

# ARIZONA COUNTER TERROISM AND INFORMATION CENTER (ACTIC)



Before the Indian Law and Order Commission

January 13, 2012

Presented By Major Michael Orose

Commission members, Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today on behalf of the Arizona Counter Terrorism and Information Center (ACTIC).

My name is Michael Orose and I am a Major with the Arizona Department of Public Safety, current assignment is the Director of the ACTIC. The ACTIC is one of seventy two (72) nationally recognized fusion centers in the United States and it is the fusion center for the State of Arizona. The ACTIC is an “all crimes, “all hazards” and terrorism information and intelligence center. The ACTIC is a multi-jurisdictional center that has full-time representation from; the state, county, cities and federal agencies.



I became the Director in February of 2011 and when I assumed the position I realized that we were missing a very valuable partner - **the tribal component**. The Tribal or Indian Country component represents 21 tribal agencies and approximately 25% of the geography of Arizona.

Working with the Tribal Nations began in 2009 when the Department of Homeland Security Intelligence and Analyst person assigned to the ACTIC began working with the Tohono O’odham Police Department to get one of their officers into the TLO program.

Also, in 2009 an ACTIC TLO conducted a strategic planning session for the Fort McDowell Tribal Nation.

In early 2011, I began meeting with representatives from the Tohono O’odham Nation in an effort to enhance the information and intelligence exchange between the ACTIC and the Tribal Nations.

I was invited to attend the Indian Country Intelligence Network (ICIN) group meetings. It was at the ICIN meetings that to demonstrate my commitment to enhancing the information and intelligence sharing

between the Tribal Nations and the ACTIC, I offered work space, computer equipment and connectivity to the ACTIC's data bases.

On February 18, 2011, Mr. Ed Reina made a presentation to the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) about establishing an "all Tribal Fusion Center". A motion was made and it passed with a unanimous vote.

Part of the effort to build the information/intelligence sharing between the Tribal Nations and the ACTIC, was to increase the number of Tribal Terrorism Liaison Officers (TLO's). I offered to conduct an "All Tribal" TLO School at a location on one of the Tribal Nations. Initially, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) thought that they would be able to provide scholarships for 18 people to attend, since several of the attendees would have to travel to attend the school. We were able to secure a location at the Wild Horse Pass Resort on the Gila River Nation. A few weeks before the TLO School was scheduled to start it came to our attention that BIA was not going to be able to provide the 18 scholarships for the people to attend the TLO School. In an effort to make sure that the Tribal agencies that did not have the funding for their people to attend did not miss out on this training opportunity, I offered that the ACTIC would fund those agency's people to attend the school. The TLO School was conducted in September 2011, there were 17 attendees representing 8 different Tribal Nations. This was the First "All Tribal" TLO School in the United States. The TLO School was modified slightly to incorporate a training block on Tribal Sovereignty. Also, the police officers that attended that TLO training received 40 hours of continuing training credits from the Arizona Police Officer Training and Standards Board (POST).

I just recently received a call from the Gila River Tribal Police Department stating that they would like to send one of their officers to the next TLO School and that officer would be assigned to the ACTIC as a liaison back to their police department. That officer is currently attending the TLO School in Tucson and upon his graduation will be assigned to the ACTIC.

While attending the ICIN meetings there were discussions on ways to improve attendance and several topics were discussed. One of the ideas was to conduct training as part of the ICIN meetings. Through ICIN, the members of were invited to attend the opening morning session of the TLO school and then the membership attended the ICIN meeting.

The Fusion centers in the Southwest heard about the ACTIC and the Tribal Nations working together and the progress that we were making toward information/intelligence sharing that they asked me to host a meeting to share what we were doing in Arizona. Mr. Gary Edwards, CEO of the National Native American Law Enforcement Association (NNALEA) was invited to attend. There were representatives from the Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona Fusion Centers along with the Tohono O'odham Police Department's Assistant Chief, Malcolm Lewis.

Based on the information exchange, Mr. Edwards requested that; I, Assistant Chief Lewis and a representative from the Colorado fusion center be members of a panel presentation to discuss Fusion Center Capabilities for Tribal Nations at the Annual NNALEA National Training Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on September 20-22, 2011. The panel discussion was very well received.

The actual panel discussion lasted 40 minutes and when the session was over, I stayed another 25 minutes talking to some of the attendees and answering questions.

The ACTIC working with ICIN, a Tribal Fusion Center Strategy Outline was developed:

Goal: Forming an All Tribal Fusion Center within the ACTIC

ICIN is committed to facilitating efforts to develop, maintain and support an all Tribal Fusion Center in the Phoenix area. The goal of this coordinated effort is to share information in identifying potential threats and providing actionable intelligence among all Tribal lands in Arizona.

The ACTIC is committed to facilitating efforts to develop, maintain and support an all Tribal Fusion Center; this includes providing space and information technology support. This collaborated effort would assist the fusion of information from all Tribal lands to identify crimes and threats. The ACTIC is centrally located in Phoenix Arizona.

Step #1: Tribal Outreach Strategy – 40 Hour TLO Training

The ACTIC provides a 40-hour Terrorism Liaison Officer training approximately every two months. The training is required for police and fire department representatives to use and access information at the ACTIC Center.

ICIN in coordination with ITCA and ACTIC, would sponsor the TLO 40-Hour training and certification, at a tribal facility. The training would provide sufficient TLO background and include a variety of intelligence/ information and services from ACTIC that Tribal law enforcement could benefit from.

Step #1 is to put the training first and put the focus on the types of information and services that are available from the ACTIC. This is the information Tribal leadership needs in order to determine the advantages, if any, of agreeing to the involvement of tribal police departments with the ACTIC.

Step #2: ACTIC One-Way Sharing of Information

The Tribal Police and Fire Department representatives that have completed the ACTIC TLO training and have been certified, will then have the opportunity to request intelligence information from ACTIC and have access to ACTIC for information sharing opportunities. At this point no additional memorandums of understanding (MOU) need to be developed between the ACTIC and Tribal governments. The fact that the Tribal TLO's can access the ACTIC intelligence information for tribal use will show the benefits of participation.

### Step #3: Establish a Tribal Fusion Center Work Group with ICIN

An ICIN Tribal Fusion Center Work Group will allow specific and detailed discussion among participants in the Tribal Fusion Center

### Step #4: Seek Grant Funding to Support a Tribal TLO at the ACTIC

In order to establish a Tribal Fusion Center at the ACTIC, a full-time TLO and Analyst need to be funded. Grant opportunities need to be identified and letters of support from Tribal Leadership, ICIN, ITCA and other state and federal partners needs to be confirmed.

### Step#5: Establish a Process for a Memorandum of Understanding

Develop a template for a MOU to govern a two-way intelligence sharing process between Tribal governments (and their Tribal Police Departments) and ACTIC.

### **Status of the Progress of the Strategy Plan**

We have completed Step #1 the Tribal TLO training was completed in September 2011.

We are in Step #2, and evaluating the information being distributed from the ACTIC to the Tribal TLO's

We are working on Step #5 developing a template MOU that all or most Tribal Nations will find acceptable. We used the current TLO MOU that the ACTIC has with the Tohono O'odham Nation as the draft for consideration.

### **Developing partnerships has other benefits than just information/intelligence sharing:**

While working with ICIN, they thought that it would benefit their organization if they could conduct a planning session to develop a long term strategy for ICIN. The ICIN Vice Chairman Chief Jesse Delmar discussed that a couple of years ago an Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) officer provide a strategic planning session for the Fort McDowell Police Department. That DPS officer is now a TLO and the ACTIC offered his services to conduct a two day strategic planning session for ICIN as a function of his TLO status and his skills in strategic planning. That two day strategic planning session was completed in October 2011 in Prescott, Arizona.

ICIN is looking to determine the reasons why their attendance at meeting has been dropping off. I suggested to ICIN that they might want to conduct a survey of their membership as to the reasons why attendance is dropping off. I also advised ICIN that the ACTIC had already paid for a survey instrument and that the ACTIC would be glad to assist in developing the survey and evaluating the results for ICIN at no cost. The survey would be distributed to the ICIN membership through the ICIN board. The ACTIC and ICIN are currently working on finalizing the survey to be distributed to the ICIN membership.

The importance of developing partnerships between the state, local, county, tribal and federal agencies is becoming more critical in today's society.

As everyone knows, the criminal element does not follow or respect any jurisdictional boundaries. As the State of Arizona and its communities grow, partnering together and information/intelligence sharing becomes more and more critical.