FBI Mobile
Intelligence Note from Domain Management
Intelligence Related to Mara Salvatrucha Threat
January 21, 2009

Approval: SSA [_____]

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Subject: Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)

Summary

The Mobile Division Domain Team assesses that MS-13 [_____]
[_____] in the Mobile Area of Responsibility (AOR). The primary criminal activity
associated with MS-13 within the Mobile Division Domain is graffiti.

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Scope

Identify the current and potential presence of MS-13 within the Mobile Division domain
and assess MS-13 activities and the effectiveness of these operations within the Mobile Division
domain, to include possible recruitment areas. The following data sets and intelligence products
were reviewed in order to accomplish this goal:[1]

- o 2000 Census data regarding foreign born populations reporting Salvador, Honduras,
  Nicaragua, and Guatemala as their place of birth
- o [_____] Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Guatemala [_____]
  [_____]
- o National Threat Assessment Initiative, Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) Threat to the United
  States (May 2007)
- o Mobile Division's 2008 Criminal Gangs Program Baseline Assessment
- o Source reporting derived from pending Mobile Division [_____]
- o Open source information

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This Intelligence Note [_____]
[_____]

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Key Findings

- Although there have been numerous reports [_____]
  [_____] the Mobile Division Domain.
- Mobile Field Intelligence Group assesses MS-13 [_____] to the
  Mobile Domain.

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[1] The information contained in this intelligence product is current as of 21 January 2009.

* (U) The 2008 *Attorney General Guidelines for Domestic FBI Operations* authorizes the FBI to engage in planning
and intelligence analysis to facilitate investigative activities. Activities the FBI may carry out as part of this process
include collecting information to improve or facilitate "domain awareness" and engage in "domain management."

- MS-13 members/cliques from outside the domain could be utilizing Mobile's ground transportation system, the I-10/I-65 corridor, to traverse through the Mobile territory.

Background

Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) originated in Los Angeles during the 1980s and has quickly become one of the fastest growing and most violent street gangs in the world. MS-13 members are typically Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Honduran nationals or first-generation descendants; however, MS-13 has been known to admit Mexicans, Dominicans, and non-Hispanic individuals. It is estimated that MS-13 currently has 8,000 – 10,000 members throughout the United States, with a known presence in forty-two states. In the southeast region, [ ] A recent influx of MS-13 members into this region, however, is thought to be creating an increase in violent crimes.[2]

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MS-13 members engage in a wide variety of criminal activity, including drug distribution, murder, rape, prostitution, robbery, home invasions, immigration offenses, kidnapping, carjacking/auto thefts, and vandalism. In order to supplement their income, MS-13 members often obtain employment with legitimate businesses. The construction, restaurant, delivery service, and landscaping industries are primarily targeted by MS-13 members seeking employment due to immigration documentation leniency.[3]

MS-13 is known to actively recruit new members by glorifying the gang lifestyle. Gang members typically use the Internet for recruitment purposes and have been known to post videos on web sites such as YouTube.com and myspace.com.[4] Recruitment efforts have also been noted in middle and high schools at various locations throughout the United States.

One of the reasons for MS-13's success is their flexibility. Members will often use tattoos, hand signs, and clothing to identify themselves as MS-13 gang elements. When entering a new area where they are not known, MS-13 members will wear their colors (blue, white, or black) in a flashy display in order to promote intimidation. In order to avoid detection by law enforcement, members will change their colors, carry bandanas in their pockets, and change their markings to show either 76 or 67 (both total 13).[5]

Details

According to the 2000 Census Data, the thirty-six counties which comprise Mobile Division domain had an approximate population of 1,844,501 individuals, with 1.3% depicting Hispanic origins. Only 118 individuals were identified as being born in Salvador, 292 individuals were identified as being born in Guatemala, 271 individuals were identified as being born in Honduras, and 125 individuals were identified as being born in Nicaragua.[6] [ ]

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[2] National Threat Assessment Initiative (NTAI): Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) Threat to the United States (17 May 2007)

[3] National Threat Assessment Initiative (NTAI): Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) Threat to the United States (17 May 2007)

[4] National Threat Assessment Initiative (NTAI): Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) Threat to the United States (17 May 2007)

[5] http://www.altereddimensions.net/crime/MS13Gang.aspx

[6] U.S. Census Bureau, http://www.census.gov

[REDACTED b7E] [7] These populations/immigrants have been identified to have the highest potential for MS-13 recruitment, support, and structure, and do not include migrant workers or illegal aliens for which the numbers are unknown.

[REDACTED]

Recommendations

- Liaise with [REDACTED b7E] to identify any emerging MS-13 threat to the Mobile Division.
- Coordinate with FBI Birmingham, Jackson, Jacksonville, and Atlanta to monitor movement of potential MS-13 members and/or supporters into the Mobile Division Domain.
- Develop sources capable of reporting on local and national gang matters.

Intelligence Gaps

- [REDACTED b7E]
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Common Operational Pictures (COPs)

1. Map #1 FBI Mobile Honduran Population, [REDACTED]
2. Map #2 FBI Mobile Guatemalan Population, [REDACTED]
3. Map #3 FBI Mobile Nicaraguan Population, [REDACTED] b7E
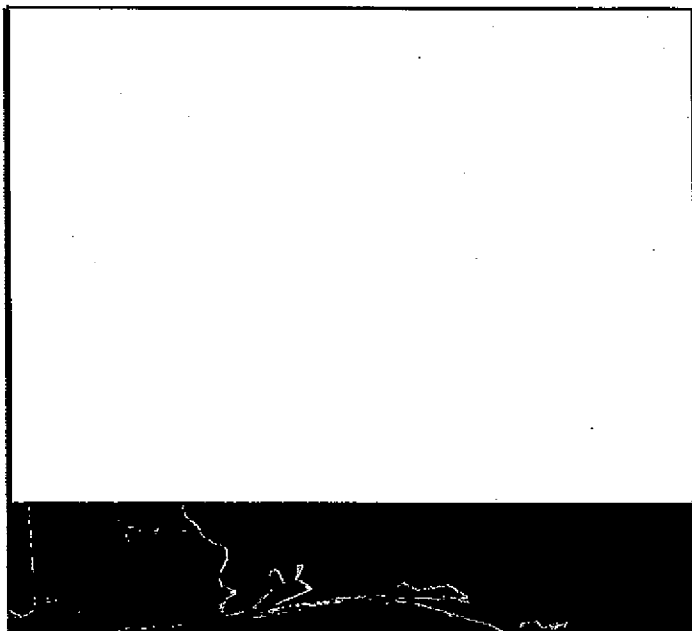4. Map #4 FBI Mobile Salvadoran Population, [REDACTED]

This intelligence summary was prepared by the Field Intelligence Group of the Mobile Division. Comments or questions may be addressed to IA [REDACTED] b6 b7C

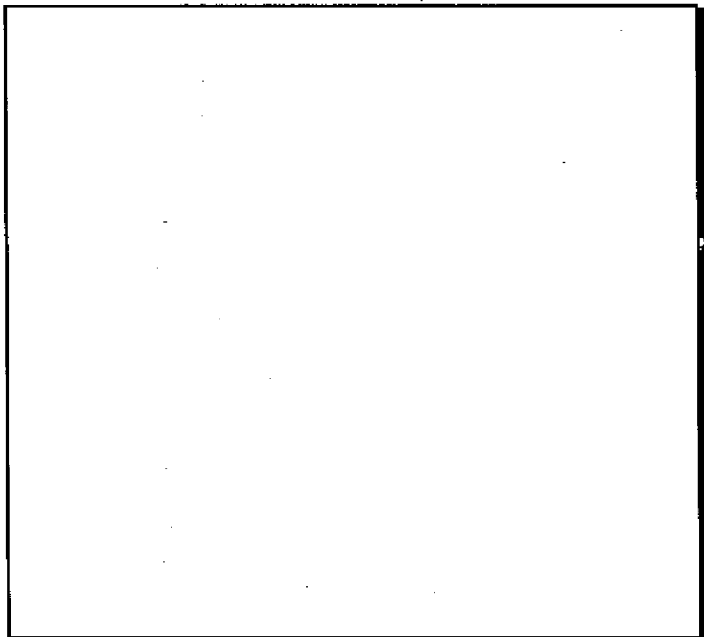---

[7] [REDACTED] b7E

Mobile Division Foreign Born Honduras Population

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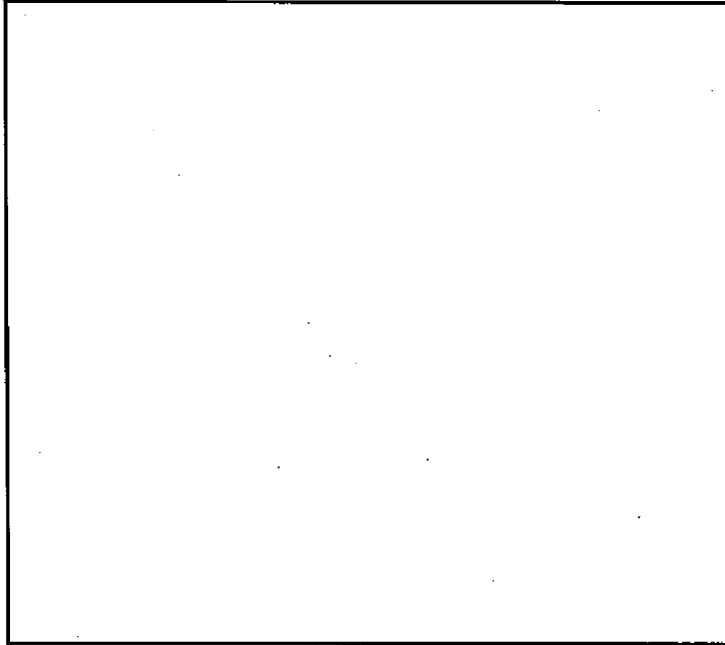Total Honduras Foreign Born Population: 271

Mobile Division Foreign Born Guatemala Population

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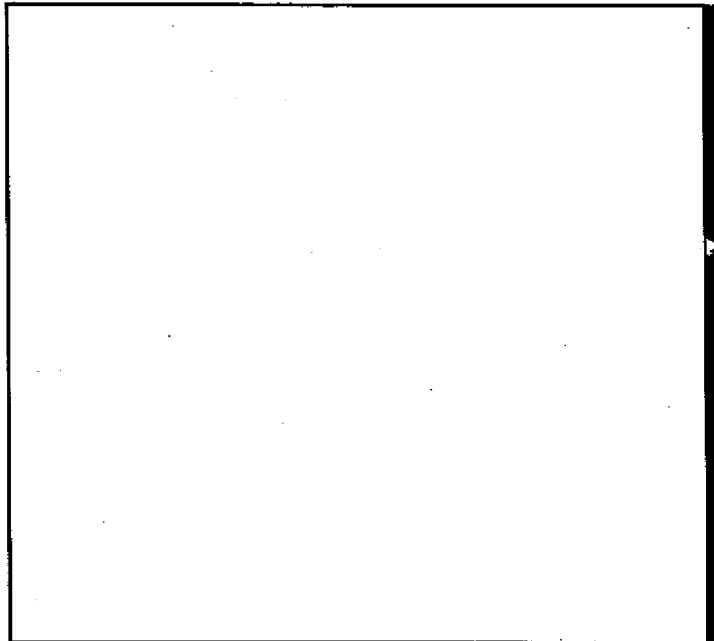Total Guatemala Foreign Born Population: 292

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Mobile Division Foreign Born Nicaragua Population

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Total Nicaragua Foreign Born Population: 125

Mobile Division Foreign Born El Salvador Population

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Total El Salvador Foreign Born Population: 118

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