



NEWS

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DEA & the Chicago Crime Commission host Regional Gang Summit *A who's who of law enforcement leaders presented at the meeting*

For Immediate Release

Chicago, IL – Friday, February 14, 2014 –The Chicago Crime Commission in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) conducted a first-of-its-kind Tri-State Regional Gang Summit today in Oakbrook, Illinois. The Summit was designed to share strategies to more effectively combat the influence of gangs and the Mexican drug cartels in trafficking narcotics in the tri-state region.

A who's who of law enforcement leaders presented at the Summit including United States Attorney for the Northern District Zack Fardon, DEA Special Agent-in-Charge Jack Riley, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin, Lake County State's Attorney Michael Nerheim, Will County State's Attorney James Glasgow, Cook County Sheriff's Office Deputy Chief John Blair, Chicago Police Department Organized Crime Chief Nick Roti and many others.

“Presenters outlined the new face of organized crime and drug trafficking operations in Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin,” according to Joe Ways, Executive Director of the Chicago Crime Commission. “Over 150 regional law enforcement leaders working throughout the tri-state region attended the Summit,” he added.

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Strategies presented included a new regional approach to address trafficking across borders and local law enforcement's role in addressing gangs and drug trafficking' "It's a fact that gangs and their drug cartel partners, operate without regard to traditional borders," said DEA Chicago Field Division Special Agent in Charge Jack Riley and head of the new Chicago Strike Force. "To be most effective, it is imperative that local, county, state and federal law enforcement work together to effectively battle the growth of gangs and the violence they cause," he continued.

Riley pointed to the Chicago Strike Force as an example of how federal, state and local law enforcement are pushing hard against the violent gang and drug-related crime in Chicago by implementing a strategy of focusing on the choke point where drug cartel and gang members interact to exchange drugs and money.

The Tri-State Regional Gang Summit was conducted at the Marriott Hotel in Oakbrook, Illinois.

Last year, the Chicago Crime Commission and the DEA joined together to name Joaquin "Chapo" Guzman Loera as Chicago's new *Public Enemy Number One*. Guzman heads the Sinaloa cartel in Mexico which allegedly smuggles heroin, cocaine, marijuana and other narcotics between Mexico and United States, with Chicago as a major distribution hub.

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