

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

**Instructional Goal:** Prepare all Gang Impact Team (GIT) members assigned to GED/CLEAR to gather gang-related intelligence and information, identify gang crime patterns, monitor gang activity and implement crime suppression strategies

**Performance Objectives:** Using instructor lecture, discussion, video, guided handout, and case studies, the student will be able to:

- ✓ Describe the Mission and Expectations of the GITs
- ✓ Be familiar with the history and inner workings of Southern California gangs
- ✓ Apply officer responsibilities involved in GED/CLEAR, including:
  - GIT and GED related policies and directives
  - Legal issues
  - Work product reports and documentation
  - Information sources and case development

**Day One**

**I. INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION**

**0700-0800 (60 Min)**

**A. INTRODUCTION AND ORIENTATION**

1. Instructor(s)
  - a) Name, assignment
  - b) Experience
2. Briefly overview the training schedule
  - a) Gang Impact Team
  - b) Gang Culture in Los Angeles
  - c) Policy, Procedures and Misconceptions
  - d) Information Sources and Case Development/Management
  - e) Documentation
  - f) Tactical Plans
  - g) Testimony

**B. OVERVIEW OF GANG AWARENESS**

1. There are less than 300 gang officers currently in the Department
  - a. There are over 30,000 gang members in the city of Los Angeles
2. What we want to accomplish through this as well as other training is to help increase the quality of our work
  - a. This training will present some very significant information from Department experts on several topics
  - b. What we need to do is to work smarter
  - c. We are going to accomplish this with knowledge-based training
    - 1) Help us know our gangs better
    - 2) Enable us to testify as gang experts in court
3. Our job today is difficult than it has ever been

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- a. Therefore, we need to be trained to do our job even better
- b. This course will help you in court when you list your credentials
- c. This is training to stimulate thought and is not all inclusive
- d. Additional training can be arranged later for individual teams

**C. HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF GANG IMPACT TEAMS**

1. In March 2000, Special Enforcement Units (SEU) were established to combine a number of Area specialized uniformed details which addressed crime problems and criminal gang activity<sup>1</sup>
2. In April 2000, the Department published a Gang Enforcement Mission Statement along with enforcement strategies to suppress violent gang crime<sup>2</sup>
3. Recognizing that violent crime is fueled by criminal gang activity and narcotics trafficking, the Department pursued a multi-disciplinary approach to reducing violent crime
4. In February 2004, Gang Impact Teams (GIT) were established in each of the 18 geographic Area commands to provide a collaborative, consistent and coordinated approach to impacting violent gang and narcotic crime<sup>3 & 4</sup>
5. GITs are comprised of the following components:
  - a. Gang Enforcement Detail (GED)
  - b. Narcotics Enforcement Detail (NED)
  - c. Gang Investigation Detail (unless assigned to the Area Detective Section)
  - d. Community Law Enforcement and Recovery (CLEAR) unit, where applicable
6. Other components may include a Community Impact Advisory Team and liaisons with a number of local, state and federal agencies
7. Ideally, deployment of GIT personnel is to be based upon gang crime trends, intelligence, identified crime problems, real time crime data and forecasting

**D. GIT MISSION**

1. GITs were established in furtherance of the Department's mission to eliminate violent crime, reduce the fear of crime and improve the quality of life in our communities through the following strategies:
  - a. Intelligence gathering, sharing and dissemination
  - b. Enhanced investigations and prosecutions
  - c. Direct community involvement, input and feedback
  - d. Identification of prevention and intervention resources for at risk youth

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<sup>1</sup> A.O. #3, 3/6/00; Activation of the Special Enforcement Unit

<sup>2</sup> A.O. # 8, 4/25/00; Gang Enforcement Mission and Strategies

<sup>3</sup> Intradepartmental Correspondence, 3/3/03; Implementation of the Gang Impact Teams

<sup>4</sup> S.O. #7, 2004; Gang Impact Teams Established

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

2. Goals are to:

- a. Cultivate a renewed respect from the community through a demonstrated commitment to addressing violent, gang and narcotics related crimes
- b. Foster positive relationships with community members through daily, officer-initiated goodwill "community contacts"
- c. Reduce the incidence of violent crime, gang and narcotics related crime
- d. Elevate and emphasize the significance of the GITs within the community and Department, through management and supervisory leadership, emphasis and support
- e. Engage in regional, collaborative gang and narcotic intelligence collection, sharing and dissemination
- f. Enhance investigations to ensure successful prosecutions
- g. Provide information to assist the community in coordinating prevention, intervention and training programs for at risk youth
- h. Provide for cross training between personnel to develop gang and narcotic expertise
- i. Maintain Consent Decree compliance

**E. Intelligence Component**

- a. Coordinate intelligence gathering efforts to include analysis of information from following sources:
  - 1) Crime and arrest reports
  - 2) Field contacts
  - 3) GIT field personnel
  - 4) Patrol officers
  - 5) Crime Analysis Details/Units
  - 6) Area and specialized detectives
  - 7) Community members
  - 8) Neighboring areas
- b. Identification of the most active gangs in each Area
- c. Identification and investigation of gang leadership
- d. In collaboration with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), create a system for tracking and tracing buyers of all guns recovered
- e. Monitor gang related funerals to gather intelligence

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- f. Gang detectives will be responsible for interviewing selected arrestees for intelligence gathering and dissemination purposes
- g. Detectives will actively seek to establish sources of information, including informants, as a means of intelligence gathering
- h. Crime Analysis Details and Units will provide “real time” data on violent crimes and gang-related crimes

2. Enforcement Component

- a. Increased uniformed deployment to provide high visibility patrol in targeted Areas
- b. In coordination with parole agents, probation officers conduct compliance checks on gang members on active probation or parole
- c. Coordinate the resources of narcotics personnel, Metropolitan Division and uniformed gang officers to establish observation points at known narcotics locations to identify and apprehend buyers, dealers and suppliers
- d. Gang and Narcotics Division - Fugitive Warrant Section (FWS) can develop a list of warrant suspects for each of the concerned Areas

7. **DISTRIBUTE:** Policy and Procedures Resource Guide Book

- a) Advise the officers a unit library of current and up to date resources should be available to be used by the officers and supervisors. ***Will be electronically sent to all attendees as well.***
- b) Reinforce the importance of maintaining an ongoing reference and resources
  - (1) Individuals responsibility to update and maintain
  - (2) Ensure that subordinates are familiar with the policy and procedures
- c) Overview how to use the handouts throughout the training day and in the field

8. **CLOSING:** Reinforce key learning points

- a. The mission and goal of GIT are in furtherance of the Department's mission to eliminate violent crime, reduce fear of crime and improve the quality of life in our communities
- b. Thorough knowledge of policy and procedures related to GIT ensure effective management of the gang unit
- c. Accurate reporting and documentation enhances the reputation of the individual and/or the Department

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

**II. Prison Gangs** **0800-1000 (120 Min)**

1. Overview of training goals and objectives
  - a. General Overview
  - b. Rank
  - c. Structure
  - d. Identifiers
  - e. Trends
  - f. Prison Influences

**III. Hispanic Gangs** **1000-1200 (120 Min)**

1. Overview of training goals and objectives
  - a. General Overview
  - b. Rank
  - c. Structure
  - d. Identifiers
  - e. Trends
  - f. Prison Influences

**IV. Black Gangs** **1300-1500 (120 Min)**

1. Overview of training goals and objectives
  - a. General Overview
  - b. Rank
  - c. Structure
  - d. Identifiers
  - e. Trends
  - f. Prison Influences

**V. White Gangs** **1500-1600 (60 Min)**

1. Overview of training goals and objectives
  - a. General Overview
  - b. Rank
  - c. Structure
  - d. Identifiers
  - e. Trends
  - f. Prison Influences

**Day Two**

**VI. Social Media** **0700-0930 (150 Min)**

1. Definition: Gang Intelligence
  - The product resulting from the collection, processing, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, and interpretation of available information concerning gang activity
2. This block of instruction will cover
  - a. **Intelligence gathering**

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- b. Interview techniques
  - c. Interrogation techniques
  - d. Networking
  - e. Training and seminars
3. As a GIT it is best to focus intelligence gathering activities to the most criminally active and violent gang members as well as the leadership of the targeted gang
4. Remember: Treat people fairly
- a. Always be professional
  - b. The three R's: Do the right thing, the right way, for the right reason
  - c. Prioritize your efforts to start with the most violent and criminally active gang members
    - 1) This may or may not be the leaders of the gang
    - 2) Every time a field contact is made find out something and document it, such as where they are going, who they are hanging with, who their girlfriend is, whose car are they driving

**VII. Chief's Office GRYD 0930-1030 (60 Min)**

- i. Strategies and expectations have been developed to enhance the components necessary to reduce gang violence
- ii. Community Component
  - 1. Command Staff, managers and supervisors to demonstrate support for GITs during roll calls and community meetings
  - 2. Community input and support will be solicited
  - 3. Establish liaison with local school principals, school police, Housing Authority police and other faith-based organizations

**VIII. Motorcycle Gangs 1130-1330 (120 Min)**

- 1. Overview of training goals and objectives
  - a. General Overview
  - b. Rank
  - c. Structure
  - d. Identifiers
  - e. Trends
  - f. Prison Influences

**IX. Expert Testimony 1330-1600 (150 Min)**

- 1. Testimony as a gang expert is vital to the prosecution of gang members
- 2. Tools to increase the efficiency and impact of gang officers

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- a. **HAVE A STUDENT READ:** Street Terrorism Enforcement and Protection act (STEP act)<sup>5</sup>
- 1) Step act 1988, officers need to know this
  - 2) Changes by Proposition 21 (March 2000)<sup>6</sup>
    - a) 186.22a (wobbler)
    - b) 186.22b (felony),
      - (1) can be attached to any open felony
      - (2) Is a strike
      - (3) Is an open charge
      - (4) Person does not have to be a gang member
    - c) 186.22b (1)
    - d) 186.22b (4)
    - e) 186.22 d
      - can be used as an enhancement to a misdemeanor such as battery
    - f) E186.22 e
      - (1) The Department definition of gang: S.O. #3, January 2004
      - (2) Gang crimes the Department tracks (13):
        - Murder, attempted murder, felony assault, ADW on a PO, robbery, shots fired into an inhabited dwelling, kidnap, rape, arson, witness intimidation, car-jacking, gang related narcotic violations
    - g) 186.22f
      - Defense attorneys sometimes will say “Isn’t LAPD a gang?”, no, we do not engage in a pattern of criminal activity, not the reason for our existence
3. How do we use these laws? It starts with the arrest report
- a. Must prove that suspect had the specific intent when he was committing the crime to benefit his gang, or himself within that gang
  - b. Start with a paragraph about who you are and what you have done
  - c. Next; a paragraph describing the gang involved: how many members are there, what are the turf boundaries, does it meet the Penal Code and Department definition, when it started
  - d. A paragraph about what happened to lead to the arrest, being a gang member is not a crime, what is significant is that the act/crime was done to benefit a gang

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<sup>5</sup> 186.22 CPC; Street Terrorism Enforcement and Protection Act

<sup>6</sup> California Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Act, March 2000

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- e. A paragraph about the suspect: he has gang tattoos, he has adopted a particular type of dress used by this gang, has moniker, (such as a sport team jersey that they all wear, remember to book the jersey), and that this makes it likely that he is carrying a gun
  - f. A paragraph on why you think he/she committed the crime. Give your opinion: if he had come across a rival gang member he would probably get into a conflict with a rival gang member
4. 12022.53 PC;
- a. This section combined with 186.22b
  - b. If a gun was used in committing a murder, attempt murder, mayhem, kidnapping, attempt kidnapping, robbery, car-jacking, ADW on a PO, or attempt of any of these crimes
    - 1) Additional 10 years to the prison sentence if the suspect displayed a handgun
    - 2) 20 years if it was fired
    - 3) 25 to life if there is great bodily injury or death
    - 4) Also, after they have served the prison time they have to register as a gang member, it is a misdemeanor if they don't
5. **READ:** Report written by a patrol officer
- a. In this case both were arrested, because he was there to back up his friend by throwing hand signs, to benefit the gang, this act helps establish that the act of shooting was premeditated

Suspect throwing gang signs got 15 years

**Day Three**

**X. Gang Documentation**  
**A. DEFINITIONS**

**0700-0900 (120 Min)**

- 1. Overview of training goals and objectives
  - a. The definition of a gang, a gang crime, and the criteria for gang and affiliate membership
- 2. Definition of a gang
  - a. An ongoing, organized association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more of the criminal acts enumerated in Penal Code 186.22 subdivision (e), having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and whose members collectively engage in, or have engaged in, a pattern of criminal gang activity.
- 3. Criteria for membership in a gang as a member or associate **MUST HAVE AT LEAST 2**



**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- a. Subject admits to the officer that he or she is a current gang member or associate at the time of contact with the officer;
- b. Subject is arrested for offenses consistent with gang activity;
- c. Subject is seen associating with documented gang members;
- d. Subject is seen displaying gang symbols and/or hand signs;
- e. Subject is seen frequenting specific gang areas/locations;
- f. Subject is seen wearing gang dress that contain a specific symbol that officers can specifically articulate as indicative of gang membership;
- g. Subject has gang tattoos.

**Exception:** When an officer establishes gang membership based specifically upon the combination of a subject frequenting specific gang locations **and** wearing gang clothing and attire (two separate criteria), CA DOJ requires the officer/detective use one additional criterion to satisfy gang membership.

Department personnel have legitimate authority and a statutory duty under California Penal Code (CPC) Section 186.22 to document gang activity. Officers and detectives typically denote facts related to gang activity, membership and/or association on Investigative Reports (IR), combined crime and arrest reports, Investigative Follow-up reports (Form 3.14), and on Field Interview reports (FI). When doing so, they are required to indicate specific and articulable facts upon which they base their conclusion an involved individual is a gang member or gang associate. The appropriate documentation of the required specific and articulable facts to establish gang membership is delineated in this notice as follows:

### **Establishing Gang Membership**

In order for an officer/detective to establish gang membership, the California Department of Justice (CA DOJ) has developed specific criteria, codified in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), requiring the investigating officer/detective to *document the presence of at least two of the seven gang membership criteria* as follows:

### **Documenting Gang Membership-Guidelines**

- 1. Self-Admission of Gang Member** – The subject freely admits to being a current gang member of a criminal street gang. Department personnel shall document the relevant circumstances of the admission, including but not limited to, the wording of admission, location of the contact, person(s) present during the conversation and whether the individual contacted was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs during the self-admission.
- 2. Gang Symbols and/or Hand Signs** – The officer/detective shall document the specific accessories, symbols and/or hand signs observed and the basis for believing they are associate with a criminal street gang. Officers shall not force the individual to display any hand signs to document this criterion.
- 3. Gang Activity Arrest** – When an individual is arrested for a crime enumerated in CPC 186-murder, attempted murder, rape, assault with a deadly weapon, shooting into an inhabited dwelling, arson, witness intimidation burglary, extortion, carjacking, firearm possession, criminal threats and mayhem-the officer/detective shall document specifically how the offense furthered, benefited or assisted the gang.
- 4. Gang Associate**-*This criterion only applies to subjects who freely and verbally admit to being a current gang associate* at the time of contact with the officer/detective. As is the case with gang member admission, officers/detectives shall document the relevant circumstances of the

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

admission, location of the contact, person(s) present during the conversation, and whether the subject was under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs at the time of the admission.

5. **Gang Area and Location**-Gang areas/locations are places where gang crimes are known to have recently been committed, or specific locations where there is current gang intimidation and/or tagging occurs. The officer/detective must articulate specific justification for how the area/location is gang-related. Likewise, entire neighborhoods and schools shall not be used as gang areas/locations.
6. **Gang Dress**-This criterion shall not be satisfied solely by the wearing of clothing and/or colors that are of general interest to a neighborhood or area including, but not limited to, wearing a local sports team hat, clothing, or colors. If an officer/detective believes a person is wearing gang attire, they shall specifically describe how the clothing (color, symbols, or style) is associated with a particular gang. The term "dressed down" is an insufficient description.
7. **Gang Tattoo**-The officer/detective shall document the specific number, symbol, and/or wording and the basis for believing that the tattoo is indicative of an active criminal street gang.

**In consideration of the fact available space is somewhat limited on the current FI report, and that body worn video (BWV) provides proven documentation for recall purposes, officers/detectives should strongly contemplate using BWV to document the observed specifics of the CA DOJ-established gang membership criteria on their reports and FIs.**

## **B. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

1. Overview the importance of following policies and procedures. These processes serve to improve our work product and ensure integrity
2. Overview of the responsibilities of Areas, Audit Division, and Bureau Gang Coordinators in auditing and inspecting Gang Enforcement Details and Gang Impact Teams to ensure compliance
3. Responsibilities
  - a. Supervisors – Thorough review of the work product of all personnel to ensure accuracy, completeness, thoroughness, and procedural compliance
  - b. Area – Internal inspections and audits
  - c. Bureau – Bureau Gang Coordinator conducts inspections and audits
  - d. Audit Division – Regular and periodic audits including GIT/GED as one stratum
5. Explanation of nondiscrimination policy and motor vehicle and pedestrian stops
  - a. Prohibition of discriminatory conduct on the basis of:
    - 1) Race
    - 2) Color
    - 3) Ethnicity
    - 4) National origin
    - 5) Gender
    - 6) Sexual orientation
    - 7) Disability

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

6. LAPD officers may not use the above in conducting stops or detentions except:
  - When engaging in appropriate suspect-specific activity to identify a particular person or group
  -
7. Informants
  - a. **Use of informants is limited to non-uniformed assignments**
  - b. A uniformed officer who comes in contact with a potential informant shall refer that person to the appropriate investigative entity
  - c. Evidence Code Section 1042(b) allows information received from an informant used to establish probable cause to be used without revealing the identity of the informant when a search is made pursuant to a search warrant
  - d. Utilize the Department Informant Manual, which establishes Department wide standards for development, use, and maintenance of informants
8. Non-Informant Sources of Information
  - a. Police officers routinely receive information regarding suspicious activity from a variety of sources.
  - b. Sources may be concerned community members who observe unusual activity and report it.
  - c. This type of communication between officers and the community is entirely consistent with our community policing philosophy
  - d. Generally, this type of communication does not constitute receiving information from an "informant"
  - e. The person is simply providing general information, which must be verified independently by the officer

**XI. Gun Unit Ghost Guns**

**0900-1100 (120 Min)**

1. Distribute weapons identification cards
2. Distribute the latest information regarding ghost guns
3. Display Glock switches and components
4. Gang and Narcotics Division, Gun Unit
  - a. The unit has been in existence since the mid 1980's
  - b. When to notify the unit to respond to a location
    - 1) Large gun seizures

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- 2) Domestic violence radio calls where many guns are going to be confiscated
  - 3) The reason for this is people who have a lot of guns usually have guns that are restricted
  - 4) The expertise in the unit can help identify these weapons that are a felony to possess if it's unregistered
  - 5) Notify the unit if you come across a machine gun or an "auto sear"
    - a) To have one is the same as possessing a machine gun
    - b) They are used to make certain guns, such as an AR-15, fully automatic
  - 6) Grenade launchers
- c. The unit will respond to a call on weekends and nights. The DOC will contact the unit or one of several people who can respond at any time.
- d. Other things to look for that the unit would be interested in:
- 1) Clear evidence of gun trafficking
    - a) Papers/gun documents laying around the scene
    - b) Empty gun boxes
  - 2) Gang member with a gun, with a prior conviction
    - Can assist on obtaining a search warrant for gang members residence
  - 3) **Auto sears:** It is a felony to possess these, the entire assault gun is not necessary for the arrest
- a. The suspects this unit usually deals with are upper and upper-middle class with a clean criminal record
- 1) They can buy large quantities of weapons from the manufacturer and then sell them to gang members
  - 2) When you come across someone with a large quantity of guns, ask them about their guns, they love to brag about them
4. If you buy a gun from a friend, you are required by law to take it to a licensed gun dealer and complete a "dealer record of sale"
- If this is not done it is a felony for a handgun and a misdemeanor for a long gun
5. California firearm laws: [www.ag.ca.gov/](http://www.ag.ca.gov/), 65 pages long
6. Now peace officers can carry a weapon in all states, it is important to have a good, secure gun case. Peace officer's guns are being stolen from luggage
- a. Get a Transportation Security Agency (TSA) approved lock and then the case can be kept locked when travelling. The inspectors have a special key to open the case

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

- b. **DISTRIBUTE:** TSA Approved Lock Box Companies handout

**XII. Eurasian Gangs** **1200-1400 (120 Min)**

2. Overview of training goals and objectives
  - a. General Overview
  - b. Rank
  - c. Structure
  - d. Identifiers
  - e. Trends
  - f. Prison Influences

**XIII. Tac Plans** **1400-1500 (60 Min)**

**Written Operation Plans**

All UC and surveillance operations shall be documented on a written operation plan. The written operation plan must be approved by the C/O of the responsible Area/Division or their designee (a telephonic briefing and approval is acceptable when a physical review is not feasible), and such approval shall be documented in the plan.

Exception: In the case of critical, time-sensitive incidents or any crime needing immediate attention, a verbal operation plan may be communicated to all involved assets to expedite their response. However, a written operation plan shall be completed as soon as feasible after the scene is safe and after the conclusion of the incident.

Written operation plans shall include at minimum:

- I. Location of activity and type of crime;
- II. Radio frequency;
- III. Location information (security bars, dogs, children, or other officer safety issues);
- IV. Suspect(s) information (i.e. criminal history, prior violent behavior, access to weapons, drug use, and picture if available);
- V. Personnel assigned to the operation (include their roles and duties - communications, less lethal, arrest team, etc.) In a mobile surveillance, it is understood that duties may rotate due to their position at the time;
- VI. Required/exempted equipment for operation. If an exemption is granted for required equipment, the C/O or acting C/O who grants the exemption shall be documented in the written plan or, if the plan is verbal, noted on the supervisor's log; and,
- VII. Brief summary, including a description of what information led to the operation.

**UC Operator:** An officer assigned to a non-uniform operation who proactively seeks to establish a relationship or make contact with a subject or group to gather evidence or intelligence while concealing the officer's identity as a police officer to accomplish the mission.

**Plainclothes:** Non-uniform assignments where the role and identity as a sworn officer is not intended to be confidential or clandestine. For example: Area detectives, Mental Evaluation Unit personnel, training staff, etc.

**Note:** Plainclothes personnel shall wear body armor or a tactical vest with ballistic protection when they are involved in a tactical operation involving one or more suspects or when they are deployed in the field and subject to responding to radio calls, requests for assistance, or to effect arrests.

**LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**Gang Awareness 1850-23214**  
**Expanded Course Outline**

**LA CLEAR UPDATE - TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 1) LA CLEAR is:
  - a) A clearing house on street gangs
  - b) In existence since 1990
  - c) Used by narcotics officers
  - d) Has analysts, a war room, a wire room
  
- 2) The data comes from multi-jurisdictional sources
  - a) Gang members are crossing boundaries
  - b) We need to be able to track their movements
  
- 3) It enhances officer safety in LA county by posting gang operations with the LA CLEAR war room
  - a) If you are serving a search warrant or have an undercover operation, observation post set up you shall call the war room to post your operation
  - b) Avoid any conflicts with operations by other agencies (800 LA CLEAR)
  - c) They will call back if there is another operation within 1000 yards of yours
  - d) There have been instances where an undercover officer sells narcotics to an undercover officer from a different agency
  - e) There are 413 agencies posting with LA CLEAR and many operations going on at any time

5. **CLOSING:** Reinforce key learning points

- a. Documentation is critical; if it's not in writing it didn't happen
- b. Accurate, consistent, thorough reporting and documentation enhances the reputation of the individual and/or the Department, improves prosecution and reduces civil liability.

**XIV. Closing Evaluations**

**1500-1600 (60 Min)**

1. Evaluations and Questions