

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE Mar. 30, 2005	NUMBER 10.06
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Criminal Gang Identifiers		



I. Introduction

- A. Justification for identifying crimes and other situations in which criminal gang members are involved is based on research that clearly indicates criminal gang members commit a disproportionately higher level of serious crimes than other persons. Accurate information regarding criminal gang involvement in criminal activities assists in investigating criminal acts and provides a realistic assessment of the severity of crime related to these groups.
- B. The **Special Services Bureau's** Criminal **Intelligence** Unit (CIU) investigates and compiles intelligence information on known criminal gangs and other groups that may be defined as a criminal gang.
- C. The **Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU)** investigates and compiles intelligence information on terrorist groups.

II. Definitions

- A. Criminal Gang (as defined by ORC Section 2923.41)
 1. **An ongoing formal or informal organization, association, or group** of three or more persons to which all of the following apply:
 - a. One of the primary activities is the commission of one or more of the following offenses:
 - (1) Felony
 - (2) Offense of violence
 - (3) **Unlawful sexual conduct with a minor**
 - (4) Criminal damaging or endangering
 - (5) Aggravated trespass
 - (6) Failure to disperse
 - (7) Interference with custody
 - (8) Contributing to unruliness or delinquency **of a child**
 - (9) Intimidation of **an attorney**, crime victim or, witness
 - (10) Improper handling of a firearm **in a motor vehicle**
 - (11) **Trafficking/aggravated trafficking in drugs**
 - (12) Ethnic intimidation

- b. It has a common name or one or more common identifying signs, symbols, or colors.
- c. The persons involved individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity. A pattern of criminal gang activity exists if all of the following apply:
 - (1) At least one of the two or more offenses is a felony.
 - (2) At least one of those two or more offenses occurred on or after January 1, 1999.
 - (3) The last of those two or more offenses occurred within five years after at least one of those offenses.
 - (4) The two or more offenses are committed on separate occasions or by two or more persons.

B. Criminal Gang Member

- 1. The following criteria, listed in descending order of relative importance, identify an individual as a criminal gang member. At least two must apply. The establishing criteria must be verified within **five** years of the last date that **the individual** was documented as a criminal gang member.
 - a. Documented self-admission **to being a member of a group meeting the criteria of a criminal gang.**
 - b. Documented involvement **or arrest in the company of identified criminal gang members for offenses consistent with criminal gang activity.**
 - c. **Documented criminal history for offenses consistent with criminal gang activity.**
 - d. **Display of tattoos, branding, or scarring of skin with symbols or signs associated with a criminal gang.**
 - e. **Adopts the style of dress, clothing, colors, symbols, language/writings, and/or displays signs/symbols associated with a criminal gang.**
 - f. Information received from **a reliable** informant or other source corroborated by further investigation.
 - g. Documented association with known criminal gang members.
 - h. **Residing or frequents a particular area, neighborhood or place associated with a criminal gang.**

C. Criminal Gang Associate

An individual who has had recurring interactions likely linked to criminal gang activity with documented criminal gang members of a recognized criminal gang, but has not completely met the needed criteria to become a fully documented criminal gang member.

D. Criminal Gang Coordinators

Sworn personnel assigned throughout the Division who have received specialized training on criminal gangs. They are responsible for identifying criminal gang members and related activity in their respective areas, and facilitating a flow of information to and from **CIU** and **CTU**.

III. Policy Statements

- A. If a situation dictates an immediate response, the initiating sworn personnel or a Criminal Gang Coordinator shall contact CIU or **CTU** as appropriate. Personnel should make immediate contact with **CIU** in cases where the response of a Criminal Gang Coordinator may be desired. **CIU** will **determine** if an immediate response is necessary. **A contact list for CIU personnel is available with the Communications Bureau supervisor and the Patrol Administration Unit.**
- B. Criminal Gang Coordinators may respond to situations where criminal gang activity has occurred to assist other sworn personnel with their investigations.
- C. The list of Criminal Gang Coordinators shall be maintained by the CIU Sergeant.
- D. Sworn personnel who encounter an individual suspected to be a criminal gang member or criminal gang associate shall complete a search in all available electronic databases, for example, Mugshots, OHLEG, etc., and document the encounter. The databases may contain information regarding the person's affiliation with a criminal gang or status within the gang.**

IV. Procedures

- A. Sworn personnel encountering criminal gang activity or identifying a potential criminal gang member or associate:
 - 1. Advise the individual of the reason for the stop.
 - 2. **Collect all pertinent information from the contact in as much detail as possible.**
 - 3. Complete **an electronic** Field Interview Report **and fully document the encounter.**
 - a. **Designate the appropriate Class of Suspicious Activity within the "SARS Information" section.**
 - b. **Document all pertinent information from the contact in the narrative section of the report. If any of the individuals are potential criminal gang members or associates, document their alias, street name, gang-related attire, tattoos, and any statements made.**

c. **Designate each individual's known threat-group affiliation, select the "GA-Gang Activity" Subject code, and indicate that a Homeland Security follow-up is needed in the appropriate sections.**

B. CIU/CTU:

1. Review the **Field Interview Report** and take appropriate action.
2. **Contact** the originating personnel if additional information is requested.