

MAGNET S2

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

DTG: 260821-1800Z | Geographic Focus: Salt Lake Valley, UT
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REPORT IDENTIFICATION

Subject	Tongan Crip Gang (TCG) – Utah Chapter(s): Background, Territory, Activity Patterns, and Threat Assessment
Purpose	Provide intelligence assessment of TCG structure, current activity, and threat posture to Wasatch Front law enforcement partners
DTG	260821-1800Z
Reporting Period	07 January 2026 – 21 August 2026
Geographic Focus	Salt Lake Valley, UT (Glendale, Rose Park, Poplar Grove, West Valley City, Kearns, Millcreek)
Precedence	RR
MagCon Status	3 – ELEVATED (WORSENING)
Sources	Multiple source reporting from Local, National, and International platforms. See source list.

SUMMARY (BLUF)

The Tongan Crip Gang (TCG) is a Crips-affiliated, Pacific Islander street gang that migrated from Inglewood, California, to Salt Lake City's Glendale neighborhood in the late 1980s and has operated continuously in the Salt Lake Valley for over 35 years. TCG is estimated at several hundred to 800+ members/associates statewide, organized loosely by age-based "generations" and family-based subsets ("Loc," "Dog," "Down"). The gang has a sustained history of racketeering-predicated violence (RICO prosecutions in 2010–2011), robbery, firearms offenses, and confirmed involvement in a January 7, 2026 shooting at an LDS meetinghouse in Salt Lake City that killed two people, including a former TCG member who had publicly renounced gang life. A second fatal shooting outside an LDS meetinghouse funeral occurred in Kearns, UT on August 17, 2026; a possible gang nexus is under investigation but has not been confirmed as TCG-linked as of this DTG. TCG remains an active violent-crime and firearms-trafficking concern for Wasatch Front law enforcement, and the recurrence of lethal violence at community funeral gatherings within a single reporting year represents a worsening trend.

BACKGROUND

- **Origin:** Founded in Inglewood, California, as a Crips-affiliated "set." Members relocated to Salt Lake City beginning in late 1988, reportedly to escape intensifying law-enforcement pressure and gang violence in the Los Angeles area.
- **Local establishment:** The gang took root in the Glendale neighborhood of Salt Lake City, an area with a historically large Tongan and broader Pacific Islander population. Growth accelerated through the 1990s and early 2000s alongside Utah's expanding Pacific Islander community.
- **Internal structure:** The Glendale chapter organizes members into "generations" (roughly corresponding to high-school-age cohorts) and further into family-style subgroups signified by monikers such as "Loc," "Dog," and "Down." Initiation is via being "jumped in" (a physical initiation fight) or "blessed in" (waived initiation based on family ties or existing criminal reputation).
- **Demographics/community overlap:** Membership draws heavily from Tongan and Samoan American youth; researchers and community members have noted overlap between TCG-affiliated families and local LDS (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) Tongan/Polynesian congregations, reflecting the broader Pacific Islander community's demographics in Utah rather than any institutional gang connection.
- **National/international footprint:** Beyond Utah and California, TCG or affiliated sets have been identified in Alaska, Washington, and Auckland, New Zealand.
- **Prior federal enforcement action:** In May 2010, 17 TCG members/associates were charged in a 29-count federal RICO indictment (District of Utah) alleging robbery, assault, and firearms offenses committed to enhance gang prestige and territory. In 2011, six members were convicted at trial of violent crimes in aid of racketeering; three were convicted of RICO conspiracy.
- **Notable incident:** On April 21, 2014, TCG member Siale Angilau was fatally shot by a U.S. Marshal after charging a cooperating witness during his federal racketeering trial in Salt Lake City.

SITUATION (SOURCE REPORTING ONLY — NO ANALYSIS)

- Utah Department of Public Safety (2024 legislative briefing): estimated approximately 4,500 total gang members statewide (~12 per 10,000 residents); TCG identified as one of the most established sets.

- January 7, 2026: Salt Lake City Police Department received multiple “shots fired” calls in the parking lot of an LDS meetinghouse (Rose Park 5th Ward, 660 N. Redwood Road) during a funeral/memorial service. Eight people were shot; two were killed — Sione Vatuvei, 38, of the Glendale neighborhood, and Vaea Tulikihifo Jr., 46. Vatuvei was a former TCG member and reformed federal inmate (2009 robbery conviction) who had become a social-media content creator and poet publicly encouraging others away from gang life and addiction; he did not survive the shooting. Six additional victims were injured, three critically. Police stated the incident was not believed to be a targeted attack on a religion.
- January 14, 2026: SLCPD arrested Ryan Daniel Toutai, 32, on suspicion of felony obstruction of justice for allegedly hindering the homicide investigation; charging documents state Toutai had reported involvement with TCG and was dressed in gang colors/attire at the event, and was observed in videos displaying gang signs and handling firearms.
- February 25, 2026: A federal grand jury indicted Ryan Daniel Toutai (“Lost One”), 32, of Salt Lake City, and Fineeva Pomona Maka (“Finloc”), 26, of Millcreek, Utah — both alleged TCG members — on firearms charges connected to the January 7 shooting. Toutai was charged with unlawful disposition of a firearm; Maka, a convicted felon on parole and wearing a GPS ankle monitor, was charged with felon in possession of a firearm. Court documents allege both had been photographed/recorded with a Ruger LC9-type pistol used in the shooting, and that GPS monitor data corroborates Maka’s possession of the firearm at the scene. Indictment unsealed February 27, 2026.
- Salt Lake City Police Gang Unit (per 2025 Utah Gang Investigators Association recognition): reported 74 felony arrests, 8 investigations referred for federal charges, and 51 firearms seized over the prior year, with the unit credited for assisting in multiple homicide clearances through gang-network analysis.
- August 17, 2026 (NEW): A second fatal shooting occurred outside an LDS meetinghouse (Unified Police jurisdiction, Kearns, UT, ~5015 S 4620 W) during a funeral. Unified Police had been pre-notified of possible trouble and had officers on scene when gunfire erupted around 11:25 a.m. One victim, Vilisoni Angilau, 18, died of his injuries; two others (ages 17 and 18) were critically injured. The funeral reportedly honored Ofa’atangikivaha Angilau, 23, killed in an earlier, separate shooting at a Riverton gas station in August 2026. UPD arrested Afuhia Masiu Manatau, 45, the father of the 17-year-old suspect, on one count of murder and one count of felony discharge of a firearm for allegedly providing the firearm used. UPD describes the incident as stemming from a dispute between two families and is investigating a possible gang connection; TCG affiliation has NOT been confirmed by police or court documents as of this DTG. Nearby schools (Kearns Jr. High, West Kearns Elementary, Gourley Elementary) were briefly placed on secure protocol.
- Historical rival/ally reporting (open-source gang databases, cross-referenced with news reporting): TCG allies include Sons of Samoa and other Crips-affiliated Polynesian sets; historical rivals in the Salt Lake Valley include Kearns Town Bloods, Rose Park Bloods, West Side Pirus, and Tongan Crip Regulators (TCR) — the latter reflecting documented intra-community/Tongan-on-Tongan conflict noted in academic interviews with former members.
- Geographic concentration (per multiple news/court sources over time): Glendale, Rose Park, Poplar Grove, and West Valley City neighborhoods of the Salt Lake Valley; Millcreek identified in 2026 charging documents as a current residence area for an associate; Kearns identified as the site of the August 2026 incident.

COMMENTS / ASSESSMENT

TCG is a durable, multi-generational street gang with over three decades of continuous presence in the Salt Lake Valley; its “generational” recruitment structure suggests organic replenishment of membership through family and neighborhood networks rather than dependence on any single leadership figure, which has historically made the group resilient to disruption via arrest of individual members.

The 2010–2011 RICO prosecutions demonstrably reduced overt organized activity for a period but did not eliminate the network; continued firearms-related charges against alleged members in 2026 indicate the gang (or its informal successor networks) remains active and armed.

The January 2026 LDS meetinghouse shooting, confirmed as involving TCG-affiliated suspects, represents a notable escalation in willingness to conduct violence in public/community spaces rather than gang-insular settings. The death of Sione Vatuvei — a former member who had publicly distanced himself from the gang — is assessed as likely complicating the narrative that leaving the gang lifestyle mitigates risk, which may affect community outreach/exit-program messaging.

The August 17, 2026 Kearns shooting, while not yet confirmed as TCG-linked, occurred under closely analogous circumstances (an LDS meetinghouse funeral, firearms, youth involvement, family/gang-adjacent dispute) to the January incident. Assessed as likely but not confirmed to reflect the same broader pattern of firearms proliferation and unresolved interpersonal/gang disputes being settled at public community gatherings within the Pacific Islander community, rather than a coordinated TCG operation. This assessment should be revisited as the Kearns investigation matures.

Law enforcement sourcing (Fox13/Chad Soffe interview) characterizes TCG and similar Utah gangs as “decentralized” and “adaptive,” which is consistent with investigative difficulty in the January case and suggests fragmentation into smaller, harder-to-map subsets (e.g., TCR) rather than a single unified hierarchy.

Community-based sourcing (academic interviews, HCN reporting) indicates that gang identity is intertwined with legitimate community institutions (church, family, sports), which is a mitigating factor for outreach-based intervention but a complicating factor for pure suppression-based enforcement, since aggressive tactics risk community backlash and reduced cooperation.

Positively, the Kearns incident demonstrates that community members are willing to proactively flag anticipated “problems” to police ahead of funeral gatherings, and that this tip enabled a faster police response (officers present before shots were fired). This is assessed as a favorable indicator for continued community-liaison and tip-line outreach.

Probability Assessment

ASSESSMENT	PROBABILITY
TCG or successor/fragmented networks (e.g., TCR) retain access to illegal firearms and will continue firearms-related charges through 2026	Almost Certain
Additional violence connected to the January 7 shooting investigation (witness intimidation, retaliation) will occur before trial	Likely
The August 17 Kearns shooting will be formally linked to TCG or a TCG-affiliated subset upon completion of the UPD investigation	Even Chance
Community cooperation with investigators will remain limited due to overlapping family/congregational ties	Likely
A third gang-linked shooting will occur at a Pacific Islander community/religious gathering in the Salt Lake Valley within the next 6 months absent intervention	Unlikely–Even Chance

Intelligence Gaps

- Confirmed motive and full suspect list for the January 7, 2026 shooting beyond Toutai and Maka (firearms charges only; no homicide charges filed as of this DTG).
- Formal confirmation or refutation of TCG/gang affiliation for parties involved in the August 17, 2026 Kearns shooting.
- Current, verified TCG membership figures (2024 DPS estimate is statewide/all-gang, not TCG-specific; no recent TCG-specific census located in open sources).
- Extent of overlap/rivalry dynamics between TCG proper and the Tongan Crip Regulators (TCR) subset, and whether TCR activity independently drove either 2026 incident.

MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain and resource dedicated gang-unit intelligence sharing between SLCPD, Unified Police, West Valley City PD, and federal partners (FBI, ATF, USAO-Utah) given the cross-jurisdictional footprint (Salt Lake City, Millcreek, West Valley City, Kearns).
- Prioritize firearms-trafficking interdiction given the recurring theme of felon-in-possession and firearm-disposition/transfer charges in the most recent case activity, including the alleged transfer of a firearm to a minor in the Kearns incident.
- Continue and expand community-partnership/prevention programming (church, sports leagues, family services) identified in open-source reporting as both a recruitment vector and a potential off-ramp, in coordination with credible messengers from within the Pacific Islander community.
- Support witness-protection and victim-cooperation resources specific to cases with overlapping gang and extended-family/congregational relationships, given documented reluctance to cooperate rooted in community ties.
- Track intra-gang fragmentation (e.g., TCR vs. TCG proper) as a distinct analytic category, since evolving subset rivalries may drive violence independent of traditional TCG-vs-Bloods dynamics.
- Flag any public-venue or place-of-worship threat indicators for enhanced security review given the January and August 2026 precedents of gang-linked or gang-adjacent violence at religious/funeral gatherings.
- Formalize and publicize a low-friction pre-event tip channel for congregations/families to request a visible police presence ahead of funerals or memorials where trouble is anticipated — the August 2026 Kearns response (officers pre-staged following a community tip) is assessed as a replicable best practice that reduced time-to-response.

MAGNET GUIDANCE

- This report is for situational awareness and pattern-of-life tracking; it does not constitute probable cause documentation for any individual and should be corroborated with agency records management system (RMS) entries before operational use.
- Operators supporting congregational or community-event security in the Salt Lake Valley should treat funeral/memorial gatherings tied to Pacific Islander community networks as elevated-attention events pending resolution of the Kearns investigation; encourage event organizers to pre-notify local law enforcement of any anticipated disputes (PACE Tier 1/primary channel: direct non-emergency line to jurisdictional agency; Tier 2/alternate: 911 for active threats).
- Distribution: [Insert per agency dissemination policy / need-to-know].
- POC: [Insert analyst name, unit, phone, email].

- Review/Update Cycle: Recommend 30-day refresh given two active, unresolved case developments (Toutai/Maka prosecution pending; Kearns investigation ongoing).

SOURCE LIST

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- [2] [A1] **FBI Salt Lake City** — official press release, 2011 RICO trial verdicts. <https://www.fbi.gov/saltlakecity/press-releases/2011/jury-convicts-six-tongan-crip-gang-members-of-violent-crimes-three-convicted-of-rico-conspiracy>
- [3] [A1] **United States v. Kamahele, 10th Cir. (2014)** — appellate case law summarizing TCG structure and RICO prosecution. <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-10th-circuit/1663149.html>
- [4] [B2] **KSL.com** — “17 affiliated with Tongan Crip Gang indicted” (2010 RICO indictment). <https://www.ksl.com/article/10751066/17-affiliated-with-tongan-crip-gang-indicted>
- [5] [B2] **KSL.com** — “Court shooting sheds light on ‘Tongan Crips’” (2014 Angilau courtroom shooting). <https://www.ksl.com/article/29602365/court-shooting-sheds-light-on-tongan-crips>
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- [7] [B2] **ABC4 Utah** — “Two alleged gang members federally indicted” (Feb. 2026). <https://www.abc4.com/slc-shooting-lds-church/two-alleged-gang-members-federally-indicted-slc-shooting/>
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- [9] [B2] **Fox13 Now** — “How gangs hinder investigations — like into the shooting at an LDS chapel” (source of confirmed Vatuvei background as former TCG member/anti-gang influencer). <https://www.fox13now.com/news/fox-13-investigates/how-gangs-hinder-investigations-like-into-the-shooting-at-an-lds-chapel>
- [10] [B2] **Fox13 Now** — “Church shooting victim hoped to chart path away from gang life and addiction” (Jan. 10, 2026; confirms Vatuvei killed, not injured). <https://www.fox13now.com/news/local-news/salt-lake-city/church-shooting-victim-hoped-to-chart-path-away-from-gang-life-and-addiction>
- [11] [B2] **Deseret News** — “Jury indicts 2 gang members in connection with double killing at Salt Lake church” (Feb. 28, 2026). <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2026/02/28/jury-indicts-2-gang-members-in-connection-with-double-killing-at-salt-lake-church/>
- [12] [B2] **Deseret News** — victim identification and community reaction, Glendale neighborhood confirmation. <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2026/01/08/victims-of-slc-church-building-shooting-tongan-community-speaks-out/>
- [13] [B2] **Salt Lake Tribune** — “Salt Lake City LDS church shooting: Man charged with obstruction appears in court.” <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2026/01/23/salt-lake-city-lds-church-shooting/>
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- [18] [C3] **High Country News** — “The Gangs of Zion” (community/cultural context). <https://www.hcn.org/issues/issue-303/the-gangs-of-zion/>
- [19] [B2] **ScholarsArchive / Univ. of Alberta (Al-Jazira Review of Islands)** — “Tongan Crip Gang: A Tongan American Identity” (academic). <https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/ari/index.php/ari/en/article/download/29756/22106/84422>
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- [21] [B2] **Yahoo/local news** — SLCPD Gang Unit of the Year 2025 (arrest/seizure statistics). <https://www.yahoo.com/news/salt-lake-city-gang-detectives-155823022.html>
- [22] [B2] **ABC4 Utah** — “1 dead, 2 injured” Kearns funeral shooting reporting, Aug. 17, 2026 (NEW). <https://www.abc4.com/news/crime/unified-police-kearns-church/>

[23] [B2] ABC4 Utah — “Victim of Kearns funeral shooting identified, 17-year-old suspect in critical condition” (NEW; identifies Vilisoni Angilau, 18, as deceased victim). <https://www.abc4.com/news/crime/kearns-funeral-shooting-update/>

[24] [B2] ABC4 Utah — “Father arrested after allegedly providing gun to teen during Kearns church shooting” (NEW; Afuhia Masiu Manatau, 45, arrested). <https://www.abc4.com/news/man-arrested-kearns-lds-funeral/>

[25] [B2] Fox13 Now — “Police investigate possible gang connection in deadly shooting outside church funeral in Kearns” (NEW). <https://www.fox13now.com/news/crime/police-investigate-possible-gang-connection-in-deadly-shooting-outside-church-funeral-in-kearns>

[26] [B2] Deseret News — “1 dead, 2 critically injured in Kearns funeral shooting at a church” (NEW). <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2026/08/17/1-dead-2-critically-injured-in-kearns-funeral-shooting/>

[27] [B2] Salt Lake Tribune — Kearns funeral shooting update, Aug. 18, 2026 (NEW). <https://www.sltrib.com/news/2026/08/18/kearns-funeral-shooting-update/>

[28] [C3] Kaniva Tonga News — “Another fatal shooting outside Utah LDS church follows January deaths of two Tongans” (NEW; regional Tongan-diaspora outlet, corroborated against mainstream sources above). <https://kanivatonga.co.nz/2026/08/another-fatal-shooting-outside-utah-lds-church-follows-january-deaths-of-two-tongans/>

Open-source “gang wiki” aggregator sites (e.g., unitedgangs.com, Grokipedia) and independent commentary/opinion blogs discussing this case were consulted for supplementary detail (membership estimates, rival/ally lists, flyer/iconography interpretation) but are user-editable, AI-aggregated, or unverified opinion content, and are rated [C4] or lower — low-confidence/unverified pending corroboration against agency records or the primary news/court/government sources above.

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