



GANG ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER *TRAINING*BYTE

Staying Alert to Your Surroundings

Knowing that they may attract police attention, gang members standing as a group on the street may hide their weapons in easily accessible, nearby locations instead of on their person. Hiding spots of choice would be those easily overlooked by officers during a simple approach but offering quick access to the gang members, if the need presents itself.

Some good examples may be inside the wheel wells of nearby cars, on top of parked car, inside a nearby garbage cans, under bushes or even under a piece of garbage on the ground.

When approaching and making contact with a suspected and/or known gang member, another surrounding threat may be additional gang members - both friend and rival to your contact who may be standing across the street from your position, out-of-sight in nearby alleys or in parked vehicles or simply driving by your location.

To fellow gang members, your contact with their street brothers and sisters may be considered threatening and warrant a distractive or perhaps offensive, action. To rival gang members, your contact with their enemies may be seen as an opportunity to attack while the enemy isn't watching -particularly if the attacker is looking to score points for courage for attacking in police presence.

An ideal gang contact will involve three officers:

1. a contact officer making direct contact with the gang members,
2. a primary cover officer spotting the contact officer
3. and a secondary cover officer scanning the surrounding area for threats.

Obviously that kind of personnel isn't always available, but when possible, the three-officer approach is preferable.

No matter the situation; using good common sense situational awareness techniques is always in the officer's favor providing a more safe and secure environment for you, your back up officers, the public and yes even the gang member you are making contact with.