



FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT – 2018



**SPECIAL ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY
ALEX KLEMPER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
DISTRICT OF IDAHO**

October 2018 – December 2018



OVERVIEW

This quarterly report provides detailed information regarding the caseload for the Treasure Valley Gang Special Assistant United States Attorney (“SAUSA”). The report discloses defendants indicted and sentenced, the dates of indictment and sentencing, the county of origin for each case, and the status of any filed case which has not yet resulted in a sentence. Attached to this report is a spreadsheet that details this information and includes the city of origin for each case.

The information contained in this report and the attached spreadsheet disclose only public information about cases filed. Pending investigations and cases scheduled for Grand Jury are not listed. Additionally, while a majority of the defendants listed are either gang members or associates, it should not be assumed that each and every individual named in this report is in fact a documented gang member.

GANG SAUSA FOCUS

The Gang SAUSA program emphasizes the federal prosecution of violent and dangerous offenders throughout the Treasure Valley. Typically, such individuals are documented gang members or associates of gang members. The two primary types of cases prosecuted by the Gang SAUSA are firearms cases and drug trafficking cases. With respect to firearms, the Gang SAUSA prosecutes offenses ranging from the unlawful possession of firearms by convicted felons to violations

under the National Firearms Act (i.e., unlawful possession a sawed-off shotgun). Drug trafficking cases typically involve the controlled purchase of drugs by the Treasure Valley Metro Violent Crimes Task Force using confidential informants. The Gang SAUSA also prosecutes drug trafficking cases where defendants are caught with drugs and the circumstances demonstrate an intent to distribute those drugs into the community. Through these efforts, a large number of guns and drugs are removed from the community and dangerous offenders are removed from our streets.

TOTAL SAUSA PROGRAM INDICTMENTS AND CONVICTIONS

Since February of 2007, **422** defendants have been indicted in federal court as part of the Gang SAUSA program. Of those indicted, **370** have been convicted and sentenced, **5** have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing, **21** are pending initial appearance, arrest, or trial, and **19** have resulted in dismissals or acquittals. The conviction rate for defendants indicted by the Gang SAUSA is **95%**. The **370** convictions obtained thus far have resulted in a total prison time of **19,756 months (approximately 1,646 years)**, representing an average prison sentence of **53.4 months (4.45 years)**. Most defendants are also sentenced to at least 3 years of supervised release upon completion of their prison term. **53** defendants are subject to deportation upon completion of their sentence.

CASES BY COUNTY

The Gang SAUSA program has resulted in **422** defendants indicted in federal court since February of 2007. These cases are distributed within the District of Idaho by county in the following table. The county designation is usually determined according to where the criminal conduct charged primarily occurred. The county designation for **11 of the 422** defendants, however, has been determined according to where the defendant resided when arrested. This is because those 11 defendants were part of a large racketeering case, where the defendants' criminal conduct spanned more than one county.

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>INDICTMENTS</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
ADA	123	29%
BLAINE	8	2%
BOISE	2	<1%
CANYON	232	55%
ELMORE	3	<1%
GEM	3	<1%
GOODING	2	<1%
IDAHO	2	<1%
JEROME	3	<1%
MALHEUR, OR	2	<1%
OWYHEE	13	3%
PAYETTE	5	1%
TWIN FALLS	18	4%
UMATILLA, OR	3	<1%
VALLEY	1	<1%
WASHINGTON	2	<1%

TOTAL: 422

QUARTERLY STATISTICS AND NOTABLE CASES

During the fourth quarter of 2018, the Gang SAUSA indicted 6 individuals. These defendants have not yet appeared in court on their federal charges. Below are some examples of recent guilty pleas or sentences obtained by the prior SAUSA, Frank Zebari.

- **Danny VanZandt**: The Metro Task Force used a confidential informant to purchase methamphetamine from VanZandt on two separate occasions. Upon VanZandt's arrest, officers located seventy grams of methamphetamine and a loaded handgun in his truck. VanZandt has a lengthy criminal history that dates back twenty years and includes two prior controlled substance offenses and numerous parole violations. VanZandt was sentenced to 300 months in prison followed by 10 years of supervised release.
- **John Redfern**: Using a confidential informant, the Metro Task Force purchased an ounce of methamphetamine from Redfern. This investigation also aided in the seizure of an additional two pounds of methamphetamine from a separate defendant. Redfern was charged with and pled guilty to Distribution of Methamphetamine. He was sentenced to 60 months in prison followed by 4 of supervised release.

Any questions regarding this report, the cases listed herein, or the Gang SAUSA program, can be directed to Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alex Klempel at (208) 334-1213 or via e-mail at Alexis.Klempel@usdoj.gov.