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GOOD STORY

The Indiana Department of Correction and the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center Partnership

SUMMARY

The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) and the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center (IIFC) partnered to facilitate information exchange and collaboration. The partnership has established the Law Enforcement Notification System (LENS), the Fugitive Apprehension Unit, and the Gang Intelligence Initiative.

BACKGROUND

The IDOC oversees the operations of 32 correctional facilities that house 27,000 inmates across Indiana's 10 parole districts. Recent increases in inmate radicalization, gang violence, and repeat offenders across the state prompted IDOC officials to reevaluate and prioritize their information requirements. IDOC officials wanted to be able to better recognize and respond to these threats by having access to federal, state, and local threat assessments, intelligence products, and information databases. Additionally, while the IDOC releases approximately 16,500 inmates each year, the department had no mechanism for notifying law enforcement officers in a particular jurisdiction of an imminent inmate release. The IDOC also lacked resources to investigate outstanding cases of inmates who violated their paroles or absconded from prison.

To address these needs, IDOC officials reviewed the National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan for guidance on how to expand the department's information sharing programs and activities. IDOC officials decided to approach the IIFC as a partner in these efforts. The two entities launched an official partnership in late 2007.

GOALS

The IDOC-IIFC partnership increases information sharing activities between the two organizations as well as with state and local law enforcement agencies in Indiana. The partnership enables the IDOC to leverage the technical and analytical capabilities of the IIFC and its law enforcement contacts across the state to improve fugitive apprehension efforts and gang activity investigations and to develop a mechanism for alerting law enforcement personnel of upcoming inmate releases.

DESCRIPTION

In early 2007, the IDOC commissioner approached the IIFC executive director to initiate a formal partnership between the two agencies. As a result, the IDOC and IIFC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in April 2007. This agreement established the IDOC as a permanent member of the IIFC Executive Committee and created two full-time IDOC staff positions: the IDOC intelligence officer and the IIFC watch officer. The MOU also

outlined training requirements for the new positions and formalized the standard operating procedures for sharing information between the two partners.

IDOC Staff Positions

The IDOC created the intelligence officer and watch officer positions to ensure the timely exchange of information between the IIFC and IDOC. IDOC personnel fill both positions and receive training in intelligence analysis from the US Department of Homeland Security. The watch officer position is located within the IIFC, while the intelligence officer operates from IDOC headquarters. The watch officer's primary duties include:

The IIFC Executive Committee consists of 14 representatives from federal, state, and local law enforcement, corrections, and gaming agencies and divisions. The Executive Committee develops policy, provides administrative guidance, and oversees the daily operations of the IIFC.

- Supervising and assisting IIFC intelligence analysts;
- Filling law enforcement agency requests for Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles information;
- Monitoring the LENS system at the IIFC and verifying government email addresses for LENS applicants; and
- Providing law enforcement agencies with information on Indiana's offender population.

The intelligence officer's primary duties include:

- Reviewing and analyzing incident reports and security threat reports from Indiana correctional facilities;
- Maintaining information stored on the IDOC fugitive warrants database, and assisting Indiana law enforcement agencies with requests for information;
- Serving as an IDOC liaison to Indiana law enforcement agencies; and
- Conducting internal audits of Indiana correctional facilities to ensure compliance with IDOC information sharing and investigation policies and procedures.

The LENS

The IIFC and IDOC developed the LENS in November 2007 as a mechanism to notify Indiana law enforcement agencies of pending inmate releases. The LENS sends an email alert to law enforcement agencies in the jurisdiction where an inmate will reside after his or her release. The emails detail the individual's date of release, physical address, criminal history, and details of parole, if applicable. IIFC analysts compile the information in LENS alerts by querying the center's information systems. Law enforcement agencies that wish to receive further information on a particular individual can contact the IIFC directly. Feedback from law enforcement agencies participating in the LENS has been positive and has resulted in a steady increase in participation in the program.

Fugitive Apprehension Unit

The IDOC created the Fugitive Apprehension Unit in October 2007 as a way to track and locate inmates who have violated their parole or have absconded from prison. IDOC appointed a fugitive apprehension officer to work with IIFC personnel to investigate persons in question. IIFC analysts conduct searches of federal, state, and local law enforcement databases and utilize analytic software to pinpoint an individual's whereabouts.

The Fugitive Apprehension Unit successfully located Linda Darby, a convicted murderer who had escaped from the Indiana Women's Prison in Indianapolis in March 1972. IIFC analysts

combined information from multiple law enforcement databases across the country to determine that she had changed her social security number, birth date, and last name before relocating to Tennessee. IIFC analysts notified the Tennessee Fusion Center, which worked with local law enforcement personnel to apprehend her. Since the creation of the Fugitive Apprehension Unit, IDOC has apprehended over 1,800 of the department's 2,423 reported absconders.

Gang Intelligence Initiative

The Gang Intelligence Initiative is a partnership between the IIFC, IDOC, and the Lake County, Indiana, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). The initiative provides Indiana corrections and law enforcement personnel with a centralized, online mechanism for accessing and sharing gang-related information. The database supports corrections personnel in monitoring gang activity within the state prison system and provides Indiana law enforcement agencies with information regarding street gangs. IIFC maintains the gang intelligence database and works closely with the Lake County HIDTA and IDOC to coordinate the dissemination of gang information to corrections and law enforcement personnel. In 2007, the IIFC received a \$2.5 million federal grant to develop the initiative.

Lake County, Indiana, is located in the Northwestern region of the state and is part of the Chicago Metropolitan area. Lake is the second largest county in Indiana with a population of 493,800.



REQUIREMENTS

Keys to Success

Access to Multiple Databases

The continued success of the IIFC-IDOC partnership depends upon the ability of IDOC personnel to access information located within the fusion center's databases. This provides the IDOC with access to up-to-date gang and counterterrorism information as well as a link to law enforcement agencies across the state.

Member of Executive Committee

The IDOC became an official member of the IIFC Executive Committee in 2007, which allowed the IDOC to participate in directing IIFC initiatives and mission goals. IDOC's membership in the committee also adds credibility to the IDOC-IIFC partnership.

Links

The Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center
<http://www.in.gov/dhs/2331.htm>

The Indiana Department of Correction
<http://www.in.gov/idoc/>

Law Enforcement Notification System
<http://doc-apps.in.gov/lens/>

REFERENCES

Jones, Kemp. Intelligence Officer, Office of Internal Affairs, Indiana Department of Correction. 20 Apr 2009.

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