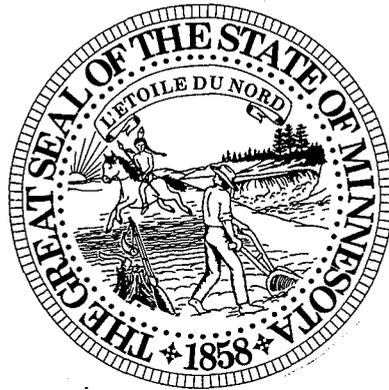


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MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

2000 REPORT TO GANG STRIKE FORCE OVERSIGHT COUNCIL



MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE

Office of Ron Ryan - Statewide Commander

January, 2001

To the Criminal Gang Strike Force Oversight Council,

In accordance to the by-laws for the Oversight Council, I, as the Statewide Commander, report on a monthly basis and am also required to produce a yearly report on the operations and status of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. Please accept this report as my summary for the year 2000.

In this, our third full year of operation, we continue to be extremely productive in our day to day operations, successfully fulfilling two of our defined mission statements;

1) arresting and prosecuting gang members engaged in "criminal activity" in the state of Minnesota who are most criminally active within a gang ... 2) coordinating proactive long-term investigations on targeted gang members. Some of this information will be detailed later in this report.

The third mission of the MGSF is to react promptly to requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies and to work together to combat gang violence. The relationship between the Metro region and the St. Paul and Minneapolis Police Homicide Units is most significant. The working relationship these units have developed is remarkable and has benefited the citizens of the state by exchanging information and identifying suspects in several violent homicides committed by gang members that occurred this past year. This relationship is also reflected throughout the state as you will see by reviewing cases worked on by the MGSF and local agencies in greater Minnesota.

Minnesota Attorney General Mike Hatch continues to support the MGSF. He has assigned two more of his assistants to the Strike Force. We now have three Minnesota Assistant Attorneys General who assist in the prosecution of gang crimes throughout the state. These same people are also very energetic trainers who assist the different regions' investigators in a fourth mission which is to provide peace officers and prosecutors throughout the state with training and techniques for investigating and prosecuting gang crimes.

This past year, the Metro region implemented training for over 1550 interested persons from around the state. Other regions in the state reached another 1200 persons. The training was directed at law enforcement officers, detention officers, Hennepin County Juvenile Judges, probation officers, public defenders, and the general public.

Our training was part of in-service POST certification for three agencies and a portion of CLE certification for attorneys in the state.

We hired a Criminal Gang Analyst this past year. She is Julie Barrows who is a very talented, hard working employee. Currently the MGSF is participating in three long range investigations that will have a major impact on four different criminal gangs. Julie has a major involvement with these cases.

Julie has also been working on advancing the usefulness of the Gang Pointer File which in turn addresses a fifth mission of the MGSF; to obtain intelligence regarding gang membership... and share that with other law enforcement agencies in the state. This report contains much more detail on the Gang Pointer File.

Julie and Assistant Attorney General Brent Wartner just completed a mandatory audit of the Pointer File. They found the information on "confirmed gang members" entered in the system was 92% correct. This indicates that all information entered was backed by hard file information at some law enforcement agency in the state.

The Metro region expanded the office space at 1919 University Avenue. The purpose was to add a conference/training room and to create more office space for attorneys, controlled storage for equipment, and rooms to set-up multi-agency computerized investigative equipment. The conference room is used for regular Oversight Council meetings as well as multi-agency investigative meetings. We have conducted several statewide training classes in the facility and we have invited other law enforcement agencies and citizen groups interested to reserve the conference room for their use. Groups such as the Councils of Color and the BCA have already taken advantage of our offer.

The Northwest region was removed as a region during the year 2000 because of a problem having their officers respond directly to the exclusive command and control of the Statewide Commander. Clay County and Moorhead Police Department did maintain grants to expand local capacity to work on gangs and they continued to work on criminal gang activity in the north central area of the state. They have had several successful cases charged "for the benefit of a gang" with the help of our prosecutors at the Attorney General's office. They are also working with Cass County in establishing a Gang Task Force in their area.

This report will hopefully provide you with the necessary information you will need to take to the 2001 legislature session. The concept of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, to deal with the "criminal activity" caused by gangs in Minnesota is working. It is tax money that is well spent, that can show results, and an initiative that should be carried into the 2002/2003 fiscal years.

Sincerely,

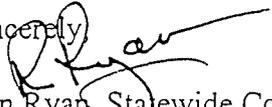

Ron Ryan, Statewide Commander, MGSF

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MINNESOTA GANG STRIKE FORCE ROSTER

Statewide Commander, Ron Ryan	651/917-4805 651/917-4813 Fax
Metro Regional Commander, Art Blakey Deputy Regional Commander, John Boulger (Ramsey, Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, and Washington County Sheriff's, MPD, SPPD, Oakdale PD, ATF, BCA, DEA, FBI, IRS)	651/917-4801 651/917-4802 651/917-4813 Fax
Northeast Regional Commander, Jim Wright (Duluth PD, St. Louis County Sheriff, BCA)	218/723-3692 218/723-3245 Fax
Southeast Regional Commander, Tom Claymon (Rochester PD, Olmstead County Sheriff, Winona PD, Goodhue County Sheriff, BCA)	507/287-1421 507/281-7345 Fax
Central Regional Commander, David LaBeaux (St. Cloud PD, Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns County Sheriff)	320/650-3888 320/259-3852 Fax
Southwest Regional Commander, Jody Gladis (Marshall PD, Worthington PD, Mankato PD)	507/537-7000 507/537-6034 Fax
Northwest Gang Investigators, Jerome Thorsen (Clay County Sheriff, Moorhead PD)	218/299-7326 218/233-6553 Fax
Assistant Minnesota Attorney's General, MGSF Prosecutors (Pete Orput, Brent Wartner, Hilary Caligiuri)	651/917-4807 651/917-4813 Fax
Minnesota Gang Pointer File (Gang Analyst, Julie Barrows)	651/917-4838 651/917-4813 Fax

2000 – Year Three Performance Statistics

The Minnesota Gang Strike Force (MGSF) continued to be extremely productive in its third year of operation. The criminal activities that the Strike Force has successfully investigated include gang related homicides, aggravated assaults, drive by shootings, robberies, and criminal sexual assaults, all committed by gang members.

MGSF investigators have also been part of several successful multi-agency narcotic investigations because of their intelligence regarding drug gangs. These include investigations done with state drug task forces, federal organized crime task forces, as well as with local city and country law enforcement agencies. Examples of some of the different types of criminal activity successfully prosecuted in each of the MGSF regions will be highlighted at the end of this report.

The following is a look at performance statistics for the MGSF for the years 1998 through 2000.

Arrests:	1998	1999	2000
Northeast	107	209	150
Southeast	21	44	58
Metro	212	358	237
Central	55	78	128
Northwest	30	51	NA
Southwest	NA	27	56
Total	425	660	629

Convictions:	1998	1999	2000
Northeast	30	48	43
Southeast	--	25	3
Metro	70	148	77
Central	29	54	92
Northwest	--	10	NA
Southwest	NA	13	39
Total	129	298	254

Pending Dispositions:	2000
Northeast	84
Southeast	29
Metro	79
Central	36
Northwest	NA
Southwest	17
Total	245

Search Warrants:	1998	1999	2000
Northeast	42	34	42
Southeast	8	18	5
Metro	112	193	150
Central	32	25	52
Northwest	32	19	NA
Southwest	NA	4	5
Total	226	293	254

Firearms Seized:	1998	1999	2000
Northeast	57	14	4
Southeast	3	4	1
Metro	105	102	109
Central	21	4	8
Northwest	--	2	NA
Southwest	NA	--	--
Total	186	126	122

Vehicles and Monies

Seized (forfeitures):	2000	
Northeast	3	\$17,036
Southeast	1	\$1,698
Metro	7	\$77,969
Central	5	\$19,881
Northwest	NA	NA
Southwest	--	\$0
Total	16	\$116,584

Controlled Substances Seized:**2000**

Northeast	7.6 pounds methamphetamine, 5.2 pounds marijuana, 408.25 grams crack cocaine, 31.45 grams cocaine, small amount ecstasy
Southeast	½ pound methamphetamine, small amount of marijuana, 5 ounces crack cocaine
Metro	54 grams methamphetamine, 148 pounds marijuana, 22 ounces crack cocaine, 28 ounces cocaine, 4 ounces opium, 3 grams heroin (Metro region totals do not include controlled substances seized or purchased when working joint investigations or OCDETF investigations)
Central	50 grams methamphetamine, 8.2 pounds marijuana, 2.6 pounds crack cocaine
Northwest	NA
Southwest	8 grams crack cocaine

NOTE: The seized controlled substances are the result of investigations of criminal activity involving narcotics that was taking place by confirmed gang members. Most often these narcotic investigations were a combined effort of several law enforcement agencies working on a targeted gang's criminal activity. For example, most long term investigations were the results of Title III wire taps and surveillance done with local drug task forces and with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and Federal Bureau Investigation (FBI) task forces. These investigations involve gangs in the state of Minnesota or gangs that are bringing their criminal activity into the state from other areas. Narcotic investigation is not the major emphasis of the MGSF as shown by the breakdown of crimes investigated by each Region on pages of this report.

Attorney General's Office Involvement/Councils of Color

The Minnesota Attorney General's office continues to show their commitment to gang investigation and prosecution by committing additional resources to the Minnesota Gang Strike Force.

Peter Orput, an Assistant Attorney General, had been assigned to work with the MGSF as required by the statute. However, in the year 2000, two more Assistant Attorneys General, Brent Wartner and Hilary Lindell Caligiuri, were added to the MGSF. The three Assistants now have an on-site office at the Strike Force Metro regional office where they work with and advise the Strike Force officers.

Prosecutions

Over the course of the past year, at least nine counties – Sterns, Mower, Crow Wing, Polk, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, Dakota, Sibley and Clay – referred gang cases to the MGSF prosecutors. Our three prosecutors handled the following cases in 2000.

- An 11-defendant racketeering case against Mickey Cobras and Black P. Stones from Chicago who came to St. Cloud and Fargo/Moorhead to push crack cocaine without local competition
- A first-degree drug case against a Chicago gangster selling crack cocaine in Brainerd
- A 4-defendant double homicide in which a prostitute led her gangster boyfriend and his two gangster friends to a trick holding a lot of cash
- A first-degree murder for benefit of a gang (homegrown Gangster Disciples), involving six defendants at a carnival in Moorhead
- A 7-defendant check cashing ring operated by Asian gangsters
- A 4-defendant attempted murder for benefit of a gang case, arising from a drive-by shooting incident between Latin Kings and West Siders in Willmar, in which the Minnesota Attorney General's office prevailed on a certified question at the Court of Appeals
- An aggravated robbery case that started with five defendants but increased to six after the DNA of an uncharged individual showed up in saliva samples from a ski mask used in the robberies
- A 2-defendant drive-by shooting involving young Asian gangsters in Minneapolis
- An organized theft-by-swindle by two Russian nationals fraudulently cashing travelers' checks at convenience stores throughout South Central Minnesota
- A second-degree assault for benefit of a gang in Moorhead where the only character more obstructionist than the defendant was the key witness
- A Hennepin County gang case involving a second-degree assault and possession of a pistol with the serial number removed
- A 2-defendant drive-by shooting for benefit of a gang in Clay County
- A terroristic threat by three gangsters/associates against the life of the Commander of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, Central Regional Office

Training

Part of the Minnesota Gang Strike Force mission is to provide training to law enforcement and prosecutors throughout the state. Our MGSF prosecutors have made at least 34 presentations this past year on gang investigation and prosecution to law enforcement groups in Alexandria, Stillwater, Grand Rapids, Chaska, Owatonna, Camp Ripley, Litchfield and many other locations throughout the metro area and greater Minnesota.

These Assistant Attorneys General have also participated in in-service training for MGSF officers throughout the state.

Community Awareness

Another part of the MGSF mission is to ensure the community receives information about plans, activities, and decisions of the MGSF. Assistant Attorney General Hilary Caligiuri also serves as a liaison between the Strike Force and the Councils of Color. Ms. Caligiuri schedules quarterly meetings with the Councils of Color that are attended by Regional Commanders and staff from the Minnesota Attorney Generals Office.

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

- What is a “confirmed gang member?” The ten point criteria was explained as well as explaining that our law enforcement efforts were geared to “criminal activity” not physical appearances of people.
- Racial statistics for persons entered in the Statewide Computer System.
- Identifying Gang Strike Force members, it was agreed that all members will carry MGSF ID cards and wear distinctive maroon and gold raid jackets during operations.
- Town meetings. Members of the MGSF agreed to be available for questions at any meeting set up by the Councils of Color.

United States Attorney's Office Involvement

The US Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota, under the leadership of B. Todd Jones, has been very helpful and committed to working with the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in helping to address violent gang crimes.

The Metro region assisted the FBI and the St. Paul Police Department in solving a drug related homicide that resulted in the federal convictions of three Detroit Boys gang members from Michigan. Two plead guilty to second-degree murder and the third was indicted on eight counts. Among the charges was first-degree premeditated murder in relation to drug traffic. This means the suspect faces life in prison without parole under federal guidelines.

Pete Dietzman, a Hennepin County Sheriff Deputy assigned to the Metro region was the co-case investigator in the case. He uncovered evidence that the trio killed the victim over an argument of how to split drugs they had obtained in an earlier robbery. The victim was killed in Minneapolis and the body was driven to a railroad yard in St. Paul where the suspects were spotted by a security officer. The suspects fled to Detroit but with the good intelligence from the MGSF and the good investigation done by the FBI and Deputy Dietzman, the suspects were located in Detroit and returned for their trial during 2000.

MGSF investigators also assisted the FBI and the St. Paul Police Department in a successful long-term title III wire tap investigation involving the interdiction of multi-kilo loads of cocaine into the Metro area. This investigation resulted in federal charges.

Along with major investigations, the Metro region of the MGSF partnered with the US Attorney's Office this year in the "Project Safety On." This initiative involves ATF and five metro County Attorneys (Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Anoka, and Dakota). This project is designed to ensure that all criminals found in possession of guns will face either state or federal charges as appropriate. The MGSF paid for copies of quick reference guides to federal firearms laws. A copy of these federal firearms laws was sent to each law enforcement agency in the state of Minnesota.

The Criminal Gang Pointer File

Part of the original anti-gang initiative was to develop a statewide computer system that could track gangs and the number of "confirmed gang members." The system was to be used throughout the state as a law enforcement tool, an officer safety tool, and as a tool for the judiciary.

The BCA was originally given the task of creating the statewide system that is now currently operating out of the Metro region office in St. Paul. A MGSF analyst is responsible for this operation.

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

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

The MGSF has been very particular in setting up this Minnesota State Pointer System. All information that was entered has been carefully audited. This process started out slowly. As the database increases, however, officers are now starting to get "hits" throughout the state as they stop persons who are entered into the system as confirmed gang members.

Currently, there are 1140 "confirmed gang members" that have been entered into the system from throughout the state of Minnesota. A statistical breakdown is as follows.

Race		Gender	
American Indian	67 (5.88%)	Male	1124 (98.60%)
Asian	77 (6.75%)	Female	16 (1.40%)
Black	689 (60.44%)		
White	303 (26.58%)		

Total Number of Gang Names in the Gang Pointer File: 111

The following is a list of gangs that have been identified in the State of Minnesota that have as members at least one "confirmed gang member." The list indicates the number of confirmed gang members in each gang and will indicate race and/or ethnicity make-up of each gang.

<u>Number of Gang Members</u>	<u>Gang Name</u>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>
1	210 Thugs	Black
7	4 Corner Hustlers	Black
1	52 Broadway Crips	Black
2	603 Crips	Black
7	612 Hardcore	Asian (Hmong)
9	Almighty Vice Lords	Black
3	Aryan Brotherhood	White
4	Asian Crips	Asian (Hmong)
1	BGDN	Black
2	Black Disciples	Black
5	Black Gangsters	Black
48	Black P Stones	Black
20	Bloods	Black
3	Bogus Boys	Black
13	Bogus Boys Crew	Black
1	BPM	White (motorcycle)
5	Brown for Life	Hispanic
1	Cobras	Asian (Hmong)
18	Conservative Vice Lords	Black
2	Crazy Ass Gangsters	Black
1	Crazy Bloods	Asian (Hmong)
1	Crazy Brother Clan	Black
31	Crips	Black
13	Detroit Boys	Black
1	East Side 13	White
5	East Side GS	White
1	East Side Phoenix Crips	White
2	El Forastero	White (motorcycle)
23	Family Mob	Black
1	Floencia 13	Hispanic
1	Fresno Bulldogs	Asian
317	Gangster Disciples	Black
1	GLOC	Asian (Hmong)
9	Hell's Angels	White (motorcycle)
7	Hell's Outcasts	White (motorcycle)
2	Hill Top Hustlers	Black
2	Hmong Pride	Asian (Hmong)

<u>Number of Gang Members</u>	<u>Gang Name</u>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>
3	Hoover Deuce Crips	Black
4	Hound Boss Players	Asian
1	Hustler Crips	Black
1	Imp Gangster Disciples	Black
1	Imperial GD	Black
1	Insane Deuce	Asian
1	Insane Gangster Disciples	Black
20	Insane Vice Lords	Black
3	Jr Bloods	Asian (Hmong)
2	Klu Klux Klan	White (racist)
4	Lao Boyz	Asian (Laotian)
1	Lao Crip Boyz	Asian (Laotian)
3	Latin Gangster Disciples	Hispanic
56	Latin Kings	Hispanic
1	Loco Oriental Crips	Asian (Hmong)
1	Los Quientas Locos	Hispanic
2	Los Valientes	White (motorcycle)
1	M & M	Asian (Hmong)
8	Master Players	White
4	Masters of Destruction	Asian (Hmong)
1	Mexican Mafia	Hispanic
10	Mickey Cobra Stones	Black
23	Mickey Cobras	Black
1	National Socialist Movement	White (White Power)
1	Native Gangster Disciples	Indian
8	Native Mob	Indian
8	Native Mob Vice Lords	Indian
1	Native Rose	Indian
1	New Youngster Kings	Asian
9	Nike Mob	Black
2	Nortenos	Hispanic
3	OMB	Asian (Hmong)
2	Orchestra Albany	White
1	Oriental Boys Society	Asian
1	Oriental Killer Boys	Asian
3	Oriental Ruthless Boys	Asian (Hmong)
1	Original Crip Disciples	Asian
1	Piru Bloods	Asian (Cambodian)
1	PJ Watts	Black
3	Posse	Asian (Hmong)
11	Prison Motorcycle Brotherhood	White (motorcycle)
1	Purple Brothers	Asian (Hmong)
5	Raymond Ave Crips	Black
15	Red Cambodian Bloods	Asian (Cambodian)
1	Rollin' 20's Crips	Black

<u>Number of Gang Members</u>	<u>Gang Name</u>	<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>
5	Rollin' 30's Bloods	Black
1	Rollin' 30's Crips	Black
37	Rollin' 60's Crips	Black
2	Rollin' 90's Crips	Black
4	Royal Cambodian Bloods	Asian (Cambodian)
1	Satan's Disciples	White
38	Shotgun Crips	Black
3	Six Mob Gangsters	Black
9	Skin Heads	White (White Power)
2	Skyline Piru Bloods	Asian (Cambodian)
15	Sons of Silence	White (motorcycle)
1	Southside Sur 13	Hispanic
1	Spanish Cobras	Hispanic
5	Surenos 13	Hispanic
1	Themadones	Hispanic
4	Tiny Man Crew	Asian (Hmong)
1	Traveling Vice Lords	Black
1	Unknown Vice Lords	Black
1	Vagos Motorcycle Gang	White (motorcycle)
2	Ventura Crips	Black
144	Vice Lords	Black
1	Victoria Park Locos	Hispanic
1	Vietnamese Crazy Boyz	Asian (Vietnamese)
1	Vietnamese Crips	Asian (Vietnamese)
5	Villa Lobos	Hispanic
17	West Side Crips	Black
26	White Power	White
4	White Supremacist	White (White Power)
4	White Tigers	Asian (Hmong)

The above gangs are defined by MNSTAT.609.229.

1. An ongoing organization, association or group.
2. Including three or more persons.
3. Having a common name or common identifying symbol.
4. One of the primary activities of the gang is to commit crimes under Minn. Stat. 609.11 sub 9 (violent felony type crimes).
5. Includes members who individually or collectively engage in a pattern of criminal activity.

Obviously the numbers of confirmed gang members listed in the Gang Pointer File are not the total number of gang members living or operating in the state of Minnesota. Intelligence shows that there are many more gang members involved in criminal activity here. These are, however, the numbers generated to date using the model that was established in 1997 to keep track of and identify "confirmed gang members" in the state. Additionally, civil rights protections are built into this system.

If a person now listed as a confirmed gang member does not have contact with law enforcement for a period of time they are removed from the system. The time period currently being used is three years.

Gang Pointer File Information Generated By Law Enforcement Inquiry

As law enforcement officers make routine traffic stops around the state, they will automatically be notified if they run a check on a "confirmed gang member" that is currently in the Gang Pointer File. This information is not only an officer safety warning but it also assists the Minnesota Gang Strike Force in tracking the movement of these "confirmed gang members" around the state. It is an interesting fact that during the year 2000 there were 4,220 hits indicating a confirmed gang member was stopped at some location by a law enforcement officer in the state of Minnesota. However, the total number of gang members in the system is only at 1140 confirmed gang members. It is obvious these gang members are very mobile as they are involved in the criminal activity in the state of Minnesota.

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

009522 BCG324 FEB 02 2001 08:52:57 FEB 02 2001 08:53:17
***** WARNING - MINNESOTA CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER *****
THIS INFORMATION ALONE DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE DETENTION, SEARCH OR ARREST
OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR THE SEARCH OF ANY VEHICLE OR DWELLING
SCR/100. ORI/MNO621800. NAM/XXXXX CHARLES LAMONT. MIN/41943
DOB/19770210. SEX/M. RAC/B. HGT/600. WGT/212. EYE/BRO. HAI/BLK. DOE/20000926.
MNK/MONSTER. FBI/298864AB5.
OCA/MGSFMETRO. EOR/1,2,8.
CVS/FE. SID/MN95013413.
GNG/FAMILY MOB. SGP/NON KNOWN.
POC/MGSF METRO 651-917-4800. 19981124.
MIS/CONFIRMED CRIMINAL GANG MEMBER CONVICTED OF NARCOTICS 2 AND WEAPON
VIOLATION REMOVAL SERIAL NUMBER, USE CAUTION.

The inquiry system still tends to be a bit cumbersome when we try to do tracking information of a confirmed gang member. However, now that we have an in-house Criminal Intelligence Analyst that monitors the day to day operation of the Pointer File we are sure that the process will become simplified and we will be able to produce helpful intelligence information for all law enforcement agencies in Minnesota and across the country.

History of Minnesota Gang Strike Force

The 1997 Legislature originally funded a two-year anti-gang initiative. The 2000 Legislature then refunded this initiative for another 18 months. The Minnesota Gang Strike Force is currently part of the Governor's 2001 budget and we are working at the Legislature to refund this anti-gang project through the 2002 – 2003 fiscal years. The original law also created an advisory council that was in charge of creating a statewide law enforcement strike force to deal with the increasing violence that gang crimes were inflicting on the citizens of Minnesota. That advisory group was named the original Gang Strike Oversight Council.

The Council includes the following members and their designees:

Minnesota Attorney General – Mike Hatch
Public Safety Commissioner – Charlie Weaver
Duluth Police Chief – Scott Lyons
St. Cloud Police Chief – Dennis O'Keefe
A Representative of the MN Chief's of Police Assn. – Gary Smith (Northfield)
A Representative of the MN Sheriff's Assn. (metro) – Jim Frank (Washington County)
A Representative of the MN Sheriff's Assn. (outset) – currently vacant
MPPOA Executive Director – Dennis Flaherty
Hennepin County Sheriff – Pat McGowan
Ramsey County Sheriff – Bob Fletcher (current Chair)
Commissioner of Corrections – Sheryl Ramstad Hvass
St. Louis County Sheriff – Rick Wahlberg
Olmstead County Sheriff – Steve Borchart
Chief of Police of the St. Paul Police Department – William Finney
Chief of Police of the Minneapolis Police Department – Robert Olson
Superintendent of the BCA – Michael Campion

The Criminal Gang Oversight Council is the administrative body that ultimately directs the Minnesota Gang Strike Force. The Council selected Ron Ryan, a St. Paul Police Commander, to be the Statewide Commander. Six separate regions were created covering the state with investigators concentrating on fighting gang-related crime. There are currently 70 employees assigned to the MGSF throughout the state. The largest group is the Metro region which employs 40 people.

Mission of Minnesota Gang Strike Force

The Minnesota Gang Strike Force was created to identify, investigate, arrest and prosecute gang members engaged in “criminal activity” in the state of Minnesota. The primary goals of the MGSF are:

1. Target for prosecution individuals who are most criminally active within a gang or who hold leadership positions. The key here is “criminal gang activity.” The MGSF targets those who benefit from this gang activity, and does not target young people because of their physical appearance.
2. To coordinate proactive long term investigations on targeted gang members.
3. To react promptly to requests for assistance from other law enforcement agencies.
4. To provide peace officers and prosecutors throughout the state of Minnesota with training on tactics and techniques for investigating and prosecuting gang crimes.
5. To obtain information and intelligence regarding gang membership and related criminal activity and share that information with other law enforcement agencies in the state.
6. To ensure that the community receives information about plans, activities and decisions of the Criminal Gang Oversight Council through regular meetings with the Indian Affairs Council, the Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People, the Council on Black Minnesotans and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, and to ensure that the position of the Councils on Gang Strike Force activities is then heard by the MGSF Oversight Council.

Funding Information

An agency is eligible for up to 75% reimbursement of an officer's salary and benefits for a maximum of four officers. Additional officers may be part of the Strike Force, however, reimbursement will be for overtime costs only not to exceed \$8,400 annually per officer.

Local agencies must hire other officers to replace the officers assigned to the Strike Force and agree to a two year commitment to the project.

Some local agencies, not members of the MGSF, were awarded grants for expanding local capacity for investigating gang activity. These were awarded after the agencies submitted a detailed plan to the Oversight Council.

In order to create a region within the Minnesota Gang Strike Force, at least three separate agencies had to band together in forming a partnership region.

The legislature allotted \$6.5 million for startup of this two year program. \$5,449,000.00 was the amount budgeted for operating the MGSF for 1998 and 1999. The remaining monies were for startup costs, grants for expanding local capacity, and establishing a computerized statewide system of "confirmed" gang members, the Criminal Gang Pointer File.

NOTE: Agencies who receive grants to send officers to their regional strike forces also remain financially involved in the day to day operations. For example, each officer arrives with their basic law enforcement tools. If an officer, who is a reimbursement officer, works overtime he or she is paid by their home agency. Fuel for the vehicles is also paid for by the local agencies. Some of the larger departments are able to contribute more. For example, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department has been giving computer system support, upgrading and repairing equipment. The St. Paul Police Department has contributed an extra unmarked squad that is used during street level operations. The Minneapolis Police Department accepts no reimbursement grants, and pays the salaries and benefits for all of their nine officers assigned. It is reimbursed only for the overtime its' officers work, not to exceed \$8,400 per person per year. Smaller communities, such as Marshall, who find it difficult to pay the 25% required support of an investigators, actually accept money from neighboring communities so the area can have an active MGSF investigator working on gang crimes.

These examples show that Minnesota's strategy to combat the criminal activities caused by gangs is truly a cooperative effort by law enforcement agencies throughout the state of Minnesota.

A Review of Some Selected Investigations by Region

The following are selected summaries of completed investigations. It is not meant to be a complete list of MGSF investigations rather, these are examples from each of the regions as to the types of investigations and types of illegal activities being committed by different criminal gangs in the areas.

Metro Region

Criminal Sexual Conduct I

The Roseville Police Department asked for assistance in a gang rape that happened in a local motel. MGSF investigators identified and arrested at least fifteen OMB (Oroville Mono Boys) gang members in connection with the rape of a 15 year old girl. Although the victim could not identify anyone, investigators obtained five confessions. Two of the suspects were juveniles and pled guilty in Ramsey County and are currently serving 12 – 18 months in a juvenile facility. The other three pled guilty to CSC I, Crime committed for the benefit of a gang. They are serving 12 – 18 months in a juvenile facility but will have 100 months adult prison time pending as probation.

This was a case that was successfully completed by the work of several agencies that include: MGSF, Minneapolis Police Department, St. Paul Police Department, Roseville Police Department, Brooklyn Center Police Department, Anoka County Sheriffs, Ramsey County Sheriffs and Burke County Sheriffs in North Carolina.

Homicide

A Metro investigator worked as the “case agent” for the Minneapolis homicide unit on this case, tried in Hennepin County. A group of four Purple Brothers gang members saw the two victims breaking into one of their cars. They gave chase as the victims fled. One of the gang members produced a hand gun and began firing at the two as they tried to get away. One of the two was fatally shot in an alley. Critical information was obtained from MGSF intelligence information as to the identity of the gang members involved.

In a plea argument, one gang member received 10 years and 4 months for second-degree unintentional murder. Another was sentenced to 3 years and seven months and could be deported to his native Laos after serving his sentence. The cases against the two juveniles involved were handled in Hennepin Juvenile Court.

Double Homicide

Metro investigators were able to assist the Austin Police Department when they discovered Gangster Disciples gang members from St. Paul were involved in a double homicide. The case involved an apparent robbery of a group of Hispanic roofers who were working in the area and who had a large amount of money on their person. Again, MGSF intelligence information provided investigators with suspects to the homicide and the shooter was located by Metro investigators and arrested in St. Paul.

Four persons were charged with the two murders. The case will be prosecuted by the Minnesota Attorney General's Office under the direction of the gang prosecutors assigned to the MGSF. Early indications are that a number of other crimes in addition to the two homicides may be resolved. (Drug fire on the murder weapon revealed ten matches to other aggravated assaults.)

Homicide for Hire

Another significant case the Metro investigators were involved with was a homicide that took place at Mounds Park in St. Paul. MGSF investigators responded with St. Paul Police Officers to the scene. When they arrived they recognized the names of some of the persons involved as being connected to local gangs. Investigators located persons with inside information about the suspect and developed information as to the whereabouts of the shooter. They made arrests and obtained statements that lead to the charging of three persons with murder.

The case will be tried by Ramsey County. It is a murder for hire case where the husband hired two young men to shoot his wife so he did not have to make child support payments after he left his wife. He held the child as the shooter shot his wife in the head. It was supposed to look like a robbery.

Northeast Region

Conspiracy to Sell Drugs

Northeast investigators along with the DEA developed information that Black Gangster gang members from Milwaukee, WI, were trafficking crack cocaine and brown heroin to Minnesota. The gang selected Duluth as their distribution point. As they traveled from Milwaukee they would deal in specific areas in the city of Duluth. The gang members had a very organized operation and each was responsible for drug sales in the area and were also assigned enforcers to work with the dealers.

The MGSF worked with the Lake Superior Drug Task Force as well as other federal, state and local agencies on this long-term investigation. This past May in a predawn raid, 28 defendants were arrested for drug charges. Seven of the Black Gangster gang members were charged with crimes committed for the benefit of the gang as well as conspiracy to sell drugs. St. Louis County Attorney's Office is handling the charges.

Fire Bombing

Northeast investigators were called in to help Superior Police (Wisconsin) during the murder trial of the local leader of the Imperial Gangsters. During the trial Douglas County Wisconsin District Attorney Blank had his home fire bombed in the middle of the night as his family slept. Two suspects had painted Imperial Gangster graffiti on the garage before they threw fire bombs through the window. Blank was able to get his wife and three year old daughter out of the house before it was totally engulfed in flames.

The bombing occurred two days before the murder trial of Alejandro Rivera, the local leader of the Imperial Gangsters. He had previously called a local television station who interviewed him from jail. At that time, he threatened Blank and anyone else who testified against him. Rivera has since been found guilty of first-degree homicide. Two suspects were convicted of the fire bombing.

Southeast Region

Assault for the Benefit of a Gang

Southeast investigators assisted the Olmsted County Attorney's Office in its first successful prosecution of a crime committed for the benefit of a gang. The case developed after a high ranking Vice Lord gang member assaulted a lower ranking member while they were both being held in the Olmsted County Jail.

Investigators provided the intelligence background needed as well as testimony in the case. They were called to testify as gang experts to help support prosecutors successful case.

Kidnapping/Homicide

Southeast investigators were asked by the Chicago Police for help in locating a Black Gangster street gang member who had setup residence in Rochester after fleeing Chicago. After developing information as to the suspects whereabouts, investigators assisted the FBI Fugitive Task Force in the apprehension of the fugitive. The suspect was a high ranking member of the Black Gangsters street gang. He was wanted for aggravated kidnapping and was also a suspect in a homicide that followed the kidnapping.

Robbery/Assault

MGSF investigators were assigned a case that involved a robbery and assault involving members of the Vietnam Vets Motorcycle gang. Members of this group had assaulted and robbed several sets of colors from the Incounty Vets Motorcycle Club while they were at a veterans motorcycle rally in Rochester. Their investigation uncovered information that this incident had been planned and allowed, or "blessed" by the Minnesota Motorcycle Club Coalition and Minnesota Hells Angels. Members of the Vietnam Vets were charged with third degree assault, aid and abetting aggravated robbery, and third degree riot. Apparently, there is an ongoing power struggle in the area between the motorcycle groups and clubs.

Central Region

R.I.C.O. Case

Central investigators continue to work on an 11-defendant racketeering case. This has been a long-term investigation that has taken over two years to complete. The defendants are Mickey Cobra and Black P Stone gang members who have set up a crack cocaine distribution operation from their home base in Chicago.

Their criminal enterprise was setup so that their trafficking by-passed the metro areas of the state and they traveled right to mid-Minnesota. Most of their criminal activities were between St. Cloud and the Fargo/Moorhead areas.

This RICO case (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) is being prosecuted by the Assistant Attorney's General assigned to the MGSF. They had previously prosecuted three of these Mickey Cobra gang members after they made terroristic threats against the life of the Regional Commander from the Central region. These threats were made in attempt to stop this investigation.

Homicide

Central investigators continue to assist the St. Cloud Police Department with a drive-by shooting between Gangster Disciples and Black P Stone gang members. This shooting was precipitated by arguments over competition of drug sales at a downtown St. Cloud bar. This shooting resulted in three members of the Gangster Disciples being shot, one fatally.

The case is a difficult one because of the gang code of silence. The victims will not cooperate with police. The case remains active, however, after the Central region investigators recently recovered the weapon used in the homicide. It is noteworthy to add that several persons involved in this homicide, from both sides, have since been arrested and convicted of the sale of crack cocaine in the St. Cloud area. They will not be leaving the area in the near future.

Southwest Region

Robbery

Investigators worked on a armed robbery at a Budget Mart in Mankato. A confirmed Gangster Disciple and a Black P Stone gang member committed the robbery. The MGSF, BCA, and Mankato Police Department worked together to solve this case.

Manslaughter

A Rolling 90's Crip gang member was found guilty of manslaughter in the Marshall area. The suspect got into a confrontation in a bar and ended up beating the victim killing him. He was sentenced to 48 months. The suspect was ID'ed when Southwest investigators worked with Metro region investigators to develop intelligence on the suspect.

Home Invasion Robbery

Southwest investigators assisted Sioux Falls, S. D. Police investigating a series of home invasions. They also worked with the Worthington Police when they determined the three suspects were Lao Boys gang members from the Worthington area. These gang members eventually pled guilty to first-degree robbery. One was sentenced to 25 years, one to 22 years, and one is still waiting sentencing.