



Canada Border
Services Agency

Agence des services
frontaliers du Canada

PROTECTED A

Tattoos and Their Meanings

**Presented by the Canada Border Services
Agency**

Organized Crime Section

National Headquarters

May 2008

TATTOOS AND THEIR MEANINGS



Tattoos are useful indicators to identify individuals who are members of a gang or a criminal organization. It is important to note that an image may have several different, occasionally innocuous, meanings, depending on the interpretation of the individual or gangs using it.

The Organized Crime Section (OCS) is providing the following tattoos and their definitions as a tool to assist officers in detecting gang members or members of a criminal organization. It is important that Border Services Officers contact their Regional Intelligence Officers to assist in determining a subject's admissibility to Canada.

For any questions or comments regarding this product, you may contact the OCS by telephone at: 613-795-8192 or by email at:


Nat_organized_crime@cbsa-asfc.gc.ca



TATTOOS AND THEIR MEANINGS




Russian Prison Tattoos

- Cat
 - Star
 - Manacles
 - Epaulette
 - Birds on horizon
 - Barbed wire
 - Symbol of the Cross
 - Crowns and rings
 - Scarab beetle
- 

TATTOOS AND THEIR MEANINGS



White Supremacist Gang Tattoos

- General White supremacist symbols
 - KKK
 - Neo-Nazism
 - White supremacist paraphernalia
 - Aryan Brotherhood
 - Family Affiliated Irish Mafia
 - Sacramaniac
 - Numerical tattoos
- 

TATTOOS AND THEIR MEANINGS



Street/Prison Gang Tattoos

- Black Guerilla Family
 - Red Blood Dragon
 - Gangster Disciples
 - Santana
 - Mexican Mafia
 - Mexikanemi
 - Texas Syndicate
 - Almighty Latin King Nations
 - 18th Street Gang
 - Sureños
 - Norteños
 - Texas Chicano Brotherhood
 - Mara Salvatrucha 13
 - Border Brothers
 - Hells Angels
 - Bloods
 - Crips
 - Indian Warrior
 - Laotian Boyz (LB)
 - Asian gang tattoos
- 

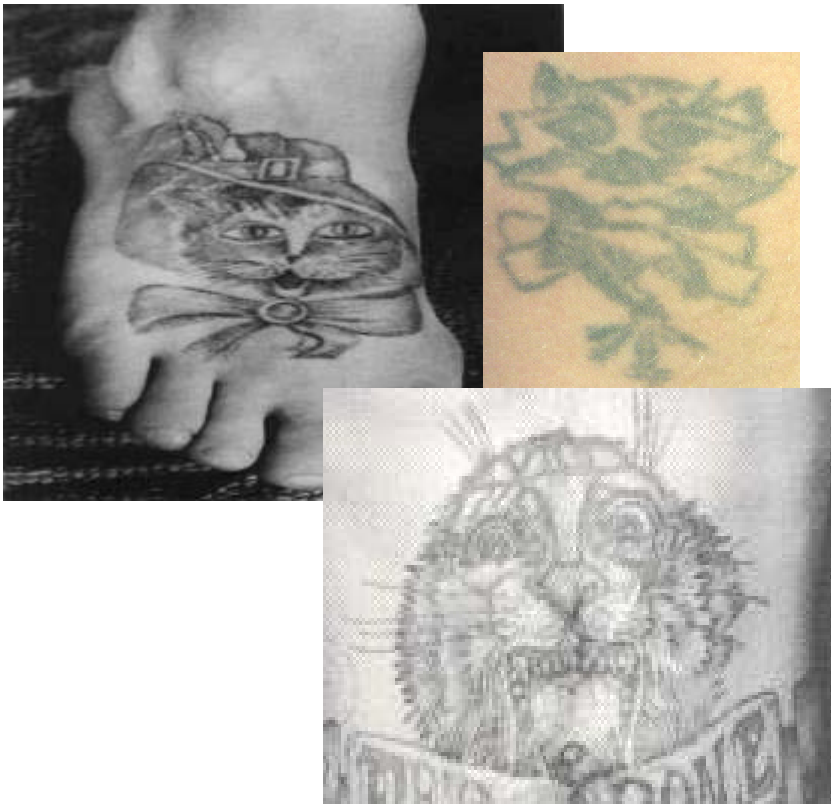
TATTOOS AND THEIR MEANINGS



Common Symbols

- Tiger
 - Spider web
 - Three dots
 - Five dots
 - Angel of Death
 - Clown faces / masks
 - Vida Loca
 - Additional information
- 

RUSSIAN PRISON TATTOOS CAT

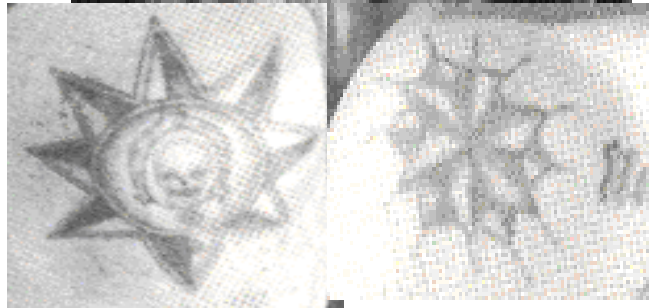


A cat tattoo represents a prisoner's life as a thief. A single cat signifies that the criminal acted alone, while several cats together show that the criminal was part of a gang.

The head of a tomcat is considered good luck for a thief. It can also serve as a warning, as it signifies a dangerous criminal who hates law enforcement, especially if worn on the chest.

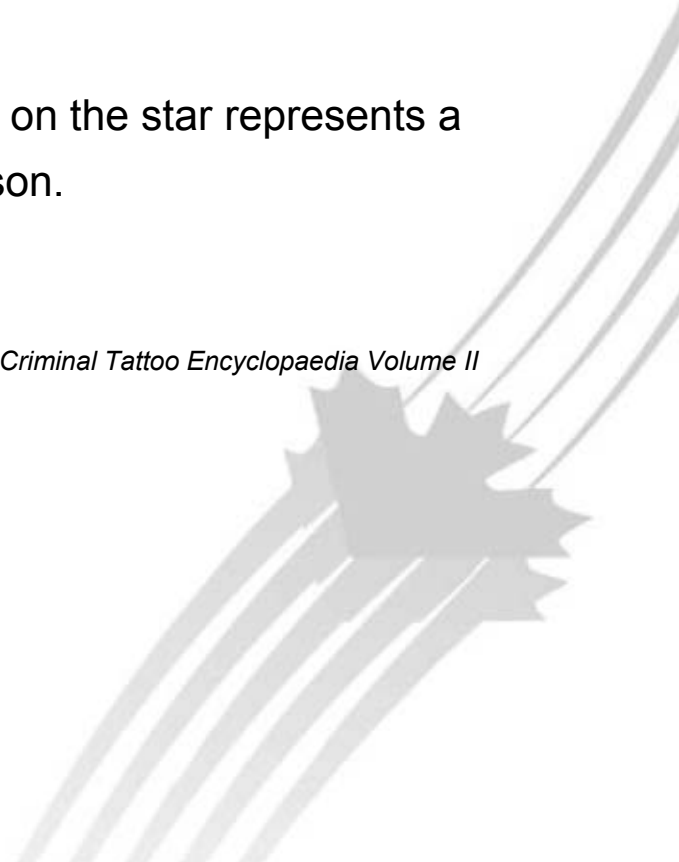
Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

STAR



Each point on the star represents a year in prison.

Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II



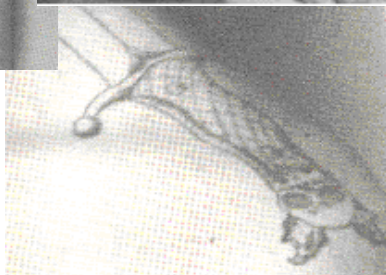
MANACLES



Manacles around the ankles represent five years in prison or longer.

Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

EPAULETTE



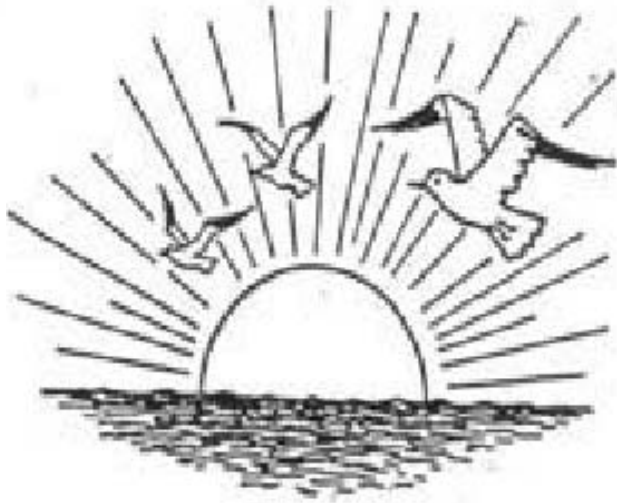
Military insignia and epaulette tattoos are often used to signify criminal accomplishments or some other aspect of a prisoner's history.

The epaulette design can mean that a prisoner was a high-ranking criminal or had some special status as a criminal before his/her incarceration.

Skulls generally designate murderers.

Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

BIRDS ON HORIZON



The bearer likes freedom and is escape-minded.
An image of birds flying over the horizon means "I was born free
and should be free".

Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

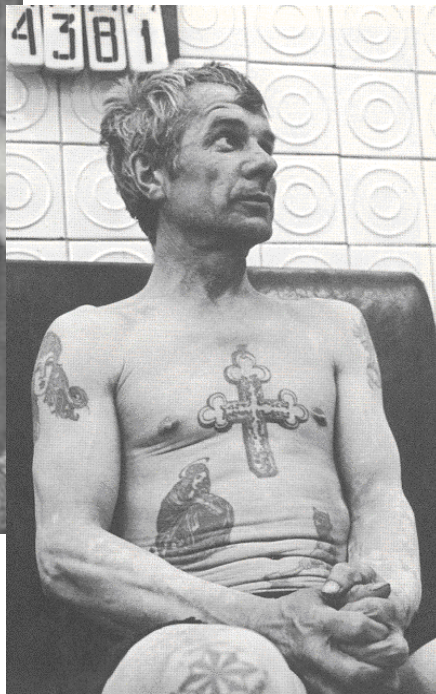
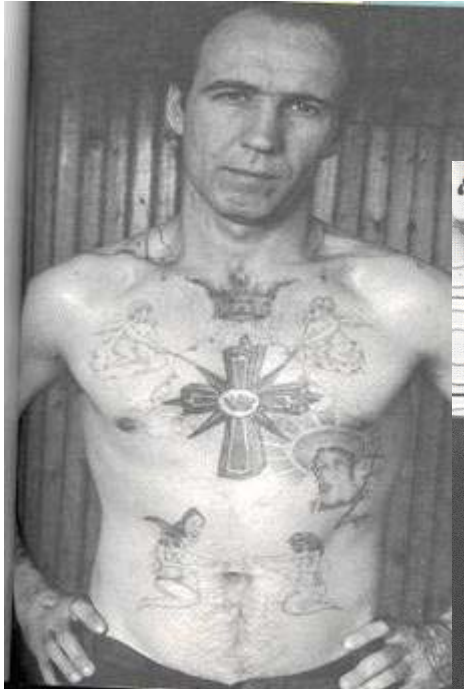
BARBED WIRE



Barbed wire tattooed across the forehead signifies a sentence of life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

THE SYMBOL OF THE CROSS



A cross can indicate bondage, subordination, or slavery.

Some tattoos are given involuntarily, as warnings or punishment for transgressions.

Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

CROWNS AND RINGS



Crowns on fingers: the bearer was a “pakhan” –an above-average-ranking prisoner in a penal colony.

White diagonal line on a dark background on the ring finger: the bearer served a sentence in a penal colony of a penal regime.

Crest of a white cross on a dark background on the middle finger: the bearer was charged with robbery.

Source: Russian Criminal Tattoo Encyclopaedia Volume II

SCARAB BEETLE



This is a Russian criminal tattoo, most likely from prison. The scarab beetle is a symbol of good luck for thieves (so-called protection). The tattoo symbolizes a pickpocket.

Definition provided by Vancouver Police Department.

Image provided by Canada Border Services Agency - Atlantic Region.

WHITE SUPREMACIST TATTOOS



The swastika is used as a symbol or tattoo to identify white supremacist groups worldwide.

Image provided by Calgary Police Service Organized Crime Section.

WHITE SUPREMACIST TATTOOS



The following tattoo depicts the image of a boot sole and tattooed knuckles spelling “SKIN”. This tattoo represents neo–Nazi skinheads.

Image provided by Calgary Police Service Organized Crime Section.

WHITE SUPREMACIST TATTOOS



Images provided by Calgary Police Service Organized Crime Section.

KKK



This is a variant of the first Ku Klux Klan (KKK) tattoo that was used in the early 1920s. The noose is the most significant symbol, representing the large number of lynchings of blacks that took place in the early part of the last century. The Confederate flag forms the backdrop.

The tattoo is becoming more popular with the KKK and Aryan Nation.

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

NEO-NAZISM



This symbol is indicative of the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The outer symbol replicates a swastika with Egyptian overtones.

The swastika was a universal symbol of the sun long before Hitler appropriated it. To the Vedic Aryans, the arms signified the solar rays, moving clockwise. In Egyptian mythology, it is associated with the sun god "Ra", who was seen as the father of the universe, riding his fiery chariot across the sky.

Information provided by Fairfax County Police Department.

WHITE SUPREMACIST PARAPHERNALIA



Officers should be aware that hate paraphernalia may be discovered on the person and/or in luggage.

Images provided by Calgary Police Service Organized Crime Section

ARYAN BROTHERHOOD



This tattoo represents the Aryan Brotherhood (AB), and denotes recruitment while in prison.

It is commonplace in most US state and federal prisons.

It will not normally be seen unless the member has served prison time.

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

ARYAN BROTHERHOOD



The letters “A” and “B” on the shield of the knight represent Aryan Brotherhood.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008

ARYAN BROTHERHOOD



Members of the Aryan Brotherhood (AB) wear numerous and varied body tattoos. The true AB tattoo is a shamrock with the number “6” on each of the three leaves, representing the number of the beast with the letters “AB” underneath.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008

FAMILY AFFILIATED IRISH MAFIA (FAIM)



The letters “FAIM” are the initials for Family Affiliated Irish Mafia.

This group also wears a shamrock tattoo, signifying their affiliation with the Aryan Brotherhood. Only members that have received permission from the AB are allowed to have a shamrock tattoo.

California Department of Justice, September 2007, Vol. 98

SACRAMANIAC



These tattoos belong to the white supremacist group “Sacramaniac”. These tattoos are variations of a five-sided shield/crest, containing letters that signify membership in this gang. The letters used may be “SSM” (South Sacramento Sacramaniac – fig. 7), “NSM” (North Sacramento Sacramaniac – fig. 9), “NS” (North Sacramaniac – fig. 12), or a single “S” (for Sacramaniac). Tattoos usually have at least one letter “S” in the shape of a lightning bolt, similar to those found in the Nazi SS symbol (fig. 10).

SACRAMANIAC



These photos show various styles of lettering used. The name may be one word or separated into two.

Information bulletin, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, 13 February 2008

NUMERICAL TATTOOS



- **88** – The eighth letter of the alphabet is “H”. A doubled eight signifies “HH” or “Heil Hitler”. It is normally worn as a tattoo on the upper arm or back, but also seen on hate group flyers.
- **311** – The eleventh letter of the alphabet is “K”. Three times eleven = “KKK”. The number can be worn as a tattoo, but is normally found on flyers and letters.
- **100%** – This is an expression of an individual’s pure Aryan or white roots. It is common among white supremacists. It can be a tattoo or used as a saying between members.
- **4/19** – The anniversary date of two events: the confrontation between the Branch Davidians and Federal agents in Waco, Texas, and the Oklahoma City bombing. This date is sometimes used as a tattoo by anti-government hate groups.
- **4/20** – Hitler’s birthday. Neo-Nazis. Enough said.
- **18** – This tattoo represents the initials of Adolf Hitler, using the first (“A”) and eighth (“H”) letters of the alphabet.
- **23** - Represents the 23rd letter of the alphabet, “W”. Used by white supremacists and skinheads.

Street/Prison Gang Tattoos BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY (BGF)



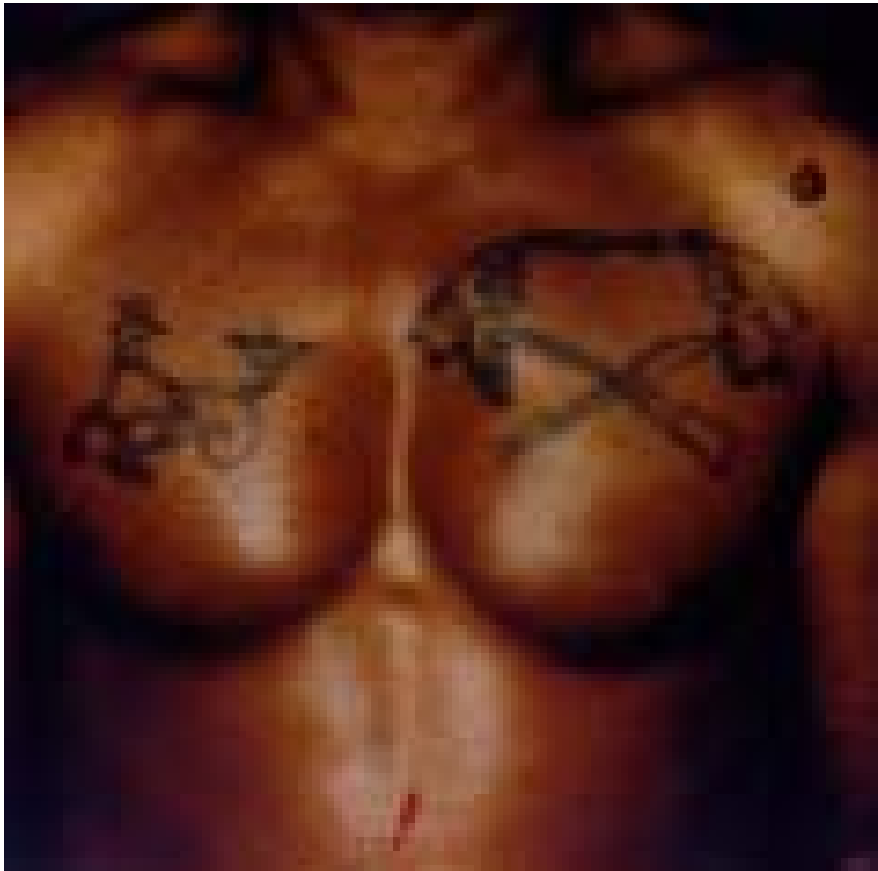
The Black Guerrilla Family (BGF) is a politically oriented major prison gang.

This BGF tattoo displays a black dragon attacking a prison gun tower.

BGF commonly use different versions of a dragon surrounding a prison tower and holding a correctional officer in its clutches.

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY (BGF)



This BGF member wears a tattoo of two chained hands above a crossed rifle and sword (right).

They will also use a crossed rifle and machete or the letters "BGF."

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

BLACK GUERRILLA FAMILY (BGF)



The number “276” represents the second, seventh and sixth letters of the alphabet, (“B”, “G”, “F”), the initials for Black Guerrilla Family.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008

RED BLOOD DRAGONS (RBD)



Red Blood Dragons (RBD).

Dual tattoos on both forearms are called “stakes”, indicating that the person has been inducted into the RBD gang for life.

This tattoo is usually portrayed in Old English Gothic letters or hand-drawn letters (for prison tattoos).

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

GANGSTER DISCIPLES



This is the most common tattoo representing the Gangster Disciples.

The six-pointed star stands for the gang's quasi-religious values: life, loyalty, knowledge, wisdom, understanding and love.

The pitchfork represents the gang's power to overcome oppression.

*Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies.
Al Valdes, "A Guide to Understanding Street Gangs"*

GANGSTER DISCIPLES



The number “6” is associated with the Gangster Disciples.

“J-bone” is the street name of this person who is wearing the tattoo.

The tattoo depicts a smoking joint with a ghostly face. It means that the gang is protective of its territory and harm will come to gangs that cross the boundaries.

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

SANTANA



“Santana” is the Spanish pronunciation of “Santa Ana”. This tattoo is given to Hispanic gang members to signify that they are from Orange County, California.

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

MEXICAN MAFIA (EME)



The initials “EME” represent the Mexican Mafia, a powerful prison gang.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008

MEXICAN MAFIA (EME)



“713” tattooed on the subject’s skull represents the Houston area code. The number 13 stands for “M”, thirteenth letter of the alphabet, for “Mexican Mafia”.

Detroit Border Brief January 17th, 2008

MEXICAN MAFIA (EME)

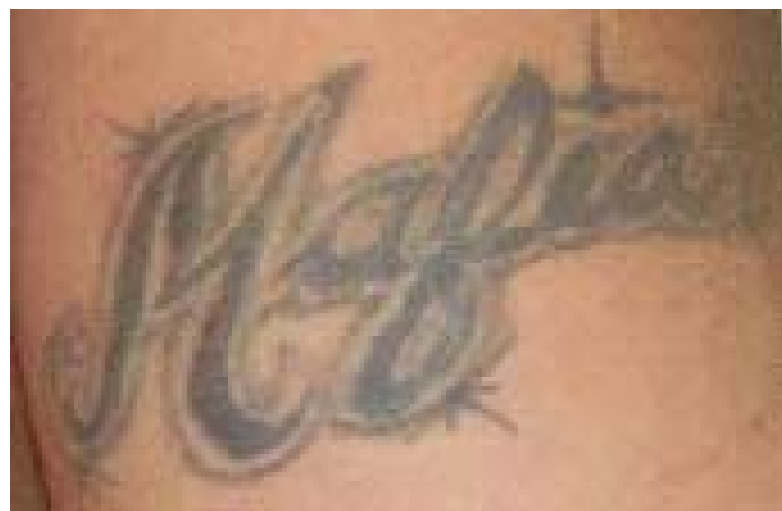
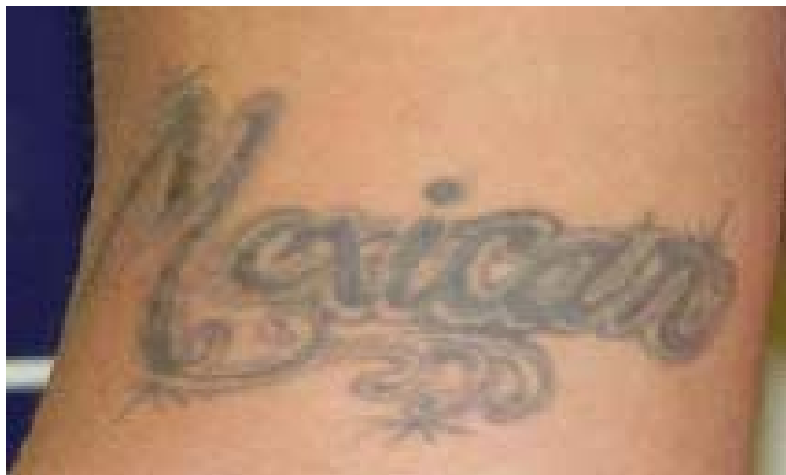


The dots around the number “13” are common among members of the Mexican Mafia.

The three dots can represent prison, hospital, and cemetery, which are associated with the gang lifestyle.

Detroit Border Brief January 17th, 2008

MEXICAN MAFIA (EME)



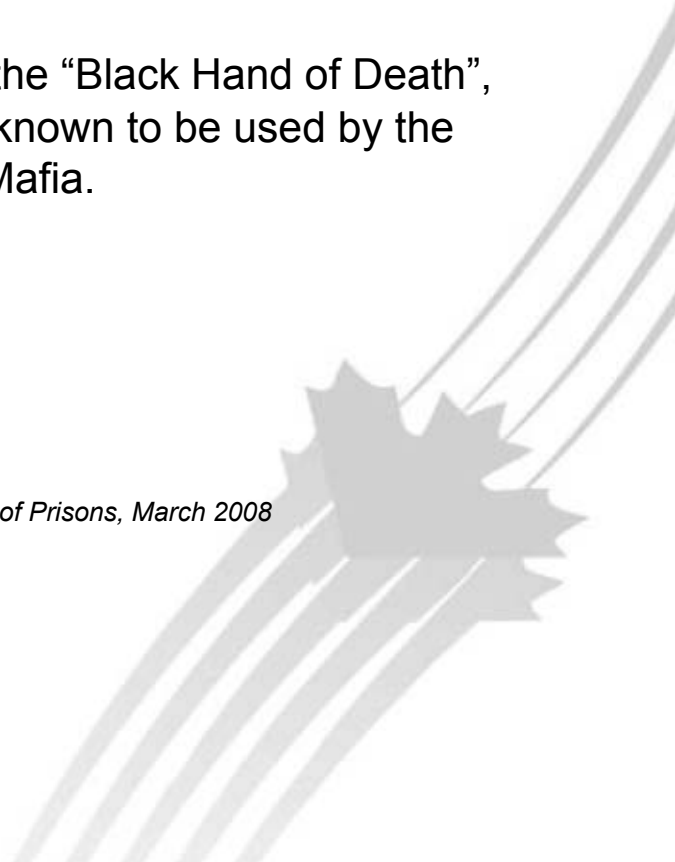
*U.S Customs and Border Protection Daily Report, March 6,
2008*

MEXICAN MAFIA (EME)



Tattoo of the “Black Hand of Death”, a symbol known to be used by the Mexican Mafia.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008



MEXICAN MAFIA (EME)



“Black Hand of Death” with stylized initials “EME” within the hand.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008

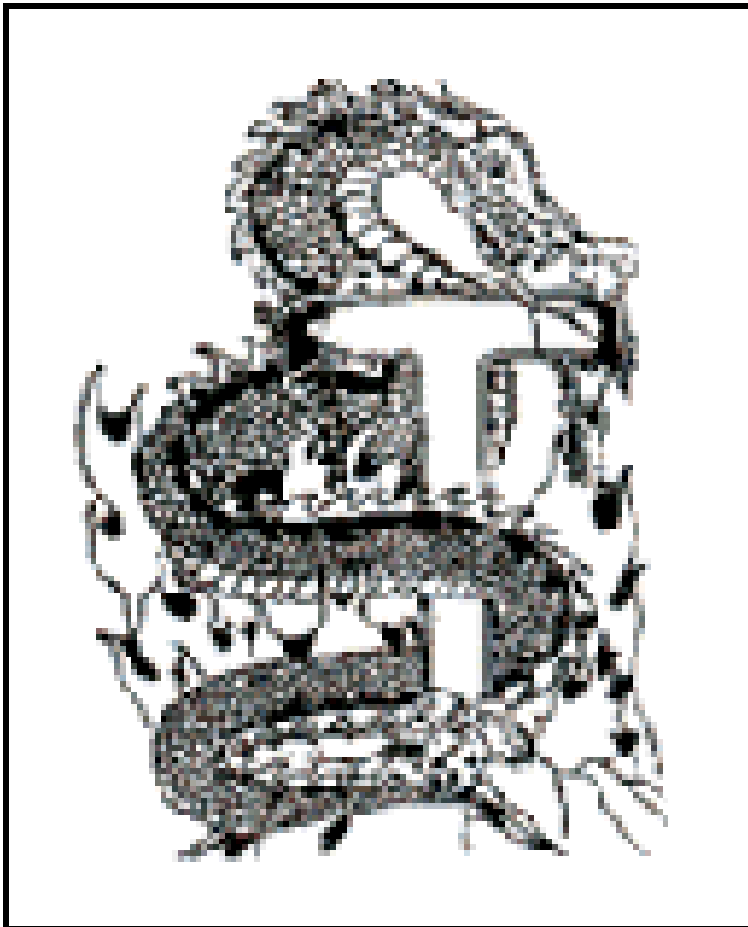
MEXIKANEMI (EMI)



The MEXIKANEMI (EMI) is not the same prison gang as the Mexican Mafia (EME). Many members of EMI bear tattoos and graffiti composed of double-bladed machetes and a circle framing a serpent, Aztec pyramid and Mexican eagle. These symbolize the EMI struggle against their oppressors.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008

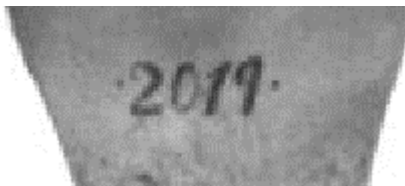
TEXAS SYNDICATE (TS)



The Texas Syndicate (TS) is another prison gang. The stylized “T” with an “S” running through it is the primary group symbol. The “S” may be disguised as a figure of a snake. Note that a cross with a ribbon through it in the shape of an “S” is also used.

Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008

TEXAS SYNDICATE (TS)



The seemingly innocuous number 2019 refers to the 20th and 19th letters of the alphabet (“T”, “S”). The Texas Syndicate is also known as “Te Ese”, after the letters in Spanish.

*Texas Dept of Public Safety
Federal Bureau of Prisons, March 2008*

ALMIGHTY LATIN KING NATION



The Almighty Latin King Nation is also known as the Latin Kings. Gang members are tattooed with a five-pointed crown, and may have the initials ALKN. The bearer may try to convince law enforcement officers that these are the initials of his friends or loved ones. The Latin King colours are black and gold/yellow. The number five is significant for the ALKN, representing the tenets of love, honour, obedience, sacrifice and righteousness, as preached by the gang. These tenets are found in the ALKN Chapter Constitution.

Federal Bureau of Investigations

ALMIGHTY LATIN KING NATION



The little diamonds in the crown points represent the five senses: sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. The colours of the crown – red, black and gold – are significant. Black represents ancestors and previous leaders; gold represents the sunlight which illuminates the crown; red stands for members who have lost their lives for the ALKN. “Amor de Rey” (“Love of the King” in English) is their standard greeting.

Federal Bureau of Investigations

ALMIGHTY LATIN KING NATION



The two Chinese characters translate to “LATIN” and “KING”.

Intelligence Unit Westchester County Department of Correction

ALMIGHTY LATIN KING NATION



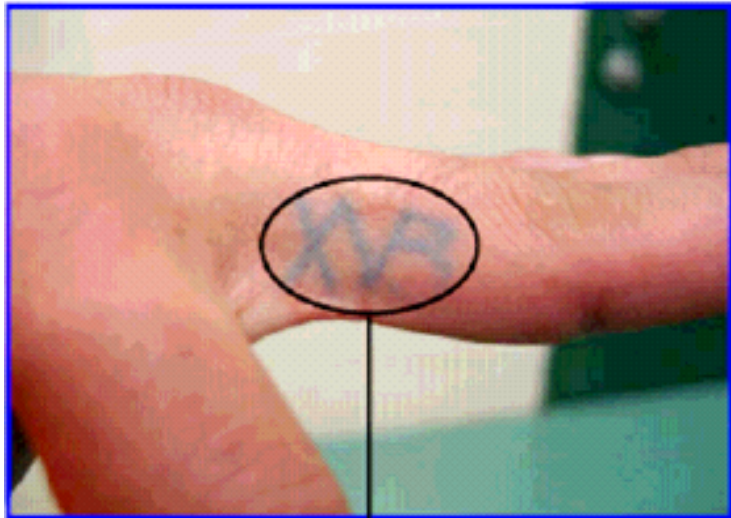
Technological advancements have produced a new tattoo pigment that is visible only under ultraviolet (black) light. It is invisible in ordinary light, but glows under ultraviolet radiation.

Note to officers: when a person gets a black light tattoo, it initially leaves a red mark in the shape of the tattoo.

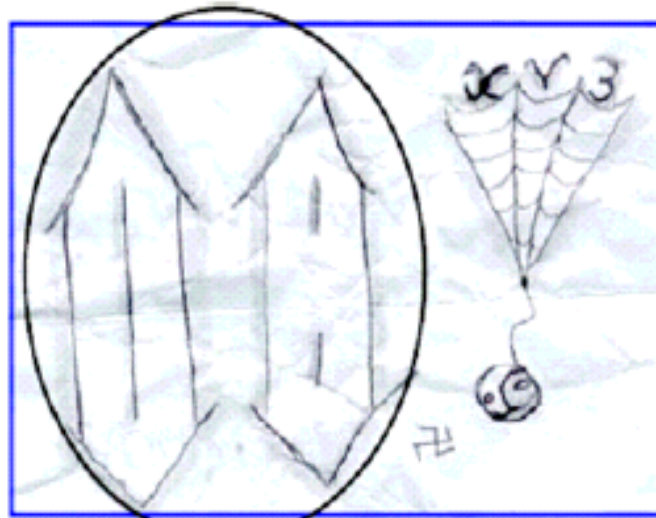
Some Latin King members have applied this type of tattooing on their bodies so that enforcement officers will not be able to identify them as “LK” gang members.

Image provided by Canada Border Services Agency

18th STREET GANG



XV3=18



18

The photo on the left is of an 18th STREET gang tattoo “XV3”.
The photo on the right depicts 18th STREET gang graffiti.

Source: US Department of Homeland Security

18th STREET GANG

Variations on the number “18” are common. Examples include:
18th Street, Eighteen,
Eighteenth Street,
La 18, Calle 18, Barrio/Varrio 18, Mara
18, M18, XV3, XVIII.

Three “6”s make 18.

“BEST” stands for “Barrio Eighteenth Street”.

*Photos courtesy of FBI – Los Angeles, and
www.xv3gang.com*



SUREÑOS



“Sureños”, meaning “southerners”, is a generic term that encompasses all gangs which have originated in southern California.

Three dots are visible near the corner of the right eye, representing the gang lifestyle.

Above the right eyebrow, the subject bears the “Sureños 13” tattoo.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Daily Report, March 5, 2008

SUREÑOS



The subject has the words “Play” and “Boys” tattooed on either side of his forehead.



The Playboys are a sub-group affiliated with the Sureños.

Canada Border Services Agency – Quebec Region

SUREÑOS



Sureño gang member bearing the number 13. The 13th letter of the alphabet, "M", stands for "Mexican".



U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Daily Report, March 5, 2008

Canada Border Services Agency - Quebec Region

SUREÑOS

Red lips tattoo



The above tattoo of red lips is suspected of being a Sureño identifier, as the number “13” is shaped into a pair of lips.

When questioned, the Sureños member claimed it represents a girlfriend’s kiss.

National Gang Intelligence Center, Intelligence Bulletin

SUREÑOS

War God symbol



This symbol represents the Aztec War God and signifies honour and respect earned by a warrior. When worn by a Sureño, this symbol means that he is a warrior or foot soldier for EME (the Mexican Mafia). Sureños wear the War God symbol as a badge of honour and to pay homage to EME.

*National Gang Intelligence Center
Intelligence Bulletin*

NORTEÑOS



XIV represents the 14th letter of the alphabet, “N”, for “Norteño”, or “northerner”. Members of all gangs that hail from northern California are Norteños.

The upper photo shows a tattoo with the word Norteño written on the subject’s right hand.

The lower image depicts “NOR” for “Norteños”, with the 925 area code for northern California.

Federal Bureau of Investigation, January 29, 2008

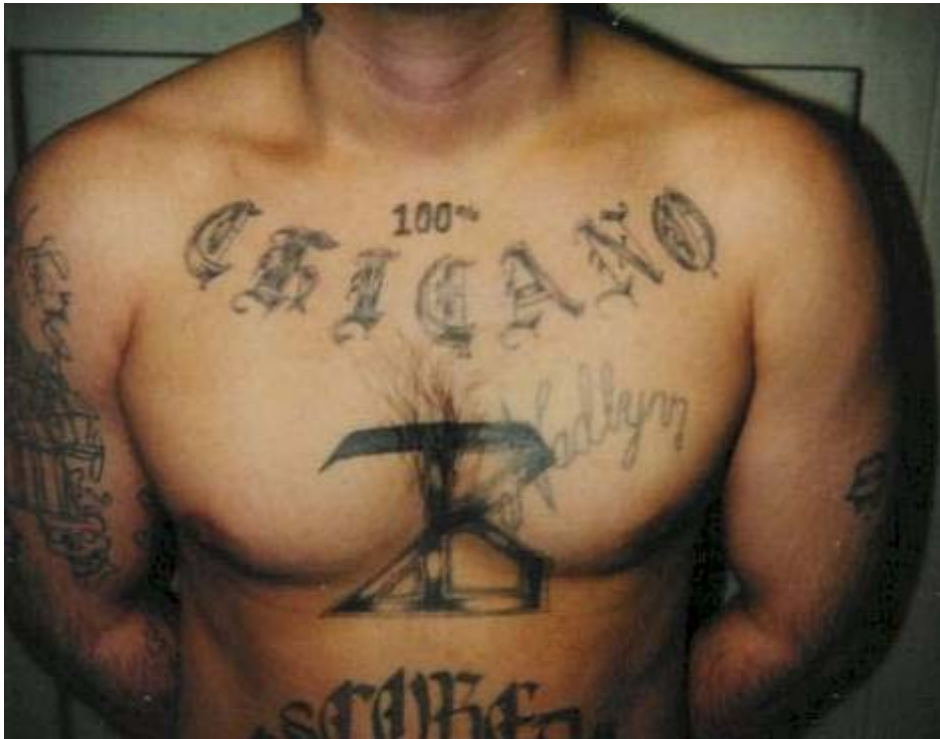
TEXAS CHICANO BROTHERHOOD (TCB)



Tattoo of “TCB”, the initials of the “Texas Chicano Brotherhood”, a prison gang which began in El Paso, Texas.

Texas Department of Public Safety, July 2007

TEXAS CHICANO BROTHERHOOD (TCB)



Tattoo of a stylized “TCB”, representing Texas Chicano Brotherhood. Also visible is a “100% Chicano” tattoo. TCB tattoos can be found on the subject’s knuckles.

Texas Department of Public Safety, July 2007



MARA SALVATRUCHA 13 (MS-13)



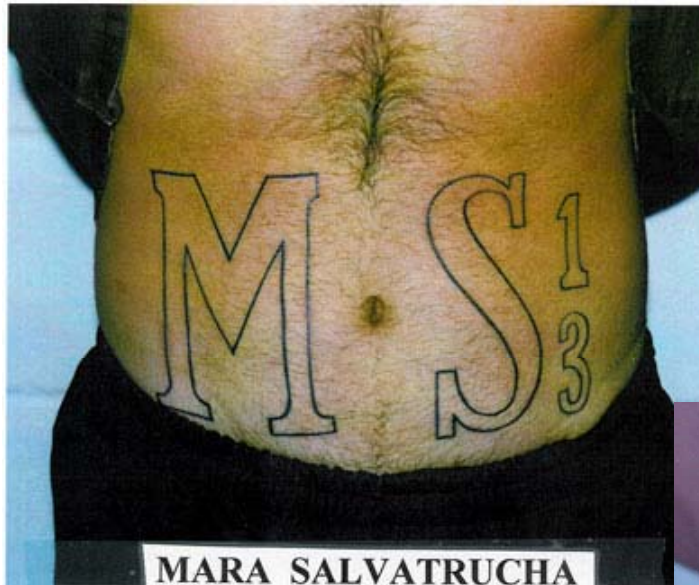
“Mara Salvatrucha” (MS) can have the following possible meanings: “Long live El Salvador”, “Watch out Maravilla, El Salvador is here”, or “Watch out, the El Salvador gang is here”.

“M” on the right shoulder and a stylized “S” indicate MS membership,

Laughing and crying clown faces or masks tattooed on the body represent “Laugh now, cry later”, associated with the gang lifestyle.

Images provided by Canada Border Services Agency - Windsor

MS-13



Images provided by the Canada Border Services Agency

MS-13



The figure on the left depicts the “devil’s horns”, a symbol adopted by and associated with MS-13 gang members.

The figure on the right is the same image inverted: this represents the letter “M” for Mara Salvatrucha.

Note as well the three dots, found predominantly on gang members

Images courtesy of CBSA – Niagara/Fort Erie Region

BORDER BROTHERS



“BB” are the initials of the Border Brothers, a prison gang that evolved in the 1980s. This Mexican gang originally banded together for protection in prison. It now allows other Central American nationals to join.

The letter “B” on each eyelid are the tattoos of a Border Brother.

Federal Bureau of Prisons.

BORDER BROTHERS



As “B” is the second letter of the alphabet, the number “22” represents the letters “BB”.

The Arizona chapter of the Border Brothers incorporates the letters “BB” with jaguar and Aztec sun symbols.

Meaning and images provided by Central Arizona Detention Center

HELLS ANGELS



This tattoo is associated with full patch members of the Hells Angels. The “AFFA” represents “Angel Forever, Forever Angel”

Image (left) provided by the CBSA and image (right) provided by Calgary Police Service Integrated intelligence Unit.

HELLS ANGELS



Hells Angels Death's Head symbol superimposed over a "1%" tattoo.

The "1%" signifies that the individual is a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG).

Image provided by Calgary Police Service Integrated Intelligence Unit.

HELLS ANGELS



The “Bloody Orcs” were a one-time puppet club of the Hells Angels. Subjects bearing this tattoo may have criminality and may still be involved with the Hells Angels.

Tattoo provided by Calgary Police Service Integrated Intelligence Unit.

HELLS ANGELS



The following tattoos will only be found on full patch members of the Hells Angels OMG. The skull with the wings is the Hells Angels' insignia.

Pictures provided by Calgary Police Service Integrated intelligence Unit.

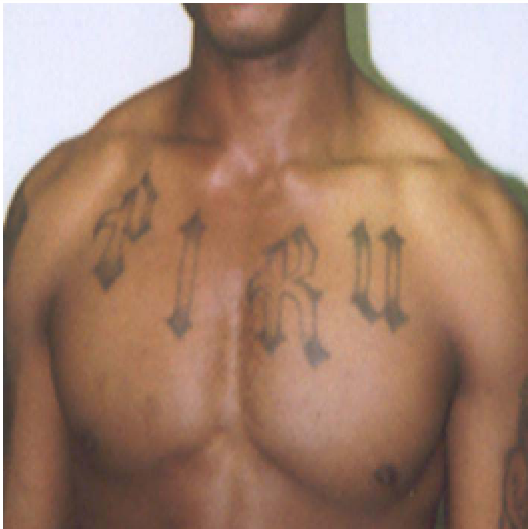
BLOODS



United Bloods Nation is now known to use the “13/13” cipher. This coding method divides the alphabet in half, substituting each letter from the first half with the corresponding letter from the second half. In this photo, “blood” is written “oybbq”, with the letter “O” representing the letter “B,” the letter “Y” representing the letter “L”, etc.

Intelligence Bulletin, National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC), 11 September 2007

BLOODS



The photo on the top left shows the “Piru” tattoo, originating from the original Blood faction called the “Compton Pirus”, named after West Piru Street in the city of Compton, near Los Angeles, California.

“Dawg” and the word “Blood” appear in the tattoo on the right. A dog paw is common among these gang members.

Federal Bureau of Investigations

CRIPS



The word “CRIP” can be found tattooed on gang members.

The letters “IGC” stand for “Insane Gangster Crip”.

The bottom left photo depicts a Crip member who is part of the sub-group “Rollin’ 60s Crips”.

Federal Bureau of Investigations

INDIAN WARRIOR



This tattoo is found mostly on Native Americans that have served prison time.

Texas, Arizona and Missouri state prisons are the predominant facilities where this tattoo is worn. It is used by several criminal street gangs.

It symbolizes an Indian warrior; each feather represents a crime committed against white society. Often it is worn on the neck or skull.

This is an example of a tattoo that is sometimes worn by persons not knowing the story behind the design.

Source: U.S. military and other law enforcement agencies

LAOTIAN BOYZ (LB)



“LAO” is seen on many “LB” (Lao/Laotian Boyz) gang members.

Pictures taken at the St-Armand POE

Definitions by Rockingham County Sheriff's Department

LAOTIAN BOYZ (LB)



Marijuana leaf designed into a bracelet. Common for support, use or sale of marijuana by some gang members.

*Pictures taken at the St-Armand POE
Definitions by Rockingham County Sheriff's Department*

ASIAN GANG TATTOOS



Tattooing is not common nor generally done by the average citizen in Asian cultures. Tattooing is seen as a defilement of the body. Someone who tattoos himself may not necessarily be a gang member; however, he is at the very least indicating that he feels he runs outside the norms of society, that he is a rebel.

Tattoos in Hong Kong will tend to depict animals such as snakes, tigers, dragons, tortoises, swallows and phoenixes.

Images provided by Calgary Police Service Organized Crime Section.

Interpretation provided by Inspector Garry Clement OIC "A" Division Proceeds of Crime - RCMP

ASIAN GANG TATTOOS



Images provided by Calgary Police Service Organized Crime Section

Various Symbols

TIGER



The tiger is a sign of power or strength. It is not specific to any particular gang, but tiger tattoos have been seen on Asian gang members.

*Pictures taken at the St-Armand POE
Definitions by Rockingham County Sheriff's Department*

SPIDER WEB



A spider web often represents time spent in prison and/or time spent caught in the web of the “gang lifestyle” that is inescapable.

It may also represent the beginning of a gang lifestyle.

Canada Border Services Agency - Pacific Region and Niagara Region

THREE DOTS



Usually, three dots are seen together in a triangle, signifying “prison, hospital, cemetery”, representing the path and ultimate end of a gang lifestyle.

The dots are usually the first tattoo received before becoming a full member. They can also mean “my crazy life” (“mi vida loca”). They are affiliated with the Mexican Mafia.

Image provided by Canada Border Services Agency - Windsor

Definitions from Canada Border Services Agency – Quebec Region.

FIVE DOTS



Originally Vietnamese, this tattoo denotes a “circle of friends”: one person protected by a group. Five dot tattoos are used by the Bloods, Gangster Disciples, and Asian triads.

It can also symbolize “Me against the world”, or “All alone and the world is against me”.

Image provided by Canada Border Services Agency

Interpretation by Rockingham County Sheriff's Department

ANGEL OF DEATH



This tattoo depicts the “Angel of Death” or the “Grim Reaper”.

This tattoo was found on a Sureño gang member.

Image provided by Canada Border Services Agency – Quebec Region.

CLOWN FACES / MASKS



Clown face/mask tattoos are common among gang members. They can have the following meanings:

- “Laugh now, cry later”
- “Play now, pay later”
- “My happy life, my sad life”
- “Smile now, cry later”

This style of tattoo is typical among Latin and Asian gang members.

Images provided by Canada Border Services Agency - Windsor

CLOWN FACES / MASKS



VIDA LOCA



This tattoo shows the letters “VL”, for “vida loca” (Spanish for “crazy life”).

It is common among Latino gang members, who are proud of their wild lifestyle.

Images provided by Canada Border Services Agency – Quebec Region.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION



This is a list of many common types of tattoos, but is not all-inclusive:

Clock faces without hands.....	Doing time
Tombstones with numbers.....	The years a person was inside prison
Tombstones with numbers and “RIP”	Mourning the death of a friend
Spider webs on elbows or shoulders.....	Doing time
Eight ball.....	Behind the eight ball or bad luck
One laughing face, one crying face.....	“Play now, pay later” or “My happy life, my sad life”
“SWP”	“Supreme White Power”
“Peckerwood” / woodpecker.....	White pride (for males)
“Featherwood”	White pride (for females)
Viking themes.....	Common Caucasian tattoos
Granite block walls.....	Time in Old Folsom Prison
“100 % pure”	Pure white or Anglo-Saxon
Cell window with sun or bird showing.....	Waiting to get out
Face of female crying.....	Has someone on the outside waiting
“SUR”	Southerner (California)
Norteño.....	Northerner (California)
Prison block wall with bricks falling outward.....	Inside wanting to get out