Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

Terminal Performance Objective
• Given actual and hypothetical scenarios, the student will identify a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang and the associated potential safety threats in accordance with the International Association of undercover Officers.

Enabling Objectives
• Describe the origin of the term one percenter.
• Describe the significance of the one percent patch.
• Describe the significance of other patches on the one percenters vest/jacket.
• Identify what category of domestic terrorist that one percenters can be classified as based on their beliefs and associations.

Section One:
The Origins of the One Percenter

History of the Motorcycle
• 1866-first U.S. patent for a bicycle filed by Michaux and Company, a French company.
• 1867-first steam powered cycle developed by Ernest Michaux in France.
• 1885-first petroleum powered cycle designed and built in Germany by Gottlieb Daimler.
• 1893-the term “motorcycle” is used by E.J. Pennington.

History of the Motorcycle
• 1895-first motorcycle in U.S. is brought to New York City by a French circus performer.
• 1901-American manufactures Indian Motorcycles is founded.
• 1903-William S. Harley and Arthur Davidson makes its first production Harley Davidson motorcycle available to the public.
History of Motorcycles

- 1911-Chief August Vollmer of Berkley California P.D. is credited with creating the first motorcycle patrol.
- Throughout the early 1900's improvements and modifications continued to occur due to the new sport of motorcycle racing.
- World War 2 veterans returning home sought to replicate the excitement they had encountered in the war zones of Europe and the Pacific.

The American Motorcycle Association

- Created in 1924 as a division of the Motorcycle and Allied Trades Association.
- Responsible for rider registrations and activities, sanctioning national events, and serving motorcycle industry members.
- Three classes of membership.
  - Class A: Large motorcycle companies.
  - Class B: Supply and accessory companies.
  - Class C: Motorcycle dealers.

Hollister Gypsy Tour Rally

- The Hollister Gypsy Tour Rally was an annual American Motorcycle Association sanctioned event that had been taking place in Hollister throughout the 1930's.
- The Gypsy Tour was a series of AMA sanctioned events that took place around the country and was considered the best place for motorcyclist to converge.
- Consisted of a ride to a picnic location, competitions (including races and hill climbs), field meets (with events like slow races, stake races, and plank riding), and social activities including lots of partying.

Hollister Riot: July 4-6, 1947

- Hollister estimated population was 4,500
- 7 man police force
- 4,000 attended the Hollister Gypsy Tour Rally
- Local Businesses overwhelmed, including hotels.

- 50 people arrested
  - Public intoxication
  - Reckless driving
  - Disturbing the peace
  - Fighting
  - Racing
  - Trespassing
- Special court convened to handle overload of cases

Photo Credit: San Francisco Chronicle & C.I. Daughtry
Hollister Riot: July 4-6, 1947

- July 4—local bartenders quit selling beer in an effort to calm things down. Closed businesses two hours early.
- July 5—At 3:30 P.M. Lt. McPhail of the local police department called the State Police and asked for assistance.
- Capt. L.T. Torres brought a force of 40 Highway Patrolmen armed with tear gas to regain control of the situation.

Origins of the One Percenter

- Barney Peterson, photographer for the San Francisco Chronicle, is said to have staged this photo.
- Photo which went nationwide, eventually making the cover of Life magazine.

Hollister Riot: July 4-6, 1947

- Began a disassociation between the law abiding membership of the AMA and the individuals who wanted to operate by their own rules.
- Would eventually lead to the creation of the one percenter and the outlaw motorcycle gang.

Information from various sources: The American Motorcycle Association website, The Tophatters MC website, the Iron Horse Ministries website.
Origin of the One Percenter

• “It was Sonny’s idea to ally the various clubs under a diamond-shaped ‘one-percenter’ patch. He took it a step further by becoming the first Hells Angel to have the famous ‘one-percenter’ drawn on his arm.”
  - From the book: Street Justice by Chuck Zito, former president Hells Angels New York

• “Sonny and another Hells Angel who was at the meeting thought they were beyond a little patch so they headed down to a local tattoo shop in Oakland and were the first to get the famous One Percent tattoos.”
  - Chuck Zito Quote

Section Two:
Reading the Vest:
A guide to understanding the meaning of other patches worn by Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Members on their vests and Jackets.

Reading the Vest: Ranks

President

- Ultimate Authority
- His word is law
- Establishes disciplinary responses
- Sets dues
- Makes other important club decisions

Vice President

- Second in charge
- Groomed to assume President’s position
- Handles the majority of small, non-essential tasks.

Treasurer

- Maintains financial records (both legal and illegal)
- Tracks dues payments
- Maintains a ledger of payments and expenses.

Secretary

- Maintains documentation
  - Meeting notes
  - Club schedules
  - Membership rosters
Reading the Vest: Ranks

- President’s right-hand man and personal bodyguard
- May act punish club members at President’s direction.
- Sets up operations against rivals.

Sgt. At Arms

Reading the Vest: Ranks

- Enforces club rules.
- Usually one of the toughest members of the club.

Enforcer

Reading the Vest: Ranks

- Frequently contacted
- Responsible for planning and coordinating all club movements.
- Liaisons with all law enforcement agencies along the route.

Road Captain

Reading the Vest: The Filthy Few

- Originally issued by the Hells Angels
- Denoted someone who “had taken care of business for the club.”
- Murder or some other serious felony.

Photo courtesy of Art Musselman

Reading the Vest: 13

- Can have multiple meanings.
- Drug using or dealing member.
- Member of the “mother” chapter.
- “1 Judge, 12 Jurors”
- “Southside,” “La Eme,” or “Mexican Mafia.”

13

Reading the Vest: 69

- Different meanings based on the individual or the club.
- Fire and Ice MC
  - F is the 6th letter and I is the 9th letter of the alphabet.
- Sexual act performed in front of another member.

69
Reading the Vest: RIP/Tombstone Patches

R.I.P.
In memory of
John
“Big John”
1%er
Smith
12-14-1967
01-28-2013

- Memorialize fallen members of the outlaw motorcycle gangs.
- Typically, contains the member’s name, nickname, date of birth and date of death.

Reading the Vest: Prospects and Probates

Prospect
Probate

- Earned as the motorcyclist attempts to earn full membership in a club.
- Indicate a serious threat to the law enforcement officer since their owners are trying to earn full membership.

Reading the Vest: Side Rockers

- Usually worn on the side, but may be on the front, near the shoulders.
- Designates different things depending on the club:
  - Motorcycle club
  - Member’s club name
  - Nomad status
  - Other locations
  - Gifts

Nomads

- Claims no territory.
- May travel alone or with other nomads as a group.
- Respected and accepted as club members.
- May be used for serious felonies or to establish new chapters.
- Usually answers only to the national club president.

Other Patches Seen on Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Vests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MC</th>
<th>Motorcycle Clubs (MC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
<td>Riding Clubs (RC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MM</td>
<td>Motorcycle Ministries (MM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEMC</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Motorcycle Clubs (LEMC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFMC</td>
<td>Firefighter Motorcycle Clubs (FFMC).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Back Patches

- Typically come in one of three designs; the one piece patch, the two piece patch, and the three piece patch.
- An officer should not generalize a club’s status as outlaw or legal solely on the number of patches worn on the back of the motorcyclist’s vest.
One Piece Back Patches

One Piece Patch:

Photo credit: Art Musselman, used with permission of the Christian Motorcycle Association.

Two Piece Back Patches

Two Piece Patch:

Photo credit: Federal Bureau of Investigation Report.

Three Piece Back Patches

Three Piece Back Patches

Photo credit: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms report (DOT) and the FBI’s January 2010 Update Intelligence Report.

The Big Four

• Hells Angels
• Outlaws
• Bandidos
• Pagans

The Big Four: Hells Angels

• 2000-2500 members
• 230 U.S. Chapters
• 26 Foreign Countries
• Criminal threat on 6 continents
• Drugs
  – Marijuana, meth, cocaine, hashish, heroin, LSD, Ecstasy, PCP, diverted pharmaceuticals.
• Other criminal activity.

Logo and Colors
• Center patch logo: “Death’s Head”
• Skull wearing a red helmet gold wings
• Based on 85th Fighter Squadron and 552nd Medium Bomber Squadron insignia.
• Club colors are red & white (red letters on white background).
The Big Four: Outlaws

- 1700 members
- 176 U.S. Chapters
- 12 Foreign Countries
- Dominant OMG in the Great Lakes Region
- Drug production and/or transportation and distribution
  - Meth, cocaine, marijuana, Ecstasy
- Other criminal activity

Logo and Colors
- Center patch logo: "Charlie"
- White scull face over crossed pistons.
- The logo may include some red in the eyes and on the pistons.
- Club colors are black and white (white letters on black background).

The Big Four: Bandidos

- 2000 to 2500 members
- Approximately 93 U.S. chapters with 900 members.
- Drug transportation and distribution
  - Cocaine, marijuana
  - Producers of meth.
- Most active in the Pacific, Southeastern, Southwestern, and West Central regions of the U.S.

Logo and Colors
- Center patch: "Fat Mexican"
- Man wearing a sombrero, scarf, and spurs with pistol in the right hand and a machete in the left.
- Club colors are red and gold (red letters on gold background).

The Big Four: Pagans

- 200 to 250 members
- 41 U.S. Chapters
- Prominent OMG in Mid-Atlantic region.
- Drug distribution
  - Cocaine, meth, marijuana, PCP
- Tied to traditional organized crime groups in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and New York.
- Other criminal activity

Logo and Colors
- Center patch: "Surtr"
- Norse mythological fire giant sitting on the sun wielding a sword.
- Club colors are red, white, and blue (blue letters on white background with red outline).

Section Three:

Outlaw Motorcycle Gang or Domestic Terrorist Group

Domestic Terrorism

- Since September 11, the threat of internationally based Islamic extremist networks has dominated concerns of Homeland Security officials.
- Authorities say the threats posed by homegrown Islamic extremism is growing.
- The FBI has reported that roughly two-thirds of terrorism in the United States was conducted by non-Islamic American extremists from 1980-2001; and from 2002-2005, it went up to 95 percent.

Definition of Domestic Terrorist

- “Domestic terrorism is the unlawful use, or threatened use, of violence by a group or individual based and operating entirely within the United States (or its territories) without foreign direction, committed against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.”

Dale L. Watson, Executive Assistant Director, Counterterrorism/Counterintelligence Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
Four Categories of Domestic Terrorism

1. Left Wing—“Generally profess a revolutionary socialist doctrine and view themselves as protectors of the people against the ‘dehumanizing effects’ of capitalism and imperialism.”
   Examples include:
   • Red Army Faction
   • FARC
   • Shining Path

2. Right Wing—“primarily in the form of domestic militias and conservative special interest causes, including racial supremacy, hatred and suspicion of the federal government, and fundamentalist Christianity.”
   • The Southern Poverty Law Center, suggests militia groups declined every year since 1996 but have seen a dramatic resurgence since 2008.

3. Special Interest—Single-issue extremists attack targets that embody distinct political issues like environmental degradation, abortion, genetic engineering, or animal abuse.
   • These groups are usually composed of small, autonomous cells that are hard to infiltrate because of rigid secrecy.
   • According to the FBI, so-called eco-terrorists and animal rights groups, like the Earth Liberation Front have committed over 2000 crimes and caused losses of over $110 million since 1979.

4. Homegrown Islamic Extremists—U.S. persons who appeared to have assimilated, but reject the cultural values, beliefs, and environment of the United States.
   • Identify as Muslims and on some level become radicalized in the United States.
   • Intend to provide support for, or directly commit, a terrorist attack inside the United States.
   • Treat is likely smaller in scale than that posed by overseas terrorist groups but is potentially larger in psychological impact.

What Category of Domestic Terrorists are Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs?

• An OMG would most closely meet the definition of a right wing terrorist group.
• “Attacks committed by people who favor individual freedoms over governmental regulation are classified as right-wing domestic terrorism. Such extremists may be motivated by issues of race, such as the Ku Klux Klan, or other issues, such as opposition to abortion or immigration.”
• According to the FBI, “right-wing terrorists often take racist and racial supremacy and embrace antigovernment, antiregulatory platforms.”

“Military Extremists in the United States, Council on Foreign Relations.”

Section Four:
Intelligence Gathering
Intelligence Gathering

• Have necessary resources:
  – Plentiful back-up officers
  – Field interview cards  
    http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internetforms/Forms/INT-7.pdf
  – Digital camera
  – A separate, secure, communications channel and dedicated dispatcher.

Intelligence Gathering

• Complete Field Interview Cards on all members, women, associates, etc.
• Photograph everything and keep a photo log.
• Record on video if possible.
• Get a variety of angles: over-all scene, medium range, and close-up shots.

Intelligence Gathering

• Document thoroughly; give good narrative descriptions.
• Run checks on all motorcycles, weapons, and any other real property through NCIC/GCIC & ATF databases.
• For more information on motorcycle VINs, see https://www.nicb.org

Additional Resources

• “Response to terrorism in Georgia” or “Gang Investigators”  
  – offered by GPSTC
• “Patrol Response to Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs”  
  – offered by the Heartland Law Enforcement Training Institute
• “Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigations”  
  – offered by the International Association of Undercover Officers and the Heartland Law Enforcement Training Institute

Additional Training

IOMGIA

• International Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Investigators Association
• Provides a conduit for information exchange, updated training, and international network building.
• https://iomgia.net/
**Additional Resources: Movies**

- **Beyond the Law** (1993 Fiction) - undercover officer infiltrates a O.M.G.
- **Inside Story - Road Warriors: The Biker Brotherhood** (1992 Documentary)
- **Hessians M.C.** (2005 Documentary)
- **Wheels of Soul M.C.** (2005 Documentary)

**Additional Resources: Books**

- **Under and Alone The True Story of the Undercover Agent Who Infiltrated America’s Most Violent Outlaw Motorcycle Gang** (2006 non-fiction)
- **No Angel: My Harrowing Undercover Journey to the Inner Circle of the Hells Angels** (2010 non-fiction)
- **Angels of Death: Inside the Biker Gangs’ Crime Empire** (2006 non-fiction)
- **A Wayward Angel: The Full Story of the Hells Angels** (2008 non-fiction)

**Additional Resources: Websites**

- [https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internet/forms/Forms/INT-7.pdf](https://www.txdps.state.tx.us/internet/forms/Forms/INT-7.pdf)
- [https://nicb.org](https://nicb.org)
- [https://iomgia.net/](https://iomgia.net/)

**Terminal Performance Objective**

- Given a roadside encounter, officers will know the origin of the term one percenter, and be able to determine the significance of the one percent patch as well as other patches on a one percenters vest/jacket. Officers will also know what category of domestic terrorist one percenters can be classified as and why.

**Enabling Objectives**

- Describe the origin of the term one percenter.
- Describe the significance of the one percent patch.
- Describe the significance of other patches on the one percenters vest/jacket.
- Identify what category of domestic terrorist that one percenters can be classified as based on their beliefs and associations.

**Conclusion**

- Verify Course Completion on Finish Page
- Complete Survey
- Print Certificate