Public Safety Committee Needs Assessment

Project Timeline
Public Safety Committee Needs Assessment

Current Status

Completed:
Project Plan and Timeline.
22 Executive Interviews.
Preliminary Results Reviewed by Staff and Chiefs’/Sheriff’s Committee.

In Progress:
Additional interviews to broaden public safety focus (Fire, EMS).
Briefing for SANDAG Board Retreat.
Final report and recommendations for FY2006 Work Program.
Public Safety Committee Needs Assessment

Initial Observations

Governance

- Satisfaction with governance/regional organizations is high.
- Examples cited as success stories are: JTTF (Joint Terrorism Task Force), RCS (Regional Communications System), and ARJIS.
- Strong participation from State and Federal agencies (agencies are sometimes limited in regional flexibility).
- Universal recognition of benefits of regional cooperation.
- Identify opportunities for consolidation of services where appropriate for economy of scale and improved service levels (e.g. regional dispatch centers, air support, K9, prisoner transport).
Initial Observations

General Concerns

Most commonly cited issues/concerns are in order of frequency mentioned:

1. Budget pressures
2. Increasing costs of public safety
3. Technology changes
4. Improving electronic information sharing
5. Communications interoperability
6. Retirement/turnover
Initial Observations
Perceived Barriers

Most commonly cited barriers to accomplishing further collaboration and/or consolidation are in order of frequency mentioned:

1. Funding
2. Ego
3. Territoriality
4. Difficulty freeing up resources
5. Union/Employee objections
Public Safety Committee Needs Assessment

Initial Observations

Recommended Focus Areas for the PSC

• Identify and obtain funding sources for public safety initiatives (regional academy, regional lab, and interoperable communications systems).

• Negotiate public/private partnerships to provide state of the art technologies for the region.

• Engage elected officials at the state and national level to solicit support for priority initiatives.

• Educate officials and the public on inter-disciplinary public safety needs and priorities (Fire, Police, and Emergency Services).
Initial Observations
Recommended Focus Areas for the PSC (cont.)

• Develop policies that enhance public safety (e.g. information sharing agreements and privacy policies).

• Support legislative initiatives.

• Define public safety standards for the region (communications standards for interoperability and emergency/event management).

• Ensure coordination of Homeland Security related grants.

• Highlight the San Diego region as a showcase for Homeland Security initiatives.
Ranking of Key priorities based on survey results

1. Communications & Interoperability
2. Regional Information Center
3. Technology Acquisition & Support
4. Training
Initial Observations
Communications & Interoperability

• High satisfaction levels with RCS among participating agencies.

• SDPD and RCS need to upgrade major infrastructure (100 – 150 million each).
  • SDPD – immediate need
  • RCS – 7-10 year horizon

• Support for consolidation of communications centers into regional nodes.

Potential areas for PSC to assist:

• Identify funding sources for communications infrastructure improvements.

• Work with state & federal agencies to identify long-term interoperability plans.

• Coordinate between PSC and other regional efforts, particularly SANDAG initiatives (e.g.; Regional Operations Centers, Traffic Information Systems, etc).
Initial Observations
Regional Information Center

• Create a Regional Information Center for information sharing
• Enhance proactive crime analysis capabilities. Provide the “big picture” view of regional trends, patterns, series, etc.
• Physical center is required for security access to federal data.
• Need more participation from local agencies.
• Improve awareness of cross-discipline information collection needs (e.g. police, fire, public works) to be aware of each other’s information needs.

Potential areas for PSC to assist:

• Assist in locating and securing site(s).
• Assist in identifying a stable funding source for ongoing operation.
Initial Observations
Technology Acquisition & Support

Need for better coordination of standards and interoperability:

• Need a clearinghouse for projects, procurement, best practices, and lessons learned.
• Evaluate and recommend “standardized” technologies.
• Keep current on Public Safety technology marketplace.
• Recommend/endorse specific “enabling technologies”.

Potential areas for PSC to assist:

• Create a regional Public Safety Strategic Plan.
• Assist in the creation of a clearinghouse function for evaluating, procuring, and supporting technology region wide.
Public Safety Committee Needs Assessment

Initial Observations

Training

- Strong support for regional training academy.
- Lack of “advanced officer training”. Need regional recertification (firearms, driving).
- Question if all services need to be centralized in a new Training Academy.
- Need for more multi-disciplinary training (e.g. Police, Fire, EMS).

Potential areas for PSC to assist:

- Assist in locating and securing site for new Training Academy.
- Investigate potential collaborations with Universities to promote research, training, and facilities for forensics and criminology.
Next Steps

• Complete Interviews
• Prepare briefing for SANDAG Board Retreat
• Prepare Final Report
• Determine Priorities for F2006
• Develop FY2006 Work Program to support PSC priorities