

STATE GANG THREAT ASSESSMENT 2017



MISSISSIPPI ANALYSIS AND
INFORMATION CENTER

22 DECEMBER 2017

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(U) Executive Summary

(U//FOUO) This Mississippi Analysis and Information Center (MSAIC) assessment addresses the threats posed to Mississippi law enforcement and the public by gangs and their criminal activity.

(U//FOUO) Intelligence in this assessment is based on data from 125 local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies through statewide intelligence meetings, adjudicated cases, and open source information. Specific gang data was collected from 71 law enforcement agencies through questionnaires disseminated at the statewide intelligence meetings and the 2017 Mississippi Association of Gang Investigators (MAGI) Conference. The intelligence meetings, sponsored by the MSAIC, occurred in the nine Mississippi Highway Patrol (MHP) districts. Law enforcement agencies provided current trends within their jurisdictions. These trends were analyzed based on the MHP Northern, Central, and Southern regions (see Exhibit A).

(U//FOUO) Each agency surveyed submitted the four major gangs involved in criminal activity within their jurisdiction. From this survey, the data collection identified the 46 most prevalent gangs operating within Mississippi and linked members of these gangs to illegal activities such as violent crime, drug sales, and human trafficking. The violent crimes included: homicide, rape, armed robbery, aggravated assault, kidnapping, domestic violence, and drive-by shootings. Other illegal activities involved firearms, extortion, credit card fraud, burglaries, and threats to law enforcement and critical infrastructure.¹

(U) Key Findings

(U//FOUO) The Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Simon City Royals were reported by law enforcement to be the most prevalent gangs and the most involved in criminal activity in the state.

(U//FOUO) Data collected from the MSAIC questionnaires identified six law enforcement agencies who reported positive contact with Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang members in their jurisdictions.²

(U//FOUO) The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) data determined 62% of the 19,150 inmates, incarcerated as of December 14, 2017, have been identified as active gang members within their facilities.^a

(U//FOUO) The MDOC data identified the three most prevalent gangs in state facilities as the Gangster Disciples, Simon City Royals, and Vice Lords. This ranking is consistent with the data provided by law enforcement who participated in this assessment.

^aFederal Correctional Facilities were excluded from this assessment as those populations are not representative of Mississippi's gang activity.

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(U//FOUO) The formation of neighborhood cliques and hybrid gangs contributes to the large variation of gang subsets within the state. MDOC identified 38 additional gangs validated within their facilities and law enforcement identified 43 additional gangs as most prevalent within their jurisdictions.

(U) Gangs in Mississippi

(U) Specific gang data collected between October and November 2017, from 71 law enforcement agencies revealed the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Simon City Royals are reported as being the most prevalent and the most involved in criminal activity in the state. Of the 71 agencies, 51 reported Gangster Disciples, 45 reported Vice Lords, and 42 reported Simon City Royals. Additionally, these agencies were specifically asked about the presence of MS-13 due to the violence attributed to this gang in the United States. This query resulted in six agencies reporting positive contact with MS-13 gang members.

(U) Mississippi Code, Title 97, Chapter 44, is known as the “Mississippi Streetgang Act.” Chapter 44-3 defines “Streetgang” or “gang” or “organized gang” or “criminal streetgang” as any combination, confederation, alliance, network, conspiracy, understanding, or other similar conjoining, in law or in fact, of three (3) or more persons with an established hierarchy that, through its membership or through the agency of any member, engages in felonious criminal activity. A “Streetgang member” or “gang member” refers to any person who actually and in fact belongs to a gang, and any person who knowingly acts in the capacity of an agent for or accessory to, or is legally accountable for, or voluntarily associates himself with a gang-related criminal activity, whether in preparatory, executory or cover-up phase of any activity, or who knowingly performs, aids or abets any such activity.³

(U//FOUO) According to the Mississippi Prosecutors Association and MAGI, a more inclusive gang bill has been drafted for review by the State Legislature to address the growing violent and organized gang activity. The draft bill creates the crime of criminal gang activity and addresses the problems associated with juvenile recruitment, youth gang members, the organized “money men,” gang tactics, and allows the use of a statewide Grand Jury. It would further mandate statutory minimums for criminal gang activity and require the penalty for the crime to run consecutive to the underlying felony.

(U) Emerging Trends in Mississippi

(U//FOUO) Emerging trends within Mississippi include hybrid gangs, neighborhood cliques, changes in established gangs, and an increase in the presence of national gangs. New trends have been observed in membership, organizational structure, and technologies.

- (U//FOUO) The formation of hybrid gangs and neighborhood cliques has been the most notable trend. These non-traditional gangs welcome merging of members from established

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gangs in order to unite over a specific territory. According to MAGI, the most notable hybrid gang in Mississippi is the Sipp Mobb which is a joining of two rival gangs, the Gangster Disciples and the Vice Lords. The most notable neighborhood clique is BM3 in Lauderdale County. This is a combination of Gangster Disciples, Black Gangster Disciples, and several Crip sets.

- **(U//FOUO)** The Simon City Royals, in the past few years, have made a notable split creating a new set known as Sip City or Thirteen Dreams; a 501(C)(3) organization. According to MAGI, the Simon City Royals have been building working relationships with the Latin Kings. These relationships have caused several violent interactions within the Simon City Royals.
- **(U//FOUO)** According to MAGI, there has been a significant increase in the number of Bandidos Motorcycle Club members, known as 1%ers.^b
- **(U//FOUO)** The MSAIC survey identified 43 additional gangs as being prevalent in the jurisdictions of those responding. These gangs are: 300, 400, 40Block, 600, 700, Anybody can Get it (ABG), Banditos, BM3, Dixie Renegades, Fort Bayou Click, Galloping Geese, Goon Squad, Green Mob, Grove Side Hot Boyz, Mexican Mafia, Muny Gang, Orange Grove, Outcast, Puppets, Rolling 60, Shoe Box, Sipp Mobb, Surenos, Uptown, Black Gangster Disciples, Black Disciples, Mafia Insane Vice Lord, Insane Vice Lord, Imperial Insane Vice Lord, Pistoleros, Delta Riders, Bloods, Crips, Eastside Crips, 74Hoover Crips, Rolling 60 Crips, Piru, Sons of Silence, Aryan Brotherhood, 4 Corner Hustlers (4CH), Pstones, Cherry Park Boys, and the CCP/Birdgang.
- **(U//FOUO)** A significant gang problem has been observed in Hinds County Youth Court which reported the prevalence of gang tattooing with juveniles who appeared before the court. Specifically, within two years the court has seen over 400 gang members.⁴

(U) Crime Attributed to Gang Members and Associates

(U//FOUO) Utilizing the data from statewide intelligence meetings, together with information provided by the MAGI, the MDOC, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN), the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC) the following analysis of gang activities in the Northern, Central, and Southern regions of the state is provided:

^b The American Motorcycle Association stated that 99% of the motorcycling public was comprised of law abiding citizens and only 1% constituted troublemakers.

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(U) Northern Region

(U//FOUO) Eighteen law enforcement agencies responded to the MSAIC gang survey.^c Within these 18 jurisdictions, seven reported a presence of Simon City Royals, 15 reported Gangster Disciples or Black Gangster Disciples, 16 reported Vice Lords, and one reported MS-13.

(U//FOUO) The MSAIC intelligence meetings held in Oxford, Tupelo, and Cleveland were attended by 34 local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. Data collected shows the Simon City Royals have been associated with gun thefts, are known to have worked with Gangster Disciples on residential burglaries and armed robberies, and have associated with the Aryan Brotherhood. Vice Lords and Gangster Disciples have committed car burglaries, as well as, thefts and narcotic sales with the 4CH and Simon City Royals.

(U//FOUO) Discussions with law enforcement provided the following cases as examples of criminal activity committed by alleged or validated gang members and associates:

- **(U//FOUO)** In 2014, FBI Jackson and partnering law enforcement agencies investigated a large scale prison gang involved in violent organized crime throughout the state of Mississippi. The investigation led to the indictment of 14 alleged members of the Aryan Brotherhood of Mississippi (ABM). Among the 14 indicted on conspiracy to participate in a racketeering enterprise were four of ABM's most senior members. Charges also included involvement in murder, attempted murder, kidnapping, assault, money laundering, firearms trafficking, and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. The FBI Jackson case was worked simultaneously with a case in Oklahoma investigating the Aryan Brotherhood of Oklahoma. The two cases led to a total of 25 indictments of AB members and associates.⁵
- **(U//FOUO)** In 2015, a Vice Lord^d, from Memphis, TN, was sentenced to 15 years and six months in federal prison for transportation of a minor for illegal sexual activity. In 2014, during a routine traffic stop, the individual was determined to be transporting a 14-year-old female passenger from Memphis to DeSoto County, MS for the purpose of "performing a sex act with an unknown party."⁶
- **(U//FOUO)** In 2015, FBI Jackson and assisting agencies indicted and arrested 17 individuals as the result of an investigation initiated in Panola County. The arrested individuals included members from the Black Gangster Disciples, the Vice Lords, and the Sipp Mob street gangs. Indictments in both Federal and State courts included violations of child endangerment, possession of stolen firearms, narcotics sales, felon in possession of a firearm, and possession of counterfeit currency.⁷

^c The data from the MSAIC gang survey was collected at the statewide intelligence meetings and the Annual MAGI Conference.

^d Self-Validated

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- (U//FOUO) In 2017, a validated Simon City Royal received a felony conviction and was sentenced to eight years in prison, with five years suspended. The case initiated from a 2016 arrest by the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department for the sale of methamphetamines.⁸
- (U//FOUO) In 2017, a validated Gangster Disciple was arrested and convicted of 2nd degree murder and was sentenced to 40 years in prison. The case involved a 19 year old who was shot in an apparent robbery attempt in 2011.⁹

(U) DeSoto County Adult Detention Center

(U//FOUO) Based on 2017 information, the three most prevalent gangs housed in the facility were the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords and Simon City Royals. Of those identified, 452 were Gangster Disciples, 649 were Vice Lords, and 413 were Simon City Royals. The center currently has two identified MS-13 gang members in custody.

(U) Central Region

(U//FOUO) Twenty-one law enforcement agencies responded to the MSAIC gang survey. Within these 21 jurisdictions, 12 reported a presence of Simon City Royals, 17 reported Gangster Disciples or Black Gangster Disciples, 17 reported Vice Lords, and three agencies reported MS-13.

(U//FOUO) The MSAIC intelligence meetings held in Starkville, Ridgeland, and Meridian were attended by 57 local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. Data collected shows the Simon City Royals have been connected to gun thefts and narcotic sales. Gangster Disciples have been connected to narcotics specifically methamphetamine from Texas. The Black Gangster Disciples and Insane Vice Lords^e have been linked to human trafficking in the region.

(U//FOUO) Discussions with law enforcement provided the following cases as examples of criminal activity committed by alleged or validated gang members and associates:

- (U//FOUO) In 2015, a 4CH street gang member was sentenced to 40 years on charges of second degree murder. In 2014, he shot the victim during an argument over a computer.¹⁰
- (U//FOUO) In 2016, the DEA Jackson arrested 41 Gangster Disciples Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) members including 14 members of the Gangster Disciples, to include the leader of the Jackson Gangster Disciples, six members of the Vice Lords, and two Mexican cartel members. The investigation, initiated in 2014, revealed direct connections to the Sinaloa Cartel and the New Generation Jalisco Cartel. The Gangster

^e Insane Vice Lords are a subset of the Vice Lords.

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Disciples DTO was determined to be involved in narcotics distribution across the state of Mississippi and violent criminal activity. During the course of the investigation, DEA seized approximately 20 vehicles, 41.4 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine, over 12 kilograms of cocaine, 402 pounds of marijuana, nearly \$1.2 million in U.S. currency, and over \$473,000 in vehicles.¹¹

- (U//FOUO) In 2017, two men, one validated^f Gangster Disciples^g and one Imperial Insane Vice Lord^h, received 20 year sentences with one receiving 15 years suspended for cooperation. Both were arrested in 2016 for human trafficking in Ridgeland, MS. The men operated prostitution schemes out of hotel rooms by advertising online. Their victims included both a juvenile and an adult.¹²
- (U//FOUO) In 2017, a Gangster Disciple,ⁱ from Madison, MS, received a mandatory life sentence in Jefferson Parish, LA for aggravated rape, human trafficking, second-degree battery, aggravated battery, sexual battery, and being a felon in possession of a gun.¹³
- (U//FOUO) In 2017, an Insane Vice Lord^j, from Jackson, MS, pled guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in prison for human trafficking. The case originated in 2014 with an arrest in Ridgeland, MS. The gang member trafficked a juvenile utilizing Backpage^k with the intent to engage her in prostitution.¹⁴

(U) *Hinds County Detention Center*

(U//FOUO) Based on 2017 information, the three most prevalent gangs housed in the facility were the Vice Lords, Gangster Disciples, and the Simon City Royals. Of those identified, 301 were Vice Lords, 248 were Gangster Disciples, and 19 were Simon City Royals. The center currently has no identified MS-13 gang members in custody.

(U) *Rankin County Adult Detention Center*

(U//FOUO) Based on 2017 information, the three most prevalent gangs housed in the facility were the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Simon City Royals. Of those identified, 147 were Gangster Disciples, 114 were Vice Lords and subsets, and 116 were Simon City Royals and subsets. The center currently has no identified MS-13 gang members in custody.

^f A person is identified as a gang member(validated) based on criteria used by MDOC

^g Validated by MDOC 02-16-2017

^h Validated by MDOC 06-21-17

ⁱ Validated by MDOC 03-23-12

^j Validated by MDOC 01-30-2015

^k Backpage is a classified advertising website that came under fire for prostitution and human trafficking.

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(U) Southern Region

(U//FOUO) Twenty-one law enforcement agencies responded to the MSAIC gang survey. Within these 21 jurisdictions, 18 reported a presence of Simon City Royals, 12 reported Gangster Disciples or Black Gangster Disciples, 16 reported Vice Lords, and two reported MS-13.

(U//FOUO) The MSAIC intelligence meetings held in Biloxi, Hattiesburg, and McComb were attended by 52 local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. Data collected noted an increase in Simon City Royals visibility and activities such as methamphetamine sales, robberies of jewelry and pawn shops, burglaries, larceny, kidnapping, and torture. The Simon City Royals have reportedly worked with Latin Kings and Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs. Gangster Disciples have been linked to trafficking narcotics across state lines. Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs documented in the region are the Outcast 1%ers, Pistoleros, and Bandidos.

(U//FOUO) Discussions with law enforcement provided the following cases as examples of criminal activity committed by alleged or validated gang members and associates:

- **(U//FOUO)** In 2011, the DEA Jackson initiated an investigation, resulting in the indictment of 24 members of the Gangster Disciples DTO on narcotics, money laundering, and obstruction of justice charges. Connections to the Mexican Mafia and the Sinaloa Cartel were identified. The Gangster Disciples DTO supplied multiple narcotics distributors in Southern Mississippi. To date, DEA has seized over \$230,000 in U.S. currency and financial instruments, over \$214,000 in vehicles, \$126,000 worth of real estate, three weapons, 4.2 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, 33 grams of heroin, over 48 grams of crack cocaine, and 1 kilogram of marijuana.¹⁵
- **(U//FOUO)** In 2015, two police officers were shot and killed on a traffic stop in Hattiesburg. The shooter was a validated member¹ of the 74 Hoover Crip Gang who had previous narcotics arrests. He was arrested May 9, 2015, and charged with two counts of capital murder, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and grand larceny for taking the patrol car of one of the officers while fleeing after the shootings. According to the Forrest County Coroner, the subject died Dec. 11, 2015, at the Forrest County Jail from heart disease.¹⁶
- **(U//FOUO)** In 2017, six members or associates of the Black Gangster Disciples Gang received sentences between three and 30 years on charges of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine. The case was initiated in 2013 and was a FBI Jackson Safe Streets Task Force joint investigation into methamphetamine trafficking in Southeast Mississippi. The joint investigation led to the arrest of the six individuals in 2015.¹⁷

¹ Validated by Hattiesburg Police Department

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- **(U//FOUO)** In 2017, a validated Gangster Disciple was sentenced to a 32 year federal prison term on convictions for armed robberies. This will follow an eight year sentence he is currently serving. In 2014, while on parole for state drug-dealing convictions, he robbed five Harrison County dollar stores at gunpoint.¹⁸
- **(U//FOUO)** In 2017, a Simon City Royal was sentenced to 30 years, with eight years suspended, after pleading guilty to charges of kidnapping and conspiracy to commit kidnapping. In 2015, the victim was kidnapped and beaten because he believed she was a police informant.¹⁹

(U) *Harrison County Adult Detention Center*

(U//FOUO) Based on 2017 information, the three most prevalent gangs housed in the facility were the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Simon City Royals. Of those identified, 223 were Gangster Disciples and subsets, 108 were Vice Lords and subsets, and 222 were Simon City Royals and subsets. The center currently has no identified MS-13 gang members in custody. In the last three years there has been one identified MS-13 gang member in custody.

(U) Mississippi Department of Corrections

(U//FOUO) The MDOC provided the following data as of December 14, 2017:

- **(U//FOUO)** The three most prevalent gangs housed in the statewide facilities are the Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, and Simon City Royals. There are currently three MS-13 gang members in these facilities who were convicted in Lee, Hancock, and Desoto County. There are 11,917 inmates that are identified as a member of a gang which equals 62% of the population.
- **(U//FOUO)** Thirty-eight additional gangs have been identified within the state correctional facilities.
- **(U//FOUO)** Data analysis of the initial county of conviction for MDOC gang members, determined all 82 Mississippi counties were represented (see Exhibit B). The top five counties were in the Central and Southern Regions. Harrison County ranked highest with 1047, followed by Hinds with 961, Lauderdale with 558, Forrest with 540, and Rankin with 487.
- **(U//FOUO)** Data analysis of offenses committed by validated gang members released from MDOC in 2017 identified Crimes Against Property as most prevalent (816), followed by Drug Offenses (814), Crimes Against Persons (488), and Other Offenses (217) (see Exhibit C).

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- (U//FOUO) In 2016, a Vice Lord killed a member of the Crips at the South Mississippi Correctional Institution in Greene County.
- (U//FOUO) Ninety active gang members were identified among the female inmates, to include 28 Simon City Royals, 22 Gangster Disciples, and 8 Vice Lords.
- (U//FOUO) Predominate gang activity within MDOC involves extortion, territorial gang fights, smuggling, and possession of contraband. Extortion tactics may include payment through use of Western Union, Green Dot Cards, or PayPal.

(U) Recommendations

- (U//FOUO) Establishment of a standard form setting out uniform criteria to validate gang members. This form can be utilized by Mississippi law enforcement agencies relating to involvement in possible criminal activity and to assist with subsequent court proceedings.
- (U//FOUO) Additional gang training for law enforcement, corrections personnel, youth court officials, and other vested parties.
- (U//FOUO) The continuation of statewide intelligence meetings to build on partnerships and increase gang awareness.
- (U//FOUO) Establishment of a working group/task force comprised of law enforcement, corrections personnel, youth court officials, and other vested parties to enhance information sharing.
- (U//FOUO) Examination of new legislation proposal to strengthen current gang laws.

(U) Intelligence Gaps:

- (U//FOUO) How is intelligence sharing being conducted among law enforcement agencies, correctional facilities, and the judicial system relating to identification of gang members, associates, and criminal activity?
- (U//FOUO) What information is available on Mississippi gang structure or hierarchy?
- (U//FOUO) What is the scope of gang leadership in directing criminal activity within Mississippi?
- (U//FOUO) Are Mississippi gangs involved in weapons smuggling directly or indirectly on behalf of the Mexican cartels?

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- **(U//FOUO)** Are Mississippi prison gangs directing street gang members in illegal activities?
- **(U//FOUO)** What is the gang presence and activity on college campuses in Mississippi?
- **(U//FOUO)** What prevention programs are in elementary and/or middle schools to offset the recruitment of youths into gangs?
- **(U//FOUO)** What methods do mental health facilities have in place for monitoring the gang presence in their facilities?

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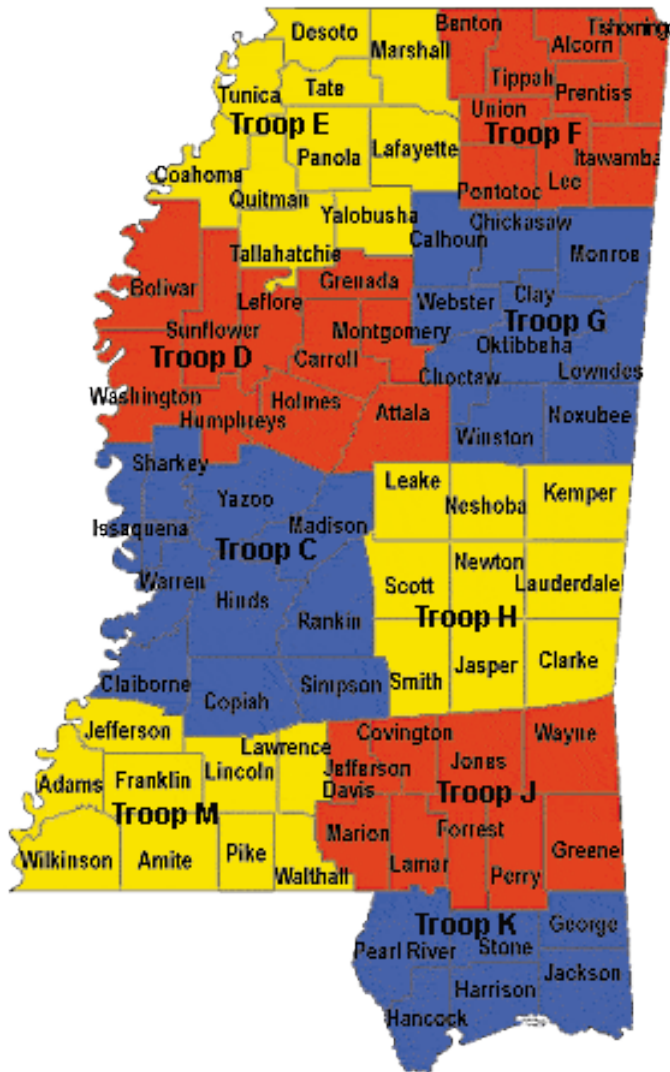
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- ² (U//FOUO) Mississippi Analysis and Information Center; MSAIC Gang Survey; 7 December 2017; (U//FOUO).
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- ⁹ (U//FOUO); 2017 Lowndes County Adult Detention Center Gang Investigation Unit Report; 15 December 2017; Extracted information U//FOUO.
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(U) Exhibit A



Mississippi Highway Patrol Regions

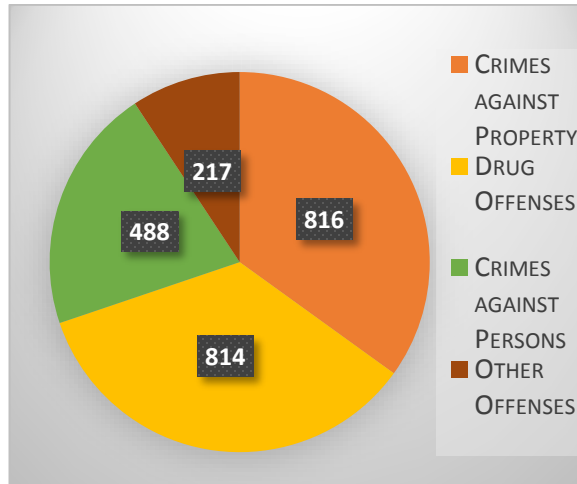
Northern Region – Troop D, Troop E, and Troop F

Central Region – Troop C, Troop G, and Troop H

Southern Region – Troop J, Troop K, and Troop M

(U//FOUO) Exhibit C (Based on data received from MDOC)

Offenses Committed by Validated Gang Members released from MDOC in 2017



Crimes Against Property include*: Burglary Larceny-Unoccupied Dwelling; Burglary-Nonresidential; Robbery; Grand Larceny; Burglary-Vehicle; Burglary-General; Receive Stolen Property; Burglary-Residential; Theft X Taking Motor Vehicle; Possess Stolen Prop; Shooting into Dwelling; Shoplifting; Vehicle Theft; Arson; Carjacking; Malicious Mischief; Arson 1st Degree; Burglary Tools-Possess; Burglary Larceny-Nonresidential; Burglary Larceny-Residential; Drive by Shooting; Burglary Larceny-Vehicle; Shooting at a Motor Vehicle; Arson 2nd Degree; Burglary; Conceal Stolen Prop; Counterfeiting; Larceny; Possession of Tools for Commission of Crime; Theft by Taking

Drug Offenses include*: Cocaine-Sell; Possession of Controlled Substance; Cocaine-Posses; Methamphetamine-Possession; Possession of Controlled Substance with Intent; Possession of Precursor with Intent to Manufacture; Sale of Controlled Substance; Delivery of Controlled Substance; Methamphetamine-Sell; Marijuana-Posses; Possession of Cocaine w/Intent to Distribute; Methamphetamine-Manufacturing; Marijuana-Sell; Possession of Marijuana w/Intent to Distribute; Controlled Substance-within a Facility; False Pretense-Controlled Substance; Obtain Controlled Substance/Fraud; Producing Controlled Substance; Amphetamine-Sell; Controlled Substance Trafficking; Possession of Precursors with Intent; Prescription Forgery; Amphetamine-Possess; Generation of Waste in Manufacturer of C/S; Heroin-Possess; Heroin-Sell; Methamphetamine-Distribute.

Crimes Against Persons include*: Armed Robbery; Aggravated Assault; Manslaughter; Simple Assault-Police Officer; Sexual Battery; Homicide/Murder; Statutory Rape; Aggravated Assault-Domestic Involvement; Strong Armed Robbery; Embezzlement; Rape; Credit Card Fraud; Kidnap; Aggravated Assault-Police Officer-Weapon; Felony Domestic Violence; Aggravated DUI; Child Abuse; DUI-Death; Armed Carjacking; Capital Murder; Child Neglect; Gratification/Lust; Retaliation Against a Public Servant or Witness; Simple Assault; Child Endangerment; Cyberstalking; Fondling a Child; Fraud; Gang Activity; Incest; Indecent Exposure; Mayhem; Murder 2nd Degree.

Other Offenses include*: Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon; Uttering Forgery; Felony DUI; Conspiracy to Commit Crime; Fleeing Law Enforcement Officer; Possession Contraband in Prison; Possession Weapon/Felon; Failure to Register/ Sex Offender; Accessory After the Fact; Escape-Jail; False Pretense; Violation of the Mississippi RICO Act; Conspiracy; Contribute to Del of Minor; Desertion of Non-Support of Child; Perjury; Disorderly Conduct/Creating Turmoil; Enhanced Penalty-Use of Firearm; False Information; Forgery; Tampering with Evidence; Worthless Checks.

*In order of highest to lowest number