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FBI Philadelphia
Intelligence Note from Domain Management^a
Intelligence Related to Trinitario Street Gang Threat
July 27, 2009

Approval: SIA [redacted]

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Subject: (U//FOUO) Trinitario Street Gang presence within the Philadelphia Division

Summary: (U//FOUO) The Trinitario Street Gang is one of several Hispanic gangs operating within the Philadelphia Division involved in violent crime and narcotics trafficking. At this time, the FBI Philadelphia DI1 Domain Team, DI2 Embedded Analysts, and DI3 RA Analysts assess with **HIGH** confidence^b that [redacted]

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[redacted] The impact to Scranton Residence Agency from this gang is substantial in terms of disruption to the community and the investment of law enforcement resources leveraged against it.

Scope: (U//FOUO) This Domain Intelligence Note articulates the strategic threat associated with the Trinitario Street Gang, their organizational structure, criminal activities, and their propensity for violence.

(U//FOUO) Sources used to derive these conclusions include:

- (U//FOUO) U.S. Census 2000 Foreign Born and First Reported Ancestry population for the Dominican Republic as well as Hispanic ethnic population.
- (U//FOUO) [redacted] the Dominican Republic.
- (U//FOUO) FBI intelligence products and case reporting.
- (U//FOUO) Open source information.

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(U//FOUO) [redacted]

^a (U//FOUO) The FBI is authorized to develop overviews and analyses of threats to and vulnerabilities of the US and its interests in areas related to the FBI's responsibilities, including domestic and international criminal and activities; domestic and international activities, circumstances, and developments affecting the national security. FBI overviews and analyses may encompass present, emergent, and potential threats and vulnerabilities, their contexts and causes, and identification and analysis of means of responding to them.

^b (U) **High Confidence** generally indicates that judgments are based on high-quality information from multiple sources or from a single highly reliable source, and/or that the nature of the issue makes it possible to render a solid judgment.

(U) **Medium Confidence** generally means that the information is credibly sourced and plausible, but can be interpreted in various ways, or is not of sufficient quality or corroborated sufficiently to warrant a higher level of confidence.

(U) **Low Confidence** generally means that the information's credibility and/or plausibility is questionable, the information is too fragmented or poorly corroborated to make solid analytic inferences, or that the FBI has significant concerns or problems with the sources.

(U//FOUO) The information contained in this Domain Intelligence Note is current as of 27 July 2009.

(U) Key Judgments:

- (U) Although the Trinitario Gang arrived in the Philadelphia Division within the last three years, they have expanded rapidly. This expansion has brought them into conflict with other gangs already present in the area.
- (U) Members of the Trinitario gang in the Hazleton area are actively involved in criminal activity [redacted]
- (U) Increasing population due to immigration and migration may lead to further expansion of the group and their activities beyond the Scranton Residence Agency.

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(U) Details:

(U//FOUO) According to sources [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

(U//FOUO) Currently, the

[redacted]

[redacted] although source reporting indicates a [redacted]

[redacted]

(U//FOUO) As with other large gangs, a hierarchy exists among the members based on seniority and

Background: (U) The Trinitario (meaning the Trinity or Special One) street gang was formed as a protection gang for Dominican inmates in New York's Riker's Island prison during the early 1990s. Upon leaving prison, members banded together as a street gang, calling themselves Trinitarians or Trinitarios to separate the gang from other Dominican street gangs, primarily the "Dominicans Don't Play" (DDP) in New York.

(U) The Trinitarios identify themselves with the showing of the Dominican Republic flag with "Dios, Patria y Libertad" ("God, Patriotism and Liberty") displayed across the middle, and with the wearing of green clothing, green bandanas, and green and white beads. Hand signs and tattoos of "DPL", "DSM", and "3NI" are also common.

(U) While Trinitarios remain primarily a Dominican gang, many Puerto Rican and South American members have joined the gang's ranks.

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experience. New initiates are recruited by current members from schools and correctional facilities as well as the local population.^{cd} Members are expected to attend gang meetings, pay monthly dues, and comply with the rules of the gang. Trinitario members are expected to assist each other should conflicts occur with outside gang members and disciplinary action may be taken against those Trinitarios who fail to support each other. Discipline is maintained through beatings by designated gang enforcers against members who cause problems or show disrespect to leaders and other members.

(U) Presence:

(U) [redacted] Trinitarios in the Philadelphia Division are predominantly centered in the Hazleton area, regionally the gang has substantial influence in Washington Heights and other areas of New York City, and is reportedly increasing throughout the East Coast.⁵ Sources [redacted] in FBI indices.⁶

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(U) Nationally, the Trinitarios consist predominantly of individuals from the Dominican Republic. Census 2000 data showed an 89% increase in the Dominican population from 1990 and 2000 to 1,041,910 nationwide, making it the fourth largest Hispanic/Latino group in the United States following Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, and Cubans.⁷ A majority (83%) of all Dominicans in the United States live in the contiguous states of New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Maryland, and over half of all Dominicans live in the New York metropolitan area. Pennsylvania was ranked 8th in the nation for the highest percentage increase between 1990 and 2000. Under the current rate of immigration, the Dominican population is projected to grow another 42% by 2010, approaching 1.6 million nationwide.⁸

(U) Of this number, Census places 13,203 individuals born in the Dominican Republic living in communities within the Philadelphia Division as of 2000. The communities with the largest ethnic Dominican populations are Philadelphia, Reading, Allentown, Lancaster, and Hazleton in Pennsylvania, and the city of Camden, New Jersey (Refer to COP #1).

Resident Agency	Foreign Born Dominicans
Philadelphia HQ	4281
Allentown RA	3930
South Jersey RA	1923
Harrisburg RA	1474
Scranton RA	968
Fort Washington RA	312
Williamsport RA	168
Newtown Square RA	147
State College RA	0

(U) Table 1: Dominican Republic Foreign Born population

^c (U//FOUO) In 2009, an individual was interviewed at the [redacted] School by task force officers concerning [redacted]

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^d (U//FOUO) In 2007, Trinitario literature was discovered in the common room of the Lackawanna County Prison containing the Trinitario prayer, three divine persons, three beliefs, and thirty-two laws of the Trinitario Gang.

(U) There is no data on the number of illegal immigrants within the ranks of the Trinitario gang in the Philadelphia Division, but it is known that some members travel to the Dominican Republic. The Pew Hispanic Center ranked Pennsylvania 18th in the nation for undocumented immigrants in 2008 with an estimated population of 140,000. Of the total estimated national unauthorized immigrant population, only 4% are from the Caribbean.⁹

(U) Activities:

(U) Violent criminal activity such as conflicts with other gangs, robberies and home invasions constitute the major threat posed by the Trinitarios to the Philadelphia Division. [redacted]

[redacted] Violent confrontations often originate from real or imagined slights when an opposing member comes into contact in public venues. Later retaliatory confrontations may also result, but often the gang leaders contact each other after the initial incident to resolve their differences without violence. However, when this attempt at mediation fails the violence escalates. Between April through October 2007, [redacted] occurred in Hazleton¹⁰ in addition to other numerous incidents of shootings, physical assaults, and robberies.¹¹ It is believed that further violent crimes have been committed by Trinitario members and remain unreported due to the fear and intimidation exerted on the witnesses and victims.¹²

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(U//LES) The threat to the Philadelphia Division from narcotic trafficking, notably in cocaine and heroin, is significant. Regional trends indicate [redacted]

[redacted] to the Mid-Atlantic Region^o in 2008 and 2009. [redacted]

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[redacted]¹³ FBI investigations indicate [redacted]

(U) [redacted]¹⁴

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Pennsylvanian gun laws are less restrictive than in neighboring states, and it has been recognized that while narcotics flow from New York City into Pennsylvania, guns purchased in Pennsylvania are sold or traded to gangs in New York and New Jersey.¹⁵ [redacted]

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(U) Outlook/Emerging Trends:

(U) [redacted]

(U) [redacted]

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[redacted]

^o (U) The Mid-Atlantic Region consists of the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

(U) Trinitario Street Gang Human Intelligence Coverage:

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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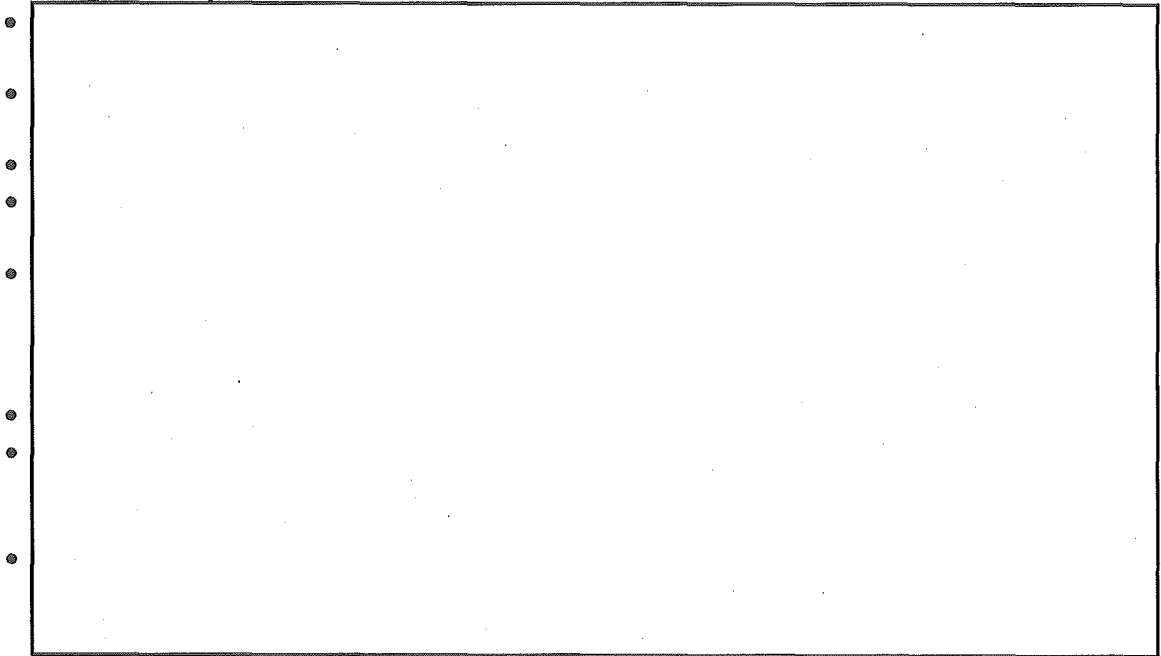
(U) Philadelphia Division Liaison:

(U//FOUO) Philadelphia has a strong liaison collection platform through Pennsylvania State Police, Steamtown Gang Task Force, PA Department of Corrections Intelligence Unit, Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General, Bureau of Narcotics Investigation and Drug Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and local police departments [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

(U) Intelligence Gaps:



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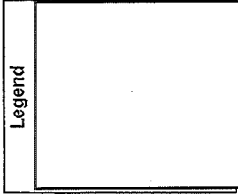
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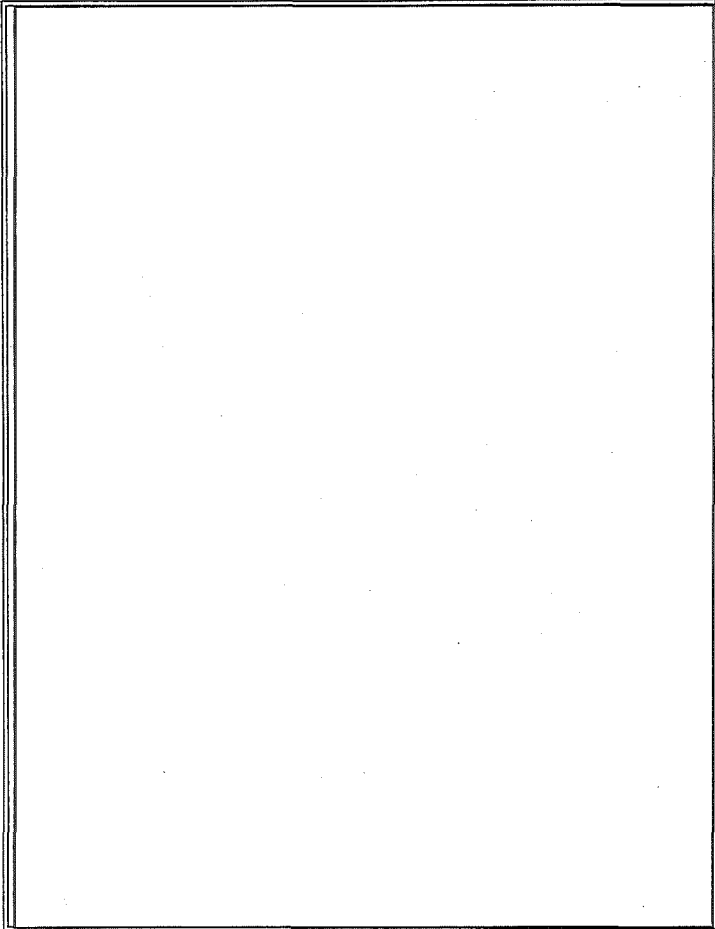
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- (U) Common Operational Pictures (COPs):
- (U) COP #1 Philadelphia Division Presence



File Number -	
Data Source -	
Census 2000	
Data Description -	
Projection -	
Created By -	

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Trinitario Street Gang
 Dominican Republic Presence
 [Circled]



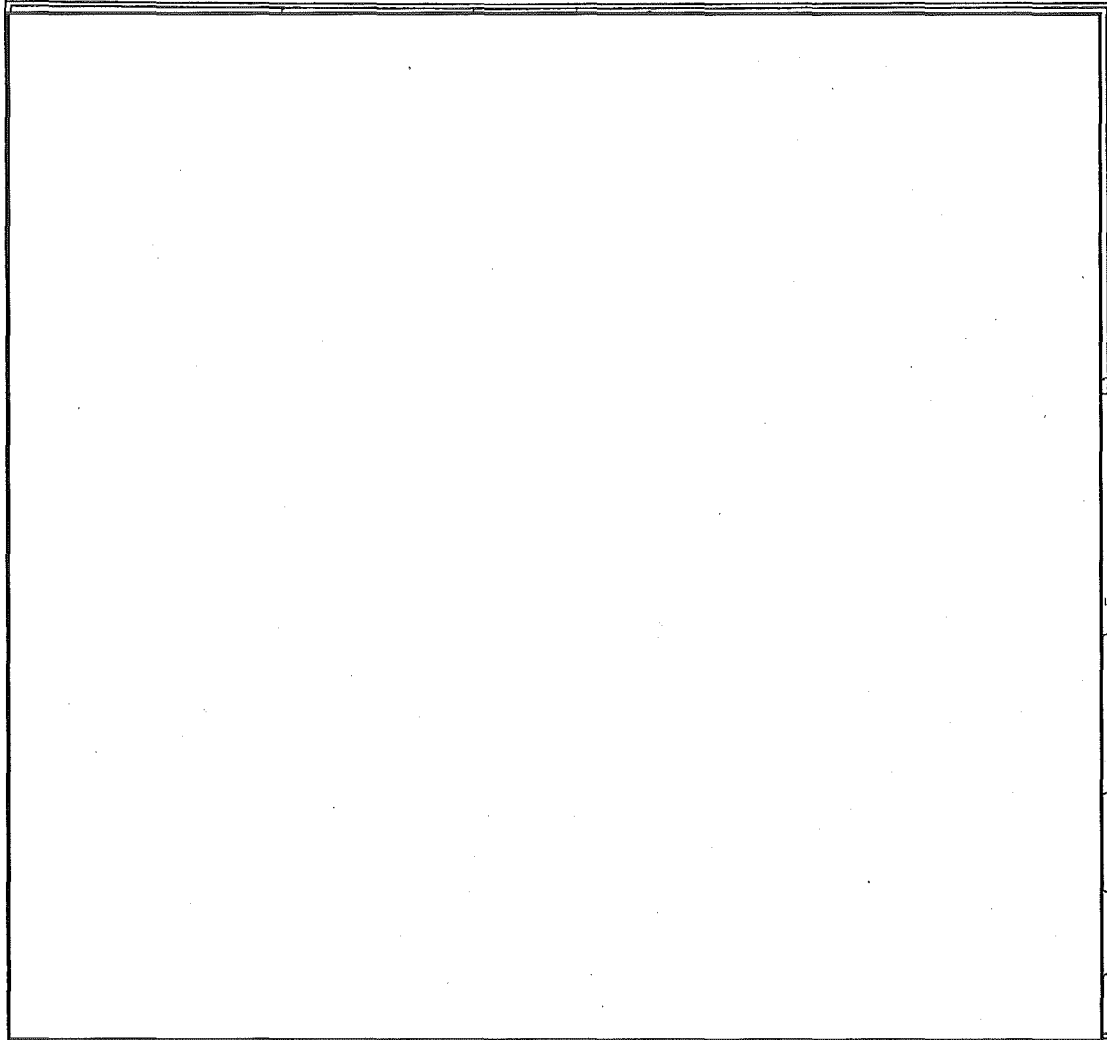
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(U) COP #2 [redacted] in Hazleton, PA.

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Trinitario Street Gang
Hazleton, Pennsylvania



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File Number -
[redacted]

Data Source -
[redacted]

Domain Entities

Data Description -

Entities Identified through FBI

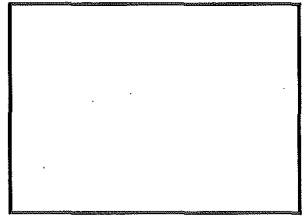
Sources

Projection -
[redacted]

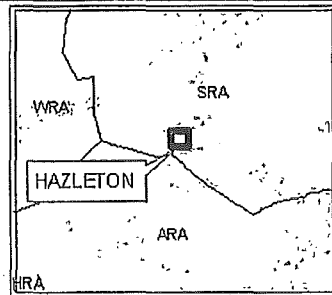
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[redacted]

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Legend



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End Notes

¹ (U) [redacted]

² Ibid.

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³ (U) [redacted]

⁴ (U) [redacted]

⁵ (U) National Gang Intelligence Center/National Drug Intelligence Center, (U) "National Gang Threat Assessment 2009." January 2009

⁶ [redacted]

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⁷ (U) Online article; Ramona Hernandez; *City University of New York* available at http://www.earth.columbia.edu/cgsd/advising/documents/rivera_batiz.pdf; "Dominicans in the United States: A Socioeconomic Profile, 2000"; 6 October 2003; accessed 02 June 2009.

⁸ (U) Migration Policy Institute, "The Dominican Population in the United States: Growth and Distribution", September, 2004

⁹ (U) Pew Hispanic Center, "A Portrait of Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States.", 14 April 2009, accessed on 01 July 2009.

¹⁰ (U//FOUO/LES) NGIC Intelligence Bulletin: "Violent Dominican Gang Expanding Throughout US East Coast," October 28, 2008.

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¹¹ (U) [redacted]

¹² Ibid.

¹³ (U//LOU/LES) [redacted]

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¹⁴ (U) [redacted]

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¹⁵ (U) Online article; Mark Fazlollah; PoliceOne.com News, available at <http://www.policeone.com/patrol-issues/articles/1675911-Pa-a-favorite-source-of-gun-traffickers/>; "Pa. a favorite source of gun traffickers", accessed 26 June 2009.