To: **Bay Area UASI Approval Authority**

From: **Mike Sena, Director NCRIC/HIDTA**

Date: **January 13, 2022**

Re: **Item 06b: NCRIC FY22 Annual Report and Funding Recommendation**

Recommendation:

Approve $6,681,074 FY22 UASI grant to fund the Fusion Center Project: Information Sharing and Analysis, Infrastructure Protection, Cyber Security, and Law Enforcement Regional Information Sharing System.

Action or Discussion Items:

Action

Discussion/Description:

Background:

The Northern California Regional Intelligence Center is the State designated and federally recognized fusion center for the region. As a multi-jurisdictionally staffed center with many subunits and disciplines, the fusion center is dedicated to the mission of information sharing and providing analytical support to both public safety and private sector critical infrastructure partners within the UASI Area and the Northern Federal District of California. The following information is being provided to give an overview of the fusion center's activities from January 1 to December 31, 2021.

TERRORISM LIAISON OFFICER OUTREACH PROGRAM - (TLOOP)

Duties: Provide outreach and training to regional partners; review all submitted Suspicious Activities Reports (SAR); follow up on SARs and threats to public safety that require additional information collection and dissemination.

Personnel assigned: Ten (10)

Follow ups: 347 of 1040 SARs

Distribution Lists:

18,158 NCRIC Members Approved for Law Enforcement Sensitive Information
4,912 NCRIC Members Approved for Official Use Only Information

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—CYBER

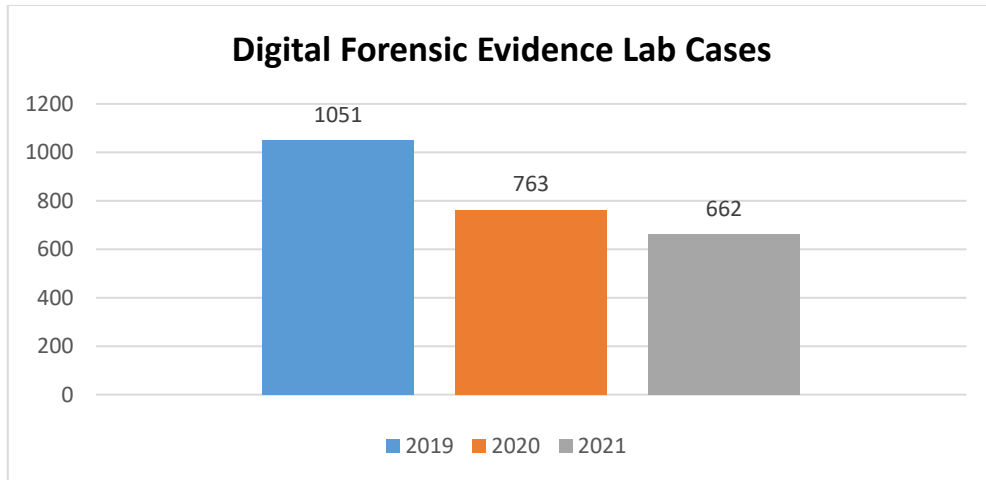**Personnel assigned**: Three (3)

Duties: Cyber team members improve regional resilience by sharing sector-specific cyber threat intelligence to public and private sector partners. The team provides support during cyber incidents that includes coordinating physical response and law enforcement involvement. NCRIC Cyber team members are all GIAC-certified professionals.

Activities: In 2021 the Cyber Team increased its briefing schedule to meet demand for real-time intelligence, tailoring weekly content to law enforcement and executive audiences alike. The Cyber Team delivered key cyber incident support during 12 active ransomware attacks or network intrusions in the region, building cases for federal partners and sharing information with stakeholders so that other potential victims could protect themselves.
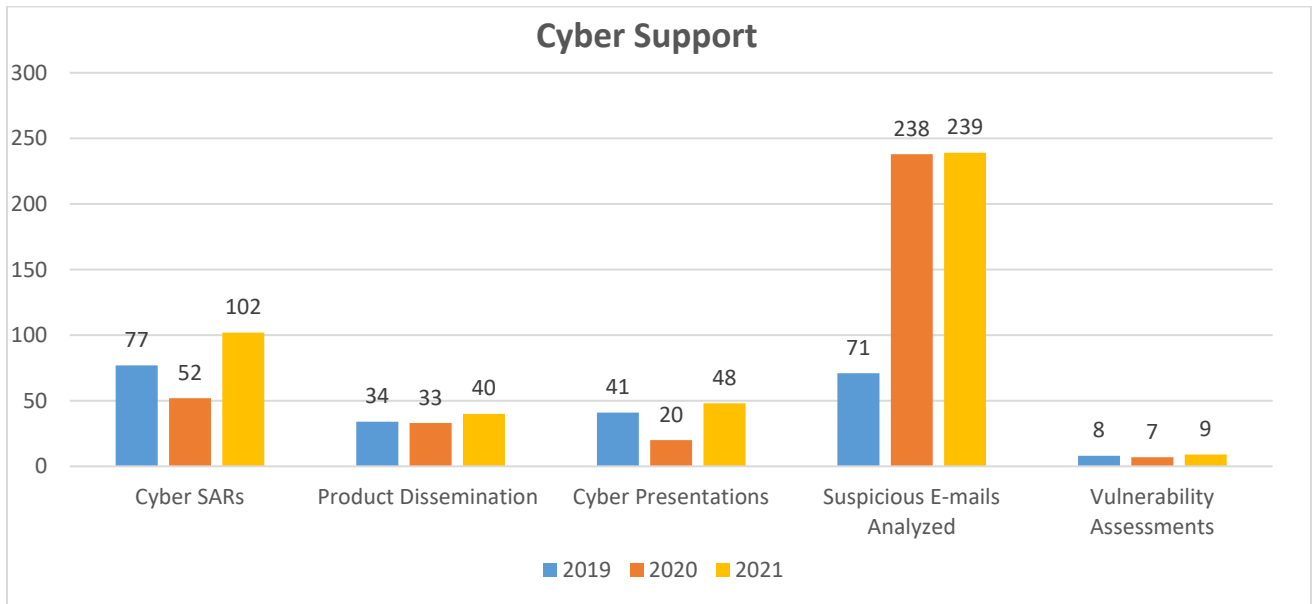
DIGITAL FORENSIC EVIDENCE LABORATORY

The NCRIC continues to support the Digital Forensic Evidence Lab (DFEL), which reviews data stored on computers and other portable electronic devices. This work assists in efforts to arrest and convict those engaging in criminal acts.

Digital Forensic Evidence Lab Cases

STRATEGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ANALYSIS (SIA) UNIT

Personnel assigned: Four (4)

Duties: The SIA is the NCRIC lead for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources (CIKR), vulnerability and threat assessments, national data calls for special events and CIKR, special/large-scale event support, and strategic intelligence products and research. The SIA provides support for events based on the potential risk of criminal activity, provides real-time information sharing, and in-depth strategic analysis of regional threats.

Activities: In 2021, in addition to coordinating Real-time Open-Source Analysis (ROSA) of threats to public safety, SIA maintained a COVID-19 dashboard for the NCRIC AOR and assessed vulnerabilities of CIKR. SIA wrote intelligence products on caravan robberies, transnational crime organizations, threat assessments in LGBTQ communities and faith-based organizations and a region-wide threat assessment in collaboration with the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and other California fusion centers.
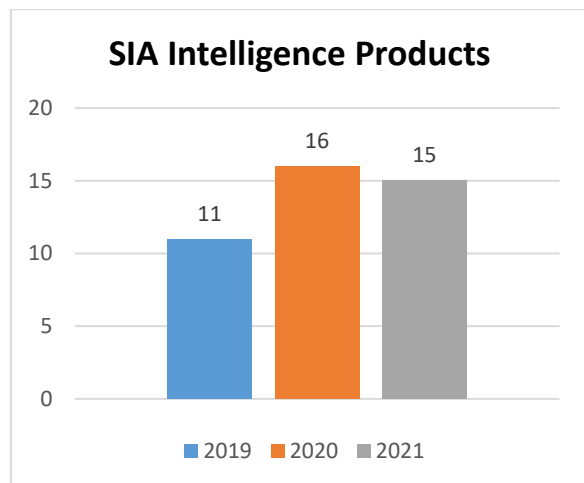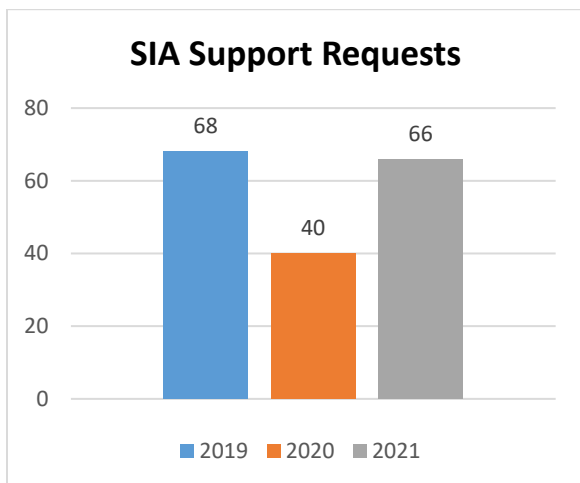
PRIVATE SECTOR OUTREACH

Personnel assigned: One (1)

Duties: Develop/facilitate participation by owners and operators to protect critical infrastructure; provide vetted members with highly valued, sensitive information and intelligence; enhance private sector engagement capabilities.

Activities: During 2021, the team temporarily adapted its private sector engagement efforts to the Covid-19 environment which included a modified outreach strategy, along with webinar-based training and information sharing opportunities for its members. The team partnered closely with the FBI InfraGard Program to increase participation by the private sector in this modified strategy. Despite these temporary program changes the team added its largest number of new members in a single year.
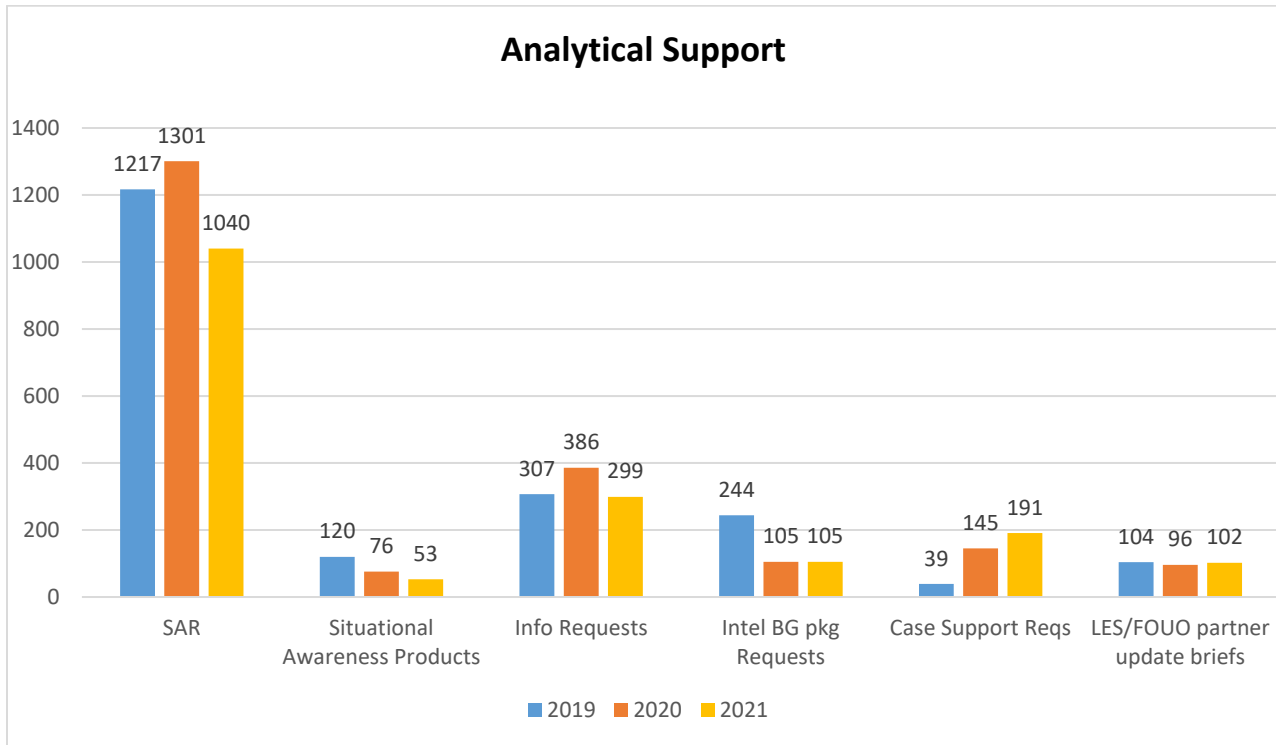
CY 2021- 1618 PS Members (*126 New Members)*

Private Sector Membership

	1567	1492	1618
	■ 2019	■ 2020	■ 2021
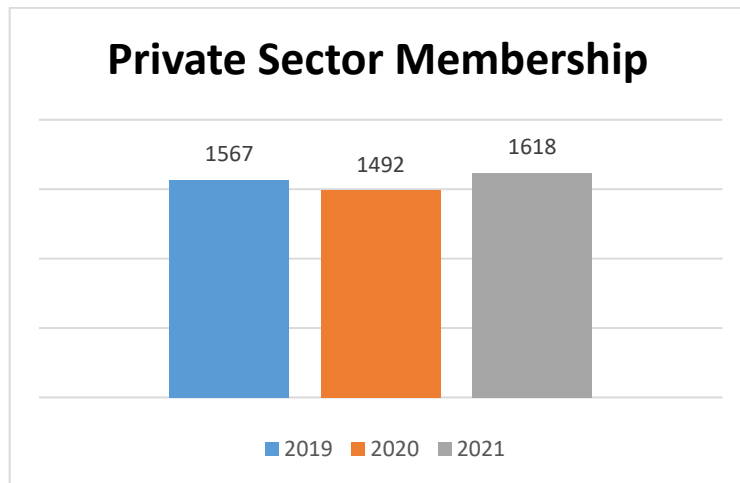
ANALYTICAL SUPPORT (NCRIC-TAG, Priority Crimes, CSU)

Personnel assigned: Ten (10)

Duties: Intake, vet, analyze, and share tips, leads, suspicious activity reports, information, and intelligence on foreign and domestic terrorism, criminal activity or threats to life; regularly collaborate and coordinate with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial public safety partners, other fusion centers, private sector, faith-based community, and other security partners in our region and nationally to enhance threat information and mitigate risks; provide analytical support for requests for information; develop intelligence products, briefings, threat assessments, or strategic communications regarding regional criminal and terrorism activity trends and patterns; provide investigative and real-time event support; and the Gun-Related Intelligence Program in Santa Clara County.

Activities: In 2021 there was a 20% decrease in Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs), which were de-conflicted and vetted to determine a criminal and/or a terrorism nexus. This decrease can be attributed to the reduction in law enforcement personnel across the State of California due to funding decreases in law enforcement agencies and COVID 19 limitations. There was nearly a 31% increase in case support requests, in which analysts often provide in-depth data-driven analytical products and/or courtroom testimony. Intelligence background package requests remained static during 2021.

Analytical Support

Legend: ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021

Category	2019	2020	2021
SAR	1217	1301	1040
Situational Awareness Products	120	76	53
Info Requests	307	386	299
Intel BG pkg Requests	244	105	105
Case Support Reqs	39	145	191
LES/FOUO partner update briefs	104	96	102

TRAINING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

In 2021, due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the fusion center adapted to the public health threat environment by using a virtual technological platform to conduct online training classes. These classes related to homeland security, narcotics enforcement, law enforcement officer safety and investigative techniques. Approximately 113 classes were conducted and 6,069 students from allied agencies and organizations attended the 1,246 hours of instruction.

REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING PROJECT

Duties: Aggregate standalone data beyond jurisdictional boundaries, from discrete sources into unified interfaces, allowing officers and analysts to more rapidly and accurately identify subjects of investigation.

Activities: The NCRIC Chairs the working group which directs funding allocated for the Law Enforcement Regional Information Sharing project, and the present primary task is to reduce reliance upon UASI funds. Significant progress was made in 2021 toward independent financial sustainment. FY22 will represent the first significant reduction in reliance on UASI funds with a 50% decrease, followed by another 50% decrease planned in FY23.

Stakeholders and project managers continue to advance capabilities and mature the underlying technology platforms, including:

- Evaluation and/or migration to appropriate cloud-hosting providers; improving stability and reliability while facilitating further sharing
- Reincorporation of disconnected data sets
- Improved connectivity with Jail Management Systems
- Transition to lower-cost service providers
- Plan cost-sharing models to distribute financial sustainment among participants

INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

The NCRIC/NCHIDTA participated in and/or chaired several national and local initiatives and projects in 2021 including:

National Network of Fusion Centers Tradecraft Task Team: the NCRIC, with counterparts in the National Network of Fusion Centers (NNFC), is developing a national professional development framework for intelligence analysts. This framework will enhance analytical standards and cultivate subject matter experts (SMEs) within the NNFC. Goals for this project include more impactful local analysis at a grander geographic scale, faster sharing of precise insight for actionable intelligence, and a collectively clearer national threat picture.

National Emerging Threat Dashboard: the NCRIC leadership is developing and implementing the Emerging Threat Dashboard to share immediate alert and warning notifications, improve real-time joint intelligence production, and improve strategic planning. This dashboard will be utilized by the NCRIC, other Fusion centers, HIDTAs/ISCs, RISS Watch Centers, Major City and County Intelligence Commanders, and State and Federal intelligence partners to continue progress for a Regional Integration and Coordination concept.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER PROPOSED FY22 ALLOCATION

Regional Information Sharing $250,000

City and County of San Francisco $733,518

City of San Jose $283,138

Alameda County $201,080

Santa Clara County $202,630

Contra Costa County $265,430

Equipment $292,950

Planning $70,000

Training $150,000

Overtime $75,000

County of San Mateo $4,157,328

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Contra Costa County $265,430
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City of San Jose $283,138
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