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Major Cities Chiefs Release National Law Enforcement Threat Picture
Priority Threat Issues of Major City Law Enforcement Agencies

WASHINGTON, February 20, 2019 – On behalf of the largest law enforcement agencies in the Nation, Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) President and Houston Police Department Chief Art Acevedo issued a statement today announcing the release of the National Threat Picture identifying priority threat issues for law enforcement in major cities. These top priority threat issues were identified through the new Threat Review and Prioritization (TRP) process.

Adopted by a vote of the Chiefs at their Winter Meeting, the new report identifies the following:

- Violent crimes involving firearms are overwhelmingly the number one-ranked issue nationwide.
- Core policing concerns comprise the top ten issues, including gun violence and drug-related crimes and impacts.
- Twenty-two categories were identified as priority threat issues.
- The top five nationwide threat issues include: Violent Crime with Firearm, Drug User Derivative Crime, Drug Trafficking and Proliferation, Decentralized Street Gangs, and the Opioid Epidemic

This project was carried out through the Intelligence Commanders Group, a joint group of the MCCA and Major County Sheriffs of America. The Intelligence Commanders Group includes an appointee from every member Chief and Sheriff from the MCCA and MCSA. The development and coordination of this process was supported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Chief Acevedo said: "This is an unprecedented effort and report from the major city law enforcement agencies. There has never been an effort from all major city law enforcement agencies to identify their priority threat issues and rank them nationwide. With one hundred percent participation from our United States member law enforcement agencies, we have a very clear picture of our common priority threat issues. This Threat Review and Prioritization (TRP) process gives us a methodology for examining priority threats in our individual agencies and nationwide."

"This is a tremendous demonstration of our collective knowledge and capabilities through the Major Cities Chiefs Association and what we can accomplish through strong partnerships among all our agencies and with federal support, thanks in great part to the strong partnership we have through the FBI. We look forward to using this as another tool for us to work with our communities, federal partners, and elected officials. The TRP process has already resulted in federal partners offering to support our member law enforcement agencies to address priority threat issues."

FBI Director Christopher Wray said: "For the FBI, partnerships with local law enforcement have never been more important. We'll continue to support them in any way we can. These National Threat Picture results have helped to increase our understanding of the priority threats in major cities, so we can find better ways to work together. The TRP has already increased opportunities for information sharing and working together against common threats."

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2018 National Threat Picture
Priority Threat Issues of Major City Law Enforcement Agencies

Threat Review and Prioritization (TRP) Background

Beginning in 2017, the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) and the Major County Sheriffs of America (MCSA) Intelligence Commanders Group (ICG), with the support of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), developed the ICG Threat Review and Prioritization (TRP) process to be able to establish the first National Threat Picture (NTP) among all member agencies which is the first time major law enforcement agencies have ranked their top threat issues nationwide. All 69 MCCA United States member agencies participated in this process, for a 100% participation rate.

Twenty-two issues were identified as the 2018 Priority Threat Issues and ranked by each of the 69 participating agencies to establish a final National Threat Picture. Each of the 22 threat issues are a priority for all member police agencies, regardless of their rank order. A threat issue is considered a priority based on six different impact categories: Police perception; Public perception; Impact on community/neighborhood; Economic impact; Impact on police resources; and Law enforcements' impact on the threat. The TRP is as an annual process to be completed by all members.
It will provide a benchmark for police leaders to gauge changes year-to-year. The national priority rankings may not be indicative of individual agency priorities.

2018 National Threat Picture: An Overview

Core policing concerns comprise the top ten issues. Violent crimes involving firearms are overwhelmingly the number one ranked issue nationwide. The top five threat issues drive the remaining threat issues. The three terrorism categories fall into the bottom six ranks, possibly because it is a low-frequency event, and agencies are concerned about other acts of mass violence—such as school shootings—by independent violent actors (IVA), regardless of ideology.

2018 NATIONAL THREAT PICTURE
22 Priority Threat Issues

1	VIOLENT CRIME WITH FIREARM
2	DRUG USER DERIVATIVE CRIME
3	DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION
4	DECENTRALIZED STREET GANGS
5	OPIOID EPIDEMIC
6	HOMICIDES
7	NON-VIOLENT CRIMINAL VIOLATION
8	VIOLENT CRIME WITHOUT FIREARM
9	CRIMINAL ACTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT
10	SEX CRIMES
11	CENTRALIZED GANGS
12	FINANCIAL CRIMES/FRAUD
13 14	GUN TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION, tied with ORGANIZED THEFT
15	HUMAN TRAFFICKING
16	CYBER CRIMES
17	DOMESTIC TERRORISM
18	HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMISM
19	ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS
20	FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS
21	PRISON GANGS
22	HUMAN SMUGGLING

VIOLENT CRIME WITH FIREARM
- 90% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 32% ranked this issue number one.

Defined as any violent crime, excluding homicides, that involves the use of a firearm, which may include, but not be limited to, car-jacking, home invasion, armed robbery, aggravated assault, etc.

DRUG USER DERIVATIVE CRIME
- 59% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.
- 13% ranked this issue number one.

Defined as crimes committed by drug users to support their habit or while under the influence of drugs—not in furtherance of gang activity—including robberies, break-ins, assaults, impaired driving, etc.

DRUG TRAFFICKING AND PROLIFERATION
- 59% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.

Defined as trafficking and proliferation of drugs; may include large-scale sale, production, and/or distribution of illegal drugs. Individuals may be affiliated with an organized gang or operate independently.

DECENTRALIZED STREET GANGS
- 56% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.

Defined as any organization that meets the reporting jurisdiction legal definition of a gang, engaging in criminal activity articulated by the jurisdiction's penal code. May comprise persons or organizations labeled as "regional", "neighborhood based", or "hybrid." Does not include prison or outlaw motorcycle gangs.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC
- 59% of agencies ranked this among their top five concerns.

The opioid epidemic comprises heroin, synthetic Fentanyl, and prescription drugs. Includes but is not limited to: opioid overdose deaths, distribution, criminal activity, production, etc.

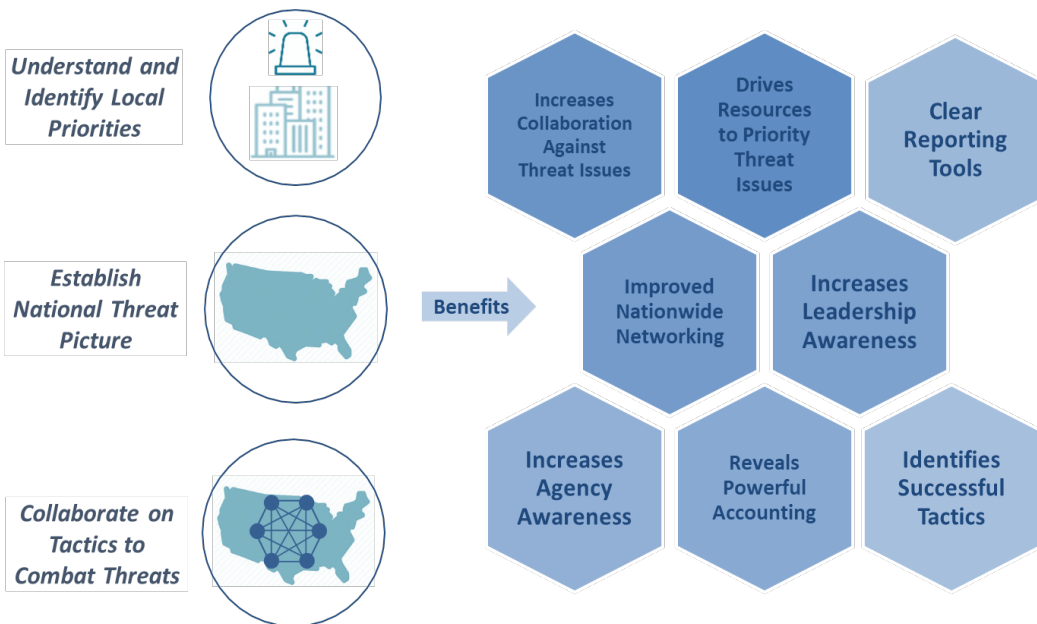# 2018 National Threat Picture

Purpose

The TRP enables agencies to identify, prioritize, and address critical threat issues facing their communities, through an agreed upon common set of priority threat issues that are applicable nationwide. This supports agencies in their analysis of threats, allocation of resources, and identification and review of threat mitigation strategies. The pre-defined list of national threat issues was developed by the membership and Steering Committee of the ICG and is comprised of the most pressing threat issues facing law enforcement. In addition, since the TRP is completed by all ICG member agencies, the TRP reporting tool allows agencies to identify other agencies that have similar threat rankings. This can be used as a reference by command staff to partner with these similar cities for best practices and tactics to most effectively address and mitigate the threat issues. Finally, wide participation by all member agencies to rank the pre-defined list of national threat issues allows the MCCA and MCSA to clearly identify the most pressing priorities facing local law enforcement on a national scale in a National Threat Picture.

Benefits

The TRP was developed to meet the needs of Intelligence Commander Group member agencies to be able to quickly identify their top threat issues and be able to share them with all other members. Other benefits include:

- Establishes a National Threat Picture to help drive resources to priority threat issues.
- Provides a tool for Chief and command staff to talk about agency's priorities and how to address.
- Provides reporting tools to help agency leadership and national associations to present a powerful narrative to share with communities and elected officials.
- Increases the conversation, awareness, and education across the agency, which will ultimately improve an agency's prevention activities.

Understand and Identify Local Priorities

Establish National Threat Picture

Benefits →

Collaborate on Tactics to Combat Threats

Increases Collaboration Against Threat Issues

Drives Resources to Priority Threat Issues

Clear Reporting Tools

Improved Nationwide Networking

Increases Leadership Awareness

Increases Agency Awareness

Reveals Powerful Accounting

Identifies Successful Tactics

The Early Results

In addition to realizing the benefits outlined above, the TRP Process and the National Threat Picture have already had the following impact in the initial months since the process was completed:

- Agencies have connected to identify successful mitigation tactics and collaborate against common threat issues.
- Federal agencies have offered to support local law enforcement agencies to address priority threat issues.
- There have been increased connections made between agencies on a broader set of law enforcement issues.

These results are expected to continue and will expand in subsequent years as the process matures and additional components are incorporated.