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CDCR Parole Agents Arrest More Than 69 Parolees with Gang Affiliations in Los Angeles

Operation Guardian results in the rescue of three children in addition to weapons, drugs and illegal profits confiscated; Anti-gang Parent Empowerment Guide launched online

EL MONTE – Agents from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and their local law enforcement partners have just concluded Operation Guardian, one of the largest and most comprehensive sweeps in recent years focusing on parolees who have known ties to criminal gangs.

So far, Operation Guardian has resulted in the arrests of more than 69 parolees in Los Angeles County with known gang ties. One compliance check prompted an investigation after a naked parolee was found in bed with three children. There were 59 instances of guns, a shotgun, semi-automatic handguns and ammunition seized. More than 35 knives, four swords and a machete were also confiscated. CDCR agents and their law enforcement partners also confiscated 20 fully grown marijuana plants, 156 grams of marijuana, 30 grams of cocaine, a possible meth lab, drug paraphernalia and hundreds of dollars of suspected illegal drug money. Sixty out of 340 compliance checks are still being tabulated.

“This morning, while many of the potential suspects were still asleep, more than 400 CDCR agents and local law enforcement partners fanned out across Los Angeles County and searched the homes of parolees who are affiliated with criminal street gangs,” CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate said. “The number of parolees who were arrested and the number of guns, ammunition and drugs taken off the streets show how important these proactive searches in cooperation with our local law enforcement partners are to public safety.”

Agents from CDCR’s Division of Adult Parole Operations (DAPO) and Office of Correctional Safety were joined by law enforcement officers from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, the Los Angeles Police Department, the Department of Children and Family Services, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the U.S.

Marshals Service.

“This joint operation demonstrates to the citizens of Los Angeles County our commitment to making the streets of our neighborhoods a safer place to live,” Los Angeles County Sherriff Lee Baca said. “Our combined success is a result of excellent communication and cooperation between the CDCR, LAPD and everyone involved with this operation. The people who were targeted today were put on notice that their criminal activities are not going to be tolerated.”

CDCR also launched the Operation Guardian Parental Empowerment Guide on its website that provides parenting tips, and help with problems that contribute to gang involvement.

“The true frontline against gang violence is the parents at home,” said DAPO Director Robert Ambroselli. “Our new web pages offer parents straight talk about gangs, links to emotional discussions with family members of innocent victims of gang-warfare, as well as parents of deceased gang-members. They also offer hope with parenting tips and by drawing attention to local resources that can help teens who are beginning to get involved in gang activity.”

The online anti-gang tips for parents can be found online at:
<http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/OperationGuardian>

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