

Columbus Police Division Directive	EFFECTIVE Mar. 30, 2005	NUMBER 10.06
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<b>Criminal Gangs and Violent Extremist Groups</b>		



Cross Reference: 10.05

## 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 **Organized** Crime Bureau's Criminal Intelligence Section (CIS) investigates and compiles intelligence information on known criminal gangs and other groups that may be defined as a criminal gang.
- C. The Special Services Bureau's Counter-Terrorism Unit (CTU) investigates and compiles intelligence information on extremist and terrorist groups.

## II. Definitions

- A. Criminal Gang (as defined by **Ohio Revised Code** 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 **Certification**

- 1. The following **indicators of membership will guide the certification of an individual as a member of a known criminal gang**. 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 **or profession** 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, signs, **images, numbers, letters, or words** associated with a criminal gang
  - e. Adopts **or displays** the style of dress, clothing, colors, symbols, **signs, images, numbers, letters, or words** 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. Resides in or frequents a particular area, neighborhood, or place associated with a criminal gang
  - i. **Documented association with or membership in a known criminal gang by a correctional facility or law enforcement agency**
  - j. **Utilizes a social media platform or account to promote, proclaim, or identify their affiliation with known gang members or a known criminal gang**
  - k. **Utilizes, writes, publishes, possesses, or is included in writings, song lyrics, images, photographs, videos, graphics, memorabilia, or references that express their relationship or affiliation with known gang members or a known 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 he or she has not completely met the needed criteria to become a fully documented criminal gang member.

### D. **Intelligence Specialist**

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 CIS and CTU.

### E. Domestic Terrorism (as defined by the **Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI]**)

Violent criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups to further ideological goals stemming from domestic influences, such as those of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.

### F. International Terrorism (as defined by the FBI)

Violent criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups who are inspired by, or associated with, designated foreign terrorist organizations or nations.

### G. Violent Extremism (as defined by the FBI)

The encouraging, condoning, justifying, or supporting the commission of a violent act to achieve political, ideological, religious, social, or economic goals.

## III. Policy Statements

- A. If a situation dictates an immediate response, the initiating sworn personnel or **an Intelligence Specialist** shall contact CIS or CTU as appropriate. Personnel should make immediate contact with CIS in cases where the response of **an Intelligence Specialist** may be desired. CIS will determine if an immediate response is necessary. A contact list for CIS personnel is available with the **Emergency Communications Center** supervisor and the Headquarters Operations Section.
- B. **Intelligence Specialists** may respond to situations where criminal gang activity has occurred to assist other sworn personnel with their investigations.
- C. The list of **Intelligence Specialists** shall be maintained by the CIS sergeants.
- 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, in Mugshots, OHLEG, etc., and shall 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 ***criminal gang or criminally motivated group*** affiliation, select the “GA-Gang Activity” Case Subject code, and indicate that a Homeland Security follow-up is needed in the appropriate sections.
- B. Sworn personnel encountering an extremist group or individual
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.
    - c. Designate each individual’s known threat-group affiliation and indicate that a Homeland Security follow-up is needed in the appropriate sections.
- C. Sworn personnel encountering a possible terrorist group or individual  
Immediately contact CTU at (614) 645-5401.
- D. CIS/CTU
1. Review the Field Interview Report and take appropriate action.
  2. Contact the originating personnel if additional information is requested.