



Gang Investigations

The WZ Seminar on Gang Investigations was developed to increase the knowledge and enhance the skills of law enforcement professionals who deal with criminal street gangs. This 2-day course provides a comprehensive overview of gangs and gang activity, regardless of the participant's current assignment or years of experience. This training is unique in that it combines investigative strategies with techniques to successfully interview victims, witnesses, informants and suspects.

Backed by the latest research in behavior, psychology and law, the seminar includes a valuable segment which explains the mind-set of a gang member and identifies investigative strategies that have proven to be successful in developing cases for criminal prosecution. This course addresses the link between gang activity and terrorism, details current and future trends, and offers tips on dealing with violent crimes, search techniques, and handling informants.

SEMINAR TOPICS INCLUDE:

GANG CULTURE, MENTAL STATE AND CRIMINALITY: The 3 R's of the gang culture - Respect, Revenge and Reputation and review of the types of gang-related criminal activity.

SUPER GANGS: The emergence and characteristics of Super Gangs and the major nationally recognized gangs such as MS-13, Latin Kings, Gangster Disciples, Vice Lords, Crips and Bloods.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF GANG-RELATED INVESTIGATIONS: A quiz on the legal aspects of gang investigations will be presented. The quiz is designed to stimulate and encourage class participation and discussion about issues that arise in gang-related investigations.

TRAPPED VEHICLES: The use of vehicles for transporting and concealing narcotics and firearms, including videos and photos to illustrate the types of compartments and indicators.

DEVELOPING AND HANDLING INFORMANTS: Learn how to improve the cultivation and management of informants while constructing a successful gang-related criminal case.

QUALIFYING AS A GANG EXPERT: Tips on establishing credibility as a gang expert witness.

TACTICAL INTERVIEWING: Learn how to successfully conduct tactical field interviews and the differences between traditional interviews and interrogations.

INTERPRETATION OF VERBAL AND PHYSICAL BEHAVIOR: Differentiate between the behavior of typically truthful and untruthful individuals and apply this skill to interviews and interrogation.

COGNITIVE INTERVIEWING: A structured interview format to assist a witness or victim in their recall of events, evaluate the subject's veracity and test validity of the information.

QUESTIONS OF ENTICEMENT: Behavior provoking non-accusatory questions that entice the subject to change or consider changing their original story or alibi.

The instructor, John J. Guzman, CFI[®] developed this course based on his 23-year career with the Chicago Police Department and his assignment as a Gang Crime Specialist. Phil Cline, a former Watch Commander of John's Gang Unit, and later Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, reviewed the 81-page text that accompanies the Seminar's Workbook and stated:

"Street Gangs are the 'New Organized Crime' in the United States, John Guzman has put together the bible of street gang information. Every cop and prosecutor who works gang cases should have a copy of Gang Investigations."

