



International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association

Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs
FIELD SERVICE GUIDE

IF YOU STAND BEHIND US
WE WILL PROTECT YOU
IF YOU STAND BESIDE US
WE WILL RESPECT YOU



OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANGS

Field Handbook©

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The information presented in this handbook is a guide to assist officers in the field. Terms, definitions, patches, indicia and their meanings may vary from region to region.

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Table of Contents

WHAT IS AN OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANG (OMG).....	1
COLORS (FULL PATCH).....	2
COLORS (PROSPECT).....	3
MAJOR MOTORCYCLE GANGS.....	4
NORTH AMERICA-BASED.....	5
AUSTRALIAN BASED.....	8
EUROPEAN BASED.....	9
PATCHES INDICATING VIOLENCE.....	10
OMG CHAPTER ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE.....	11
OFFICER SAFETY.....	13
GENERAL OFFICER SAFETY.....	14
TRAFFIC STOPS.....	15
LARGE GROUPS.....	17
FIELD INTERVIEWS.....	18
OMG TERMS.....	20





What is an Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG)?

The National Gang Intelligence Center defines Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMGs) as:

"...Organizations whose members use their motorcycle clubs as conduits for criminal enterprises. OMGs are highly structured criminal organizations whose members engage in criminal activities such as violent crime, weapons trafficking, and drug trafficking. There are more than 300 active OMGs with-in the United States, ranging in size from single chapters with five or six members to hundreds of chapters with thousands of members worldwide (National Gang Intelligence Center, 2013 National Gang Report)."

The legal definition of a gang varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction.



Colors

(FULL PATCH)

Term referring to a set of patches bearing the motorcycle gang name, emblem, and other identifying insignia, sewn on a vest. Colors are the uniform of a motorcycle gang member. Colors are worn only by members. Patches and insignia on the front are usually unique to the member.





Colors

(PROSPECT)

Prospect refers to a person going through the process to become a motorcycle gang member. Other terms for prospect include striker, probate, nominee or probationary. Prospects wear patches identifying them as such, however, they are generally not permitted to wear a full set of colors. Some examples of prospect patches are below.





Major Motorcycle Gangs

At time of publication, the following organizations met the criteria to be labeled outlaw motorcycle gangs in their respective regions. Although the gangs are listed by region (North America, Europe, Australia), many of these gangs are international. The Hells Angels, for example, have charters in the United States, Canada, Australia, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa.

This is not a complete list of motorcycle gangs throughout the world. It is intended to assist officers in identifying some of the predominant motorcycle gangs in their regions.

If you have any questions as to whether an organization is a motorcycle gang, contact your local motorcycle gang investigators, gang prosecutors or IOMGIA.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

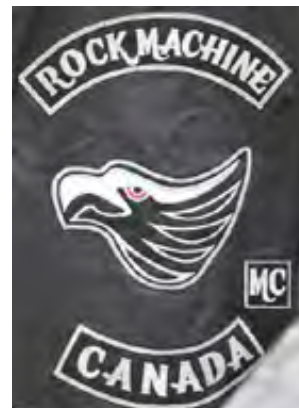
Major Motorcycle Gangs

NORTH AMERICA-BASED



Major Motorcycle Gangs

NORTH AMERICA-BASED





Major Motorcycle Gangs

NORTH AMERICA-BASED





Major Motorcycle Gangs

AUSTRALIAN BASED



Major Motorcycle Gangs

EUROPEAN BASED





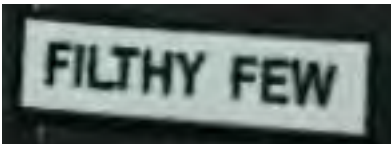
Patches Indicating Violence

Most motorcycle gangs acknowledge violent acts committed by members in furtherance of the gang by awarding patches. Officers should recognize that members who display these patches have committed serious acts of violence, and use appropriate officer safety tactics when dealing with them. This list is not all-inclusive.

Awarded by Hells Angels for assaulting a member of law enforcement:



Awarded by Hells Angels for committing a serious act of violence (in some regions it is specifically awarded for murder):



Awarded by Bandidos for committing serious acts of violence:



Awarded by Mongols for committing murder:





EMG Chapter Organizational Structure

Officer: Gang leaders are most often elected, but sometimes appointed. These officers positions include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, sergeant at arms (responsible for maintaining security and discipline; may be referred to as war-lord or enforcer), and road captain (plans and coordinates gang rides). Motorcycle gangs may have some or all of these positions.

Member: Often referred to as a “full patch,” a member is someone who has completed the prospect process, received the unanimous vote from all members of his chapter, and is afforded all privileges of membership in the motorcycle gang.

Prospect: A person who is going through a process to become a member of a motorcycle gang. A prospect is evaluated for suitability by the gang, and indoctrinated in the gang lifestyle. A prospect may be referred to as a striker, nominee, probate or probationary.

Hang Around: A hang around is a person who is being considered for membership in a motorcycle gang. The hang around period is used for the gang to get to know the potential member, and vice versa. Upon successful completion of the hang around period the person becomes a prospect.

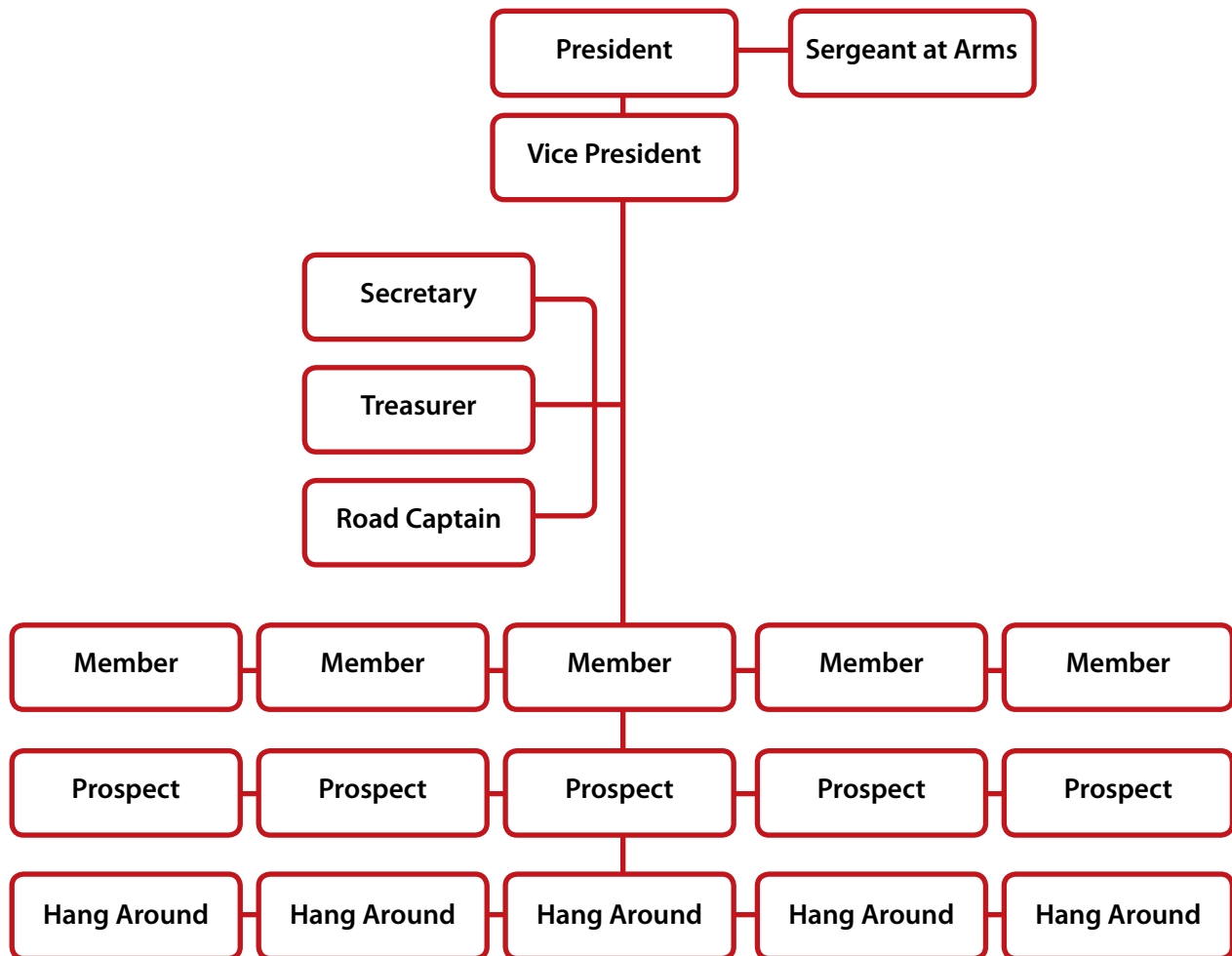
Nomad: Has different connotations, depending on the motorcycle gang. Generally, a nomad is a long-time member who is not geographically tied to a chapter. The Bandidos United States have a separate Nomads chapter, consisting of well respected members from across the country, most, although not all, are tenured members. For the Hells Angels, Nomads charters exist in numerous states or countries. Members are not necessarily tenured or highly respects. In many cases, Hells Angels Nomads charters draw their members from a broad geographical area.

Chapter: Small, semi-autonomous groups within a motorcycle gang, usually consisting of between 5-30 members, with their own officers. The Hells Angels use the term charter instead of chapter.



OMG Chapter Organizational Structure

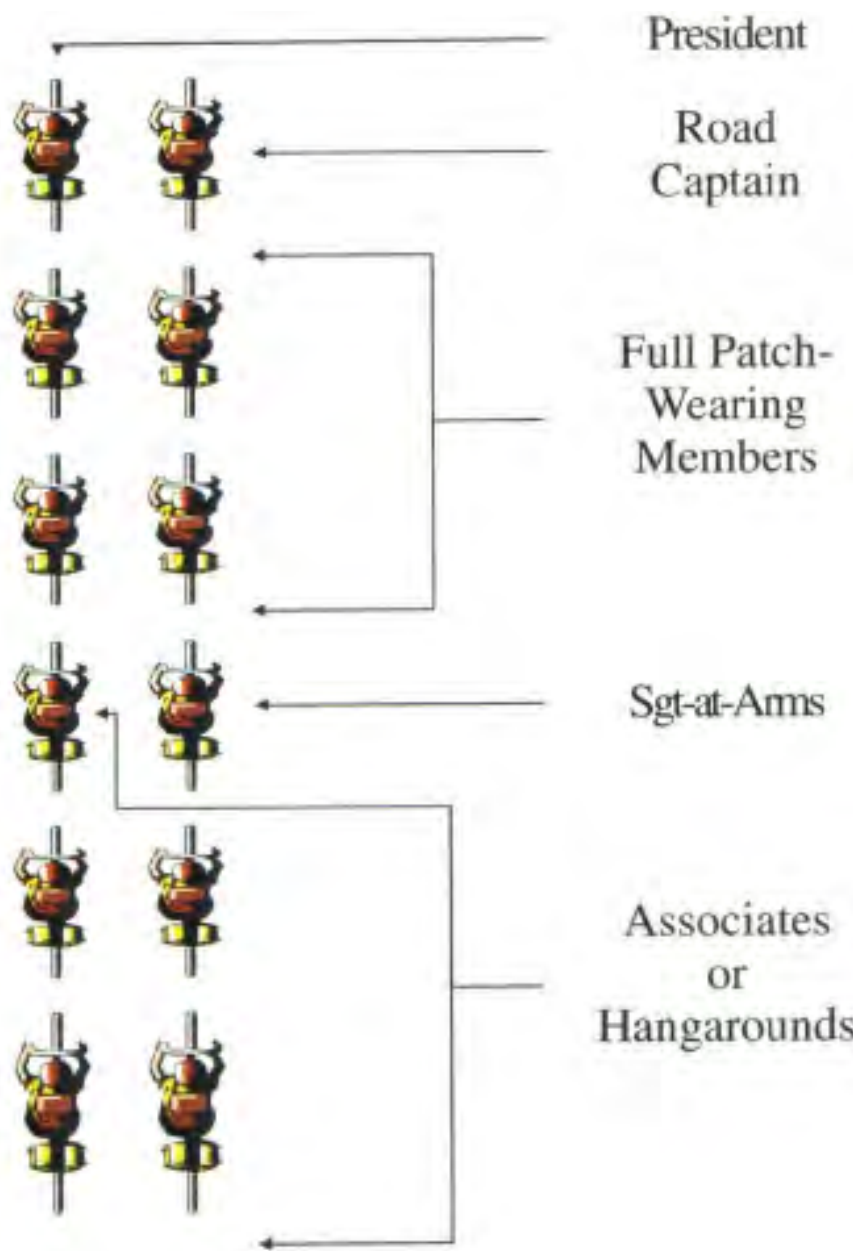
OMGs vary in structure to some degree. Generally speaking, most outlaw motorcycle gangs are organized into chapters, small, semi-autonomous groups of 5-30 members, with their own president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and sergeant at arms. Some gangs will have a regional or national organizations with similarly structured regional or national officers. Be-low is the structure of a typical major motorcycle gang chapter.



Officer Safety

FORMATION AND LINE UP DURING A RUN

Motorcycle gangs often ride in formation that mirror the gang's hierarchy, as indicated below.





General Officer Safety

Past experiences have indicated that when dealing with outlaw motorcycle gangs, certain steps should be taken in the field so that investigators may safeguard themselves from danger, prosecute violators successfully and maintain good records and intelligence.

The following are some of the things you should look for when observing groups of motorcycle gang members:

1. Approximate number of members in the group
2. Current location and direction of travel
3. Colors — the gang name and location of patches are crucial
4. Registration plates
5. Description of other associated vehicles (truck, trailer, etc.)
6. Other details (visible weapons, obvious security measures, unusual activity, etc.)

Caution must be used in stopping large groups of motorcycle gang members. Always assume that males and females associated with the gang are carrying weapons. Motorcycle gang members may use offensive language, exhibit confrontational behavior, or try to provoke a response from officers. Gang members may record interactions with the police officer. They may use the recordings to file complaints or suits against officers, or post videos on social media. Members of the gang may have criminal records, or have warrants for their arrest. In extreme situations, killing a police officer may be an alternative to facing arrest.



Traffic Stops

- 1. Stop where you have most control of situation**
- 2. Always communicate the following information to dispatch**
 - a. Location
 - Best address available
 - If you move, update your location
 - b. Specify it is a motorcycle gang stop
 - In the mind of a dispatcher, not all motorcyclists are outlaw motorcycle gang members
 - Identify the number of bikers present
 - Identify any identifiable clubs/gangs present
 - c. Request a back-up
 - Before you stop the pack
 - If possible, wait for sufficient back-up prior to stop
- 3. Use command presence**
 - a. Tell them why you stopped them
 - b. Inform them what you expect from them
 - c. Inform them what you are going to do
 - d. Explain what will happen if they do not comply
 - e. Do not threaten anything that you are not able to do or willing to do
- 4. Act in a professional manner**
 - a. Show them respect, treat them like men and women unless they act otherwise
 - b. Your attitude will influence their response
 - c. Maintain your professionalism; your agency and the courts will expect it
- 5. Be systematic with your process**
 - a. Initially, keep everyone on motorcycles; you will be able to tell who was on what motorcycle and identification may be easier
 - b. Make drivers turn motorcycles off
 - c. Make all drivers keep kickstands up; members will telegraph any intent to get off the motorcycle by putting the kickstand down
 - d. Have drivers place their hands on top of their heads
 - e. Make all passengers place hands on their heads



Traffic Stops

CONTINUED

- f. Call the members off the motorcycles individually; have them get off the motorcycle “high side,” which is the side opposite of the kickstand. This is not the natural way of getting off a motorcycle and will likely keep the member off balance
 - g. Have riders and passengers remove their helmets, gloves, masks, bandannas, etc., and leave them on the motorcycles
 - h. When lawful, frisk or search each person as they get off the motorcycles
 - i. Identify each rider and passenger. Conduct records checks for driver’s licenses, warrants, registration, insurance
- 6. Complete the stop**
- a. Issue citations or warnings as appropriate
 - b. Complete field interviews
 - c. Take photographs



Large Groups

In addition to standard police practices, the following precautions are recommended when stopping large groups of motorcycle gang members:

1. Do not attempt to stop them alone. Pick a predetermined location away from crowds, such as a parking lot, and radio this location with your request for assistance.
2. When calling for assistance prior to stopping the run, radio the estimated number of bikers so that sufficient manpower is available.
3. Pull over quickly and have them remain on their bikes, engines off, kickstand up and feet on the ground.
4. You may choose to communicate with gang officers, normally riding at the front of the group, or directly with the offenders who committed the violation.
5. Always keep their potential for violence in mind, but do not overreact.
6. Be aware of additional vehicles preceding or following the run that may contain illegal contraband and weapons.
7. Avoid comments that degrade their clubs or status of individuals.
8. Be alert and watch for concealed or unconventional weapons, such as knives, hammers, large flashlights, etc.
9. Gang members have been known to conceal weapons or contraband under the seat, fenders, gas cap or front fork.
10. When lawful, frisk or search members for weapons.
11. If you have a problem with an individual member, it may be beneficial for you to address this with a gang officer. Officers, and the gang, may lose face if they don't regulate members' conduct.



Field Interviews

- Documented field interviews are vital to the prosecution of gang related cases.
- Proper documentation is necessary to support gang enhancements, consorting/ association violations, organization and racketeering cases.
- Keep in mind that motorcycle gang members have a culture of silence towards law enforcement. They may not answer your questions or may provide false or misleading information.
- Use your agency's existing field interview process; if none exists, use copies of the cards on the following pages.
- List the following information in the narrative:
 - How long has the member been in the gang?
 - What is his position in the gang (president, prospect, etc.)?
 - What is the member's chapter?
 - Make a notation of all patches and pins on their colors.
 - Previous gang membership or affiliation.
 - List and describe all tattoos.
- Take photos of front and back of colors.
- Complete field interviews on, or otherwise document, all members and associates present during the contact.



Field Interviews

CONTINUED

Side 1					
Date:		Time:			
Location:		Event#:			
Subject Information:					
Name (L/F):		Photo?:		Yes	No
Moniker(s):		Tats:			
Club:		Chapter:			
DOB:		Soc:			
Drivers License#:			State:		
Circle One:	Member	Prospect	Associat	Hang-Around	Other
Officer Name (L/F):			P#:		
Agency:		Phone:			

Vehicle Information:					
Make:		Model:			
License#:		State:			
Color(s):		Other:			
Type of Contact (circle all that apply):					
Parked in OMG Compound		Field Interview			
Wearing Colors		Logo on Vehicle			
Identified by Sight		Other (specify):			
Action Taken:	Citation #:	Arrested?:		Yes	No
Narrative:					



EMG Terms

- 1%** Often seen as a pin, patch or tattoo, this symbol normally indicates the wearer is a member of a predominant outlaw motorcycle gang.
- 13** Often seen as a pin, patch or tattoo, this refers to the thirteenth letter of the alphabet, M, and may represent marijuana, methamphetamine or motorcycle.
- 81** Refers to the eighth and first letters of the alphabet, H and A, and stands for Hells Angels.
- AFFA** Acronym for "Angels Forever, Forever Angels." It is common for other gangs to use this letter pattern, substituting the first initial of their gang for the first and last letter.
- BACK PATCH** May refer to the full gang patch on the back of a motorcycle gang member's vest, or a tattoo of the same on his back.
- BFFB** Acronym for "Bandidos Forever, Forever Bandidos."
- BOTTOM ROCKER** Patch worn beneath the gang logo on the back; generally represents geographical area associated with the gang.
- COLORS** The official uniform of a motorcycle gang; colors consist of a vest with the gang patches on the back and various other patches, pins, and insignia on the front; colors are worn only by members.
- CRASH TRUCK** Crash Truck A vehicle that follows a motorcycle gang on runs and retrieves damaged motorcycles. May also be used to transport the gang's weapons, narcotics, supplies, and members who wish to escape notice of law enforcement; may also be referred to as a "cage."
- DEQUIALLO** Patch awarded by the Hells Angels to members who committed an act of violence on a police officer.
- FILTHY FEW** Patch awarded by the Hells Angels to members who have committed an act of violence for the gang.
- FLY COLORS** To wear colors.
- FTW** FTW Acronym for Fuck The World.
- HANGAROUND** A person who is being considered for membership in the gang.



EMG Terms

IN MEMORY OF	A patch memorializing another motorcycle gang member who died.
MC	Acronym for motorcycle club.
MUD-CHECK	A test to evaluate how a prospect conducts himself when confronted with a difficult situation; often involves a fight or assault.
NOMAD	Generally, a nomad is a long-time member who is not geographically tied to an individual chapter.
OFFICER PATCH	Designates the position held within the gang.
OFFO	Acronym for "Outlaws Forever, Forever Outlaws."
OLD LADY	Wife or steady girlfriend of a club member..
PATCH	Emblem worn on motorcycle gang colors.
PATCH OVER	When a larger gang absorbs a smaller one, or when a member leaves one gang to join another.
PATCHES WORN UPSIDE DOWN	Indicate disrespect; may have been taken from a rival gang; often worn as trophies.
PROSPECT	Prospect Person who is going through a process to become a member of a motorcycle gang; a prospect is evaluated for suitability by the gang, and indoctrinated in the gang lifestyle.
RUN	Gang sanctioned ride to a certain location for an event such as a party, rally, camping or special event.
SIDE ROCKER	Also called kidney patch, worn on side of colors; may indicate member's chapter.
TOP ROCKER	Patch worn on the back of the colors, above the gang emblem, generally displays the gang name.
WAR WAGON	War Wagon Vehicle used to transport gang's weapons on a run or when expecting confrontation with another gang.