Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 06/12/2006

To: All Field Offices

Attn: ADICs/SACs
All CID ASACs
All CID SSAs
All SSRAs
All SSTF Coordinators

Attn: Manuals Desk

Records Management

From: Criminal Investigative
Americas Criminal Enterprise Section, Safe Streets and
Gang Unit
Contact: SSA

Approved By: Burrus James H Jr
Cunningham Charles J
Turner Alex J

Drafted By: rfl

Case ID #: 

Title: PROCEDURAL AND OPERATIONAL ISSUANCES,
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION;
Synopsis: This electronic communication (EC) provides guidance to be followed when initiating a new Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Force (VGSSTF).

Administrative: Incorporated within this EC are the “Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation application form questions which need to be addressed.

Details: In 2005, the Department of Justice (DOJ) established the Anti-Gang Coordination Committee (AGCC), which is charged with the responsibility of coordinating all DOJ anti-gang related activities and resources, to include the establishment of all new Violent Gang Task Forces (VGTFs). As part of their efforts to balance the allocation of resources,

the Deputy Attorney General in an August 2005 memo, established policy that now requires all new VGTFs contemplated by the DOJ component agencies [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), United States Marshals Service (USMS), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)] to be approved by the AGCC. This policy applies only to VGTFs and does not apply to other FBI task forces such as Violent Crime or Major Theft SSTFs and Safe Trails Task Forces.

In order to receive VGTF approval by the AGCC, the requesting agency must submit a “Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation application form through their jurisdiction's United States Attorney's Office (USAO) Anti-Gang Coordinator. The “Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation application form basically mirrors the information previously required by the Criminal Investigative Divisions (CID) Safe Streets Gang Unit (SSGU), although it differs in form.

Procedures for Initiating a New FBI VGSSTF

A) Field Office Provides Notice to the SSGU

Prior to beginning the new application process, the field office must provide notice via an EC to the SSGU regarding their intentions to institute a new VGSTTF. The communication should state that contact has been made with the USAOs Anti-Gang Coordinator and he/she is aware of the FBI's intentions to begin the application process of establishing a new VGSTTF.

B) Preparation and Submission of the "Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation" application form

After the USAO has been notified, the requesting field office will author Part I of the aforementioned application. Once Part I is completed, a meeting will be held between the...
Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) with responsibility for the program management of the CID/Americas Enterprise Program (ACEP) and the USAO Anti-Gang Coordinator. At this meeting, Part I of the application will be submitted and the contemplated new VGTF discussed. At the conclusion of the meeting, the USAO will make a determination regarding whether the field office may continue with the application process.

If the USAO does not endorse the requesting field office's request to continue with the application process, he/she will provide a written explanation to the requesting field office and to the AGCC within ten (10) days of rendering his/her decision. The SAC must contact the USAO in an attempt to resolve any differences of opinion and clear the way for the establishment of a VGSSTF. If an agreement cannot be reached, the written explanation and surrounding details should be provided to the Section Chief (SC) of the CID/ACEP via EC.

If the USAO and requesting field office are in agreement to continue with the "Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation" application form, the requesting field office will then complete Part II and obtain all needed concurrences for Part III. With respect to concurrences from the other federal agencies, the concurrence must be derived from the ASAC level or above and if verbal concurrence is obtained, the requesting agency must note the name, title of the concurring official and the date of the conversation.

If another federal agency does not concur with the institution of the new task force, the SAC of the submitting field office will make one attempt to resolve the difference of opinion with the non-consenting agency. If the matter cannot be resolved at the field office level, then the matter will be brought to the attention of the ACEP SC for resolution. If the respective headquarters agency heads cannot resolve the matter, it will then be brought to the attention of the Task Force Recommendation Subcommittee (TFRC) of the AGCC for resolution. This subcommittee consists of Headquarters members from the respective DOJ enforcement agencies responsible for their gang programs as well as DOJ attorneys from the Criminal Division and from the Executive Office of the United States Attorneys.

C) Submission of the "Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation" application form to the USAO

Once all concurrences are secured, the application is to be forwarded to the respective USAO in the region for final concurrence who will transmit the form to DOJ for the AGCC and the TFRC. Furthermore, the field office should forward a copy of the completed application via EC to the SSGU, along with the date the application was delivered to the USAO.
D) The AGCC and TFRC

Prior to being heard by the full AGCC, the "Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation application form will be forwarded by DOJ to the TFRC for review. In order for the proposal to make it on the TFRC Agenda for the month, it must be presented to the TFRC seven (7) business days prior to the date of the next meeting. Otherwise, it will be heard at the following scheduled meeting.

The proposal will be presented and discussed at the TFRC meeting, at which time the subcommittee will form a consensus of whether the proposal will be granted or denied. The TFRC will make their recommendation at the next full AGCC meeting. If an agency disagrees with the majority recommendation of the TFRC, the dissenting agency will be provided with an opportunity to voice their opposition to the full AGCC. Once the recommendation, along with any dissenting opinions, is made to the AGCC, the AGCC will provide a written response of approval to the requesting agency within ten (10) days from the date of the AGCC meeting.

It should be noted that part III of the "Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation application form requires concurrences from all the field office agency heads of the prospective participating agencies. Henceforth, prior to having a VGTF initiated in their jurisdiction, all field offices will be contacted by the requesting agency and asked for their concurrence with respect to a new VGTF. CID/SSGU requires that when an FBI field office concurs with the establishment of a new VGTF by another agency, the ADIC/SAC must obtain a copy of Parts I and II of the "Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation application form from the requesting agency for the proposed VGTF and forward it to the SSGU for review.

Once the new FBI VGSTF has been approved by DOJ, the SSGU will notify the requesting field office via EC.

The following are the questions contained on the application form entitled:

ANTI-GANG COORDINATING COMMITTEE
"Gang Threat Assessment and Law Enforcement Activity Recommendation

PART I -

1. 

4/19/2011
Part III

Submitted by: United States Attorney

DOJ
SAC ATF
SAC DEA
SAC FBI
U. S. Marshal

Other Federal Agencies:

(Ensure that all federal agencies which are actively investigating gangs and gang related crimes within the subject jurisdiction are considered, i.e. ICE, Bureau of Prisons, United States Secret Service, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs, etc...)

4/19/2011
Local Law Enforcement Agencies:

(Ensure that all state and local agencies which are actively investigating gangs and gang related crimes within the subject jurisdiction are considered, i.e. state and local agencies, probation, parole, corrections, etc...)

Other Agencies:
LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Info)

ALL RECEIVING OFFICES

Ensure all ADICs, SACs, ASACs, ACES SSAs, and VC SSAs are made aware of the new policy for instituting a Violent Gang Safe Street Task Force.

Set Lead 2: (Discretionary)

ALL RECEIVING OFFICES

As soon as possible, ADICs and SACs are requested to report to the Safe Streets Gang Unit their desire to initiate any new Violent Gang Safe Streets Task Force in FY 2007.

CC: Mr. Burrus (Room 3020)
CC: Mr. Cunningham (Room 3026)
CC: Mr. Turner (Room 3248)
CC: (Room 3576)
CC: (Room 3883)
CC: (Room 3266)
CC: (Room 3280)
CC: (Room 3867)
CC: (Room 3248)
CC: (Room 3026)
CC: (Room 3644)
CC: (Room 3941)
CC: Room 3247)
CC: (Room 3247)
CC: (OFC)
CC: (Room 3247)
CC: SSGU SSAs (1 each) (Room 3247)
CC: SSGU All Field Office Folder
CC: SSGU Policy Guidance Folder