

GANG SUMMIT

**Tulare County Sheriff's
Department
Street Crimes Division**

&

**Visalia Police Department
Special Enforcement Bureau**

Gang Violence Suppression

@Tulare County Sheriff's Department 2007



Gang Violence Suppression



- The Law Enforcement Efforts of Tulare County are divided into several working components.
- These components work together for the common goal of suppressing gang activity for the communities of Tulare County.

Definition of a Gang

- A group of people who form an alliance for a common purpose and engage in violent or criminal activity is considered to be a criminal gang.



- Defined in the California Penal Code Section 186.22 PC - Three or more people engaged in criminal activity.





Gang Crime



- An incident in which a crime is committed, motivated not merely for personal incentive, with participation of two or more members of the gang, and committed for the furtherance of the gang's social or economic status.





Gangs and Drugs



- Gangs, whether street gangs, or prison gangs, are the primary distributors of drugs throughout the United States.⁴ They are involved in distribution at both the wholesale and retail/street levels. Gangs consistently travel across the country, seeking out new territory and trafficking routes for distribution.
- Gangs remain the primary distributors of drugs throughout the United States.
- Financial gain is the primary goal of any association between these groups.





There is a territorial war that is constantly on the move North

Hispanic Gangs

- Hispanic gangs are not a new phenomenon in the United States; however, they have increasingly become a concern for law enforcement agencies in recent years.
- The Hispanic population in the United States in 2003 was reported to be 39.9 million, an increase of 13 percent from the 2000 census.
- As a result of the continuous growth in the Hispanic population throughout the United States, Hispanic gang membership is also increasing.

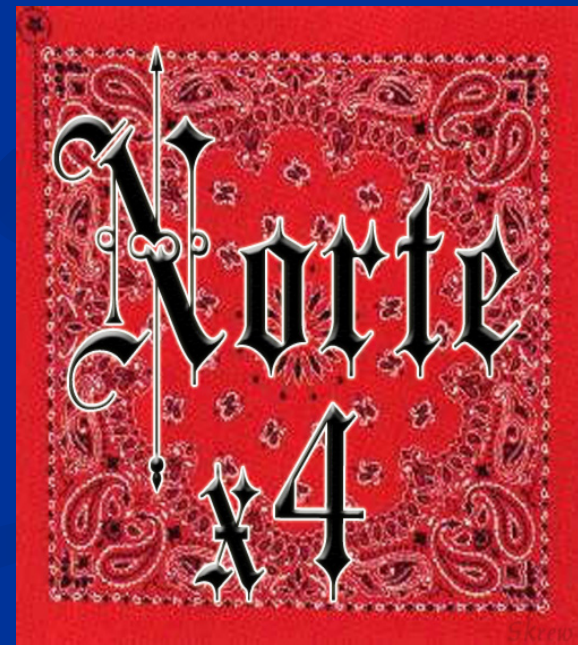
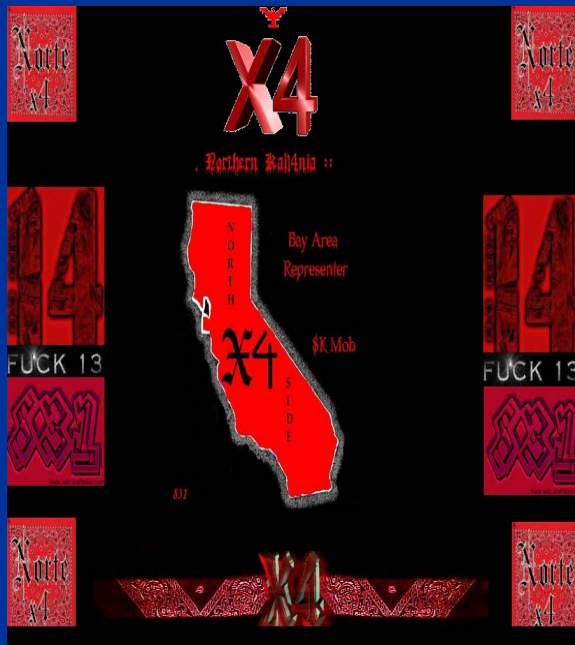
Types of Gangs In Tulare County



- During the 1980s, California street gangs were divided into Sureños (Southerners) and Norteños (Northerners) umbrella terms for Hispanic street gangs in California. These terms are used to distinguish whether the gang is from the northern or southern part of the state.

“Nortenos”

- The Norteno Gangs claim the #14 for the 14th letter of the Alphabet which is the letter “N” representing the word North. The color used by northern gang members is red.



NORTENO 14XIV



Madness & Sadness



NOVEMBER 2006

“Surenos”

- The Southern affiliated Gangs Claim the #13 which is the 13th letter of the alphabet or “M” representing the Mexican Mafia, or EME. The color used by southern affiliated members is blue.



El Renocer Es Tu Envidia



PARENTAL
ADVISORY
EXPLICIT LYRICS

Lil'
Jonzo



BrownPride.com

Asian Gangs

- Asian street gangs generally identify with either Crips or Bloods and their respective colors, however, several claiming Crip also identify with the other colors: purple, orange, and yellow.



Asian Gangs

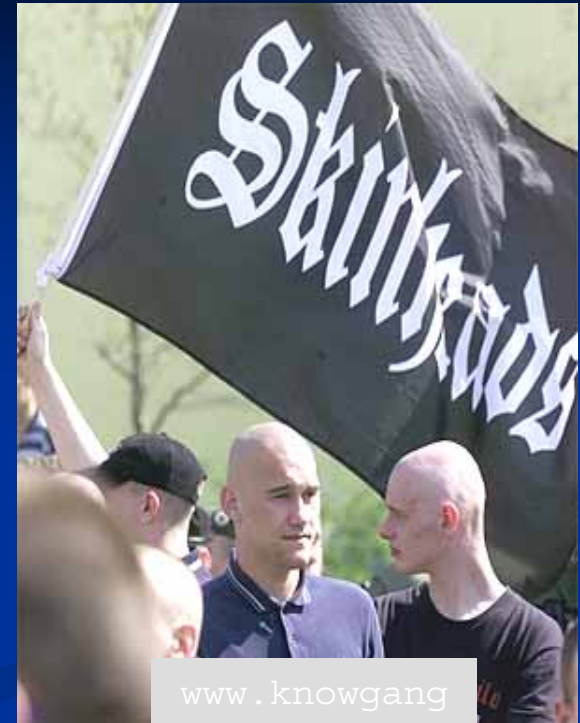
- Asian gangs commonly identify with the number 15, for the 15th letter of the alphabet, “O” (Oriental) and several deviations including the roman numeral “XV” or “X5.”





White Caucasian gangs identify with the color white, the number 23, for the 23rd

letter in the alphabet “W” (White). **Gangs**

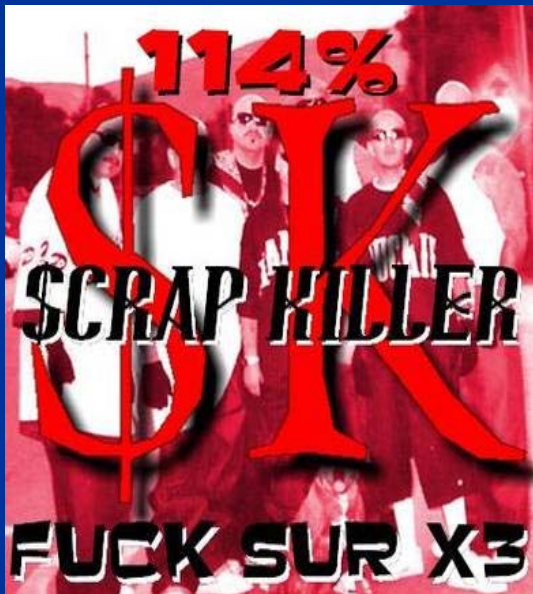


www.knowgangs.com



Gangs in Tulare County

- The law enforcement agencies of Tulare County have identified 120 known gangs operating in the jurisdictions of Tulare County.



Gang Members

- Law Enforcement has identified over 4893 validated gang members in Tulare County.



Issues Facing Law Enforcement

- Law enforcement is faced with a variety of issues.



- Children being exposed before intervention

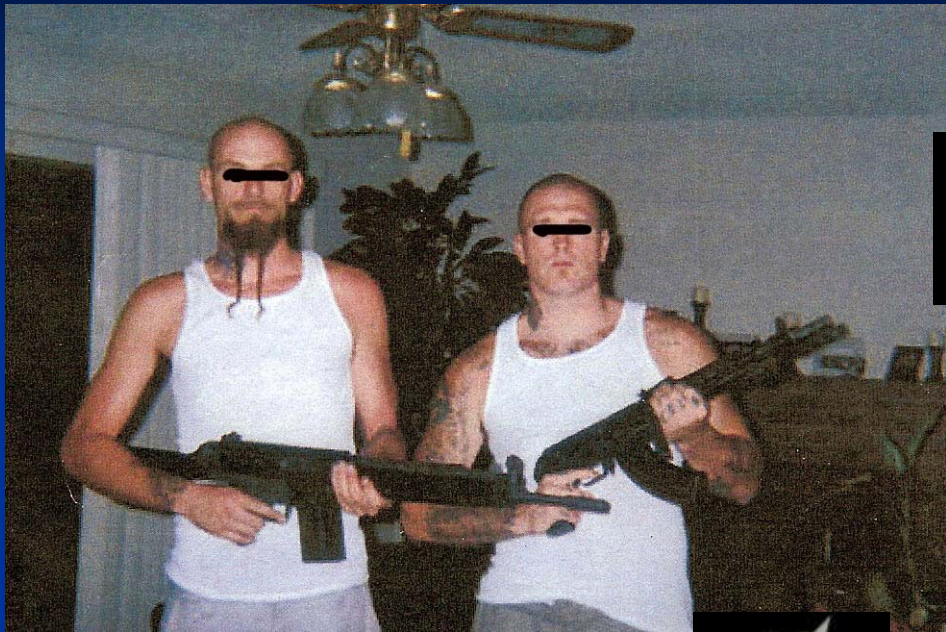


Law Enforcement is faced with gang Influence at an alarming early age

- The average age of a gang member is from 14 to 21 years of age. Gang members, however, can be as young as 8 years old or as old as their mid 30's. Recruitment into a gang usually begins in middle school where the age group is between 8 and 13.



Gang Weapons



Weapons Commonly Used



In 2007 Of the 16 gang involved homicides, 15
were committed with a firearm



Weapons



Any weapon that will cause severe
bodily injury



Military Training



- **Headline News**
- **Fox News**
- **CNN**
- **All report gang members being identified in the military. Gang members are learning tactics and the use of weapons.**
- **Gang members reports enlisting in the military to become tactically sound and more lethal when confronting law enforcement and rival gangs.**

Gangs in the Military



Military Tactics



How we prepare... ?

Tactical training

- Law enforcement must maintain a high level of tactical training.



Sophisticated Safety Equipment



Sophisticated Weapons and training

- Training is strictly monitored, verifiable and ongoing !



Gangs and Technology

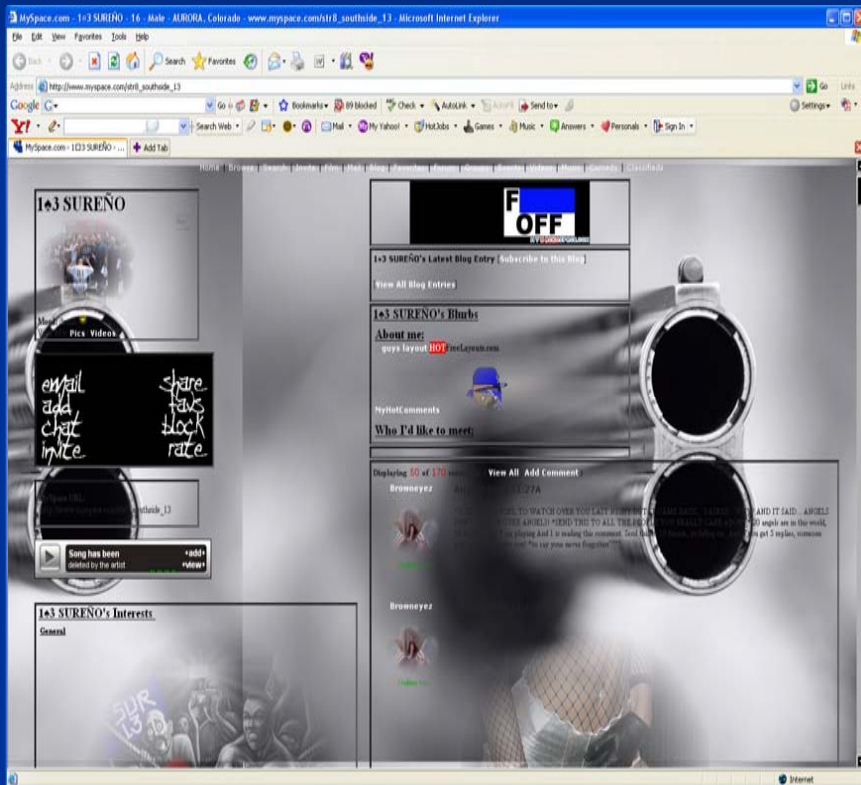
- Gangs have kept pace with advancing technology and are utilizing new tools to communicate with each other, facilitate criminal activity, and avoid detection by law enforcement.
- Approximately 45 percent of respondents to the 2005 National Gang Threat Assessment reported gangs using technology in the commission of crimes.

Technology Used by Gangs

- Cell Phones
- Computers
- Pagers
- Palm Pilots
- Walkie-Talkie Type phones
- Radio communications



My Space



- On my-space we use this information as intelligence gathering
- We use decoy's and undercover surveillance to infiltrate information
- We use confidential Informants

Date: July 22, 2004

RICHARD LEYBA SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON

On July 22, 2004, 22 year old Richard Leyba, of Visalia, was sentenced to prison for Life with the earliest possibility of parole in 236 years. He was convicted by a jury of the First Degree Murder of Enrique Hernandez, and the attempted Murders of Elizabeth Gonzalez, Efrain Padilla, and Guillermo Saucedo - all residents of Ivanhoe. He was also convicted of shooting at an occupied dwelling and allowing others to shoot from a motor vehicle.

All charges included a special allegation of gang motivation, which increased the sentence by 25 years for each charge. Defendant also had his sentence increased for a prior beating of two teen girls and the pistol whipping of the girls' mother in 2000, for which the defendant suffered a strike conviction for the assault with a firearm. Evidence in the trial included a prior admission of the Defendant that he was a Norteno gang member since approximately 1994. The jury returned their verdict on June 9, 2004. The events for which Defendant was convicted took place on October 13, 2002, in Ivanhoe.

The murder case was investigated by the Tulare County Sheriff's Office. Supervising Deputy District Attorney David Alavezos prosecuted the case with assistance from the Tulare County Sheriff's Office, the Visalia Police Department, and Investigators Ken Smythe and Brandon Hall of the District Attorney Investigation's Bureau.

Contact person: Don Gallian, Assistant District Attorney 733-6411

NORTH SIDE VISA MISSES THE HOMIE RICHARD LEYBA!!!!FUK THA DEAD SCRAP SONIC R-I-PISS

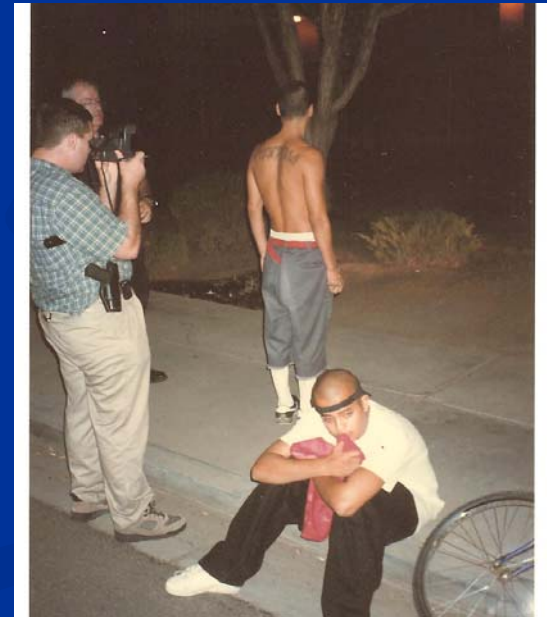
Gang Tattoos

Gang tattoos are the sign of a gang member. Individuals who mark themselves with gang writing have usually made a decision to stay in the gang for a long time. Besides tattooing, branding oneself with gang signs is a popular form of showing allegiance to their gang.



Identifying Gangs

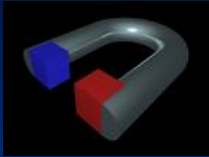
- Intelligence gathering and Identifying those who are involved and the level of participation



Increase in Gang Activity

- Tulare County has emerged in recent years as fertile ground for a growing gang population. The level of violence has escalated as the resources devoted to law enforcement decreased.
- Efforts by law enforcement has been to increase resources to improve the battlefield against gang violence.
- Drive-by shootings have brought great community sorrow and attention to the matter of gang violence.

M.ulti-A.gency G.aN.g E.nforcement T.eam



M.A.G.N.E.T.



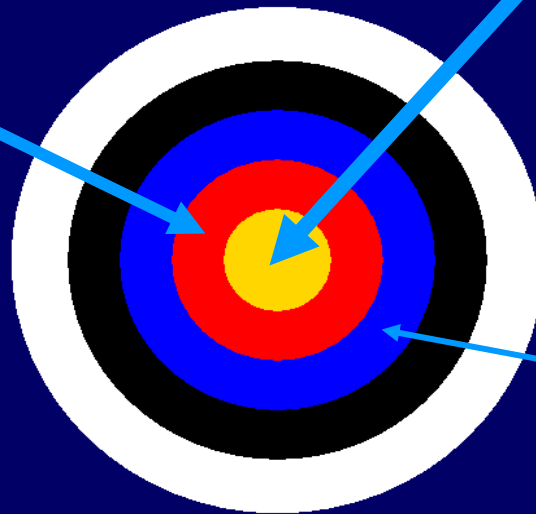
- Efforts by law enforcement has been to increase resources
- Tulare County Sheriff's Department
- Visalia Police Department
- Tulare County District Attorney
- Tulare County Probation
- California State Parole
- California Highway Patrol

Targets

- We use intelligence to target specific gangs and people who are most active in the gang.

Validated

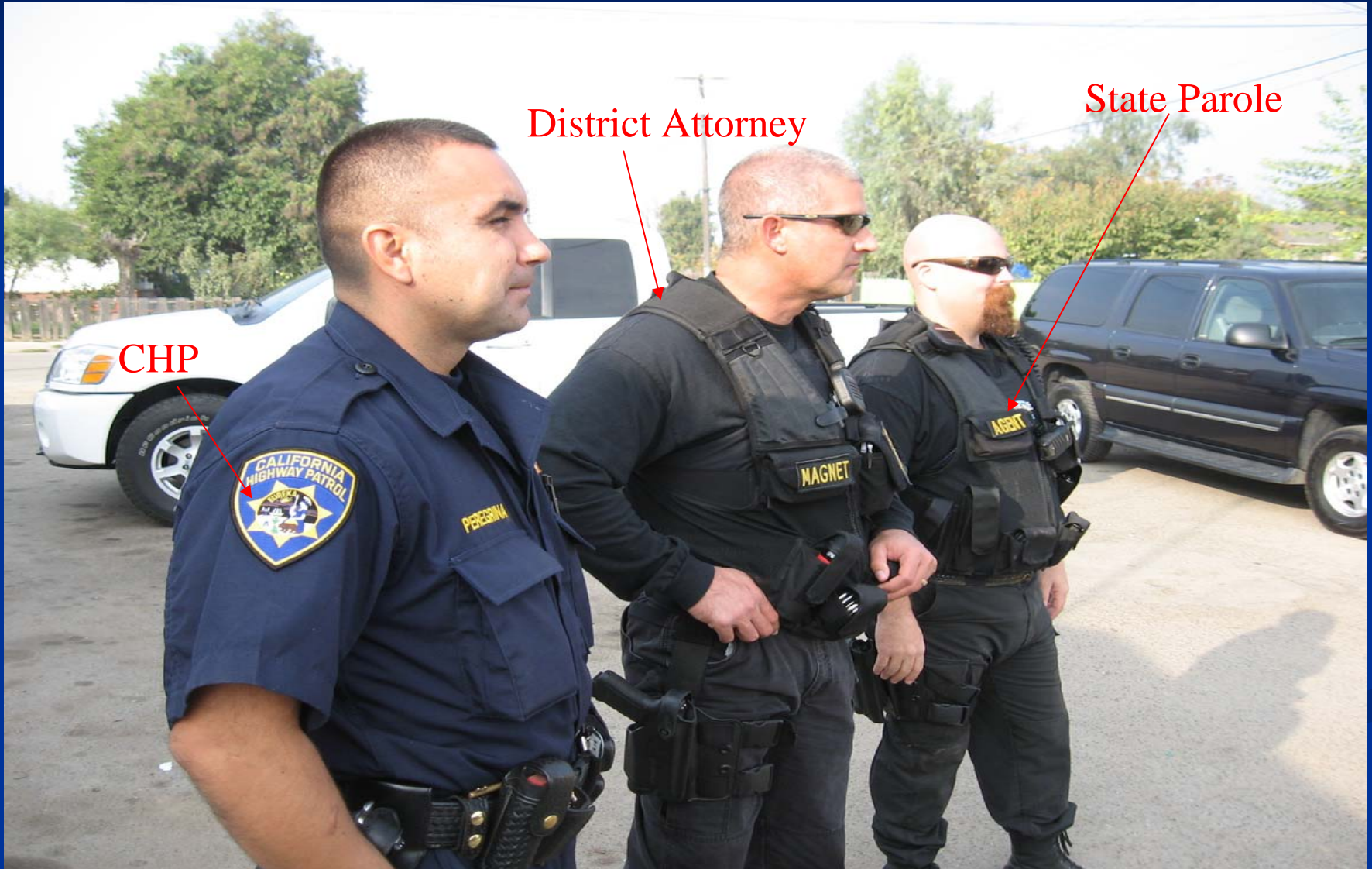
Most Violent and Active

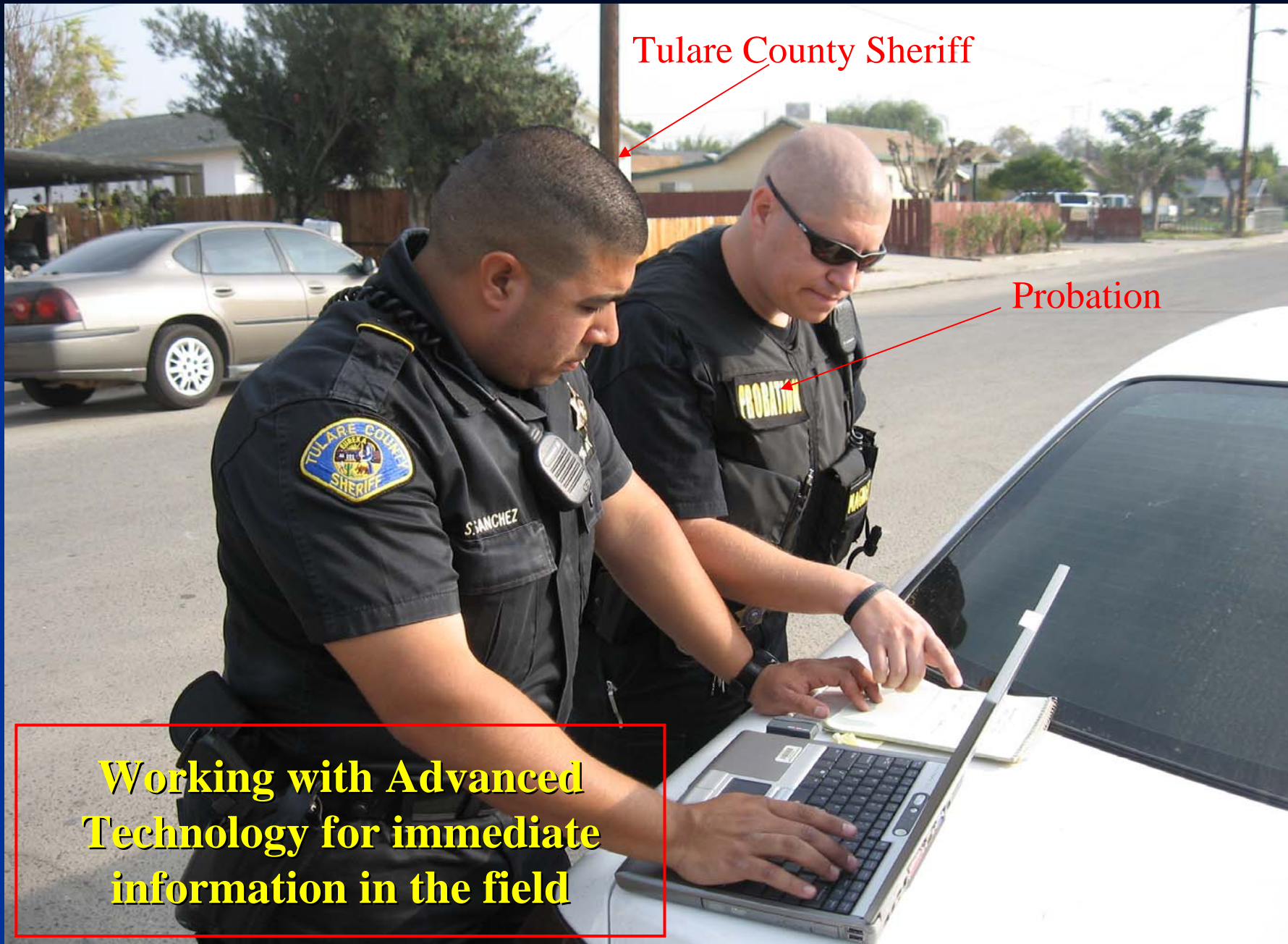


Affiliated and Associates

U+25CE

Agencies Working as a Team





Tulare County Sheriff

Probation

**Working with Advanced
Technology for immediate
information in the field**



VPD

TCSO

CHP

TCSO

MAGNET Team Members

Tulare County Sheriff's Department

Visalia Police Department



Diligence and Desire



Functions of Gang Suppression Efforts

- The Gang Suppression efforts are for the identification of active gang members.
- Perform operations that assist in deterring criminal activity by gang members within the communities they live.
- The Gang Suppression efforts are to conduct search warrants, search clauses and arrest warrants in conducting ongoing investigations into criminal gang activity.
- The concentrated efforts of the Gang Suppression effort generates arrests, recover firearms, narcotics and gang related indicia.

MAGNET- Gang Unit Statistics

- Fresh Felony Arrests: 253
- Felony Warrant Arrests: 87
- Fresh Misdemeanor Arrests: 61
- Misdemeanor Warrant Arrest: 97
- Traffic Cites: 5
- **Total Arrests: 503**



Special Gang Unit Operations:

- Gang Related Field Interviews 437
- Search Warrants: 13
- Parole Searches: 119
- Probation Searches: 251
- Total Operations: 383
- Total Task Force Details: 26
- Firearms Seized : 47
- Total Task Force Days = **456**



2005 Homicides

- **2005 Homicides – 63**
- 45 of 63 homicides were gang-related **71%**
- Firearms: 54
- Stab Wounds: 01
- Blunt Force Trauma: 04
- Motor Vehicle: 02
- Stress-Induced Heart Attk 01
- Undetermined 01

2006 Homicides - 52

- 2006 Homicides - 52

- 36 deaths were gang-related

70%.

- Firearms: 35
- Stab Wounds: 08
- Blunt Force Trauma: 05
- Drugs/Poisons: 01
- Strangulation: 01
- Motor Vehicle: 01
- Hypothermia: 01

34 homicides to date for 2007

- The agency breakdown is as follows:

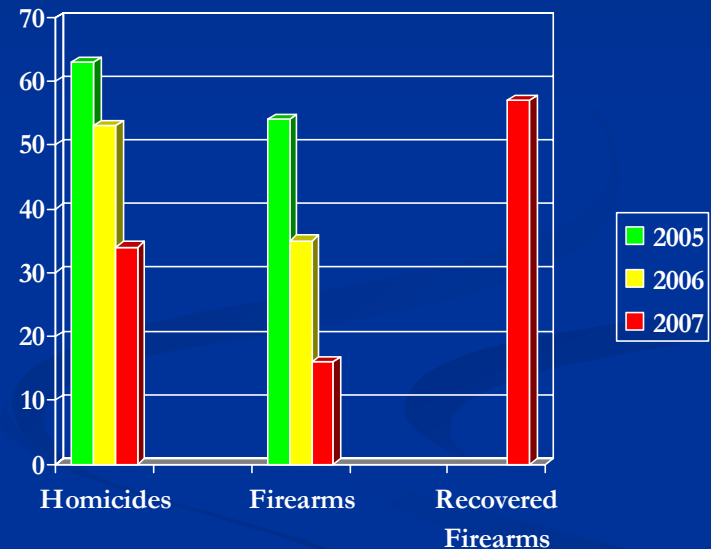
- Dinuba 1
- Exeter 0
- Farmersville 1
- Lindsay 1
- Porterville 6
- Tulare 6
- Visalia 11
- Woodlake 0
- TCSO 8

- Total: 34



The Impact on Gang Related Homicides

- To date, gang involvement, either by suspect or victim was apparent in **16 of 34 homicides** or **47%** of the cases.
- This indicates a significant reduction or **23%** since the introduction of Gang Suppression efforts of August 2006 to present.





Gang Task Force

- The District Attorney's Office Oversees the Gang Task force.
- The gang task force operates within the entire County of Tulare.
- The Gang Task force consists of all the law enforcement agencies in the county and conducts operations throughout the year.
- On any given day the GTF can pull together a small army of law enforcement officers'.

Law Enforcement Actively Promotes

- Promote crime prevention by addressing contributors to crime including substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health issues, truancy, and gang activity
- Collaborate with school districts, cities and community based nonprofit organizations to promote early intervention for youth in gang activities
- Effectively and fairly investigate, arrest, prosecute and punish individuals who engage in gang activity

Delivery of Service

- Promote youth-oriented activities our communities
- Provide the public with accessible high quality information services that are timely and responsive
- Provide state-of-the-art technology to support better service the public
- Continually evaluate the organizational structure and community needs to improve the delivery of service



Why does this work?

- Law enforcement leaders in Tulare County are focused on gang violence intervention and have dedicated resources to the fight against gangs.
- Sheriff Wittman, Chief Carden and D.A. Phil Cline are working as a team and dedicating resources in the gang suppression effort
- The men and women in the field are working together and sharing resources, information and a common goal.

Questions for the Panel

