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**Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and the Growing Problem for Police**



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## **ABSTRACT**

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are becoming a major concern for law enforcement agencies across the country. These motorcycle gangs create fear within communities through their presence and intimidation tactics. OMGs are participating in both bold and quieter crime rings. The underground working of crime like drug trafficking and bold felonies such as robbery, assault and extortion are being added to the list consistently. Police agencies must increase the level of enforcement to ensure the safety of their communities and protect the reputation of their respective agencies. Before this epidemic can be addressed, these outlaw motorcycle organizations must be identified. Physical markers that help to distinguish one gang from another must be identified, as well as their main goal as a unit. Agencies must pinpoint the key members and the specific crimes in which they are involved. A deeper understanding of all these things are needed by law enforcement agencies to regain control of this rising threat. The evolution of the biker attitude and motives of members is important in combating this rise in power. Outlaw motorcycle gangs exist only for the purpose of self-satisfaction and gain in criminal activity. Law enforcement agencies on the local, state, and federal levels need to collaborate and use their available resources in order to combat this problem

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## INTRODUCTION

Throughout the history of the world, there have always been rebels who felt they did not fit into social norms and founded their own societies to remedy this problem. These societies of outcasts could set their own limits and create their own rules. The well-known groups of the past were called Vikings, pirates, and Huns. Today's version of these groups is the outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMG). OMGs are formed by men who feel they do not fit into what the current society deems as appropriate.

When people think of bikers, they often think of the stereotypical look. Dirty, leather-clad men with shaggy beards covered in road dust riding around the country wreaking havoc and getting into fights everywhere they go. While this may be partially accurate, most bikers are not rowdy trouble-makers and are, in fact, honest, law-abiding citizens. However, there are small numbers of bikers referring to themselves as the "one per-center." According to Nichols (2007), the moniker or slang term, 1%, implies that these bikers do not want to abide by the societal rules and laws outlined for them. According to Nichols (2007) "They are among the few remaining tribes that still embody the spirit of freedom" (p.19). These freedoms often extend beyond the legal limits. Members of this group include any biker not wanting to conform to general rules and policies of family life, work, and societal responsibilities that the majority of motorcycle enthusiasts abide by.

The majority of riders are considered the 99%, and this group is made of professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and other white collar members of society. These "99 per-centers" are members of clubs and organizations as well. These groups support their belief in riding for enjoyment and as a break from their daily duties

to society. Some of these groups include American Motorcycle Association and HOG, the Harley Owners Group. Both types of these organizations span across the country and even abroad. Members of both types of groups attend various rallies throughout the year and problems ensue. Biker against Child Abuse, or BACA, bridges the gap between legitimate clubs and outlaw motorcycle gangs. They have all the attributes of the 1% clubs including a dislike for law enforcement agencies and motorcycle clubs such as the Blue Knights law, which is a law enforcement motorcycle club.

The members of the outlaw motorcycle gangs want to intimidate the others who have made a hobby of riding motorcycles. Outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMGs), like other legitimate clubs and organizations, have established rules and policies. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are becoming a major concern for law enforcement agencies across the country. These motorcycle gangs create fear within communities through their presence and intimidation tactics. Law enforcement agencies must increase their awareness and surveillance of outlaw motorcycle gangs as a means of ensuring protection for community members. The need to protect the reputation of their respective agencies should be of utmost importance. Prior to addressing the issue, the outlaw motorcycle organizations must be identified. Individual identities and primary motives is what distinguishes one gang from another. Agencies need to gain a deeper understanding of the inner workings of these units as a whole and as individuals to combat this rise in power.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs present a major problem to law enforcement even though they only make up 1% of the general population. As with any organization containing a hierarchy of members, there are steps to becoming involved with an

outlaw Outlaw Motorcycle Gang. A potential member must pass a vote of membership and swear some level of allegiance to the club. Once accepted into the organization, there is some amount of hazing during the period when the prospect tries to prove his individual worth to the organization. During this period, the recruit proves his worth by performing an assortment of tasks for full patch members. These tasks range from menial tasks to acts of violence. The hierarchy of the club consists of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, sergeant at arms, and road captains. This chain of command is a similarity between all motorcycle organizations, both legitimate and outlaw. The president dictates what occurs within the club, while members of outlaw organizations have fewer opportunities to voice opinions and concerns than those of their law abiding counterparts.

The outlaw motorcycle culture or society originated in Oakland, California in 1958 (Barger, 2001). Twenty year old, Ralph "Sonny" Barger created the Oakland chapter of the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club. In 1966, after returning from Vietnam, Donald Chambers started the second outlaw motorcycle gang, the Bandidos outlaw motorcycle gang. This gang was formed in San Leon, Texas, in Galveston County (Caine, 2009). Both Barger and Chambers were dangerous, free spirits who have forever changed the face of the once innocent biker culture. The trends these men have set is a legitimate problem for law enforcement in modern society due to increasing numbers of both membership and aggressive biker gangs.

Like their legal cousins, outlaw motorcycle gangs adorn their vests and jackets with patches or "rockers." The top rocker displays their colors and name: this may include Bandidos, Hells Angels, Harley Owners Group or Blue

Knight, etc. depending on the club represented, a middle rocker with the club insignia or logo, and a bottom rocker with the club chapter number. These help both other bikers and authorities to identify each respective gang and their members.

Law enforcement has been lackadaisical in the patrolling of outlaw motorcycle gangs, and it is past time to monitor the growing population. This subject is relevant to law enforcement for the reason that outlaw motorcycle gangs are major players in drug and weapons trade, as well as felony crimes such as robbery, assaults, extortion, and murder. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are a danger to society and will continue to be at the local, state, and federal level until law enforcement is able to slow the growth and curb their activity. Law enforcement should use their resources in order to gain a deeper understanding of all the components of these gangs to regain control of this rising threat.

## **POSITION**

The severity of motorcycle gangs has been overlooked and ignored by law enforcement for much too long. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are becoming a nemesis for law enforcement agencies due to their growing popularity among societal outcasts. These departments should use all available resources to combat the problem. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are a legitimate threat to law enforcement due to their increasing number. Current law enforcement intelligence across the nation estimate that more than 20,000 validated OMG members, divided among the hundreds of gangs, are residing in the United States alone. (National Gang Intelligence, 2009). Though the exact number of gangs is unknown, June 2008 state and local law enforcement

agencies estimate between 280 and 520 OMG's are operating at the national, regional, and local levels. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are becoming a major concern for law abiding citizens and the other legitimate biker gangs as they continue to gain members. Most newcomers to OMG's are career criminals and psychopaths recruited because of their reputations for violence and/or criminal behavior (National Gang Intelligence, 2009). OMG's are going global in their efforts and interlocking networks with international gangs whether friendly or not. They know there are several benefits derived in branching out their enterprises and seeking people with intimidating backgrounds. Outlaw motorcycle clubs are going international in their efforts to broaden their criminal enterprises and gain even more power and control. Modern one per-centers and their new recruits are more sophisticated in their methods. They are implementing high tech gadgetry, better weaponry, and computer hacking skills into their arsenal (Quinn & Forsyth, 2010).

There are ten well known or notorious biker gangs currently with active membership within the United States and abroad (National Gang Intelligence, 2009). These gangs include the Vagos, Free Souls, Bandidos, Highwaymen, Warlocks, Outlaws, Pagans, Mongols, Sons of Silence, and of course the most infamous Hells Angels. All of these gangs have strong leadership within their ranks. Most of these clubs were formed in the 60's and rapidly developed rank structures and leadership hierarchies like major corporations. The oldest and most well-known to gangs to people both in and out of the biker culture are the Bandidos and Hell's Angels. Chambers' 1966 Bandidos quickly went from a riding club to a well-known criminally active biker gang with growing membership numbers (Caine, 2009). The name

Bandidos was created out of respect for Pancho Villa and Emilio Zapata. It is hard to understand why Chambers established this club in honor of Hispanic revolutionaries, considering his Caucasian heritage, but this name quickly attracted a large population of Hispanics to the gang. This organization can be identified by their bold showing of colors. The colors gold and red are displayed on a patch, along with their "Fat Mexican" logo on the back of a Bandidos' jacket or vest (Caine, 2009). These patches located on the back of vests and jackets are known as "rockers" the colors displayed also help to identify what the gang claims as their territory. Bandidos proudly display "Bandido by profession, Biker by trade," and "FTW" or Fuck the World as their motto, on their outerwear. It is understood that the Bandidos control the central part of America and the highways leading into Canada. Bandidos cover mostly Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas (Caine, 2009).

The Hell's Angels OMG known today was formed in the mid 1950's by the famous Sonny Barger (Barger, 2001). Barger rose to the rank of President of the club and still has a foothold on operations of the club even though he is in very poor health. The Hell's Angels started their operation in Barger's hometown of Oakland, California (Barger, 2001). Barger had just recently been honorably discharged from the military and wanted to form a club where all members looked out for each other and no rules of society were followed. At a time when the country was filled with isolated veterans longing for camaraderie, the Hell's Angels offered the second family many were searching for. The motorcycle gang made them feel needed and offered a way of life where rules were less rigid and even nonexistent after living within the boundaries set by the United States military (Barger, 2001). The one per-centers are soldiers and

their club is their nation tribe. The veterans quickly rose through the ranks and committed serious crimes to prove their worth to the club. Barger quickly expanded his operations to most of California up into Washington and Oregon (Barger, 2001). Many had the desire to become a Hell's Angel, only to be turned away due to race. Those stipulations, in return, created yet another group of outlaws known as the Pagans. They were formed in 1959 and have expanded rapidly. The club adopted the motto NUNYA, or Nunya Fucking Business. The Hell's Angels are considered the Godfather of motorcycle gangs and have set the stage for not only the Pagans, but many other outlaw motorcycle gangs (Barger, 2001).

No matter how small the community, any street level commander can see the increase in numbers firsthand. Currently, Wichita Falls, Texas, with a population of approximately 104,000, has several identified street level motorcycle gangs. These gangs are well organized to the point that some have even built club houses. They have strong rank structures to which members strictly adhere. Most of these local gangs, like larger gangs, are antipolice and create many issues for the Wichita Falls Police Department (WFPD Intelligence Files, 2012).

The local gangs are the Scorpions, Intrepid, Boozefighters, Goofy Goobers, and the Bandidos. Just as baseball has farm league teams, which are guided by the larger established teams, OMGs have "farm club" gangs. These gangs are divisions of the original gang, but are in smaller urban areas such as Wichita Falls. The Intrepid are a farm club of the Bandidos and the Goofy Goobers are the farm club for the Boozefighters (WFPD Intelligence Files, 2012).

Growing numbers of outlaw motorcycle gangs and their members means an

increase in the illegal activity they participate in. The FBI asserted that outlaw motorcycle gangs collect \$1 billion annually in illegal income and are becoming a major force in illegal drug sales and weapons offenses. The international drug trade in the United States is at epic proportions (McDermott, 2006). At the center of this trade is outlaw motorcycle gangs or clubs. They are, in fact, a highly sophisticated international drug network (McDermott, 2006). Both large and small scale infiltration into the clubs has led to a better understanding of the activity they participate in.

According to WFPD Intelligence files (WFPD, 2012), the Wichita Falls Police Department uses resources such as the gang task force to deal with the problem. The gang task force identifies members of each gang and assimilates the information with the assistance of the intelligence officer. This information is used by officers to better understand the culture of the outlaw motorcycle gangs, including what they stand for, and the several different crimes they are committing or have committed.

The FBI considers the big 4 clubs, Hell's Angels, Mongols, Bandidos, and the Outlaws, to be highly organized criminal enterprises/organizations, focusing not only on drug trade, but the illegal buying and selling of weapons and other criminal endeavors (Nichols, 2007). The ability to network and the mobility associated with the larger clubs pose serious concerns in relation to wide variety of potential criminal activity in which they choose to be involved. About 20 years after the formation of outlaw motorcycle gangs, Law Enforcement began to identify a problem. In 1985 a three year, eleven state FBI operation named Roughrider culminated in the largest OMG bust to date. This early bust led to the confiscation of 42 million dollars' worth of illegal drugs, as well as an illegal arsenal of weapons, ranging from Uzi submachine guns to antitank

weapons (Nichols, 2007).

The different clubs from Bandidos to Hell's Angels have become an enclave for some of the underworld's most cunning drug manufacturers and dealer. The Bandidos are well known for carrying drugs from Mexico to Canada on a regular basis through the middle states (Caine, 2009). This is possible due to the highway systems that weave through the territory they have claimed. Barger's Hell's Angels also own a large share of proceeds from illegal criminal activities across the nation and abroad and even stake claims to certain highways, not just territory, in most states (Barger, 2001).

Methamphetamine became popular with the Hell's Angels in the 1970's.

Methamphetamine earned the name "crank" because bikers would transport it in their crankcases (Wade, 2012).

The Hell's Angels and Bandidos are not the only clubs associated with illegal weapons and drug activity. The Vagos, AKA Green Nation, have been the subject of several investigations by the FBI and ATF for illegal activity such as the production and distribution of methamphetamine, murder, money laundering, and weapons violations (Quinn & Forsyth, 2010). The diversity of outlaw motorcycle gangs does not stop with Latino and Caucasian based gangs, motorcycle gangs branch out to the African American community as well. In 1959 the East Bay Dragons motorcycle club was established in Oakland, California (Levingston, Zimmerman, & Zimmerman, 2003). This gang was originally an all car club and morphed into a racially motivated crime ring with Tobie Gene taking the reins as president in 1959 (Levingston, Zimmerman, & Zimmerman, 2003). Tobie Gene turned these outlaws into an exclusively elite African American motorcycle club during his duration as president.

The largest multi-agency investigation in Southern California's history, "Operation 22 Green," took place in March 2006 and led to the arrests of 25 Vagos members and their associates due to firearms and drug violations (Risling, 2006). In May of 2007, members of the Free Souls motorcycle club of Oregon, were arrested and charged with various crimes to include illegal drugs, weapons offenses, and stolen motorcycles. The FSMC stole several bikes, and then stripped and sold them part by part (Quinn & Forsyth 2010). In 2008, members of the Warlocks, another military veteran started club, were arrested on suspicion of possessing 10 pounds of methamphetamine. Other members were charged with selling over 500 pounds of methamphetamine worth approximately \$9 million (Risling, 2006). In October of 1999 there was a bust of the Sons of Silence. This resulted in members being arrested by ATF and 20 pounds of methamphetamine, 35 firearms, four hand grenades, two silencers and stolen motorcycles being removed from this growing world of underground criminal activity (Nichols, 2007).

Extensive time and resources have been involved in uncovering the illegal activity of many outlaw motorcycle organizations of various sizes. ATF agent William Queen infiltrated the Mongols motorcycle club and eventually made several arrests of club members after years of investigation. Queen's undercover work required him to fully patch into the club (Queen, 2006). According to ATF agent, Queen, OMG's differ from the Mafia in that crime and violence are not used as expedients in pursuit of profit, but that they gain profit through a life of crime and violence. Queen has not been the only agent to infiltrate one of these outlaw societies (Queen, 2006). FBI agent, Jay Dobyms, not only patched into the Hell's Angels in Arizona, but rose to the

rank of Sergeant at Arms (Dobyns, 2009). This double life nearly cost him his life when some members began thinking he was a “rat” and with law enforcement (Dobyns, 2009). Dobyns was able to convince the club he was one of them and eventually made several felony arrests before getting out. Dobyns nearly lost his identity and his family over his time with the club (Dobyns, 2009).

In October, 2008, the FBI announced the end of a six month undercover operation by agents into the narcotics trafficking by the Mongols motorcycle gang. The bust went down with 160 search warrants and 110 arrest warrants (Veno, 2007). Members of these clubs insist that illegal activities are isolated occurrences and that they, as a whole, are not criminal enterprises (Veno, 2007).

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are not only a problem due to the activity they support, but the violence that follows them (Journal of Gang Research, 2006). The gangs are entrepreneurial in nature and have a history of violence to go along with it. Like large corporations, when a company experiences a turnover in upper management, other companies use this to their advantage and to gain power. It is largely understood that the Mongols are patiently waiting for the founder of the Hell's Angels, "Sonny" Barger, to die and will then start a full wage war to claim power and territory (McDermott, 2006). The Mongols won't do this while Barger is alive out of respect for Barger. The Bandidos are also waiting for this opportunity to attack. The passing of Barger will increase the violence not only between OMG's but the chance that the violence will claim victims at rallies, where both outlaw organizations and legitimate clubs gather. The one percenters fortifying their clubhouses with motion detectors, floodlights, guard dogs, bullet proof walls, and entry resistant doors, which

shows they too acknowledge the violence surrounding their way of life (Barker, 2011).

Territorial disputes between organizations is often handled through arranging meeting with rival clubs to work out their differences. Most of the time the smaller clubs will negotiate with the bigger clubs, but if this doesn't occur, a full wage war begins (Barker, 2011). The Bandidos have a long and brutal history of violence that accompanies their illegal activity. A member of the Bandidos was arrested, tried, and convicted for shooting Hells Angels members while they were leaving a restaurant during the Bandidos 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (Caine, 2009). In 2005, Pagans allegedly shot and killed the Vice President of the Philadelphia chapter of the Hell's Angels (Caine, 2009). These actions only increase the chances of retaliation and again feed the cycle of violence surrounding the organizations.

Violence is an issue not only with the members of Outlaw motorcycle clubs, but also the females who accompany the members. The clubs don't allow females to be actual members. The females are the "Old Lady's" of the club, or the girlfriends of club members. These women are regularly forced into prostitution or street level drug trafficking for the benefit of the organization. Physical and sexual abuse within the OMG is also common (Pratt, 2006). The women surrounding these clubs are viewed as inferior objects and even used for gaining respect and wing patches for the bikers in various organizations. Club members can earn green wings by having sex with a woman with venereal disease purple wings for having sex with a dead corpse, and red wings for having sex with a woman while on her period (Pratt, 2006).

## **COUNTER POSITION**

Outlaw motorcycle gangs depend on an ever increasing, structured and

organized drug network for funding of their organizations as well as increasing membership. These club members feel they have what it takes to be considered a legitimate motorcycle organization and will argue that with valid reasons. They feel they are an independent social structure with a hierarchy of leaders, who supports and governs themselves. Outlaw motorcycle gangs feel they abide by the laws and adhere to their own societal standards (McDermott, 2006). The leaders of these clubs believe they are also legitimate because it is what they live and stand for, though it is a different way of life than other bikers choose (Barger, 2006). Many outlaws see their participation in charitable events as a positive contributions to the larger society and feels this makes their actions and means of getting their monetary contributions as excusable (Placa, 2013).

Outlaw motorcycle clubs are often perceived as unintelligent thugs by the general public. Contrary to popular belief, the members of these clubs are sophisticated in their actions and very intelligent in how they conduct their business. Several members are ex-military and some were even officers in the military. Outlaw motorcycle clubs are in essence just as complex and sophisticated as the Mafia and operate in much the same manner. Outlaw motorcycle members are expected to be organized in their actions and beliefs before they are even considered to join (National Gang Intelligence, 2009). The money they obtain by illegal means is only wanted as a way to perpetuate the lifestyle, creating their own self sustained community with very organized rank structures (Queen, 2006). The basic fact remains that public perception and reality will always distort their image as nothing better than thugs and criminal conspirators.

It is difficult for OMG's to overcome this rough public image with biker gang based television shows such as Sons of Anarchy (SoA) ("The Sons of Anarchy," 2009). SoA makes this type of lifestyle seem very real to the series followers as the characters imitate the harsh reality of the biker gang lifestyle. Characters are basically pseudonyms of actual motorcycle gang members, and viewers following the show can fantasize over the lifestyle ("The Sons of Anarchy," 2009). This does two things: it does not allow OMG's to deviate from their current image, and it also glamorizes the lifestyle. Once these gangs lose their legitimate image in society, then law enforcement gains an important ally in combating their destructive nature.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are heavily involved in children's charities and fundraisers such as Toys for Tots. These clubs really step up their public participation during national Child Abuse Week (McDermott, 2006). Charitable giving is frequently cited as evidence that these clubs don't deserve their negative media image. Outlaw gangs have, however, been accused of using charity rides to mask their criminal nature. The American Motorcycle Association has said that the presence of outlaw clubs at charity events has actually harmed the needy by driving down public participation and reducing donations (Placa, 2013). Incidents such as the 2005 shootout between rival motorcycle gangs at a California charity toy drive have raised fears around the participation of biker gangs in charity events. The leaders of outlaw motorcycle gangs see participating in charity rides as an opportunity to advertise their clubs and further instill fear in the community (McDermott, 2006).

Another example of an outlaw biker doing charity work is seen in the daily work of Doc Hendley (Placa, 2013). This man is used by outlaws as a constant

reminder to the public of their positive contributions to society. Hendley was just another misfit biker just trying to have a good time until his life changed for the better while attending classes at North Carolina State. Hendley had grown up riding motorcycles and always embraced the motorcycle way of life. He wanted to do something with his life that would benefit others in need of help. Hendley began traveling to developing countries such as Haiti, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Uganda, Guatemala, Peru, and Colombia, where he noticed sickness and disease due to dirty water. He saw a need and acted upon it. Hendley founded Wine to Water, a non-profit charitable organization which provides clean water to the people in these nations. Hendley started poker runs in the United States to raise money for his trips. In his 2012 interview with Placa, Hendley stated, "there is something that all diehard bikers have in common. It gets in our blood long before we ride our first motorcycle. It's a passion, a taste for adventure, and freedom that's calling" (Placa, 2013, para. 13). When interviewed in 2012, Hendley also claimed "Wine to Water came out of me like a new sense of freedom," which further emphasizes the biker way of thinking. Hendley rides his Harley to the villages and towns he helps and visits with the people who have been forever changed by his giving (Placa, 2013). These humanitarian efforts are a prime example of how even outlaw bikers have hearts and want to help others.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Time, effort, and funding have been put into learning how outlaw motorcycle gangs operate and law enforcement needs to use the intelligence gathered to slow the growth of these gangs. A proactive stance is needed for the communities affected by

OMG's criminal interests and intimidation factors. Outlaw motorcycle gangs are more sophisticated operations than other traditional gangs and should be handled accordingly. Slowing the growth will help regain some control of illegal drug and weapons issues and help to curb the violence they bring with them. These gangs are causing problems on local, state and federal levels, no matter the size of the community. Each local policy needs to include all officers and multiple units within the department in order to make the plan beneficial for the community. The officer(s) need to work directly with the gang task officers in developing information and plans of action to deal with the biker gangs and their members. Approval by not only the chief, but also the city council, will help to make the efforts known community wide. Gang injunctions would also be beneficial in combating the problem. Gang injunctions can be developed by the city attorney's office and include zones where the biker gangs can't converge or associate with each other. These policies would deny club members the opportunity to wear their colors in public without legal consequences. They would be required to keep their bikes properly registered and inspected, which would extend the watch on these members and their bikes beyond the local level onto a state level.

This problem isn't just isolated to one area or state. The biker gang community has infiltrated every area of the country. Outlaw motorcycle gangs have made their way into American mainstream and become big players in the drug trade and other criminal enterprises and police agencies need to band together and help each other because one agency can't handle the problem on their own. Agencies need to enlist the help of federal law enforcement (FBI, ATF, DEA) for intelligence reasons and safety reasons for all involved in the operations. Agencies should search out and apply for

federal grants to help finance equipment that is needed and also to pay officers overtime for their efforts in combating the problem. Outlaw motorcycle members pose a serious threat to law abiding citizens and need to be monitored and shut down as soon as possible.

Law enforcement officers are taught techniques in dealing with biker member on their bikes and in the general public (Grossi, 2010). Currently, Outlaw motorcycle gangs are increasing in numbers and recruitment efforts are very strong and currently very successful. Wichita Falls Chief of Police, Manuel Borrego recommended a multi-step plan in order to combat this rising threat. The department would need additional man hours and recommended approaching the Attorney General's Office for a grant to support this mission. A multi-agency strike would be best. This includes agencies such as Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) as well as the FBI. These multiple agencies could cover a wider area as well as assist in the opposition of racketeering, corruption and taking enforcing charges on not only a local, but federal level. Interstate travelers could be stopped and identified and their information shared between agencies. Law enforcement needs to rely not only on itself and assisting agencies, but needs help from the public in destroying the mystic and acceptance that these gangs have possessed for decades. Law enforcement has a long battle ahead of them, but the good guys can win with perseverance and the public's support.

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