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28 accused of gang violence in federal indictment

Local Bloods responsible for drug dealing, killings, prosecutors say

By Matthew Dolan

Sun reporter

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Federal prosecutors in Baltimore announced today an indictment against 28 people accused of being part of a violent gang responsible for drug dealing, robberies, assaults, witness intimidation and at least five murders.

The 49-page indictment reads like a primer on Baltimore gang life, starting with a lengthy glossary of terms used on the city's streets and inside its prisons where the gang's criminal life flourished from 2005 until this year.

Maryland U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein scheduled a news conference with local and state authorities to discuss the indictment in detail.

Among those charged in the racketeering conspiracy is Kevin Gary, who told *The Sun* last year that he was a member of the Bloods. He was accused of killing a young man who wanted to leave the gang, but was acquitted of the charge in state court. He admitted in the newspaper interview that he has stabbed people in jail and that there are violent people in his Bloods group.

According to the federal indictment made public today, the gang members charged are linked directly to the Bloods street gang, which started in Los Angeles in the early 1970s. Specifically, the Baltimore gang is based on a subset known as Tree Top Piru, based on a group of streets in the Los Angeles neighborhood of Compton.

Now called TTP, they first became known as Trey 8, and later Insane Red Devils inside a Maryland prison. They started here in Washington County Detention Center in Hagerstown, in or about 1999, according to federal prosecutors.

At the top of the gang, authorities said, was Steve Willock. He enforced the rules, including a violent initiation process in which prospective members went on "missions" to rob, assault and carjack victims, the indictment says.

In an earlier interview, Gary argued that gangs are being unfairly portrayed. He thinks they provide needed structure for the youth and uplift the community.

Also listed in the indictment is Ronnie Thomas, also known as "Skinny Suge," one of the producers of the "Stop Snitching" videos. According to prosecutors, Thomas called Gary in February to discuss retaliation against a storeowner who refused to sell the "Stop Snitching 2" DVD.