

Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force

Addendum Report

**Task Force Report pursuant to
SB 2160 enacted by the
2011 Legislature**

December 28, 2012

Task Force Members

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Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Commissioner Gerald Bailey
Florida Department of Law Enforcement

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Hillsborough County Sheriff David Gee
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Port Orange Police Chief Gerald Monahan
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The Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force submitted an initial report to the President of the State Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives on December 21, 2011 pursuant to the deadline established in Senate Bill 2160 enacted by the 2011 Legislature. The initial report provided recommendations to the Legislature of where efficiencies could be achieved in state law enforcement resources. This final report provides updates on six open items from the initial report. In addition, the task force was asked to study two additional issues and submit recommendations for future consideration prior to the task force sun-setting on December 31, 2012.

Six teams were tasked with conducting follow-up study and providing recommendations as follows:

■ *Agricultural Interdiction Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Merger Team - Team conducted further study and evaluation on potential efficiencies that could be achieved by co-location commercial vehicle operations on US 1, US17 and US 27.*

A study conducted by the Department of Transportation (DOT) determined that the cost to modify the current facilities to co-locate Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Affairs Agricultural Interdiction and DOT Motor Carrier operations at the noted locations would cost approximately \$1.5M - \$1.6M.

The team makes the following recommendation:

Due to the prohibitive cost that no further action be taken on this matter and the team report be closed out.

■ *Environmental Law Enforcement Unit Team - Team will provide a recommendation on consolidating Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Communications Center duty officers into the Florida Highway Patrol (FHP) Communications Center.*

The team conducted further study into FWC and FHP communications operations and determined that due to significant differences in field operations it would be difficult to cross-train communications personnel on the different duties and responsibilities of the respective agencies. The upcoming merger of environmental law enforcement personnel into the FWC from other agencies would also complicate any consolidation efforts at this time.

The team makes the following recommendation:

That no further action be taken on this matter and the team report be closed out.

■ *Inspector General (IG) Investigative Function Team - Team will report back on efforts to develop legislation to standardize IG staffs and address recommendations in the initial report.*

The team recommendation to de-conflict the Whistleblower Statute and Police Bill of Rights will not be accomplished through an opinion by the Attorney General. The Attorney General's Office recommended that legislative clarification be sought on these issues during the 2013 Legislative session. In addition, it was also recommended that the Legislature clarify the issue of whether civilian investigators can perform investigations on sworn personnel. An MOU is being finalized to have independent legal counsel for Inspectors General. A consensus on IG staffing ratios

will be worked out between the House, Senate and Office of Policy and Budget (OPB).

The team makes the following recommendation:

The Office of Chief Inspector General will continue to work with OPB and the Legislature to address the team recommendations in next year's legislative session. It was further recommended that the team report be closed out.

■ *Law Enforcement Administration and Support Team - Team will be an asset in evaluating specific administrative and support needs for agencies involved in consolidation efforts.*

The team forwarded all information on merging policy, administrative staff and legal resources to FWC to assist with the merger of environmental law enforcement resources.

The team makes the following recommendation:

The methodology used by FWC during the upcoming merger be codified to ensure that future administrative consolidations benefit from this merger. It was further recommended that the team report be closed out.

■ *Sworn Law Enforcement Versus Civilianization Team - Team will conduct further study on consolidating evidence functions and provide specific recommendations on converting sworn positions at several regulatory agencies.*

Most agencies have implemented the team's recommendations for civilianizing certain positions. The Department of Lottery's Division of Law Enforcement is currently evaluating positions that could be civilianized. The Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco (ABT), Bureau of Law Enforcement has examined their operations and determined that 30% of sworn positions can be reclassified to non-sworn status as they become vacant. ABT has also identified additional supervisory positions that could be reclassified to line personnel to increase the number of "boots on the ground."

Task force members expressed their desire that any changes made by state agencies in their compliment of sworn personnel not adversely impact local law enforcement by creating unfunded mandates or gaps in state law enforcement efforts that would default those enforcement workloads to municipalities throughout Florida.

The team makes the following recommendation:

That agencies continue to evaluate potential positions that could be civilianized and the team report be closed out.

■ *Vehicle/Fleet Management Logistics Team - Team will report back on results of discussions with various legislative aides and state agencies on the best way to proceed with recommendations.*

There was no consensus among state agencies and legislative aides on methods to address these recommendations during the 2012 Legislative session. Further discussions will be held by various agencies over the next year to determine if any of these recommendations will be addressed in future legislative sessions.

The team makes the following recommendation:

No further action on this matter be taken at this time and the team report be closed out.

Two new issues were presented to the task force to study and provide recommendations for future consideration. The task force appointed team sponsors for two new teams, who assembled teams of subject matter experts to establish team charters, study the issues and provide appropriate recommendations.

Two new teams were established to address these issues as-follows:

Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System Team

The Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System (SLERS) Team was sponsored by Colonel James Brown and led by Lieutenant Colonel Greg Gibson. The team was responsible for building upon a consensus among SLERS partner agencies that administrative placement and responsibility for the SLERS needs to be assessed in order to optimize efficiencies in design and ensure effective handling of its current state and future development. The team's goal was to provide recommendations regarding assignment of operational administration of SLERS, identify potential system enhancement, review current statutes and clarify the assignment of legislative advocacy for SLERS.

The team makes the following recommendations:

The full report from the Statewide Law Enforcement Radio System team can be found in the Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force Team Reports site. After considerable consultation between the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the Department of Management Services (DMS), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Joint Task Force for State Radio Communications (JTF) the committee recommends that SLERS remain at DMS. The committee also recommends the use of an MOU between DMS and JTF to clarify roles and responsibilities of each party and to establish a direction for future strategic goals. All parties met on December 14, 2012 to agree on the MOU concept and a future strategy to include a request to the JTF technical committee for an inventory of current services and a recommendation for future needs for the state radio system. This recommendation strongly advises the JTF to become involved in the evolution of future radio systems and to make recommendations to DMS and the Legislature about current and future radio system requirements.

Law Enforcement Information Technology Services Team

The Law Enforcement Information Technology Services Team was sponsored by Mr. Emery Gainey and led by Ms. Deborah Stevens and Mr. Robert Fields. The team was responsible for gathering additional information related to creation of a state law enforcement information technology resource center to assure the security and operational integrity of critical public safety related data and intelligence. The team's objective was to assess if this resource center would promote safety services across the state, enhance office safety and ensure reliable data delivery throughout Florida.

The team makes the following recommendations:

The workgroup findings focused on four major areas: the technology needs of law enforcement, challenges of the current consolidation framework, consideration for the establishment of a dedicated Law Enforcement Technology Service and Support Center and critical success factors for establishing such a Data Center.

The current effort to consolidate the numerous Florida state government data centers is justified from a financial perspective. However, it is the general consensus within the Law Enforcement Information Technology community that the current Data Center Consolidation initiative introduces unacceptable risk for law enforcement and the citizens of the state of Florida.

The workgroup identified many potential sources of risk that exist in the current state data center system, as evidenced by experiences such as extended downtime, insufficient security management, insufficient backup of servers and operational schedules inconsistent with the needs of law enforcement information technology.

One alternative to the current approach is the establishment of a dedicated Law Enforcement Technology Service and Support Center, hosted and managed by a law enforcement agency. This Data Center could ultimately host centralized systems and shared data, as well as support for all of the devices and technology critical to the core mission of law enforcement. It could also provide co-location services to law enforcement agencies, to allow them to house non-law enforcement systems that are not centrally hosted and managed, but that need ongoing support of the participating law enforcement agency. The scope of participation, or nonparticipation, by an agency with a law enforcement function would be considered and determined during the initial planning phase of the project to determine if participation is warranted.

Implementation of the Data Center should be phased and must be carefully planned and managed, with consideration for critical success factors including but not limited to those identified by the workgroup.

The Law Enforcement Information Technology Services Team's final report detailing their findings, suggestions, and recommendations is available at the team site. We are aware that several of these recommendations will require legislative actions and a change in current statutes in order to implement them, and therefore offer this final report to be used as a guide and/or for consideration towards these goals.

Summary

In closing it was with great pride that the Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force performed its duties and responsibilities. Thank you for giving the law enforcement community the opportunity to evaluate best management practices and a process to openly discuss the future of our community and the services law enforcement gives to the people of the State of Florida. As a group we stand ready to serve again and are available to discuss the recommendations found in this or previous reports.