

## Organized Hate – Part 7




### Racist Prison Gangs

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## Prison Hate Groups



- Officials estimate that ~10% of the nation's prison population is affiliated with prison hate groups
  - Prison population tends to segregate by race
  - Prisoners seek group protection
- Groups threaten the stability within the prison
  - Raises levels of mutual suspicion and antagonism
- Take their racist beliefs with them once they leave

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## Prison Hate Groups



- Many organized hate groups run "prison outreach" programs
  - Provide prisoners with free or discounted racist publications
    - *White Man's Bible*
    - *Prisoner of War*
    - *The Way*
  - Encourage members to correspond with prisoners
- Prisoners even write and publish their own racist publications
  - *Thule*

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## Prison Hate Groups

- Organized hate groups often view imprisoned racists as “prisoners of war”
  - [www.freetheorder.com](http://www.freetheorder.com)
- Serving prison time often bolsters their status in the eyes of their supporters
  - David Lane
  - Gary “Gerhard” Lauck



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## Prison Hate Groups – *Aryan Brotherhood*

- Also known as AB, The Brand or the One-Two
- Originated in CA's San Quentin prison in 1964
  - Has since spread to prisons throughout the US
    - Estimated to have 15,000 members in and out of prison
    - At least 432 members in Texas penitentiaries alone
- Originally formed in response to the formation of the black prison gang, the Black Guerrilla Family
- Has an alliance with La Eme (The Mexican Mafia)
- Affiliated with Aryan Nations



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## Prison Hate Groups – *Aryan Brotherhood (cont.)*

- More about power and crime than racism
  - “Racial warfare comes second to business”
- Engages in extortion, drug operations, contract killings, and inmate prostitution in correctional facilities
  - Reputed to be one of the most violent prison gangs
  - FBI estimates that although AB members make up <1% of the prison pop., they are responsible for up to 18% of murders in the federal prison system
- Members often have swastika or SS lightning bolt tattoos



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## Prison Hate Groups – *Aryan Brotherhood (cont.)*



- In 2002, over 40 AB leaders were simultaneously rounded up from prisons all over the country and brought to trial under RICO
  - Goal was to bring death sentences to at least 21 and deprive the organization of leadership
  - Case produced 30 convictions, but none of the most powerful leaders received the death sentence
  - 2006: Four of the most powerful received life sentences w/o parole

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## Prison Hate Groups – *Nazi Low Riders*



- Originated as a skinhead gang in the CA Youth Authority in the 1970s
  - Developed into a violent racist group
- Trace their roots to the Aryan Brotherhood
  - AB needed middlemen to help with criminal operations; AB leader John Stinson began recruiting young skinheads
  - Not really noticed by law enforcement until the early 90s

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## Prison Hate Groups – *Nazi Low Riders (cont.)*



- Have since spread to prisons throughout CA and into NV, NM, and CO
- 1996: 26 confirmed members in the CA prison system
- Currently estimated at 3500-5000
  - 400 in San Bernardino alone

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## Nazi Low Riders – Organization



- Membership requirements
  - Proven criminality
  - White power beliefs
    - Requirements have prompted numerous violent acts by individuals seeking membership
  - Must be at least half white, but no “black blood”
- Organized into a three tier hierarchy:
  - “Seniors”
  - “Juniors”
  - “Kids”

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## Nazi Low Riders – Organization (cont.)



- Recruits members from smaller white power gangs
  - Public Enemy Number One
    - Has struck an alliance with PENI
  - Insane White Boys

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## Nazi Low Riders – Ideology



- White supremacy, but makes limited exceptions for Hispanics
  - All other non-whites are not tolerated
  - Must have at least one half white blood and no Black blood
- Calls itself “Nazi” but anti-Semitism does figure largely in its actions
  - Uses it more to flaunt its “whiteness”
- More focused on criminal activity and profit than promotion of white supremacy

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## Nazi Low Riders – Appearance



- Typically Nazi tattoo and icons
  - Swastika
  - SS lightening bolts
  - Pictures of Hitler
  - “WP” (White Power)
  - “88” or “HH”
  - “NLR” (on back, stomach, neck or knuckles)
- White power band t-shirts
- Starting to tone down appearance to avoid law enforcement attention

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## Nazi Low Riders – Street Gangs



- NLR have also established a presence outside the prison system as a significant street gang throughout CA
  - Often congregate in pool halls, bars, fast food joints, video arcades, high schools and other places where new, young recruits can be found
- Sometimes live in the same apartment complexes
- Organization not as structured as in the prison system

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## Nazi Low Riders – Criminal Activity



- NLR has been successful in the production and sale of methamphetamine
  - Major distributor in San Bernardino, Orange, and Riverside counties
- Also engages in extortion and armed robbery

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## Nazi Low Riders – Violence



- **1996:** Five teenage boys beat a 12 yr old black boy at a video arcade in Costa Mesa, CA
  - Allegedly did it to gain entrance into the NLR
- **Apr 1996:** NLR members Danny Williams and Eric Dillard use a baseball bat to beat a black teenager in Lancaster, CA
  - **Jul 1996:** Same individuals attack two black men, stabbing one of them in the back several times
  - Williams sentenced to 5 yrs

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## Nazi Low Riders – Violence (cont.)



- **Mar 1999:** Again in Lancaster, NLR members Shaun Broderick and Christopher Crawford attack a black Wal-Mart employee with a hammer
- **1999:** NLR member Ritch Bryant sentenced to life in prison for his part in stabbing a black homeless man to death
  - Stated that the man "got what he deserved"
  - Had hoped to improve his status within the gang

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## Nazi Low Riders – Violence



- **Mar 2001:** NLR member Gregory Lee Claunch stabs a black man, Arman Braxton, 23 times in Merced, CA
- **Aug 2001:** Alleged NLR member Travor David Thompson attempts to murder a 14 yr old black girl in a drive by shooting
- **Feb 2002:** Alleged NLR associate Steven Maurice Miko sentenced to 17 consecutive terms of 25 yrs to life, plus seven yrs for a nearly year long crime spree for kidnapping, assault, and multiple counts of burglary, possessing stolen property, and evading police

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## Prison Hate Groups – *Nazi Low Riders*



- By the early 1990s, prison officials had successfully disrupted and virtually suppressed AB activity
  - Although NLR sees itself as the top white prison gang, they still maintain a strong link with, and deference to AB
  - Door now open for NLR to take over as top white supremacist prison gang and there is a growing number of NLR partisans that are advocating such

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## Prison Hate Groups – *Nazi Low Riders*



- NLR activity has dropped somewhat since 12 prominent members were indicted on racketeering charges in 2002
- PENI is now attempting to replace NLR as the main subordinate group to the AB

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