SAN DIEGO VIOLENT CRIMES TASK FORCE
GANG GROUP

Operations Manual



Portions of this document are deemed by the San Diego Police Department to be records of security procedures and are exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (CPRA), Government Code Section 7923.600.

Revised May 2026

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the San Diego Violent Crimes Task Force-Gang Group (VCTF-GG) is to identify and target for prosecution, criminal street gangs, their members, and criminal associates, who derive wealth and power from committing violent crimes, major crimes of robbery and theft, drug trafficking, and other complex or major crimes investigated by the participating agencies.

GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the VCTF-GG is to provide broad geographic coverage for gang investigations, training to local investigators on gang investigations, develop specialized skills, and foster a sense of cooperation and collaboration between participating law enforcement agencies and members of the VCTF-GG.

Violent Crimes Task Force-Gang Group

- Minimizes attempts for gang violence, illegal narcotic distributions, organized crime, in establishing a foothold within the City and County of San Diego.

- Combats gang and narcotic trafficking activity within the City and County of San Diego, which illegally provides monetary gain to criminal organizations and individuals who cause disruption and violence, and deprive citizens of their well being.

- Provides sufficient staffing, resources and expertise for investigations involving gang activity, narcotic trafficking, including surveillances, undercover operations, informant maintenance, seizures, arrests and prosecutions.

- Provides appropriate investigations, assistance and expertise in connection with the seizure of assets controlled by gang members and narcotic traffickers or used in, or obtained through gang and narcotic trafficking activities. To that end, those persons will be deprived of tangible assets attributed to illicit activities, and federal and local agencies may benefit from the assignment of such assets through the efforts of gang and narcotic enforcement.

All San Diego Violent Crimes Task Force-Gang Group (VCTF-GG) operations are performed as outlined by/and in accordance with FBI policies and procedures and the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated May 16, 2016.

STAFFING

The current participating agencies include Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), San Diego Police Department (SDPD), San Diego Sheriff's Office (SDSO), San Diego County Probation,

San Diego County District Attorney's Office, Department of Corrections Special Services Unit (SSU), National City Police Department (NCPD) and Bureau of Prisons (BOP).

Participating officers/detectives from allied agencies will be referred to as Task Force Officers (TFO's) and will be cross sworn with the FBI and U.S. Marshalls Office. TFO's will complete a Federal background check every five years.

SDPD RESPONSIBILITIES

SDPD currently provides one sergeant and two detectives from the Street Gang Unit to serve as TFO's.

The chain of command is through the Street Gang Unit Lieutenant.

The Detective Sergeant will work directly with the FBI Supervising Special Agent to coordinate long term investigations and overall activity.

The Detective Sergeant and Detectives must have an overall understanding of current gang trends and possess the ability to conduct long term investigations using various complex investigative techniques to include, but not limited to,
(Deleted – records of security)

and have the ability to work closely with detectives/agents from other allied agencies.

DETECTIVE SERGEANT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Oversee activity of SDPD personnel and other TFO's from allied agencies.**

    - TFO's from allied agencies will work directly with the SDPD Sergeant and/or the FBI SSA for daily operations.

    - TFO's from allied agencies will report to their direct supervision from the parenting agency for other administrative matters to include overtime budget issues, personal issues/time off, equipment not provided through the VCTF and will conform to their parent agency policies if not covered through the current MOU.

    - The SDPD Sergeant may be requested to provide information to the outside agency for evaluation input.

2. **Administrative and supervisory duties:**

    - Complete a weekly report of VCTF activity to be submitted to the Street Gang Lieutenant.

    - Be responsible for all administrative and personnel related matters.

    - Prepare annual evaluations, approve time off and vacations, handle CCF's, issue subpoenas, and provide detectives with career guidance and advice.

    - Be present during the service of search warrants, 4th waiver searches and arrest warrants if the FBI SSA is not present.

SB54 / California Values Act Reporting Requirements:

In 2018, SB54 (California Values Act) was enacted that requires all Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's) participating in a full time federal task force to report required statistics to the DOJ on an annual basis. The required reporting will include the following:

- Name of the Federal Task Force.
- Participating Federal Agencies, LEA's and designated ORI numbers.
- Purpose of the task force.
- Total number of arrests for the calendar year.
- Total number of "transfers" to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) during the calendar year.
    - "Transfer" is defined as: "Arrests made by the task force for immigration enforcement purposes; i.e., any arrests by the task force for any violation of any provisions of the federal immigration and Nationality Act, which is found in Title 8 of the Unites States Code."
- The statute allows LEA's to claim a Government privilege to withhold "transfer" information if it would endanger the safety of an individual or the successful conclusion of an on-going investigation. The privilege would protect the LEA and task force from California Public Records Act disclosure.
- One designated LEA will complete the annual report on behalf of all represented Federal agencies and LEA's participating with the task force.
- The SDPD Sergeant will be the designated reporter for VCTF.

The initial reporting compliance date with DOJ is January 15, 2019.

DOJ will post statistics on the DOJ website commencing annually on March 1, 2019.

Annual reporting will be required each calendar year.

DETECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Case responsibilities:

- Identify high level gang associates and/or criminal enterprises operating within San Diego.

- Conduct long term investigations to dismantle and disrupt criminal gang enterprises to increase the safety of the community.

- Have the ability to work closely with detectives/agents from allied agencies.

- Have an understanding of Federal prosecution guidelines and FBI computer systems related to the TFO's security level.

LIAISON WITH THE STREET GANG UNIT

- VCTF will work directly with the SDPD Street Gang Unit, or other outside local agencies, in order to gain or provide current intelligence on high level gang associates or criminal enterprises operating within the given jurisdiction.

- VCTF will work directly with the appropriate SDPD Street Gang Team on long term investigations impacting the team's gang set responsibilities.

- VCTF will work directly with SDPD gang investigators Special Operations Unit (SOU) officers to assist with current cases, recurring violence between rival gang sets, or other identified criminal enterprises to impact street gang violence and to increase the safety of community members.

- Requests for SOU assistance for arrests, search warrants, wall stops or other proactive enforcement will be conducted with approval from the SOU Lieutenant or Street Gang Lieutenant.

OVERTIME

- **SEE M.O.U. FOR CURRENT AGREEMENTS**

- Overtime for TFO's will be reimbursed from the FBI for the following amounts:
    - Annual allotment of $22,155.25
    - Monthly allotment of $1,846.27
    - Monthly allotments may be increased with SSA approval.
    - TFO's are not eligible to access OCDETF overtime funding.

- Any overages of the listed annual allotment will be funded by SDPD.

- The Detective Sergeant will submit yellow copies of overtime slips to the SDPD Fiscal office at the end of each month.

- SDPD TFO's will use the Rec. Order # 11002377 on the weekly timecards to designate reimbursable overtime.

- SDPD TFO's will accrue standby on-call time when actively involved in **(Deleted – records of security)** operations. Standby time will be tracked in accordance with SDPD Policy.

- SDPD TFO's may accrue standby on-call time if designated for on-call assignments by the command.

VEHICLES

- Vehicles are currently assigned to TFO's from the FBI through the Government Service Administration (GSA).

- SDPD or other allied agency may opt to use an agency vehicle in lieu of the GSA vehicle upon discretion.

- TFO's will be provided with a GSA credit card for fuel and maintenance purposes. The GSA card will only be used in accordance to GSA policies.

- All maintenance and policies will be followed in accordance to FBI guidelines.

- Accidents will be investigated by SDPD traffic, the allied agency and/or FBI in accordance to agency policies.

VCTF UNIT DESIGNATORS

Detective Sergeant	1300S
Detective	1302D
Detective	1303D