

T O R R A N C E



Press Release

Police Department

“Operation Senior Frog”

The operation dubbed “Senior Frog” was co-led by the Torrance Police Department Gang Detail, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations-Long Beach gang group, and the Los Angeles Police Department. In 2009, they formed a task force, which launched an investigation into the Torrance-based La Rana criminal street gang and its direct ties to the Mexican Mafia. La Rana was operating in the cities of Torrance, Wilmington and San Pedro, within County of Los Angeles. This effort was a spin-off from the 2008 Torrance Police Department investigation, dubbed “Operation Accountability.”

Analysis and post investigation research from “Operation Accountability” prompted the Task Force to initiate this second phase of the investigation to coincide with the release of La Rana and Mexican Mafia member, Senon Grajeda from federal prison.

“Operation Senior Frog” was conducted in coordination with the ATF/HSI/LAPD investigation, dubbed “Operation Pirate Town,” which culminated earlier in 2011. During the course of these investigations it was determined that Senon Grajeda’s trafficking ring was the source of supply for cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and prescription pills (Oxycontin) to numerous subjects arrested during “Operation Pirate Town.” In addition, Grajeda’s Mexican Mafia rank and his being out of incarceration, allowed him to directly oversee the Mexican Mafia’s efforts in the Harbor Area.

Task Force Investigators revealed that the Grajeda Brothers from La Rana (Daniel, Senon and Tomas) have over the years had influence over gang related operations both in the California and federal prison systems, but more importantly in the Southern California neighborhoods that the Mexican Mafia control.

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“Operation Senior Frog” revealed that La Rana and Mexican Mafia member Senon Grajeda oversaw a narcotics trafficking ring that reached the areas of Mexico, California, Colorado, Georgia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania. The trafficking ring utilized postal shipping companies to distribute narcotics across the country. During the course of this investigation, investigators were able to implicate Grajeda for his involvement in a gang-related murder that took place in Wilmington in December of 2010. Grajeda, along with his nephew Daniel Grajeda, and Raul Benitez were arrested for the shooting death of Johnny Carbajal. All three were arrested within a month of the murder and are currently awaiting trial.

On the morning of December 8th, approximately 50 Task Force Investigators conducted coordinated searches at 28 locations throughout Los Angeles County and California. Through the course of this investigation, the Task Force arrested 55 individuals and seized five pounds of cocaine, one and a half pounds of methamphetamine, 40 pounds of marijuana, 1,200 Oxycontin tablets, 15 firearms, and approximately \$65,000.

This investigation was considered a success due in part to the cooperation of the Task Force and its partners at the California Department of Corrections, FBI, Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles District Attorneys Office-Major Narcotics Unit, Los Angeles Office of the United States Attorney’s Office, Los Angeles City Attorney’s, LA Impact, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department-OSJ, the United States Probation Office and the Barnstable Police Department in Massachusetts.

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