



The Regional Gang Enforcement Unit, recipients of the Exemplary Public Safety Effort by a Group Award, with Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr

Exemplary Public Safety Effort by a Group Award The Regional Area Gang Enforcement Unit (RAGE)

Nominated by Lt Bill Lynn and Carmen Camacho.

Lieutenant Bill Lynn wrote:

The Regional Area Gang Enforcement Unit has been instrumental in the prosecution, prevention and reduction of gang related violence, which depletes the cultural and economic resources of our community and erodes the basic quality of life for many. This unit has quickly developed an intimate knowledge of the rapidly increasing gang activity, membership and culture in The State of Maryland and the surrounding region. The R.A.G.E. Unit works closely with other regional agencies, both law enforcement and non-law enforcement, as well as agencies throughout the United States and other Countries. Due to their diligent work intimate knowledge of the violent gang culture, this unit has been able to a great deal to date. A majority of these issues are gang related and, by and large, involve the Latino community both as victims and as perpetrators. Consequently, this unit's efforts have helped improve the quality of life for many Latinos and their families. The Unit efforts have resulted in vital information in the murder investigation of a police officer in Honduras and two police officers in El Salvador.

In addition to their Law Enforcement activities, this unit also works with Latino youths who are at risk or on the fringe of joining a gang and Latino youth who are

in a gang and want to get out. R.A.G.E. unit also assists Latino parents, with children in a gang or on the fringe and in danger of joining a gang, with directing their children away from the gang culture.

Carmen Camacho wrote:

This unit has been able to bridge a gap between law enforcement, social service agencies and the community at large. This has been accomplished because of their truly heartfelt dedication to improving the quality of life for our Latino citizens and the community at large.

In the nine (9) months of its existence the RAGE UNIT has spent an incredible amount of off duty hours in doing outreach into the Latino community. They have done this by spending off duty hours as translators/interpreters and mentors for both Latino parents and youth. They have slowly become an integral part of our community.