



CBTIR Homeland Security Symposium Series No. 5 (2016-2017)

“Structure, Behavior, and Influence of Salvadorian Gangs and their Implication for the Rule of Law in the United States and El Salvador”

After-Action Report



BTI Institute
Borders • Trade • Immigration
A Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

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The U. S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence, Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Center of Excellence through the Borders, Trade, and Immigration Institute, held a Homeland Security Symposium titled: **“Structure, Behavior, and Influence of Salvadorian Gangs and their Implications for the Rule of Law in the United States and El Salvador.”** This symposium was a two-part conversation reviewing the scope and nature of the gang problem in El Salvador and the United States, and assessing their capacity to respond to these problems. In addition, the presenter discussed the policy and practice implications of the findings produced through three related but separate studies.

Instructor Biography

Dr. Charles M. Katz – Arizona State University

Charles Katz is the Watts Family Director of the Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety and is a Professor in School of Criminology and Criminal Justice at Arizona State University. Much of his work focuses on police transformation and strategic responses to crime. From 2004 to 2010 he worked under contract with the Ministry of National Security of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to reform the Trinidad and Tobago Police Services, including the creation of an in-service training program for police leaders, creation and training of a police gang unit, homicide unit, and crime analysis unit. During this time, he completed a project for the US DHS examining the connection between MS13 in El Salvador and the United States. He also completed a project funded by the United Nations Development (UNDP) program to assess citizen insecurity throughout the Caribbean. He recently completed working on several USAID funded projects. One was with the Eastern Caribbean's Regional Security System (RSS) to diagnose the gang problem in nine Caribbean nations and developing a regional approach to responding to gangs. Others are in El Salvador where he examined gangs, migration, and informal social control, the Salvadorian gang truce, and risk and protective factors associated with violence and gang joining among Salvadorian school youth. He is the (co) author of several peer reviewed articles, monographs, and books including Policing Gangs in America (Cambridge University Press: 2006), The Police in America (McGraw Hill: 2013), and Gangs in the Caribbean (University of West Indies Press, 2015).

Topics Covered

1. Introduction to the research
2. Understanding MS13 and the transnational link to the USA
3. Responding to Salvadorian Street Gangs: What Makes them Different?

Analysis of Symposium Feedback

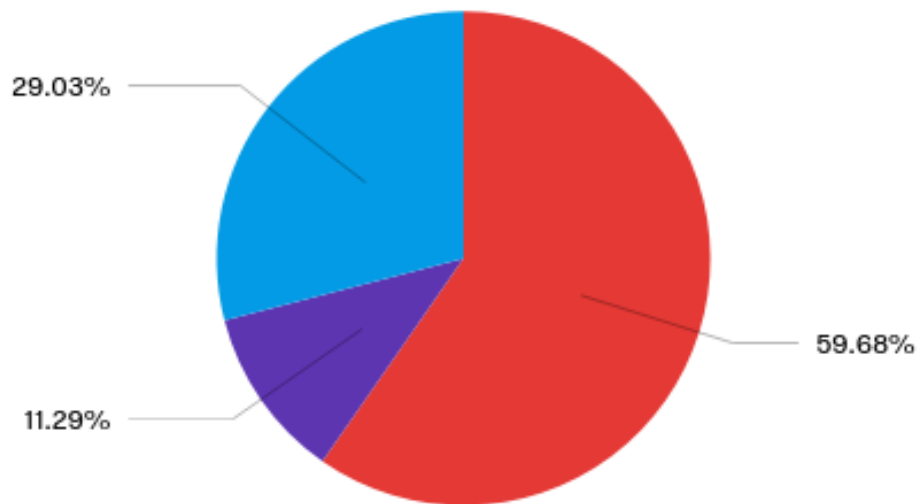
The symposium was well-attended with a total of:

- **99 Confirmed RSVPs**

- 79 Attendees (Approximately 80% of RSVP total)

A total of 13 government agencies organization was represented by the symposium attendees. Attendees from El Paso, TX, Houston, TX, Lordsburg, NM, Las Cruces, NM, Deming, NM, Alamogordo, NM and Falls Church, VA attended this event. This symposium afforded particular attention to participants with gang intervention responsibilities. The following table displays each of the agencies/organizations with the total number of representatives in attendance.

Federal Agencies		State Agencies	
ICE Homeland Security Investigations	07	UTEP (Police Department)	01
ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations	06	Texas Department of Public Safety	04
CBP - Office of Border Patrol – EPT Sector	18	UTEP	04
CBP - Office of Field Operations	07	Texas Rangers	03
DHS Intelligence & Analysis	02	West Texas Detention Facility	01
DHS I & A	01		
Western District of Texas – US Probation Office	02		
Total	43	Total	13
Local Agencies		Other	
El Paso Police Department	05		
El Paso County Sheriff’s Department	18		
Total	23	Total	0

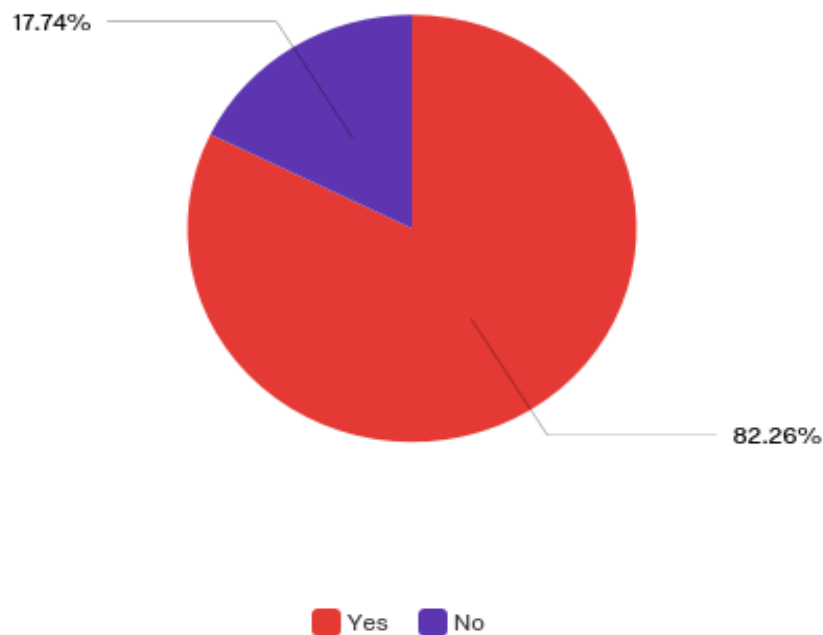


■ Federal Agency
 ■ State Agency
 ■ Local Agency
 ■ Tribal Government

Every attendee was asked to fill out a symposium evaluation. A total of 62 surveys (79% of total attendees) were submitted. Overall, the assessment feedback was overwhelmingly positive (listed percentages are the sum of both the “agree” and “strongly agree” percentages):

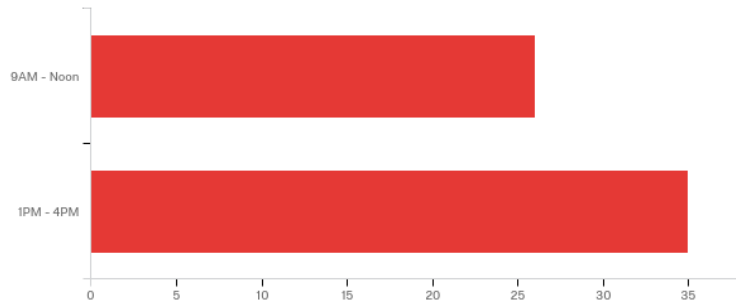
The seminar met my expectations	69.4%
The overall topics covered in this seminar were relevant and useful to my current assignment	61.3%
The seminar description accurately described the seminar content	75.8%
The seminar increased my knowledge of the subject matter	79.1%
The seminar increased my interest of the subject matter	75.8%
The overall quality of this seminar was excellent	81.6%
The instructors’ presentation style was effective	83.9%

The exit survey also contained the following question (Q3): Would you attend a second more in-depth symposium on this topic? The survey revealed that **82.3%** of the symposium participants would attend a second more in-depth symposium.



Open-attended responses indicated a common satisfaction with the course with particularly positive comments regarding the competence of the instructor and the content’s utility and pertinence to their field of work. The following questions were asked in the exit survey and no edits have been made to the comments with the exception of spelling.

Q4. What is your preference for the next symposium?



Q5. What other topic/subject matter would you like to see presented in similar seminars, tabletop exercises or practicums?

- Intelligence gathering exploitation and dissemination.
- Structure & organization of Mexican drug cartels.
- Drugs and human smuggling.
- All the OTM's pouring into the country and the effect it has.
- Live case scenarios
- Cartels, threats to our region
- Local gang trends and issues
- Illegal immigrants, aggravated felons entering the U.S.
- Terrorism
- structure & behavior, interaction w/police
- Local issues and how they're related to a global scale
- Just longer symposium to go over topic more
- Terrorist Groups
- Data on local gangs
- Counter Terrorism
- Islamic Groups
- Tabletop exercises
- Mexico's drug trafficking organizations and influence it carries worldwide
- Mexican Cartels impact in the Mexican Government
- Impact of gangs on policing in the U.S.
- Current state of affairs of anti-police sentiments.
- Human Trafficking

Q5. If there are any additional comments you have about the seminar topics covered please provide them below.

- Great presentation!
- Great Job!
- Good Symposium, thank you!
- Outstanding!
- No talk about similarities with terror groups
- Drug Cartels, Transnational Organization infiltrating the U.S.
- Way too dry. We are cops/field agents- bring it down to our level. How do we use the information provided in our daily duties

- Same study but with info on American Gangs
- Info given, was it from low level players? High level players?
- Very Interesting course
- In my opinion, this symposium was not reflective of the topic title. Way too much stats and not enough information that would help me with my current position. Very Disappointed!

Webcast Analytics

This symposium was the third effort to add a webcast feature as part of the value added deliverable of this program. In addition, this was the second effort to place the symposium video on our website and YouTube account to enhance future viewings of the symposium series. The PI will continue with simultaneous webcast broadcasting of the symposium series with efforts to increase viewership through this medium.

Total views: 78

Total shares: 6

Geo-locations: Illinois, Virginia, and Texas

Symposium Series Visibility

In an effort to promote the symposium series and the work of the Borders and Trade Institute (BTI) we have actively engaged on Twitter and local news media outlets.

- There were thirteen (13) tweets that were sent just prior, during, and just after the symposium event. The tweets received a total of **1,100** impressions.
- The local news station KTSM (NBC) filmed extensively and interviewed the PI and Dr. Katz for local distribution.

Learning

Every attendee was asked to take a six (6) question Pretest Questionnaire in order to gauge the level of understanding of the topic. In addition, the participants were asked to take the same six (6) question Posttest Questionnaire at the conclusion of the symposium. The first question asked of the participant was to self-measure their level of knowledge on the topic on a 1 to 10 scale with 1 as *No Knowledgeable* and 10 as *Very Knowledgeable*. A total of 64 pretests/posttests (81% of total attendees) were returned by the participants.

Analysis: Self-evaluation by the participants indicated a **37% increase** in learning. The average Pretest Questionnaire score was **57%** and the average Posttest Questionnaire score was **90%**. The results of the Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires revealed a **33% increase** in learning.

Lessons Learned

As part of the program's self-evaluation process the following areas will be addressed:

- Seek the assistance of the Homeland Security Symposium Series Advisory Board in achieving a higher rate of return for both the Exit Surveys and Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires.
- Continue to emphasize to symposium participants the importance of the Exit Surveys and Pretest and Posttest Questionnaires.
- Harvesting more precise information of webcast participation is currently being addressed.

- The number of actual participants fell well below the number of RSVPs. Seek the assistance of the Homeland Security Symposium Series Advisory Board to ensure that their agency RSVPs actually attend the symposium.

Acknowledgements

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Victor M. Manjarrez, Jr.

November 30, 2016

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Date