



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ROLE IN STATE AND NATIONAL THREATS

*Prepared for the Legislative Fiscal Committee*

- In the event of a threat to state or national security, state law enforcement has many roles, including but not limited to first response, investigation, crowd and traffic control, backup for other criminal justice agencies at the local, state and federal level, receipt and dissemination of intelligence information, consultation and training, provision of forensic services, security, and wanted and missing persons information.
- The Department of Public Safety has the ability to mobilize large numbers of well-trained law enforcement officers in a relatively short period of time, whether it is to combat civil unrest, labor disputes, riots, cordon off large areas; manage disaster scenes or to respond to and investigate a wide array of criminal incidents and threats of all kinds.
- It administers the IOWA system that provides instant and simultaneous data communication with a variety of local, state and federal criminal justice agencies. *This is the only information delivery system that reaches at least one sheriff's office, police department or public safety answering point (PSAP) in each county where staff are available to act on information on a 24-hour basis.*
- The federal Department of Justice is utilizing the IOWA system as the means for terrorist advisories to law enforcement officials at all state and local levels.
- The department deploys and maintains a 24-hour voice communication system available to all police departments and sheriffs offices statewide. The system, which is a statewide tower-supported network, is the *only* channel on which all law enforcement throughout the state have interagency voice communication capability and can monitor events.
- The Department provides additional security to offices and facilities statewide, provides training and consultation on various security measures, and responds to threats and suspicious mail and packages.
- It administers the state's central database for intelligence information and is the principal focal point in Iowa for intra- and interstate information exchange and networking among law enforcement agencies.
- The Department provides trained criminal investigation agents, all of whom maintain liaison with federal and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Several agents are specifically tasked with intelligence gathering and dissemination and serve on the Federal Anti-Terrorism Task Force.
- The Fire Marshal Division provides expertise in the area of explosives responses, weapons of mass destruction and hazardous material response.
- There is a much greater expectation of emergency responders since September 11. The Fire Marshal Division, including the Fire Service Institute, provides ongoing training and consultation.
- The department is a major participant in the Office of Homeland Security mission and continues to respond to many special requests for its services. Additional requests for assistance and increasing demands are being placed on departmental operations as local, state and federal efforts to respond to threats of all kinds continue.

## **INTELLIGENCE BUREAU.**

Recent, ongoing events in our country highlight the necessity for the sharing of vital information. The Intelligence Bureau serves as the principal focal point in Iowa for intra- and interstate information exchange and networking among law enforcement agencies. Participation in and coordination of these networks provides access to sensitive and confidential information that is not routinely available or exchanged through regular law enforcement channels. The Bureau collects, analyzes, and disseminates intelligence information to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. Its personnel maintain expertise in such areas as terrorism, organized crime, gangs, money laundering, fraud, and other forms of sophisticated criminal activity.

**Interstate Exchange.** For law enforcement agencies outside the state (as well as outside the U.S.), the Intelligence Bureau is the primary point-of-contact for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies for the exchange of relevant information. The Intelligence Bureau is the designated INTERPOL State Liaison Office; represents state law enforcement in the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU), an international intelligence network; serves as the State Coordinator for Project Gateway, an anti-money laundering project coordinated by the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN); and is a member in the National White Collar Crime Center and the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center.

**Intrastate Exchange.** Within the state, the Intelligence Bureau serves as the Central Coordinating Agency for The Iowa Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (LEIN), comprised of more than 600 members representing approximately 200 Iowa law enforcement agencies. Through this program, it provides briefings to federal, state, and local law enforcement on such topics as terrorism, money laundering, and other criminal activity involving perpetrators who plan and organize to commit their crimes. The Strategic District Initiative for the year 2000 (a strategic plan) for the federal United States Attorney's Offices in Iowa identifies and recommends the Intelligence Bureau as the central information focal point for the exchange of information in the state.

**Federal Anti-terrorism Task Force.** The Intelligence Bureau participates on the Federal Anti-terrorism Task Force formed in September 2001, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the United States Attorneys' Offices; other federal law enforcement agencies; and selected local law enforcement agencies. Members of this anti-terrorism task force, initiated at the direction of the United States Attorney General, have asked that the Intelligence Bureau serve as the point-of-contact for communicating information about terrorism-related matters, when requested, to law enforcement agencies across the State of Iowa.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

**Law Enforcement Communication and Information--IOWA System (Iowa On-line Warrants and Articles).** This is the only information delivery system that reaches at least one sheriff's office, police department or public safety answering point (PSAP) in each county where staff are available to act on information on a 24-hour basis. The system, operated and maintained by the department, provides simultaneous and nearly instantaneous delivery of written information to sheriffs' offices, police departments, state and federal law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice agencies throughout the state. It provides 24-hour monitoring of incoming messages received from across the US and worldwide via the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) and provides immediate appropriate response and/or action.

**Terrorist Alerts/FBI.** Since September 11, the IOWA System has served as the first notice delivery system for terrorist alerts from the FBI; has continued to provide immediate emergency communications access to law enforcement, ranging from one-to-one messages to messages sent to a number of locations simultaneously; and has facilitated special requests (e.g., the need for Musco lighting equipment at the World Trade Center site, initiation of the airport notification plan, etc.).

Messages sent to this system can originate from any city, county, state or federal law enforcement or criminal justice agency nationwide. In Iowa, there are approximately 218 agencies with more than 1,900 workstations and mobile data computers. The system is secure and is available for use more than 99% of the time.

**Airports.** Administrative Services, Iowa State Patrol, and DPS Intelligence Bureau, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Transportation, have implemented a plan to provide emergency notification from the FAA to General Aviation airports and pilots throughout Iowa. Plans include using the Department-administered IOWA System to contact local law enforcement with emergency messages to be delivered to the local airport managers.

## **DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION**

The Division of Criminal Investigation maintains offices throughout the state and can respond to a scene within an hour. It provides a number of services to other state and federal criminal justice agencies, including:

- Criminal history information
- Forensic science services
- Intelligence gathering and dissemination
- Criminal Investigation
- Missing person functions

**Investigation and Intelligence.** The division has 36 general criminal agents throughout the state, all of whom maintain liaison with federal and local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Four of these agents are specifically tasked with intelligence gathering and dissemination. These agents often take the lead role in major crime incidents especially in less populated areas of the state where resources are often limited. Since the FBI has been focused on the national terrorism threat, DCI would be asked to assume the lead in crimes the FBI normally would assume.

**Federal Anti-terrorism Task Force.** DCI participates on the Federal Anti-terrorism Task Force working to achieve increased open lines of communication and information sharing between federal and state law enforcement. Its agents are also available to the FBI to assist in expediting the handling of information.

**Money-laundering and Intelligence.** The Gaming Bureau is staffed with 66 agents/gaming enforcement officers who are also responsible for intelligence gathering in the performance of their duties. This unit is particularly aware of money-laundering and physical threat potentials at the riverboat and racetrack facilities.

**Forensic Services.** In addition to the investigative capabilities, the division provides forensic expertise through the Criminalistics Laboratory. It is available for use by the FBI or any other agency having jurisdiction.

**Large-scale Disasters.** The division has in the past assumed leadership roles in responding to large disasters, such as the crash of flight 232. Expertise is deployed in such situations where agents and laboratory staff assist in body recovery, victim identification, interviewing of family and suspects, and security and scene liaison duties.

## **FIRE MARSHAL**

**Weapons of Mass Destruction.** The division has ten certified explosive technicians stationed throughout the state. Each of these agents has received training in the area of "Weapons of Mass Destruction", including chemical and biological threats. The training has also focused on the dispersion or release of biological or chemical agents in combination with explosive devices.

**Hazardous Materials Task Force.** The division also is working with the Iowa Hazardous Materials Task Force to provide agents with this specialized training, which will allow them the capability of dealing with both hazardous materials incidents and/or incidents involving commercial, military or improvised explosive devices.

**Explosives.** Division officers have all attended the four-week course conducted by the military and the FBI; however, statewide response could be improved by increased availability of x-ray and bomb suit equipment.

## **DIVISION OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT**

**Intelligence.** The division's role in undercover narcotics operations could shift to one of intelligence gathering and use of informants. They possess the necessary equipment to perform surveillance on suspected or known violators that may be referred to them.

**Biological sites.** Because of their role in clandestine laboratory response, narcotics agents have the necessary equipment, including self-contained breathing equipment that would permit entry into a biological hazard site; however, additional training and monitoring equipment would be needed. The department of defense currently has the most capability to respond to these types of incidents.

**Chemical sites.** The division is currently equipped to respond to clandestine laboratory sites and to recognize and handle a variety of volatile chemicals.

While the federal Drug Enforcement Agents (DEA) have been assisting in the investigation of the national threat, the division of narcotics enforcement has had to assume more of the investigation and response role for methamphetamine sites and other controlled substances distribution.

## **IOWA STATE PATROL**

**Capitol Complex Security.** District 16 officers maintain a heightened awareness to all potential threats on the capitol complex and are actively involved in the state's efforts to enhance security on the capitol complex. They have reviewed security on the complex, are providing training to employees, and responding to suspicious items of mail.

**Tactical and Non-Tactical Incidents.** Tactical situations (the state patrol has 48 officers assigned to 4 teams) generally require that the Department of Public Safety be the lead agency. If a situation involved terrorist activity, the department's lead role would be assumed by a federal agency once it was deployed to the site. In non-tactical situations the department would assume a critical, although non-leadership, role. These types of situations include natural disaster, radiological disaster, bio-chemical disasters, hazardous material and other similar incidents.

The state patrol would be called upon for crowd control, traffic control, access control over the site, and evacuation efforts. It works very closely with the Emergency Management Division in its response plan. The patrol is also a member of the Federal Anti-terrorism Task Force. To date, it has been called on to provide first response security at the Iowa State Hygienic Laboratory and at the ISU Veterinary Laboratory.

**Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program.** The Iowa State Patrol MCSAP (Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program) is assisting the United States Department of Transportation to heighten the sensitivity and awareness of motor carrier officials, employees and drivers. Through meetings with approximately 300 motor carriers, they will discuss efforts to aggressively maintain an enhanced level of alertness for suspicious behaviors of employees, customers, suppliers and the public that could threaten the security and safety of the CMV transportation system.

Other examples of situations requiring state patrol involvement:

- Activation of the state Emergency Operation Center
- Natural disasters, such as floods, tornadoes, blizzards, nuclear power plant disasters.
- Hostage situations.
- Roadblocks.
- Emergency blood delivery to all hospitals in Iowa.
- Tactical team response.
- Ability to rapidly deploy 100 to 200 troopers anywhere in the state within 3-4 hours for any type of emergency response.

**Communications - "LEA" the Law Enforcement Assistance channel.** The department deploys and maintains a 24-hour voice communication system available to all police departments and sheriffs offices statewide. The system, which is a statewide tower-supported network, is the only channel on which all law enforcement throughout the state have interagency voice communication capability and can monitor events. ISP Communications centers provide backup for any other law enforcement agency needing such assistance.