



*This collection of open source information is offered for informational purposes only. It is not, and should not be, construed as official evaluated intelligence. Points of view or opinions are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice or the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana."*

United States Attorney's Office  
Volume 2, Issue 02

Northern District of Indiana  
Date: 02.03.06

## INDIANA STATE

### Two More Arrested at Portage High School

**01/10/06 PORTAGE, IN** | Two visitors to Portage High School East were arrested Friday, bringing the total number of arrests last week at the school to five. Police said the latest arrests were made after a 17-year-old Portage boy arrived to get his transcripts, and brought with him 18-year-old Portage resident Joseph D. Davis. Police were told Davis was flashing gang signs in the school.



Source: *The Times*

**Full Story:** [http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2006/01/10/news/porter\\_county/a6debb84cda7e8c3862570f200018adb.txt](http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2006/01/10/news/porter_county/a6debb84cda7e8c3862570f200018adb.txt)

\*\*\*\*\*

### East Chicago Joins in Crime Crackdown

**01/01/06 East Chicago, IN** | A new partnership between the East Chicago Police Department, U.S. Attorney Joseph Van Bokkelen and the federal Drug Enforcement Administration racked up more than 100 narcotics arrests in its first two months -- including a 16-year veteran East Chicago police officer and a city building inspector. The broad-based cooperation between agencies was credited with near-daily arrests of offenders with outstanding warrants on state and local charges, and with breaking major drug distribution gangs in the city's Calumet and Indiana Harbor areas. Patrol Officer Eligah Johnson and building inspector Veta Tyner pleaded guilty in December to federal charges of conspiracy to distribute cocaine, distribution of cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, and other charges. Both face 25 years in prison and \$1.2 million in fines.



Source: *The Times*

**Full Story:** [http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2006/01/01/news/top\\_news/d9a74111a35dfb22862570e90001ea3e.txt](http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2006/01/01/news/top_news/d9a74111a35dfb22862570e90001ea3e.txt)

## Prosecutor: Gang Members Consider Indy 'Little L.A.'

**01/19/06 INDIANAPOLIS, IN** | Gang activity is increasing in Indianapolis as West Coast gang members come to see the city as an appealing place to operate, Marion County Prosecutor Carl Brizzi said Thursday. Brizzi said that conclusion -- part of which he reached during a recent trip to Los Angeles to speak with authorities there about gang activity -- should prompt the state Legislature to fight back by passing tougher laws. "What they are saying in Los Angeles is they're calling Indianapolis 'Little L.A.," Brizzi said. "Literally, gang members are coming over from the West Coast, dealing in methamphetamine, dealing in different kinds of drugs, and making Indianapolis their home because it's still virgin territory. It's still open." Indianapolis police Officer Carlos Trincado concurs that gang activity in Indianapolis is becoming more frequent and more violent.



Source: The Indy Channel

**Full Story:** <http://www.theindychannel.com/news/6255691/detail.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Midwest

## Suburban Murders Escalating: Increase Since 2001 Runs Counter to Chicago's Downward Trend



**01/17/06 Chicago, IL** | The murder tally across Chicago's largest suburbs rose by more than 10 percent in 2005 prompting police to emulate tough tactics credited with reducing bloodshed in the city. The increase in towns with more than 30,000 residents has been fueled by gang activity, the flight of criminals from Chicago and creeping poverty, according to law enforcement officials and criminologists. The jump has been particularly evident in Cook County's south suburbs, where authorities have noticed an alarming spike in gang activity. Calumet City, for example, had 22 murders in the four-year period ending in 2005, double the number for the previous four years. Towns as far-flung as Elgin and Cicero also saw recent increases in murder rates after earlier declines. The number of murders in the 47 largest towns in northeastern Illinois--with a total population of about 2.6 million--has increased each year since

2002, going up to 90 in 2005 from 64 in 2001, according to a Tribune analysis of crime statistics and survey of local police departments. The jump reversed declines seen in the late 1990s. The suburban increase comes even as Chicago has decreased its murder tally to a 40-year low for the second year in a row. The murder rate in the towns surveyed by the Tribune has risen to nearly 3.5 per 100,000 population in 2005 from about 2.6 in 2001--an increase of almost 35 percent. During the same period, Chicago's murder rate per 100,000 decreased more than 32 percent, to about 15.5 from about 22.9

Source: *Chicago Tribune*

**Full Story:** <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0601170141jan17,1,282776.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true>  
(Please Right-Click Mouse and Click "Open Weblink in Browser")

### Related Reporting:

<http://austinweeklynews.1upsoftware.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=1&ArticleID=496&TM=2484.337>

## National

### The Long Night of the Taggers: A Graffiti Blitz is Followed by Cleanup

**01/01/06 Boston, MA** | More than a dozen East Boston homeowners woke up on a recent Sunday morning to find their houses splashed with the MS-13 gang moniker, evidence of a one-night graffiti blitz Boston police said may have been part of a gang initiation ritual. Houses on Meridian, Lexington, Trenton, Eutaw, and Havre streets were among those defaced with white paint during the evening of Dec. 10 and early-morning hours of the next day, police said. "This new spate of tagging could be attributed to a gang initiation, since it took place in areas where we have had trouble with 18th Street," -- a rival gang -- "in the past," said Sergeant Detective Joseph Fiandaca at the District A-7 station in East Boston. MS-13 stands for "Mara Salvatrucha 13," which roughly translates to Salvadoran Gang 13. It was founded by immigrants from El Salvador living in Los Angeles in the 1980s and has since spread across North America and south to Mexico and Central America, law enforcement officials said. Its archrival, 18th Street, is another predominantly Latino gang that got its start in the same Los Angeles district and, according to gang experts, today has outposts across the hemisphere. Both claim turf in East Boston, police said.



Source: *The Boston Globe*

**Full Story:** [http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/01/01/the\\_long\\_night\\_of\\_the\\_taggers?mode=PF](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/01/01/the_long_night_of_the_taggers?mode=PF)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Graffiti is One of Many Signs of Gang Activity

**01/03/06 Wichita, KS** | Wichita's young gang members often express themselves in graffiti -- sometimes in 7-foot-tall letters. That happened recently in north Wichita. One section is particularly telling: On Dec. 13, someone from the Surenos, a Hispanic gang from the south side, painted graffiti on a building at 26th North and Broadway. Soon after, someone from the Vato Loco Boys, a Hispanic gang from the north side, painted the number 187 over it. That number is the California penal code for homicide; the Vato Loco Boys were threatening to kill the Surenos. It's why police try to get graffiti removed quickly. Police asked that the graffiti be removed, but the property owners had to sign a document giving city crews permission to paint over it. It took about a week. Normally, police decline to discuss specific gang names or symbols; they fear it might make gangs think they are gaining credibility. But Lt. Jeff Easter, supervisor of the Wichita gang unit, shared the story behind the graffiti to help people understand the problem.



Source: *The Wichita Eagle/Kansas.com*

**Full Story:** <http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/13535976.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Youngster, Gangster: Police See More and Younger Kids in Gangs

**01/03/06 Wichita, KS** | While investigating gang violence over the past year, Wichita police encountered kids they had never seen before. Chief Norman Williams calls them the "new wave" of Wichita street gangs. They're gang members as young as 13. Some are carrying guns and committing crimes at 15. Kids hanging around gangs are even younger. Last summer, police caught a 7-year-old with gang members who were painting graffiti. Kids who are 7 are in first or second grade. The gang youth movement should concern the whole community, and yet it apparently doesn't, said Williams and Lt. Jeff Easter, head of the gang unit. Police can't even get enough people to form a community coalition against gangs. The number of young people in gangs is enough of a concern to Easter that he provided *The Eagle* a rare snapshot of



Wichita gang membership as of Dec. 15, based on a police database that tracks gang members, using intelligence gathered by officers, detectives and informants. The snapshot showed the number of "documented" gang members stands at about 1,900, up a little from last year. About 141, or 7 percent, are 17 or younger. Another 147 youths ages 13 to 17 are listed as gang "associates" because of their close ties to gangs.

Source: *The Wichita Eagle/Kansas.com*

**Full Story:** [http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/local/crime\\_courts/13535968.htm](http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/local/crime_courts/13535968.htm)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MS-13 Gang Growing Extremely Dangerous, FBI Says**

**01/05/06 Houston, TX** | In early November, the FBI and Houston police learned that six suspected members of Mara Salvatrucha, a violent Central American gang known as MS-13, were raiding a house on Liberty Street where a rival gang had stashed drugs. MS-13 — the focus of a nationwide crackdown by FBI and federal immigration agents — has become known in recent years for home invasion robberies, drug dealing and machete attacks on its enemies. But what happened in Houston on Nov. 2, FBI and Houston police officials say, has heightened concerns that MS-13 could be far more dangerous than thought. The MS-13 suspects swept through the house like a well-trained assault team, using paramilitary tactics including perimeter lookouts, high-powered weaponry (an AK-47 rifle was among the weapons recovered later), and a quick, room-by-room sweep of the house that was notable for its precision and sophistication, Houston police spokesman Alvin Wright says. When the MS-13 suspects were challenged by authorities, the result was an intense shootout that killed two suspects, identified as Juan Antonio Bautista, 29, and Jose Antonio Pino, 33. The four others were arrested and face an array of state charges, including robbery and assault. Bob Clifford, who directs the FBI unit created last year to combat MS-13, says the battle symbolized MS-13's development from a smattering of loosely organized cells across the nation to an increasingly efficient and dangerous organization that has become a significant threat to public safety.

Source: *USA Today*

**Full Story:** [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-01-05-gang-grows\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2006-01-05-gang-grows_x.htm)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Smugglers Planning to Kill U.S. Border Agents, Federal Memo Warns**

**01/10/06 LOS ANGELES, CA** | Federal officials have warned U.S. Border Patrol agents that they could be the targets of assassins hired by immigrant smugglers, according to a confidential memo obtained by the San Bernardino County Sun newspaper. "Unidentified Mexican alien smugglers are angry about the increased security along the U.S./Mexico border and have agreed that the best way to deal with U.S. Border Patrol agents is to hire a group of contract killers," the Department of Homeland Security said in a Dec. 21 Officer Safety Alert. The alert states that the smugglers intend to bring members of the Mara Salvatrucha street gang - known as MS-13 - into the country to perform the killings, The Sun reported Tuesday.



Federal officials consider MS-13, with an estimated 30,000 members in 33 states, to be one of the most dangerous gangs in the country. It was formed in Los Angeles by immigrants from El Salvador.

Source: *The Sun*

**Full Story:** [http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/northern\\_california/13590574.htm](http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/states/california/northern_california/13590574.htm)

**Related Reporting:**

<http://www.ocala.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060122/NEWS/201220352/1001/News01>

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci\\_3448828](http://www.dailybulletin.com/news/ci_3448828)

### **Asian Gangs Pose New Problems for Police**

**01/20/06 Fort Worth, TX** | It wasn't hard for police to sort out a recent drive-by shooting in northwest Fort Worth's "Laotian Village." It happened within view of a federal agent and police officers. The gunmen, police said, were Asian gang members -- the portion of the city's gang population most unfamiliar and challenging for area officers. "We don't have a ton of stuff on Asian gangs," said Sgt. Bill Beall of the Fort Worth police gang unit. "Everything is really closemouthed. We can have a hard time getting information." It's even hard to tell whether the Asian gang presence is growing, police said. Unless somebody is killed or seriously wounded, many crimes go unreported as Asian residents struggle with language barriers and wariness of outsiders. Several major clashes have come to police officers' attention in the past year, including the gang-related killing of a 21-year-old college student last year outside a Euless bowling alley. Police said two women held the student down while a man shot her in the head. Euless police Lt. W. Pavlik said investigators believe the shooting was an isolated case.

*Source: Star Telegram.com*

**Full Story:** <http://www.dfw.com/mld/dfw/news/13669943.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Mara Salvatrucha: New Breed of Street Gang Spreads Through Texas, U.S.**

**01/22/06 Abilene, TX** | It was almost half his life ago, when he was just 12 or 13, but Daniel Teran Flores remembers the beating well. A group of youths in his neighborhood, in a working-class slum of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, surrounded him one day and kicked and slapped and punched him until he consented to join a neighborhood clique. He did, after just a few minutes of being bruised and bloodied. "Eme Ese," they called it in Spanish. La Mara Salvatrucha. "All my friends went with (MS)," he explained in broken English. "So I did, too." Now 24, Flores sits in a state prison on the wind-swept prairie just outside Abilene, serving a 10-year sentence for aggravated kidnapping and aggravated robbery for abducting and threatening a member of a rival gang and his girlfriend, police say. He is one of 24 convicts locked in Texas prisons who are confirmed members of MS-13, as the gang is known. It's a burgeoning criminal enterprise that has spread into 33



states and the District of Columbia, leaving a bloody trail of vicious crimes in its wake amid persistent reports that al Qaeda might be trying to use its smuggling network to sneak terrorists into the United States. "America's most dangerous gang," officials have called it. Its epicenter of recent growth has been neighborhoods of Central American immigrants in Houston, where federal investigators say the gang's membership and crimes have mushroomed. It is now facing a multi-agency crackdown aimed at curbing its influence and violence.

*Source: American Statesman*

**Full Story:** <http://www.statesman.com/search/content/news/stories/local/01/22mara.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Gangs had Sex-and-Guns Hangout in S. Miami-Dade: Yards from a Secure Air Reserve Runway, Investigators Have Found what Appears to be a Meeting Place for Street Gangs from Around the Country**

**01/30/06 Miami Dade, FL** | Authorities believe members of nationally recognized street gangs turned two largely abandoned warehouses in South Miami-Dade into a sprawling meeting place that included rooms designated for sex, beatings, interrogations and even gun target practice. Investigators are particularly vexed because the warehouses sit just yards from the secured runway of the Homestead Air Reserve Base.

Inside one warehouse, investigators found wall after wall adorned with colorful graffiti associated with gangs more typically found in Chicago and New York. Hardly any of the graffiti in either warehouse appears painted over by rivals -- a sign investigators worry may show members meeting for some sort of unity conference. Sources close to the investigation say the discovery was first made on Jan. 17 when military police reported a fire at a warehouse situated on Miami-Dade County property just north of the air base's runway. Miami-Dade firefighters extinguished the suspicious blaze. Five people were arrested for arson and burglary, and police are checking to see if they have any gang links. A couple of days later, a Miami-Dade officer noticed signs of gang activity and notified Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Prosecutors were soon called in from the Miami-Dade State Attorney Office's gang strike force, detectives from Miami-Dade's street gang unit and a multi-agency High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area violent gang task force. The following is what they found, according to sources close to the probe. The two warehouses, just yards apart, are sprawling buildings used by Miami-Dade County for storage. Only one was damaged by fire. The federal government apparently turned the land over to Miami-Dade within the last year. One investigator characterized each building as "like a maze." In the fire-damaged warehouse, one room has a couch topped with green padding. Above it on the wall is a blackboard scrawled with the words "The Beating Couch."



Source: Miami Herald

Full Story: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/13744510.htm>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Concern Grows on Street Gangs

**01/30/06 New Jersey** | County and state authorities have lately been sending out two clear messages about gangs. One: they are growing at dangerous levels. Two: your neighborhood - and your child - could be next. Youth gangs are the No. 1 crime problem in New Jersey, says Peter Harvey, who left his post as New Jersey's attorney general earlier this month. "We have seen a dramatic increase since about 1998, 1999," Harvey said in a recent telephone interview. "They have access to weapons. Young people are carrying more firepower. You've got a phenomenon of gangs, guns and drugs."



Source: Herald News

Full Story: <http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkzJmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk2ODcxMzE4JnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mg==>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Boys & Girls Clubs of America Expands National Gang Prevention Program With Launch of New 'Valuing Differences' Curriculum: New Program Module Integrates Diversity Education Into Fight Against Gangs, Addressing Continued Spread of Gang Violence Nationwide

**01/30/06 ATLANTA, GA** | Boys & Girls Clubs of America is expanding its arsenal of resources available to its Clubs nationwide in the fight against gangs with the launch of Valuing Differences, a new program module that integrates acceptance of cultural diversity into gang prevention efforts. Valuing Differences supplements the Street SMART (Skills Mastery And Resistance Training) gang prevention program already in use at the more than 3,700 Boys & Girls Clubs nationwide.



Source: Yahoo News/ Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Full Story: <http://biz.yahoo.com/pnews/060130/clm057.html?.v=43>

**Website of Interest**

**KNOW GANGS**

<http://www.knowgangs.com/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**MS-13 on National Geographic Feb. 12, 2006**

National Geographic will explore the phenomena of gang violence with a profile of the Los Angeles-originated MS-13 gang as part of a February 12 episode of its signature series.,

Mara Salvatrucha, commonly referred to as MS-13, enforces an extensive hierarchy. Each local gang is divided into "cliques," which are further divided into smaller groups. Members range from 12-year-olds to adults. MS now includes members from many Latin countries. MS-13, is one of the largest Hispanic street gangs in the United States. The gang is estimated to have 30,000 to 50,000 members and associate members worldwide 8,000 to 10,000 of who reside in the United States. According to law enforcement officials, there are an estimated 125 cliques in 31 states and the District of Columbia.

MS-13 members typically are Salvadorians Nationals or first-generation Salvadorians Americans; however, many cliques in the United States now accept members from Belize, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico. MS-13 has been designated as an FBI, National Gang Strategy priority target group due to its propensity for violence, rapid growth, and expansion. Overall, MS 13's rapid growth, movement towards banding together, and gang's reputation for violence has facilitated its migration into new areas. Recent reporting indicates that MS-13 membership is increasing in the United States, Canada, and Mexico as the gang established new cliques and recruits new members.

The gang's rapid spread and aggressive recruitment in the United States and in several drug transit and resource countries, coupled with the extreme violence demonstrated by gang members, suggest that MS-13 will remain among the most threatening street gang in the country. Indications that previously independent cliques are forming alliances with other MS-13 cliques, as well as with other gangs to facilitate criminal activity, further heighten the threat. It would be dangerous to look at MS-13 as just another street gang.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. We are always trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of our products.

**If you have any comments, suggestions or articles that can be used in the "G.A.I.N." Newsletter please send them to:**

**L.E.C.C. Program**  
**C/O U.S. Attorney's Office**  
**5400 Federal Plaza, Suite 1500**  
**Hammond, IN 46320**  
**Phone: (219) 937-5666**  
**Fax: (219) 937-5537**

**E-mail: [ryan.holmes@usdoj.gov](mailto:ryan.holmes@usdoj.gov)**