

Planning and Managing Security for Major Special Events: Guidelines for Law Enforcement

Impetus for Project

- ❑ U.S. Congress Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004,
 - ❑ COPS Office shall submit a report on best practices developed by various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to secure special events of national and regional importance.
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Impetus (cont'd)

- These events—sporting events, concerts, cultural exhibitions—present unique security concerns for law enforcement because they are attended by large numbers of people.
 - Congress also directed that COPS develop a training program.
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Project Staff

- ILJ (Connors, Webster, Kovener)
 - EKU, Dept of Criminal Justice & Police Studies (Cordner, Shain, Brodt, Collins, Mayberry)
 - Cunningham, Seamon, Ohlhausen
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Project Methodolgy

- ❑ Literature review—journals, reports, agencies' protocols, handbooks, etc.
 - ❑ Interviews with experts—NFL, NASCAR, USSS, FBI, DHS, PS, others
 - ❑ Phone interviews with over 40 agencies about field experiences
 - ❑ Field observations at over 15 events
 - ❑ Expert focus group
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Some Guiding Principles

- ❑ Plan for and manage for worst-case scenarios—but expect to deal with mundane crime
 - ❑ Anticipate unplanned activities and spur of the moment gatherings
 - ❑ Law enforcement must be concerned with the safety and security of event but also the economic impact
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Some Guiding Principles (cont'd)

- ❑ Recognize need for and benefits of leveraging resources and collaborating with others
 - ❑ Involve citizens and business community in planning
 - ❑ Ensure safety of event but also Constitutional rights—freedom of speech & assembly
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Some Guiding Principles (cont'd)

- ❑ Ensure that rest of jurisdiction receives essential services
 - ❑ Evaluate continuously and review operations and practices to update and improve security (after-action report)
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Overall Stages of Process for Planning & Managing Special Event

- Pre-event planning
 - Management of the event
 - Post-event activities
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Pre-event Planning

- Mission/charter
 - Leadership authority and structure
 - Partnership agreements
 - Legal authority of assisting agencies
 - Lead agency organization structure to manage event
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Event Security Key Functional Areas

- Personnel resources
 - Communications—internal; field
 - Intelligence
 - Fire/EMS/hospital
 - Legal
 - Field ops—venue security
 - Credentialing
 - Transportation/traffic
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Event Security Key Functional Areas (cont'd)

- Emergency evacuation
 - Hazmat/WMD—consequence mgmt
 - Tact support
 - Managing disorder
 - Media/PR
 - Training
 - Prisoner processing
 - Budget/logistics
 - Critique—after action report
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Breaking Rank: A Top Cop's Expose of the Dark Side of American Policing by Norm Stamper,
Nation Books, May 2005

- We learned many lessons from the Battle, foremost of which are: (1) line up as much help in advance as you possibly can, then find more; (2) plan for "force multipliers" (i.e., volunteers), but don't become overreliant on them; and (3) keep demonstrators at a much greater distance from official venues. No matter how much they bitch about it.
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