



Rule 335 - GANG ASSESSMENT DATABASE

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

In 1993, the Boston Police Department created a coordinated, multi-agency enforcement unit to address the youth violence problem affecting the City of Boston. The Youth Violence Strike Force, as it was named, has since evolved to incorporate prevention, intervention, and enforcement strategies. The following Rule delineates the responsibilities of the Youth Violence Strike Force as well as the process for gang member verification and entry into the Gang Assessment Database.

YOUTH VIOLENCE STRIKE FORCE:

Established in 1993 in response to the increased use of violence amongst youth in the City of Boston.

The mission of the Boston Police Department's Youth Violence Strike Force (YVSF) is to proactively reduce gun violence, particularly concentrating on individuals affiliated with gangs or violent criminal behavior. YVSF utilizes traditional policing strategies, incorporating prevention, intervention and enforcement efforts, as well as intelligence-led policing strategies to inform decision-making at every level. Patrol officers and detectives collect information and focus on sources of firearm and gang violence through the identification of individuals, groups, and locations. YVSF works collaboratively with community partners and other stakeholders to garner information on illegal firearms and related violence. Officers aim to prevent ongoing conflicts among street gangs through direct interaction with individuals and groups. Officers not only respond to but anticipate retaliatory violence between groups, and make every effort to deter further violence. Through community-based partnerships, suitable individuals with whom the YVSF makes contact are referred to social services and offered a variety of opportunities.

DEFINITIONS:

Gang

A gang is an ongoing organization, association, or group of three (3) or more persons, whether formal or informal, which meets both of the following criteria:

1. Has a common name or common identifying signs or colors or symbols or frequent a specific area or location and may claim it as their territory and
2. Has members or associates who, individually or collectively, engage in or have engaged in criminal activity which may include incidents of targeting rival gang members and/or being targeted by other gangs.

Gang Associate—Any person, whether juvenile or adult, that has been verified using the 10 Point Verification System defined by this Rule and has obtained at least six (6) points.

Gang Member—Any person, whether juvenile or adult, that has been verified using the 10 Point Verification System defined by this Rule and has obtained ten (10) points.

Gang Assessment Database—Database maintained by the BRIC that includes Gang Members and Gang Associates that have been verified using the 10 Point Verification System.

Active Status: An individual who has met the point criteria to be considered at least an associate and has had contact with another gang member / associate or has participated in some form of gang activity within the past 5 years to include instances where the individual may have been incarcerated.

Inactive Status: An individual who has met the point criteria to be considered at least an associate and has NOT had documented contact with another gang member / associate, law enforcement agency within the past 5 years.

Primary Affiliation: The group to which an individual is associated with. In cases where an individual associates with more than 1 group, the primary affiliation should be considered the group in which Law Enforcement can most clearly articulate the individual having the strongest ties.

Secondary Affiliation: A secondary group that an individual could be verified as being at least an associate (6 points). This is in addition to their Primary Affiliation.

Profile Page / Face Sheet: A printable summary detailing a gang member / associate's key identifiers to include: Name, DOB, Race, Known Addresses, Affiliation status and Verification status, Criminal Record Number, Booking Numbers and Booking Photo.

Gang Member Verification Report: A printable summary of any items used to verify an individual as a gang member / associate.

GANG MEMBER VERIFICATION:

The Department uses a **"10 Point Verification System"** to determine when an individual will be considered a Gang Associate or Gang Member. An individual that does not have a minimum of six (6) points using the 10 Point Verification System will not be included in the Gang Assessment Database.

The following list of items or activities are examples of conduct that could result in an individual's verification for entry into the Gang Assessment Database and are not meant to be all inclusive.

- Prior Validation by a Law Enforcement Agency (9 points)
- Information Received from an Unaffiliated Law Enforcement Agency (8 points)
- Self Admission (8 points)
- Use and or Possession of Group Paraphernalia or Identifiers (4 points)
- Group Related Photograph (2 points)
- Known Group Tattoo or Marking (8 points)
- Information from Reliable, Confidential Informant (5 points)
- Information from Anonymous Informant or Tipster (1 point)
- Victim/Target Affiliated with Member of Rival Group (8 points if not in custody or incarcerated; 3 points if in custody or incarcerated)
- Possession of Documents (8 points if not in custody or incarcerated; 3 points if in custody or incarcerated)
- Named in Documents as a Member (8 points)
- Possession of Gang Publications (2 points)
- Participation in Publications (8 points)
- Court and Investigative Documents (9 points)
- Published News Accounts (1 point)
- Contact with Known Gang Member/Associate (FIO) (2 points per interaction)
- Documented Association (BPD Incident Report) (4 points per interaction)
- Membership Documents (9 points)
- Information Developed During Investigation and/or Surveillance (5 points)
- Information Not Covered By Other Selection Criteria (1 point)

10 Points will result in a person being identified as a Gang Member.

6-9 Points will result in a person being identified as a Gang Associate.

A blank verification form is attached to this rule as Appendix A.

ACCESS:

The Department will provide access to the Gang Assessment Database for each sworn officer and authorized user. All authorized users must complete a User Agreement before gaining access. Officers must have a legitimate law enforcement purpose, which may include an ongoing investigation or in support of a prosecution, for accessing the Gang Assessment Database. The Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) will serve as the administrator of the central database and ensure that users have adequate access.

Officers will have the following access permissions:

- **READ** all Gang Assessment Database Entries within the system
- **SEARCH** all entries within the system
- **PRINT** specific Gang Associate and/or Member profile pages / face sheets in order to comply with court discovery or to include in an investigative file

Additional access permissions may be granted at the discretion of the Commander of the BIA or his/her designee or the Commander of the Youth Violence Strike Force or his/her designee.

SUBMISSION TO THE GANG ASSESSMENT DATABASE:

Employees will be able to submit an individual for consideration for admission into the Gang Assessment Database. All submissions for verification shall include documentation to support the individual's entry into the Gang Assessment Database using the 10 Point Verification System. This documentation may include, but is not limited to, Incident Reports, FIOs, Intelligence Reports, Form 26s, and information gathered from social media.

Submissions can be made to the Commander of the BRIC or his/her designee or the Commander of the Youth Violence Strike Force or his/her designee.

If the individual is verified as a gang member or gang associate, the name and supporting documentation shall be forwarded to the BRIC for entry into the Gang Assessment Database.

DISSEMINATION OF GANG ASSESSMENT DATABASE INFORMATION:

All data contained in the Gang Assessment Database is considered Law Enforcement Sensitive. Officers may access the Gang Assessment Database when there is a legitimate law enforcement purpose for doing so, such as an ongoing investigation or in support of a prosecution. All court ordered, defense requested, or public requested production of information contained in the Gang Assessment Database should be directed to the Office of the Legal Advisor.

REVIEW OF GANG ASSESSMENT DATABASE ENTRIES

The Commander of the BIA or his/her designee, in collaboration with the Commander of the Youth Violence Strike Force or his/her designee, shall be responsible for ensuring that files are maintained in accordance with the goals and objectives set forth in this Rule. To that end, entries in the Gang Assessment Database shall be reviewed in accordance with state and federal law to determine current Active / Inactive status based on the definitions provided above. Individuals with an Inactive status who have NOT had documented association with another gang member / associate or law enforcement agency within the past 10 years may be reviewed for purge from the system.

[Click to view the Gang Member Verification](#)

William B. Evans
Police Commissioner



GANG ASSESSMENT DATABASE

maintained by the BOSTON REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

Gang Member Verification

Person: TESTY, TESTY II (1/2/2003)

In accordance with 28 CFR 23.20 (c), information may not be entered into the Gang Assessment Database unless a reasonable suspicion standard has been met. This standard is met either by a participating agency having a reasonable basis to believe that there is the possibility that an individual or entity is involved in a specific criminal activity or enterprise; or the presumption of reasonable suspicion arises from the accrual of ten (10) points using the following selection criteria. The criminal justice agency submitting the data to the Gang Assessment Database is responsible for establishing the existence of reasonable suspicion of criminal activity.

The headings provided below are illustrative and do not constitute a complete list of the items or activities that could lead law enforcement officials to include an individual in this database.

Gang:

PRIOR VALIDATION BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

For purposes of this database, the agency in question must utilize these selection criteria.

9 points

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM AN UNAFFILIATED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

An unaffiliated law enforcement agency is an agency which does not utilize these selection criteria.

8 points

SELF ADMISSION

The individual describes him or herself as a gang member.

8 points

USE AND OR POSSESSION OF GROUP PARAPHERNALIA OR IDENTIFIERS

These may included, but are not necessarily limited to, symbols, sayings or slogans, graffiti, hand signs or signals, nicknames, attire, articles of clothing, drawings, or other identifiers used by a particular gang.

4 points

GROUP RELATED PHOTOGRAPH

2 points

KNOWN GROUP TATTOO OR MARKING

8 points

INFORMATION FROM RELIABLE, CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

5 points

INFORMATION FROM ANONYMOUS INFORMANT OR TIPSTER

1 points

VICTIM / TARGET AFFILIATED WITH/MEMBER OF RIVAL GROUP

An individual participated in a gang related threat or assault, or an individual has been the victim or target of rival gang members.

- If not in custody or incarcerated: 8 points
- If in custody or incarcerated: 3 points

POSSESSION OF DOCUMENTS

Documents include by-laws, ceremonial procedures, rosters, hit list, address book, or other documents related to gang membership.

- If not in custody or incarcerated: 8 points
- If in custody or incarcerated: 4 points

NAMED IN DOCUMENTS AS A MEMBER

An individual who is named in letters, by-laws, rosters, address books, or similar internal documents as a member of a gang.

- 8 points

POSSESSION OF GANG PUBLICATIONS

- 2 points

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLICATIONS

An individual submits articles, illustrations, advertisements to a known gang publication.

- 8 points

COURT AND INVESTIGATIVE DOCUMENTS

Possession of documents that identify a defendant as a gang member in a true bill indictment, probation report, or similar official court record, or possession of documents (including but not limited to police reports, gang jury minutes, proffer letters, reports of proffer sessions, cooperation agreements, and other law enforcement investigative materials) that identify individuals as gang members.

- 9 points

PUBLISHED NEWS ACCOUNTS

Detailed news articles in legitimate print or electronic media indicating gang membership or association.

- 1 point

CONTACT WITH KNOWN GANG MEMBERS/ASSOCIATES (FIO)

Visiting, corresponding, or engaging in financial transactions with gang members or associated.

- 2 points per interaction or transaction

DOCUMENTED ASSOCIATION (BPD 1.1/Incident Report)

Walking, eating, recreating, communicating, or otherwise associating with confirmed gang members or associates.

- If not in custody or incarcerated: 4 points per interaction or transaction
- If in custody or incarcerated: 4 points per interaction or transaction

MEMBERSHIP DOCUMENTS

Possession of membership documents, certificate of rank or title, letter of introduction or recognition.

- 9 points

INFORMATION DEVELOPED DURING INVESTIGATION AND/OR SURVEILLANCE

- 5 points

INFORMATION NOT COVERED BY OTHER SELECTION CRITERIA

1 point

total: 0

The Gang Assessment Database shall not contain any information that has been obtained in violation of any federal, state or local law or ordinances.

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