



Drugs and Crime

Outlaw Motorcycle Gang Profile

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U. S. D E P A R T M E N T O F J U S T I C E

Outlaws

Motorcycle Club

The Outlaws Motorcycle Club, an outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG) with more than [REDACTED] members, is a serious criminal threat to the United States. The Outlaws Motorcycle Club also identifies itself as the A.O.A. (American Outlaws Association) and the Outlaws Nation. It is the dominant OMG in the [REDACTED] and also has been very active in [REDACTED] where it currently is competing with the [REDACTED]

The Outlaws Motorcycle Club engages in various criminal activities including [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It competes with the [REDACTED] for membership and territory, and in Canada and Europe this competition has incited extreme violence that has resulted in dozens of deaths. [REDACTED]

Background

The Outlaws Motorcycle Club (OMC) began in 1935 as the McCook Outlaws Motorcycle Club in McCook, Illinois, near Chicago. The club remained intact throughout World War II, but its activity was limited. In May 1946 club members hosted the Midwest's first major postwar motorcycle rally at Soldier Field. The McCook Outlaws,

as the club was known, reportedly requested a charter from the Hells Angels Motorcycle Club (HAMC) in the late 1940s, but the request was ignored. This infuriated Outlaws members and triggered the animosity between the two clubs that persists to the present.

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After extensive growth, the club moved its headquarters to Chicago in 1950 and changed its name to the Chicago Outlaws. It also changed its logo from a winged motorcycle to a white skull

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

By 1963 the club, emulating [REDACTED], had adopted the antisocial and antiauthority philosophy typical of OMGs and at midnight on January 1, 1965, officially christened itself the American Outlaws Association (A.O.A.).

OMC strengthened its hold on the [REDACTED] during the 1970s by establishing core chapters in [REDACTED] other chapters in [REDACTED]

During this period Harold "Stairway Harry" Henderson gained legendary status as the club's dynamic president, and the Outlaws OMC became a major [REDACTED]

In 1977 OMC achieved international status by absorbing several chapters of the [REDACTED] and proclaimed itself the Outlaws Nation.

In the 1980s OMC added [REDACTED] new chapters in its core states. It also expanded internationally by adding chapters in [REDACTED] Harry Henderson, an alcoholic burdened by continuous criminal investigations, stepped down as the

club's international president. Harry "Taco" Bowman assumed the presidency, and the headquarters chapter, known as the mother chapter, was moved from [REDACTED]. By this time OMC had become a

[REDACTED]

During the 1990s OMC added [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Incidents of OMC [REDACTED] violence involving [REDACTED] resulted in widespread arrests and prosecutions. In addition, [REDACTED] chapters were added in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as a direct challenge because the state, as well as most of the [REDACTED] traditionally was considered [REDACTED]. In [REDACTED]

International President Harry Bowman [REDACTED] ruthlessly suppressing rival OMGs. In 1998 he was indicted under federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) charges but fled to avoid prosecution. Two years later he was apprehended and convicted and currently is serving the first of two consecutive life sentences. Other investigations by the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] have resulted in the imprisonment of many key officers and over [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

In 2000 the national president, James Wheeler, replaced Harry Bowman as international president [REDACTED]

In 2½ years Wheeler has [REDACTED] new chapters in the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This expansion [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has heightened tensions between OMC and [REDACTED]

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Organizational Structure

The OMC [redacted] dictates [redacted]

The [redacted]

Each chapter has [redacted] concerning elections, meetings, disciplinary actions, events, and the role of female associates.

OMC has international, national [redacted]

[redacted] officers. A member may hold [redacted]

At the international/national level is an international president and a national president. [redacted]

Under the international and national officers

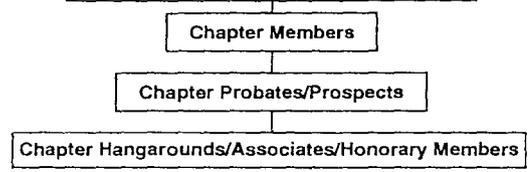
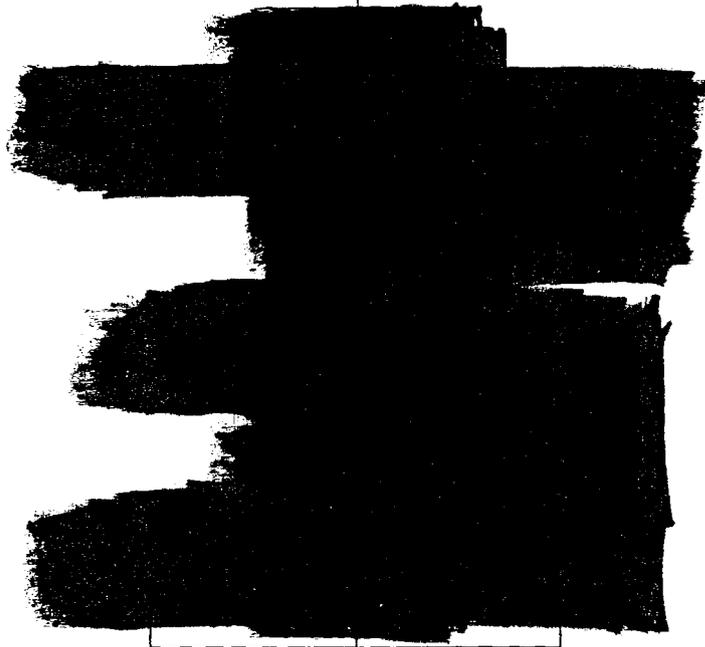
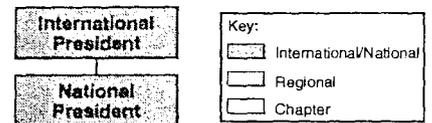
are [redacted]



Below the [redacted] are the members, prospective members, and various associates.

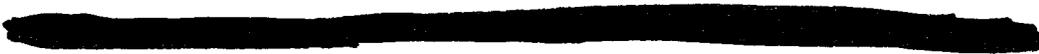
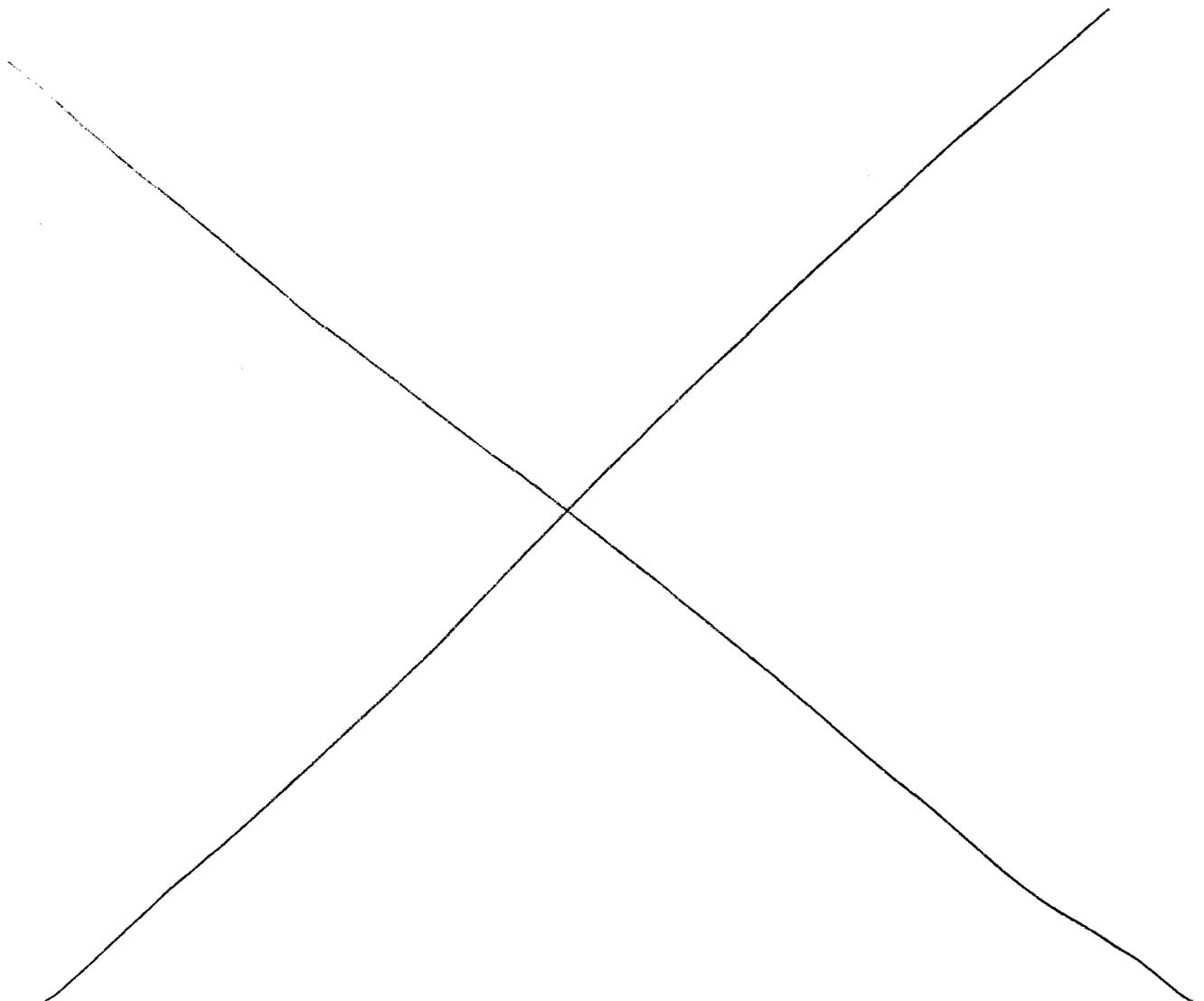
International/national [redacted] officers control [redacted] with other OMGs, [redacted]. They meet

Outlaws Organizational Chart



periodically with [redacted]





The Outlaws Motorcycle Club is an international OMG.



The Outlaws Motorcycle Club is one of the fastest growing OMGs in the world in terms of new members and chapters formed.

Membership

Outlaws members must be male, at least 21 years old, and own an American-made motorcycle. [REDACTED] In the United States members must be Caucasian or [REDACTED]. To be accepted as a member, an individual must begin as an associate or “hangaround” and must perform some service for the chapter. If [REDACTED] determine that the hangaround has membership potential, he becomes a “prospect,” and when he is deemed ready for formal consideration, he becomes a “probate.” For a period of at least [REDACTED] the probate officially is evaluated for

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membership and may be asked to perform some [redacted] activity to prove his loyalty. To obtain full membership the probate must [redacted]

[redacted]

In certain instances, OMC will induct or [redacted] individuals from smaller OMGs known as [redacted]. Those who [redacted] enter the OMG as probates and serve the standard [redacted] period.

[redacted]

[redacted] in an attempt to increase membership and keep up [redacted] OMC is lowering its standards and [redacted] more members.

A member in good standing can leave the club or change chapters [redacted]

[redacted]

Members wear black leather jackets (or denim jackets if the club patches are first sewn onto black leather). The club patches, known as colors, are placed on the front and back of the

jackets. Outlaws patches are usually black with white lettering. The skull and crossed pistons logo (known as Charlie) is outlined in red and worn on the back of the jacket. [redacted]

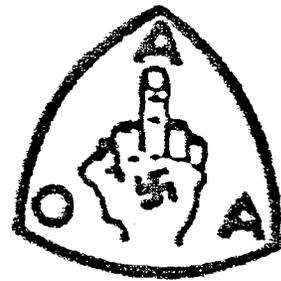
[redacted]

[redacted] Above the logo is a top rocker



Outlaws back patches.

patch with the name Outlaws. Below the logo is a bottom rocker that designates the chapter's location. A triangular patch is worn on the left front shoulder with the letters AOA standing for American Outlaws Association surrounding a hand with the middle finger extended. A swastika that formerly appeared on the back of the hand was removed in 2000. On the



Left shoulder patch.

FBI Milwaukee

other shoulder is worn a diamond 1% patch. The 1% refers to a statement made by the former president of the American Motorcycle Association that 99 percent of the motorcycling public are honest, law-abiding citizens and that only 1 percent are troublemakers. A patch with the letters GFOD, standing for the Outlaws' motto "God Forgives, Outlaws Don't" also is worn on the front of the jacket.

[redacted] wear only front patches to identify their status. [redacted] wear upper [redacted] and lower Outlaws rocker patches on their backs. Female associates wear the traditional OMG back patch with "Property of" on the top rocker and the name of the owner on the bottom rocker. In addition, members may wear personal patches, emblems, and buttons. Nazi or Aryan white supremacist patches and regalia are common.

Colors are held in the highest esteem. A member who loses his colors is [redacted]. Club tattoos also are respected and closely regulated. [redacted] is required before a member can be tattooed with Charlie, Outlaws, AOA, or any abbreviation of the club name. A full-size back patch tattoo requires [redacted] of membership. Members leaving the club in good standing must have their tattoos [redacted] those leaving in bad standing must have their tattoos [redacted]

[redacted]

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Members

[REDACTED]

Members always work and travel

OMC sells

[REDACTED]

Some female associates

Drug Trafficking

OMC is a major

[REDACTED]

transport

Club members

[REDACTED]

Outlaws members also

[REDACTED]

Other Criminal Activity

Outlaws members engage in other criminal activities including

[REDACTED]

Violent crimes are directed primarily toward rival OMGs.

RICO prosecutions against OMC have taken place in Florida, Indiana, North Carolina, and Wisconsin.

Violence

OMC uses extreme violence to protect and expand its territorial influence

For example, the 2001 trial of OMC international president Harry Bowman exposed a decade-long campaign of terror, which

Since 1995, 28 members of OMC chapters have been convicted of violent crimes. A 1997 RICO prosecution in Wisconsin led to the conviction of 17 Outlaws officers on charges of ordering bombings, robberies, and the murders of six opposition OMG members in

[REDACTED]

OMC members are known to

[REDACTED]

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Outlook

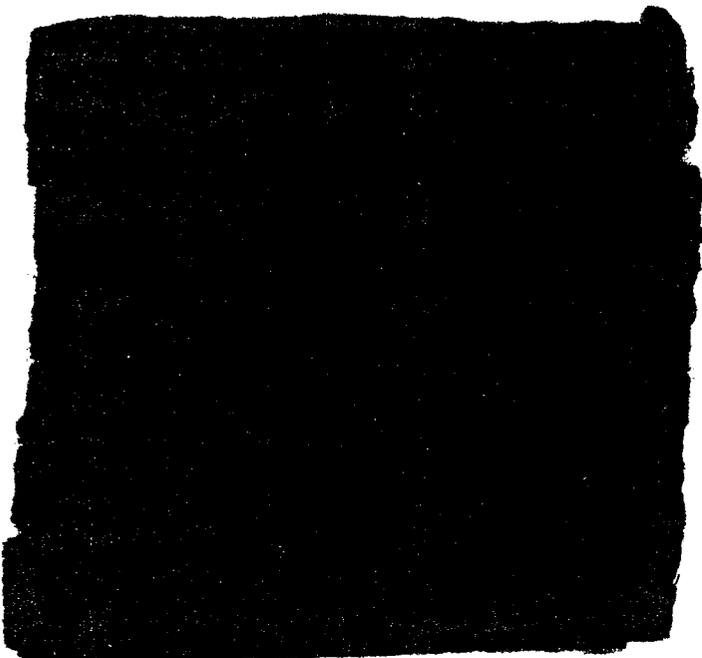
The Outlaws Motorcycle Club will become a greater threat to the general public and law enforcement as it defends its territory [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The OMG will continue to increase membership by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and one of the main reasons for the violent crimes committed by members. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] should increase as more [REDACTED] to the Outlaws Nation.

Intelligence Gaps



Sources

Federal

U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Bureau of Prisons
Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF)

State

[REDACTED]

St. Petersburg Times

[REDACTED]

Chicago Tribune

[REDACTED]

Manchester Union Leader

Regional

[REDACTED]

International

Associated Press

[REDACTED]



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ADNET at <http://ndicosa> and LEO at home.leo.gov/lesig/ndic
