



Northern California Regional Intelligence Center

2023 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE
BAY AREA URBAN AREAS
SECURITY INITIATIVE





CONNECT

INFORM

PROTECT

INVESTIGATE

The Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) is a regional component of the California State Threat Assessment System and one of 80 Fusion Centers nationwide, serving as a bridge to facilitate collaboration and partnership across local jurisdictions and between local, state, tribal, and federal agencies.

Area of Responsibility

15 counties



10+ million population



The NCRIC strives to:



connect with law enforcement, public safety, first responders, local government, public health, cyber security, private sector, and other communities within its area of responsibility



inform them through relevant and timely training, threat awareness, and actionable guidance;



protect the public, infrastructure facilities, or other potential targets;



investigate when responding to incidents or supporting the investigations of local agencies through our analytic staff and specialized expertise.



Mission Statement

To protect life, critical infrastructure, key resources, privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties through information sharing, analysis, criminal intelligence and technology that focuses a whole of government and community approach to identify, prevent, protect against, mitigate, and assist in the response to and the recovery from the greatest human-made threats and major hazards in the Federal Northern District of California.



Director
Mike L. Sena



Deputy Director
Karen Sherwood



Deputy Director
Randy Wagner



Outreach and Training

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Duties:

Utilizing local, state and federal representatives from allied agencies, expand the information sharing environment by providing briefings, connecting agencies, and supporting major events. Develop and facilitate participation by private sector companies and critical infrastructure owners and operators. Provide vetted members with highly valued, sensitive information, intelligence, and educational opportunities. Enhance engagement capabilities.

Accomplishments:

In 2023, the Threat Liaison Officer Outreach Team continued to be on the forefront for Outreach and Training in the region and California. Field Intelligence Teams helped support over 30 events in the region working in partnership with analysts to help keep these events safe for the public and public safety partners.

During the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit hosted in San Francisco, personnel supported and manned seven different command centers with law enforcement and security personnel from U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Diplomatic Security Service, San Francisco Police Department, San Francisco Fire Department, San Francisco Department of Emergency Services, United States Coast Guard, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement entities. NCRIC personnel directly assisted with multiple events including the APEC Leaders' Meeting, dignitary arrivals and departures, and the protection of organized protests related to APEC and the Israeli-Hamas conflict.

Additional assistance was provided to the San Francisco FBI Field Division's Counterintelligence Unit with field intelligence gathering and investigative lead follow up. This real-time in-field support was directly responsible for the felony arrests of three subjects who assaulted and stole property from attendees during public gatherings.

Personnel Assigned:

10

"All parts of the course were valuable because one never knows when they might encounter a foreign or transnational terrorist through everyday contacts."
– Local Law Enforcement Agency

"I very much enjoyed this training and hope to attend more training in the future."
– Bay Area Fire Agency

"Great course with great instructors"
– Bay Area EMS Agency

"Fantastic instructors, will definitely seek more advanced trainings."
– Local Law Enforcement Agency

"Far exceeded my expectations. Thanks to the professionalism in delivery and everyone's effort and time."
– Local Law Enforcement Agency

1032

New members approved for training and information

60

Courses offered

1468

Students trained



Cyber Threat Unit

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Duties: Communications hub for remediating suspicious cyber incidents in the region. Whether digging in to identify the sender location of a phishing email, referring an urgent financial fraud case to a federal partner, or working with city and county Chief Information Security Officers to develop a strategic cyber mutual aid framework, analysts provide public and private sector victims with timely and actionable incident response resources.

Accomplishments: In 2023 NCRIC produced evidence-based analysis of the financial costs of cyber incidents to critical infrastructure on a county-by-county basis. The Unit successfully triaged 3 local incidents of Iranian-sponsored hacktivist activity for escalation to the federal intelligence enterprise. Other highlights include delivering an in-person regional threat briefing to Acting National Cyber Director Kemba Walden and a maritime domain cyber information-sharing overview to Admiral Jay Vann, Commander Coast Guard Cyber Command.

Personnel Assigned: 3 *"You do a good job at prioritizing current vulnerabilities and events."*
- CISO, Coastal Advisory Commission

"You are so valuable to our community!"
- Water/Wastewater sector Information Security Officer

"That was a great Call. Thanks. A great augment to the monthly Heath-ISAC call."

-Biotechnology company IT Director

71

Cybersecurity Briefings, Trainings, or other Events

33

Cybersecurity Bulletins Delivered to Partners

10

Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessments

91

Suspicious Emails Analyzed from Partner Submissions

77

Cybersecurity Incident Triage or Response



Strategy, Infrastructure, and Analysis

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Duties:

Lower the regional risk profile through focused analysis of strategic level threats and vulnerabilities; cultivate shared intelligence between partners; develop regional subject matter expertise and pertinent resources; reduce risks to critical infrastructure, special events, and soft targets; provide considerations for the implementation of protective measures to mitigate risks; and develop and maintain working relationships with subject matter experts in a variety of disciplines and areas including, but not limited to critical infrastructure, domestic violent extremism, school safety, soft targets, public safety, law enforcement, and government.

Accomplishments:

Coordinated multi-jurisdictional real-time open-source analysis, maintained dashboards, and trained staff cross-organizationally in support of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference; facilitated partnerships, training platforms, and secure catalogs between mass transit systems and first responders to share sensitive information during critical events; collaborated with public and private entities to mitigate vulnerabilities and lower the risk profiles of special events, vulnerable populations, and other soft targets; wrote or co-authored awareness bulletins, strategic products, and threat assessments on varied contentious issues; and improved response plans through tabletop exercises and training.

Personnel Assigned:

3

“Experts in their field. Analytical support was well-coordinated, and reports were detailed yet concise. I look forward to ongoing collaboration.”
- Federal, State, and Local Partners

66

Events Staffed and Supported by NCRIC Analysts

37

Situational Awareness Written Products

174

Threat Assessment Written Products



Digital Forensics Evidence Lab

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Duties: The NCRIC Digital Forensic Evidence Lab uses forensic tools and investigative methods to analyze digital video, audio, and still images; computer and mobile phone devices; and motor vehicle computer systems in order to capture, identify, and preserve specific electronic evidence for use in criminal proceedings.

Accomplishments: In 2023, NCRIC continued to lead the way nationally in utilizing cutting-edge technology to bring about successful resolutions to criminal cases that otherwise may not have been solved. Analysts provided real-time, on-site assistance to 13 human trafficking operations throughout the region, offering critical identifications of suspects and victims, and enhancing the officer safety posture of each operation. More than 100 victims of human trafficking were rescued during these operations.

Forensic analysts provided critical assistance on several high-profile cases throughout the year. The unit assisted a federal agency on a major fugitive case by identifying and locating an individual wanted for multiple sexual assaults on children; assisted a federal agency by locating a wanted murderer, on the run for more than 30 years, hiding overseas; assisted a federal agency in identifying a suspect wanted in the fire-bombing of a foreign consulate building on US soil; assisted a local police department by identifying a suspect who fired an exploding rocket at police officers during a riot; and assisted another local police department by identifying suspects and vehicles involved in the murder of a police officer.

Personnel Assigned: 2

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the support provided during Operation Cross Country. They are always exceptional to work with and their skills and professionalism are a major reason why these operations are a success. Their analytical skills are so great that they generally have people identified for us before the subjects even arrive to the scene. Their intel workups allow us to enhance our investigations and provide the apprehension teams an added element of safety as they get some background info on the subjects before they arrive. We had great success again this year, credit to the collaboration with NCRIC and our other state/local/CBO partners

- Commander, Human Trafficking Task Force

1488 Requests Processed or Cases Supported

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Tactical Analysis Group

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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 coordinate the Gun-Related Intelligence Program.

Accomplishments:

In 2023, NCRIC processed 22% more expressed or implied threat Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs). This SAR category is typically associated with incidents of domestic terrorism threats and hoax threats. As part of the vetting process, analysts have worked on dozens of investigations in coordination with the FBI to ensure threats are mitigated and investigations are thorough. Also in 2023, NCRIC had an 83% increase in sworn officer follow-up activity to SARs, which were de-conflicted and vetted to determine a criminal and/or a terrorism nexus.

Personnel Assigned: 4

"[NCRIC Analyst] was instrumental in ensuring the success of information being relayed quickly and efficiently, preventing what could have been a massive theft from numerous retail stores."

-Lieutenant, Local Police Department

1021

Suspicious Activity or other Reports analyzed

612

Requests for Law Enforcement Information or Investigative Support

104

Counterterrorism written products disseminated

620

Sworn officer follow-up activity to Suspicious Activity Report

357

Suspicious Activity Reports escalated to FBI or other federal partners



Geographic Distribution of Reporting

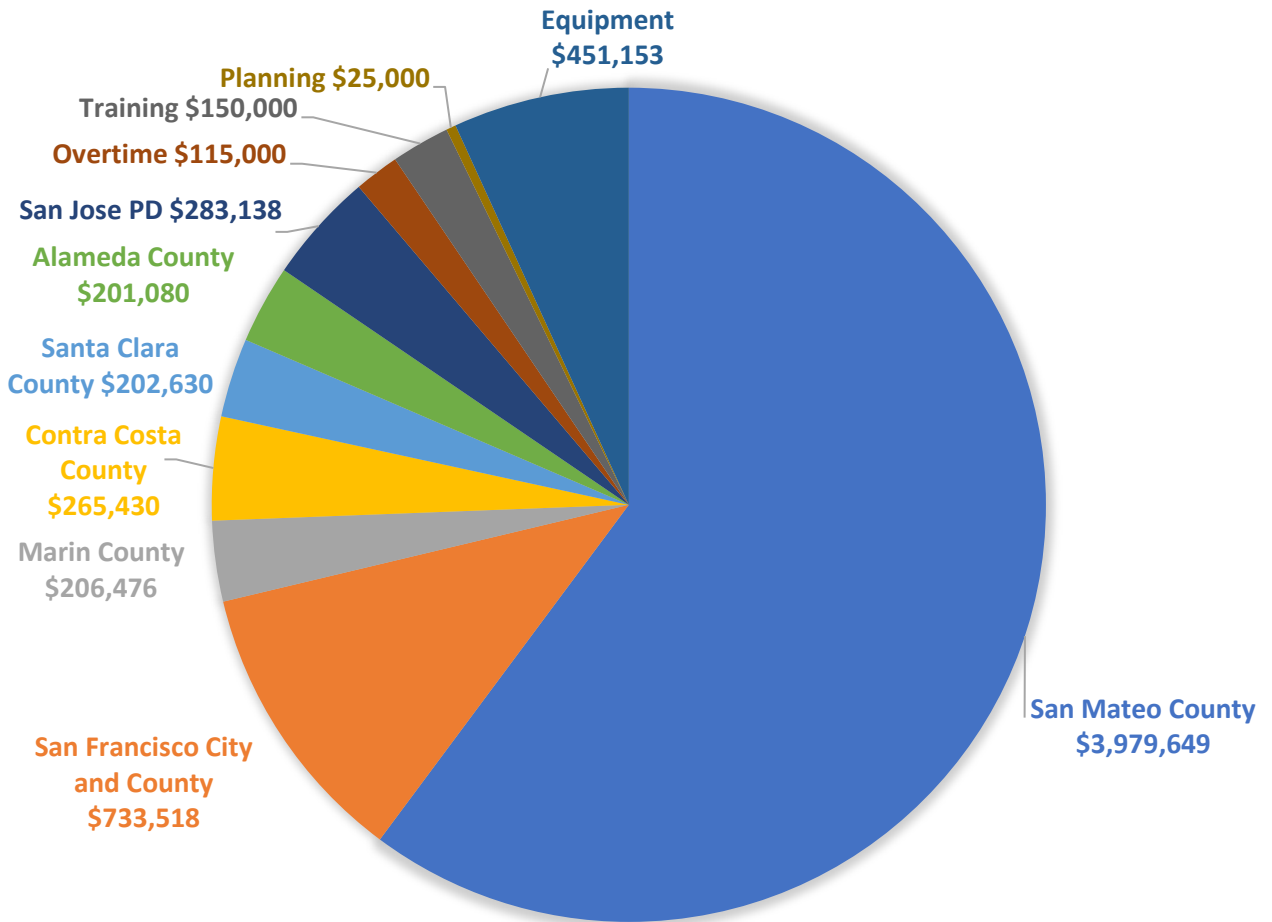
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Proposed FY24 Budget Allocation

Northern California Regional Intelligence Center



San Mateo County	\$3,797,649
San Francisco City and County	\$733,518
Marin County	\$206,476
Contra Costa County	\$265,430
Santa Clara County	\$202,630
Alameda County	\$201,080
San Jose PD	\$283,138
Overtime	\$115,000
Training	\$150,000
Planning	\$25,000
Equipment	\$451,153
Total	\$6,431,074



Annual Metrics

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Team	Metric	Baseline	2022	2023
Outreach and Engagement				
TLO	Total Members approved for Law Enforcement Sensitive information	10000	15427	15551
TLO	New members approved for Law Enforcement Sensitive information	500	630	674
TLO	Total Members approved for Official Use Only information bulletins	2000	1983	2988
TLO	New members approved for Official Use Only information	100	143	153
TLO	Total Members approved as Private Sector Partners	1000	1333	1552
TLO	New members approved as Private Sector Partners	100	121	205
TAG	Counterterrorism written products disseminated	50	79	104
CYB	Cybersecurity written products disseminated	12	18	33
CYB	Cybersecurity Briefings or other events	25	39	71
TLO	Live or Virtual Training Classes Offered	12	34	60
TLO	Students Trained	300	816	1468
Risk Assessment and Infrastructure Protection				
SIA	Situational Awareness written products	4	21	37
SIA	Threat Assessment written products	4	92	174
SIA	Live Events Staffed or Supported	2	36	66
CYB	Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessments	4	6	10
Analytic Support of Criminal or potential Terrorism activity				
TAG	Suspicious Activity or other Reports analyzed	800	1312	1021
TAG	Law Enforcement Requests for Information or Investigative Support	300	569	612
CYB	Cybersecurity Incident Support or Triage	25	44	77
CYB	Suspicious E-mails Analyzed for malware or other cybersecurity threat	100	120	91
DFL	Digital Forensic Evidence Lab cases supported	500	839	1488
TLO	Sworn officer follow-up activity to Suspicious Activity Report	200	220	620
TAG	Suspicious Activity Reports escalated to FBI or other federal partners	200	202	357