

Cobb County Police Department

Policy 6.08

CRIME ANALYSIS FUNCTION

Effective Date: December 15, 2013
Rescinds: Policy 6.08 "Crime Analysis Unit" (January 12, 2013)
Related Orders: None
Issued By: Chief J.R. Houser Page 1 of 4
The words "he, his, him," which may appear in this policy, are used generically for clarity and ease of reading. These terms are not meant to imply gender and relate to all employees of the Department.

Personnel assigned to the crime analysis function will collect, collate, analyze, and disseminate information gathered from resources within the Department, the Department of Public Safety, and those entities outside the Department which provide law enforcement information. Personnel will evaluate and interpret informational reports and provide components of the Department with data and analysis regarding crime patterns and trends. Crime analysis personnel will assist in the development of criminal suppression plans and strategies as needed.

I. ASSIMILATION OF DATA

A. Data Source

Collection of crime data is obtained from a variety of sources and collated by crime analysis personnel. These sources can include, but are not limited to the following:

- Incident Reports
- The Department of Public Safety Information System (IS) and Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD)
- Department Records Management System (RMS)
- MCS Narcotics Task Force
- Other law enforcement agencies
- Georgia Crime Information System (GCIC)
- National Crime Information System (NCIC)
- Other data sources as needed

B. Factors to be Considered when Analyzing Crime Data

Crime analysis personnel analyze all Part One crimes. They also examine identifiable trends or patterns of other frequently occurring crimes and incidents. Crimes that occur where the offender and victim are known to one another are generally not tracked (i.e. – when a child takes a car without the permission of his parent). All analysis is based upon the:

- Type of activity and frequency of occurrence;
- Specific location of activity;
- Specific time and day of the activity;
- Description of victims and targets;
- Description of suspects and suspect vehicles;
- Modus Operandi; and
- Physical evidence and identified similarities.

II. DISSEMINATION OF DATA

Crime analysis personnel provide several types of analysis reports regarding criminal activity within the County. These reports contain sensitive information on the prediction of crimes. They are therefore investigative documents and shall not be distributed without authorization from the Department Records Custodian.

A. Routine Analysis Reports

1. Monthly Reports

A basic analysis of all Part One Crimes, as well as all identified high frequency crimes and incidents, will be distributed monthly to each Captain, Major, Deputy Chief, and the Chief of Police. Each Captain/Major is then responsible for ensuring that the report is made available to all shift/unit commanders for review.

2. Annual Reports

Crime analysis personnel will compile a comprehensive annual crime report indicating identified crime trends and areas of frequently occurring criminal activity. The report will show comparative information; evaluating specific incidents from the year against past year's figures.

3. Crime Mapping Website

The Crime Mapping Website is a web-based interactive mapping program designed to give every officer the opportunity to examine specific information about all tracked activity. Officers can examine the specific statistical information inputted by crime analysis personnel allowing him to make an analysis of crime within a specific beat/area. Crime analysis personnel update this information on a regular basis.

B. Specific Analysis Reports

1. Specific crime analysis information will be disseminated to affected units on a timely basis as needed or requested by the unit and to include monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, and annual reporting.

2. Open records requests for specific crime analysis reports will be submitted to the Central Records Commander for evaluation regarding dissemination.

III. EVALUATION AND UTILIZATION OF DATA

Crime analysis personnel gather, evaluate, and utilize data in the identification of crime trends and patterns. The data is used to develop and assess crime suppression strategies and tactics by operational components of the Department. Conversely, the data can also be utilized to predict and allocate resources, manpower, and planning strategies.

A. Evaluation of Data

Crime analysis data, in conjunction with subordinate commanders' reports and comments, assist in keeping the Chief's Office informed of crime trends and activity. Information received from crime analysis personnel and subordinate commanders support the management decisions of the Department.

1. Precincts

Precinct Commanders will act as one of the primary evaluators of crime analysis data. It shall be the responsibility of each precinct commander to examine crime analysis data in consultation with their watch Lieutenants and Property Unit Commanders assigned to the precinct.

2. Special Operations

The Special Operations Commander, in conjunction with his respective unit commanders, will evaluate crime analysis data particularly related to the deployment of the Special Operations Personnel. In combination with the precinct commanders, he will assist in the deployment of personnel to combat identified crime areas.

3. Crime Prevention/Community Relations

Personnel assigned to the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Function will evaluate crime analysis data particularly related to the deployment of community outreach programs. In combination with the precinct commanders, they will assist in the development and implementation of community awareness and community relations programs to combat identified crime problems/areas.

4. Chief's Office

The Deputy Chiefs of Police shall evaluate crime data and review reports received by their subordinate commanders. They will prioritize the needs

of their subordinate commanders, and support their actions and recommendations as resources allow. The Deputy Chiefs shall compile the subordinate commanders' reports, along with their recommendations, when necessary, and forward them to the Chief of Police.

B. Utilization of Data

Each precinct/unit commander is responsible for implementing solutions to combat identified problem crimes and crime areas. They shall report, through the chain of command, any recommendations or actions to be initiated, and the results of those actions, based upon the evaluation and utilization of the crime data.

IV. FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

Feedback is necessary to evaluate the value of both the analysis and the implemented solutions. Careful review will help provide effective tools for combating and suppressing crime and planning for manpower and resource allocation.

Periodically, precinct and unit commanders will provide feedback to crime analysis personnel on the usefulness of analysis reports and the effectiveness of solutions implemented. Personnel assigned to the crime analysis function will review all comments submitted by the precinct/unit commanders and make a comparative analysis of implemented solutions to the increase/decrease of the identified problem.