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Multi-Agency Gang Task Force Proposal:

Hell's Angels, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and Street Gangs

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Abstract

Our team research has examined existing laws and policies that have been implemented by law enforcement agencies around the country on combating the gang problem in America, from biker gangs such as the Hell's Angels down to the local street gangs that corrupt our youth in our communities. We will present evidence that has shown to be effective in reducing the membership into gangs, especially in our young citizens, as well as techniques for members in our society that have already engaged in gang style crimes. Our team research has also looked at the role that our education system plays on gang involvement and what steps are taken in the school systems to help law enforcement battle the gang problem. Is this a law enforcement problem that only law enforcement can solve or is it a societal problem? Our research will answer those questions.

Mission Statement

Our Gang Task Force seeks to degrade and dismantle the Hell's Angels Outlaw Motorcycle Gang and other gangs by building a multi-agency approach to the anti-gang effort in order to more efficiently utilize resources to prevent repetitious efforts in combating Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and other. The gang Task force will bring a more unified approach by utilizing not only law enforcement resources but other agencies and non-governmental organizational resources to the table in order to prevent further gang enrollment, intervene to draw potential gang members away from the life in gangs, and suppress and bring to justice those members who pose a significant threat to the safety of our community.

Some 33,000 violent street gangs, motorcycle gangs, and prison gangs with about 1.4 million members are criminally active in the U.S. and Puerto Rico Today. Many are sophisticated and well organized; all use violence to control neighborhoods and boost their illegal money-making activities, which include robbery, drug and gun trafficking, prostitution and human trafficking, and fraud. Many gang members continue to commit crimes even after being sent to jail (National Gang Report, 2015). Even with violent gang members being arrested, convicted, and sentenced to prison they continue to terrorize the community by recruiting new members, especially young teens.



Our gang task force that has been assembled is going to attack this community problem from several fronts, starting with prevention methods such as the “Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.), to target young adolescents who are in our middle schools. We are also going to use intervention programs as well, involving community and faith-based groups, elected officials, and many others such as our judicial system and law enforcement. Lastly, we will use suppression strategies for the members in our society that have already turned to gangs and gang

Violence as a way of life. These suppression strategies will involve local, state, and federal agencies as well as local, state, and federal courts, so we can insure that no individual's constitutional rights are being violated such as the Fourth Amendment, which protects individuals from Unreasonable Searches and Seizures and the Fifth which protects them from self incrimination.

What is a Gang?

To solve a problem our gang task force agreed you must first understand and identify what is a gang. According to the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a gang is:

- A. An association of three or more individuals;
- B. Whose members collectively identify themselves by adopting a group identity, which they use to create an atmosphere of fear or intimidation, frequently by employing one or more of the following: a common name, slogan, identifying sign, symbol, tattoo or other physical marking, style or color of clothing, hairstyle, hand sign or graffiti;
- C. Whose purpose in part is to engage in criminal activity and which uses violence or intimidation to further its criminal objectives?
- D. Whose members engage in criminal activity or acts of juvenile delinquency that if committed by an adult would be crimes with the intent to enhance or preserve the association's power, reputation or economic resources?
- E. The association may also possess some of the following characteristics:

1. The members may employ rules for joining and operating within the association
2. The members may meet on a recurring basis
3. The association may provide physical protection of its members from others
4. The association may seek to exercise control over a particular geographic location or region, or it may simply defend its perceived interest against rivals
5. The association may have an identifiable structure (National Institute of Justice, 2011).

Hell's Angels Motorcycle Gang (OMG)

The Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club established themselves in 1948 and claimed to be the largest outlaw motorcycle gang in the world, according to the Big Four Motorcycle Club. However, the Hell's Angels are a sophisticated criminal organization with international support and global connectivity. The FBI asserts that Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG's) support themselves primarily through drug dealing, trafficking stolen goods, and extortion, and that they fight over territory and the illegal drug trade and collect \$1 billion in illegal income annually. Although this type of gang is beyond using preventive and intervention methods, law enforcement has the ability of using suppression methods like the one conducted by the FBI and other agencies in a 1985 anti-gang task force operation against the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Gang. In a three-year, eleven-state FBI operation named "Roughrider", 1000 heavily armed law enforcement personnel ranging from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), along with Drug Enforcement Agents (DEA) and local and State Police, simultaneously raided Hell's Angels houses and businesses across the country, which culminated in the largest OMG bust in history. With the confiscation

of \$2 million worth of illegal drugs, as well as an illegal arsenal of weapons, ranging from Uzi submachine guns to anti-tank weapons and the arrest of 133 alleged members of the Hell's

Angels, it closed out one of the longest and costly investigations of any Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) in the United States (UPI, May 3, 1985).



Our anti-gang task force intends on employing similar tactics when dealing with OMG's in our community. With the OMG's smuggling in illegal drugs across our borders, which is one of the Hell's Angels most profitable businesses, we will utilize the services of Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE), to use their resources and intelligence to intercept any illegal shipments of drugs into the United States as well as arresting the smugglers and eventually the suppliers. In the 2015 National Gang Report conduct by the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC), it stated that "cross-border crime remains a significant concern for law enforcement throughout the

country, as these crimes directly impact border regions and indirectly impact jurisdictions throughout the country,” so our gang task force feels this would be a needed resource in our fight on OMG’s. We will also have Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents on our task force to assist in money laundering, which is one of the ways the Hell’s Angels try to legitimize their businesses. In the 2015 National Gang Report it stated that “OMG’s use their businesses such as motorcycle repair shops, tattoo parlor, and bars to facilitate criminal activity and use their businesses as a front to their illegal profits. By using the IRS in our anti-gang task force it will allow us the ability to determine what profits from their businesses are legitimate and what monies are obtained illegally. Our gang task force will also have on staff, members of the Armed Forces. We will utilize the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations (MCIO), Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID), and Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) to help identify members of the Armed Services who are also active gang members in our military.

The MCIO will assist law enforcement about the presence of military members with gang affiliation or membership and encourages reporting to the MCIO’s when identification of military members with known or suspected gang membership or affiliation is developed. It also helps formulate a more accurate threat picture as it relates to street gangs and OMG’s in the military (National Gang Report, 2015). Lastly, our multi-agency gang task force will be made up of local and state law enforcement officers, who are directly impacted by these OMG’s. We will have a fusion center set up which will serve as a primary focal point for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of information by all multi-agency task force members. All task force

members will meet on a weekly basis to share their intelligence gathering and distribute it to the task force members that it affects.

Preventive Methods

Twenty five million children are growing up without fathers in the home. That's 40% of the kids in America. As reported by the Center for Children and Families:

- 40% of all live births in the U.S. are to single mothers
- 90% of welfare recipients are single mothers
- 70% of gang members, high school dropouts, teen suicides, teen pregnancies and teen substance abusers come from single mother homes (U.S.Census Bureau, 2009-2011).

What is the root cause of so many young kids becoming gang members? There are several risk factors that have been identified that increase the likelihood that a teen will join a gang included, but not limited to:

- Gangs in the neighborhood
- Having gang members in the family
- Histories of sexual or physical abuse
- Growing up in poverty
- Having access to weapons and drugs
- And a lack of success in other areas of life, such as school (Psychology Today, August 24, 2013).

Taking all this research into account our multi-agency gang task force looked at a program that will help in preventing troubled teens from joining gangs. The program is the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) program. The program originated through a combined effort of the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) and the Phoenix Police Department. The program originally began as a nine lesson middle-school curriculum. In early 1992, the first G.R.E.A.T. Officer Program was conducted in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1993, due to its perceived success, the program was expanded nationwide. Between 1993-98 the program added the Regional Partners, a National Policy Board as well as thousands of trained police officers. The goal of the program was to prevent youth crime, violence, and gang involvement while developing a positive relationship among law enforcement, families, and young people to create safer communities. The program also teaches the targeted youth; life skills such as:

- Conflict resolution
- Responsibility
- Appreciating cultural diversity
- Goal setting

One study found, “there was a thirty-nine percent reduction in the odds of gang-joining among the G.R.E.A.T. students, compared with students in the control group who did not participate” (Esbensen, pg. 152).

Our anti-gang task force will commit local law enforcement officers into area schools which show the greatest propensity of joining a gang. A prerequisite to becoming a G.R.E.A.T. instructor are as followed:

- Enthusiastic
- Dependable
- Enjoy working with kids

- Flexible

- Positive

- Comfortable talking with a group of people from diverse backgrounds

Our officers that are selected for this anti-gang assignment will go through intensive training, usually two-weeks, to learn how to prepare a classroom, lesson plan preparation, and mandatory certification classes. Once an officer has met all these qualification they will be placed in the schools with the strongest needs.



Intervention Methods

Our anti-gang task force partners agree that some kids that go through programs such as the Gang Resistance Education and Training program don't allow follow up on their obligation of staying out of gangs, so we have put together an intervention plan similar to the one Houston Mayor, Bob Lanier formed in 1994. In response to the rise in gang-related crime in the early 1990's, Mayor Lanier instituted an Anti-Gang Office and Gang Task Force. The office's mission was to develop a comprehensive mechanism to reduce gang-related violence and crime. Some of the programs implemented by Mayor Lanier were:

- **The Anti-Gang Office**, which developed a computerized gang geo-mapping and tracking system to identify the location of gangs and gang gun violence in the city, and to locate existing youth program resources. This system helps identify hotspots of gang-related crime and the necessary youth services that are needed
- **The Gang Offender Probation Program**, which assist and improve on judicial oversight of gang members on probation by partnering probation and law enforcement officers for increased supervision.
- **The Anti-Gang Office** also initiated a community service program whereby juvenile probationers clean up graffiti-vandalized sites around the city where gangs spray painted businesses, buildings and other structures.

- **The Gang Education Awareness Resistance (GEAR)** program was also implemented which was a partnership between the Anti-Gang Office, the school district and the police department. It trained school personnel, including school administrators, to recognize gang activity on school campuses and provides a model for notifying parents and police when criminal activity is identified.

In 1997, roughly 62 youth between the ages of 13 and 17 completed the GEAR program and reported that the experience had significantly affected them. Also, in 1997, the percentage of juveniles accused of murder declined twenty-three (23) percent from 1996 figures and rape convictions declined by 5.7 percent, robbery convictions declined by ten (10) percent, aggravated assault conviction declined by 14.2 percent, and overall crimes by gang members declined by 11.6 percent. Our anti-gang task force, along with a community base support team such as: The Boys and Girls Club, Police Athletic League, and faith-groups can install these types of programs with very little cost to taxpayers to achieve our goal of turning our youth into productive citizen instead of funding their future behind bars.

Conclusion

Our multi-agency gang task force will use suppression methods such as undercover assignments and saturation techniques to bring OMG's into compliance with the law. We will utilize every law enforcement agency available, including branches from the Armed Forces to weed out and put OMG's behind bars for their crimes committed. We will also utilize preventive methods such as the Gang Resistance Education and Training program to sway our youth away from the gang life. And our multi-agency gang task force will inherent intervention programs such as the Gang Education Awareness Resistance (GEAR) which showed to be very successful in Houston,

Texas in the middle of the 1990's. By implementing these programs our task force feels that it will have a positive impact on our community and society as a whole.

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