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STG in Incarceration Facilities

Security Threat Group denoted as STG, is just an ornamental label for a prison gang. Just like the outside world, gangs do exist in incarceration facilities. These STGs exist as extensions of pre-existing gangs outside the prison walls, or they exist as gangs that were established during confinement (Burriss & Miller, 2017). Nonetheless, STGs pose a threat to the security and safety of the prison staff and other inmates. In addition to that, just like street gangs, STGs have ways and means of identifying their memberships. For instance, just like in the outside world, these gangs have tattoos in prison, use hand signals and gestures, or even manipulate their prison wear to identify an affiliation to a certain Security Threat group.

Moreover, incarcerated individuals never have the intention of joining such groups. However, there are certain benefits they enjoy by being affiliated with such gangs while in prison. The most outstanding reason is that they enjoy protection against rival prison gangs (Crank & Marcum, 2016). Overcrowding coupled with violent conditions forces prisoners to join gangs out of self-defense, knowing that someone has their back. Others join gangs because they want to be respected while in prison. Some of the prison gangs have connections with the outside world, and affiliation to them in prison ensures that prisoners maintain communication with their families. In some cases, prisoners continue running their businesses even while incarcerated by being members of prison gangs.

In short, a good strategy that correctional facilities can use to monitor and control STGs within correctional facilities involves the creation of the position of security threat coordinator. This is a prison officer or a team responsible for collecting and monitoring STGs, gathering data, and are part of the gang substantiation and documentation. This is an individual or a team that carefully studies prison gang members' movements and actions collect data regarding their

activities and make recommendations to ensure the prison setup is safe for all the entities concerned.

References

- Burris, S. W., & Miller, J. M. (2017). Security Threat Groups (White). *The Encyclopedia of Corrections*, 1-3.
- Crank, B. R., & Marcum, C. D. (2016). Prison Gangs and Security Threat Groups. *Issues in Corrections: Research, Policy, and Future Prospects*, 97.

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