

	POLICY & PROCEDURE	SERIES # 548	PAGE 1 OF 5
	GANG ACTIVITY		EFFECTIVE DATE 12/17/2019
			OVERSIGHT Investigations
	DISTRIBUTION ALL MANUALS	AMENDS/SUPERSEDES/CANCELS P&P # 548 dated 10/14/10.	

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to develop guidelines to be used when reporting information/intelligence concerning gang activity.

II. POLICY:

It shall be the policy of the Hampton Police Division to identify, investigate and prosecute crimes involving gang activity, and to gather intelligence on gangs and gang related activity.

III. DEFINITIONS:

The following definitions and characteristics shall be used by department personnel to establish identification for criminal investigations, analysis, and retention of intelligence records.

A. Criminal Gang - A criminal gang is defined as a group of three (3) or more people who form an alliance, who engage in criminal activity individually or collectively to enhance the status of their group, who create an atmosphere of fear & intimidation within the community, and who also conform to some of the following traits:

1. Share a common group name
2. Share common symbols, tattoos, branding, or graffiti
3. Share common hand signs for communication
4. Share a common style of clothing or colors worn
5. Frequent a hang out or claim a particular location
6. Associate frequently amongst other members
7. Have a structured leadership or chain of command
8. Have a process of initiation.

B. Examples of Criminal Gangs are:

1. Street Gangs – These gangs will display common traits as described in Section A. They will share a common group name with local ties or may align with a more widely known national gang (e.g. Bloods, ‘Crips’ etc.).
2. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs – Also referred to as One Percenters (1%), these gangs are commonly identified by the patches worn on a leather or



denim vest. These vests are referred to as colors, rags or cuts depending on the area they are from in the US. The dominant OMG clubs in the area will also have support clubs with different patches that become a force multiplier for the dominant OMG Club. Generally, OMG Clubs will wear a three-piece patch on their vest that indicates motorcycle club name, club logo or insignia and chapter location or territory claimed.

3. **Racial/Ethnic/Religious Based Hate Groups** – These gangs will often display extremist views and bias toward a particular race, ethnic group/culture, or religion. They may display some of the common traits in Section A. These groups frequently display their views publicly and may attempt to provoke violence and civil disturbance. Recruitment efforts occur heavily in the prison system and are also found in the distribution of fliers and via the Internet.

C. **Gang Membership** - A gang membership can consist of different levels of commitment and participation. Any individual may be verified as a criminal gang member based upon meeting any two of the following criteria. A person may be identified as a suspected gang member when any one of the following criteria is met:

1. Subject uses gang hand signs
2. Subject writes gang graffiti
3. Subject wears gang related clothing/colors
4. Subject associates with known gang members
5. Subject appears in gang photos / videos
6. Subject displays gang tattoos
7. Subject admits to gang membership
8. Subject participates in gang related crimes
9. Subject has past criminal record for gang activity
10. Subject has prison record for gang activity
11. Subject is known as a gang member by a reliable informant
12. Subject has participated in or is participating in a criminal gang initiation or ritual process.

D. The initiation or ritual process may include but is not limited to:

1. **"Jumped In"/ Beat In** – The subject is beaten by fellow criminal gang members for a predetermined amount of time.
2. **"Crimed In"** Committing a crime as directed & witnessed by criminal gang members.
3. **"Sexed In"** - Female subject complies with having sex with a number of criminal gang members.
4. **"Blessed In"** - When an individual is allowed membership without

having to submit to an initiation process due to his/her particular talent that the criminal gang wishes to acquire.

5. **"Born In"** - When an individual is allowed membership without having to submit to the initiation process due to his/her being conceived by two members within the criminal gang.

E. Criminal Gang Related Incident - An incident may be classified as a criminal gang related event if any one of the following criteria is present:

1. The incident involves suspects, victims, or participants who are identified as criminal gang members.
2. An incident is corroborated by a credible independent source as having been related to a criminal street gang.
3. An officer has reasonable suspicion that the incident is gang related.
4. The activity benefits or promotes the criminal gang in some way.

IV. PROCEDURE:

Division members are the initial responders for incidents or calls for service involving criminal gang related events as described in this policy.

- A. Preliminary and investigative functions are the responsibility of all Division sworn personnel.
- B. The Violent Crime Gang Unit (V.C.G.U.) is responsible for the collection and dissemination of information gathered regarding criminal gangs.
 1. This information shall be provided by all sworn personnel by I.B.R. Report (crime involved), addendum and/or field interview card with findings surrounding the elements as described in this policy. Include the information source, date and time the findings were gathered along with photos and other supporting documentation.
 2. In order to support the authenticity of photos, not submitted through Evidence.com, affix the name of the person taking the photo with the date & time it was taken.
 3. Photos of persons should also have the full name of person or persons displayed.
- C. The Violent Crime Gang Unit (V.C.G.U.) is designated as the central collection point for criminal gang information. The V.C.G.U. will investigate complaints pertaining to gang activity that come to the attention of the unit. All gang related

complaints are to be forwarded to the V.C.G.U. supervisor via Email, or other written report as referenced above. The V.C.G.U. will:

1. Be responsible for the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information within the police division and to other federal & state, local jurisdictions.
2. Provide training on gangs within the police division.
3. Validate official gang related information for dissemination to individuals or citizen groups.
4. Maintain criminal gang intelligence in the Crime Ntel Database.
5. Provide analysis of criminal gang information and assistance to division personnel for criminal investigation and crime prevention matters. Information will include, but is not limited to: name of the investigating officer, type of alleged activity, unit generated case number, OCA number if applicable, and disposition. Records are maintained at the discretion of the Unit Commander and in accordance with law.
6. Ensure all information gathered and analyzed by the V.C.G.U. is in a secure environment, separate from the Division's record system in order to provide limited access and security. This ensures that the system is protected from any attempts to access, modify, remove or destroy stored information. It is the responsibility of the Unit Commander to ensure the confidentiality of all V.C.G.U. files.
7. Will input confirmed/associate/affiliated gang members into the division's CrimeNtel database to assist the Division in gathering intelligence on suspected gang members. Will be responsible for validating documented gang members for VCIN/NCIC entry through the use of Form SP-302 (Virginia State Police Gang Member Source Document).
8. Work closely with Division SRO's to monitor students gang related activities and confirm their gang involvement and association.
9. Work closely with Investigative Services in order to assist with gang related search warrants, apprehension of suspected gang members and or current gang members wanted for gang crimes.
10. Work closely with Probation & Parole Officers to obtain new gang intelligence and to assist them with information relating to current gang member status and affiliation.
11. Work closely with the local City jail to identify gang members within and intercept written gang intelligence coded letters.

12. Attend scheduled VGIA gang intel meetings/briefings to stay abreast of current gang trends, crime patterns, and intelligence.
13. Conduct gang training for designated shift gang representatives.
14. Conduct gang related awareness training for the members of the community to stay abreast of gang issues relating to Hampton.

