

2010 Homeland Security S&T Summit
South Central Region
LIVE INTERACTIVE WEBCAST
2/10/2010 FROM SANDIA NATIONAL LABORATORY
PANEL: Leo Rios,
Texas Emergency Management Department
"TexMap: A State-Based Info-Sharing Portal for the Border"

MARY HANSON:

Our next speaker is from Texas. Yesterday we heard from David Martin who is our state representative. I met them at a meeting of the Texas human regional six meeting. The same goes for the next speaker.. In case you were out there, thank you for sending us Leo. He is a big event of his own in Texas next week or a Leo is going to talk to us about text map. This relates to what we heard about yesterday.

A little bit about Leo. We do not have a chance to get bio info in the kit. He's been involved in border author more than 30 years. He patrolled the Iron Curtain which was a border for over 20 years, commanding ground troops during the opening of the Iron Curtain.

He is a senior military adviser and was the presidential envoy for the resolution of Ecuador, prove border conflict which was resolved in 1998.

He supported the inner agency operations along the Southwest border using military assets. He has established a border security operations from 2006 to present area of this is why he is here. He is a wonderful person that you should listen to. >> He created that Tech toolbox to support border operations. He is going to talk about the operations that gave rise to the creation of text map. And it's continual refinement on the Texas border. Leo Rios

LEO RIOS

Thank you. Would I like to do is discuss the operational realities that gave rise to text map. I think you will see as a result of the discussions that we had this morning as we went through the -- first slide.

As we talk about text map, we have a number of customers to focus on.

The jurisdictional issues that we are confronted with and murder -- with border security are evident here. In Texas, about 95% of border is privately owned. The border in Arizona is flip-flopped. About 85% of out -- is federally owned and federally patrol.

That gives rise to a number of jurisdictional issues that are complicated. And that is that we do not have a good interagency process established within the United States today.

Several years after September 11, you would think that we would have a doctor in decades us -- A. doctrine that gives us the ability to operate on interagency level. We do not.

We do not have the same lexicon, procedures, or techniques. A couple Kates operations and the issues associated with the types of information that needs to be passed in terms of the common

operational picture, which is necessary for operations to facilitate the ability to act as one.

When we talk about border security and context, we need to understand that the client along the border are not only the federal agencies, God bless the border patrol for all that they do. And the folks were manning the ports. But we have them recognize that immediately behind them are local, state, and other authorities that have jurisdictional responsibility is that they are responsible for.

Was critical of which are the local authorities. Which, Obama way, if you were to take all the counties between San Diego and Brownsville and combined them and make them the 51st state, it would be the poorest, sickest, least industrious, most criminal ridden state with the United States.

Certainly not a place where you will come across to smuggle goods and make money. We just don't do it there.

Orders security is more than just focus on the border area. It is a problem that affects the entire US.

I say that because the market areas where these criminals are going, is in places like Washington, DC, New York, said Congo, -- Chicago, Kansas City. So when you talk about in the context of border security and all agencies that will be involved with or in pact to buy the criminal offenses that take lace beginning on the border, or just on the other side the border. And transpose themselves or other communities within the United States.

When we talk about the areas, as a matter of fact in Texas, we recognize those counties which are bearing the brunt of the financial responsibilities for border security, at state level, and at federal level, represent the weakest link in our border security problem.

I say that because when you look at the number of law-enforcement people that are committed along the border, you recognize that some counties have no more than two law enforcement officers total.

For the entire county area. We are talking about places with three or 4000 mi. with two law enforcement officers. These people are elected, for the most part. The deputies, of course, are appointed. The sheriffs, given a choice to respond to an incident, are probably going to respond to the constituents first.

The reason for that is that they are elected to that position.

Border security is not necessarily an issue or concern for them.

In this area, the size of West Virginia, you've got no more than 60 law enforcement officers. This is an officer that -- an area that is heavily trafficked.

We talk about the gangs on the border, you mechanize they are all focused on territorial issues.

As a result, and a number of issues that have been worked in Mexico, depending on the numbers you believe, there they between 13 and 14,000 people killed so far in Mexico as a result of dashes -- -- war. Not a lot of people do not recognize, next light, is that an awful lot of those gangs have found their way into the United States.

Unfortunately, as they have now seen that they need to a lemonade or Canada lemonade the middleman between them and the market, they are taking up strongholds within the United States in many of the communities that you and I are coming from.

We see, for example, here the most note Tories gang has established models throughout the United States.

The next light shows you that clearly evident, you have number of Mexican gangs that are also establishing territorial control within the United States.

Unfortunately, what you have is those Mexican gangs in Texas are aligning themselves with local gangs.

Go through this quickly plays, -- you see these gangs are establishing territorial control in different parts of Texas Pete --. As they are aligned with the Mexican gangs, they are focused on maintaining current control of territories.

And assign -- in the same way that we

Sicking gangs fighting for territorial control in Mexico, we will have the same thing happen within our communities.

Next light. Keep it going. -- Next lied.

Were recognize the character will issues that give rise to gang warfare in Mexico, are going to start taking place in our community is, we need to recognize that there is more to providing a common operational picture than just along the border. And that was the basis for understanding what we did in Texas.

So therefore, the solution that we establish was that we were going to do is we were going to support the border bridge troll as much as we possibly could. More importantly, we were going to established -- establish something akin to a football and it -- football analyses. Federal agencies are responsible for enforcement of regulations and laws. Those are back up -- backed up by linebackers, or safeties. Free safeties and strong safeties. In depth.

We talked about establishing a defense in depth, so we can make sure that we proclaimed these folks from getting to their objective market areas. In Texas and certainly outside us.

The intent was, we created a system that allowed us to be able to see, understand, and thereby enable action by agencies throughout the state of Texas. Your respective of whether they were state or local or federal or tribal.

We establish an area that is over 1600 miles from the border between Arizona and New Mexico, on our flank, to include the inter-coaster waterway which is 600 miles toward Houston.

The establishment, excuse me, but concept is simple. Essentially, what we were going to be able to do is establish a unified operation which is going to depend upon teamwork.

That teamwork is shown to you on this simple slide was a sickly takes the border patrol's actions, which are steady-state operations, which are taking place in the border on a daily basis.

They are backed up by local law-enforcement, tribal long forces, and then the state law enforcement agencies.

As a result of being able to coordinate information, we are capable of understanding what the situation is as it is evolving. And thereby react as one. That is what this light demonstrates. We are capable of we -- capable of resource sharing at the federal, state, and local agencies as long as they are capable of understanding the situation.

Here's an example. Aaron rain does not have a large number of aviation systems that are night capable. Crews are not trained. But the state of Texas has about 12 crews that are trained and the aircraft as well.

The state of Texas supports border patrol operations at night.

Next lied -- next slide. We use a unified command process that allows people to have one vote, your respective of the size. Sheriff's office which has no more than two agents has exactly the same boat in same weight on operational issues as does the border patrol which numbers in the thousands.

That gets me now the text map. This is a tool that allows the system to work.

You have to understand that the clients vary from the sheriff who has got no more than one deputy, who, when asked what type of computer he has, he says it's beige. To the highly technical border patrol agencies within -- , you recognize that there is a disparity of systems available here.

This system is a GIS system based on Google or -- Google Earth architecture. We have created a dashboard on the side which allows easy entry. Mr. Tigger case, when you have an incident as shown by the red dot, you see -- you click the red dot and see what is taking place. You can add to it. So that way as the investigation continues, you tap into it and understand exactly what the status is.

You can store data, use a little zipper along the top which allows you to access day by day data. You can access hour by hour data. It gives you trans and trend analysis. We have given this to the locals, free of charge.

We gave this to the federal agencies that are working with us in our sectors to out that entire 1600 mile area free of charge.

This is becoming a system now that is, in fact, the state standard for information sharing within the state of Texas.

Not only for law-enforcement actions but also for emergency management issues as well.

We use it during hurricane Ike very effectively. It is certainly assisted inability to wield or respond and recover. >>. The bottom line. The Governor. of the State of Texas told us to reduce border related crime. That is the issue that we were focused on. Over the course of this measurement,, Which is a little over two years, we reduce border related crime by 65%.

Ladies and Gemma, subject to questions at the end, I will just leave it to you.