


TRIBAL/LOCAL/STATE/ AND FEDERAL COLLABORATION



Historical Roadblocks

- Misunderstanding of Public Law 280
 - Large number of Reservations and Rancherias
 - non-Indian populations outnumbering Indian populations 10-1 due to economic development on many Reservations
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More Roadblocks

- Lack of funding for tribal justice systems
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Wholesale Attempt with Tribal/County/State Collaboration

- 2000 with CA Senate Bill 911
- Bill would have given CA Peace Officer Status to qualified tribal police officers
- State AG hosted negotiation meetings between tribal leadership and Sheriff's
- Largest areas of contention: hiring & training requirements, CLETS access, and liability (tort claims)
- Unable to work out issues surrounding liability...bill died



What's Next?

- After reviewing crime data it was determined that much of our crime fell concurrently within both federal and state law, from drugs and thefts to trespassing and poaching
 - Entered into a deputation agreement with the BIA's Office of Justice Services for issuance of Special Law Enforcement Commissions to our police officers
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Collaboration for Prosecution

- US Attorney's Office – major applicable federal offenses
- Central Violations Bureau (US District Court) – petty federal offenses
- District Attorney's Office – state offenses
- Tribal Court – traffic offenses and regulatory




Collaboration with County and Other Local Agencies

- County-wide law enforcement interoperable radio communications system: rework of policy to allow access
 - Impetus: off-reservation pursuit
 - Information sharing
 - Access to law enforcement databases (NCIC, NLETS, and CLETS)
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Collaboration with Federal/State Agencies for Law Enforcement Database Access

- No state access because state law doesn't define tribal police departments as "public agencies"
- 2010 work around pilot program by US DOJ for access into NCIC and NLETS
- CA blocked access for NLETS information to tribal agencies initially
- CA Attorney General's Office, BIA Office of Justice Services and tribes collaborate for resolve



Collaboration with Federal/State Agencies (continued)

- Current effort underway with BIA's Office of Justice Services to facilitate access into CA state systems for tribal police officers holding BIA special law enforcement commissions
 - Hot files
 - Gun files
 - Parole status
 - Local misdemeanor warrant information
 - Etc...
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A must for good faith collaboration

- Establishing an identity based off of department's capabilities
- Holding to strict hiring and training standards
- Operational transparency
 - not just with the community you serve, but just importantly with your local, state, and federal partners.

Contact Information

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