NATIONAL DRUG INTELLIGENCE CENTER

Drugs and Crime
Gang Profile

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mexican Mafia

Mexican Mafia is the oldest and one of the most violent prison gangs operating in the United States. Although the gang is loosely structured, all members must adhere to a set of strict rules. Most of the 350 to 400 members are Mexican American males with a history of street gang activity. The gang is active in federal and California state prisons as well as in the community at large, particularly in the Southwest and Pacific regions of the United States. Its main source of income is distributing cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine and extorting drug distributors on the streets. Mexican Mafia also is involved in various other criminal activities: the gang is known to control gambling and homosexual prostitution operations in the prisons where it operates.

Background

Mexican Mafia, also known as La Eme (Spanish for the letter "M"), The Black Hand, Emily, Eme, and Los Emeros, originally was formed in late 1957 in the Deuel Vocational Institution in Tracy, California, which at the time housed youthful offenders. A group of Hispanic inmates banded together to protect themselves and other Hispanic inmates from assaults by groups of African American and Caucasian inmates and to counter perceived unfair treatment from the correctional staff. Inspired by La Cosa Nostra, these inmates dubbed their gang Mexican Mafia. A number of these Mexican Mafia members were transferred to other California Department of Corrections (CDC) institutions, such as the San Quentin and Folsom state prisons and the California Institution for Men in Chino, typically when they came of age or because they committed violent acts—often on behalf of the gang—while incarcerated. Mexican Mafia members began selectively recruiting incarcerated Hispanic street gang members to increase the gang's size and influence. Their goal was to unite Hispanic inmates into a "gang of gangs" by putting aside rivalries among Hispanic gang members in prison.

During the 1960s Mexican Mafia increased in membership and power and gained influence over most of the illegal activity that took place in many

CDC institutions. This criminal activity included distributing drugs (primarily heroin and marijuana), running gambling and homosexual prostitution operations, and extorting money from other drug dealers. By the mid-1960s Mexican Mafia controlled heroin and marijuana distribution in several CDC prisons. Around the same time, the gang instituted a policy it called "Mexican Mafia for life," whereby gang members who attempted to leave the gang were killed. Mexican Mafia also began to exploit African American and Caucasian inmates as well as non-Eme-affiliated Hispanic inmates who were predominantly from Northern California. As a consequence, in 1968 after a long period of being subject to ridicule, disrespect, and exploitation, some Hispanic inmates predominately from Northern California established La Nuestra Familia (LNF or NF) to protect themselves from Mexican Mafia members. Hispanic inmates not aligned with Mexican Mafia or the associated gang members who became known as Sureños (see text box) became allies of La Nuestra Familia and later took on the designation Norteños (Northerners) to demonstrate their affiliation with La Nuestra Familia and their opposition to Mexican Mafia.

California Department of Corrections

Mexican Mafia tattoos: eagle with serpent in mouth; EME; EMERO; and the Black Hand.

Sureños and Norteños

The original Mexican Mafia members, most of whom were from Southern California, considered Mexicans from the rural, agricultural areas of Northern California to be weak and viewed them with contempt. To distinguish themselves from the agricultural workers or farmers from Northern California, members of Mexican Mafia and their affiliates began to refer to themselves as Sureños (Southerners) and to refer to inmates from Northern California as Norteños (Northerners). By the late 1970s the term Sureños came to refer to those Hispanic inmates affiliated with or loyal to Mexican Mafia. Individuals identifying themselves as Sureños began using the number 13 to represent M, the thirteenth letter of the alphabet, to demonstrate their affiliation with and loyalty to Mexican Mafia. Street gangs affiliated with Mexican Mafia now demonstrate their affiliation by calling themselves Sureños, Sureños-13, or Sur-13.

By the early 1970s the release of many Mexican Mafia members from prison had allowed the gang to establish a presence in inner-city communities in many parts of Southern California. The gang already was smuggling and transporting large quantities of heroin and marijuana from Mexico for distribution by gang members and associates in East Los Angeles. During the mid-1970s the gang's street operations increased in organization to the point where members being released from California prisons were assigned specific roles in criminal activities such as drug distribution, prostitution operations, extortion, and robbery. By 1979 Mexican Mafia had become the most sophisticated prison gang distributing drugs (amphetamine, cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and PCP) in California.

During the 1970s Mexican Mafia also established an intelligence network as it expanded drug distribution operations from the prisons to the streets of Southern California. Mexican Mafia members, after serving their prison sentences and returning to their communities, infiltrated local drug prevention programs in the Los Angeles area as a means of monitoring the distribution and use of drugs within the community. Gang members diverted some of the federal and state funding received by these prevention programs to illegal operations. Some of the money was used to hire legal staff to gain the early release of fellow Mexican Mafia inmates. Gang members also used drug prevention programs as a means to establish communication links between Mexican Mafia members on the street and those in prison. Mexican Mafia also developed a network of informants with access to California Department of Motor Vehicles information and telephone subscriber information. Mexican Mafia used its extensive intelligence network to force independent drug dealers to pay a tax (called a tribute) or be killed.

During the late 1970s and the 1980s, Mexican Mafia experienced a period of external as well as internal conflict. The external conflict involved violence between Mexican Mafia and Black Guerrilla Family, an African American prison gang operating in Folsom State Prison. The conflict resulted in a lockdown of known gang leaders and members throughout the CDC. In an attempt to end this conflict, an influential Mexican Mafia member admitted the existence of the gang to prison authorities and described its operations. This member was killed for violating gang rules, resulting in internal conflict among Mexican Mafia members. In 1989 the CDC transferred many Mexican Mafia members to the newly constructed, high-security Pelican Bay State Prison. Mexican Mafia members were placed in security housing units (SHUs) in Pelican Bay State Prison, and later Corcoran State Prison, and confined to their cells approximately 22 hours a day. Although this made it more difficult for Mexican Mafia to operate, the gang's illegal activities continued. Most influential Mexican Mafia members remain in these SHUs and continue to influence gang activities.

As cocaine became increasingly popular during the 1980s, Mexican Mafia members began distributing greater quantities of powdered and crack cocaine. Individual Mexican Mafia members also formed relationships with members of the Arellano-Felix drug trafficking organization (DTO) with whom they were incarcerated. These personal relationships developed into business relationships as Mexican Mafia members began recruiting Hispanic gang members in Southern California to smuggle drugs into the United States for the DTO or to act as security for high-ranking members of the DTO. In addition, members of Mexican Mafia formed business ties with members of the Cali Cartel from whom they also purchased cocaine.

In the 1990s Mexican Mafia's drug distribution activities in Los Angeles increased, and the gang became heavily involved in methamphetamine distribution. The gang expanded its drug distribution operations by ordering an end to drive-by shootings involving Hispanic street gang members and eventually ordering an end to rivalries among Hispanic gangs as well. This allowed the gangs to focus on drug distribution. Subsequently, Mexican Mafia demanded that all Sureños-affiliated gang members pay a tribute of as much as 33 percent of drug distribution profits. Gangs either complied with the order, or all of the gang members were targeted for killing (given a green light, or *luz verde*) by Mexican Mafia. The funds that Mexican Mafia collected were used to help imprisoned members pay legal fees, support their families, and replenish their prison canteen accounts.

On May 1, 1995, the U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California announced the indictment of 22 members and associates of Mexican Mafia under the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act for crimes including drug-related conspiracy, murder, extortion, and kidnapping. Seven of the 22 eventually pled guilty, and one was killed before he could be arrested. The subsequent conviction and sentencing of all but one of the remaining defendants in 1997 had little impact on the gang's overall activities.

For a period of approximately 3 years from 1999 through 2002, Mexican Mafia operating within the CDC "closed the books," that is, prohibited new members from joining the gang. This was an attempt to refine the membership by setting new guidelines for recruitment, excluding inmates serving a life

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department

Mexican Mafia graffiti.

sentence or on death row, and including only inmates of "pure Mexican descent." After three key members who had been instrumental in closing the books left the gang and were debriefed by CDC personnel in late 2002, Mexican Mafia opened the books and began accepting new members without using the new guidelines. In 2003 Mexican Mafia is actively recruiting new members in the CDC.

At least one Mexican Mafia member, currently wanted on parole violations, is still believed to be actively involved with the Arellano-Felix DTO and is arranging drug shipments for the gang. Mexican Mafia also is encouraging Sureños street gang members to migrate to other parts of the country in an effort to expand drug trafficking operations.

Alliances

Mexican Mafia is closely associated with most Hispanic street gangs in Southern California, known collectively as Sureños. In Los Angeles County they include White Fence, Avenues, Primera Flats, Cuatro Flats, Florencia-13, 18th Street, and Mara Salvatrucha (MS 13). In Orange County, Sureños include Dogtown, F-Troop, La Jolla, and West Trece. In San Diego County, they include Acre Boys, Logan Heights, Old Town National City, and Posoles. These gangs pay a tribute to Mexican Mafia members to distribute drugs within a specific neighborhood, or barrio. In San Diego the Logan Heights gang provides enforcement services for Mexican Mafia drug trafficking activities.

Several Mexican Mafia members maintain working relationships with various other prison gangs and "disruptive groups" such as Aryan Brotherhood, Nazi Low Riders, Peckerwoods, Border Brothers, and Sinaloan Cowboys. For example, Mexican Mafia and Aryan Brotherhood members cooperate in smuggling drugs into CDC facilities and have assisted each other in armed robberies and drug trafficking outside CDC facilities. Members of Border Brothers reportedly provide Mexican Mafia members with drugs and safe houses outside prison in exchange for protection in prison. Mexican Mafia also works with members of the Arizona-based Old Mexican Mafia and the New Mexico Syndicate prison gangs.

Some Mexican Mafia members have established relationships with members of major drug trafficking and criminal organizations. Mexican Mafia members have provided security and smuggled drugs across the U.S.–Mexico border for the Arellano-Felix DTO based in Tijuana, Mexico. Contact with other Mexican DTOs also is suspected. Formerly, at least one influential gang member had direct contact with members of the Cali Cartel. He arranged drug shipments into the United States for distribution by Mexican Mafia and its associates. At times Mexican Mafia members also work directly with Asian organized crime groups such as Yakuza, Chinese Triads, and Wah-Ching as well as Asian gangs (referred to by Mexican Mafia members as South Side Chinos) in distributing drugs in Asian communities in Southern California and Hawaii. In addition, Mexican Mafia often provides protection services to imprisoned La Cosa Nostra members.

Adversaries

The primary adversary of the Mexican Mafia is La Nuestra Familia and its subordinate Norteños. Open warfare between Mexican Mafia and La Nuestra Familia began in 1968 at San Quentin Prison. An attempt to reconcile the two gangs collapsed in 1972, when members of La Nuestra Familia killed an influential Mexican Mafia member who had been responsible for establishing Mexican Mafia operations on the street. Black Guerrilla Family, an African American prison-based gang, is another adversary of Mexican Mafia because of its affiliation with La Nuestra Familia.

Other adversaries of Mexican Mafia include Asian street gangs such as Tiny Rascals Gang, Korean Killers, and Asian Boyz as well as Hispanic prison gangs such as Texas Syndicate, Arizona-based New Mexican Mafia, and Texas Mexican Mafia, also known as Mexikanemi or Emi. The newest Mexican Mafia adversary is Peseta-25, a prison gang primarily composed of street gang members who have defected from Sureños.

Other Gangs Using the Name Mexican Mafia

Various prison gangs use the name Mexican Mafia or a variation of that name. In addition to the Mexican Mafia prison gang, also known as La Eme or Eme, that operates in the federal and California state prison systems, other gangs using the name Mexican Mafia have been identified in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah. (The Arizona-based Mexican Mafia, also known as Eme, was established 1974 in the Arizona State Prison in Florence. In 1978 it split into New Mexican Mafia, also known as New Eme, and Old Mexican Mafia, also known as Old Eme.) Gangs using the name Mexican Mafia also may be confused with Texas Mexican Mafia, also known as Mexikanemi or Emi, which was established in the early 1980s within facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Additional confusion may result from the fact that media reports refer to Mexican DTOs as the Mexican Mafia.

Organizational Structure

Mexican Mafia is a loosely structured prison gang with a centralized leadership and a common culture and set of rules. All members vote on decisions affecting the entire gang; if the decision is limited to a particular institution, only those members vote. Each gang member, known as a *carnal*, has an equal vote.

In general, each Mexican Mafia member has a great deal of autonomy in conducting business. As long as there is no conflict, a *carnal* is his own boss. He is expected to pay 33 percent of his illicit proceeds to Mexican Mafia. If a single Mexican Mafia member is in a prison or jail facility, he is required to assume control of all Sureños inmates. If no Sureños are at the facility, the Mexican Mafia member is expected to unify other Hispanic inmates under his leadership. Sureños are then expected to fight against Mexican Mafia's enemies and assist Mexican Mafia in taking control of illegal activities within the institution. Sureños are expected to carry out Mexican Mafia orders without question.

Upon release from prison, Mexican Mafia gang members remain loyal to Mexican Mafia and assist members still incarcerated in furthering the goals of the gang. For example, Mexican Mafia members recruit members of Hispanic street gangs into the Sureños affiliation, establishing a larger network for Mexican Mafia's illegal activities.

Two sets of rules govern Mexican Mafia activities: hard rules and gray rules. Hard rules may not be broken under penalty of death and include prohibitions against informing, cowardice, homosexuality, and leaving the gang. Breaking of gray rules, however, may not incur punishment if the member can justify his actions. Gray rules stipulate that a member cannot raise a hand against another member without prior permission from the gang membership, have sex with another member's wife or girlfriend, steal from a member, interfere in another member's business, or politick (lobby for votes) against another member. These rules also mandate that a member must participate in votes to accept new members.

An informal leadership structure has evolved within Mexican Mafia. Each facility housing Mexican Mafia inmates has an individual who runs Mexican Mafia operations, or "holds the keys," in that facility. If there is a conflict over which individual should be in charge, the dispute is referred to the most respected Mexican Mafia

Table 1. Known Mexican Mafia Factions Within the California Department of Corrections

Shot Caller(s)	Original Gang	Area of Influence
The Grajeda Family*	La Rana	Los Angeles County
Peter "Sana" Ojeda	F Troop	Orange County
Ruben "Tupie" Hernandez*	Black Angels	San Bernardino/Riverside Counties
Francisco "Puppet" Martinez**	18th Street	Los Angeles County
Raul "Huero" Sherm Leon*	Shelltown	San Diego County

*Grajeda, Hernandez, and Leon run their factions from the SHU at Pelican Bay State Prison.
**Currently serving a life sentence at Marion Federal Penitentiary.

members, often called *veteranos*, or veterans, most of whom are inmates in the SHU at Pelican Bay State Prison. The decision of the *veteranos* is final. Mexican Mafia members in leadership positions, whether at Pelican Bay, another prison or jail facility, or on the streets, are known as shot callers.

With many influential Mexican Mafia members separated from the general prison population through isolation in SHUs, politicking has become more pervasive because punishment cannot be imposed in a timely manner. In the past 10 years, six *veteranos* used their influence to gather the votes of individual members and eventually emerged as separate factions: five within the CDC (see Table 1) and one in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Administrative Detention Facility (ADX) in Florence, Colorado, led by Adolph "Champ" Reynoso. The shot caller for each faction influences how members of that faction vote. As a result, disagreements between the factions regarding membership or control over operations within a facility or housing unit are common.

Membership

Mexican Mafia, one of the most powerful and violent prison gangs in the United States, has an estimated 350 validated members and over 1,400 suspected members and associates. Within CDC approximately 250 inmates have been validated as Mexican Mafia members, and there are over 1,000 suspected members and associates (not including Sureños). BOP has approximately 90 validated Mexican Mafia members and over 140 suspected members and associates in facilities throughout the United States. It is unknown how many Mexican Mafia members released from prison are active on the streets and where they are located. Traditionally, membership has been limited to Mexican American males or males from Mexican American inner-city neighborhoods. There is no minimum age. The youngest known member is in his mid-thirties; the oldest known member was born in 1935 and is still very active.

A prospective Mexican Mafia member must be sponsored by at least three current gang members. Membership usually requires a unanimous vote by gang members throughout the California and federal prison systems. However, because communication among Mexican Mafia members is difficult, Mexican Mafia in some facilities requires only a unanimous vote among those gang members at the facility. Conflict sometimes results when members from outside the facility who did not vote on a particular inmate's membership come in contact with a member voted in by members at a single facility only.

Prospective members are not always informed that they are being considered for membership until after the vote has occurred, according to CDC. Recruits are selected carefully, as the sponsors are held liable for their prospect's actions. Sometimes, to prove himself worthy of membership, a prospect may be required to commit an act of violence for Mexican Mafia. While it is not a requirement for induction, all Mexican Mafia members are expected to eventually kill for the gang.

Women are not permitted to join Mexican Mafia. Wives, girlfriends, and other female family members, however, play important roles within the organization because they smuggle contraband, including drugs and weapons, into the prison and provide a means of communication between incarcerated members and members on the street.


California Department of Corrections

Kite with magnifying glass.

Communication

Mexican Mafia, like many prison gangs, uses various means of communicating within and outside the prison system. In the CDC and BOP, Mexican Mafia members and their associates communicate by passing messages known as kites. Kites are written in very small text or in code, with three pages of typewritten information often reduced to a message measuring 2 by 3 inches. The message typically is delivered by hand. If an inmate is housed in solitary confinement or in lockdown, inmates attach the note to a piece of string and toss the note from one cell to another.

Gang members also use lawyers employed by Mexican Mafia to communicate with one another. An inmate arranges for an unmonitored meeting and then places a written message under a legal document, which he slides across the table to the lawyer. The lawyer subsequently meets with the intended recipient's lawyer, and that lawyer arranges to meet his client to pass the message. Messages also are hidden in personal correspondence sent through the U.S. Postal Service. Personal correspondence often is sent to wives or girlfriends who pass the message or the letter itself to the intended recipient.

To arrange personal meetings, Mexican Mafia members often claim "Pro Per" status to subpoena fellow members to their institutions. Pro Per is an abbreviated form of the Latin phrase "in propria persona," that is, the Mexican Mafia member represents himself in cases and appeals. Individuals claiming Pro Per status are allowed to subpoena individuals from other institutions for a conference, although these individuals often have no involvement in the case in question. Once subpoenaed, the prison must arrange for the transportation and housing of the individual. The ultimate purpose of the meeting is to bring members together for a conference on Mexican Mafia activities or to order a killing of a member who may have fallen from favor.

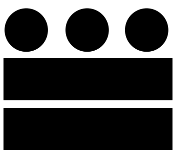
Mexican Mafia also uses child custody proceedings to help incarcerated members communicate with each other and with members and associates outside the prison system. Mexican Mafia members seeking child custody rights often have fellow members called as character witnesses, allowing members to be brought together in a venue that affords them more freedom than a prison setting would allow.

Mexican Mafia Members Use Aztec Code

Some Mexican Mafia members have learned a corrupted form of the ancient Aztec language Nahuatal, which they use to communicate with fellow members, either orally or in written messages.

Some of the "code" Mexican Mafia members have adopted for use in gang-related communication includes the following:

Kanpol	Southerner (Sureños)
Kan	South (Sur)



Cei-yei symbol.

Three dots above two bars is Mayan number system for 13 (cei-yei). The Aztecs did not have a number system in their language, so Mexican Mafia adopted the Mayan system for their purposes.

Drug Trafficking

Mexican Mafia extorts drug distribution profits from street gangs operating outside prison and distributes drugs—cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine—inside and outside prison. Mexican Mafia members collect hundreds of thousands of dollars per year from the wholesale and retail distribution of drugs in the Southwest and Pacific regions of the United States. Outside prison some Mexican Mafia members also are involved in smuggling ephedrine or pseudoephedrine, which they use to produce methamphetamine. At least one gang member also has direct contact with members of the Mexico-based Arellano-Felix DTO for which he arranges the smuggling of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine from Tijuana, Mexico, into the United States for distribution. Mexican Mafia members or associates reportedly organize the transportation of cocaine, marijuana, and methamphetamine from Mexico to cities in the West Central, Great Lakes, and Southeast regions for distribution by local street gangs and independent dealers. Mexican Mafia members also are involved in other criminal activities including assault, auto theft, and murder.

Southwest Region

Mexican Mafia members smuggle drugs into the southwestern United States and transport and distribute drugs throughout the region. Gang members obtain cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine from the Arellano-Felix DTO in Tijuana, Mexico, and are suspected of having other sources of supply, either other DTOs or family members with connections to DTOs, within Mexico. Mexican Mafia smuggles the drugs from Tijuana into Southern California for distribution and is suspected of smuggling drugs from Mexico into Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. Gang members also smuggle ephedrine or pseudoephedrine from Mexico into the region for use in the production of methamphetamine. Although Mexican Mafia members have been involved in methamphetamine production, they usually hire Mexican citizens living illegally in the United States to produce the drug. Mexican Mafia members and Sureños-affiliated street gangs transport the drugs to locations throughout the region for distribution. Sureños-affiliated gang members also collect a tax, usually 33 percent of the money collected by drug dealers operating in Mexican Mafia-controlled areas.

Pacific Region

Mexican Mafia members and associates transport and distribute cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine in the Pacific region, particularly throughout Northern California, Washington, and Hawaii and, to a lesser degree, in Idaho, Nevada, and Oregon. Mexican Mafia *veteranos* have encouraged Mexican Mafia members outside prison and Sureños members to expand their drug distribution activities into Northern California and other areas of the western United States because law enforcement pressure is considered greater in Southern California than in these areas. In Northern California Sureños gangs are well established in areas traditionally known as Norteños territory, such as the cities of Eureka, Redding, Salinas, San Mateo, and Visalia. Sureños members from Southern California who operate in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington remain loyal to and pay taxes to Mexican Mafia.

Jail and Prison Facilities

Gang members and associates introduce cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine into California jails and prison facilities as well as BOP facilities throughout the United States for distribution. The drugs are smuggled into the jail or prison using various means including visitors, legal correspondence and regular mail delivery, clothing delivered for court appearances, and some corrupt prison employees. Jail and prison staffs are restricted from thoroughly inspecting legal correspondence addressed to inmates, so gang members or associates are able to conceal drugs among legal documents sent to the inmate for review. Black tar heroin, for example, has been pressed between sheets of paper intermixed with other documents. Once inside the jail or prison, the drugs are distributed among Mexican Mafia members or sold to other inmates.

Other Criminal Activity

Mexican Mafia engages in a variety of criminal activities in order to finance both its operational expenses and the lifestyles of individual members. In some state and federal prison facilities, Mexican Mafia controls drug distribution as well as homosexual prostitution and gambling operations. The gang receives 33 percent of all profits from drugs sold in the jails and prisons it controls. Inmates who fail to pay the appropriate tribute are assaulted and sometimes killed.

Outside the prison system Mexican Mafia also extorts 33 percent of drug profits from drug dealers in the territory it controls. The funds are sent to a designated location, either the home of a relative of an incarcerated Mexican Mafia member or his lawyer. The money is used to support ongoing Mexican Mafia activities such as paying legal fees for incarcerated members, supporting the families of Mexican Mafia inmates, and replenishing the prison canteen accounts of Mexican Mafia members.

Violence

Mexican Mafia is one of the most violent and aggressive prison gangs in the United States. The gang ensures loyalty and enforces discipline among its members and associates through violence and intimidation. This allows Mexican Mafia to control thousands of Sureños gangs throughout Southern California and within the prison system.

In California law enforcement personnel routinely encounter Mexican Mafia members with assault rifles and body armor. In addition, in 2001 the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Arson Explosives Unit reported a marked increase in Mexican Mafia gang members and associates using bombs to commit murder. The Arson Explosives Unit reported that in a recent incident, officers discovered more than five pipe bomb devices in the East Los Angeles home of a Mexican Mafia associate. Several pipe bomb incidents were reported in areas controlled by the Florencia-13 street gang, a Sureños gang and one of the largest street gangs in Los Angeles.

The successful arrests of numerous Mexican Mafia members in the 1990s have resulted in a leadership vacuum. At points in the past, the gang's street leadership was composed of experienced members who commanded respect because of their reputation for violence. Now Mexican Mafia is populated by newer, less-experienced members who must commit violent acts to establish their reputations.

Outlook

Mexican Mafia will continue to pose a serious threat to the areas in which it operates, both in correctional facilities and on the street. The gang's control of illegal activity in many correctional facilities is a serious concern. In addition, the gang's presence on the street and the influence it exerts over all Sureños gangs render it a particularly troubling threat. The movement of Sureños gangs into areas outside Southern California will increase the threat. Mexican Mafia will continue to rely on the Arellano-Felix DTO while establishing new sources among other Mexican DTOs to obtain cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine for sale by Mexican Mafia in prison and on the streets.

Intelligence Gaps

This profile has identified various intelligence gaps. When possible, information addressing these gaps is being collected for future analysis. Critical information gaps include the following:

- Extent of Mexican Mafia production, transportation, and distribution of methamphetamine in the United States
- Extent of Mexican Mafia transportation and distribution of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana in the United States
- Mexican Mafia's control over gangs throughout the United States that identify themselves as Sureños, Sureños-13, or Sur-13
- New leaders of Mexican Mafia, particularly those outside prison
- Impact on Mexican Mafia from changes within the Arellano-Felix DTO
- Mexican Mafia connections with other Mexican and Colombian DTOs

If you have any information on prison gang activity in your jurisdiction, please contact the NDIC Organized Crime and Violence Unit at (814) 532-4601.

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