Trident University International

NAME

Module 3: SLP#3: The U.S. Intelligence Community

Relationships With Law Enforcement Agencies

HSL502: Intelligence Analysis and Homeland Security

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**Intelligence Community**

The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) is tasked with enforcing counterterrorism in both national and international efforts in the United States. It provides essential advice to the United States government on issues regarding terrorism. It forms part of the United States National Intelligence. NCTC is a center that combines the efforts and expertise of other agencies, including specialists from the U.S. DoD, CIA, HLS, and the FBI. The Center has been granted the power to gather, store, and evaluate intelligent data on the United States citizens that have been compiled from governmental and non-governmental sources. The Center analyzes any suspicious behavior by conducting pattern analysis and share results obtained.

The National Counterterrorism Center structure comprises a Director, who is appointed by the president. The Director of the Center reports directly to the Director of National Intelligence. Additionally, NCTC comprises four main directorates, including the Directorate of Intelligence, Directorate of Identity Intelligence, Directorate of Strategic Operational Planning, and the Directorate of Operation’s Support. Conversely, the center comprises of other offices, which share a similar agenda especially on matters involving intelligence and security. Such offices include the office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Affairs, and Office of Communications and Engagement. Since the 9/11 attack, the NCTC has been on the frontline of protecting and securing the nation from similar terrorist attacks, and the country has so far not been attacked the same way. Therefore, with the efforts and collaboration with other agencies, the agency can be said to be effective.

**History of Failure and Success**

There is no doubt that the current Intelligent Community plays a crucial role in the United States' national security. However, this has not always been the case a century ago. According to fas.org, the U.S. intelligence community has been uneven for years, to the extent of having an antagonistic relationship. From the early American republic, we see General George Washington was a firm believer in intelligence and understood the importance of intelligence in the country. Through the use of spy networks, who provided crucial information for the government in wars such as the Civil War to gain valuable insights. In World War I, when the United States joined in the war, the country didn’t have a proper and coordinated intelligence workforce. The 20th century saw the rise and growth of the Intelligence Community in the United States. Agencies such as DCI, Central Intelligence Group (CIG), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the National Security Council (NSC) were formed to improve the company’s security.

With the development of the Intelligence Community in the mid-20th century, there were sharp community divisions. For instance, in the 1970s, there was a hot debate and mixed reactions over DCI taking over the Intelligence Community. The efforts of integrating the intelligence community failed. According to Kredo (2013), the author reveals that the United States had not achieved integration and information sharing between various agencies. The authors highlight that the Boston Marathon Bombing would have been avoided only if the FBI and other federal authorities would have shared crucial information on the attackers or the threat.

According to a LEAP article, the country’s security and safety heavily depend on the local, state, and tribal law enforcement officers and security agencies. Kredo (2013) states that the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), developed in 2002, was designed to promote intelligence community sharing between various security agencies. For instance, they are promoting good relations between Homeland Security and local law enforcement. However, the Boston Marathon bombing is a clear indication that security agencies need to work on integration to ensure the effective flow of intelligent information to improve security. While the development of JTTF successfully integrated the security agencies, its actual implementation reveals several challenges that hinder full integration.

**Reason For IC Integration With LE**

According to Carter (2009), for the United States to effectively protect itself from threats, it needs to develop a culture of information sharing effectively. This includes sharing information between the federal, state, local, and tribal levels of agencies. Another reason for sharing information is to allow for better evaluation. A security agency may have some sensitive information but fail to understand its meaning. However, with sharing, different agencies can put their information or data on the table to establish links, leading to proper understanding.

Another reason for sharing information is to enable the agencies to develop proper ways of dealing with a particular threat. Having all the security agencies on board in a specific terrorist threat can lead to effective prevention strategies, thus enhancing security and preventing the threat from occurring. For instance, the Boston Marathon Bombing could have been avoided if the National Intelligence had shared the two suspects' information or description. Sharing the information could have alerted the security personnel at the event, where they would have tightened the security by scanning the spectator’s bags and luggage.

Ensuring speedy sharing of information with law enforcement agencies can result in the quick capturing of a suspected terrorist. Additionally, quick sharing of sensitive information is essential in reacting fast to a terrorist threat. Local law enforcement officers in rural areas can engage a particular threat much quicker than waiting for security personnel from the FBI from the Capital. This is essential in ensuring the danger is averted before any damage can be done. Conversely, it is vital to ensure that information is limited to only specific individuals to avoid leakage. When a threat about a terrorist attack leaks to the public, it can result in public disorder, as people try to flee the area. This commotion could result in even more damage if the terrorist decided to attack civilians as they leave. Limiting information is vital in ensuring peace is maintained while giving the security agencies an excellent space to handle the threat.

**IC Assistance In Targeting A Gang**

Bordentown City is a small and peaceful city in New Jersey. However, there have been incidents of criminal gangs breaking into cars parked in parking lots and shopping malls in recent years. According to an article by Zoppo (2018), the “smash-and-grab” crimes are increasing in South Jersey, and the gang behind these crimes is the “Felony Lane gang.” According to the reporter, the gang is a multi-state organization, which targets vehicles in school and gym parking lots. According to the reporter who interviewed Sgt. Sal Guido, such thieves, can be difficult to catch once they leave the scene as they often rent cars and often use stolen driver’s licenses.

Additionally, Bordentown is also facing the problem of drug use and smuggling, which could be a cause of the increased crime rates in the city. For instance, in a press release from Bordentown Township Police Department, published in WBNC (2020), the police state that on August 20th, 2020, the police arrested four individuals in a drug bust. The four suspects were involved in drug distribution, in which they were found in possession of marijuana, Xanax pills, and heroin. With increased drug use, the Intelligence Community can be involved to undertake investigations. With increased drug use, the chances of violence or crimes increase, attracting terrorist groups. Therefore, the Intelligence Community can offer assistance to tackle the criminal groups and bring more peace to the city.

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