

The Synergy of Partnerships: RISS, NAGIA, and NNOAC Working Together

By Matt McDonald, RISS National Coordinator

As the RISS National Coordinator, I have the privilege of representing RISS on the Executive Board of the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations (NAGIA). This board is supported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) National Gang Intelligence Center (NGIC) and the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) National Gang Center (NGC), which is jointly funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the DOJ, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

The executive board consists of knowledgeable and extremely dedicated law enforcement professionals who strive to enhance officer safety and protect our communities from the most dangerous criminals. Through this alliance, representatives from regional gang associations throughout the United States and Canada come together to discuss gang trends, technology, communication, education, officer safety, standardized training, legal updates, deconfliction, and networking. NAGIA represents 23 state and regional gang investigators associations with more than 20,000 members.

Recently, NAGIA joined forces with the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC)—another group of experienced professionals who are driven to mitigate violence and support law enforcement through education, networking, and awareness. The NNOAC is composed of 40 individual state narcotic associations, the six RISS Centers, and Puerto Rico and represents more than 55,000 law enforcement officers.

This new partnership provides the platform for both associations to represent you—our men and women of law enforcement—with a nationwide, unified voice, in matters of comprehensive legislation, resource identification, and community awareness affecting street violence, transnational organized crime, addiction rates, gang-related activities, emerging threats, and officer safety.

RISS is proud to work with NAGIA and the NNOAC on a variety of areas. In addition to being members and participants in both organizations, RISS provides expertise in the areas of information sharing, investigative support, and deconfliction services. RISS's services and resources directly support both gang and narcotics-related investigations and law enforcement operations. For example, through the RISS National Gang Program (RISSGang), authorized users can gain access to the RISS National Gang Intelligence Database, the RISSGang Website, and other informational resources. The database provides access to gang records, including targets, organizations, weapons, locations, and vehicles, as well as visual imagery of gang members, gang symbols, and gang graffiti. The RISSGang Website provides a vast amount of resources and information. Gang-specific news, documents, and publications are organized into topical areas such as motorcycle gangs, drug gangs, street gangs, prison gangs, tattoos, hand signs, colors, and graffiti.

In support of narcotics investigations, RISS has developed training opportunities, such as Clandestine Drug Lab and Synthetic Drug Awareness, a Prescription Drug Abuse Summit, and Basic Drug Recognition for Police, Fire, and EMS. RISS's law enforcement-sensitive briefings and publications, such as *The Heroin Resurgence: A Painkiller Epidemic*; *Bath Salts: Deadly New Designer Drug*; and *Marijuana Legalization: Law Enforcement's Response*, also aid investigators in their efforts. In addition to a host of other services, the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe), the RISS Property and Recovery Tracking System (RISSProp), the RISS Drug Pricing Reference Guide, and other resources—accessible via the RISS Secure Cloud (RISSNET)—are available to support your efforts.

I encourage you to learn more about the resources available to you by visiting the following sites: www.riss.net, www.riss.net/rissgang, www.nagia.org, and www.natlnarc.org.

Stay safe.