

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



JAN 19 2010

MILLAGE PEAKS
FIRE CHIEF

January 6, 2010

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 09-130-R1

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Millage Peaks, Fire Chief *meek*

SUBJECT: ARSON/COUNTER TERRORISM SECTION AUDIT REPORT REVISION

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Recommendation: That the Board

Approve and accept the attached revised report pertaining to the LAPD Audit of the Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section and the implementation plan for Goal #7.

Summary:

At the December 15, 2009 meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Fire Department was directed by the Board to revisit the audit implementation plan for the Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section, specifically for Goal #7, the personnel loan program. As a result of a meeting between the Guiding Coalition (GC) and the Management Review Panel (MRP), consensus has been reached on the implementation of that specific plan.

Members of the GC and the MRP have come to consensus on the establishment of a feasibility study workgroup to determine the benefits and/or downfalls of establishing a personnel loan program between the LAFD and LAPD. It has been proposed that a panel of ACTS Supervisors and Investigators meet with various entities within the LAPD to determine the feasibility in establishing such a program.

The attached document lays out a timeline and responsible parties for researching the loan program. At the conclusion of this study, a report will be prepared, and subsequent actions (depending on the findings of the workgroup) will be undertaken and reported upon.

Board report prepared by members of ACTS Workgroup, Workforce Excellence Unit, Chairperson Battalion Chief Michael A. Greenup.

Attachment

Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section (ACTS)

Audit Implementation Plan

GOAL #7

GOAL #7

Establish an internal culture and external support and linkage systems that reinforce the primary law enforcement duties of ACTS: criminal investigation and apprehension, felony case preparation, custodian of records, subpoena control, and crime analysis & reporting.

Audit Objective(s) Addressed

Objective #3: Quality of Investigations

Audit Recommendation

3A. Establish a joint task force program to assign experienced detectives from law enforcement agencies to provide management and operational expertise in criminal investigation.

Alternatively, establish a personnel loan program for temporary assignment of ACTS investigators to LAPD detective units to obtain hands-on criminal investigation training.

Guiding Coalition/Management Review Panel Proposal

The Guiding Coalition and the Management Review Panel agree that the reasons for audit recommendation 3A are twofold:

1. Create mutually beneficial partnerships between ACTS and other agencies so that ACTS personnel can be constantly exposed to external best practices and hands-on training;
2. Embed an investigative culture within ACTS so that approaches, expectations, methodology, measurements of effectiveness, and outcomes are aligned more with the section's primary duties.

The first part of recommendation 3A has already been addressed and can be expanded upon (see *Indications of Progress* section).

The GC and MRP acknowledge that the establishment of a personnel loan program inherently comes with potential logistical issues. In order to determine whether or not a personnel loan program can be effectively established, the MRP and the GC have agreed to send ACTS Investigators, Supervisors, and a member of the MRP to entities within LAPD to conduct a feasibility study. The goal of this group will be to determine whether or not a personnel loan program is an effective and efficient way to meet the audit recommendation. At the conclusion of the study, a report will be prepared and presented to the MRP and GC for evaluation. Depending on the findings of the feasibility study group, an appropriate implementation plan will be prepared, and/or other potential alternatives may be explored.

Strategic Action Steps/Timeline

1. Appoint Senior Arson Investigator to act as liaison with LAPD. (Such appointment is consistent with the Senior Arson Investigator duties). 11/30/09
2. ACTS, through channels, to submit a letter of mutual agreement between LAFD and LAPD enabling the initiation of a feasibility study work group. 2/15/10
3. Fire Chief to approve letter and enter into agreement with LAPD. 3/15/10
4. The Senior Arson Investigator will identify contacts at various LAPD facilities that would have the authority to approve both LAPD personnel being detailed to ACTS to provide training, and ACTS personnel being detailed to LAPD for training. 3/15/10

Arson/Counter-Terrorism Section (ACTS)
Audit Implementation Plan
GOAL #7

Strategic Action Steps/Timeline (Cont)
<p>5. The Senior Arson Investigator will identify what type of training LAPD could supply that would be beneficial to ACTS personnel. Concurrently, a feasibility study workgroup will be established, consisting of supervisors and investigators of ACTS, as well as a member of the MRP. 4/15/10</p> <p>6. The feasibility study work group will meet with the identified LAPD contacts to ascertain the feasibility of personnel being on loan to and from them, and identify the mutually acceptable parameters. 6/1/10</p> <p>7. A report will be prepared by the feasibility study workgroup for submission to the MRP and GC for review and consideration. Depending on the findings of the study, appropriate implementation plans will be instituted utilizing this document format. 7/1/10</p>
Responsible Parties/Subject Matter Experts
<p>Responsible Party: Deputy Chief Mario Rueda SMEs: Investigator Michael Camello, Sr. Investigator David Liske, Captain Michael Rueda</p>
Indications of Progress/Measurement of Success
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As additional training is acquired from LAFD, investigation reports will reflect the changes, and supervisors will have an improved understanding as how to more effectively monitor and support the investigators. Currently, personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) and the California Department of Insurance, Fraud Division, are working within ACTS in a Task Force capacity. In addition to housing investigators from outside agencies, ACTS works jointly, and in concert, with other law enforcement task forces related to House of Worship incidents (House of Worship Task Force) and Eco-Terrorism incidents (Anti-Terrorism Task Force). An assessment of the benefits of these partnerships should yield useful benchmarks by which to measure the success of the personnel loan program.
Resources Required or Impediments to Implementation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no significant impediments to the establishment of the feasibility study group. Members of ACTS will be part of the group. The only anticipated delay will be the approval by each respective Administration for the group to access LAPD facilities and personnel to enter into discussions about potential loan and/or training programs.
Consensus or Dissent Process – Liaison Selection Process
<p>I. Liaison Selection Process: The Sr. Investigator volunteered to serve as the liaison to LAPD. No other employees volunteered for this project. The Guiding Coalition was asked to vote on the selection process of Sr. Investigator Liske as the liaison to LAPD. The voting result was: 3 in favor, 2 abstentions (1 due to long-term IOD), 1 against. Because of the abbreviated time frame, the Section Commander, within the scope of his duties, made the final decision to appoint the Sr. Investigator as the liaison.</p> <p>Any opinion pertaining to the personnel loan/training program will be predicated by the findings of the feasibility study workgroup.</p>