2004 Gang Survey

At long last, the time has come to update the Street Gang Unit's survey of gang activity in the state! This project is important not only for the Street Gang Unit, but for the law enforcement community at large and the public. The first phase of the survey project involves municipal police departments. Each police department will be asked to describe its experience with gang activity in its jurisdiction during the year 2003. Please review it before you conduct your interviews with departments, and if you have any questions, ask Glenn or Colleen.

The information compiled from this survey helps us assess the training, intelligence gathering, enforcement and analytical needs of different areas of the state. The responses will be compiled in a report that will be available to law enforcement and the public, hopefully, on a Street Gang Unit website.

Survey Methodology

250 out of 479 municipal police departments sent personnel to SGU-sponsored gang awareness training lasting at least 1 full day. We can assume, therefore, that the students from these departments have at least some background knowledge of gangs. A letter has been mailed to the chiefs of these departments advising them that SGU personnel will be conducting face-to-face interviews with (a) someone from their department who has attended training, or (b) someone from their department who we know has a recognized expertise in gangs (i.e. Rocco Buglione from Newark PD, Tim Bradley from East Orange…etc.)

Here is a breakdown of the interview assignments by region:

- **North (83): Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex & Warren**
- **Central (82): Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset & Union**
- **South (85): Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean & Salem**

Phase 1: Interviews of Municipal PDs (250 agencies that sent personnel to training)

Regional Supervisors have copies of all the agencies to be interviewed by the respective regions, and they will assign the departments to their personnel. Every department listed on the County Assignments sheet will be interviewed. A master contact list of personnel trained is available.

Regional Supervisors will assign counties to detectives and

- provide detectives with a copy of the list of agencies to be interviewed per county
- provide detectives with a color copy of survey to be completed during interview
- advise detectives that deadline for responses is **May 1st**

A letter was sent out to 250 chiefs of police advising them that someone from SGU would be contacting their personnel regarding the survey (see attached). An example of the survey was included for their review as a courtesy, and to enable respondents to conduct research needed to answer certain detailed questions. Some agencies have completed these *example surveys* despite instructions in the letter **not** to do so. Detectives may want to consult the responses before arranging interviews, but the interviews should still proceed as planned.

Agencies that completed the example survey are:

South Region

- **Absecon PD**
- **Evesham Township PD (No gang activity reported)**
- **Gloucester Township PD**
- **Greenwich Township PD**
- **Harrison Township PD**
- **Mansfield Township PD**
- **Pemberton Borough PD (No gang activity reported)**
- **Point Pleasant Borough PD**
- **Stafford Township PD (Yes)**
- **Washington Township PD**
- **Winslow Township PD**

Central Region

- **Bedminster Township PD**
- **Green Brook PD (No gang activity reported)**
- **Kenilworth PD**
- **Marlboro Township PD**
- **Milltown PD**
- **South Brunswick PD**
- **South River PD**

North Region

- **Glen Ridge PD**
- **Hackettstown PD**
- **North Arlington PD**
- **Ringwood PD**

Detectives will refer to list of personnel trained from the county they are assigned (separate handout – available from Regional Supervisor), and reach out to one of those people who attended training to set up an interview. They should attempt to identify the most seasoned gang investigator to make sure the interview will be fruitful.

Detectives should familiarize themselves with gang activity within the jurisdiction they are planning to visit, either by referring to previous responses to

the 2001 survey, or by conducting intelligence checks in SIMS (contact Colleen for examples of 2001 survey responses).

If detectives need business cards printed before their interview, contact Colleen or Irene.

During the interview, detectives should be sure to emphasize the importance of accurately describing the activity within the jurisdiction. The information will be made available to all respondents, and may be placed on the State Police website in the future. In the past, such survey statistics have been used by various law enforcement agencies to justify requests for additional funding and/or personnel.

Also, detectives may want to mention that the Statewide Intelligence Management System (SIMS) will be available for local departments that want to access information (not just on gangs, but also terrorism and a variety of other multi-jurisdictional crimes). They can take names of personnel who are interested in receiving training in SIMS, or refer the interviewees to Lt. John Menafra of the Intelligence Management Liaison Services Unit.

Once surveys are completed, send original to Colleen via interoffice mail (keep a copy for your files) where the responses will be entered into a database. Results will be analyzed, and the final report should be available by the end of the summer.

<u>Phase 2: Mailed Surveys to Municipal PDs (229 agencies that have not sent personnel to SGU sponsored gang awareness training)</u>

We will also be getting input from the remaining 229 police departments. After this first phase is completed, the remaining departments will be mailed surveys, which they will complete on their own and return to SGU in self-addressed, stamped envelopes. SGU personnel will not be interviewing these departments at this time.

<u>Phase 3: County Prosecutors Offices, County Sheriff's, NJ Department of Corrections, Juvenile Justice Commission, etc</u>.

In addition to the municipal police departments responses to the survey, SGU personnel will also interview representatives of key county and state agencies that actively investigate gangs. This survey will contain additional policy related questions, and will be administered after the municipal police department surveys are completed.