



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SCDC Sponsors Statewide STG/Gang Conference

(Columbia, S.C.) – The Special Investigative Unit of the South Carolina Department of Corrections will hold a Security Threat Group (STG)/Gang Conference, August 12-13, in the Harbison Theatre on the Harbison campus of Midlands Technical College in Irmo, S.C. The conference will highlight the effectiveness of identifying and documenting violent street gangs and Prison Security Threat Groups that deal in criminal activity and narcotics, as well as, trafficking contraband in prisons.

The U.S. Justice Department has reported that over 30% of the nation's cities, towns and rural areas experienced gang related problems as far back as 2008. Estimates are that nearly 28,000 gangs with over 700,000 members are affecting communities all over the country. It has also been shown that incarceration of gang members often does little to disrupt their activities as high-ranking gang members as they may exert their power from the street to prison. Officials insist that more collaborative efforts from all areas of law enforcement, corrections and the legal system are necessary to control the impact of gangs and other STG groups.

Nearly 400 law enforcement, correctional and legal representatives from all across South Carolina are expected to attend. The conference is free to those participating thanks to a grant obtained by the Department of Corrections. SCDC Director William R. Byars, Jr., SCDC Inspector General Jerry Adger, and Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott will be hand to provide opening remarks.

The Department of Corrections' Special Investigative Unit, the State Law Enforcement Division, the Greenville Sheriff's Department, the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy and the Lexington Police Department will be among those presenting during the two day session.

For more information, contact Clark Newsom at 803-896-8578