

D. Victor Reynolds, new head of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) under Governor Kemp, gave a summary of the major activities for the thousand agents in Georgia today. Before his appointment in February this year, Reynolds had a long career first as a policeman, then a judge in Cobb county, two terms as the elected District Attorney in Cobb County.

He stressed that Georgia is very diverse, with three distinct environments: the mega urban area of Metro Atlanta, to much smaller but still urban cities like Savannah, Columbus, Macon and Augusta, and finally a huge rural population in the state that is the largest in area east of the Mississippi River.

Next he covered the various specialties of the GBI – they base agents in 15 regional offices covering the 159 Counties in Georgia. Another feature is the SIAC focusing on aggression against children, where a recent bust corralled 32 child abusers. This was accomplished by observing individuals courting young teenagers to likely commit sex crimes. They meticulously tracked them and suggesting a locale where the victim was supposed to meet them, but the targeted probable perpetrators were confronted by awaiting agents instead.

Another sector is a unit specializing in drug monitoring and maintaining of crime labs.

## Street Gangs

This is an emerging major problem, with an estimated 70,000 members statewide at large. One of the gangs is called “Ghost Face” an all-white gang luring young students to join, with violent crime as a major activity. Another is an offshoot of the national CRIPS gang, of /CRI? PS vs.BLOODs gangs..

## Human Trafficking

This is another expanding threat, with victims as young as 13 being targeted. When suspicious persons are stopped for other reasons, such as speeding, the drivers lie about who is with them, claiming sometimes the person in the back seat is their fiancée. When separately questioned, the young female, often without shoes, will admit the relationship is not legitimate, sometimes admitting the male is their “owner”.

When monitoring suspicious activity at hotels or motels in the area, numerous male “customers? Are seen entering and exiting a hotel or motel room after not much time inside. When confronting the motel managers, they merely say it’s not their business to monitor what goes on inside a rented room. When DA’s have threatened lawsuits, the managers often then cooperate to apprehend the human traffickers.

Another way to attack this overall problem is to start charging the customers with fines and publishing their names. (Editor’s note: Major Giuliani of New York started doing this first by impounding the “john’s” cars in Manhattan and then releasing their names to the communities in the suburbs where they lived.)

## Q&A Session

The major focus was on the possible causes and preventive measures for young people to join gangs. Can school officials alert police authorities of boys seeming to be overly ripe to join gangs. This can be as early as fourth grade, where parental discipline is virtually nil.

This is not a GBI issue at the outset, but some monitoring should be done locally. At a number of schools, there are officials assigned to be observant, and counseling should begin on those identified vulnerable young students.

