



UNCLASSIFIED



Welcome to El Salvador  
on behalf of USMILGP-ES

This briefing is unclassified

SFC Quintero, Leo  
Anti-terrorism Officer

8 Jan 2007

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



*Welcome to El Salvador on behalf of COL Santiago, MILGP CDR/USDR.*



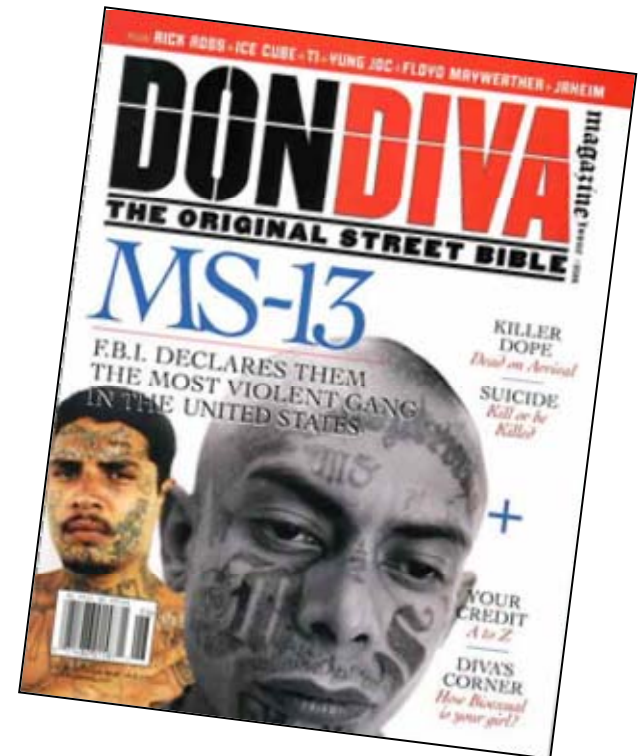
As the USDR, COL Santiago is the FP Officer for El Salvador and has appointed SFC Quintero as the MILGP FPO/ATO and assigned FP responsibilities for the security/FP of DOD personnel in-transit or TDY in El Salvador.

UNCLASSIFIED



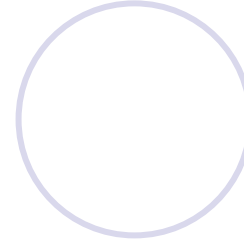
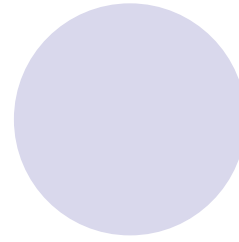
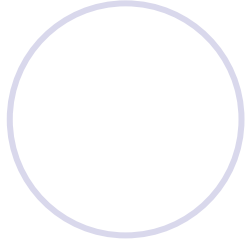
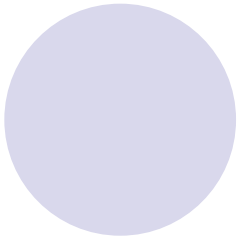
# Agenda

- History
- Presence of Gangs in El Salvador
- Criminal Activities
- Structure / Chain of Command
- Communication
  - 18st Written Communication
  - Hand Signal Communication
  - GRAFFITIS
  - Tattoos
- Sumary
- Questions / Comments





UNCLASSIFIED

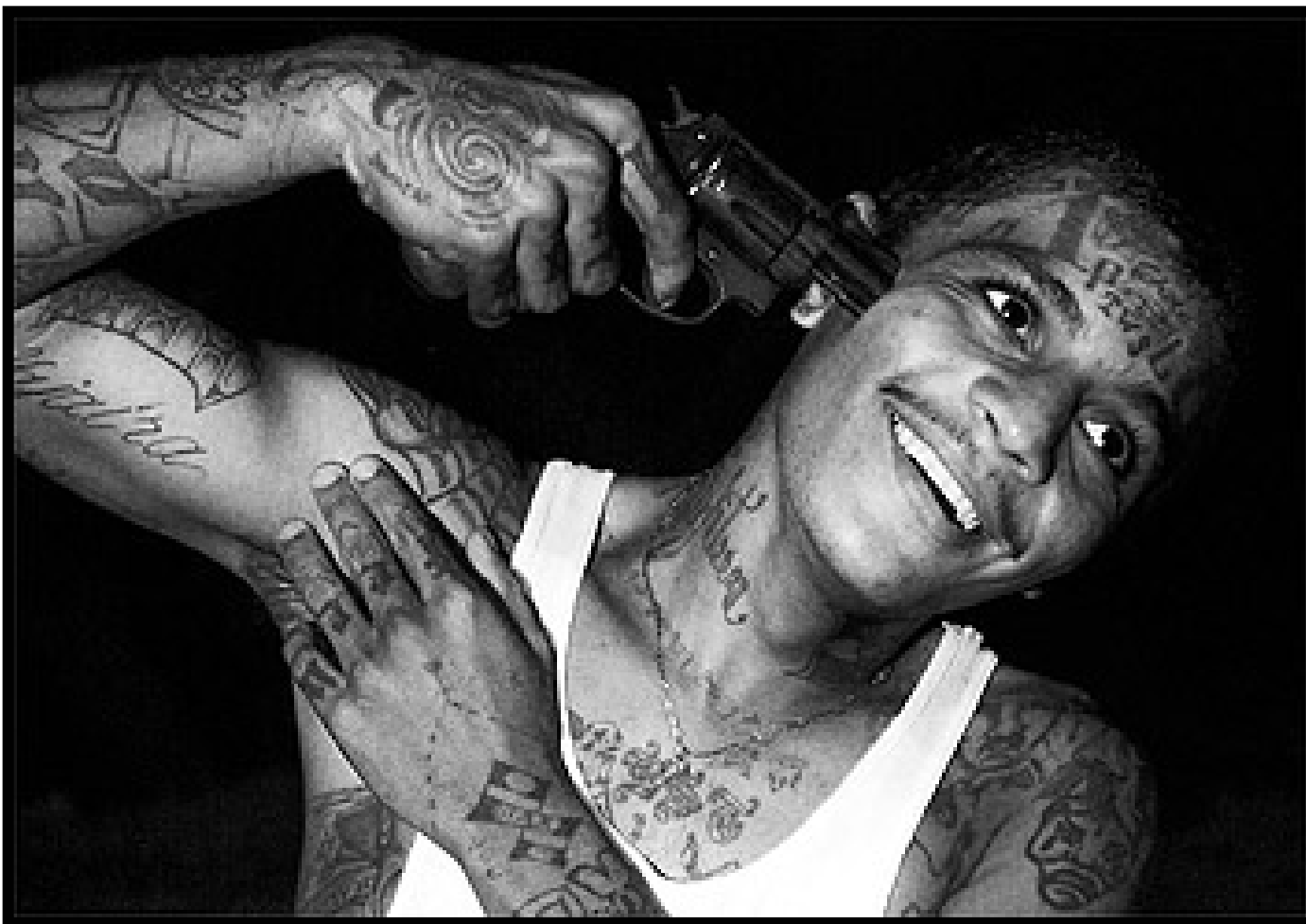


# History

UNCLASSIFIED



# Street Gangs in El Salvador





UNCLASSIFIED

# History



- Maras emerged out of the conflicts during the 1970s & 80s in Central America. In the context of the wars and insurgencies in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua, thousands of people, including young men fled North, many which had training on guns as well as armed combat techniques.
- In Los Angeles they encountered rejection by other Hispanic communities and found it difficult to find work and socialize; a percentage of these young men, especially those from El Salvador where part of the insurgency/ civil war back home and joined the 18th Street Gang from LA, which was started by Mexicans and expanded to other Hispanics, African-Americans, and Asians.
- **Salvadorians** founded the Mara Salvatrucha, to compete with the former, considering the Salvadorans in 18st and other gangs in the barrios of Los Angeles traitors.



UNCLASSIFIED





# History (Cont)

- They gave themselves the number thirteen, in line with 13th. Street. Like in the past currently most maras are involved in criminal activities in one form or another. When they get caught in these acts they are sent to prison. In prison these gang members further define their criminal tactics and networks.
- The terms pandillas and clicas are often used interchangeably. All maras are pandillas but not vice versa. Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, already fully formed in Los Angeles, was established in San Salvador in 1992 by the clicas (cliques, cells, or groups) deported from the United States and replacing earlier, less violent, and less sophisticated gangs. M-18 was established in El Salvador in 1996 with three clicas. Today both maras are spread across all departments.



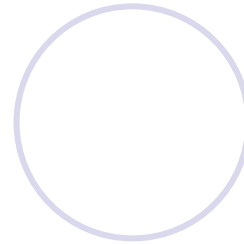
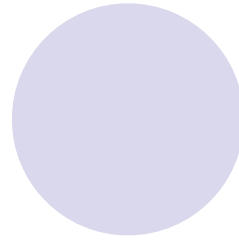
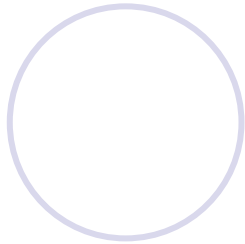
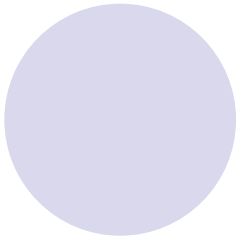
# History (Cont)

- In El Salvador there are approximately 11,000 active members divided among MS-13 (7,000), M-18 (4,000), and others (200). According to the PNC, the membership numbers for all the countries in the region are as follows: Honduras (36,000 in 112 groups); Guatemala (14,000 in 434 groups); El Salvador (11,000 in 4); Nicaragua (4,500 in 268); Costa Rica (2,700 in 6); Panama (1,400 in 94); and Belize (100 in 2 groups), for a regional total of 69,145 in 920 groups. MS-13 and M-18 are found in all but Costa Rica and Panama.
- There are, in addition, others in the different countries: Costa Rica (Los Chapulines); Guatemala (Los Cholos, Los Nicas, and Los Batos Locos); El Salvador (La Mao Mao, La Maquina, and others); Honduras (La Mao Mao, Los Batos locos, and Los Rockeros); Nicaragua (Gerber Boys and Los Charly). The maras are not only a Central America regional phenomenon; rather they are transnational. The MS-13, for example, reportedly has 20,000 members in the United States and 4,000 members in Canada, for a total of 96,000 in the hemisphere. It shouldn't be surprising that the numbers are variable. Mara membership is dynamic and census-taking is rudimentary.





UNCLASSIFIED



# Presence Of Gangs In El Salvador

UNCLASSIFIED

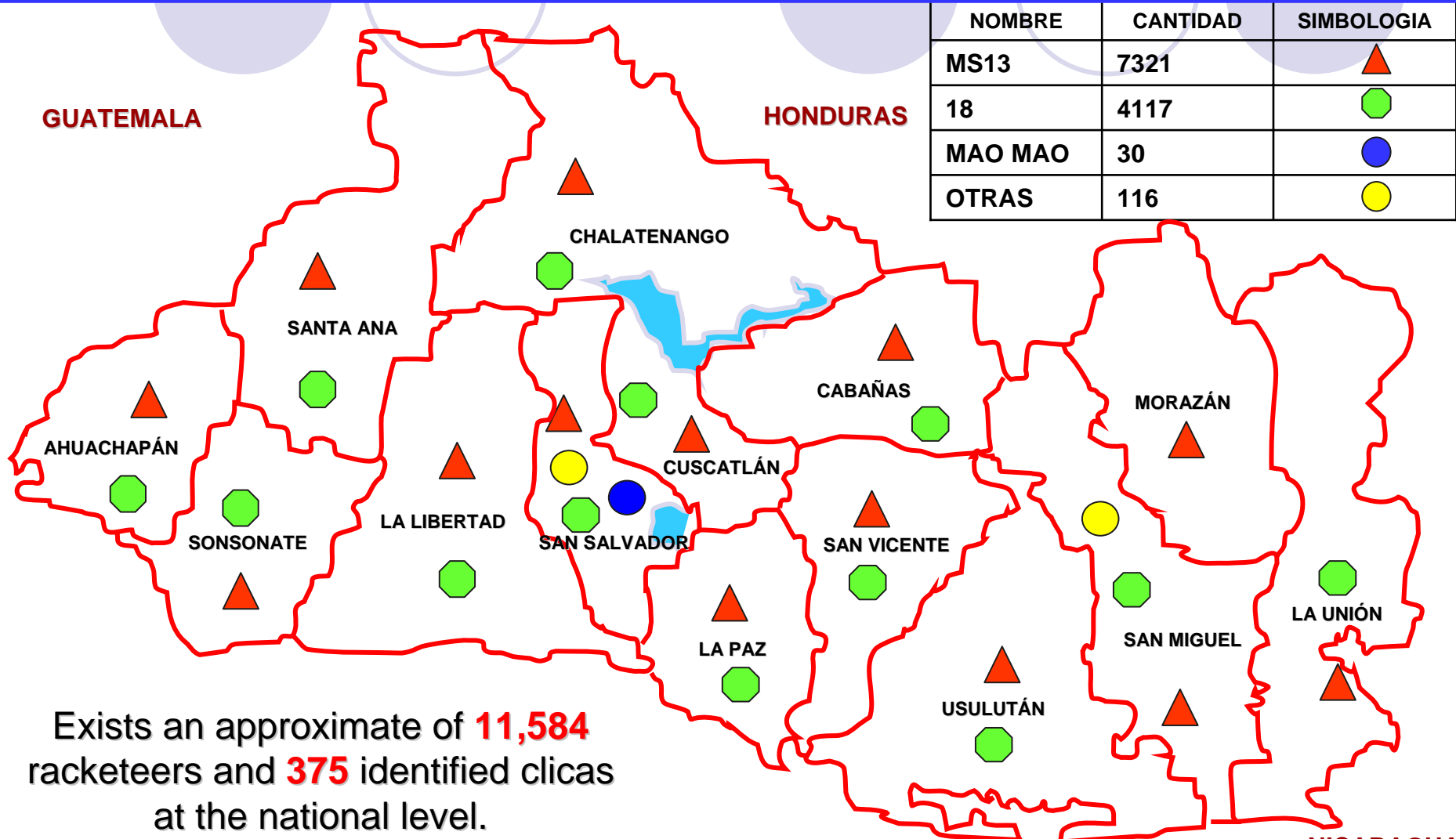


UNCLASSIFIED

# Presence Of Gangs In El Salvador



NOMBRE	CANTIDAD	SIMBOLOGIA
MS13	7321	▲
18	4117	●
MAO MAO	30	●
OTRAS	116	●



Exists an approximate of **11,584** racketeers and **375** identified clicas at the national level.



UNCLASSIFIED



# These Are Some Samples Of Homicide Cases In El Salvador

04Dec02



Joven mutilada  
7 de diciembre de 2002  
Marian Isabela Rivas  
Martínez, de 17 años,  
violada, asesinada,  
decapitada y mutilada el 4  
de diciembre pasado en  
una casa de la colonia  
Montes de San Bartolo V.  
de Soyapango. Su cuerpo  
fue encontrado seis días  
después.

10Dec02



13Jan03



04Jul03



13Mar03



12Jul03



15Dec02



09Mar03



09Mar03



14Aug03



31Jan03



31/01/03

UNCLASSIFIED

28/02/03

16/03/03



# CONSOLIDATED LIST OF "PANDILLEROS" AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL



BY REGION	GANG MEMBERS								TOTAL
	MS13	18	MAO MAO	MÁQUINA	14	MIRADA LOCA	MURO	FAMILIA UNIDA	
METROPOLITAN	1923	1376	30	16	20				3365
WESTERN	1525	1120							2645
PARACENTRAL	1207	922							2129
ORIENTAL	1481	277				25	25	30	1838
CENTRAL	1185	422							1607
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7321</b>	<b>4117</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>11584</b>

- ✓ In 2006 the approximately amount of gang members in country is of **11,584**.
- ✓ PNC reports a total of **16,800** POs, with approximately 5,000 on duty at any given time (In country).



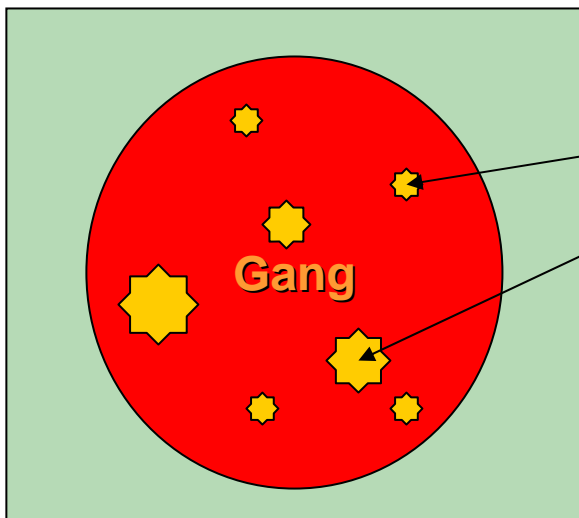


UNCLASSIFIED



# CONSOLIDATION OF "CLICAS" AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

BY REGION	CLICAS								TOTAL
	MS13	18	MAO MAO	MÁQUINA	14	MIRADA LOCA	MURO	FAMILIA UNIDA	
METROPOLITAN	71	46	1	1	1				120
WESTERN	50	39							89
PARACENTRAL	49	28							77
ORIENTAL	32	13				1	1	1	48
CENTRAL	32	9							41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>375</b>

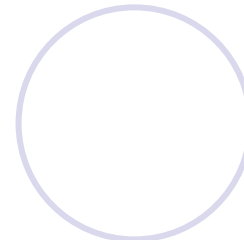
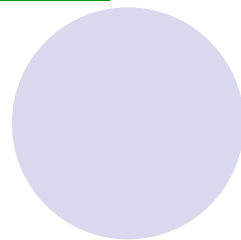
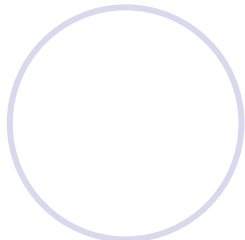
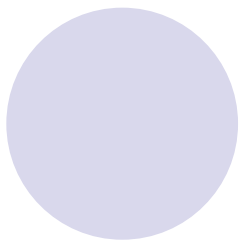


UNCLASSIFIED

Courtesy of the RSO



UNCLASSIFIED



# Mara

# Criminal Activities

**“This Portion Of The Briefing Contains  
Very Strong Pictures”**

UNCLASSIFIED





# Mara Criminal Activities

- From the available data, it appears that virtually everything the maras do is criminal activity. This was the case even before El Salvador and Honduras passed laws over the past three years making membership in a mara against the law. Summaries from the PNC in El Salvador list the following activities as defining for the maras: Selling drugs; extortion; prostitution; homicide; and illegal movement of drugs, people, and arms across borders.
- The most recent PNC document, from Aug 2006, notes that the two major sources of income are the drug trade and extortions. Their structures are elaborate, flexible, and redundant with a leadership cadre and another to back it up. They can function as networks, with extensive transnational linkages. Their internal functions include recruiting, logistics, attacks, intelligence (collecting and propaganda), and activities including murders, drugs, extortions, and others.
- There are approximately 10-12 homicides per month in El Salvador and is presently the most dangerous country in Central and South America and 5<sup>th</sup> World Wide as you will see in the following slides.
  - ***This is what makes El Salvador a "DOS Critical Crime Post".***



# Libertad Park (2002)



XVIII = 18<sup>th</sup> St. Gang





UNCLASSIFIED



# Los Magueyes, Ahuachapan

12 Jul 2003



Victim # 1

UNCLASSIFIED





UNCLASSIFIED



# Los Magueyes, Ahuachapan



Victim # 2

UNCLASSIFIED





UNCLASSIFIED

# Road to Planes de Renderos

(Nov 2005)



UNCLASSIFIED



# Gang Structure/Chain Of Command



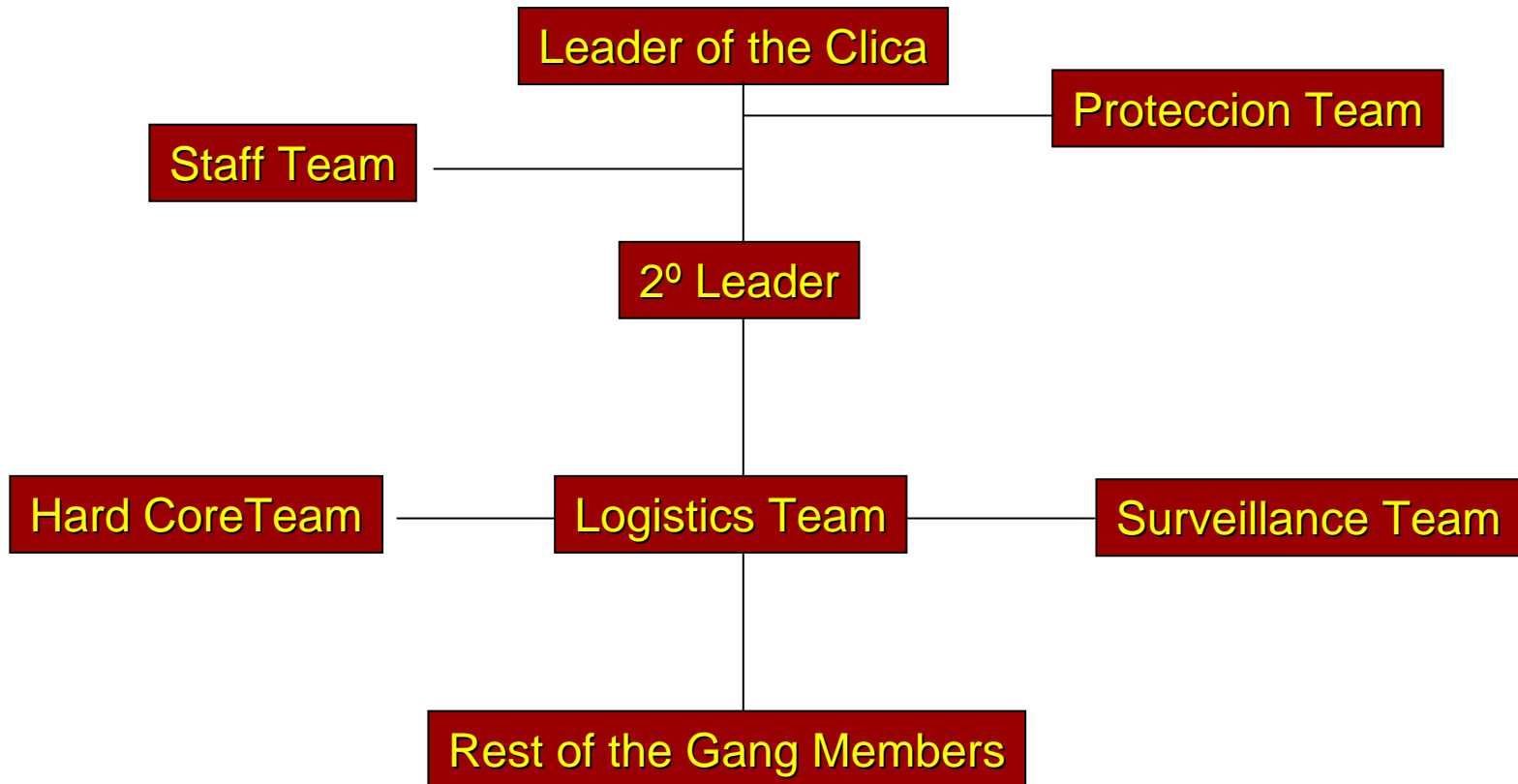
15 7:25PM





UNCLASSIFIED

# Gangs Basic Structure Model



UNCLASSIFIED

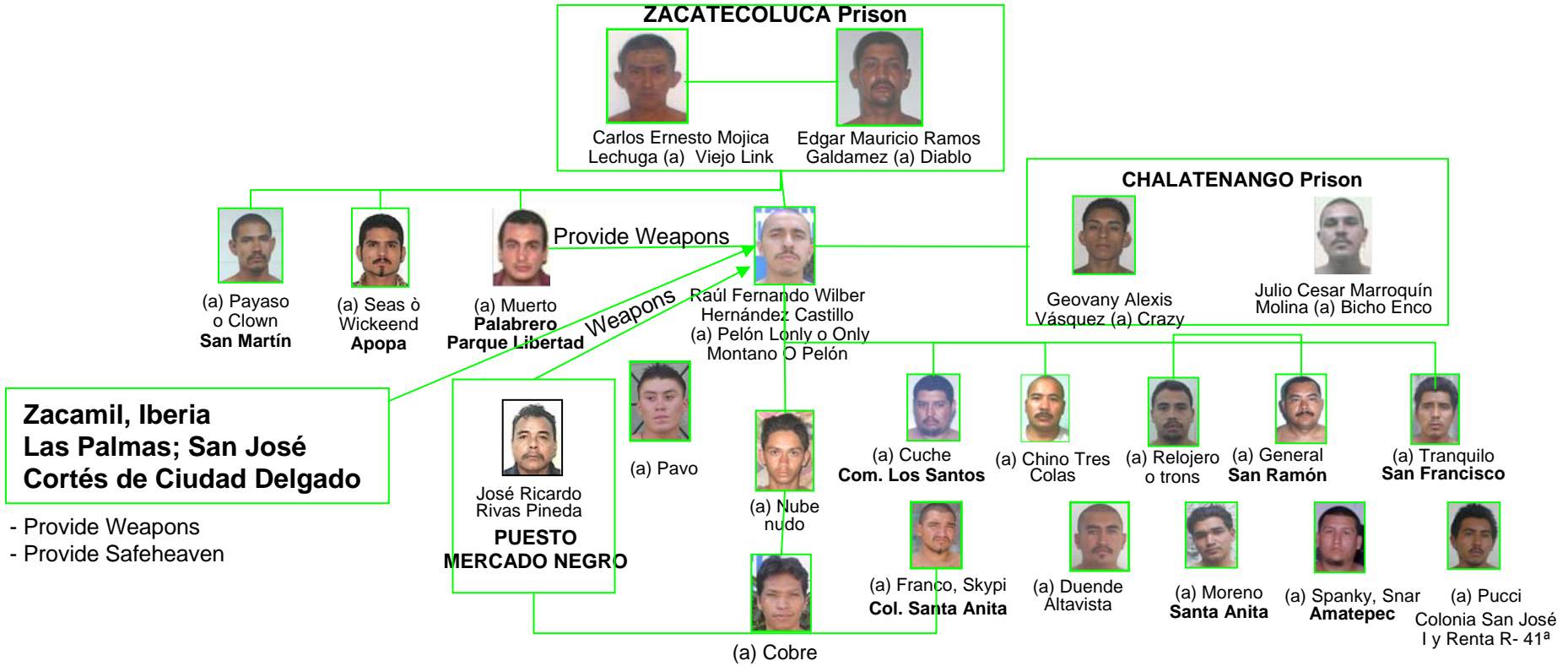


UNCLASSIFIED

# Gangs from Soyapango, El Salvador



18<sup>th</sup> St. Soyapango, San Salvador.

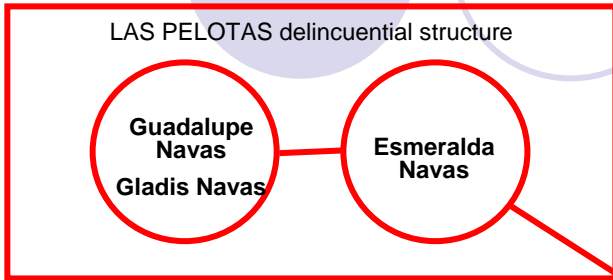


UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

# Fulton Clicas (FULTON LOCOS SALVATRUCHOS) PANDILLA MS COL. MILAGRO DE LA PAZ, SAN MIGUEL



Sale COCAIN and CRAK



José Wilmer Berríos Velásquez (a) Sneky

Staff CLICA FLS



Moisés Chicas Pérez (a) Dandy



José Jeremías Sánchez Cortez (a) Chepe Remiendo



Jairo Javier Blanco (a) Jerry



Carlos Humberto Martínez Granados (a) Player



Nelson Mauricio Cortez Cruz (a) Negro



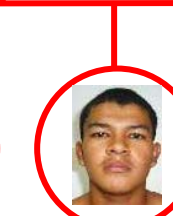
José Omar Chavarría Díaz (a) Fulgor



Roberto Carlos Ferrufino Villatoro (a) Negro



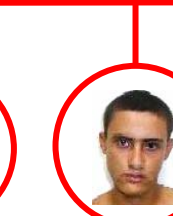
Nelson Nehemías Berríos Velásquez (a) Nelson



Roberto Carlos Cáceres (a) Pequeño



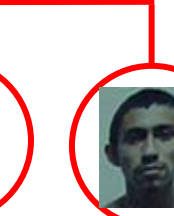
Franklin Edenislon Iglesias Orellana (a) Kiwi



Mario de Jesús Coreas Mejía (a) Pequeño



José Alexander Ramírez (a) Júnior



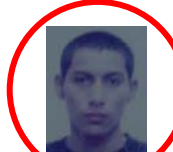
Eric González Hernández (a) Pequeño



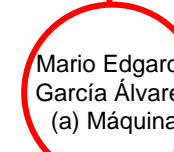
José Luis González Campos (a) Delinler



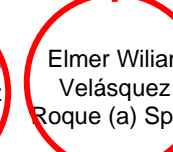
Rigoberto Argueta Argueta (a) Draky



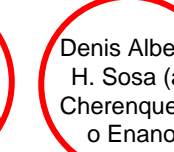
José Virgilio Girón Vásquez (a) Chiqui



Mario Edgardo García Álvarez (a) Máquina



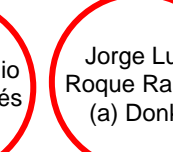
Elmer Wilian Velásquez Roque (a) Spa



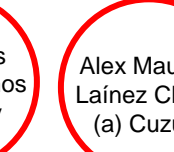
Denis Alberto H. Sosa (a) Cherenqueca o Enano



José Antonio Tejada Inglés



Jorge Luís Roque Ramos (a) Donky



Alex Mauricio Laínez Chicas (a) Cuzuco

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

# Structure of the APLS MS-13 Gang from APOPA



In charge of moving money back/to PISPILETA Y A PAVAS



JORGE ANTONIO FLORES CORTEZ (a) PISPILETA



RICARDO



JOSE LUIS MENDOZA FIGUEROA (a) PAVAS

Detained for homicide of WILLIAN RIGOBERTO T. LONLY Leader of 18st, 10-07-03, in Apopa

Transfer of money to PISPILETAS

Transfer of money to PAVAS

Drugs sale Team

OPS Team  
Armed Robbery, etc.

Extorsion Team Apopa



Flaco Negra Patata



Amigo Wester Cuto



Blaki Chanel Sapo Sapo Moco Cortez



Negra Snart Burgos Jullo Snup



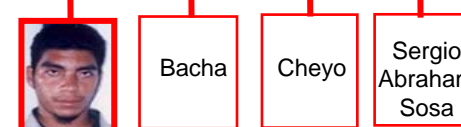
Coralillo Seven Emerson Coreas Mulato



Oyuki Patata Wester Trupy Thunder Pipiripao



Cuzuquin Coralillo Pinocho Kike Maleta Churrutaca



Tacua Bacha Cheyo Sergio Abraham Sosa

### LEYENDA

→ Transfer of money to the leaders

UNCLASSIFIED



# Gang Structure

- Even though some of the local gangs are structured in such as organized way in San Salvador, it does not mean that all gangs are organized the same way.
- Because they are well organized, the Salvadorian PNC recognize them and name them “organized Crime”, as such they may fall under a different level of punishment under the law depending on the crime committed.







# Original Letter Written by Lyn

(Ldr of 18<sup>th</sup> St.)

UNA WILLA

DIABLO: CHECK THIS OUT HOMER;  
 DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO  
 BUT WE'VE GOT TO KILL THEM  
 COPS. FROM EL ISIDRO.  
 GIVE THE MISSION TO  
 WHOEVER YOU THINK THAT  
 CAN DO IT. BUT WE HATE  
 TO DO IT. FUCK THEM.

MOTHERFUCKERS; WE  
 CAN'T TAKE THAT KIND  
 OF SHIT; HOMER FIX THAT  
 UP BUT DO IT. DON'T  
 WASTE NO MORE TIME  
 THEY HAVE TO PAY FOR WHAT  
 THEY DID. WRITE TO  
 THE JUERZA TOO AND  
 EXPLAIN IT TO HER  
 TELL HER WHAT  
 HAPPENED. YOU KNOW  
 WHAT I MEAN. OUR WAY  
 I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU  
 SEND ME HOMER; TELL

I WANT YOU TO SPEAK UP  
 FOR UNA SECY SHE'S BEEN  
 FIRME TONE

CONVIERO QUE GRACIAS TOO  
 THAT'S A FIRME HOMEBODY  
 TOO. SEE IF YOU CAN GET ME  
 A FIRME ARGOLLA HOMER  
 I REALLY WANT ONE BUT  
 A FIRME ONE YOU KNOW.  
 FIND OUT WHEN ARE WE  
 HAVE TO GO TO COURT, AND  
 LET ME KNOW. TAKE CARE  
 OF YOURSELF I LOVE YOU  
 AND I'VE GOT A LOT OF  
 RESPECT FOR YOU AND  
 YOUR HAYUA TOO. SHE'S  
 FIRME Y BARBARA CONVIERO.  
 I'M TRYING TO GO THERE  
 REAL HARD. GIVE MY  
 REGARDS TO THE FIRMES  
 DIEBIOCHEROS.

HASTA QUE LA MOTHERFUCKING  
 MUERTE NOS SEPARE  
 LOS DIEBIOCHONIA  
 EN GRANDE. LYR  
 W.S.  
 217<sup>th</sup> STREET GINGO.

LYN



# Translation into 18 St. Alphabet

PARA: EL DIABLO Y EL PAYASO Y LOS DEMAS

□△◇△ : # '6 ▽∞Δφ'6# 1%1 # '6 □Δ14496# 144 '6#9 ▽#>Δ9

PALABREROS DE CHALATE CITY.

□Δ'6Δφ◇#◇#9 ▽# <φΔ'6Δ'6# <∞∞/1%1.

YA ESTAMOS EN EL JUEGO DE LA CHIM-

1%Δ #9∞Δ>#9 #110 # '6 %1%# + # ▽# '6Δ <9∞>

BOMBA. ASI QUE LA CHACHA ESTA ASI:

φ#>φΔ. Δ9∞∞ ◇'6# '6Δ <9Δ<9Δ #9∞Δ Δ9∞∞.

CARNALITOS YO HOMEBOYS TENGO ALGO

<Δ◇1110Δ'6∞∞%#9. 1%1 φ#>#φ#9 ∞#1110 + # Δ'6 + #

PARA EL 25 DE DICIEMBRE. MIREN PERROS

□△◇△ # '6 25 ▽# ▽∞∞<∞∞#>φ◇#. >∞∞◇#1110 □#◇◇#9

LA HONDA DE LOS QUE SE VAN A QUEBRAR

'6Δ 91110Δ ▽# 6#9 φ'6# 9# #Δ1110 Δ φ'6# φ◇◇◇

ESE PIQUE ELLOS YA SABEN QUE PEDO

#9# □∞∞◇'6# #6'6#9 1%1 9Δ# #1110 ◇'6# □#▽#





# Translation into 18 St. Alphabet

SON MISIONES DESDE EL MOMENTO QUE

9# /// . > 00b : # /// . 0#9 ▽#9 ▽# # '6 ># ># /// . 0%# ▽# 0%#

ESTEN AFUERA

#9 0%# /// . ΔM 0%# 0Δ .

OTRA ONDA CARNALES QUIERO QUE A COMO DE

# 0% 0Δ # /// . ▽Δ <Δ 0 /// . Δ '6 #9 0% 0% 0# 0%# Δ<#># ▽#

LUGAR SE HAGAN PRESENTE AQUÍ YA QUE

'6 0% + Δ 0 9# Δ + Δ /// . 0 0 #9 # /// . 0%# Δ 0% 0% 1/1 Δ 0%#

SE HAN QUEBRADO UN PIQUE DE METERSE

9# Δ /// . 0%# 0 0 Δ ▽# 0% /// . 0 0 0%# ▽# ># 0%# 0%#

A LA CASA DE LA SECA. ELLOS SON DE

Δ '6 Δ <Δ 9 Δ ▽# '6 Δ <# < Δ . # '6 '6 #9 9# /// . ▽#

LA SAN ANDRES Y LA TACA DE ELLOS

'6 Δ 9 Δ /// . Δ /// . ▽ 0 #9 1/1 '6 Δ 0% Δ < Δ ▽# # '6 '6 #9

SON: EL FRANK, RECORD Y EL GREÑAS

9# /// . # '6 M 0 Δ /// . : . 0# < # 0 ▽ 1/1 # '6 + 0 # /// . Δ 9



# Translation into 18 St. Alphabet

ASI QUE VEAN COMO HACEN PARA UBICARLOS

Δ9.00 Φ%# †#Δ|||. <#># Δ<#|||. □ΔΔΔ †φ%<ΔΔ'6#9

AQUÍ ESTA ES MISION CARNALES

ΔΦ%00 #9%Δ #9 >009.00#|||. <ΔΔ|||.Δ'600.†#9

LA FERIA QUE SE LLEVARON SON 350

'6Δ M#000Δ Φ%# 9# '66#φΔΔ#|||. 9#|||. 350

DOLARES. ORALE CARNALITOS LA DIECIOCHO

▽#6ΔΔ#9. #0Δ'6# <ΔΔ|||.Δ'600.†#9 '6Δ ▽00#<00#<Δ#

EN GRANDE HASTA QUE LA MALDITA MUERTE

#|||. †ΔΔ|||.▽# Δ9%Δ Φ%# '6Δ >Δ'6▽00%Δ >%#0.†#

NOS SEPARE

|||.†# 9#□ΔΔ#.

ATTE. L Y N Y TODA LA RAZA DE

Δ.†.†# '6 1/9 |||. 1/9 †#ΔΔ '6Δ ΔΔΔΔ ▽#

GOTERA.

†#†#0Δ.

UNCLASSIFIED

# Apopa Penitentiary



# 18 St.



## Hand Signal Communication

# Soyapango Penitentiary

# MS - 13



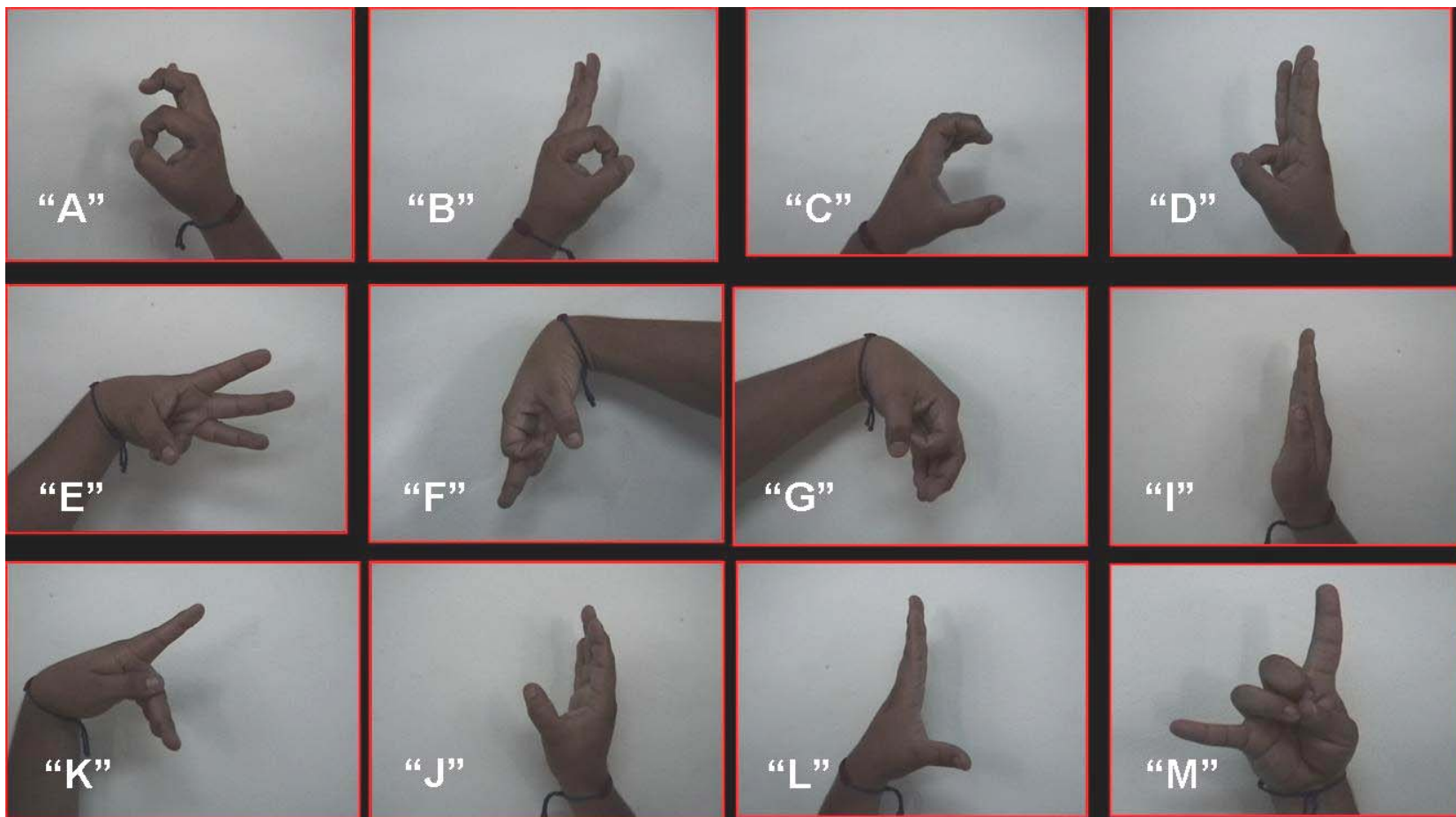
UNCLASSIFIED





# Hand Signal Communication

Gang members use a mimic language to communicate, making constant use of the fingers of the hands to elaborate the letters or other own symbols. It is a universal language inside the gangs.

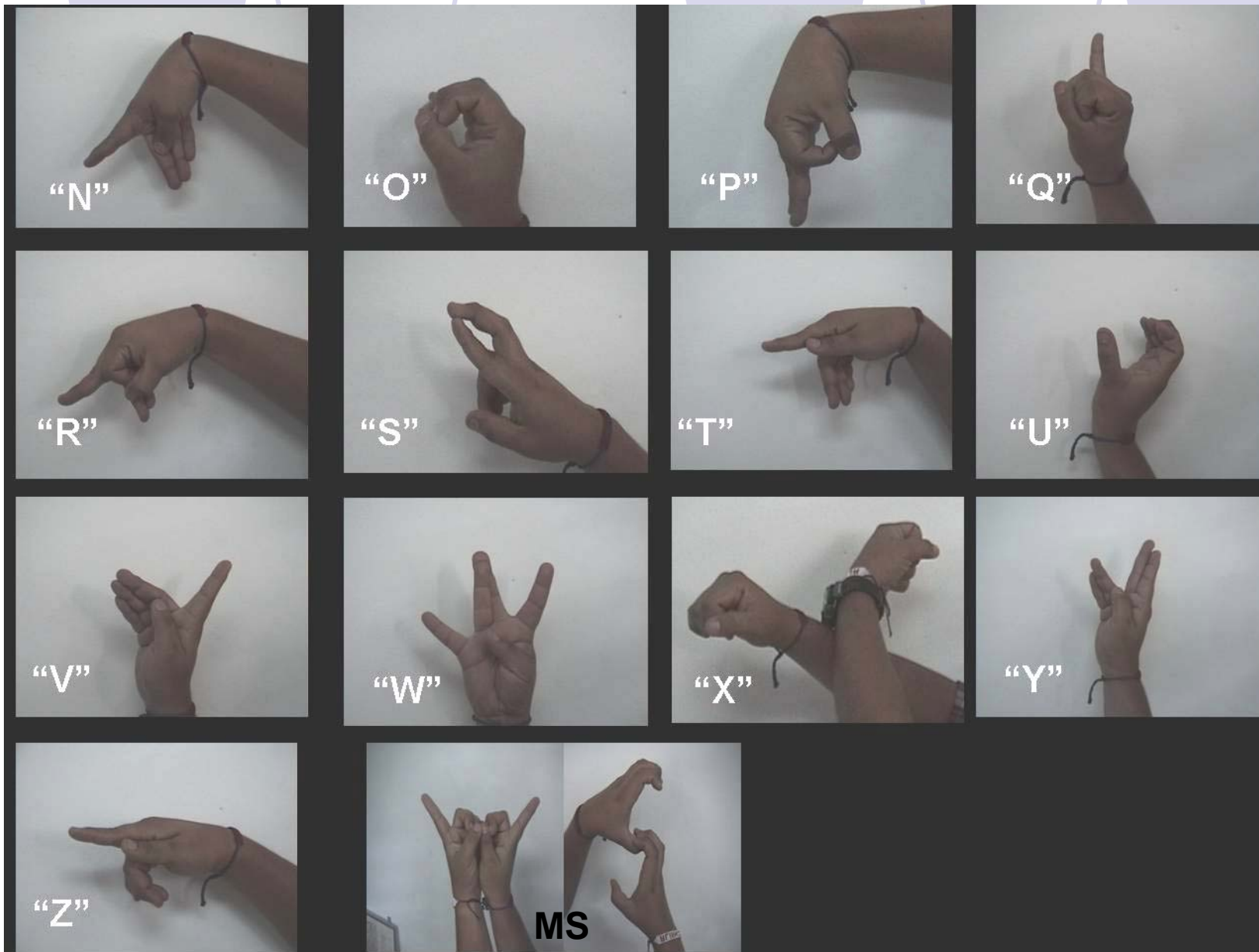






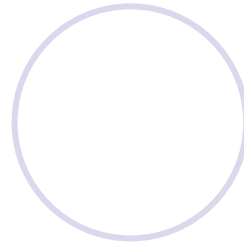
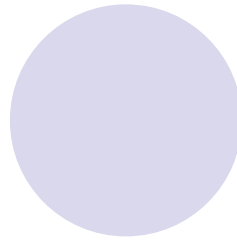
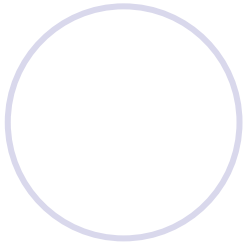
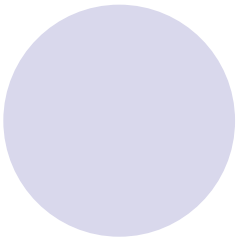
UNCLASSIFIED

# Hand Signal Communication





UNCLASSIFIED



# Graffitist

UNCLASSIFIED



# GRAFFITIS

To define their territories, the members of gangs use graffitis that elaborate in visible public places. These have different meanings that can go from the name of the gang to racketeers that have died.



## Different Graffitis in parts of San Salvador



Face: means female that was part of this gang

MS: means that she was in MS-13

The wall: means that she died inside a house.



The two faces of live means to laugh and cry.

HOME BOY CRY LAYDER: the name of a local gang that control that part of twon.





UNCLASSIFIED

# These Graffittis are made in memory of gang members that have died.



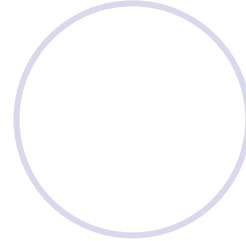
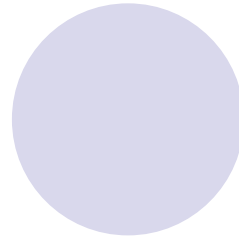
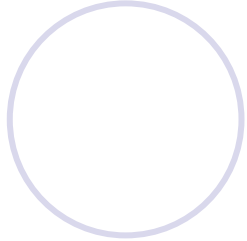
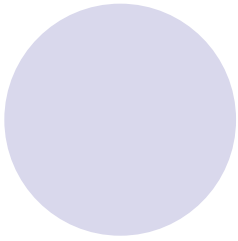
Cross: means in memory of a dead racketeer; usually the alias of the deceased, date of death and clica are posted in the cross.



UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED



# Tattoos

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED



# Tattoos



In memory of, clica and date of death.

Two faces of life

Prison fence



Devil - 666

- In memory of

- wall of the prison

Gangster



UNCLASSIFIED





UNCLASSIFIED

# Tattoos



Two Hands Meaning: well-known as the Saint, it symbolizes the pardon that is requested to the mother for his/her crazy life, it sometimes accompanies him with the legend "FORGIVE ME to MAKE YOU SUFFER". AND other similar words asking for forgiveness to the mother.



To raffle Gang 18

It symbolizes the Sun and a new day of life that it lights them

CLOWN: Means the two faces of life, to Laugh and to cry

UNCLASSIFIED



# Tattoos



This tattoo is denominated the three points of the crazy life of a racketeer, that which can take him/her to the jail, to the hospital or the cemetery, it can be in several parts of the body.



UNCLASSIFIED

# Tattoos



Face of a woman means the picture of his wife

Gang initials MS

The Bandana means the color of a particular gang or relates to specific gang due to writing on it.

the Pavo Real means the pride of the gang member MS

The drawn of a female with a bandana means that she was the girl of the gang member now dead.



The calendar means the time that this gang member was incarcerated (1999 – 2000)



Death

UNCLASSIFIED



# Tattoos

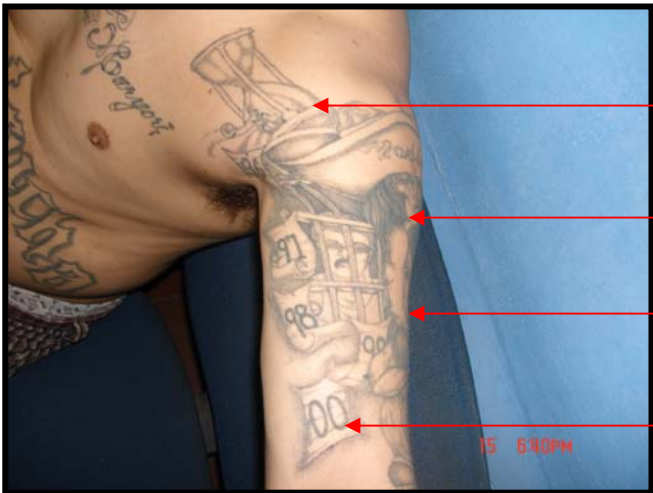


In some gangs the spider web can mean the time spent in prison

Girlfriend or Wife

In memory of a friend or relative

Feeling of freedom



Time of life that can be short or long

Girlfriend or Wife

Prison Bars

Time spent in Prison





UNCLASSIFIED

# Tattoos



Till-drops in the back of the arm means: Don't trust anyone



Ace card means the daily gambling of their lives

UNCLASSIFIED



# Tattoos

18 St. Gang

“L.A. Sur 13” usually worn by gang members from LA



Two Faces of life

Hand signal for 18<sup>th</sup> St.

R.I.P. Means Rest in Peace / In memory of.

8 Ball means Gangster

Tattoo done while serving time in prison

**Note:** “SUR” Usually means South L.A.; Local gang members claim that it means “Soldados Unidos Revolucionarios” Revolutionary United Soldiers.

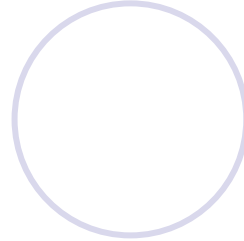
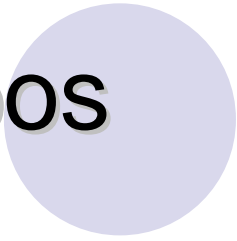
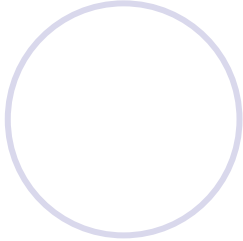
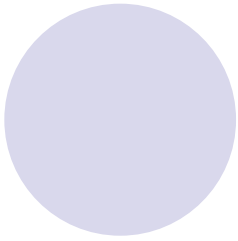




UNCLASSIFIED



# Tattoos



18<sup>th</sup> St.



Filled till-drop means death of a close friend or relative / Unfilled means not a close friend; maybe a gang member from the same clica.

18<sup>th</sup> St.

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED



# Summary

- Gangs usually use similar graffitists, tattoos, and hand signals.
- Most known gangs (18 St, MS-13, etc.) are linked to gangs from other countries like the US, Canada, Mexico, etc.
- Gang members conduct AAR (After action review) after each mission and share information with other gangs.
- Most gang members while in prison/jail recruit and create networks.
- Not all gangs are sophisticated and well networked.
- Some music, movies and books are motivational factors for wanta-be gang members.

UNCLASSIFIED

# POLICIA NACIONAL CIVIL DELEGACION SOYABANGO

## Any Questions / Comments

### ?

SFC Quintero, Leo  
USMILGP-EI Salvador  
Anti-terrorism Officer  
Office: (011503)-2501-2413  
Cell: (011503)-7841-4324  
E-mail: [quintero@sansalvador.mg.southcom.mil](mailto:quintero@sansalvador.mg.southcom.mil)

15 7:33PM