

Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force

2012



OVERVIEW

- The Legislature enacted Senate bill 2160 which created the Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force. The task force was directed to evaluate any duplication of state law enforcement functions and identify any functions that would be appropriate for possible consolidation.
- The Task Force performed an enterprise wide review of Law Enforcement statewide. Resulting in consolidation, best management practices, and policy refinement.

Recommendations & Conclusions

Accreditation Team- Concluded that accreditation brings value to agencies and should be continued. The majority of state law enforcement entities voluntarily participate in a state or national accreditation.

Agriculture Interdiction & Commercial Vehicle Enforcement – Consolidation of DACS & FHP operations are not recommended. However potential efficiencies may be gained by co-locating FHP-DACS operations on US 1, US 17, & US 27. Further operational review is underway and should be ready for consideration prior to the June 30, 2012 task force expiration.

Recommendations & Conclusions

Environmental Law Enforcement-

Determined that improvements are possible by integrating the DEP Division of Law Enforcement and the DACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement patrol officers and investigators into the FWC Division of Law Enforcement generating cost efficiencies and reductions in administrative and operating costs through improved staff coordination, equipment use and policy development.

190 positions moved from DEP and DACS to FWC, resulting in savings of \$3.1 million over five years--after the fifth year, will realize a recurring savings of \$1.2 million.

Recommendations & Conclusions

FHP Jurisdiction-Wide support from Police Chiefs and Sheriffs was expressed to **not** limit FHP's jurisdiction. The task force recommends exploring a "tiered approach" for patrol resource allocation that considers an equitable distribution of traffic crash investigation.

Forensic Sciences-Determined that each agency has laboratories and equipment that provide services that are unique and specific to their agency missions, and the team could not identify any consolidation opportunities.

Recommendations & Conclusions

Information Technology-A notable finding was the high degree to which the law enforcement community already has undertaken and completed consolidation initiatives, centralization and efficient sharing of data and processes. The report suggests several best practices in the IT environment.

Inspector General Investigative Functions- Discovered several issues needing legislative clarity, Attorney General Opinions, or agency policy revisions to ensure the autonomy and enhance the performance of IG offices. A potential conflict between the Police Officers Bill of Rights and the protections mandated in the Whistleblower's Act was discovered.

- Another matter that needing further resolve is whether it is a statutory requirement for allegations against sworn personnel be addressed by sworn investigators, or if civilian investigators could handle this function. Issues such as these and others involving manpower, budget and process are critical to ensuring that agency IG offices remain effective.

Recommendations & Conclusions

Investigations-No recommendations were expressed for consolidation.

Law Enforcement Administration and Support-This committee report is open for future considerations based upon recommended consolidation efforts.

Sworn Law Enforcement Vs. Civilianization-Reviewed numerous positions filled by sworn law enforcement personnel throughout state agencies that are handling duties that could potentially be handled by non-sworn personnel. The team also explored whether agencies with a regulatory function must have sworn personnel to conduct investigations for the agency. Several agencies are conducting a thorough review of the issue, and recommendations are anticipated prior to June 20, 2012.

- Identified specific areas such as accreditation, background investigations, evidence custodian, fleet/property management, regulatory investigations and training coordination that could be handled by non-sworn personnel.

Recommendations & Conclusions

State Aviation Consolidation-Reviewed state-owned aviation units to determine if any duplication of functions existed. Several recommendations and best practices were identified to increase efficiencies.

Recommendations include:

- Integration of 3 specific air units (FHP, FDLE, & FWC) to prevent duplication of effort, provide all state law enforcement agencies with access to a variety of resources, and the ability to cross-train pilots, resulting in better trained and diversified pilots.
- Creation of a State Aviation Managers Group to ensure efficient and effective overall operations.

Recommendations & Conclusions

Training—Recommends that all state law enforcement agencies be required to satisfy the statutorily mandated portions of the mandatory retraining requirements through “distance” or on-line learning.

Vehicle/Fleet Management and Logistics—Recommends consolidating State law enforcement vehicle fleet acquisition and management into one agency, where either DMS or DHSMV is the lead agency.

Additionally, the team recommends identifying a funding source and allocate it to the purchase and maintenance of all state law enforcement vehicles.

Questions

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