TRAINING

Criminal Intelligence Analysis Class

A 20 Hour Investment That Pays Dividends in Fighting Crime and Terrorism

By Cynthia Scott, Public Information Officer and Ted Freeman, Executive Undersheriff Monmouth County (NJ) Sheriff's Office

(L-R) Instructor Maceo Pickett, Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden and Instructor Shawna Gibson

Monmouth County Sheriff Shaun Golden noticed in the National Sheriffs' Association Bulletin a two-and-a-half-day course on Criminal Intelligence Analysis and immediately had the Monmouth County Police Academy make an inquiry as to the availability of the course to be hosted by Monmouth County. A phone call to Daria Thompson, NSA Membership and Training Coordinator, resulted in the course being scheduled for Monmouth County January 17th through 19th, 2018. The course was held at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Center, 2500 Kozloski Road, Freehold, New Jersey.

Instructors teaching the class

"I'm pleased to have hosted this intense training seminar designed for law enforcement and corrections officers, investigators, supervisors, analysts and intelligence personnel," said Golden. "Communicating and sharing critical intelligence in this day and age is of the utmost importance when maintaining public safety. It assists in not only responding to criminal acts but preventing them as well."

The program was created by the National Center for Biomedical Research and Training at Louisiana State University, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. The instructors for the course were Maceo Pickett, Intelligence Analyst Supervisor, Miami-Dade Police Department, and Shawna Gibson, Crime Analyst, Investigations Section, City of Bellevue Police Department, Bellevue, Washington.

"The main point we stress is intelligence awareness and sharing. Had the tools from this course been in existence prior to 9/11, things may have been different. The information gathered now enables all levels of law enforcement to communicate and exchange intel with one another through sharing and technology awareness," said Maceo Pickett, Intelligence Analyst Supervisor.

Over the training, participants learned about the six steps in the intelligence process, the importance of critical and creative thinking in each step, intelligence-led policing, information sharing, suspicious activity reporting, legal authorities and guidance, the benefits of forming strategic partnerships and collaborative networks and enhancing contributions to preventing and responding to criminal acts, acts of terrorism, and promoting public safety. Criminal intelligence analysis is an essential component of effective policing at both the operational and strategic levels.

The course started on a Wednesday, with snow falling at the Jersey Shore, but inside at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Public Safety Center, 40 participants were duly engaged in learning about criminal intelligence and how to apply intelligence techniques in their own agencies.

One of the breakout group sessions working on solutions to scenarios

The last day of the course involved dividing the class into small groups to analyze scenarios, and then apply the techniques they learned in class to come up with solutions based on intelligence gathering and the application of that intelligence to their particular scenario. The breakout groups were then reassembled in the classroom to report to the entire class on each of the group's results.

Was the course a success? The following are comments from some of the attendees:

Breakout group reporting to the full class

"This course was extremely valuable, since intelligence is a tool that must be utilized among agencies. It provided us with a clearer understanding and the knowledge of how beneficial intelligence can be when protecting the public," said Det. Christopher Casson, Eatontown Police Department.

"There has been discussion of starting an intelligence unit in my agency, so this course has been a tremendous help in terms of contacts and resources," said Officer Collin Congleton, Jersey City Police Department.

"It was interesting to observe the changes in approach to the scenarios by police officers when they learned and applied the analytical criminal intelligence principles discussed in class to the class exercises," said Mike Ruane, Crime Analyst with the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.

Roman philosopher Lucius Seneca once said, "Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity." The Criminal Intelligence Analysis Training Program provides the intelligence and analytical capabilities to be fully prepared for any situation when "luck" is not an option. ◑