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**POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS**

## Gangs Move, Change to Stay Ahead of Police

Article Published by WRAL5 News

**07/30/08 Raleigh, N.C.** | Two incidents in recent days, a melee at the Triangle Town Center mall and a shooting on the North Carolina State University campus, have turned a spotlight on gangs in Raleigh. Police Chief Harry Dolan said Monday that the city has a "significant" gang problem that requires a community-wide response.

Shenekia Weeks, a member of the Wake County Gang Task Force, said local gangs are changing the way the look and where they live a contrast to the stereotype of gangs carving out territories that they defend. "Gang members do not want be detected. They want to continue their criminal enterprise, so they're going to move and try to be as fluid as they can be without being detected," Weeks said.

Most gangs are relatively new to the area, and their members are young, according to Weeks and Danya Perry, a gang expert with North Carolina Communities in Schools. "We are starting to see the manifestation of the first generation of gangs rooted here in North Carolina," Perry said. Shootings and fights like the two recent incidents are taking place in high-profile places because Wake County gangs don't have roots in specific neighborhoods, he said. "The incident at the mall, that certainly was a warning flag for everybody that we need to be looking at this issue because it's spilling over," he said.

Communities need to offer more after-school activities and jobs for teens to begin fixing the problem, gang experts said. "I think most gang experts will tell you that we're probably five years behind what's really going on," Perry said.

**Source:** <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/3305482/>

*New Trend-Imagine getting a report of a suspicious person selling drugs on the street corner and when you get to that particular corner, you encounter 15 people all wearing the same clothes like these four individuals (Photo Right).*



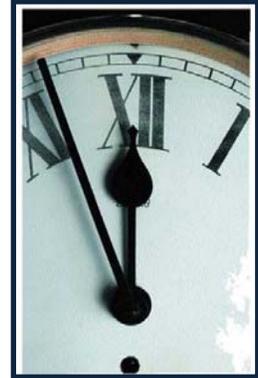
## Hammond Cracking Down on Curfew

Article published by The Times

**07/31/2008 Hammond, IN** | Young people in Hammond have an hour earlier curfew under a newly adopted ordinance. Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. said he will sign the document this week after council members voted unanimously on its adoption Monday.

The ordinance exempts certain categories of teens: those married or accompanied by an adult; coming from school, work or religious events; exercising Constitutional rights such as assembly or freedom of speech; engaging in nonprofit or governmental recreation, education or training with an adult; or traveling within Indiana to another state. Under the new ordinance, it is unlawful for those 15, 16, and 17 who do not fall under the exemptions to be in a public place in Hammond at any time between midnight and 5 a.m. on weekends.

Mondays through Thursdays, the teens are to be off the streets from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. Curfew hours for children younger than 15 years old is 10 p.m. on any day, but they are subject to the same exceptions.



"Hopefully, this will cut down on the number of kids roaming around the city doing graffiti, damaging property and mailboxes," said City Attorney Kris Kantar. The penalties for curfew are up to a \$2,500 fine per violation, but may also include restitution for damages done or community service, Kantar said.

McDermott said the fines for violation will go the city's general fund. "This would be a local ordinance violation and any penalty dollars will come back to Hammond," he said. McDermott called the 10 p.m. curfew a "very reasonable time." "I have four children and two are teenagers, and they are never out walking around after 10 p.m.," said the mayor. "There is no need for that."

The new law helps police officers enforce against gangs, drug sales and crime, officials said. Kantar said residents complained about gang activity and vandalism to McDermott during Mayor's Night Out in June.

Councilwoman Kimberly Poland, who sponsored the ordinance, said the former curfews were 11 p.m on weekdays and 1 p.m. on weekends. State law allows the city to advance curfew hours up to two hours. The approved final reading of the ordinance made the language in Hammond's curfew laws align with the state's language, Poland said. "There are too many children running around way past midnight and we want to cite them for something to get them off the streets," Poland said.

*Source: The Times*



## E.C. Chief: Gangs Getting More Brazen

Article published by The Times

**07/24/2008 East Chicago, IN** | Gangs are growing bolder in East Chicago, a trend illustrated by a brazen daytime homicide near a parade route Sunday afternoon, Police Chief Angelo Machuca Jr. said. "It's time for citizens to take our streets back," Machuca said. "Parents have got to get involved. Even when your child says he is not in a gang, watch out for the signs."



Police believe a gang rivalry sparked the fatal shooting of Henry Gonzalez, 22, of Hammond, one block west of the Puerto Rican parade route on Indianapolis Boulevard, Machuca said. Police say Gonzalez was a member of the Latin Kings street gang. Investigators on Wednesday were waiting for ballistics lab results, Machuca said. Officers arrested a "person of interest" Sunday, but he was released without charges. Police may return to that person as a suspect later, depending on the lab results, Machuca said.

Machuca said he saw people along the parade route showing the markings of gang membership shortly before someone gunned down Gonzalez on a city sidewalk at 1:40 p.m. Sunday. "They're just getting bolder," Machuca

said. In the area where Sunday's slaying took place, children played in parks and yards on a cloudless Wednesday afternoon while a priest gave a Spanish-language Mass at St. Mary Catholic Church. Around the corner, plainclothes officers kicked through lawns in the 4300 block of Magoun Avenue, where Gonzalez was shot on the west sidewalk.

"My little grandson was walking out here. He could have gotten the bullet," said a woman on Magoun Avenue, whom The Times chose not to identify. "Bullets don't have no eyes."

*Full Story: [http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2008/07/24//news/top\\_news/docb95fc92dc93efc9386257490000eb277.txt](http://www.nwitimes.com/articles/2008/07/24//news/top_news/docb95fc92dc93efc9386257490000eb277.txt)*



## Graffiti Cases May Signal Bigger Issue for Neighborhoods

Article published by the WSTB

**07/16/2008 South Bend, IN** | It's an epidemic that's already grown to record proportions on South Bend's west side. But now, some are worried graffiti may also be a sign of a much larger problem: an increase in gang activity. The numbers are staggering. "We have painted over 282 sites already this year," said South Bend Weed and Seed Coordinator Mark Dollinger. Last year it was 290 for the whole year." And those 282 sites are only in the city's 2nd and 6th districts, where Weed and Seed grant money has funded cleanup efforts. South Bend Police estimate an additional 200 graffiti sites haven't even been touched yet.



But some say paint isn't the only problem. They're worried that gangs are behind the rapid increase in "tags," and that has some living in high graffiti areas worried. "There's graffiti everywhere," said Sandra Hernandez, whose home just off Western Avenue has been "tagged" several times this summer.

From houses and garages to stop signs and even trees, it seems nothing has been left untouched by a spray can. "We don't know what time they do it. You don't know if they're around your house, walking down your yard. But it sure seems like there's more gangs around. Because you see different signs everywhere," said Hernandez.

City cleanup crews are working to paint over them, but even with two employees now painting full-time, 5 days a week, Dollinger says they just can't keep up. "That's a major concern," he said. "Because many of the tags out there are identifying the certain gangs that are out there."

*Full Story: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/25540184.html#>*



*Regional* ★

## "Supreme Inca" Gang Leader Convicted

Article published by the Sun Times

**07/23/2008 Chicago, IL** | He lived with his mom, but Fernando "Ace" King was the "Supreme Inca" of the Latin Kings, prosecutors say. King -- allegedly No. 2 in the Chicago street gang -- was convicted Tuesday, July 22, 2008 by a federal court jury of drug conspiracy and attempted cocaine distribution. He faces at least 20 years in prison when he's sentenced Dec. 3 by U.S. District Judge David Coar. "He was identified in court as the 'Supreme Inca' of the Latin Kings, who only reported only to one other category of people, who were identified as the 'Corona,' " Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Porter said.



King, 38, was arrested two years ago as part of federal authorities' Operation Broken Crown probe. During the investigation, an informant went to King's Paisanos Taqueria at 8242 S. Kedzie, reached into his jacket, said "Merry Christmas" and handed King a fake kilogram of cocaine, according to the charges against him. That informant was

earlier sentenced to 10 years in prison for attempted murder in a Cook County case and five years in prison in Texas for investing drug money.

King, a bachelor who lived with his mother, ran the day-to-day operations of the Latin Kings in Chicago, ATF Special Agent Tom Ahern said, calling Tuesday's guilty verdict a "significant" hit to the gang.

King's attorney, Joseph Lopez, said he'll appeal the conviction, citing a note jurors sent the judge saying they worried about their safety once the trial ended. "It's clear they were not thinking about the case," Lopez said.

*Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/24-7/1069804,CST-NWS-kings23.article#>*



## 49 Immigrants Arrested in Federal Anti-Gang Effort: Federal Campaign Takes Aim at Street Organizations

Article published by the Chicago Tribune

**07/18/2008 Chicago, IL** | Federal agents have arrested 49 immigrants in the Chicago area, part of an ongoing effort to crack down on foreign-born gang members, officials announced Friday, July 18, 2008.

Of those arrested in a four-day sweep that ended Wednesday, July 16, 2008, 47 are thought to be members or associates of seven different gangs, according to the Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency, or ICE. All but one were in the country illegally, the release said. Nine had been deported before. One of the detainees was from Guatemala, and the rest were from Mexico, officials said.

The arrests occurred in Cicero, Melrose Park, West Chicago, Wheeling, Mt. Prospect and surrounding areas, said Gail Montenegro, an ICE spokeswoman.



"Street gangs pose a growing public safety to communities throughout this area," Gary Hartwig, Special Agent in Charge of ICE investigations in Chicago, said in the release. "We will not tolerate violent gang activity in our communities, and will use all of our law enforcement tools to thwart criminal efforts of street gangs."

Since February 2005, ICE has arrested 8,900 gang members nationwide, officials said.

*Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-iceraid19jul19,0,3515045.story>*



## NFL Hiring Experts to Spot Gang Signals

Article published by FoxSports.com

**07/16/2008** | Concerned that some of its players are flashing signals related to street gangs, the National Football League has hired experts to examine game tapes and identify the hand gestures, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

"There have been some suspected things we've seen," NFL vice president of security Milt Ahlerich told the *Los Angeles Times*. "When we see it, we quietly jump on it immediately, directly with the team and the player or employee involved to cease and desist. Period." Ahlerich says the NFL has long warned its players about the influence of gangs. Concern intensified after Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams was gunned down following an altercation involving known gang members in 2007.

The concern was raised with first-year players at the recent rookie symposium, and a video on the dangers of gangs was shown to every player in the league last year. "Guys come from all over the country, and who knows

what they're really doing?" Jacksonville Jaguars receiver Dennis Northcutt told the paper. "People have got signs for their kids, signs for their fraternities. How do you differentiate who's really throwing up gang signs?"

Northcutt gave an example. "This is a gang sign," he said, touching his index finger to his thumb to form a squished OK sign. "But at the same time, it's a sign for a personnel group."



Mike Pereira, the NFL's vice president of officiating, said the gang experts being consulted by the league take those factors into account. They are looking for "symbols, clothing, jewelry or other items that would signify an association with criminal gang enterprises," Ahlerich said. Game officials will not be asked to identify gang signals but will alert league headquarters of anything suspicious they see.

League executives did not specify how offenders will be punished, but Pereira said, "It will be dealt with harshly. The commissioner is not going to stand for gang signals on the field."

The NFL took further notice of the issue after Paul Pierce of the NBA's Boston Celtics was fined \$25,000 in April for what the league said was a "menacing gesture" toward the Atlanta Hawks' bench. "I 100 percent do not in any way promote gang violence or anything close to it." Pierce said in a statement. "I am sorry if it was misinterpreted that way at Saturday's game."

*The Times* said that was the precipitating incident for the NFL. "We were always suspicious that might be happening," it quoted Pereira as saying of gang-related signals. "But the Paul Pierce thing is what brought it to light. When he was fined . . . that's when we said we need to take a look at it and see if we need to be aware of it."

Other leagues have varying policies on aspects of the gang issue. The Pac 10 Conference created a rule in 1992 prohibiting football players from wearing bandannas and allowing them to wear elastic skullcaps only if they were in the school's primary colors or black.

Major League Baseball has a policy related to merchandising, and forced New Era to pull New York Yankees caps last year because they featured gang colors and logos.

According to the paper, an NHL spokesman said the league has a policy against inappropriate gestures but has never employed a gang expert.

*Source: <http://msn.foxsports.com/nfl/story/8350038/NFL-hiring-experts-to-spot-gang-signals#>*



## MySpace Making it Easier to Join Gangs

Article published by the Philly Metro

**07/25/2008 Philadelphia, PA** | The act of getting initiated into the Erie Avenue Mob is probably not easy — or possible for law-abiding people. But reaching out to them about joining "Da Mob" is as simple as surfing MySpace and reaching out to any one of the several profiles that promote the gang.

The street gang, one of many in North Philadelphia, has for its real world recruiting grounds the area around Simon Gratz High School, not far from the territory they claim surrounding Broad Street and Erie Avenue. The gang's driving motivations are succinctly stated in its custom-made logo appearing on many members' MySpace pages. The logo shows two Uzis crossed like an "X" and two clenched hands grasping dollar bills. Underneath it reads, "Drugs. Guns. Money."



Many in the gang can be seen in photos throwing the gang's sign — an "E" made by curling the index finger towards the thumb (Photo Left From MySpace)— in the hallways of Simon Gratz. The Philadelphia

School District is aware of the easily seen gang pages, a district spokesman said. "It's a definite concern," spokesman Vincent Thompson said. "But we have 167,000 students in the district, and the vast majority of them aren't involved in this kind of behavior." He added that the district's disciplinary policy on cyber-bullying is clearly outlined in the Code of Student Conduct, where he said serious offenses can result in expulsion. There's a group on MySpace connecting Erie Avenue Mob members and their admirers that claims no less than 169 members. None of them can access the gang's page from inside Simon Gratz, Thompson said. "There are filters on all school district computers that block access to MySpace and other websites like it," he said, adding that what they do outside school is unknown.

*Source: [http://philly.metro.us/metro/local/article/MySpace\\_making\\_it\\_easier\\_to\\_join\\_gangs/13120.html](http://philly.metro.us/metro/local/article/MySpace_making_it_easier_to_join_gangs/13120.html)*



## Inmates Injured in Gang Violence at County Jail

Article published by the Herald News

**07/27/2008 Paterson, NJ** An inmate of the Passaic County Jail remained hospitalized Saturday with a broken jaw following an incident of gang violence that left eight inmates injured and forced officials to lock down the facility for more than four hours, authorities said.

Three inmates were taken to St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center after two fights erupted in the same fourth-floor dormitory around 6 p.m. on Friday, said Bill Maer, spokesman for the Passaic County Sheriff's Department.

Alvin Roman, 39, of Paterson and another inmate, unidentified because he is considered a victim, were treated and released on Saturday for lacerations. The inmate with a broken jaw also was unidentified for the same reason, Maer said. That inmate was expected to return to the jail by Saturday evening after his jaw was wired.

Five other injured inmates were treated at the jail's medical facility. No department staff members were hurt.

The Sheriff's Department was investigating why Roman, a known gang member, took two sharpened instruments and attacked two other inmates in dormitory 4-G-1 at 6:18 p.m. Friday, Maer said.

Two corrections officers ordered Roman to drop his weapons and the other two inmates to stop fighting. When they refused, the officers subdued them with chemical agents and removed them from the dorm.

Soon after, eight inmates assaulted five other men in the same area. The fight resulted in five inmates being injured, including two who were brought to the hospital.

"When inmates see instability they try to capitalize on it," Maer said of the second fight. "Fights among inmates are an everyday occurrence. When you have a significant amount of people in a confined area, these incidents are fairly regular."

*Full Story: [http://www.myheraldnews.com/view.html?type=stories&action=detail&sub\\_id=40365](http://www.myheraldnews.com/view.html?type=stories&action=detail&sub_id=40365)*



## Three MS-13 Members Plead Guilty to Involvement in Racketeering Conspiracy

Article published by the United States Department of Justice via PRNewswire

**07/28/2008 Nashville, TN** | Three leaders of La Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, pleaded guilty to participation in a racketeering enterprise, Acting Assistant Attorney General Matthew Friedrich of the Criminal Division and U.S. Attorney Edward M. Yarbrough for the Middle



District of Tennessee announced today.

At the plea hearing on July 28, 2008, in Nashville, Tenn., before Chief U.S. District Judge Todd J. Campbell of the Middle District of Tennessee, Oscar Serrano, a/k/a "Diablin," Escolastico Serrano, a/k/a "Chito," and Ronald Fuentes, a/k/a "Spia," admitted that as leaders of the MS-13 gang, they conspired with others to participate in a pattern of racketeering activity in the Nashville metropolitan area, that included murder, attempted murder and witness tampering. In addition to personally committing various acts of violence, the three defendants admitted they exercised leadership by enforcing the rules of MS-13 and inciting other members to attack and kill rival gang members.

The three leaders were scheduled to go to trial on the RICO indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Jan. 10, 2007. Four other defendants were previously sentenced to lengthy prison terms after pleading guilty to the RICO conspiracy. Walter Hernandez was sentenced on March 31, 2008, to 324 months in prison. On Dec. 3 and Dec. 7, 2007, respectively, Henry Garballo-Vasquez and Jose Alfaro were sentenced to 240 months in prison. On Nov. 20, 2007, Geovanni Pena received a sentence of 235 months in prison. As part of his guilty plea, Escolastico Serrano has agreed to be sentenced to 45 years in prison. At sentencing scheduled for Sept. 26, 2008, Oscar Serrano and Ronald Fuentes both face sentences ranging from 30 years in prison to life in prison.

The MS-13 street gang is a violent international criminal organization composed primarily of immigrants or descendants of immigrants from El Salvador. As alleged in the indictment, the purpose of the racketeering enterprise was to preserve and protect the power, territory and profits of the MS-13 enterprise through violent assaults, murder, threats of violence and intimidation.

"Today's plea details the murder, intimidation and violence caused by criminal gangs such as MS-13 and underscores our commitment to bring such offenders to justice," said Acting Assistant Attorney General Matthew Friedrich. "By combining the resources and expertise of local, state and federal law enforcement, we can and we will disrupt and dismantle violent criminal enterprises like MS-13."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jimmie Lynn Ramsaur of the Middle District of Tennessee and Trial Attorney John Han of the Criminal Division's Gang Squad.

U.S. Attorney Yarbrough praised the efforts of prosecutors Ramsaur and Han saying, "These convictions of dangerous gang-related criminals come after many months of hard work by law enforcement officers from local and federal agencies. Ramsaur and Han, along with the entire team that put this case together, deserve the gratitude and respect of all Middle Tennesseans. Our office will continue to place strong emphasis on prosecution of gang members and individuals who pose a threat of violence in our community."



The case was investigated by the Nashville Metropolitan Police Department's Gang Suppression Unit; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security; the Davidson County District Attorney General's Office; the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Middle District of Tennessee; and the Criminal Division's Gang Squad.

**Source:** <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story/three-ms-13-leaders-plead-guilty/story.aspx?guid=%7B86E3EF2D-FBDB-4DC6-A696-6D3E020CDB41%7D&dist=hppr>



## Feds Visit Homes of Alleged Gang Members Room

Article Published by WTXF Fox 29 News

**07/31/08 Philadelphia** | With the skyscrapers of center city off in distance, undercover officers and federal agents gathered in South Philadelphia. They came as part of a crackdown on gang activity. Their target is a notorious Asian street gang. "Tiny Rascal Gang is their name and there's nothing humorous. It's a violent gang known for being involved in shootings. We use all caution with them," said Lt. Ed Zongolowicz of Criminal Intelligence

Unit.

Investigators from the Criminal Intelligence Unit, FBI and ATF fanned out across South Philly. Their plan was to visit the homes of 47 known TRG gang members or associates. At each home, officers knocked, and then entered with interpreters and a message for gang members or their parents.



"Our primary objective is to go out there and issue a warning to them that the investigation shows that they could be a likely target of violence," said Lt. Zongolowicz.

An alleged TRG member was taken into custody. He had an outstanding warrant for being a scofflaw. He wasn't too happy about being arrested, but he went quietly.

These visits by police were prompted by half a dozen shootings and murders in recent months. The goal here is to prevent more gang related violence. "We're not going to tolerate retaliatory shootings. We're worried about not only them. We're worried about other people that may be caught up in this violence and we're trying to stem it," said Lt. Zongolowicz. TRG has roots in South Philadelphia dating back to the mid 90s. Gang tags have popped up on corners near 15th and Moore and 6th Street near another gang known as D-Block. "There is definitely an increase or an influx in gang activity in this city and we're trying to curtail that," said Chief Inspector Bill Colarulo of Philadelphia Police.

All of the gang-related intelligence information gathered from gang members and officers on Thursday's detail will be loaded into a huge criminal database. It will then be passed along to officers on the street so they have the most up-to-date available information on this gang the next time violence breaks out.

Source: <http://www.myfoxphilly.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=7107997&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>



*Special Feature* 

## **Gang Members in the Emergency Room**

Article published by the Police Magazine

07/23/2008 | Have you ever thought about this one?

One night you are one of the police units in your city responding to a gang fight call. The first units arriving broadcast that a gang shooting has just occurred with several wounded gunshot victims. But you are diverted to respond to the local hospital because an anonymous source called claiming that gang members are rushing their critically wounded to the emergency room.

On your way to the hospital, you see several vehicles ahead of you speeding through the streets, running stop signs, and finally pulling into the hospital emergency room parking lot. Your one-man-unit approaches the vehicle closest to the emergency room doors as several very emotional gang members are dragging an obviously dead homeboy out of the car.

Suddenly you hear shouting from another car behind you. These gangsters are also getting out of their cars, and they also have a wounded homeboy. The air is charged with tension and taunts, threats, and challenges are exchanged.

You are now in the middle of a kill zone between two rival and highly agitated gangs. You watch in slow motion as they drop their wounded and draw their guns. It is as though they cannot even see you or recognize your uniform or police vehicle. You are not the intended target, but you could easily be collateral damage.

This scenario is taken from an incident that actually occurred at the Los Angeles County General Hospital and resulted in an officer-involved shooting in the emergency parking lot. The officer was a member of the Los Angeles County Police Department, the agency that works the county hospitals.

As a gang detective, I once responded to another local hospital trauma center to get a statement from a gunshot victim. He had just barely survived a gunshot wound and an emergency room procedure and was in the Intensive Care Unit.

The hospital security guard led me to ICU, and we both were startled to see my “victim” rolling around on his hospital bed dragging his I.V. bottle and electronic monitoring wires, jousting with another patient in a similar bed with similar lines trying to pull the tubes and wires from each other.



When we separated them, we learned that they were suspect/victim and members of rival gangs. This problem continued to grow for the hospital over the next few days because both patients’ homeboys and home girls began coming to the hospital to visit their own wounded, and would run into members of the other gang. Eventually hospital security had to be assigned and stationed in front of each of their rooms.

On another occasion, a gang member was brought to the Martin Luther King emergency room under the influence of phencyclidine (PCP) by his homeboys. Officers of the Los Angeles County Police searched the gang member and then strapped him to a gurney in the very busy emergency room. There were, in fact, several PCP overdoses and wounded gang members in the emergency room and hall ways on this night.

This particular gang member was not my charge; I was there with a different gang member who was being cleared for booking by hospital staff. Another Deputy from the Special Enforcement Unit, Steve Nelson, was having another arrested gang member checked out when we both heard screams coming from the emergency room.

The gang member who was under the influence of PCP and strapped to the gurney by the County Police had a pocket knife and had somehow cut himself free from his leather restraints. He had already stabbed the attending emergency room physician and jumped off the gurney to slash a second staff member.

Dep. Nelson and I gave chase in the crowded emergency room. The suspect swung the knife at anyone he passed near enough to reach. We drew our pistols but had no chance of a clear shot in the emergency room and hallway. We ran through the corridors and hallways out to the very crowded lobby.

As the suspect ran outside to the parking lot, we split up, chasing him around several large metal CONEX-style boxes. The suspect charged Nelson with the knife, and Nelson put a very quick but controlled three rounds into his center mass just below the ribs and right of center line.

To Nelson’s and my amazement, the very same emergency room staff that this violent gang member had attacked came out to the parking lot to save his life.

Despite the friendly staff with good attitudes, hospitals are not usually happy places. Domestic violence, child abuse, rape, attempted suicides, gang assaults, and drug overdoses are just a few of the problems encountered in the average day in a busy hospital. If you expect to frequent such a place, do not let your guard down.

Find out if the hospital has a police force or private security officers. Introduce yourself to them and learn their hospital procedures before an emergency occurs. Don’t disrespect them, even if you think that they are only private security guards. Remember you are in their house. If you get into trouble, it will most likely be them coming to your aid as first responders.

Many modern hospitals are equipped with metal detectors and X-ray systems to scan bags and purses. In addition some hospitals require everyone to be stopped, searched, and wanded with a handheld metal detector before entering the building. This is accomplished under implied consent laws and hospital regulations.

However, some hospitals exclude doctors and staff from this requirement. Make yourself aware of the procedures at this checkpoint because it will be one of the possible points where trouble will occur.

When you get to the emergency room, study how it is laid out. Where is the trouble likely to come from? Where are the phones? What code system is the staff using? For example, Code Blue = cardiac arrest.

Talk to the regular emergency room staff on all shifts, especially the Doctors and the floor nurse. Ask them to clue you in when they sense possible trouble. Offer to let them ride along with you one day if they will run you through their emergency room procedures.

Talk to the hospital security personnel about the local gangs. If you have any in your town, I will bet you can find gang graffiti on the hospital grounds. Photograph and identify the gang graffiti for the security people. Point out gang tattoos. Make it a kind of game with the security staff to identify possible gang affiliations and separate them on intake.

Suggest they establish an isolation room for possible problem patients. Talk to them about the use of handcuffs and restraints. Note: some inexperienced doctors and staff members will object to any use of restraints on a person being examined and treated in the emergency room, even a potentially dangerous gang member. Try to convince them that such a precaution is best for everyone.

When you are in the field and responding to a gang fight or shooting, try to roll the wounded to separate hospitals if possible. Talk to the paramedics about this because sometimes the victim's wounds will determine the trauma center he should be sent to.

Have the desk notify the hospital security that victims associated with this gang are on their way or roll the assisting unit with the victims to prevent clashes with the rival victims or suspects. Have the assisting unit drive through the hospital parking lot looking for the rival gang members who might be spying to find out if they made a kill or just wounded the victim.

The California Penal Code covers the crime of "Resisting public peace officers or medical technicians in the discharge of their duties," under 148 P.C. The law was designed to protect policemen and paramedics in the field, but it could be applied to emergency room situations too. Look up your state's codes on interfering, resisting, or obstructing police and medical technicians in emergency situations and see if you can use them against gangs in the emergency room.

*Source: Sgt. Richard Valdemar, Retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy*

<http://www.policemag.com/Channels/Gangs/2008/07/23/Gang-Members-in-the-Emergency-Room.aspx>

*From the Editors*



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

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

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