

Global Policing – Interpol with Teeth?

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The Command College Futures Study Project is a FUTURES study of a particular emerging issue of relevance to law enforcement. Its purpose is NOT to predict the future; rather, to project a variety of possible scenarios useful for strategic planning in anticipation of the emerging landscape facing policing organizations.

This journal article was created using the futures forecasting process of Command College and its outcomes. Defining the future differs from analyzing the past, because it has not yet happened. In this article, methodologies have been used to discern useful alternatives to enhance the success of planners and leaders in their response to a range of possible future environments.

Managing the future means influencing it—creating, constraining and adapting to emerging trends and events in a way that optimizes the opportunities and minimizes the threats of relevance to the profession.

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One of the fundamental obligations of law enforcement is to protect their citizenry from crime and criminals. How can this objective be successfully accomplished when many crimes are not being investigated; and as many criminals are not being arrested, due to the crime's occurrence across international borders? In truth, there are no protocols or law enforcement structures to effectively cope with international crimes and criminals. The United States is not alone in this predicament. The entire world must learn to effectively investigate, arrest, and prosecute crimes that cross national borders. Crime boundaries are less obvious and unfortunately, law enforcement has not caught up to today's global society.

This article will explore the possibilities and implications of incorporating a global police force that would (in the not too distant future) be responsible for effectively and efficiently investigating, arresting, and prosecuting international crimes and criminals, whose crimes cross national borders. On the pages that follow, we will fast-forward to 2017 to see how the police might respond in a more global fashion to the emerging trends in international crime. The future you will see, though, is grounded in a system of law enforcement barely considered today; the global police force. You will also see, through current examples of pilot policing models, that the concept of global policing is not that farfetched.

Current Policing Models

Over the last several decades, policing has become more and more complex. Terrorism, international counterfeiting and financial crimes, child pornography, human trafficking, drugs, and the invention of a little known computer research assistant, called the internet, have required

law enforcement agencies to reassess their responses to these crimes.¹ These crimes are significant, and measures must be taken to address these problems locally as well as internationally.

Global collaboration is certainly not an easy task. Many crimes like terrorism, counterfeiting, financial and internet crimes go well beyond state, regional or national borders. It is quite difficult for a law enforcement agency to address an internet scam if the initiator of the scam is outside of the law enforcement agencies jurisdiction. The San Francisco Chronicle published an article on March 31, 2007 claiming internet scams were so prevalent, it was estimated that internet fraud cost Americans over 198.4 million dollars. Interestingly enough, this amount had increased 191 percent since 2004, when Americans lost about 68 million dollars to internet scams.² Of the Internet criminals who could be traced to their location, 61 percent resided inside the United States, followed by criminals based in the United Kingdom at 16 percent. Nigeria-based criminals were next at 6 percent.³ Certainly, the need to address these concerns internationally is not a new consideration.

The IACP

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the World's oldest and largest nonprofit membership organization of police executives, with over 20,000 members in over 89 different countries. Founded in 1893, their motto is “global leadership in policing.”⁴ The IACP touts itself as a global organization committed to facilitating the exchange of ideas, policies, procedures, and the development of executive police leadership.⁵ To that end, they have hosted

¹ Pedersen, Don Chief of Police – Nominal Group Technique Panel – October 25, 2007

² Rosenberg, Eric – U.S. Internet fraud at all-time high - San Francisco Chronicle March 31, 2007

³ Ibid

⁴ International Association of Chiefs of Police Website www.iacp.org

⁵ International Association Of Chiefs of Police Website www.iacp.org Committees, Divisions & Sections

several global policing summits that addressed global terrorism, radicalization, and the leadership challenges facing policing in the 21st century. Addressing global jurisdictional crimes has been lacking, though, according to Chief Joseph Carter, who is their Immediate Past President. In 2007, he stated, “The time has come to expand the focus of our efforts and provide for a greater international involvement.”⁶ The emerging theme is that law enforcement is significantly lacking in effectiveness within currently employed practices. Recently, Mohamed Abdulaziz Al-Nassr, the Vice President of the IACP’s International Policing Division, recognized the need for a more collaboration on addressing global crimes. In a message on the IACP International Policing Division homepage, Al-Nassr stated, “The propensity to draw from each other's resources, share ideas, collaborate on investigations and operations, is critical to our success as law enforcement professionals.” The IACP, following the sentiment of this statement, has standing committees dedicated to enhancing the cooperation amongst member countries.

Terrorism

It is extremely complex to deal with an act of international terrorism, whether the act occurred on domestic or international soil. Technology permits a virtual penetration of sovereign borders creating new vulnerabilities and a capability for criminals to operate globally.⁷ Because terrorist networks are truly global, the international law enforcement response must be equally global in its strategy to detect, deter, and prevent terrorist acts.⁸ One must only think of the attack of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 to realize that Terrorism can occur at anytime and on any nation’s soil. On October 23, 2007, in a discussion on the Global War on

⁶ Carter, Joseph - Police Chief Magazine, May 2007, www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/ “Global Policing Summit”

⁷ Al-Nassr, Mohamed Abdulaziz – International Vice President, International Association of Chiefs of Police (International Policing Division)

⁸ Police Chief Magazine, March 2007, www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/ “Global Policing Summit”

Terrorism, President Bush stated, "The greatest threat facing our nation in the 21st century is the danger of terrorist networks or terrorist states armed with weapons of mass destruction. "⁹

Certainly, the efforts of the IACP and others serve to impact the goals of terrorist groups. In truth, more can be done.

Regionalization- existing models

Many municipalities are familiar with the concept of regionalization of resources and services. When one agency cannot alone effectively address a problem due to limited resources, funding, or experience, cooperative agreements between geographically desirable agencies implement multi-jurisdictional task forces to try and resolve the problem. Los Angeles County, California is an excellent prototype of how cooperative entities can best address crime problems that affect more regional areas.

In Los Angeles County there are numerous cooperative agreements between geographically desirable local agencies for tactical teams, narcotics surveillance teams, gang intelligence, and multi-jurisdictional task forces such as with the Los Angeles Interagency Metropolitan Apprehension Crime Task Force (LA IMPACT). While all of these entities have made an impact on local and regional crimes, they are minimally capable of successfully dealing with crimes on a national or international level. Although models of international cooperation regarding enforcement matters are nominal in the United States, there is an emerging model in Europe that may serve as an example worthy of consideration.

⁹ U.S. Dept of State –U.S. Policy, October 23, 2007, www.uspolicy.be/issues/terrorism/terrorism.asp

INTERPOL and Beyond

The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) is the world's largest international police organization, with 186 member countries. It facilitates cross-border police co-operation, and supports and assists all organizations, authorities and services whose mission is to prevent or combat international crime.¹⁰ Contrary to popular belief, however, INTERPOL offices do not directly conduct inquiries in member countries, and is not an actual law enforcement agency. Its main role is the gathering of and passing of intelligence information to its 186 member countries.

INTERPOL features four core functions; Secure Global Policing Communication Services, Operational Services and Databases, Operational Police Support Services, and Police Training and Development are available to all member countries. Global Communications and Database Services facilitates the sharing of information on terrorists, crucial suspect information, and crimes. The Operational Police Support Services has a Command and Coordination Center that assists member countries in crises by dispatching police support services from other member countries. With the exception of Police Training and Development Services, each of the services operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All a member country needs to do is make an inquiry or request to the desired service and all efforts will be made to assist the country requesting the need.

INTERPOL recognizes that current policing practices are not as effective as they could be. In July of 2007, the Secretary General of INTERPOL stated world governments should create a multinational force to plug "gaping holes" in the fight against terrorism. He also said the

¹⁰ International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), www.interpol.int

future of anti-terrorism operations looked bleak unless authorities act now to resolve severe deficiencies in global policing.¹¹ That sentiment is being actualized as we speak.

The EGF

In September 2004, five European Union member states (France, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) established the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF). The EGF emerged from a 2003 French proposal (why did they propose it, and where?). The agreement resulted in the creation joint paramilitary police unit used for public order and assisting the military in member countries.¹² The main Headquarters (HQ) is based in Vicenza, Italy; commanded by a European Gendarmerie Force Commander. The EGF force, is not a standing force, and is generated and deployed on an ad hoc basis. It may be a rapidly deployed police force of a maximum of 800 police officers, under a 30 day notice.¹³ During a mission, units of the EGF are placed under a defined chain of command, and can be put either under military command or civil authority, in order to guarantee public security, public order and to fulfill judiciary police tasks.¹⁴

While this collaboration of efforts within the EGF is an outstanding foundation to consider a true “globalized” policing model, they have not been without controversy. As such, the EGF was fully not implemented until 2006. It may take an extended period of time, and numerous deployments before experts can truly say the EGF is a success.

¹¹ Interpol chief demands global anti-terror force, www.reuters.com July 4, 2007

¹² Statewatch News Online- September 17, 2004: http://www.carabinieri.it/Multilingua/ENG/P15-17_International_Police_Cooperation.htm

¹³ European Gendarmerie Force – Website www.eurogendfor.org

¹⁴ Ibid

With the implementation of the EGF, the strong statements made by INTERPOL and IACP, and other entities within the world looking to increase their law enforcement methods globally, there is a strong case for implementation of a Global Police Force. While each of the current models of policing is a collaboration of policing efforts, they fall short of comprehensive global policing. While a true global policing entity would necessitate significant cooperation from the United Nations, and all member nations would be required to sign agreements, imagine what a true global police force would look like and what it may be able to accomplish. Let's take a peek into that possible future.

A Look into the Future

As the world entered the 21st Century, experts in public safety recognized that cooperative international crime efforts set in place in the 20th Century were ineffective. Terrorism, homeland security issues, and global warming were only but a few of the crimes that required global law enforcement to revisit their operations and enhance their abilities for successfully addressing crimes that crossed international borders. Many nations realized that to be effective in their efforts, they needed to expand their focus and provide greater international involvement on combating crimes that held implications and repercussions on the entire globe.

Due to a lack of success with prior international crime combating agencies, the nations of the world passed a "World Bill" in 2028 that allowed for the development of a law enforcement entity responsible to investigate crime, arrest perpetrators and prosecute international crimes and criminals. Thus, the Global Police Force (GPF) was created.

By 2032, cooperative agreements were reached in the United Nations. A budget was formed, and a Chief Executive Officer was selected much in the manner that the Secretary

General of the UN is chosen. By 2034, there are GPF Headquarters on each of the seven continents of the world. On each continent, there is Continent Commander, who is responsible for all operations and functions within their jurisdiction. There is a Global Judicial Court System, taking the place of today's World Court. Interestingly, they retained the headquarters of that organization in The Hague to satisfy critics of the transition. Within two years, a series of correctional facilities, modeled after the United State's federal prison system, but administered by The UN's Committee on Human Rights and Amnesty International were erected. Working within this system is both invigorating and, at times, frustrating for those charged with nurturing the growth of the GPF. Let's look at a "day in the life" of one of our Continent Commanders...

Commander Nichols

Continent Commander Lizanne Nichols woke up and arose from her bed ready for her first day at work in her new assignment. It was November 11, 2033, and she had recently been transferred to the Asian headquarters of the Global Police Force (GPF). She had already done brief tours of duty at both the North American and South American headquarters. But, as she showered, she thanked her lucky stars she had not been transferred to the Antarctic Headquarters.

She looked on her daily calendar and noticed she had a holomeeting with the other Continent Commanders to discuss the recently acquired surveillance technology to be used by the GPF. The radio frequency identification chip (RFID) to be implanted in all convicted world fugitives was controversial, but seen as a necessary move to ward off the increase in nanocrimes seen in the past decade. The six Continent Commanders were already seated at the "table" when she entered. After revising their policy statement regarding RFID implants, they also agreed upon the next 10 fugitives they would actively set out to arrest. They decided on an operational

plan and came up with a budget for the mission. The mission was assigned to the South American Continent Headquarters, since that was the last time one the top ten was electronically audited upon entry into that region.

After her meeting was complete, she went to the Asian Continent Headquarters. Once there, she conducted a check on the Global Police Force national correctional facility to ensure the 1000 world prisoners were being well taken care of, and that no one's human rights were being violated. Two GPF Detectives advised they would have to appear in court the following week on a case of international counterfeiting of child pornography sims. Since the Global Judicial Court was strategically based on Antarctica (due to the fact that people are less likely to attend the judicial proceedings, which limits possible problems), funding for transportation and local accommodations needed to be attended to immediately.

After completing the arrangements, Commander Nichols was approached by the supervisor of the Human Trafficking Asian Continent Task Force. The supervisor advised her that a covert task force (in operation for months) yielded information of a human trafficking ring that had cells not only in Asia, but in Africa and North America as well. The supervisor suggested the best plan of action was to contact the GPF Continent Commanders at the African and North American Headquarters to facilitate a coordinated investigation of trafficking rings on their continents. Once that was done, a simultaneous raid could be affected on each of the factions of the human trafficking ring. These types of simultaneous strikes and arrests were commonplace since the GPF had exceptional communication infrastructure, and could interact virtually almost anywhere on the globe.

When Commander Nichols finally sat at her desk and connected to the hololist of the latest updates on world crime. Her system seemed to balk, and she was advised in real time of a cyber-attack originating in the United States. These attacks occurred from time to time; perhaps from groups protesting the way the world had come to resemble “The Matrix” (at least that’s what they said in their propaganda). Fortunately, the GPF firewall was a next-gen AI system, and GPF nanocops were already en route to the ISP of the hackers. Nichols used the few free moments while the system reset to ask her home assistant (a Virtual Reality system) to open her electronic telephone book and locate the number of her peer in the United States. She thought to herself that it was going to be a long week, but the GPF was up for the task and well prepared to deal with the undertaking.

Back to the present...

Three hundred years ago, the world never imagined commercial travel by air. One hundred years ago, no one imagined that man would land on the moon. Seventy-Five years ago, the world never expected interstellar travel. Thirty years ago, no one imagined that with the click of a button you could send a message around the world that could get there before you could pick up a phone.

So, what’s next? Prior to fully implementing a true Global Police Force, this model of policing could be implemented on a smaller scale with prototypes on individual Continents. The first prototype could begin with a North American Police Force that would encompass a policing model for Canada, the United States, and Mexico. From there, who knows?