Bay Area UASI

Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative Quarterly Newsletter VOL 08 / ISSUE 02 / FEB 2022

Public Safety Preparedness Summit

On November 3-5, 2021, the Bay Area UASI held the 2021 Public Safety Preparedness Summit and Golden Eagle Exercise which offered emergency management, public safety, and public information professionals the opportunity to develop new skills, discuss lessons learned, and share best practices.

The seminar portion of the event was held at San Francisco's Hyatt Regency Embarcadero, where over 200 participants gathered. Executive Director Mary Ellen Carroll from the San Francisco Department of Emergency Management delivered the keynote address. Pre-recorded videos from US Representative Eric Swalwell and US Representative Jackie Speier were also featured. If you wish to view these recordings, they are available at: www.BAUASI.org/2021summit.

During the Summit, various capabilities were tested at the Golden Eagle Exercise, including: approximately 30 Bay Area public safety agencies and ten local transit agencies which focused on critical transportation operations as a result of a catastrophic earthquake; while at the state level, Cal OES and CalTrans activated their ESF-1 Task Force to practice the coordination of transportation related resources. The Bay Area Joint Information System (JIS) used the opportunity to allow newer public information officers to practice their local roles and become familiar with the benefits of regional collaboration through the JIS; and the Cities of Hayward and Los Gatos, and Solano County each established full-scale Commodity Points of Distribution stations as part of the exercise.

Training for the event included Securing The Cities (STC) terrorism awareness training conducted by the Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education (NCBRT), emergency preparedness training for community-based organizations by San Francisco Community Agencies Responding to Disaster (SF CARD) and a Mass Notification Seminar was also conducted.

The high level of engagement, multi-disciplinary collaboration, and thought-provoking content this event fostered will be utilized as we prepare for the full-scale critical transportation operations exercise in May as well as the second annual Public Safety Preparedness Summit scheduled for November 2022.

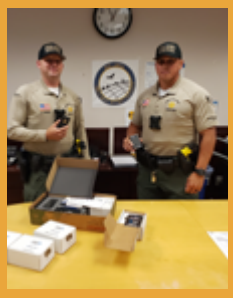
Bay Area UASI Updates

Targeted Violence Terrorism Prevention

The US continues to see an increase in school shootings and other types of violence. A May 2021 Public Awareness Bulletin from DHS reported that the threat of targeted school violence remains elevated. The bulletin also suggested measures to mitigate the mental health crisis in youth and help prevent suicides, bullying, and/or other risk factors. Recommendations include the development of threat assessment protocols and the establishment of multi-disciplinary threat assessment teams (MDT) within school districts. These MDTs, comprised of practitioners from law enforcement, schools, behavioral health, juvenile probation, and others, evaluate, assess, communicate, and coordinate services when behaviors of concern are observed and reported.

The FY20 and FY21 Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP) Grant award and FY21 UASI Domestic Violent Extremism National Priority Projects include early intervention projects to promote youth mental health and contribute to a safe school climate. These programs include the Safe School Ambassadors Anti-Bullying project, the Santa Clara County Office of Education DataZone capability expansion project (serving 290,000 students throughout the Counties of Santa Clara, San Mateo, Napa, and Mariposa), the Targeted Violence: Community Awareness, Behavioral Analysis, and Prevention Strategies training and train-the-trainer series, Media Literacy for Bay Area students (instructor led, e-learning, and in multiple languages), and the Student Mental Health Awareness Film Creation and Film Contest. To learn more about these grant funded projects visit: [www.BAUASI.org/tvtp.](www.BAUASI.org/tvtp)

Securing The Cities



The San Francisco Bay Area Securing the Cities (SFBA STC) Program recently sent representatives to Los Angeles to participate in that City's Full-Scale Exercise, "Operation Lighthouse." This opportunity allowed SFBA STC staff to share our experiences with hardening targets and preventing terrorist attacks at major sporting venues with our LA STC counterparts. The lessons learned in LA will be leveraged during our prioritization meetings as we prepare for the SFBA STC Full Scale Exercise. In addition, the STC program has recently taken delivery of our first shipment of Personal Radiation Devices (PRDs) and plan to distribute them during upcoming training classes.

Bay Area UASI Updates

Cybersecurity Update

Cyber and ransomware incidents are occurring more frequently and have the potential to cause widespread damage. Malicious cyber actors — including nation-states and cyber criminals — are growing more sophisticated and difficult to detect. These actors exploit vulnerabilities in information technology systems and infrastructure to steal data, disrupt essential services, and obtain ransom money.

Given the increasing severity and frequency of these attacks, organizations must be prepared to act swiftly and effectively. The Bay Area UASI seeks to provide entities across the region with the tools and support they need to strengthen cybersecurity planning and enhance resilience.

The UASI works closely with the Northern California Regional Intelligence Center (NCRIC) and encourages Bay Area partners to report cyber incidents via: https://ncric.ca.gov. The NCRIC tracks these incidents and can work with organizations to mitigate or recover from a cyber incident. Any victim information submitted to the NCRIC is anonymized to name only the affected critical infrastructure sector (water, healthcare, IT, emergency services, education etc.).

Resources Available to the region include: the Bay Area UASI COOP Toolkik, the Bay Area UASI Cyber Incident Response Plan template and the Bay Area Regional Cyber Incident Response Framework which assists organizations/jurisdictions in strengthening cyber incident response capabilities.

For cybersecurity training, please visit www.batep.org for available opportunities and to register for classes that assist organizations/jurisdictions in strengthening cyber incident response capabilities.

Compliance Corner & Management Team

Compliance Corner:

Over the last several years, many agencies have requested UAS (unmanned aircraft systems, commonly referred to as drones) to either develop or continue expanding their programs. This process has proven to be quite time consuming and challenging. The process is so lengthy that agencies have sometimes been unable to obtain approval before the end of the grant performance period. Prior preparation will be the key to successfully receiving approval within the grant performance period. Other than advising you to start early, here are some tips for successfully obtaining approval for your project:

Develop policies and procedures that meet the requirements of the 2015 Presidential Memorandum titled Promoting Economic Competitiveness While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, in Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Some of the highlights include: the frequent review of these policies, the collection, use, retention, and dissemination of information obtained by the UAS, the protection of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, procedures to address accountability concerns and complaints, and oversight of individuals who have access to sensitive information. Please review this memorandum and use it to develop or revise your own policies.

Complete and submit the Aviation Request Form. The standard Aviation form used by CalOES is still used for the purchase of drones, but also requires more detailed responses, including: a more complete description of the purchase (including the manufacturer's country of origin, how you determined cost reasonableness, the number of neighboring jurisdictions with similar, sharable capabilities, the need for the UAS and how it best meets the need as compared to other options, how this equipment fits into the Urban Area's integrated operation plans, other terrorism prevention and incident response equipment that will be included, and lastly certification of the review and understanding of the DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CSIA), Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Fact Sheets (https://www.dhs.gov/publication/uas-fact-sheets) and Chinese Manufactured Unmanned Aircraft Systems Industry Alerts.

In one other piece of news- this will be my last Compliance Corner. After almost 20 years with the UASI, I will be retiring in March. It has been my great privilege to work with so many talented individuals who work hard every day to keep the region safe. Thank you for all your efforts!

Approval Authority 2022 Meetings

January 10, 2022

March 10, 2022

June 09, 2022

September 08, 2022

November 10, 2022

Happy Retirement Mary Landers

May your retirement be filled
with
happiness without end,
love without loss,
wisdom without hubris,
confidence without
hesitation,
fortune without boundaries,
purpose without mystery, and
great health without pain.

Please know that you have
touched so many and have
done so much good.
Love, Dom Yin.

This document was prepared under a grant from FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate, U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Points of view or opinions expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.