigation. CIB staff supplied federal investigators with pertinent reports, provided oral briefings on the history and organization of the group, conducted background checks on over 55 suspected members and associates, assisted in the analysis of thousands of seized documents, translated and analyzed hundreds of documents, conducted field interviews and surveillance, identified locations and addresses of third party mail drops used by inmates, and relayed information regarding the threat to military recruitment centers and installations to appropriate officials. Had the plot not been discovered and thwarted, the attacks would likely have taken place, resulting in a heavy loss of life of both civilians and military personnel.

- In September, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office, Chiefs of Police, County Probation and CDCR identified over 500 gang members living in the County of San Mateo. The Sheriff and Police Chiefs of San Mateo County requested the assistance of the San Francisco Task Force to help coordinate the gang task force operation. The task force helped provide intelligence coordination and intelligence management support for field operations. The initiative led to the arrest of 197 suspects, 352 searches, 31 seized weapons, and 36 narcotic seizures.
- Also in September, the San Francisco Task Force assisted a Santa Clara Police Department investigation into the kidnapping of a Eurasian immigrant by organized crime associates for the purpose of extortion. The task force along with CHP's Investigative Services Unit, located the two suspects responsible for the crime through the vehicle they used in the kidnapping. The two were charged with two counts of kidnapping and implied threat of force or violence upon a witness or victim. A third suspect was arrested in October and charged with kidnapping.
- In November, the Sacramento Task Force and CIB headquarters staff assisted in the investigation into the death of CHP officer Andy Stevens, who was shot and killed during a traffic stop in Yolo County on Country Road 96 near State Route 16. Along with help from CIB headquarters personnel, the task force responded to the scene and provided information management for the command post aimed at identifying and apprehending the suspect.

## **California National Guard / Pre-Incident Project**

Also during this calendar year, STTAC — in conjunction with the California National Guard's Predictive Incident Analysis Unit (PIAU) — has continued its focus on collecting potential precursors of terrorism within the state and loading them into its Pre-Incident Indicators (PII) database and Geographic Threat Assessment System (GTAS). Suspicious activity entries are submitted by law enforcement authorities and maintained in the PII database in order to track specific threats against the state's infrastructure. More than 600 sites have been identified as critical assets in California and, subsequently, geographically coded in the GTAS. When a potential threat or threat pattern is identified, law enforcement agencies are immediately notified through STTAC channels. The PII database is designed to provide a centralized source for statewide incidents with a terrorist nexus while allowing local jurisdictions to analyze similar incidents statewide by using GTAS. Most recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has begun developing a national geographic information plotting system called the Foreign Terrorism Threat Task Force (FTTTF) that utilizes iMap data management software and provides a more robust analytical capability for identifying patterns and trends. In an effort to coordinate its efforts with the FBI, the PIAU has entered the initial stages of migrating their PII database away from the GTAS and into the new FTTTF system. In addition, the PIAU has begun developing new methodologies and expanding its PII database to include historical terrorism indicators, and continue producing relevant bulletins on threats to critical infrastructure in the state.