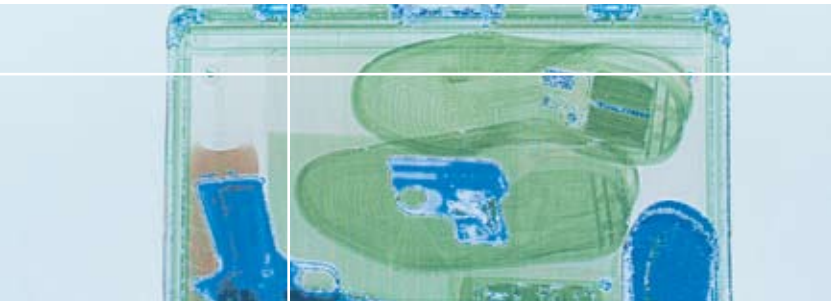


Prevent, Prepare and Protect:

Regional Crime Fighting & Counterterrorism





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LOU ANEMONE,
former chief, New York Police Department

A BETTER PERSPECTIVE

Homeland security experts gather valuable crime statistics to present a bigger picture.

For most of its history, law enforcement in the United States has been a localized affair. A sort of patchwork of miniature kingdoms, each jurisdiction was responsible for itself. Even within cities themselves, individual precincts often manage crime on their turf — and they manage it alone. However, a new version of the legendary COMPSTAT system, now powered by Oracle, is improving how police fight crime.

Four years ago, 9/11 underscored the ineffectiveness of the localized style of policing. The inability to share data and track crime effectively resulted in 19 terrorists easily evading detection. More recently, Hurricane Katrina exposed the lethal consequences of inadequate communication among public safety agencies. In both instances, traditional methods of operation prevented emergency personnel from seeing the larger picture.

In recent years — and with renewed enthusiasm in recent weeks — the call for cooperation and integration among law enforcement agencies has grown louder. This movement for change may seem like a new idea born of tragic circumstances, but former New York Police Department Chief Lou Anemone has advocated such reform for more than a decade.

Silo Busters

When people think of Times Square today, it conjures up images of Disney, Starbucks and Coca-Cola. In fact, most folks would probably agree that it’s a great place to take the family. Yet as recently as the early 1990s, Times Square was a breeding ground for New York City crime.

In 1994, under the leadership of Police Commissioner William Bratton, Anemone and the late Deputy Police Commissioner Jack Maple created a management accountability process known as COMPSTAT, short for Computer Statistics. COMPSTAT revolutionized law enforcement by giving police a computerized system for crime analysis and mapping. Developed by the NYPD, the system now is used around the globe, helping officers share their data in an understandable and actionable way.

“If you walk into many police departments, what you’re going to find are these silos where detectives don’t talk to patrol officers, and patrol doesn’t talk to the IT people, etc.,” said Anemone. “And that goes on in other organizations as well.”

Anemone is taking the message of COMPSTAT around the country and the world. He currently works with the Crime Fighters LLC, a subsidiary of Linder & Associates, a consulting group that has helped police departments implement COMPSTAT for a decade.

COMPSTAT provides a system of metrics that measure and analyze data relevant to law enforcement. Anemone and the Crime Fighters have partnered with Oracle to bring a new level of power to COMPSTAT. With integration technology from Oracle, COMPSTAT users see a more complete picture of crime activity in their jurisdictions.

“Our approach is to focus on four elements: intelligence, tactics, rapid deployment and relentless follow-up and assessment,” said Anemone. “By focusing attention on

those key critical areas, we bring everything together and create that sense of urgency within an organization. We've had tremendous results not only in New York City, but these other cities as well."

The numbers are staggering in New York. In 1990, the city witnessed 2,245 murders. With the implementation of COMPSTAT and the aggressive leadership of Anemone and Bratton (now chief of police in Los Angeles), the number of murders dropped to 590 in 2002 — a 75 percent decrease.

Cities such as Newark, N.J., Baltimore and New Orleans saw violent crime fall by nearly 60 percent after deploying COMPSTAT. These results are accomplished by collecting and analyzing data from different department sources and eliminating the silos that exist within agencies.

"That's where Oracle integration technology fits in, in knocking down those silos — gathering and sharing that information among detectives," said Anemone. "That's the basic building blocks of this COMPSTAT approach — gather all the information, look at the tactics being utilized in a city or department and make suggestions. And that's happened or is happening in each of the cities I've been working in."

Protect and Prevent

Oracle uses its database and business intelligence expertise to bring powerful, new information — gathering technology to law enforcement and counterterrorism efforts. COMPSTAT combined with Oracle integration technology allows public safety agencies to gather and evaluate huge volumes of disparate data, providing officers a holistic view of crime in their area. This solution also enables law enforcement agencies to securely share criminal and terrorism intelligence, map crime in real time, and take advantage of strategic analysis tools to reduce crime and prevent acts of terror.

Furthermore, Anemone said Oracle-powered COMPSTAT solutions could be deployed regionally as well as departmentally. The technology enables law enforcement agencies throughout a region to pool information so it can be measured, analyzed and mapped.

Joe Bierly is a former Marine and now serves as Oracle's national director for public safety. He said law enforce-

ment agencies often suffer from scarce resources, be it funding, personnel or IT. The solution is a business intelligence approach where decision-makers have a comprehensive picture of criminal activity, letting them deploy resources more efficiently and effectively.

"You have to know where the crime is, you have to understand where the crime is occurring," Bierly said. "What kind of patterns are we seeing, what kind of clusters, what kind of trends? Then managers can shift resources around to make those crimes go down."

This approach could be even more effective on a regional scale. By pairing Oracle integration technology with COMPSTAT, police departments can tap into a much wider variety of data repositories — making traditional COMPSTAT initiatives automated and much more powerful. The Crime Fighters' aim is to bring this new and improved COMPSTAT to as many agencies as possible, creating an effective regional crime-fighting system

With resources already limited, police departments might be reluctant to implement an analytical tool like COMPSTAT. Fortunately Oracle's business intelligence solutions leverage existing infrastructure. For a department using COMPSTAT powered by Oracle, data is automatically extracted from any number of repositories. The pieces of data are combined, analyzed and mapped so departments can more effectively and intelligently deploy their forces.

"We're saying keep what you have," said Bierly. "We're using integration technology to bring that data together in a data warehouse where you can do the reporting, the business intelligence, which gives law enforcement the key performance indicators they need to manage and reduce crime in the city. Before you can deal with robberies, you need to know where they are, how many there are, when they're occurring, who the victims are, and you have to have that data to do that."

Thwarting Terror

As hurricanes and terrorism illustrate, the federal government has a number of problems integrating its operations with state and local agencies. At the same time, however, modern challenges and dangers demand that local law enforcement react as first responders to disasters — and as front-line soldiers when it comes to terrorism.

“IT’S IMPORTANT THAT THE INTELLIGENCE EFFORT BE LOCAL. THE FRONT-LINE SOLDIERS IN THIS BATTLE ARE LOCAL COPS. THEY HAVE TO KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR. THEY HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO REPORT IT. SOMEBODY HAS TO PULL IT TOGETHER AND ANALYZE IT.”

JOE BIERLY, national director for public safety, Oracle



COMPSTAT powered by Oracle integration technology gives local police and federal officials a better, more complete way to view terrorism.

“The intelligence, we believe, is not going to come from the federal side and get pushed down,” said Bierly. “It’s more likely going to come from the ground up. So it’s important that the intelligence effort be local. The front-line soldiers in this battle are local cops. They have to know what to look for. They have to know how to report it. Somebody has to pull it together and analyze it. COMPSTAT provides timely and accurate intelligence that leads to effective deployment.”

Fighting crime and terrorism is only successful if local agencies know what to look for. COMPSTAT and Oracle integration technology deliver a powerful tool for collecting and analyzing data. Agencies have to be willing to share data and work together not only to solve crimes, but also prevent them.

“It’s all about timely and accurate intelligence and how you deploy your forces,” said Bierly. “You get the intelligence, and then you make a judgment. We have to deploy intelligently. These guys [terrorists] hate us. They’re going to find a way to kill us. It takes discipline and a hardened approach to deal with it. You can’t just sit there and wish they’d go away. They aren’t going away.”

COMPSTAT and Oracle integration technology deliver the tools law enforcement needs to combat threats in the 21st century. An intelligent, regional approach to crime, terrorism and other disasters has clearly become a requirement for success.

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