



**To: Bay Area UASI Approval Authority**

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

**Date: January 14, 2021**

**Re: Item 05: UASI FY21 Sustainment and Regional Projects - NCRIC Annual Report and Proposed FY21 Allocation**

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**Recommendation:**

Approve \$6,597,740 from the FY21 UASI grant to fund the Fusion Center Project: Information Sharing and Analysis, Infrastructure Protection and Cyber Security.

**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, 2020.

**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:** 206 of 1301 SARs

**Distribution Lists:**

17,101 NCRIC Members Approved for Law Enforcement Sensitive Information

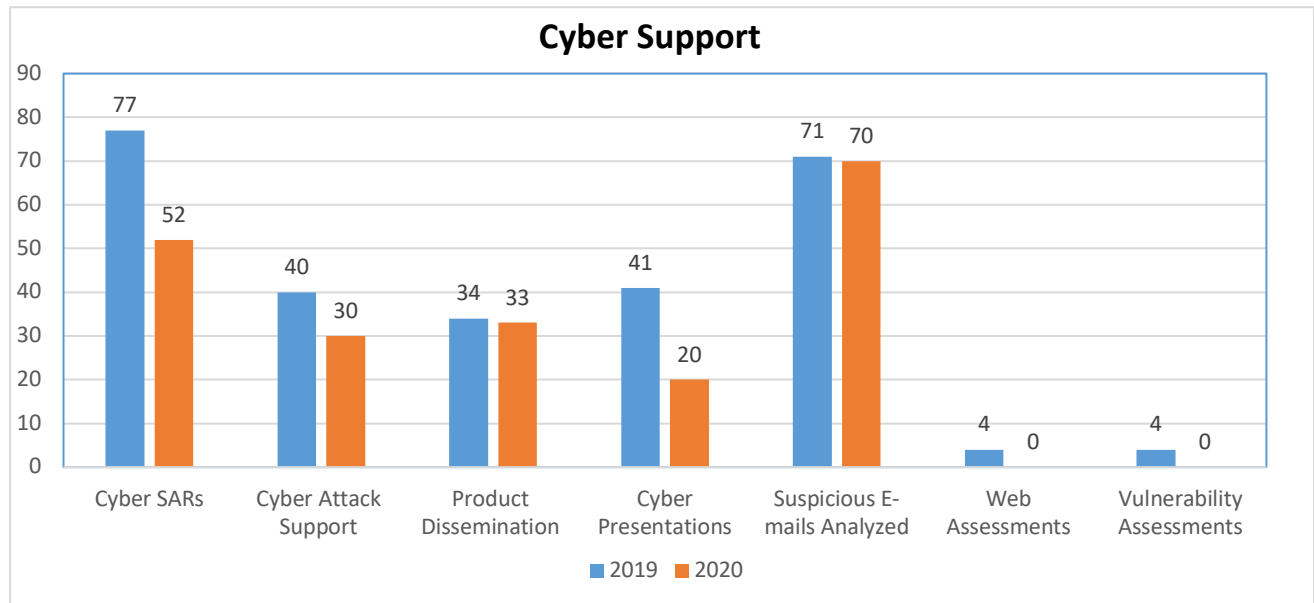
2,875 NCRIC Members Approved for Official Use Only Information

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY—CYBER**

**Personnel assigned:** Four (4)

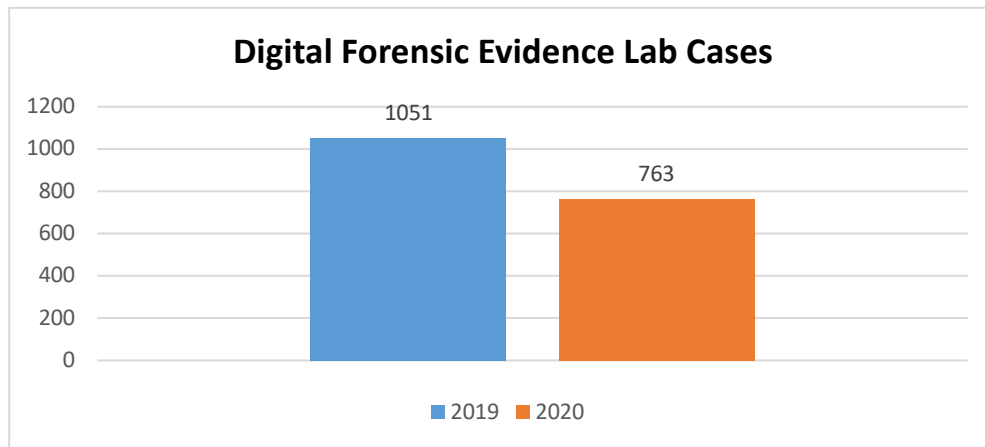
**Duties:** Cyber team members improve regional resilience by sharing cyber threat intelligence and by providing incident support during cyber events. NCRIC Cyber Team members currently sit on six (6) Cyber-related Boards and Committees.

**Activities:** In 2020 the Cyber Team emerged as the key regional contact for agencies experiencing ransomware attacks. In addition to triaging cyber threat information, the Cyber Team delivered key cyber incident support during 15 active ransomware attacks in the region, building cases for federal partners and sharing that threat 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.

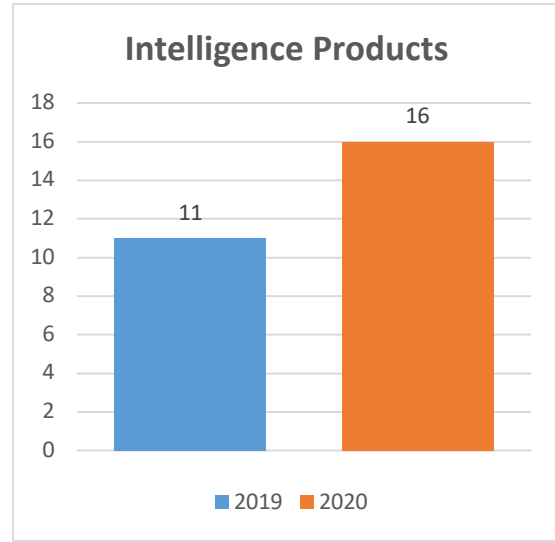
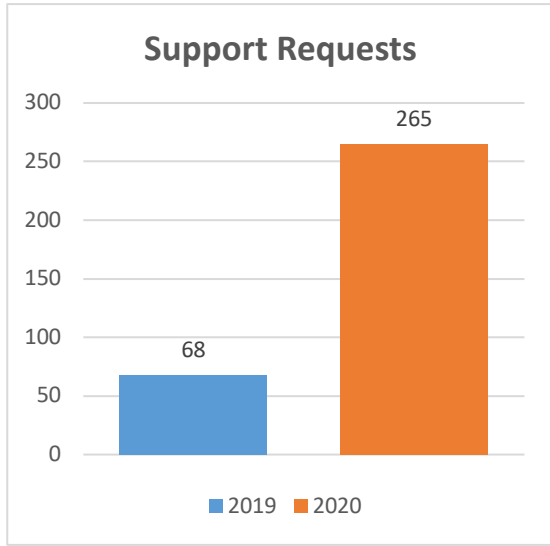


## **STRATEGY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ANALYSIS (SIA) UNIT**

**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 2020, in addition to coordinating Real-time Open-Source Analysis (ROSA) of threats to public safety, creating a COVID-19 dashboard for the NCRIC AOR, and assessing vulnerabilities of CIKR during pandemic conditions, SIA wrote intelligence products on caravan robberies, transnational crime organizations, elections concerns, threats from unmanned aerial systems, and a region-wide threat assessment in collaboration with the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and other California fusion centers.



## **PRIVATE SECTOR OUTREACH**

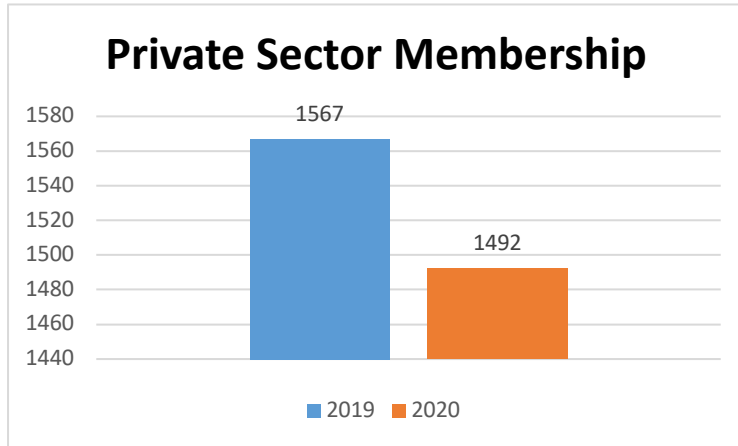
**Personnel assigned:** One (1)

**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 2020, 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.

**Private Sector Membership**

CY 2020- 1492 PS Members  
(CY 2020- 231 New Members)

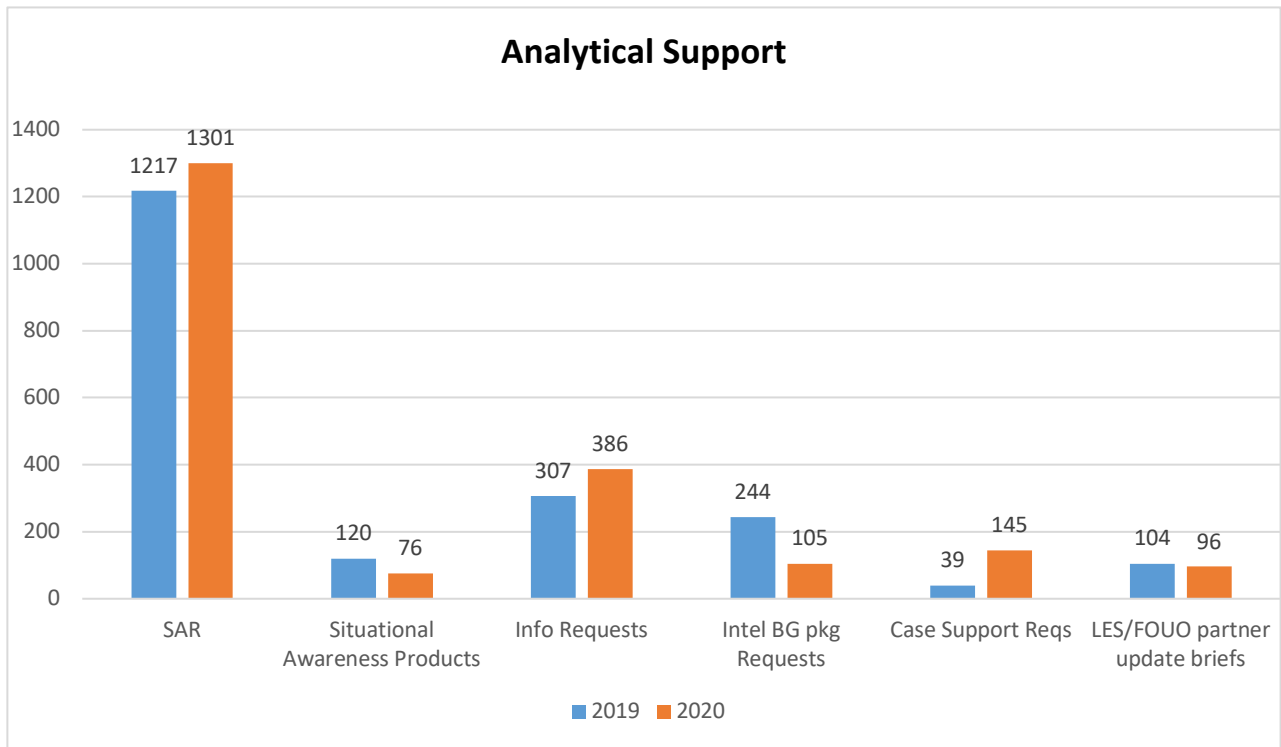


**ANALYTICAL SUPPORT (NCRIC-TAG, Priority Crimes, CSU)**

**Personnel assigned:** Nineteen (19)

**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 2020 there was over a 32% increase Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs), which were de-conflicted and vetted to determine a criminal and/or a terrorism nexus, and nearly a 300% increase in case support requests, in which analysts often provide in-depth data-driven analytical products and/or courtroom testimony. Intelligence background package requests decreased during 2020.



**TRAINING FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020**

In 2020, due to the 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 62 classes were put on and 4,992 students from allied agencies and organizations attended.

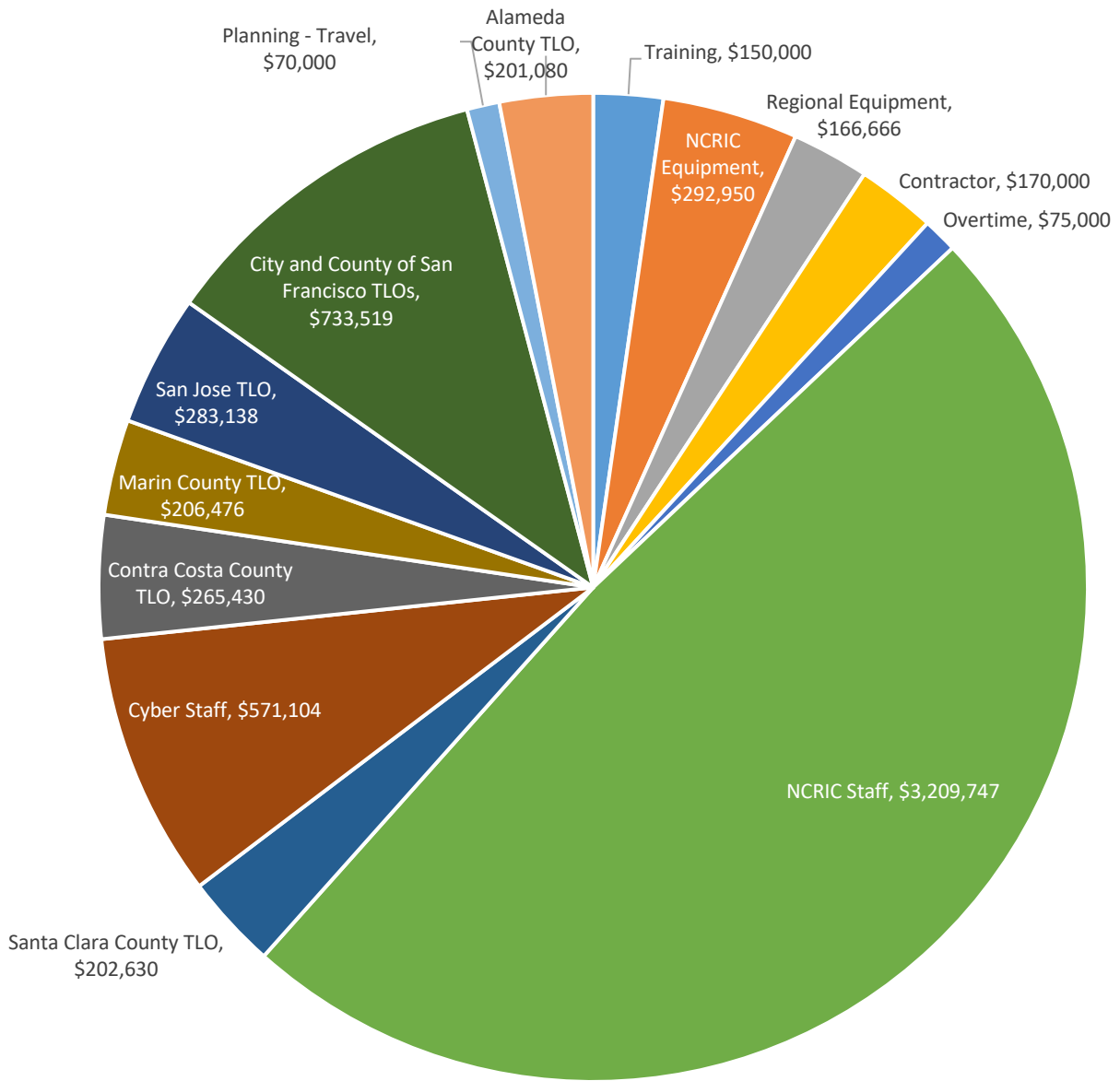
## **PILOT PROJECTS**

The NCRIC/NCHIDTA participated in and/or chaired several national and local pilot projects in 2020, including:

### **Threat to Life Projects**

- This year the NCRIC continued two pilot projects that focused on immediate and implied threat to life reporting. The first project was initiated at the request of the FBI's San Francisco Field Division to develop an immediate threat to life mitigation process with some of the world's largest social media companies. The project was developed in partnership with several social media companies and the Western States Information Network (WSIN) to identify and triage on-line threats involving the potential imminent danger of death or serious physical injury. The NCRIC process has saved the lives of potential victims across the United States and the world. The pilot project helped initiate a national task team formed that is developing recommendations for tip, lead, and threat to life management processes. The team was formed by the US DOJ - Bureau of Justice Assistance's Global Advisory Committee and Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council. The task team is co-chaired by a NCRIC member.
- The second project was initiated in partnership with the FBI's Office of Partner Engagement and Criminal Justice Information System's National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) to develop an immediate threat to life mitigation process to triage threats received by the FBI. The NTOC process has saved the lives of potential victims across the United States.

### FY 2021 NCRIC Budget Request



- Training
- Regional Equipment
- Overtime
- Santa Clara County TLO
- Contra Costa County TLO
- San Jose TLO
- Planning - Travel
- NCRIC Equipment
- Contractor
- NCRIC Staff
- Cyber Staff
- Marin County TLO
- City and County of San Francisco TLOs
- Alameda County TLO