

THE PSC DISPATCH

FALL 2008

PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO

We are proud to share the latest information about public safety efforts at SANDAG in this Fall 2008 edition of the PSC Dispatch. We hope you find this information useful. Should you have any questions regarding these efforts, please feel free to contact us. The next Public Safety Committee (PSC) meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m., Friday, November 14, 2008, at SANDAG, 401 B St., Suite 800, in downtown San Diego.

— Hon. Mark Lewis, Chair PSC and Mayor of El Cajon

PSC Members

Mayor Mark Lewis (Chair), *East County*
Mayor David Roberts, *North County Coastal*
Councilmember Bob Campbell, *North County Inland*
Vice Mayor Frank Parra, *South County*
Chair Pro Tem Pam Slater-Price, *County of San Diego*
Council President Pro Tem Anthony Young, *City of San Diego*
Chiefs Tom Zoll and Kirk Sanfilippo, *County Chiefs'/Sheriff's Association*
Chief Gary Dominquez, *State Public Safety*
District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis
Sheriff Bill Kolender
Chief William Lansdowne, *San Diego Police Department*
Deputy Chief Operating Officer Jill Olen, *Homeland Security*
Chief David Ott, *Regional Fire/EMS*
Director Bill Burke, *Regional Transit*

PSC Advisory Members

Vice-Chairwoman Carlene Chamberlain, *Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association*
Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins, *County Public Safety*
Colonel James Seaton, III, *Department of Defense*
Special Agent in Charge Keith Slotter, *Federal Public Safety*
U.S. Attorney Karen Hewitt, *Federal Public Safety*



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PSC Meetings Cover Key Regional Issues

During its two most recent meetings, the PSC focused its attention on timely issues for the region – homeland security and fire services.

At the September 2008 meeting, Director Matthew Bettenhausen of the California Office of Homeland Security provided an update on what is happening at the state level pertaining to funding and initiatives to further enhance the safety of our communities. At the meeting, he applauded the San Diego region for the work done locally with citizen involvement and the creation of a disaster corps. Additional items discussed at the meeting included an overview of recent ARJIS and Criminal Justice Research Division (CJRD) accomplishments and updates on local homeland security projects, as well as efforts undertaken by the City of San Diego, the County of San Diego, and the local transit agencies. The Committee also reviewed information on the new regional Law Enforcement Coordination Center (LECC), a collaborative effort among many of the law enforcement agencies in the county to

co-locate information and analytical services and support in order to provide a regional, all crimes approach to addressing public safety issues.



Director Matthew Bettenhausen (upper right photo), Mayor Mark Lewis, and other members of the Public Safety Committee listen to a presentation regarding homeland security in the region at the September meeting.

At the October meeting, four presentations were made to the Committee by fire chiefs from around the region. They covered actions taken since the 2007 firestorms swept the county, including the examination of agency consolidation, community preparedness, regional technology partnerships, and training.

Chief Augie Ghio from the San Miguel Fire Department (and an alternate representative to the PSC) noted that while the 64 fire agencies around the County currently work collaboratively, there is consensus that there is still room for improvement by consolidating departments in such a way that it best benefits each of the communities served.

ARJIS Technology Helps Cops Better ID Criminals

Sharing Local Success with the Nation

Success Story

"The system in dispatch was running slow that day so I decided to try running him with the PDA. Before dispatch was able to give me the info, I learned that he had an active felony no-bail warrant for assault with a deadly weapon on a police officer. The PDA allowed me to quickly learn that I was dealing with a potentially very violent person. I took him into custody without having to spend an undue amount of time with the suspect, possibly giving him time to think about how to either hurt me or get away!" San Diego Harbor Police Officer

The number one request from San Diego County's public safety personnel is the ability to positively identify individuals (both suspects and victims) in the field. Most investigators must call in names and vehicle information over the radio to dispatchers, resulting in delays, misidentification, or releases before positive identification can be confirmed. Working closely with the Department of Homeland Security and the National Institute of Justice, ARJIS responded to this priority and has implemented the very successful PDA Wireless Project. The program has deployed more than 600 handheld ARJIS Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies — including task forces — across the region.

Since this project began, investigators have used the devices to conduct queries of pictures – booking photos, driver's licenses, and shots taken by gang investigators. The technology has resulted in more timely responses and hundreds of positive identifications, arrests, and case cancellations. As this project continues, ARJIS will develop new functionalities (e.g., biometric facial recognition

component). The program also will roll out PDAs to other agencies, continuing to fulfill its mission of providing timely information to officers in the field.

For more information about ARJIS, please contact Pam Scanlon, the Executive Director, at (619) 699-6971 or psc@sandag.org.

Criminal Justice Releases Updated Crime Statistics

Over the past two months, the CJRD released two new CJ Bulletins in their "Crime in the Region" series. As part of its Regional Criminal Justice Clearinghouse function, and with the support of member agencies, this information is compiled through the cooperation of local law enforcement agencies. Some highlights from these two publications include:

From "San Diego Violent Crime Victims and Suspects in 2007"

- Gang activity was responsible for nearly half (47 percent) of homicides in which motives were known;
- Over one in four (28 percent) rape victims were under the age of 18; and
- Children and young teens were suspects in one-third (33 percent) of robberies.

From "Crime in the San Diego Region: Mid-Year 2008 Statistics"

- The annualized violent crime rate for the region was at a 10-year low (3.90 per 1,000 population), decreasing eight percent in the first half of 2008, compared to the same period in 2007;
- There were 47 homicides in the first half of 2008, which was a lower number compared to one year (first half of 2007) and five years (2004) earlier;
- The region's mid-year property crime rate decreased for the fifth consecutive year, to 26.95 crimes per 1,000 residents; and
- With a total of 42,394 property crimes between January and June 2008, there was an average of almost 232 burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle thefts reported to law enforcement on a daily basis.

Both these and other CJ Bulletins can be accessed on the SANDAG Web site: www.sandag.org/cj

For more information about the CJRD, please contact Cynthia Burke, the Division Director, at (619) 699-1910 or cbu@sandag.org.