



"There are two primary choices in life: to accept conditions as they exist, or accept the responsibility for changing them." Denis Waitley

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NEXT EDITION MAY 15, 2010

Summary of the 2010 National Drug Threat Assessment

The NDTA is produced by the National Drug Intelligence Center.

Increased heroin availability evidenced by higher purity, lower prices and elevated numbers of heroin-related overdoses and overdose deaths is partly attributed to increased production in Mexico from 17 pure metric tons in 2007 to 38 metric tons in 2008.

Asian drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) are responsible for the resurgence in MDMA availability in the United States, since 2005. These groups produce the drug in Canada and smuggle it across the Northern Border into the United States.

Cocaine shortages have persisted in many U.S. drug markets since early 2007 primarily because of decreased cocaine production in Columbia and increased demand worldwide, particularly in Europe.

Mexican DTO's increased their cooperation with U.S.-based street and prison gangs to distribute drugs. In many areas, these gangs were using their alliances with Mexican DTO's to facilitate an expansion of their midlevel and retail drug distribution operations into more rural and suburban areas.

In 2009, midlevel and retail drug

distribution in the United States was dominated by more than 900,000 criminal active gang members representing approximately 20,000 street gangs in more than 2,500 cities.

Mexican DTO's increased the flow of several drugs (heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana) into the United States, primarily because they increased production of those in drugs in Mexico.

The diversion and abuse of Controlled Prescription Drugs primarily pain relievers, is increasing, evidenced by the sharp rise in the percentage (4.6% in 2007 to 9.8% in 2009)

Increased abuse of CPDs has led to elevated numbers of deaths related to prescription opioids, which increased 98 percent from 2002 to 2006.

Approximately 8,000 new initiates per day have tried an illicit drug or used a prescription drug non-medically for the first time, about 2.9 million individuals nationwide.

More than half of these new users 56.6%, report that marijuana was the first illicit substance that they had tried.

29.6% of past year initiates report that their first drug was a psychotherapeutic drug used non-medically.

9.7% of past year initiates report that their first drug was inhalants.

The supply arrangements between Mexican and Dominican DTOs has aided Dominican DTOs and criminal groups in expanding their midlevel and retail drug distribution networks, primarily in the Mid-Atlantic Region, but also in other regions such as the Great Lakes.

Asian DTOs are willing to cooperate with other criminal groups to increase their profit and work with Caucasian, Hispanic and African American DTOs or criminal groups in most major cities in an effort to expand their drug distribution and customer base.

Chicago based Latin Kings street gang who operate in Midland Texas, purchase cocaine from Mexican traffickers in south Texas for \$16,000 to \$18,000 per kilogram, compared with \$25,000 to \$35,000 per kilogram from wholesale traffickers in Chicago. With this savings, the gang undersells other local dealers who do not have the capacity to buy large wholesale quantities directly from Mexican DTOs in Mexico or along the Southwest Border.

More growers are establishing indoor grow sites to produce better marijuana and avoid outdoor detection and eradication.

To read the entire report.

TRAIN THE TRAINER IS ON IT'S WAY!

Well it has been a long time coming and many of you have made inquiries regarding the probability of a train the trainer program for the GATE Curriculum's.

Well it is finally here. After several re-writes and changes it is finally ready for debut. We are proud to announce our Train the Trainer program. The T.t.T. program will be offered in September 2010 in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The GATE curriculum is a school based gang, drug and violence prevention program. The GATE Instructor Certification programs covers three distinct curriculums, kindergarten through fourth grade, grades five through eight and the RADICAL program which covers high school. The basic Instructor Course

is a 40-hour Certification.

The curriculums are designed to be utilized over the entire educational span of a youths to the end of high school. Each year the lessons build upon the previous year addressing specific issues, reinforcing others and building upon a core belief that just once for an entire life-time will not prevent a child from becoming gang or drug involved.

The GATE program has distinct lesson for each grade level covers topics such as diversity, self-worth, addiction, stranger safety, violence and feelings, respect, drug awareness, trust, feelings and safely expressing them, rules and why they exist, fear of law enforcement, medicines and the dangers

of taking them unsupervised.

The 5th-8th grade program covers anger management, alternatives to gangs, leadership, critical thinking, bullying, tolerance, role playing, stress, drug abuse, addition, gateway drugs, media violence, self-esteem, Weapons safety, gang recruitment, gang awareness and violence and victimization.

The RADICAL program High School Gang and Drug Awareness, School Violence, leadership, bullying, impaired driving, internet safety, dating violence, respect, criminal law, gambling awareness and laws.

For more information about the course or availability go to www.openthegate.org.

The Mexican Drug Cartels: Part 4— DTO and the effects in the U.S.?



The effects of the Mexican Drug Cartels beyond the distribution of narcotics into the United States has been encountered in every state in the nation. There have been numerous news articles and research studies recently released which indicate that the Mexican Drug Cartels are expanding their presence even more.

The Chicago Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration seized 250 kilograms of cocaine and \$8 million dollars in a two year investigation which focused on the La Familia drug trafficking cartel based out of Michoacana, Mexico. The seizures were not located in the city of Chicago itself but rather in five western and southern suburbs of Chicago.

The DEA was conducting an extensive operation involving the La Familia's distribution network throughout the United States. The La Familia cartel had ties with trafficking routes in 19 states in the Nation.

In Tuscon the effects are far worse than just narcotics trafficking. A series of brazen home invasions have been tied to a wave of drug crime. With over 200 home invasion, three-quarters linked to the drug trade alone the risks to innocent non-involved persons is staggering. The majority of these home invasions have occurred in suburban residential communities.

The crimes that have been quickly linked to the drug trade. Many are due to unpaid debts, some as few as a thousand dollars. But many of them are simply based upon greed. One set of cartel linked criminals learns about a load of drugs in a location. They in turn "rip it" and then sell it. Quick profit for limited risk in their point of view.

In March 2009, CNN ran a story regarding a drug debt owed by a Mexican national.

The dealer was kidnapped and locked in the basement of a home. He was chained, gagged and beaten. He was in the basement for six days without food. This kidnapping didn't occur in Mexico but in suburban Atlanta.

Atlanta has a growing Hispanic population. Gwinnet County, a community just 20 miles north of Atlanta has seen a dramatic increase in their population. In 1990 a mere 8,470 to 63,727 in 2000. By the 2010 census they are expected to number ap-

proximately 140,000.

Most of the drug related violence in Atlanta is linked to the Mexican Drug Cartels in Sinaloa and Gulf. As these two groups continue to battle over drug routes.

In mid 2008 in Phoenix Arizona investigated a shooting in which six Mexican nationals killed a man in a local neighborhood. The victim was shot over 100 times, by Los Zetas, once an enforcement arm of one of the Mexican Drug Cartels now rumored to be running their own distribution network. See the October issue of the [Gateway Gazette](#) for information on the Enforcer Gangs.

Officers arrested three suspects all Mexican nationals, who were planning on ambushing officers who arrived on scene of the shooting but had run out of ammunition. When the three were taken into custody police recovered tactical clothing, Kevlar helmets and automatic weapons.

Drug rip offs are becoming a greater risk both for the public but for law enforcement officer's as well. A robbery crew based out of Queens, New York would identify drug dealing competitors and then rip them off for their money and drugs. They would do this by using fake police badges and using vehicles that resembled police cars, complete with police lights and sirens.

In some cases, when this crew couldn't get the amount of drugs or money they wanted they would torture the victims to give up a bigger drug connection. Repeating the process as they go. It is an all profit business that leaves a trail of injured and dead in it's wake.

As the influence of these organizations continue to grow the involvement with local groups will also.

In the [2010 National Drug Threat Assessment](#) that the Mexican Drug Trafficking Organizations continue to increase their cooperation with U.S. based street and prison gangs to distribute drugs. In many areas, the gangs were using their alliances with Mexican DTO's to facilitate an expansion of their

midlevel and retail drug distribution operations into more rural and suburban areas.

The Chicago based Latin Kings street gang utilized their chapter operating out of Midland Texas purchased cocaine from Mexican DTO's in south Texas at substantially lower prices than from whole sale traffickers in Chicago. This savings resulting in increased profits for the street gang and a new source for larger quantities of narcotics.

Federal authorities point to the Mexican drug cartels that are ultimately responsible for border violence by having cemented ties to street and prison gangs like El Paso's Barrio Azteca on the U.S. side of the border. Azteca like many other U.S. gangs retail drugs that they get from Mexican cartels and their gangs. One Of The Most Dangerous. Mexican gangs also run their own distribution networks in the United States, and they produce most of the methamphetamine used north of the border. They have even bypassed the Colombians several times to buy cocaine directly from producers in Bolivia, Peru and even Afghanistan.

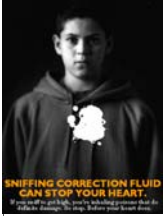
These same gangs often work as cartel surrogates or enforcers on the U.S. side of the border. Intelligence suggests [Los Zetas](#) They're known as "Los Zetas have hired members of various gangs at different times including, El Paso gang Barrio Azteca, Mexican Mafia, Texas Syndicate, MS-13, and Hermanos Pistoleros Latinos to further their criminal endeavors.

What will unfold over time is unknown. As law enforcement learns more about the involvement the MDTO's have within the United States and how they affect crime in their communities will ultimately lead to arrests, increased violence, and the risk to public safety. This very subject will be further explored in the final portion of our five part series in May 2010.



Part 5 of 5: Mexican DTO in the Future!

Inhalants! A greater risk to 12 year olds!



A recent report by the Office of Applied Studies, generated through their National Survey on Drug Use and Health reported that 12 year olds are more likely to use inhalants than cigarettes or marijuana.

The study which combined data from a three year study found that 6.9 percent of 12 year olds have used an inhalant to get high or to make them feel good. This exceeds the rate of use of cigarettes, marijuana, hallucinogens and cocaine as well as the rate of non-medical use of prescription drugs. Only alcohol had a higher rate of use the report found.

Teens are turning to everyday legal products such as spray paints, glue and gasoline to get high. The National Inhalant Prevention Coal-

ition released information in March 2010 regarding the dangers of inhalant use in teens.

According to the press release, "The need to increase awareness of this public health risk among physicians, parents and others cannot come to soon..."

Why the need, Kevin Talley, the father of Amber Ann Suri. Amber died in February 2009 after huffing. When her parents suspected that there was something wrong with their daughter because she had a pungent smell, glassy eyes and complained of sinus problems, they took her to a family physician. The physician misdiagnosed the problem and only treated Amber for the sinus problem. Amber died with in a short period after seeing the doctor.

Huffing is a real risk for teenagers all across

America today. The American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians recognized that inhalant of volatile substances, was increasing in children 12 to 14 years of age.

The difficult task for parents, prevention specialist and teens is recognizing the risks that these legal chemicals pose when used illegally and properly addressing the issues through education, awareness and common sense legal remedies.

"We continue to face the challenge of Increasing experimentation and intentional misuse of common household products amongst the youngest and most vulnerable segments of our population—12 year olds." says Harvey Weiss, of the NIPC.



Getting Information out of a Gang Member by Robert Tornabene

I have conducted training all over the United States and one of the most frequent questions I encounter is "...How can I get the most information out of a street gang member?"

In my experience in dealing with young people, career criminal and street gangs having one single approach never works. Law enforcement officers come across all levels of society in their day to day interactions. However, one of the most difficult encounters for us is to approach a group of young teens or adults who are just hanging out on a corner, seemingly not doing anything.

We have limited actual probably cause or even reasonable belief to articulate that we are investigating a criminal act. But in reality, our very purpose at the corner, might be to disrupt suspected narcotics traffic, identify new subjects in your beat or just simply to have a "chat" with the 'boys on the block.' Now your intrusion into their personal space can be looked upon as hostile, but regardless of your purpose for the intrusion the goal is to make it non-confrontational if your purpose is simple intelligence gathering without appearing to be doing just that.

A law enforcement officer who has the ability to approach teens while gathering information about them, at times even, "stroking their egos" without them becoming hostile is a very great asset. It involves controlling your temper, being prepared for "anything" as well as having nerves of steel.

Part of being successful is by understanding that the people you approach are not masters of deception or experienced in controlling their emotions. Your ability to identify the cues, "tells", Proxemics and body language will be the difference between successful interactions or wasted time.

Let me preface this by saying that there are few people who can just walk up to a group of street

smart, anti-authoritarian teens and get them to instantly open up. If you think you can, I have some land in Florida I want to sell you. It is a slow process, but it is a process, the payoff is nothing less than mindboggling.

Keeping in mind your safety is always the most important factor that you should never, ever forget. Your next step is the initial contact. It should not be a straight forward contact in which a confrontation will ensue. Your initial contact should be as casual as possible. Many law enforcement officers fail to see the need to have casual interactions with the public. As a matter of fact many shy away from them. Law enforcement officers tend to see all contact as an "us versus them" mentality. This can result in many lost opportunities.

Take an extremely casual concept such as the "hand wave." When I was first a young patrol officer out on my own I would drive by a group of teens and routinely wave, just the quick wave out the window. Each day I would duplicate this. Over time the interaction went from confused looks, to the head nod, to the hand wave to eventually one day the kids ran up to the curb and said, "Hey, Officer!" Opportunities are like that if you don't make the attempt, you limit your possibilities. Remember today's victim, may be tomorrow's offender. Your interactions may be enough of an opener when the time is right to get that crucial piece of information.

Before we go any further let me also remind everyone that the word RESPECT is an extremely powerful concept one in which if you don't give it to them, they will never return it back to you. Many officers have said that they don't need a gang member's respect. I usually point out how foolish that this is. It is not suggested that you associate with them, or invite them over for dinner. But by simple forms of respect, through the utilization of their names,

speaking without using profanity or disrespectful terminology, or saying derogatory things about their group, significant others or themselves, you will build a level of mutual respect which they know they need to return to you. . The barriers that will be erected by these young people will never be brought down. Remember RESPECT is a two way street!

If you can replicate a pattern in which you have non-confrontational contacts with a group of youths over a period of time, what will eventually happen is during a time in which you may need crucial information from one or all of them that they will not see you as a threat as you approach? They may also be much more willing to cooperate as you walk them off to the side for a private one on one.

A few thoughts regarding one-on-one interviews.

- Ask specific questions
- Keep safety at the front of your mind at all times.
- Keep the gang member facing you with his/her back to his/her friends.
- Be "firm but fair."
- Utilize what you know about your subject for "themes" you can utilize to get cooperation.
- Do not confront their gang status, just their behavior.
- Do not mimic gang activity, such as throwing hand signs.

This is something you need to work it. It takes time to develop rapport and trust. Be respectful, but firm, fair and compassionate. Not one of these young people was born thinking they were going to be a gang member. Factors influenced them: maybe you may be the factor that influences them away from the lifestyle.

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Next Instructor Course June 14-18, 2010

2010 Training Schedule

May 2010

May 27, Gang Awareness & Recognition,
Elk Grove PD

June 2010

June 14-18, GATE Instructor Certification,
Niles IL

August 2010

August 8-13, GATE Instructor Certification,
Tampa FL

September 2010

Date to be Announced,
Location to be Announced.

G.A.T.E. America Inc, is an organization that works daily to protect America's young people from violence. Our goals are to provide law enforcement, educators and parents with the appropriate training and resources to reduce gang activity in and around their communities. We achieve this through programs such as G.A.T.E., a school based gang education intervention/prevention program for grades 5th through 8th. The G.A.T.E. program has two new programs available GATE Kids for grades K-4 and RADICAL for teenagers.

Check out our new website, we have a new improved look, with easy navigation bars and the resources for parents, instructors and teachers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TIPS

Encountering At-Risk youth!. Tips to you gain their trust.

- **First Contact**—Remember that most of the young people you encounter did not pick the situations they live in at the time of contact.
- **They are not you**—The young people you encounter did not grow up in a stable environment. Do not attempt to utilize the same things that may have worked for you when you were young.
- **Honesty**—Honesty will give you the greatest tool to working with an at-risk young person. They are frequently lied too, made promises and seen all of those promises fail. Don't make promises you can not keep
- **Know your limitations**—if you are going to work with a young person who is at-risk you need to understand your limits. You can not work with all young people, know when you can't work with a particular one.

Illinois Law Makers consider outlawing eye tattoos!

In the state of Illinois law makers were voting on Eyeball tattooing. Particularly the tattooing of the whites of the eyes. The technical term is called sclera tattooing, which is accomplished by injecting ink into the fibrous eye tissue or by placing small items of jewelry under the surface.



The proposal was backed by Illinois State Senator Ira Silverstein (D) who stated that "...it's happening in other states." According to the State website that tracks legislation, the proposal goes in front of the House committed for debate April 15th.

The chief sponsor of the measures is brought forth by State Representative

Emily McAsey (D) who stated there is no therapeutic or medical use for the procedure, which could end up masking diseases that would otherwise discolor eye whites. There are already the existence of sclera contacts which temporarily change the color of eyes, which is much safer.

The performing or offering to perform eye tattoos could land someone in jail for a year and a \$2,5000 fine.

The tip of tattooing has shown up among gang members coloring their eyes in the colors of their particular gang.

On the television cable show "The Lockup" a recent episode showed two gang members with colored eyes from this type of procedure. One Sureno street gang member with blue eyes and a Bloods gang member with red eyes.

Although tattooing of the eye is not a new practice, dating back over 2000 years. Tat-

tooning of the Sclera is. The risks include obviously potential blindness, as well as infection, perforation and hemorrhage of the tissue.

The only other state attempts at banning this type of tattooing is Oklahoma, in April of 2009.



The potential risk far outweigh the appeal of the look. The American Academy of Ophthalmology has recommended against this type of tattooing and has supported legislation in Oklahoma and Illinois to make it illegal to perform.

Opening the GATE for our youth's Future!