

Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force

Detective McManus / Detective Rodriguez

Detective Allen

Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force

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NORTHERN VIRGINIA GANG TASK FORCE



History

- Task Force established in July 2003.
- Formed due to the migration of Gangs to the Northern Virginia Region.
- Federal funds allowed for the formation of the Task Force (Congressman Frank Wolfe 10th Congressional District).
- July 2004 Task Force expands to cover all of Northern Virginia
- July 2006 Task Force expands to cover Fauquier and the Town of Warrenton.

Present Participating Jurisdictions

- Alexandria City
 - Arlington County
 - Fairfax City
 - Fairfax County
 - Falls Church
 - Town of Herndon
 - Virginia State
 - Town of Leesburg
 - Loudoun County
 - Manassas City
 - Manassas Park
 - Prince William County
 - Town of Vienna
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Mission Statement

- The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force was established as a multi-jurisdictional partnership comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to address gang activity in Northern Virginia through dedicated officers and resources, thereby making the region inhospitable to gang activity.
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Make - up of Task Force Enforcement / Suppression

- Director
 - Commander (Police Lieutenant)
 - Supervisors (Police Sergeants)
 - Detectives
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Director

- Oversees Task Force Budget / Financial Matters
 - Works Directly with the Task Force Board (Chiefs of Police/Sheriffs of Participating Agencies)
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Commander

- Oversees Overall Operations – Investigations, Enforcement Operations, Confidential Informant Fund / Investigative Fund
 - Partners with Command Staff members of participating agencies to address issues in their jurisdictions
 - Attends Regional Gang meetings
 - Monitors Task Force training
 - Coordinates TF investigations with local, state, and federal agencies
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Supervisors

- Oversees day to day activities
 - Ensures resources are available to Detectives
 - Approves Operation Plans, Search Warrants, and Threat Assessments
 - Ensures proper resources are applied to investigations/operations
 - Attends Regional Gang meetings
 - Coordinates Task Force investigations with local, state, and federal agencies
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Detectives

- Conduct Gang related investigations
 - Develop informants
 - Write Search Warrants, Operational Plans, and Threat Assessments
 - Works closely with all local, state, and federal agencies
 - Works joint investigations with federal partners
 - Must be able to multi-task and respond quickly to areas within the region and outside
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How cases are generated

The majority of cases are generated in a Detective's home jurisdiction by:

- CI's (self-generated or provided by patrol)
 - Jail interviews of inmates for consideration towards pending charges
 - Intel from recorded jail phone calls
 - Intelligence gathered from surveillance, street operations
 - Assigned by their jurisdiction
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*Joint
Investigations
with
Federal
Agencies*

- **Initial investigation starts at TF level (local)**
- **Investigation is determined to likely exceed the scope of TF resources, has ties outside the region or state, requires specialized equipment**
- **TF Detectives and Supervisors meet with Federal Agencies to discuss their willingness to adopt the case**
- **Cases adopted are worked cooperatively between TF and Feds**
- **ATF, DEA, FBI, USSS, ICE**

Tactical Operations



- As part of the NVGTF, Detectives are trained in tactical operations.
- Some agencies without a tactical team will rely on the task force to serve the departments search warrants, or arrest warrants.
- Detectives serve the units own search warrants, vehicle takedowns, and arrest warrants.

What kinds of crimes do Gangs commit?

Gangs are involved in all types of crimes, including:

- Murder/ Homicide
 - Rapes
 - Robberies
 - Felony and Misdemeanor Assaults
 - Drive-by Shootings
 - Narcotic Distribution
 - Human Trafficking/Prostitution
 - Manufacturing False Documents
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Gang Awareness and Identification/Virginia Laws

Definition of a GANG MEMBER:

- Actively participates in a street gang,
 - has knowledge that its members engage in, or have engaged in, a pattern of criminal activity, and willfully promotes, furthers or assists in any criminal conduct by members of the gang.
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COMMON GANGS WE DEAL WITH?

MS-13

18TH STREET

BLOODS

SUR 13

COOP BOYS (HERNDON & RESTON)

Gang Graffiti





18th Street



"VBM" Virginia Black Mob



18th Street



MS13

Gang Graffiti

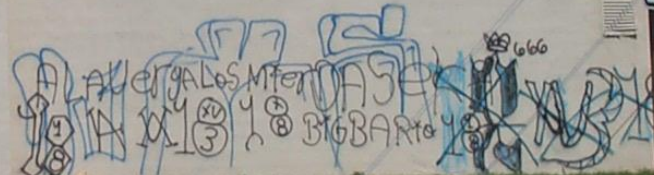






NO
PARKING
ON GRASS
ENFORCED
BY
MANASSAS
CITY POLICE

No Parking



Gang Suppression



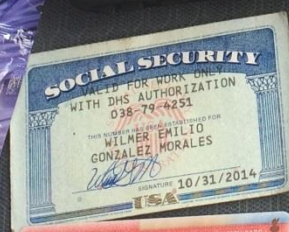








LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE
E EMPLEO
Clinicas de nuestra facilidad en Leesburg
(Calle y Route #7)
de grupo
grupo
plantación
antación
oidas y grama





Task Force Cases



MANASSAS, Va. - Manassas City police say one suspect has been arrested after shots were fired in a Manassas neighborhood, leading to an hours-long standoff at a townhouse after the shooting.

Police said officers were called to the 9600 block of Aspen Place at around 1:30 p.m. Thursday after two men were seen firing at a passing vehicle. Several vehicles were damaged and the suspects were seen running into a townhouse on that street afterwards.

Police believed there were military-style weapons and assault rifles inside the home and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives were called in.

The shooting and standoff led Manassas City to place three schools nearby on lockdown as a precaution.

“At the same time this was going on, an investigative team made up of the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, the ATF, and the Manassas City Police developed some suspects and a suspect was arrested in Prince William County near Potomac Mills Mall,” said Manassas City Police Chief Douglas Keen.

Police arrested 24-year-old Manuel Gonzalez at around 8:30 p.m. He has been charged with possession of a firearm by a felon, use of a firearm in the commission of a felony, shooting at an occupied vehicle and discharge of a firearm in public.

Keen said they are still searching for another suspect that was involved in the shooting.

On Thursday night, police said they conducted a search of the townhouse to recover evidence related to the shooting.

Loudoun Times-Mirror

Two illegal aliens charged with accessory in connection with the Sept. 4 gang-related murder of a 17-year-old Park View High School student will face a grand jury next month, a Loudoun District judge ruled Thursday.

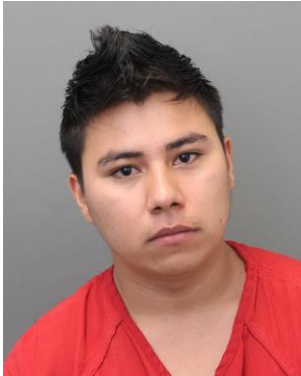
Danny Centeno-Miranda was shot as he was on his way to the bus stop about 8:46 a.m. in the Pembroke community in Sterling. Loudoun deputies arrived on scene at 420 Cornell Drive to find the teen lying on the ground, surrounded by several other high school students. The teen later died at Inova Fairfax hospital.

A rivalry between the 18th Street and MS-13 gangs – a feud that dates back to the 1980s – was the motive for the murder, Loudoun County Detective Tom Rodriguez testified Thursday.

The alleged gunman, a 17-year-old Mexican national, referred to as “JME” during Thursday's preliminary hearing, is charged with second-degree murder and use of a firearm in connection with a felony.

Those charges were bound over to a grand jury on Monday. If indicted, he will be tried as an adult and his name released to the public, said Heather Williamson, spokeswoman for the Loudoun County Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Step-brothers Henry Ernesto Dominguez Vasquez, 20, and Juan Moises Aguirre Zelaya, 19, El Salvador natives, were arrested Sept. 5 at a home on North Sterling Boulevard and later admitted during interviews with detectives that they saw and heard “JME” run into their home, saying that he shot Centeno-Miranda.



Henry Ernesto Dominguez Vasquez

A grand jury will determine if there's enough evidence to try Zelaya on charges of accessory after the fact and possession of a firearm by a person who is not a citizen of the United States. Dominguez faces an accessory after the fact charge.



Det. Rodriguez testified that Vasquez, during interviews, said “JME” came into the home they all shared following the shooting and used Vasquez's cellphone to call “his homeboy back in El Salvador.”

The detective testified the contact on the phone was labeled “13” as a way for “JME” to get in touch with the gang's leader.

Zelaya, during interviews with detectives, said he saw “JME” try and dispose of the revolver used to kill the Park View High School student.

He said “JME” wrapped the gun in aluminum foil and hid it in the two-story townhome's freezer. “JME” then took the gun's shell casings and gave them to Zelaya to dispose of in an outside garbage can.

That revolver was later found by Prince William Police Sgt. John Christopher, a member of the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force, during a search warrant execution at the Sterling Boulevard home.

The death of Centeno-Miranda recently became the center of a U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee inquiry after its chairman, Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-Iowa), demanded answers as to why the three men were never deported, despite orders that they return to their home countries more than a month before the shooting.

In a letter Grassley wrote to Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, the senator said his committee was told the three suspects entered the United States at the Texas border as unaccompanied alien children in 2013. They had been served notices to appear for a status hearing in August but failed to show.

“Had these suspects appeared for their mandatory court date, they would have likely not had the opportunity to murder a 17-year-old high school student from Loudoun County,” Grassley wrote.

If convicted, they may be eligible for deportation, depending on how federal agencies choose to handle the cases, Commonwealth's Attorney Jim Plowman said at a Sept. 5 press conference.

Both men are being held without bond at the Loudoun County Adult Detention Center. The juvenile is being held at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Loudoun Times-Mirror

**Three MS-13 members plea guilty to
assaulting, stabbing man who refused to
join gang**



Jose Alvarenga

Three Leesburg MS-13 members recently pleaded guilty to assaulting and stabbing a man who refused to join the gang.

Jose Israel Alvarenga, 19, appeared before Judge J. Howe Brown, Jr. in Loudoun County Circuit Court and pleaded guilty to one count of gang participation, one count of malicious wounding and one count of felony obstruction of justice on Aug. 4. Two other gang members Alvarenga instructed to kill the same man also pleaded guilty gang participation and malicious wounding in July.

Alvarenga approached a young man he believed to be a member of the 18th Street gang on Nov. 7 in Leesburg. When the man denied any involvement in the gang, Alvarenga demanded he join MS-13. The man knew Alvarenga was the leader of a local MS-13 gang clique.

He told Alvarenga he didn't want to join a gang and began to walk away. Alvarenga then kicked the victim in the back and told him he would kill him if he did not join MS-13. The man then fled from the area.

Less than one week later, law enforcement officers with the Leesburg Police Department and the Northern Virginia Gang Task Force responded to Northeast Leesburg for a report of a stabbing. Witnesses told law enforcement they saw a young man stumble out of a nearby wooded area before falling to the ground in the common area of the apartment complex. The man, who turned out to be the same man Alvarenga assaulted, was transported to a local hospital with life threatening injuries.

Once medically stable, the man told detectives he had been standing in the parking lot his apartment complex when two MS-13 gang members approached him and began assaulting him.

The two MS-13 members, Josue Jeremias Cruz Gonzalez and Jose Roel Guevara Machado, drug the victim into the woods where they repeatedly struck him in the head and attempted to stab him in the chest with a machete-style bladed weapon. The victim suffered multiple stab wounds to his head, neck and hands. The victim also lost a finger in the attack and suffered permanent scarring to his face, ear, head, neck and hands.

Alvarenga was arrested on Nov.16 for his Nov. 7 assault on the man. Once in custody, Alvarenga began offering other inmates money to kill the man so he couldn't testify in his trial.

Alvarenga told the inmates he wanted a photo of the man's head cut off as proof. Alvarenga also told inmates he previously instructed Cruz Gonzalez and Machado to kill the man, but they failed.



Loudoun Times-Mirror

Leesburg MS-13 gang member to serve more than 2 years in prison



Maricio Alexander Henriquez

A native of El Salvador and an admitted member of the MS-13 gang was sentenced Monday to more than two years in prison on drug and firearm charges.

Maricio Alexander Henriquez, 20, pleaded guilty to possession of a schedule I or II controlled substance, gang participation with a juvenile member and possession of a firearm while in possession of a schedule I or II controlled substance.

In late September 2015, Leesburg Police detectives arrested an individual in a local apartment complex. During the arrest, the individual told detectives that they had just left an apartment where there were narcotics inside, according to Heather Williamson, spokeswoman for the Loudoun Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

Detectives subsequently knocked on the door, where Henriquez answered the and gave police a false name and allowed them to go inside the apartment.

Detectives, according to reports, saw drugs and paraphernalia in plain view, at which time Henriquez asked them to leave unless they had a search warrant.

While waiting for a search warrant, detectives were able to identify Henriquez and determine that he had an outstanding arrest warrant and take him into custody. Upon execution of the search warrant, detectives found suspected synthetic marijuana, smoking devices, a blue .22 caliber firearm with "503" and "La Mara" engravings and individually packaged bags of cocaine.

During an interview with detectives, Williamson said Henriquez admitted to being a member of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) criminal street gang, and that the handgun engravings were identifiers of the gang.

Henriquez went on to say that he was responsible for recruiting new members, including juveniles for the gang, and that the drugs and gun were provided to him by other MS-13 gang members.

Circuit Court Judge Stephen E. Sincavage sentenced Henriquez to serve two years and eight months in the Virginia Department of Corrections.

Henriquez, a native of El Salvador is in the United States illegally. Although an additional four years of suspended penitentiary time was also imposed, a federal immigration detainer has been placed on Henriquez to ensure his removal from the country upon the completion of his two year and eight-month sentence, Williamson said.

Operation Raptor Claw

Ongoing investigation.
Many high ranking
MS-13 members
arrested in Leesburg
Case. To the top right
is the East Coast
Program Manager
who is responsible for
ALL MS-13 activity on
the east coast. To the
bottom right is his
right hand man. Both
subjects are in custody
along with several
others.





U.S. Customs and
Border Protection
Office of Air and Marine
National Capital Region Air Branch

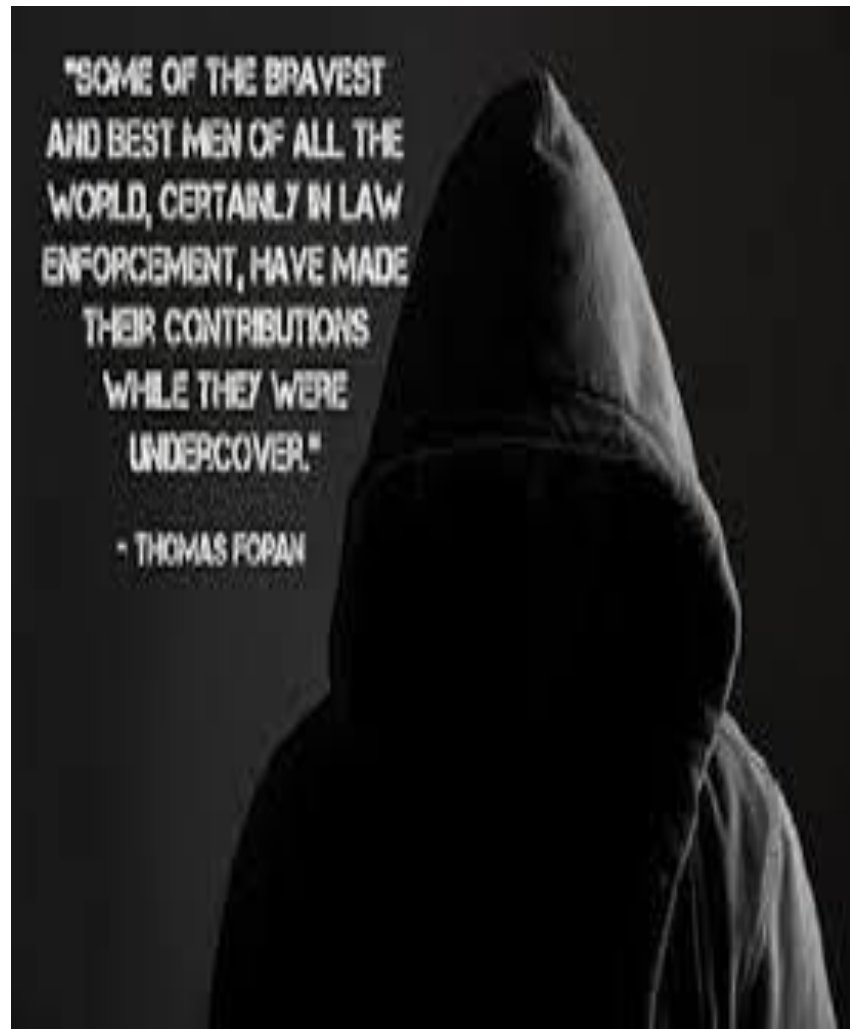


Undercover Operations



UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATIONS

- SHORT-TERM
 - LONG-TERM
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INFORMANTS

- **Understanding the Motivation of Informants**
 - **Developing Informants**
 - **Obtaining Information from an Informant**
 - **Use of Informants as Part of the Investigation**
-



Undercover Operation in Manassas Park (2 Years)

Investigation into a chop shop in Manassas Park led to a 2 year Undercover Operation with MS-13. Detective McManus infiltrated MS-13 and bought cocaine and several firearms from the chop shop that was being run by MS-13. The chop shop was used for multiple MS-13 activities. Federal indictments were brought forward and the shop owner received a 22 year federal sentence. MS-13 is still trying to identify Detective McManus and greenlit the CI involved.



Undercover Operations in gang hangouts





- Crimes of Violence
- Narcotics
- Prostitution

STAY SAFE