

**OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS
USA OVERVIEW**

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USA OVERVIEW**

This report is designed to give a brief overview of the organized crime activities of outlaw motorcycle gangs in the United States. The information contained in the report is for the restricted use of law enforcement personnel only.

This information was originally presented at the 36th Annual National LEIU Training Seminar in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in May 1991.

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EVOLUTION

The history of outlaw motorcycle gangs is well-documented.

The Pissed Off Bastards of Bloomington appeared in California shortly after World War II. They came to national attention in 1947 when they turned the American Motorcycle Association- (AMA) sponsored Hill Climb into a week-long brawl.

Later that same year, thousands of motorcycling enthusiasts attended a run in Riverside, California, which ended in rioting and destruction and two deaths.

In 1948, the community of Riverside was, again, inundated by motorcyclists who turned a simple event into a riot. The Riverside police chief blamed visiting outlaws for the violence, thus, originating the term "outlaw."

In the late 1960s, a former AMA president was irritated over the raucous behavior of the outlaw motorcycle gangs and declared that 99 percent of the motorcyclists in the United States were law-abiding citizens. This statement was a public relation's effort to demonstrate that only 1 percent of the motorcycling public was involved in criminal activity. Thus, denoting the term "1 percenter"; those who chose to be a part of the outlaw motorcycle gang subculture. The outlaw motorcycle gang members coined this phrase--using it to differentiate themselves from the law-abiding social motorcycling clubs.

In Fontana in 1950, members of the Pissed Off Bastards of Bloomington formed a new gang. Taking the name of the World War II bomber, the Hells Angels were born. The "Angels'" mother chapter was located in San Bernardino until the 1960s--when it moved to Oakland, California, and has remained ever since.

In 1959 in Prince George, Maryland, the Pagans were born; and in Chicago, Illinois, that same year, the Outlaws were born.

In 1966, the Bandidos organized in Houston, Texas.

These four gangs--commonly referred to as the "Big Four"--comprise the hierarchy of the outlaw motorcycle gangs operating throughout the United States and in some foreign countries.

During the 1950s and 1960s, outlaw motorcycle gangs became a symbol for the younger, rebellious generation. They were more concerned with having a good time than with continuing criminal efforts.

In the late 1960s, these groups spawned imitators; larger groups absorbed smaller groups; and roaming members--called "Nomads"--carried the seeds of the club forming new chapters and gang alliances. Organized structures were formalized, and gang leaders emerged. Though outlaw motorcycle gangs were more than capable of significant criminal activity in the 1960s, they lacked a certain focus.

But then came the 1970s. In the 1970s, a drug culture evolved in this country. First as participants and slowly as suppliers, outlaw motorcycle

gangs were drawn into this drug culture. Soon, gangs learned that there was money to be made by organized criminal activities. In the 1970s, they became profit oriented.

Today, outlaw motorcycle gangs are sophisticated organizations who utilize their affiliation with a motorcycle club as a conduit for criminal activity. The nature of their activity is generally conspiratorial, and their goals are attained through use of violence and intimidation. Because of their expertise in sophisticated weaponry and their international intelligence networks, outlaw motorcycle gangs pose a formidable threat to society in general and specifically to law enforcement.

HELLS ANGELS

The Hells Angels are the largest, most organized, and wealthiest outlaw motorcycle gang in the world. Currently, there are 72 active chapters and 4 prospect chapters in the world; 30 located in the United States: Alaska; California; Kentucky; Massachusetts; Minnesota; Nebraska; New York; North Carolina; South Carolina; and Ohio. Membership is estimated between 800 to 900--internationally.

Unlike most other outlaw motorcycle gangs, the Hells Angels do not have a national or international president but instead have regional officers who are chosen to represent various chapters (a region) at regional meetings. There are two slates of officers; one to represent the East Coast and a second, the West Coast. Monthly meetings are held by these officers. These meetings also include one or two representatives from the opposing coast; not to vote but report back to their region any new business. All major decisions are voted on worldwide. In states with multiple chapters, a state meeting is also held in addition to the chapter's weekly meetings.

The foreign chapters operate much in the same manner as those in the states.

The Hells Angels are incorporated, and their trademark--which is registered--is the "death head." The Hells Angels have formed the Church of the Angels and the Church of the Free Highway in order to invoke the first amendment protection to avoid paying taxes on club assets. They have ordained ministers in these "churches" that perform marriages for members.

The Hells Angels hold several mandatory chapter motorcycle runs yearly--in addition to the annual USA and Annual World Run. Each run usually includes one--if not more--meetings. At the USA Run, all chapter presidents must attend the meeting. Motions must receive two-thirds majority votes in order to pass. The same procedure is followed at the yearly World Run, with motions affecting the world membership.

The Oakland, California, chapter has been able to maintain its preeminent position as "first among equals" due to it having the most members of any given chapter in the U.S. and also due to the respect given to Ralph "Sonny" Barger, the former Oakland chapter president, by virtually all Hells Angels worldwide. Even though Sonny is presently serving a prison sentence in Phoenix, Arizona, he is consulted on virtually all matters that impact the organization as a whole.

Although law enforcement has scored some notable successes against the Hells Angels, the organization is still going strong. Like traditional organized crime families, the Hells Angels continue to protect their distribution territories using whatever means necessary--including vicious assaults and murders. They are now investing their projects into legitimate businesses.

The Hells Angels' expansion on the East Coast has brought about increased tension, with the larger gangs currently in control.

Recent intelligence from Florida indicates that the Hells Angels have been speaking with local businessmen and real estate owners regarding the

purchasing of property and establishments. This is generally the first step in establishing a new chapter. Florida is considered "Outlaw" territory. The Outlaws and Hells Angels have been death rivals since day one.

Great attempts are being made by the Hells Angels to reactivate the North Carolina chapter. The Kentucky chapter may soon accept the Bararosas outlaw motorcycle gang into their brotherhood.

According to authorities in Arizona, the Dirty Dozen outlaw motorcycle gang--their largest and most vicious gang--are again talking about "patching over" to become Hells Angels. Interesting to note is a strong rumor that the Dirty Dozen is looking into establishing chapters in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Nevada; chapters which could eventually become Hells Angels.

PAGANS

The Pagans' organization, often referred to as the Pagan Nation, appears to be going through great changes. Authorities, in some states, say that the power once relihed by the Pagans in their state has diminished; however, other state authorities report that the Pagans are becoming more powerful than ever.

The Pagans have 17 chapters in the United States located in Delaware; New Jersey; Virginia; West Virginia; Florida; New York; Maryland; Pennsylvania; North and South Carolina; and Ohio. Membership is estimated to be between 150 and 200.

The Pagans are different from the other major gangs in that their bottom rocker doesn't delineate the state of which holds their membership; instead, it reads "East Coast." Pagans claim the entire East Coast as their dominion.

Pagans no longer have clubhouses to carry on gang business; instead, meetings rotate from members' houses to members' houses. This came about after the 1983 RICO investigation into the Pagans. A case which was successful in prosecuting 20 plus members for assorted weapon, narcotic, and conspiracy charges.

Other organizational changes brought about from that RICO investigation was the change in the Pagans' national bylaws. Prior to the case, the bylaws said that the Pagans' national president was paid the same salary as that of the President of the United States. It also stated the mother chapter oversaw the organizational activities. Each member of the mother chapter had certain chapters (a region) which reported to him and likewise.

The bylaws (prior to the RICO investigation) determined which chapters would sell dope, where they would sell it, and to whom they would sell it to. It also stated the main responsibility of the members of the mother chapter was to collect the dope money. Their bylaws were the first piece of evidence presented in the RICO case.

In West Virginia in 1989, 35 members of the Pagans--including the national president and vice-president--were arrested for their involvement in a large-scale narcotics operation. Since that investigation, the Pagans in West Virginia have kept a low profile.

Authorities in Virginia had reported that the Pagans in their state are steadily becoming stronger. In 1987, only five members of the Pagans were active. In 1990, authorities reported 45 active members. However, in August of 1990, more than two dozen members were arrested behind a major narcotic investigation. Just last year, several members were found to be involved in large-scale fraud--filing false claims for stolen cars and motorcycles. Hopefully, this investigation will a minimize their activity--for awhile.

In Pennsylvania, the Pagans have been severely hampered by successful large-scale investigations. Yet, other outlaw motorcycle gangs not previously targeted by law enforcement have started to take over the illegal operations once controlled by the Pagans.

In New York, authorities report a resurgence of Pagan activity--associating it to the growing popularity of methamphetamine on the East Coast.

And, it now appears that the North Carolina chapter--once defunct--has been reopened.

OUTLAWS

The Outlaws--also known as the American Outlaw Association--are the most violent of all outlaw motorcycle gangs in the country. Presently, they have 40 active chapters in the world; 29 are in the United States: Florida; Georgia; Illinois; Kentucky; Michigan; New York; North Carolina; Ohio; Oklahoma; Pennsylvania; Tennessee; and Wisconsin. Each chapter of the Outlaws operate independently, with only occasional input by national and regional officers--mainly in the area of drug distribution. The national president is Harry "Taco" Bowman, who maintains dual residency in Michigan and Florida.

Members of the Outlaws are much more mobile in their chapter membership; they seem to transfer their membership from one chapter to another more than any other major outlaw motorcycle gang.

The gang's logo, the skull and cross pistons, is referred to as "Charlie."

Membership for the Outlaws is low compared to previous years--from 900 down to 400; however, recent intelligence indicates strong efforts to expand their membership has been undertaken.

For example, just within the last ten months, four new chapters have been added to the organization: an additional chapter in Illinois--formerly the Booze Runners; an additional chapter in Wisconsin; and two additional chapters in Florida--Daytona and Walton Beach chapters.

Prior to February 1991, the chapters in Florida were very low key. Since the birth of the two latest chapters, the activity has dramatically increased.

The chapter in Indianapolis had only four members for quite sometime. In February 1991, authorities identified 11 new members. According to sources, the goal of the Indianapolis chapter is to reach 25 members by June 1, 1991.

The Outlaws continue to be at war with the Hells Angels primarily over territory and control of narcotic operations. They are also at war with the Sons of Silence--primarily because the Sons support the Angels. The Outlaws do associate with the Bandidos in criminal ventures. Intelligence indicates the Outlaws in Florida have supplied the Bandidos with cocaine for use and distribution.

BANDIDOS

The Bandidos are the third largest outlaw motorcycle gang in the world, with 25 active chapters--22 within the United States. Chapters active in the United States are located in Alabama; Arkansas; Colorado; Idaho; Louisiana; Mississippi; Montana; New Mexico; South Dakota; Texas; Washington; and Wyoming.

The Bandidos differ from other clubs in that they owe no allegiance to any club--only to those who are the strongest in a given area at a given time. They associate with the Hells Angels in the West and the Outlaws in the East.

The Bandidos' prospects are required within their first year to visit each and every chapter. This provides the chapters an opportunity to become acquainted with the prospect for purposes of voting on his prospective membership. This process also makes it harder for an undercover officer to infiltrate the gang.

It appears that the Bandidos' national officers have gone back to wearing a bottom rocker signifying the state which holds their membership. When Ronald Hodge was national president, he changed the bottom rocker to read in Spanish the position which the national officer held--such as his, "El Presidente." James "Sprochet" Lang is now president. He has reverted to wearing the "state" bottom rocker--Texas, where he maintains his membership (residency).

For sometime, the membership of the Bandidos was steadily decreasing; however, recent intelligence information indicates that a concerted recruitment drive is underway. Membership is currently 290 internationally.

Members of the Plainsmen in New Mexico have recently become the newest chapter of the Bandidos.

The Bandidos in Texas are being courted by the Brothers Speed in Idaho; the Brothers Speed fear that if they do not gain strength through an association with the Bandidos, the Hells Angels will come in and take over their operations.

Recent intelligence reports that the Bandidos are contemplating the idea of opening up a chapter in Arizona; a decision welcomed by the Dirty Dozen--Arizona's strongest, most organized outlaw motorcycle gang.

The Missoula, Montana, chapter membership of the Bandidos is growing. They appear to be involved in a drug distribution pipeline from Missoula to Billings, Montana; and from there to Gillette, Wyoming; Rapid City, South Dakota; and Denver, Colorado.

SONS OF SILENCE

The Sons of Silence--formed in Commerce City, Colorado, in 1968--and have 17 chapters in the United States: Colorado; Indiana; Illinois; Iowa; Louisiana; Minnesota; Kansas; and Kentucky. The Sons of Silence are now included in reference to the "Big Five"--due to their great expansion in the Midwest.

The Sons of Silence's strong alliance with the Hells Angels has enabled them to expand their operation in an accelerated manner, especially in Minnesota and Kentucky. The same association (with the Hells Angels) has prompted a rivalry with the Outlaws.

OTHER OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

There are thousands of outlaw motorcycle gang members in the country organized into approximately 500 to 600 gangs. Other outlaw motorcycle gangs dominating activity in the United States include:

Western United States - Outsiders; Ghost Riders; Grim Reapers; Gypsy Jokers; Brothers Speed; Iron Horsemen; Sundowners; Hessians; Mongols; Vagos; Misfits; Dirty Dozen; and the Invaders

Central United States - El Foresteros; Galloping Goose; Deadmen; Jokers Wild; Hells Outcast; Hells Henchmen; Banchees; D.C. Eagles; American Breed; Road Barons; and--again--the Ghost Riders.

Eastern United States - Warlocks; Rare Breed; Fates Assembly; Rebel Rousers; Night Reapers; Deadmen; Banshees; and--again--the Grim Reapers.

ASSOCIATION/CRIME CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER GANGS/GROUPS

White-Supremacy Groups

The beliefs of outlaw motorcycle gangs parallels that of the criminal extremist groups--Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and Adolf Hilter's beliefs--as seen by their tattoos, patches, and pins. Often seen are Nazi swastikas, white-power fists, etc.

There are black "1 percent" outlaw motorcycle gangs, but black members are not allowed in white gangs.

In Canada, the Vancouver Hells Angels' chapter were, at one time, the Satans Angels until they patched over to become Hells Angels; their membership included a "black" individual. When the San Francisco and Anchorage chapters became aware of this, they threatened to have the Vancouver chapter's patch pulled.

The Vancouver chapter didn't want to let the guy go because he was a good dope source, so they changed his nationality to Hawaiian; and the matter was settled because the member was no longer "black."

Outlaw motorcycle gangs do maintain membership with various factions of the KKK in California; however, very little overt activity has been reported. Not so true for outlaw motorcycle gangs in other parts of the country.

The Rebel Rousers in North Carolina have been observed marching with Christian Knights KKK during street rallies.

The Warlocks in Florida provide security for New Dixie Rights of KKK in Apopka, Florida.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs in Georgia have been involved with the Southern White Knights of the KKK in trafficking weapons.

The Hells Angels in New York have sponsored rallies for their local Skinheads and neo Nazis.

Pagans have provided the Covenant, Sword, and Arm of the Lord with training in booby-trap devices and survival techniques in return for weapons and ammunition.

The Brothers Speed in Idaho have dealt with members of the Aryan Nations in northern Idaho in purchasing illegal weapons.

PRISON GANGS

Outlaw motorcycle gangs across the country maintain strong association with prison gangs because of an inbred sharing of white-supremacy ideas--a means of survival. Prison gangs provide protection to the outlaw motorcycle gangs while in custody in exchange for narcotics, weapons, and contract murders on the street.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs in Tennessee align themselves with "In Prison Brotherhood" while in custody.

The Outlaws and D.C. Eagles are tied to Menard Brotherhood in custody.

And Aryan Brotherhood (AB) and Mexican Mafia (EME)--two of California's largest and most vicious prison gangs--are closely aligned with the outlaw motorcycle gangs in California.

TRADITIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME AND TIES TO OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

Outlaw motorcycle gangs have had close criminal associations with members of the traditional organized crime families.

The La Cosa Nostra (LCN) is afforded security and transportation in narcotics deals in exchange for narcotics and contract killings.

For example, the Hells Angels in New York have been criminally linked to the Gambino organized crime family; and in New York, the Buffalino family.

The Warlocks in New Jersey had ties with Bruno/Scarfo organized crime family involving strong-arm tactics for local unions.

Pagans are known to have strong ties to the Bruno family involving jewelry burglaries and extortion.

The Outlaws, Brothers, and Hells Henchmen in Illinois are believed to be criminally associated with traditional organized crime families in Chicago.

The Outlaws in south Florida are allegedly employed by traditional organized crime families in topless bars and have committed arsons and extortions for them.

The Hells Angels in Cleveland, Ohio, have been involved in contract killings and drug trafficking with Licavoli family in Cleveland.

And associations between the Hells Angels and Genovese crime family have been reported.

In 1989/1990, members of the Hells Angels and members of traditional organized crime families in Minnesota were prosecuted in a major methamphetamine distribution case; the organized crime members were convicted, as was one Hells Angel member.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Nearly every state in the union has experienced organized crime activity perpetrated by outlaw motorcycle gangs; and these gangs will do virtually anything to make money and will use whatever force necessary to establish control of an area.

In 1990, the Department of Justice, BOCCI, conducted a review of the California criminal records of the members of the 14 chapters of the Hells Angels in California.

The results of this review revealed that prior to December 1989, the 215 members of the Hells Angels in California had been arrested an average of 10.4 times each. A total of 2,202 charges.

The conviction rate was approximately 20 percent.

Of those charges, 23 percent were for narcotic violations;

17 percent for assault;

14 percent for weapons; and

12 percent for burglary and robbery.

In looking at a sample of the membership--prior to their induction into the Hells Angels--the members were arrested for petty theft, vandalism, and petty narcotic charges. After they became members of the Hells Angels, the severity of their crimes escalated to assault, weapons violations, and other felony offenses.

A very disturbing thought when considering the fact tht the Hells Angels are the leaders in the outlaw motorcycle gang world; those whom the other outlaw motorcycle gangs pattern themselves after.

MOTORCYCLE THEFTS

Outlaw motorcycle gangs have been involved in the theft of motorcycles and cycle parts since their inception. The severity of the crime ranges from selling stolen parts to redocumenting and selling entire bikes. Many chapters have well-established outlets for disposing of stolen motorcycle parts, and many have their own motorcycle repair shops--not only to do the same but to act as fronts to launder money.

Recent cases include:

Outlaws/Tennessee - Shipping motorcycles and motorcycle parts to their chapters in Australia.

Hells Angels/Tennessee - Shipping stolen motorcycles and motorcycle parts to their chapters in Switzerland.

Bandidos/Louisiana - Stealing Harley Davidson motorcycles and ship them to various locations overseas.

PROSTITUTION

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are involved in prostitution--more so on the East Coast than the West. Women operate the streets or work in gang-owned massage parlors or escort services.

The Outlaws appear to be more involved than the other gangs in the prostitution of "their" women; in fact, prostitution is their second source of income behind the distribution of narcotics.

MONEY LAUNDERING

The majority of the larger outlaw motorcycle gangs in the United States are becoming more involved in the laundering of money through legitimate businesses. Some of the new businesses include:

Western United States - Interior decorating businesses; construction companies; locksmiths; pizza parlors; and jewelry businesses.

Central United States - Beauty shops; towing companies; construction companies; and horse ranches.

Eastern United States - Bodyguard services; horse ranches; vending machine companies; and lawn services.

Throughout the country, outlaw motorcycle gang members have become involved in the laundering of money through real estate ventures.

GANG VIOLENCE

Gang violence resulting from internal conflicts, gang rivalries, power struggles, and antagonism towards law enforcement personnel has increased throughout the United States.

In January 1989, a shoot-out occurred between the Outlaws and Iron Horsemen in Ohio. The international vice-president of the Outlaws, Kenneth Hammond, and a member of the Iron Horsemen from New York were killed. Just one week prior to the shoot-out, authorities received a report regarding an assault on two members of the Outlaws in Cincinnati by members of the Iron Horsemen.

The long-standing feud between the Hells Angels and the Mongols in Southern California was reactivated in February 1989, with the stabbing death of Art Carbajal, sergeant at arms of the San Bernardino chapter, at the First Annual EASY RIDER Trade Show in Long Beach. Approximately 3,000 motorcycle enthusiasts attended the show--including 50 to 100 Hells Angels and Mongols. Words were exchanged between the two gangs, and a fight began. Several individuals were injured, and Carbajal was stabbed to death by an associate of the Mongols.

Police officers manning a command post during the funeral service of a Hells Angel member in Oakland, California, became targets of a drive-by shooting. An associate of the Hells Angels who became frustrated at their presence, fired upon them; left; returned and fired again--luckily no one was injured.

Authorities in Stanislaus County, California, uncovered a plot by members of the Barhoppers to kill witnesses who had previously testified against them. Not a new phenomena but a continuing one. Search warrants were served, and five members and associates of the Barhoppers were arrested.

A police officer in Southern California was shot during a raid on a member of the Monks who was under investigation to distribute methamphetamine. The member claimed he was "startled" by the "intruder."

The increase in membership size of the Dirty Dozen in Arizona brought a wave of violent attacks on law enforcement personnel, local citizens, and rival gang members. Incidents included attempting to run over a police officer with a car, brutal beatings of patrons in local bars, bombings, and drive-by shootings of businesses and residences. Several members have been stopped carrying large caches of weapons.

Members and associates of the Brothers Speed in Idaho are ordering parts and assembling fully-automatic stun guns.

In Missoula, Montana, there have been several motorcycle gang-related homicides. Several inter-gang assaults and shootings have also been reported.

Authorities in Utah had reported a 300 percent increase in gang-related assaults and murders perpetrated by members of outlaw motorcycle gangs.

In February 1991, at the Harley Davidson motorcycle swap meet in Indianapolis, Indiana, a large group of Outlaws entered the swap meet and

were immediately attacked by several members of the Sons of Silence. Shots were fired; three reported injured but no deaths. Two members of the Sons of Silence were arrested. Numerous knives and 12 guns were seized.

Funerals, trade shows, motorcycle runs--whether hosted by outlaw gangs or motorcycle social clubs or dealerships--have become battle grounds for warring gangs.

ILLEGAL WEAPONS

The fastest growing criminal endeavor of outlaw motorcycle gangs is their possessing, transporting, and selling of both automatic and prohibited weapons and explosives. It is well-documented that outlaw motorcycle gangs acquire weapons from a variety of sources. These weapons have been shipped not only interstate but internationally among members of various gangs.

Operation CACUS--A two-year, coast-to-coast undercover operation--coordinated by the OCDETF Program--concluded on November 10, 1987, with the arrests of 38 (plus) members of the Hells Angels chapter members in Alaska, California, North and South Carolina, and Kentucky. These arrests included high-ranking officers and the then president of the Oakland, California, chapter--Ralph Hubert "Sonny" Barger--who was convicted of conspiracy to transport destructive devices interstate, with intent to cause injury or death. Although several members of the Alaska chapters were found not guilty in this trial, several had already been convicted of drug or firearms violations; and others in Alaska and California were later convicted of additional firearms or narcotics offenses.

In July 1989, 13 members of the Hades Riders were arrested by authorities in Fresno on various narcotics and weapons violations. Search warrants were served, and a methamphetamine lab was seized along with various amounts of methamphetamine, cocaine, and marijuana. Also seized were 40 weapons including several assault rifles--including an AK47; and evidence showing a conspiracy between the Hades Riders and the Monterey chapter of the Hells Angels to distribute methamphetamine.

In September 1989, authorities recovered an arsenal of weapons from storage lockers in Newark, California. The lockers were rented under an alias used by Robert Dean Sandy, a member of the Hells Angels' Oakland chapter. The arsenal included 4 semi-automatic Mac 10s, 2 Uzis, 14 silencers, 18 revolvers, 48 blasting caps, several rounds of ammunition, an Alameda County Sheriff's Department identification badge, and mercenary magazines. Sandy had prior convictions for weapons violations.

In Southern California, members of outlaw motorcycle gangs are believed to be trading methamphetamine for weapons and explosives. Intelligence sources indicate that Vagos are in search of Mac 10s as they prepare for war against the Dirty Dozen--a war which has already injured the lives of many innocent people.

During 1989/1990, the Organized Crime Enforcement Drug Task Force investigated the Sons of Silence for their involvement in a cocaine ring. This investigation resulted in several arrests and the seizure of over 100 weapons--including a machine gun; \$50,000 in cash; and property. The Sons of Silence vice-president in Commerce City was charged with continuing criminal enterprise and narcotic and weapons violations. A second phase of the indictment led to the arrest of four additional members for drug conspiracy. Total number convicted was seven.

In March 1991, local, state, and federal law enforcement officers raided approximately 100 Warlock members who had just attended the funeral service of a slain brother. Officers were looking for several Warlock members who were wanted for weapons and explosive trafficking. Twelve subjects were

arrested including the national president. During the 13-month undercover investigation, undercover agents bought 26 machine guns, 84 homemade bombs, and 2 silencers from the Sons.

This raid came on the eve of Daytona's (Florida) Annual Bike Week undercover celebration--an occasion which police feared the Warlocks and their rival, the Outlaws, would take advantage of the opportunity and turn the streets of Daytona into a battle ground.

NARCOTICS

The narcotics trade continues to be the main source of income for outlaw motorcycle gangs in the United States, Europe, and Canada. The drug of choice varies by region. California's outlaw motorcycle gangs primarily deal in methamphetamine; those in the Midwest and on the East Coast deal primarily with cocaine. European gangs focus on distributing amphetamine while Canada's gangs deal in both cocaine and methamphetamine.

Methamphetamine

Methamphetamine production and distribution is the drug of choice for most outlaw gangs in the Western United States. Despite the increased enforcement efforts occurring in California, Oregon, and Washington, this lucrative business continues to thrive.

California led the way with its stringent laws regarding the sale of precursor chemicals and the formation of task forces to shut down clandestine labs. This forced many California manufacturers to shift their operations to the less-regulated areas of the Pacific Northwest--specifically Oregon and Washington.

The rugged terrain and sparse population of rural Oregon and Washington area were ideal for clandestine drug labs. Precursor chemicals were readily available, and law enforcement intervention was unlikely.

Now that Oregon and Washington are following California's lead, the Pacific Northwest is rapidly becoming inhospitable. The reduced availability of precursor chemicals in the western part of the United States has led outlaw motorcycle gangs to establish a sophisticated underground network across the country.

They use this network to obtain precursor chemicals and glassware for the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine.

In 1989, the Western States Information Network (WSIN) reported that in the five western states--Oregon, Washington, California, Hawaii, and Alaska--the primary drug manufactured at clandestine labs was methamphetamine. In fact, 98 percent of the labs seized in California, Oregon, and Washington were methamphetamine labs. The WSIN data also showed that 11 percent of the labs seized had outlaw motorcycle gang paraphernalia present at the site. It would seem, according to the WSIN data, that methamphetamine labs are not being operated by outlaw motorcycle gangs.

This is contrary to other evidence and is believed to be an intentional move on the part of the gangs to mislead law enforcement.

A recent government survey published in the Federal Criminal Investigator, spring issue 1990, found that the outlaw motorcycle gangs dominate 40 percent of the dangerous drug traffic in the United States--including three-quarters of the methamphetamine market.

The results of a second survey was published in the "U.S.A. Perspective," which was distributed at the International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Training Seminar in September 1990. This survey concluded that outlaw motorcycle

gangs either control or are heavily involved in the methamphetamine trade in 38 states.

In light of the information reported in the government survey, the "U.S.A. Perspective," and the establishment of supply/distribution networks, the low percentage of labs associated with outlaw motorcycle gangs indicates the gangs are removing themselves and their paraphernalia from the clandestine lab sites and are assuming an aloof management role.

Evidence of outlaw motorcycle gang involvement in the methamphetamine trade is well-documented by the information gathered through the arrests of these groups.

WESTERN UNITED STATES

On the West Coast--predominantly in California, the number-one money maker for outlaw motorcycle gangs continues to be the manufacturing and trafficking of methamphetamine.

Over the last few years or so, there has been an alarming increase in the number of clandestine labs seizures in Oregon. Authorities attribute them to the Hessians outlaw motorcycle gang of Southern California and Nevada.

The Brothers Speed of Reno, Nevada; the Hells Angels' Sacramento chapter; and the Nomad chapter of California are believed to be using twin-engine airplanes to transport narcotics between Nevada and Northern California.

It has been reported that the Hells Angels have provided money to the Hessians of Oregon to purchase property, glassware, and chemicals to manufacture methamphetamine. In return, for every 5 pounds of methamphetamine produced, 4 pounds goes to the Hell Angels.

The Outsiders of Oregon and Washington; the Brothers Speed of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho; the Hells Angels of California; and the Devils Breed of Hawaii are known to associate with one another to obtain precursor chemicals and to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine.

Arthur Carasis of the Richmond, California, Hells Angels chapter and several of his co-conspirators are currently serving federal prison sentences for the manufacture of methamphetamine--both in California and Missouri. The Hells Angels ran a lab in Missouri that provided methamphetamine to the Bay Area chapters and to Fulton, Kentucky. His arrest in Missouri resulted in the seizure of 41-pounds of methamphetamine packaged to be sent throughout the U.S. Postal Service to an address in Antioch, California.

In late 1989 and early 1990, Odis "Buck" Garrett--past president of the Nomad, California chapter of the Hells Angels--and several associates were indicted on various narcotics and weapons charges. Garrett was additionally charged with continuing criminal enterprise and money laundering. Authorities believed Garrett and his cohorts were running a large-scale methamphetamine distribution ring, with clandestine labs in San Bernardino, Butte, and Modoc counties. Garrett was also charged of conspiring to distribute 11-pounds of methamphetamine to the Winston/Salem chapter in North Carolina.

The Drug Enforcement Administration offices in San Jose, California, and Savannah, Georgia, plus state and local agencies conducted an investigation of the Hells Angels narcotic activities in San Jose, California. Sources indicated that the Hells Angels were manufacturing and transporting methamphetamine to Savannah, Georgia. Part of the methamphetamine was being forwarded Federal Express, and the other part was personally being delivered by an associate of both the Nomad and San Jose chapters.

Subsequently, the Hells Angels' Nomad chapter clubhouse in Grass Valley, California, was raided--as was the San Jose chapter clubhouse. Additional search warrants were also served. Several members and associates in California and Georgia were arrested. Authorities seized several weapons 80-pounds of epheürine; 3-pounds of methamphetamine and \$230,000 in cash.

In December 1990, nine members and associates of the San Diego chapter of the Hells Angels were indicted for various narcotic and weapon violations. Members were believed to be responsible for manufacturing and distributing methamphetamine between Jamul, Spring Valley, and Indio, California; and Las Vegas, Nevada.

*Note: Nevada has just (February 1991) toughened their penalties for the use of methamphetamine. Methamphetamine is now a scheduled --I-- drug in Nevada.

Penalties were also toughened for the sale, trafficking, and possession of ephedrine. A decline in the manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamine of precursor chemicals by outlaw motorcycle gangs is anticipated in Nevada.

CENTRAL UNITED STATES

As a result of a 23-month investigation, 16 members of the Omaha, Nebraska, chapter of the Hells Angels were arrested in October 1990. Local, state, and federal law enforcement authorities confiscated 25-pounds of methamphetamine (worth over \$800,000); \$200,000 in cash; and various illegal firearms; and 25 vehicles. Sixteen search warrants had been served. Charges ranged from resisting arrest to racketeering. Eleven additional people were named in a subsequent 20-count indictment charging them with interstate trafficking of methamphetamine, conspiracy to sell, possession of methamphetamine, and money laundering.

Marijuana and methamphetamine trafficking is predominant in Idaho. The Brothers Speed are sending methamphetamine sealed inside the frame of motorcycles to the Rebels in Sydney, Australia.

Federal authorities suspect the Hells Angels are supplying the Invaders and Hells Henchmen in Indiana with methamphetamine.

The drug of choice in Illinois has been cocaine. However, recent seizures indicate that distribution of methamphetamine is on the rise.

There has been an increase in the arrest of outlaw motorcycle gang members in Texas for the manufacturing of methamphetamine.

EASTERN UNITED STATES

Cocaine is still the drug of choice for outlaw motorcycle gangs on the East Coast; however, methamphetamine is rapidly moving in.

In January 1989, 35 members of the Pagans (West Virginia) were charged with weapons and narcotics violations. This case featured one of the largest cocaine seizures in West Virginia; one which members of outlaw motorcycle gangs and Colombian nationals were working in concert with one another. A total of 11 kilos of cocaine was seized along with automatic weapons. All were convicted of the RICO statute and related charges.

In August 1990, in Richmond, Virginia, more than two dozen members of the Pagans were arrested by the Virginia State Police for selling narcotics throughout Richmond. A total of 56 warrants were obtained. Charges included distribution of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, and LSD and also motorcycle theft, assault, robbery, and various firearm violations.

Outlaw motorcycle gangs are said to control approximately 70 to 80 percent of the methamphetamine market in New York City and Albany, New York.

And the U.S. Customs Service, Joint Research Unit, in New York has documented several incidents of which the Hells Angels in the northeastern United States and in Quebec, Canada, are involved with the Medellin Cartel of Colombia in the smuggling of cocaine.

Twenty members and associates of the Pagans were arrested in the spring of 1990 subsequent to the service of search warrants in Schohaire County and Long Island, New York, for their involvement in the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine. Authorities seized various amounts of methamphetamine; weapons, including handguns, silencers, and AR15s; and what was classified as the largest mobile methamphetamine laboratory yet to be seized in northeastern United States.

This lab had the capability of producing \$1 million worth of methamphetamine in a month. Authorities believe that the lab--which moved between locations in Long Island, upstate New York, and North Carolina--had been in operation for almost a decade. All 20 subjects have pled guilty.

In March 1991, a member of the Accretes outlaw motorcycle gang headquartered in Anne Arundel County, Virginia, was arrested and charged with trafficking large quantities of methamphetamine. The member was one of 4 people named in a 29-count indictment alleging the purchase of methamphetamine from Hells Angels in California and Pagans in Ohio. The Accretes, in turn, sold the drugs to five local gangs, the Tribe, Fates Assembly, and Phatoms to distribute.

In one deal, the member exchanged a semi-automatic pistol and 4 rifles of methamphetamine. The member has been charged with 22 counts--including operating a continuing criminal enterprise, use of a firearm in a drug transaction, and use of explosives in commitment of a felony.

Authorities estimate that the Outlaws control 80 percent of the methamphetamine market in Nashville; Knoxville; and Chattanooga, Tennessee. And the Grim Reapers control the distribution of cocaine in Tennessee.

In South Florida, the Outlaws are involved in the trafficking of cocaine, designer drugs, marijuana, and methamphetamine. Narcotics are being smuggled in from Haiti by planes and boats. In Orlando, cocaine is being shipped through motorcycle parts businesses and are en route to the Louisville, Kentucky, and Detroit, Michigan, chapters.

Greyhound bus lines, United Parcel Service, and Amtrak package services are being used by outlaw motorcycle gangs in the transportation of cocaine and marijuana from the south Florida chapter to Tampa.

FORECAST

The national law enforcement attention is currently focused on the cocaine network; as long as it remains to be so, methamphetamine distributors will continue to expand their operations and prosper. Through the international networks set up by outlaw motorcycle gangs, methamphetamine will become the drug of choice throughout the country. Methamphetamine is easier to manufacture, cheaper to purchase, and the effects lasts longer than cocaine.

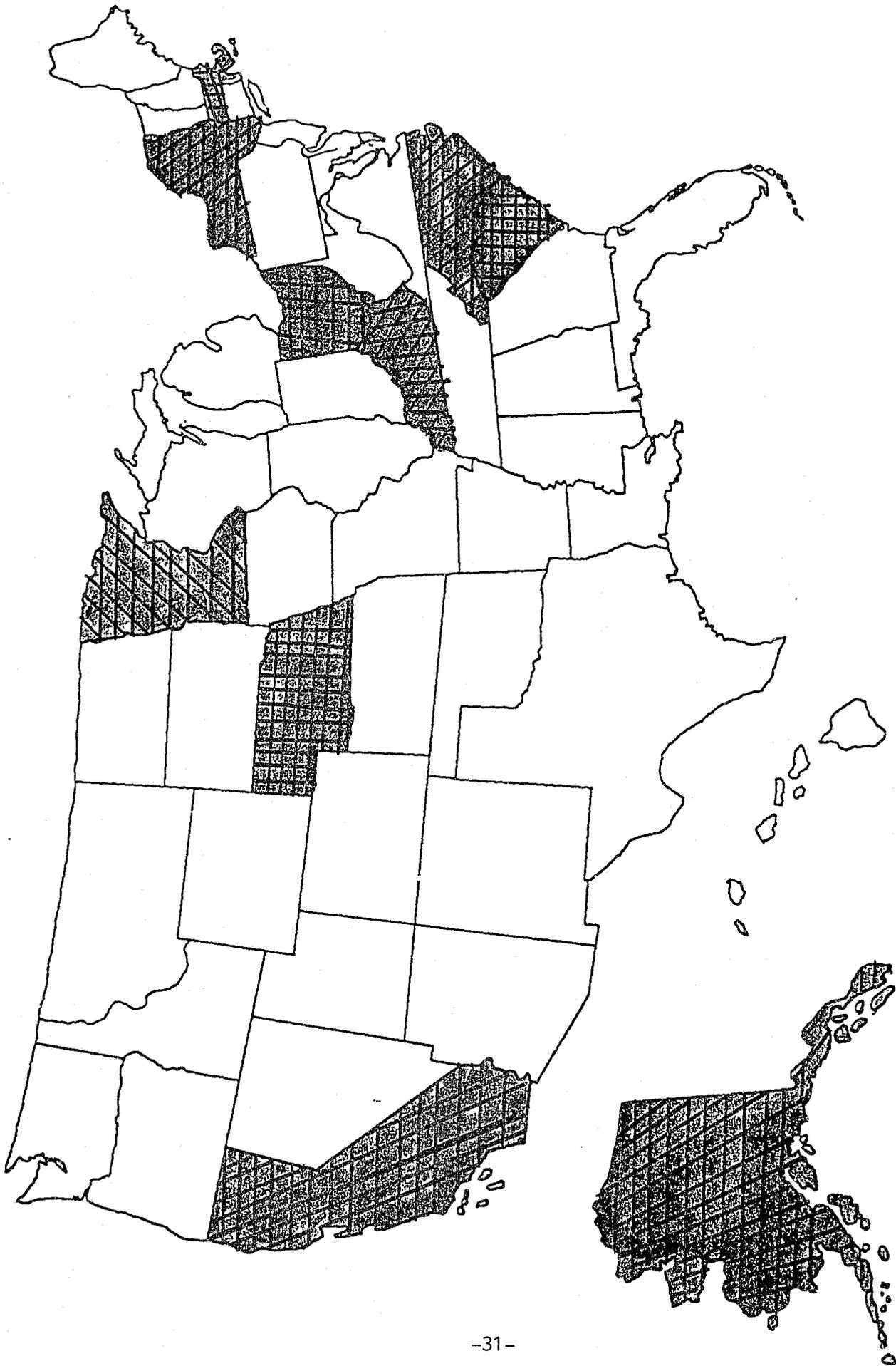
Outlaw motorcycle gangs will continue to move into the world of legitimate business as they persuade the public of their "new found image" and seek new avenues which to launder money.

Meanwhile, wars and violence will continue as gangs seek to expand their operations into new territories, and law enforcement efforts continue to disrupt their operations.

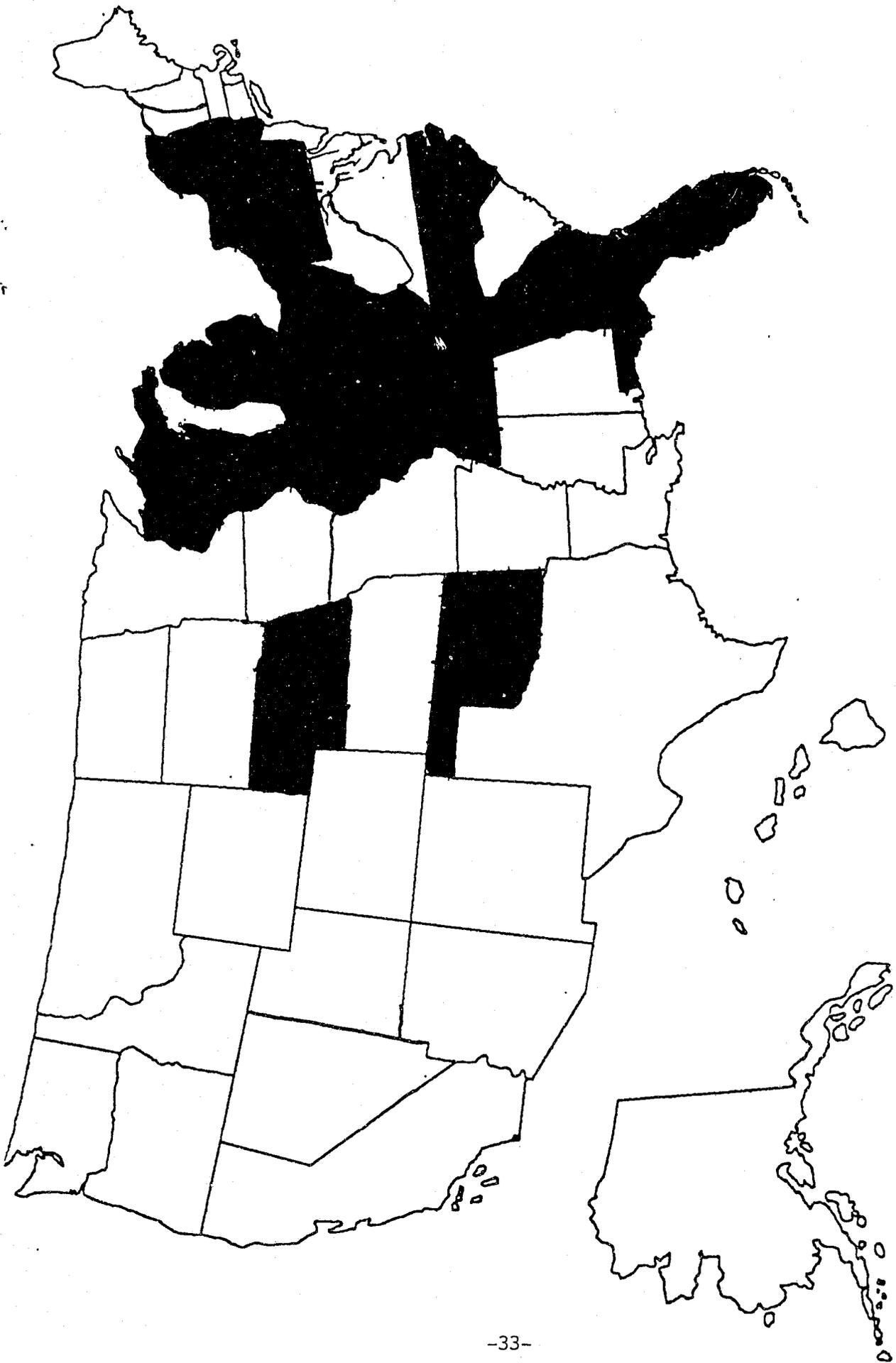
CONCLUSION

In spite of some gang members' rhetoric and attempts to repair their negative image, outlaw motorcycle gangs remain a threat and should continue to be the subjects of intense investigations and vigorous prosecutions. The number of major outlaw motorcycle gangs; the tenacity with which gang members have clung to their criminal enterprises over the last 40 years in spite of numerous arrests and prosecution; their increased criminal activities--particularly in narcotics trafficking--clearly states that outlaw motorcycle gangs have remained a significant and deep-rooted organized crime problem.

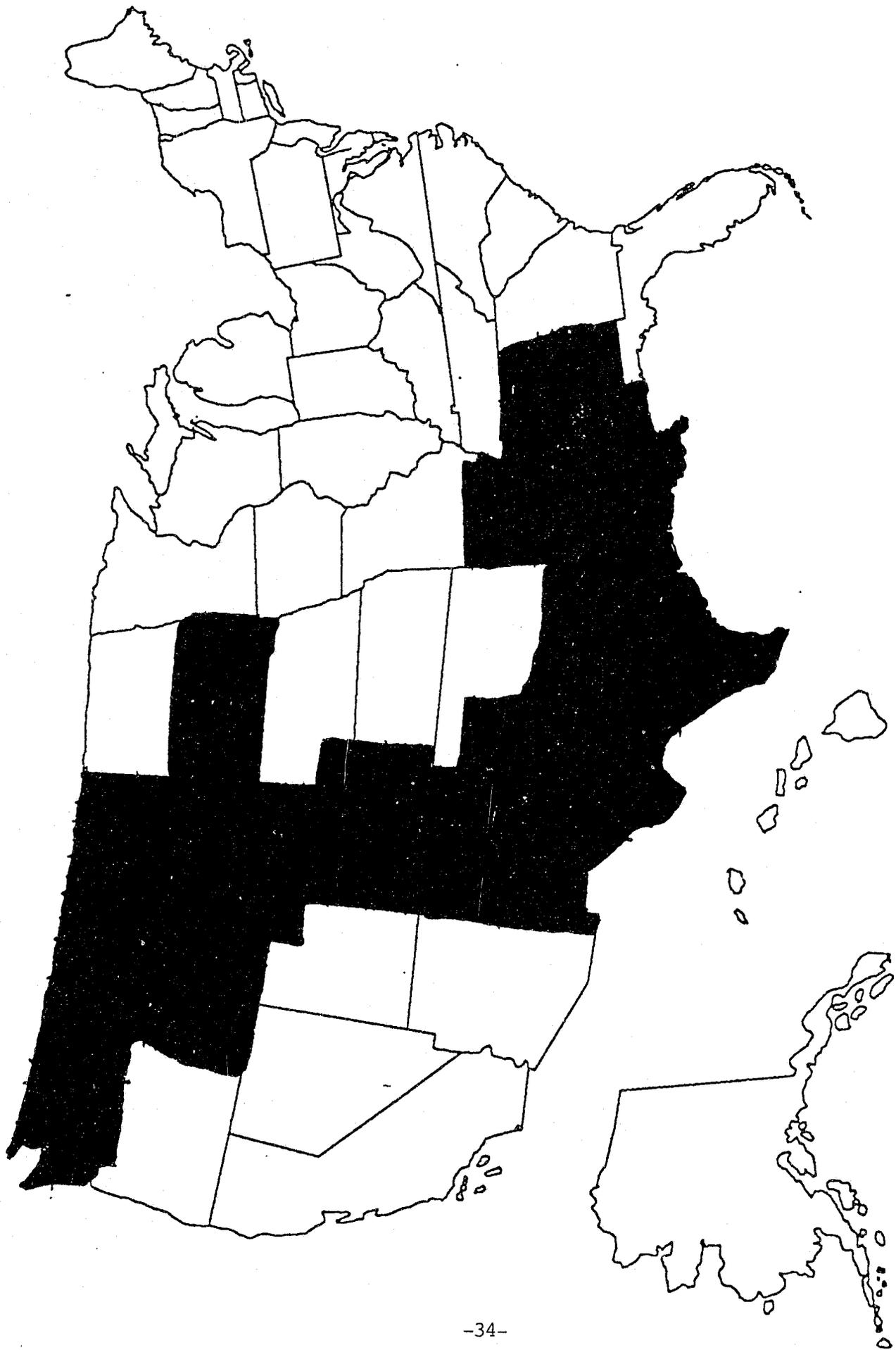
In order to combat the organized crime problem, we--in law enforcement--need to increase our investigation efforts and expand our level of communication with one another--including law enforcement communities in other countries. The criminal activity perpetrated by outlaw motorcycle gangs knows no boundaries--neither should our communication with one another.



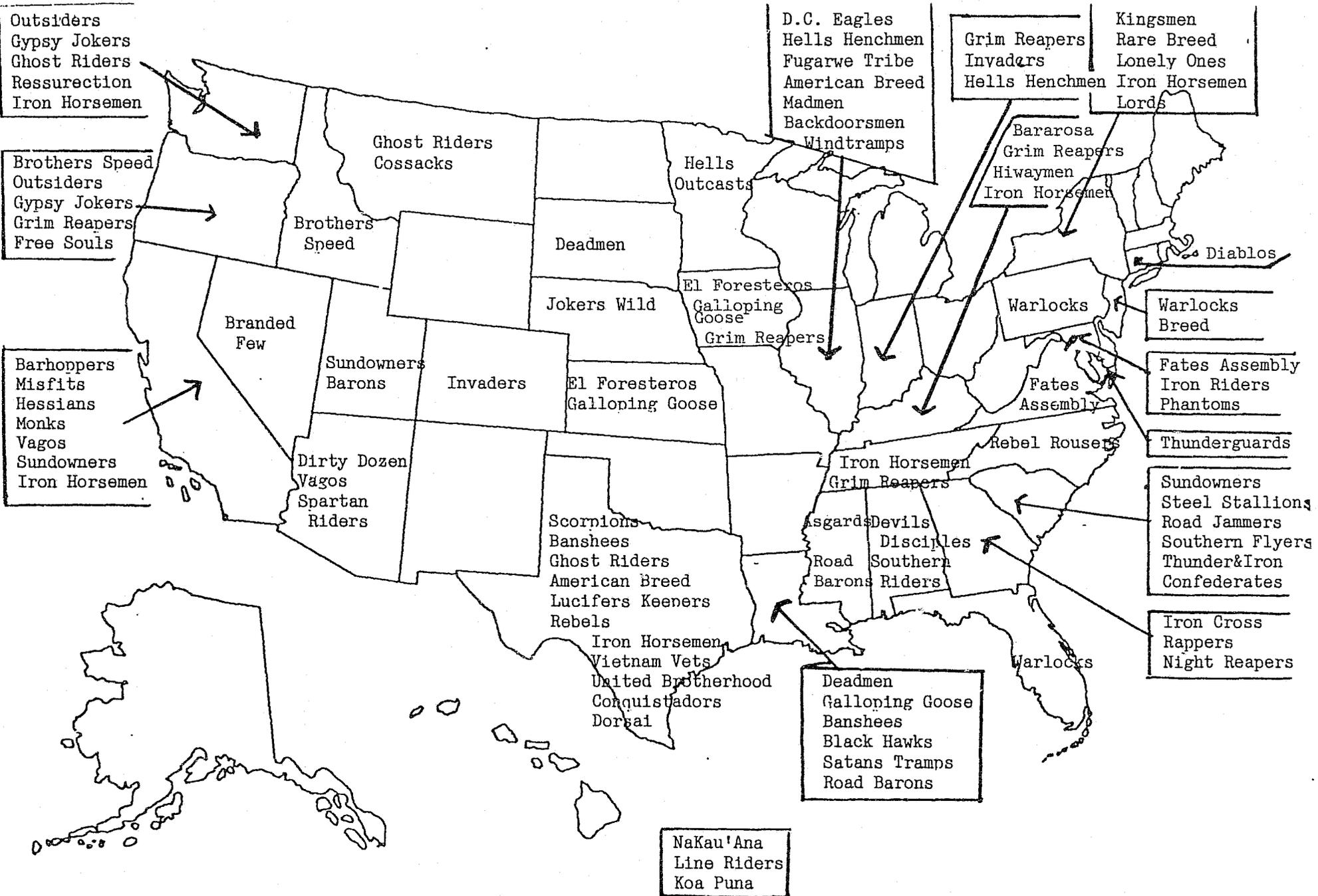
HELLS ANGELS ACTIVE CHAPTER LOCATIONS



OUTLAWS ACTIVE CHAPTER LOCATIONS



BANDIDOS ACTIVE CHAPTER LOCATIONS



OTHER DOMINANT OMG'S

