



# G.A.I.N.

GANG ACTIVITY INFORMATION NETWORK



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

## Police setting up database on gangs

**Officers to share reports statewide; System will rate criminal activity**

Published by the Boston Globe on November 30, 2008

**BOSTON, MA** | It was close to midnight at his 21st-birthday barbecue in Revere when Phong Tran noticed a couple of members of his former street gang by the hedges alongside the house. Tran approached the two men, members of the Piru Bloods, in the darkness.

As Tran arrived, one man swung a full beer bottle into his face. He hit Tran twice, striking him on the eye and on the temple. According to Tran and the subsequent police report, Tran staggered away, blood pouring from his head.

"You want out now, Blood? That's a violation," Tran recalled his assailant saying. Tran said he had been "beaten into" the Piru Bloods seven years earlier, by older gang members in East Boston. Now, trying to move beyond the gang into a normal adult life, Tran had been "beaten out." Or so he hoped.



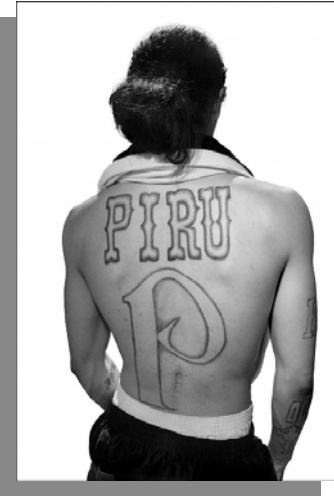
A reputed gang member had his tattoos photographed by Lynn officers, including detective Bob Hogan, after being arrested recently for a probation violation.

Law enforcement investigators across the Commonwealth are soon going to have a new tool to help investigate such incidents. In early January, the Criminal History Systems Board, a state agency responsible for the law enforcement telecommunications network, plans to launch MassGangs, a database that will store information on violent street criminals by describing such factors as associates, criminal history, and tattoos that indicate gang affiliation.

*Continued...*

This intelligence system, funded by a \$1.2 million Department of Justice grant, will allow investigators to share gang-related information in "real time," adding new data to a gang member's history as it becomes available.

"This [system] will give officers on the street the freshest information that's available" on gang members, said Curt Wood, executive director of the Criminal History Systems Board. Wood also said the database will be used by the Department of Correction, which monitors activities by "security threat groups" within the prison system.



Among many other gangs based on ethnicity, there are about 30 Asian gangs like the Piru Bloods operating in Massachusetts, with more than 1,000 members, according to a 2006 study conducted by the Commonwealth Fusion Center and the New England State Police Information Network. Today, not only in Boston, where neighborhood or "block" gangs predominate, but also in places like Revere, Lynn, Lowell, and many other communities, violent street gangs are a high priority in law enforcement.

"Gangs have risen to the number two problem after drugs in the social order," said Lieutenant John Goodwin, 46, gang unit supervisor for the Revere Police Department.

Over the past two years, analysts examined similar systems in other states, eventually developing "a collaborative tool that is unique to Massachusetts," said Wood. Investigators from the State Police, FBI, local police departments, and several other agencies participated in the development of MassGangs, according to

Wood. Investigators will use hand-held devices and facial recognition software to gather and record information, he said.

Police officers who encounter a suspect will fill out a form that assigns a point value to gang-related criteria across 17 categories, including "self admission" (five points); "known group tattoo/marking" (eight points); "group-related photo" (two points); "information from reliable/confidential informant" (five points), etc. An aggregate score of 10 or more points will register the individual as a member of a gang.

Information on those, including juveniles, who reach the 10-point mark will be maintained in the MassGangs system for 60 months. It will then be purged unless the record is updated to reflect continued gang association or activity, at which time the retention is reset to 60 months, Wood said. Access to the system is limited to law enforcement agencies, said Wood. The system will organize information that police already gather, muting issues of privacy, said one local law professor.

"If it's a violent gang, that's information the police are going to have, anyway," said Robert M. Bloom, a Boston College law professor and former prosecutor and defense attorney. "What [MassGangs] is doing is providing that information in an organized way. Does it violate someone's privacy? Yeah, but your privacy is violated every time you're arrested, and the fact that you're a member of a gang is useful to future police investigations. Once police have that information [on gang members], whether we like it or not, they share it," said Bloom. "If a crime has been committed and they think a particular individual committed that crime, would gang affiliation be useful in establishing probable cause? You betcha."

Gathering up-to-date information on gang alliances is the key to infiltrating and disrupting them, according to investigators. In Lynn, police detective Bob Hogan, 43, carries a police radio, a Nextel phone provided by the FBI North Shore Gang Task Force, and his own digital camera and iPhone in an attempt to accomplish what the new MassGangs device will do more efficiently.

"If I ever get shot, all the stuff in my pockets will probably save me," he joked.

But in January, Hogan will help enter the data on local gang members that Lynn police have assembled into the MassGangs system. Lynn's database contains between 1,500 and 1,700 profiles, according to Hogan.

"Right now, if I grab a kid from Chelsea, I have to call [Chelsea Police Detective Scott] Conley on the phone," said Hogan. "To have [MassGangs] will be a lot more convenient and contain a lot more intel."

A week after Phong Tran was attacked in late August, he visited Revere Police to file a complaint against his alleged assailant, Sarith Ron, of Chelsea. According to the police report, he lost 3 pints of blood and required 30 staples to close up the wounds on his face. His eye was swollen shut and one track of staples formed an ugly, braided question mark on his forehead. Revere gang investigator Rob Impemba and Chelsea detective Efrain Gonzalez arrested Sarith Ron on charges of mayhem and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Currently Ron is free on \$500 bail and awaiting trial.



MassGangs will allow police to track gang members moving between tightly knit ethnic communities, according to investigators. Lowell has the second-highest Asian population in Massachusetts and an active gang culture dominated by the Tiny Rascals Gang, Asian Boyz, and several sets of Bloods, according to Lowell police and the 2006 study.

**See the full story at:**

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/11/30/police\\_setting\\_up\\_database\\_on\\_gangs/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/11/30/police_setting_up_database_on_gangs/)



## Hells Angel from Indiana acquitted in 2006 gunfight

**2 men had been charged with attempted murder**

Published by IndyStar.com on November, 21, 2008

**SIoux FALLS, SD** After deliberating for most of three days, jurors acquitted two Hells Angels bikers -- one an Indiana resident -- of attempted murder in connection with a 2006 gunfight that injured rival Outlaws Motorcycle Club members.



Prosecutors said they still plan to try Chad Wilson, San Diego, and John Midmore, Valparaiso, Ind., on a conspiracy charge in the Aug. 8, 2006, shootout at Custer State Park, though the judge asked for legal briefs on whether that would be double jeopardy.

Attorneys for the state said Wilson and Midmore went to Legion Lake Resort, near a campground where the Outlaws gathered for the Sturgis motorcycle rally, opened fire and injured five people. But Wilson testified that the Outlaws confronted the two Hells Angels and that he fired in self-defense after the Outlaws started shooting.

"Justice has prevailed," one of the Hells Angels in the audience said after the verdict was read.

The injured Outlaws -- including Danny Neace, 61, Greenfield, Ind., who was hit in the back and leg and paralyzed from the waist down -- and two women with them testified but did not otherwise attend the trial.

Because Neace is charged with unrelated federal crimes in Michigan, federal and state prosecutors gave him immunity for his testimony, as they did for some other Outlaws. The case was delayed several times, including once for an appeal to the state Supreme Court that led to the appointment of Judge Gene Paul Kean, who came out of retirement.

Prosecutors Tracy Kelley and Michael Moore said they were disappointed but respected the decision of the seven women and five men on the jury.

"Obviously, some of the jurors weren't convinced, because they were out three days," Moore said. After getting the case Tuesday, jurors sent a note Wednesday indicating they couldn't reach a unanimous decision. The judge told them to keep working, and by 2 p.m. Thursday, they had a verdict.

If Wilson and Midmore stand trial on conspiracy, which carries a mandatory punishment of life in prison, the state plans to call witnesses who did not testify in the first trial about how the organizations operate and each member's role, Moore said.

Midmore has dual citizenship in Canada and Australia but is a resident alien. Wilson is a Canadian citizen and is in the country illegally.



## Stefen Rice sentenced for shooting 16-year-old

Published by NWI.com on November 14, 2008

**CROWN POINT, IN** | A bullet ricochet shattered the lives of two Gary teens.

Lake County Criminal Court Judge Diane Boswell sentenced Stefen Rice on Thursday to four years in prison for the death of 16-year-old Sade Brookshire. The Gary girl was one of four teenagers sitting in the back seat of a car when a gunshot rang out in the early morning hours of Dec. 30, 2006, outside the McDonald's at the intersection of Fifth and Grant streets in Gary.



Forensic evidence presented during 19-year-old Rice's jury trial showed the bullet went through the passenger seat, ricocheted off its head rest and into the back seat where Brookshire, Rice's twin brother, his cousin and Brookshire's best friend were all sitting. Brookshire died that morning of a gunshot wound to her chest.

Rice, who was 17 at the time, was waived to adult court on the felony reckless homicide charge. A Lake County Criminal Court jury found Rice guilty in October after about six hours of deliberation. One juror broke down and cried as she told the judge her verdict after the jury was polled.

During the trial, witnesses testified to Rice's shock when the gun went off in his hand while he was sitting in the passenger seat of the car.

"I'm sorry, I'm so sorry, I didn't know it was loaded," Brookshire's best friend Darleshia Biddings told the jury, quoting Rice's words after the shooting. Rice's sentencing Thursday was emotional for both the defendant and victim's families.

"I wish it wouldn't have happened and that you would forgive me," Rice said quietly, facing Brookshire's grandparents in the audience. Brookshire's grandmother Star Richardson said she forgives Rice for his "mistake."

Rice's father, Gary police Sgt. Kerry Rice, and Brookshire's grandparents hugged each other Thursday.

Boswell rejected a request by Rice's attorney, T. Edward Page, to issue a verdict in the reckless homicide case based on the evidence presented at trial.

"It was a good kid in a bad situation and someone he had no reason to feel badly about died," Page said. "There is not evidence that he acted recklessly. It was the result of an accident, pure and simple."

He congratulated Deputy Prosecutor Joe Curosh on a "stunning victory." Curosh said Rice was pointing the gun at the teenagers in the back when it went off.

"I don't believe the defendant intended to kill anyone," he said. "Pointing a firearm in any direction of a human being is reckless."

Rice said he will appeal his conviction.

#### **COURT TROUBLES CONTINUE**

Rice pleaded guilty in federal court to armed bank robbery, unarmed bank robbery and the use of a firearm during the course of a bank robbery for his part in region bank robberies unrelated to the reckless homicide, Lake County Deputy Prosecutor Joe Curosh said.

Several teens were charged with the robberies, including Rice's relatives.

The crimes were committed while Rice was out on bond in the reckless homicide case. Rice, 19, blamed part of it on his close relationship with his family.

"It's kind of hard to pull away from them," Rice said. "It ain't like they're my friends. They're my family." Rice has not yet been sentenced for those charges.

*Regional* ★

### **6 charged in alleged Miss.-to-Chicago gun ring**

Published by Pantagraph.com on November 5, 2008

**CHICAGO, IL** Federal agents arrested four men and searched for a fifth in Mississippi on Wednesday on charges of illegally buying guns there and bringing them to Chicago, where street gangs are eager to own high-powered firearms.

A sixth man who lives in Chicago was also charged in a freshly unsealed indictment in which federal Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives agents described the alleged interstate gun-running operation.



The ATF has put a high priority on the flow of guns to Chicago's warring street gangs from Mississippi — the No. 3 source of the 10,000 or more illegal firearms found in the city annually after Illinois itself and No. 2 Indiana, officials said.

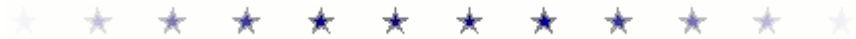
All six were charged in a criminal complaint in U.S. District Court in Chicago with conspiracy to trade in firearms whose serial numbers had been obliterated in an unsuccessful effort to prevent ATF agents from gathering evidence.

Verdeceus Dorsey, 25, and Quandrum Ross, 31, both of Shaw, Miss.; James Wadlington, 30, of Cleveland, Miss., and Willie Walls, 30, of Ridgeland, Miss., were arrested in Mississippi and appeared in U.S. District Court in Greenville. They would be brought to Chicago to answer the charges, officials said. ATF agents searched for a fifth defendant, Kevierre Weatherspoon, 31, of Cleveland who if captured would also be brought to Chicago, federal officials said. Marlan Griggley, 31, of Chicago was also charged, but was not arrested and was summoned to appear in federal court and answer the charges later, officials said.

Federal prosecutors said the names of the attorneys for the six defendants were unknown. The charges carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Griggley traveled to Mississippi from Chicago in December 2005 with an unnamed confidential witness and \$3,000 provided by ATF, according to an affidavit filed by an ATF agent in federal court. They allegedly purchased eight guns illegally. The others charged in the case allegedly bought the guns in Mississippi.

Griggley and the confidential witness were under surveillance on their way back to Chicago but were stopped by an Illinois State Police trooper and arrested after he found several alleged violations.



## Chicago gang's 'chief enforcer' gets 40 years on gun conviction

**His reaction: 'You're giving me 40 years for guns?'**

Published by the Chicago Sun Times on November 12, 2008

**CHICAGO, IL** | The reputed chief enforcer of the Gangster Disciples in the Chicago area has been ordered to spend 40 years in prison for illegally purchasing guns in northwest Indiana. Bernard Ellis, 41, of Country Club Hills, seemed surprised by the long prison term handed down Monday.



"You're giving me 40 years for guns?" Ellis exclaimed, insisting he never killed anyone. He told the judge the sentence was "crazy" and said he'll appeal. But U.S. District Judge Robert L. Miller Jr. said the sentence was justified, calling Ellis an "armed career criminal."

In May, a federal judge in Chicago had sentenced Ellis to seven years in prison for possession of firearms by a felon. That judge didn't give Ellis the maximum 20-year sentence then, in part, he said, because he found "redeeming" qualities in him.

In 2004, Chicago police recovered a gun from Ellis after arresting him on charges he beat his girlfriend and her daughter. Tests linked the gun to a killing earlier that year. But Ellis hasn't been charged in that slaying, which remains under investigation.



## Man fatally shot leaving gang member's funeral

Published by the Chicago Sun Times on November 21, 2008

**CHICAGO, IL** | A 29-year-old man was killed late Thursday after being shot leaving a gang member's funeral in the South Side's Gage Park neighborhood, police said.

The shooting happened at 7:41 p.m. in the 5200 block of South Kedzie Avenue, according to police News Affairs. The man was leaving a funeral home parking lot following a gang member's funeral when someone fired shots, striking the man. The shooter then fled the scene, police said.

Neal Zarei, of the 4600 block of South Winchester Avenue, was pronounced dead at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County at 8:17 p.m., a Cook County Medical Examiner's spokesman said.

Police said the shooting was gang-related but no one was in custody at 5:30 a.m. Friday. Wentworth Area detectives are investigating.



## Teenagers protest Chicago police getting high-power rifles

**Department says guns aren't in use yet**

Published by the Chicago Tribune on November 21, 2008

**CHICAGO, IL** | Nearly 100 teens marched outside Chicago police headquarters Thursday night to protest the department's plans to equip officers with semi-automatic rifles, saying the weapons could make the streets more dangerous.



Carrying signs like "Stop the War on Youth," teens said they didn't trust police with the high-powered weapons and worried gangs would be encouraged to bolster their own arsenals.

"The only people who need these guns are in Iraq," said Arthur McGraw, 19, an organizer with the nonprofit Southwest Youth Collaborative, which

organized the rally. "It'll shoot through brick, car doors. Say your family is in the house eating and there's some gang violence. When they shoot these [the bullets] can come into your house and shoot your kids."

Police spokeswoman Monique Bond said Thursday that though police have ordered and received some of the guns, police are not yet using them. Their use will be phased in over the next three years.

In April police Supt. Jody Weis said he wanted to equip all of the department's officers with the high-powered weapons as part of an overall crime-fighting strategy, arguing that officers are outgunned on the streets. Officers currently carry pistols, and only SWAT officers carry rifles, M4 carbines.

Mayor Richard Daley publicly backed Weis' plan, saying the rifles would put officers on equal footing with armed gangs and criminals.

## Police: Two Reno men killed for crossing out gang graffiti

Published by Reno Gazette-Journal on November 3, 2008

**RENO, NV** | A 17-year-old gang member on Halloween morning shot to death two young men in retaliation because they were crossing out his gang's graffiti, Reno police allege.



Angel Joel Garcia, known as "Lucky," remained in custody at the Washoe County Jail without bail Monday on two counts of murder with a deadly weapon. Police arrested Garcia Sunday afternoon at a Sparks home, where they said the high school dropout had the suspected murder weapon in his pocket.

Marking an "X" through gang monikers and graffiti is a sign of disrespect, authorities said.

The Friday deaths of cousins Luis Sedano-Felix, 19, and Jesus Garibay, who turned 20 on Thursday, were the fourth gang-related slayings in Reno since June. Prior to the June shooting, fatal gang violence in Reno had not occurred in several years. Authorities said the cousins were not known gang members, although they were involved in gang activity at the time of the shooting. Sedano-Felix was a full-time University of Nevada, Reno student and worked part-time, while his cousin worked at a local Mexican restaurant.

Suspected gang member Juan Marquez-DeSantiago, 21, remains in jail after he gunned down two teen suspected rival gang members in June near Miguel Ribera Park, "firing his pistol until he ran out of bullets because he was mad and retaliating," according to court records. Besides killing Christian Barajas, 16, and Jose "Alonso" Anguiano, 17, he is also accused of critically wounding a third boy. The shooting stemmed from issues regarding "disrespect," police said. DeSantiago faces a May jury trial.

Detectives said the June and Halloween shootings are not related. Members of the Regional Gang Unit have increased their patrols, and are working to prevent any retaliatory violence.

"The lives of two men who had bright futures were ended, for what, writing an X through some graffiti," asked Lt. Robert McDonald, who heads Reno police's robbery/homicide unit. "This is completely senseless and despicable. We as a society must not tolerate this."

McDonald said he hopes the deaths of these four young men due to gang violence will serve as a warning to youth considering the gang lifestyle. He said he wants this to be a wake-up call to community members to contact police when they see or are aware of gang activity. Often times, calls to police are made after a shooting, instead of when people know armed gang members are going to be congregating, or are planning a confrontation, police said.

"We need to change the cultural fear and distrust of the police and get the message through that we need the community to partner with us so we can protect and serve our city and make it safe for everyone," McDonald said. "The mind set about gang activity has to change and people need to realize it can't exist in a safe and civilized community," he said. "It's just not acceptable."

Around 2:12 a.m. on Halloween, police responded to a report of shots fired on Smithridge Drive. A Halloween party had been going on at one town home on the street. According to police, some party guests belonged to a gang who saw Sedano-Felix and Garibay marking an "X" through graffiti that was tagged by the gang members. Police said the cousins were not aware the party was nearby, and likely were not expecting a confrontation. Both



men were not armed.

The guests, including Garcia, confronted the cousins. Detectives said Garcia pointed his pistol at the men and shot them multiple times at close proximity. One died at the scene, while the other died at the hospital. Garcia, who fled the area, was identified by several witnesses as the shooter, police said. An arrest warrant was issued for Garcia's arrest, and he was captured two days later. Police said Garcia bought the gun from an acquaintance and detectives are trying to track down the gun's history.

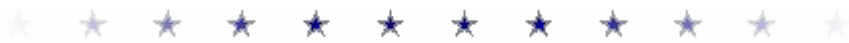


"When someone is taken in such a violent manner, it's hard to understand and come to terms with it," said Stephanie Bolin, 19, a friend of Sedano-Felix. "It makes me ask where were the parents in all this? Where was anyone?"

Bolin said Sedano-Felix, a Damonte Ranch High graduate, was an artist who liked to paint with other young artists on walls in Sun Valley. He also received a Millenium Scholarship and leaves behind a twin sister, she said.

"He was really funny and educated and was a lot of fun to be around," she said. "Anything you had going on, you could talk to him and he found a way to relate to you. He was an amazing person." Bolin's mother, Kim, also knew Sedano-Felix and is mourning his death.

"He is not a throwaway kid," she said. "He was a beautiful child. It's a sad statement for our community when what happened is disregarded as gang related and shrugged off."



## 7 White Teenagers Arrested in Gang Assault, Stabbing Death of Hispanic Man

Published by FoxNews.com on November 10, 2008

**PATCHOGUE, NY** | New York police say seven white teenagers who set out to attack a Hispanic person are now under arrest in connection with a man's fatal stabbing.

One of the teens was awaiting arraignment Monday on a charge of manslaughter as a hate crime. All seven are charged with gang assault.

Marcello Lucero was killed in Patchogue, Long Island, east of New York City, while going to watch a movie with friends. A friend, who was unhurt, ran for help.

Elder Fernandez, who had known Lucero since they were children in Ecuador, went outside and found him covered with blood.

Fernandez told Newsday: "I saw my friend's last minute. ... It was miserable."



## New law helps [Lee County Sheriff's Office] detectives target gangs online Fourteen alleged gang members arrested in enforcement crackdown

Published by Cape Coral Daily Breeze on November 15, 2008

**FORT MEYERS, FL**| Lee County Sheriff's detectives arrested 14 teens and adults alleged to be gang members this week as the result of a sting operation targeting the online promotion and recruitment of criminal organizations on social networking sites like myspace.com.

A new state statute put into effect by Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum makes it a third-degree felony to promote gangs electronically, as well as stiffens penalties of other gang-related crimes. The statute allowed the Sheriff's Office to make the arrests based on hundreds of hours of planning and investigation by their Gangs and Intelligence Units during "Operation Firewall."

One youth was charged based on what officials called a "hit list" on a Web site. Devin Goldie, 15, of 1735 N.W. 13th Terrace, had composed a list entitled "people I want to kill" on his MySpace page, including the names of classmates, a teacher and a principal at North Fort Myers High School where he was a student; and a Cape Coral police officer, according to LCSO spokesperson Tony Schall. He was charged with electronic communications to harass by a gang member and written threat to kill or injure. Goldie is a self-proclaimed member of a gang recognized as a national threat by the FBI called "JUGGALO," Schall said in a written release. Family members could not be reached for comment Friday evening.



Others arrested include Felix Cuevas, 58, of 4510 S.E. 6th Street, Apt A. He was a veteran member of the Latin Kings street gang in New York who was recruiting new members in Lee County, according to detectives Friday. Cuevas was charged with five counts of recruiting for a criminal street gang and various related charges, according to booking records for the Lee County Jail.

Twelve others, including two Cape Coral residents, received various charges ranging from promoting gangs electronically to invoking the kingpin statute to RICO.

**See full list of those charged at:** <http://www.cape-coral-daily-breeze.com/page/content.detail/id/500283.html?nav=5011>



## USC Sprinter Shot at Halloween Party

Published by KTLA News on November 1, 2008

**LOS ANGELES, CA**| A USC sprinter, and former Long Beach Poly High star, was shot three times in the legs at a Halloween party and is hospitalized today.

Bryshon Nellum, 19, was shot in the left thigh and right hamstring. He underwent surgery Friday night at California Hospital Medical Center in Los Angeles. Doctors said surgery was successful and that they're hopeful Nellum will be able to resume his track career.

Nellum was reportedly at Leonardo's in the 2800 block of Vermont Avenue, near the USC campus, when the shooting occurred about 2:00 this morning.

"He was walking out to his car and a group of guys in a car pulled up next to him and yelled some sort of gang-affiliated name and shot him," said police Officer Sam Park. It was unclear whether Nellum knew his attackers. No arrests have been made.



Nellum was the 2007 Gatorade national boys track and field athlete of the year. He was the nation's No. 1 sprinter in the 200- and 400-meter races and the first athlete to win California state titles two straight years in both races. He broke a 20-year state record in the 200 meters -- 20.43 seconds. His personal best in the 400 meters is 45.38.

Nellum redshirted last season at USC after he pulled a hamstring early in the season. He was also recruited to play wide receiver at USC but decided to focus on one sport.



## Woman Says Teens Almost Shot Her As Gang Rite

Published by CBS 11 News (Dallas/Fort Worth) on November 14, 2008

**DALLAS, TX** | A Dallas woman says she was almost the victim of a gang initiation when a group of girls tried to shoot her Friday morning. Police say they are taking the woman's claims very seriously.

"I was stunned... I was scared," said Carrie Byrd. She says her morning walk to the bus stop was interrupted by four teenage girls in a black Jeep Cherokee. At first she thought they wanted directions, but then she saw one of them had a gun.

"The girl pulled out the gun and pointed it out the car and said, 'Shoot the [expletive]! Shoot the [expletive]!' And I'm like, 'What are ya'll doing?' And she said, 'If we don't shoot the [expletive], we can't get in the gang.'"

Byrd says the girls apparently couldn't undo the safety or didn't know how to use the gun, because it was never fired. She raced home and hid behind cars in her parking lot until she felt safe.

"It's something our gang unit has never seen," said Dallas Sr. Cpl. Kevin Janse.

Dallas police say they're not aware of any female gangs in the area. Meanwhile police say male gang members are initiated by what's called "jumping in," where the initiate is beaten up by existing gang bangers. Byrd's attack could be a new and troubling development.

"If this offense occurred the way our victim said, we're very interested in locating those suspects because if this is something that's going to start up in the city, we need to get a handle on it before it does start," said Janse.

Byrd says she's lucky she wasn't hurt.

"I would never have thought it would happen to me, but these days you never know," she said.

**For video news coverage of this story visit:** <http://cbs11tv.com/local/possible.gang.Initiation.2.864982.html>



## Teen Found Guilty In 2007 Gang Initiation Beating

Published by digtriad.com on November 6, 2008

**Wentworth, NC** | A jury found Jeremy Lawson of Reidsville guilty for his involvement in the 2007 beating of a WWII veteran as part of a gang initiation.



Lawson, now 19-years-old, was the driver in a get-away vehicle while two other teens beat a man sitting on his porch with a shotgun.

Gordon Scarce, the homeowner and a WWII veteran, was swinging on his Oregon Hill porch when the attack happened. He fought back when the two men tried to rob him and sustained severe head wounds requiring over 40 staples to repair.

Police report that the defendants were wearing blue bandanas during the attack and were part of a gang initiation.

The one of the other suspects was previously sentenced to 84-119 months, while the second will be in court tomorrow.

Lawson was found guilty of Attempted Robbery with a Dangerous Weapon and Assault with a Deadly Weapon Inflicting Serious Injury. He was sentenced to 95-132 months in the NC Department of Corrections.



## Albuquerque police want ad: We need snitches

**'Make some extra cash! Drug use and criminal record OK'**

Published by the Associated Press on November 22, 2008

**ALBUQUERQUE, NM** | The Albuquerque Police Department has turned to the want ads for snitches. An ad this week in the alternative newspaper The Alibi asks "people who hang out with crooks" to do part-time work for the police.

It reads in part: "Make some extra cash! Drug use and criminal record OK."

Capt. Joe Hudson says police received more than 30 responses in two days. He says one tip was a "big one" but wouldn't elaborate.

An informant whose tip helps officers arrest a drug dealer could earn \$50. A tip about a murder suspect could bring up to \$700.

It's not the first time the department has run ads. In a program 10 years ago, police received so many calls they turned the phones off.



## Special Feature



### Gangs in the Military

Published by WBTV.com, CBS 3 News (Charlotte, NC) on November 12, 2008

**CHARLOTTE, NC** | WBTV On Your Side has obtained picture and video proof our military is being infiltrated by members of street gangs. In some cases, detectives say gang members are using the tactics learned to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan to commit crimes on the streets of America. Anchor Molly Grantham is investigating.

They serve and protect under the flag of the United States of America. They protect our freedoms, and represent our great country. Some of them are gang members.

"Gangs are on the rise in every major city in the United States," says Hunter Glass, a gang consultant. "They're on the rise in the military."

Glass is an 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne veteran and former gang detective with Fayetteville Police Department. He left policing in 2006 and now travels the country lecturing about and investigating gang life.

"Putting these people in the military doesn't change them," says Glass. "And you're certainly not going to kick them all out. If you start kicking them out... let's just say it's one percent of the military... you're going to kick out 14,000 people? I don't think so.



"America has the greatest military in the world," he continued. "I was a soldier. My dad is a veteran. I love and respect the military. But I'm also a realist. I'm telling you, it's there. To turn a blind eye isn't going to help anything."

WBTV obtained pictures which show gang graffiti in Iraq. Images like, a Vice Lords star sprayed on a Humvee. A picture of four men dressed in fatigues showing off rifles, posted on an 18th Street Gang website. Another picture shows a guy flashing a gang sign on a "Realize Your Potential" Army recruiting chat room. Still others capture tanks and bomb walls covered with gang tagging... even a six-pointed 360-degree intricate gang star pictured in barracks. But the

most unbelievably eye-catching images are on Glass's computer. He shows us home video taken years ago at a popular nightclub on Fort Bragg. You can see people on the dance floor using their hands to chant "Crips"... while across the room, Blood members are throwing down signs that mean "Crip Killers". The video proves gang life is on this North Carolina base. A Fort Bragg spokesman doesn't deny it.

"I'm positive there are gang members in the US Army," says Tom McCollum. "There are gang members probably here on Fort Bragg also, but we do everything possible to get rid of them." McCollum says the Army's goal is to weed out as much gang activity as possible. Whenever they do find tattoos or some kind of sign, they pull the soldier off to the side and interview them in-depth. He says the soldier in question will be watched closely by his or her command to see how elevated and active they are in a gang.

"Are gang members in the military," he says. "Yes. Is it a large problem? It's not as large of a problem as some people would like to believe."

As for actual numbers, officials said they had no way of really knowing exactly how many. Glass estimates about one percent -- which would be about 14-thousand people. He also says he thinks the military should enact solid laws to deal with the element.

"In many ways I think the military is robbing Peter to pay Paul," says Glass. "It's a quick fix. We need manpower. We get these guys in here. They're good dogs in the fight. We'll worry about it later."

Later, is now. These gang members are getting trained in the military and using their knowledge to come back and fight on American streets. While in California a month ago, we interviewed two LA County gang investigators in south central Los Angeles. Just listen to what Detective Adan Torres told us.



"One of the biggest gangbangers around here actually has on his license plate, 'Iraq veteran, or veteran Iraq'," he said. "He's got F-13 on the back of his head. Florencia on back. F-13 on his arms... and two purple hearts. Been on two tours of duty. He's trained [better] than half the officers here anyway, fighting him."

That's the "gotcha" -- hearing veteran gang detectives say some gang members are purple heart recipients who are a better shot than most police. Those detectives in California listed a couple examples of problematic gang members they see all the time, who are also American soldiers.

## *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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