America’s law enforcement (LE) agencies are facing a constantly evolving array of threats, ranging from terrorism and active shooters to illegal border activities and human trafficking. To be successful against them, LE must empower enhanced collaboration between local, state and federal organizations as well as the public.

But at the same time, these agencies are also responsible for more humanitarian and peaceful missions, such as natural and manmade disasters, where the security threat is low but the importance of accurate information and rapid response can save hundreds or thousands of lives.

The threats to public safety are ever present and growing increasingly complex. This is driving an urgent need for an Intra-agency and inter-agency collaboration that is critical for effective operations; and necessary to create a unified an effective task force.

The Challenge of Dynamic Operational Environments

Many LE agencies in the United State have reliable communications systems and information technology support. Unfortunately, it is often designed to meet the needs of yesterday’s operations. As a result, many agencies are finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the more dynamic operational environments created by new and increasing threats. Is your agency as well?

Addressing this challenge requires your infrastructure to be reliable, secure and available anytime, anywhere. It also requires more communication across departments and faster sharing of more accurate information. But it also means reaching beyond the agency, into your community. In essence, it requires the complete digital transformation of your LE environment to create:

- Real time collaboration that enables your teams to connect and share information anywhere, any time by connecting disparate voice, video and data systems
- Shared situational awareness that provides your agents/officers the right information at the right time to increase safety and enable effective planning for an efficient, effective response while coordinating resources from a fixed or mobile command center
- Enhanced citizen engagement that lets you better communicate and engage citizens in public safety activities “where they are.”

The Benefits of Digital Transformation

In simple terms, digital transformation is the realignment of and new investment in technology, innovation and business practices to more effectively execute your mission. This transformation moves your agencies away from stand-alone and stove-piped solutions towards a unified Public Safety Enterprise Network (PSEN); one that brings together your people, processes, data and things via the Internet of Things (IoT) to empower them with new capabilities and increased operational efficiencies.

Digital transformation has great power to benefit your public safety agency. For example, at event origin, citizens can assist your team by using Next Generation 911 technologies to send information about emergency situations or suspicious activities they are witnessing. This includes the capability to transmit text, pictures and video to your 911 call centers and tip hotlines.

First responders can then access this higher level of intelligence to help prepare their incident response before
arriving on-site. Real-time streaming video and posts from social media feeds can also be accessed to provide your teams with additional situational awareness.

During an event, your incident commander can create an online work group that empowers video sharing among personnel. When responders from other agencies arrive (federal, neighboring jurisdictions, etc.), they can seamlessly join the work group to share voice, video and data in real-time. Land mobile radios, smart devices and fixed telephone lines can all interconnect to meet operational needs and enable voice communications across previously non-interoperable devices. You can even use body-worn sensors and vehicle networks to track individual responder locations, biometrics, video and voice communications. All this shared data is then accessible in real-time to on-site leaders and remote command centers.

After an event, archived video surveillance data can be used to help you reconstruct an incident. Your agents can collect information and file reports using their mobile devices. Prosecutors, defense attorneys and judges can even leverage video collaboration to speed case resolution. Plus all of your information is secure thanks to industry leading threat-centric cybersecurity that is embedded across your entire network. The intelligence-led security fabric can also quickly quarantine non-compliant devices while retrospective analysis provides a history of infected devices across your network.

All of these capabilities can be delivered over a single, converged and secure PSEN that supports your entire continuum of operations; from daily citizen services to emergency response and active ‘tactical engagements,’ as well as incident analysis and archiving.

There’s Never Been a Better Time for the Digitization of Public Safety

Digital technologies empower your agency with an amazing array of new tools and increased operational efficiencies, enabling your team to respond successfully to increasing threats. Only Cisco brings an integrated platform across network, datacenter, cloud, security, collaboration, analytics and IoT for faster digital transformation with reduced risk. By helping public safety agencies personalize citizen experiences, transform processes and empower their personnel, Cisco is changing the way cities live, work, learn and play. Learn more at: http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/industries/government/safety-security.html

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