TURKISH POLICE FORCE'S RESPONSE TO TERRORISM AT THE LOCAL AND THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Turkey, has been one of the world's most important land bridges linking Europe, Asia, and Africa throughout history. Furthermore, Turkey is surrounded by neighboring regions where years of political problems, terrorism, and unrest have shaped the political and social fabric of Turkish society. These regions include the Middle East, Balkans, and Caucasian Republics. Turkey's unique, critical geo-political position coupled with the catalyzing effects of world politics, including the Cold War and Turkey's own political, social and economic problems made, Turkey a suitable ground for many different terrorist organizations, especially between the 1960's and 1990's. Due to the effects of different terrorist campaigns over the years, Turkey has lost over 35,000 people to terrorism since 1960.

Unfortunately, Turkey began to experience terrorism at home much earlier than many other Western countries, which necessitated developing tactics and systems to cope with the problem of terrorism. In this regard, this testimony examines some of the more important precautionary measures and tactics that have been adopted by the Turkish National Police (TNP) and will also consider the missteps and successes in the fight against terrorism with the explanation of the role of information sharing and current policies adopted by the TNP. The testimony starts with a brief explanation about the structure of the government of Turkey in the fight against terrorism, followed by more effective steps and policy changes that were implemented by the Turkish Government. It is believed that tactical and organizational changes made a higher rate of success possible and that those changes need to be widely known in order to serve as examples for other countries that have recently begun to experience terrorism.

Turkey has a central government style and it has four main national agencies that deal with terrorism. The first is the Turkish National Police, which has jurisdiction over eighty percent of the population in Turkey, including the cities, towns, townships, greater rural communities, border gates, highways, airports, and other stations. The second is the Gendarmerie, which has jurisdiction over fifteen percent of the population in the rural countryside and in villages. The third is the Turkish Military, whose main job with terrorism is to deal with the terrorists on the borders of Turkey and in very remote rural areas close the borders, especially in the southern part of Turkey. And finally, there is the National Intelligence Agency (MIT) that collects intelligence which could be used to counter terrorism.

Unlike most of the law enforcement agencies in the U.S., the TNP is a national police agency with a personnel of over 200,000 that provides all law enforcement services in the urban areas of Turkey. In comparison to the United States' criminal justice structure, the TNP could be considered as a combination of the federal agencies, such as the FBI, DEA, and the local law enforcement agencies including the local and city police departments and the state police. One of the primary duties of the TNP is to deal with terrorism, and to take precautionary measures to prevent possible terrorist attacks. The TNP became especially effective and successful against terrorism after measures and policy changes were adopted in the late 1980's and early 1990's. These changes were made because of increased terrorist threats, which will be explained in the next section.

The TNP has two main departments that deal with terrorism around the country: the Anti-Terrorism Department and the Intelligence Department. However, dealing with or preventing terrorism is not the duty of these two departments only. Other departments, such as

city police departments, or any other division or department of the TNP, are also required to take measures against terrorism whenever necessary.

Anti-Terrorism Department

The central Anti-Terrorism Department and Intelligence Department are located in the headquarters of the TNP. Also, satellite anti-terrorism divisions and intelligence divisions have been established within all of the city and township police departments. Central departments act as coordinators for the city anti-terrorism divisions and intelligence divisions and provide assistance to them. Concurrently, they act as the main database centers because they receive information from local departments, analyze that information, and make it available for the related personnel in the headquarters and cities. The central departments also act as the database and archive centers for the general efforts against terrorism. In contrast, the central departments, city anti-terrorism divisions and intelligence divisions deal with more immediate threats of local terrorism to their cities. The city police chiefs are in charge but must also coordinate their efforts with the central departments.

The main duty of the city anti-terrorism divisions is to deal with the terrorist threats in their cities. This is accomplished by carrying out operations against terrorists and their organizations, taking precautions to prevent terrorist attacks and movements, arresting and interviewing suspects, questioning the terrorists, and taking the suspects and terrorists before justice officials. All of the activities of the anti-terrorism divisions are monitored by independent prosecutors. Suspects' lawyers are required to be present immediately following an arrest, when the suspect is taken into the custody of anti-terrorism divisions, and during the interview or questioning process. All of the investigations related to terrorist activities are carried out by the anti-terrorism divisions, who then send all information gained to the Anti-Terrorism Department at the Headquarters so that the Anti-Terrorism Department can gauge the overall climate of terrorism in Turkey and inform and coordinate the city anti-terrorism departments. All of the activities and information that are received by the city anti-terrorism departments are entered into the TNP Central Computer Network Anti-Terrorism Project so that the information is shared and available for the other city anti-terrorism departments whenever needed.

A typical city anti-terrorism division would have enough expert personnel specialized in operations and interrogation, a bomb squad, archival personnel, information systems designers, tactical operations teams, immediate response teams, and technical support personnel. Police officers who are specifically trained in the stated areas are allowed to work only within their areas of expertise and they receive regular in-service training to maintain up-to-date knowledge in their field. Only officers who are specially trained by the Anti-Terrorism Department are allowed to work in the city anti-terrorism divisions. The chiefs of city anti-terrorism divisions are directly responsible to the city police chiefs and to the Anti-Terrorism Department for national harmony of the job in areas of data input, information sharing, and training. City anti-terrorism divisions also work collaboratively with the city intelligence divisions.

Intelligence Department

Similar to the Anti-Terrorism Department, intelligence divisions are established in city police departments that work under the city police chiefs' supervision and coordinate with the Central Intelligence Department at the TNP headquarters. Intelligence divisions collect and gather intelligence through different operations in their cities. The police officers that work

for the Intelligence Departments are selected and trained by the Central Intelligence Department after successfully finishing an intelligence course that provides specialized training. During this course, candidates are assigned to different cities to work for the intelligence divisions. The personnel of the intelligence divisions are specialized in their work areas and they also receive training related to their tasks to ensure the quality of the work. In this regard, intelligence divisions have many different offices where the police officers focus solely on their areas of expertise unless requested to join a wider effort. For example, an officer assigned to the bureau that targets religiously inspired terrorist organizations would generally only work for that office. This specialization makes the officers quite knowledgeable in their field and it enables them to gain a deeper level of knowledge and gain more details of the terrorist organizations they are following. Another important aspect of this division is target specified intelligence collecting. Instead of following a wide group of suspects, intelligence divisions focus on a small number of well known suspects in order to control different terrorist organizations. This policy enables the TNP to get only related information which saves time and resources and reduces the response time. By controlling a small group of people, the TNP can learn what kind of activities that terrorist organization is carrying out, what specific threat they impose, who the new contacts or recruits are, where the terrorist cells or safe houses are and more importantly what the capacity of that terrorist organization is.

Intelligence divisions collect and evaluate the intelligence they have gathered, and then inform the Central Intelligence Department at the TNP Headquarters through a special computer network that is specifically designed for this task. All of the information is required to be shared with the headquarters. This sharing enables the Headquarters to see the all-inclusive picture of terrorist activities and movements throughout Turkey and, if needed, steer the city intelligence divisions appropriately. When necessary, the Central Intelligence Department can also make information available for all of the city intelligence divisions around Turkey so that the other officers who know anything related to this operation can add their input. This shared information can also enhance activities or investigations in their cities.

City intelligence divisions also verify the information they have with the city anti-terrorism divisions because other anti-terrorism divisions may also have related information through their interviews, interrogations, the documents that were obtained from searches, etc. When needed or on a regular basis, anti-terrorism and intelligence divisions or their corresponding bureaus meet to discuss the developments in their cities and to share the information they have regarding their responsibilities. Anti-terrorism operations are planned with the presence of intelligence divisions' correspondents to ensure they contribute and input their knowledge and ideas. As the operations are carried out, there is also always a representative from an intelligence division to ensure that intelligence officers get first hand information and contribute their input from the operations or interrogations. This cooperation and collaboration between the intelligence divisions and anti-terrorism divisions is one of the keys to the success of the TNP against terrorism.

Another important aspect of this cooperation is the collaborative teamwork on specific terrorist related cases. This is a key element of the TNP's success because instead of waiting for intelligence from the anti-terrorism divisions, this partnership enables the intelligence divisions to go directly to the field with anti-terrorism divisions in order to collect specific intelligence related to specific events.

Changes Implemented to Improve TNP's Capability to Deal with Terrorism

The intensity of terrorist incidents and the number of casualties as a result of the incidents which began to rise sharply at the beginning of the 1980's in Turkey, led to an organizational revolution of the TNP.

The following measures and steps were taken by the TNP to ensure success and efficiency regarding terrorism. One of the first steps was to reform the system of personnel and provide additional education and training. Another was the formation of the Central Anti-Terrorism Department and Intelligence Department at the TNP Headquarters and their satellites in the cities. As a part of this step, one of the largest police computer and information systems networks in the world named POL-NET was created. Additionally, new policies and promotion of information sharing helped the exchange of information between the cities and the headquarters. Other reforms included the establishment of advanced Police Criminal Laboratories, the foundation of the Special Operations Department, social programs, and the adaptation of advanced technology.

Personnel Reform along with Education and Training Activities

One of the first experiences of the police officers in the field was realizing how little they knew about the terrorist organizations they were investigating. In fact, they rarely received specialized training regarding terrorism or investigation techniques of terrorist incidents. Another dilemma was the fact that most of the terrorists had some college education or were college graduates. This posed difficulties especially during interrogation when a mind game between the interrogators and terrorists would take place.

In order to cope with this problem, the TNP prepared a long-term plan to perform several personnel reforms concerning education and training. The initial steps were long-term precautions to ensure a better future for the TNP. From this perspective, the TNP increased the number of police colleges from one to five. Police colleges are equivalent to vocational high schools and are also boarding schools. Graduates of the police colleges attend the national Police Academy, which basically provides a bachelor's degree similar to a degree obtained from the universities' criminal justice departments in the U.S.. The graduates of the national Police Academy became mid-level managers of the TNP. This initial step proved to be very successful and effective because the schools became more specialized and selective.

More importantly, police colleges were highly successful in establishing bonds between their students. Almost all of the students became brothers or buddies for life and supported each other through their tenure in the following years. This bond helped eradicate reluctance in sharing the proper information in the following years**.** College graduates easily and willingly, in fact without being asked, shared information with their co-workers and other police officers in different cities or in the headquarters for the success of the TNP simply because their friends were in charge of those departments and they wanted to help them in their duties so that they would be more successful in providing safety to their citizens. This bond and friendship between the mid-level leadership and later the high-level leadership of the TNP has been one of the biggest secrets behind its success. Finally, even the terrorists who had been arrested under the old system admitted that it was more difficult to influence or maneuver the new interrogators[1].

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[1] Several of those statements are in the archives of anti-terrorism Departments like Ankara and Istanbul

The Police College students are accepted to the national Police Academy. The academy is located in Ankara, in the capital city of Turkey, where several other major universities are located. Different Police College students along with other male and female students who were accepted to the national Police Academy from different high schools through a thorough selection process, received a top quality education for four years from the experts who were either academy professors or who were among the best and most accepted faculties of different universities in Ankara. The national Police Academy not only provided state of the art education, but also was an excellent base for establishing strong bonds for the future leadership of the TNP because its graduates become sergeants as soon as they graduate.

Furthermore, TNP officers were also encouraged to attend master's programs in different universities, including the Police Academy Institute for Security Sciences to increase their level of expertise. In addition, several officers were sent abroad to receive their doctorates in different universities in the United States and Europe. The TNP adopted this policy so that its members can receive higher level education and earn relevant doctoral degrees in addition to studying other police agencies abroad and their policies.

Currently, there are 170 senior officers in the United States who are working towards their doctorate degrees in several different U.S. universities. Those officers are selected through a highly competitive process. Their expenses are paid by the Turkish Government. The TNP also has an institute named Turkish Institute for Police Studies (TIPS)[2] that is located in the United States to assist its officers in the U.S. and carry out research. TIPS acts as a bridge between Turkey and in this case the U.S. by interacting with several U.S. local and federal law enforcement departments, carrying out different activities including conferences, seminars and workshops, and training exchange with corresponding U.S. law enforcement.

The TNP also pays close attention to its police officers who carry out daily field activities. Middle school graduation used to be adequate in order to become police officers during 1980's. This level was increased to high school. Only high school or college graduates are currently accepted into the police schools of the TNP where regular police officers must graduate. The training in the police schools also was enriched and the duration of the police schools was first increased to nine months, then to one year, and then to a two year associate degree after 2000. Finally, the TNP established a contract with Eskisehir Anatolia University, one of the largest universities in Turkey, to provide distance education to its police officers so that the police officers could become college (university) graduates over the years. Currently, over 60,000 police officers are attending several different programs of Eskisehir Anatolia University to receive their undergraduate degrees through distance education.

In addition to the commitment of providing appropriate and modern education to its members, the TNP also continuously trained its members in their areas of expertise. Especially after the 80's, the TNP has adopted a policy of professionalism and only allowed certain experts to work for certain departments. For example, if an officer did not receive training on terrorism or intelligence, he would not be allowed to work in anti-terrorism or intelligence departments. In this regard, central departments including the Anti-Terrorism Department and the Intelligence Department started to train their officers in the cities and shared the knowledge of experts through these trainings. Experts from the field who were daily facing the terrorist threat and who were actually carrying out operations and interrogations at the Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Diyarbakir, and Bursa police departments, were invited to teach in those courses so that real field experts could share their first-hand

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[2] Please visit http://www.tipsonline.org

experience and facts with the trainees. This also led to sharing experiences of different large city police departments. Although the TNP is only one agency, different TNP city departments were becoming real experts in different areas simply by adopting the circumstances in their cities. Their experiences were shared during these training courses. In this way, the TNP began to provide extensive in-service training programs through the coordination of the Education and Training Department. Currently, the TNP annually provides in-service training to over 80,000 officers.

Establishment of Central Anti-Terrorism and Intelligence Departments at the TNP Headquarters and their Satellites in the Cities

One of the main problems of the TNP was not being able to share information throughout Turkey. Terrorism is an organized activity and terrorists in different cities, today in different countries, interact with each other to plan, support and carry out activities. Therefore, it is quite normal that a city anti-terrorism division might have information regarding a terrorist or a terrorist organization that is needed by another city. This problem imposed extremely negative consequences because even though a terrorist was known by a TNP officer, he might not be caught because no one else knew about him. Before the 80's, there was a term called "captain's notebook". This term comes from the captains who were bureau directors in charge of the activities of a particular terrorist movement in a city and who would write down everything related to that terrorist organization in a notebook. They would be reluctant to show that notebook to anyone else simply because that notebook meant their success to keep their jobs. Once a captain retired or was reassigned to somewhere else, the information in those notebooks would be useless. To prevent this waste in resources, the TNP established central anti-terrorism and intelligence departments that have organizational power over the city anti-terrorism and intelligence departments to establish a communication and information network so that the information could be shared among different city divisions and so the overall efforts would be organized by the central departments for more successful operations and precautions.

City anti-terrorism and intelligence divisions, although under the supervision of the city police chiefs who are also under the supervision of the TNP General Director, began to coordinate with the central departments after those departments were established as central departments by the mid-80s. Basically, the central departments acted as information pools and the city divisions passed any information they had to the central departments. However, the information flow was not one-way and the central departments fed the city divisions with the information they were receiving from other cities. Central departments also provided training and technical support to the city divisions and informed them about recent developments. Over the years, this structure proved to be so successful and effective that information flow and sharing between the departments became rapid and useful as officers realized the importance of collaboration.

Another important step with the central departments was the appointments of new sergeants who recently graduated from the national Police Academy. These new sergeants were educated and trained for eight consecutive years and they were quite eager to help the TNP to cope with the problem of terrorism as soon as possible. With this new energy and dynamism, central departments started to adopt many new technologies and policies to improve the tactics and strategies against terrorism. Eventually, those sergeants became the captains and chiefs of their departments and today all of those departments are headed by the Police Academy graduates who have been extensively working for anti-terrorism and intelligence departments and who are very experienced in their fields.

TNP Computer and Information Systems Network, POLNET

Another step to effectiveness in dealing with terrorism was the establishment of the Department of Information Technology in 1982. This department's main duty is to help the TNP to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its duties. This department basically produces information systems' projects by working with the officers in the field so that the software and systems are developed appropriately for the needs of the field. It then makes those programs and systems available to the TNP. The Department of Information Technology established one of the largest closed computer network systems for the TNP, which is an organizational intranet with around 15,000 computers and over 30,000 users in every location where the TNP has jurisdiction including TNP Headquarters, city police departments, police stations, airports, border gates, and other places where the TNP has infrastructures around the country. Currently, this network is one of the largest Microsoft-based networks in the world.

The Department of Information Technologies assisted the fight against terrorism by developing special software packages that are designed by the officers who were working at anti-terrorism departments and by making that package available to the officers at other anti-terrorism departments. In this way the TNP anti-terrorism departments were able to input, search and share data as soon as needed. This network helped the TNP to obtain information considerably faster and to share information more appropriately. It also enabled the central Anti-terrorism Department's capability of coordination to be more effective. A similar but more special network was also established for the Intelligence Department and its divisions. The intelligence divisions at city police departments were able to use POL-NET and their own special networks as well.

Of course, POL-NET was not solely limited to terrorist related activities. POL-NET has over 30 different projects including passports, driver's licenses, border gate control, AFIS, vehicle registration, traffic control, public security, foreigner registration and many others. All of those systems were also great investigative tools for the anti-terrorism and intelligence departments. Designated users in those departments would search for suspects and their related activities, such as addresses, entry or exit to the country, location of foreigners' housing, traffic tickets, registered vehicles and many other features. This system enables officers to reach the suspects very quickly. Consequently, POL-NET and the Department of Information Technologies were a revolutionary support for the TNP in dealing with terrorism and today, it still continues to be one of the greatest supports. POL-NET is known today as one of the world's largest internal networks and it is the largest Microsoft based internal network in the world as of today.

New Policies and Culture Regarding Information Sharing

There are three important reasons why TNP officials are not reluctant to share information. First of all, everybody at TNP recognized the importance and value of information sharing after they saw how it helped to dismantle the terrorist organizations with the stated methods above. Secondly, TNP was furnished with appropriate tools to share information effectively and quickly including the Pol-Net, and the internal phone system that connects all of the offices around the country, the internal email system, countrywide radio system. Also, all of the TNP officers have GSM phones which can be used to call any TNP officials free of charge. Finally, bonds between the leadership of the TNP that were established during the Police College and national Police Academy years make it extremely easy to share information formally and informally simply because the managers at the offices

know each other very well. This also made sharing information easy especially during emergencies and crises. All of the stated factors above yielded an establishment of understanding or a culture of "information is for sharing and it must be shared unless otherwise stated" at the TNP.

Social Programs to Prevent Terrorism

The TNP felt the necessity of taking some social approach to terrorism by the beginning of the 90s as well. There were two important reasons. The first is that the youth were becoming victims of terrorism propaganda. The second is the dilemma of newly recruited terrorists. The situation is that once they join the terrorist organization they cannot leave that organization. If they try to leave, the terrorist organization will punish them or they are afraid of going to jail if they leave the terrorist organization. To prevent these two negative effects on the youth, the TNP carried out several social strategies. One of the first tactics was amnesties for the terrorists who would turn themselves in. Until now, eight general amnesties were declared and many terrorists saved themselves through those amnesties. The second strategy that was implemented was giving a chance to the first time arrestees who were being newly recruited and not yet members of the terrorist organizations with the requirement of not having carried out any terrorist activity. A second chance was given by working with the prosecutors' offices if the arrestees assured to leave the terrorist organization and not to interact with the terrorists again. Even though this policy was not formal, it worked very well and many newly recruited terrorists were saved in this way. Because of this the families were also involved in this process and the teenagers were left to the care of their families. Another approach was having the police closer to the communities by carrying out different activities that targeted youths, such as knowledge competitions among the high school students. This approach could be considered a similar program to community policing. And finally, the TNP Central Anti-Terrorism Department printed many pamphlets and brochures to inform the youth about the real dangers of terrorism. All of the activities stated above were somewhat successful and saved at least some newly recruited terrorists or potential terrorist candidates according to the statements of people who saved themselves through one of those programs[3].

Adaptation of Advanced Technologies

The TNP also felt the necessity of equipping itself with new technology to catch up with the terrorists. Two of the most advanced adaptations were the POL-NET and Criminal Labs, which were explained previously. Apart from those, departments were furnished with any necessary equipment which not only the headquarters but also the city departments were allowed to purchase. This expedited acquiring the new technology. Additionally, bomb squads were equipped with newly designed equipment to counter the terrorists' usual use of explosives. Today, there are bomb squads with proper equipment in every city of Turkey that can go to the scene immediately. Consequently, TNP and its departments adopted new and changing technology as needed in order to be at least one technological step ahead of the terrorists technologically as much as possible.

Human Rights, New Regulations and Obeying the Rule of Law

One of the main reasons of joining terrorist organizations according to the surveys of

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[3] Statements are archived at the anti-terrorism divisions.

the terrorists during their interrogations[4], was the assumption that the TNP did not consider the international rules of human rights for the suspects in their custody and did not obey the rule of law when it came to the terrorist suspects. In fact, many terrorist suspects were made to believe by their organizations that they would be killed or seriously harmed after they were arrested or they would be detained for months even though it was not the case. Furthermore, the TNP realized that once a terrorist suspect was arrested, that suspect's relatives and friends became easy recruitment targets for the terrorist organizations. In order to cope with this, Turkey adopted new and clearer regulations and policies in regards to handling terrorist suspects. First of all, the detention procedures were changed. The duration of detention was shortened to a maximum four days. Very strict guidelines were adopted as detention rules in order to ensure that no improper behaviors existed against the detainees. For example, the detainees were not chained and only handcuffed when they were out of the detention rooms. More importantly, the suspects were allowed to meet with their lawyers alone during their detention for legal assistance before they were brought in front of the judges.

Consequently, the implementation of the strict guidelines regarding the interviewing and interrogation procedures and human right issues halted the mispropaganda of the terrorist organizations. Many terrorists were shocked as a result of the transparent policies adopted by the TNP during their detention because almost all of the terrorists were made to believe that the police would act inappropriately during their detention. One of the main problems of the TNP was the claim that the TNP did not obey the rule of law. These precautions along with the shortening of the detention duration stopped these claims. The terrorist organizations were not able to use these in their propaganda against the TNP. This also reduced the number of the new recruits at least because the families and friends of the terrorist suspects were clearly aware of the status of the suspects in the TNP custody. Finally, all of these also helped the TNP to gain the trust of terrorist families and they started to visit the TNP anti-terrorism divisions frequently to seek assistance from the police.

Closing

This article was not written to praise the TNP; however, it was written to present the measures taken by the TNP to deal with terrorism more effectively and professionally so that other countries or agencies could learn from its experiences. The TNP, while not without faults, proved itself as an exemplary force by being successful against terrorism through its reforms that began in the mid-1980s. Today, terrorist incidents in Turkey have diminished to a minimal level, so much so that the national media is not reporting terrorist incidents around the country on a daily basis. Consequently, the commitment to education, the organizational culture regarding information sharing, and structural and technological reforms, including establishment of Anti-Terrorism, Intelligence and Information Technologies departments, establishment of POL-NET has enabled the TNP to deal with terrorism more effectively and efficiently at both the local and the national level.

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[4] Ankara Police Department Anti-Terrorism Division Archive

THE TURKISH NATIONAL POLICE-OHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERSHIP

Over the past several years, a mutually beneficial partnership between the Ohio law enforcement community and the Turkish National Police (TNP) has developed. Starting with the hospitality and leadership of John Peach, Kent State University Police Chief, toward newly arrived Graduate Students from the TNP, the partnership has grown, become formalized and the benefits to both partners have grown. Dr. Recep Gultekin, Director of Foreign Relations for the Turkish National Police, has served throughout as the visionary and change agent in pursuit of introducing institutional and organizational modernization to the TNP organization. As well, through the facilitation, coordination, and leadership of the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police, the Ohio law enforcement community has been recipient to the expertise in fighting terrorism that has confronted the Republic of Turkey for so many years. Additionally, the strong support and involvement of Director Kenneth Morckel, Ohio Department of Public Safety, and of Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro, have enabled the exchange and interaction to mature to the benefit of all parties and agencies.

The benefits of this Turkish National Police-Ohio Law Enforcement program include:
- Improved understanding of the terrorist networks that exist in the world and with which the Turkish National Police have significant knowledge. The TNP has been very willing to share their knowledge and expertise with Ohio law enforcement. Expert trainers from the Turkish National Police provided a well-attended four-day training program for Ohio law enforcement officers in the year of 2004. A team of Ohio law enforcement leaders traveled to Turkey to learn more of the TNP counter-terrorist practices first hand.
- Improved understanding of police practices in other parts of the world, especially the Middle East. Ohio law enforcement leaders have attended two major international conferences in Turkey as guests of the Turkish National Police. One of these conferences, held in Istanbul in 2005, the Istanbul Conference on Democracy and Global security, focused on global security with over 700 attendees representing 65 countries. The other international conference, in 2006 near Ayvalik, Turkey, was the International Police Executive Symposium. Law enforcement leaders and scholars from 36 nations attended this symposium. Four Ohio law enforcement leaders made presentations at the symposium.
- Knowledge of information sharing systems. A team of Ohio law enforcement and technology staff traveled to Turkey to gain knowledge and understanding of TNP's national model of police information networking. Though not directly applicable to a state such as Ohio with many independent law enforcement agencies, much of the networking and technology applications are applicable and many lessons were learned. Out of thousand, over six hundred local law enforcement agencies' computer systems are connected with each other with the idea received from the TNP. Today, Ohio has the largest network among the local law enforcement agencies in the U.S.
- Improved understanding of Arab and Muslim cultures and religious practices. This understanding has resulted in the creation of unique training materials for Ohio first responders. These materials include an interactive CD ROM and information booklet to be made available to all first responders in Ohio. The TNP assigned two Turkish Police officials for free of charge, to Ohio to develop those training materials targeting the law enforcement and other first responders.

- Opportunities to share with law enforcement officers from Turkey the unique perspective of "community policing" so that this practice that creates a positive image of law enforcement can be implemented as appropriate in Turkey. The common practices usually associated with the term "community policing" were also shared and discussed with law enforcement personnel from many other countries at the IPES conference. Regular police officers from the Turkish National Police have traveled to Ohio in long-term assignments with regular law enforcement host agencies around Ohio. This experience has benefited and extended the knowledge of both parties.
- Improved safety and security to the citizens of Ohio as the local law enforcement officers learn more about counter-terrorism from experts who have considerable experience and knowledge.
- Improved safety and security to the citizens of Ohio as the local law enforcement officers learn and apply knowledge and understanding of the religious beliefs and cultural practices of the Arab and Muslim citizens in the U.S. Such knowledge and understanding can be the basis for building a climate of trust and partnership with the citizens who have their ancestry in the Arab and Muslim world.

While the accomplishments of the exchange program with the Turkish National Police have been considerable to date as outlined above, continuation of this type of program will provide even greater benefit to both law enforcement communities and the citizens of Ohio and Turkey. Benefits and plans include:

- Continue the learning curve for law enforcement officers through continued exchanges. As more and more law enforcement officers improve their awareness and knowledge from a "world perspective" the more likely they are to respond appropriately as they interact with citizens from other parts of the world and to recognize and respond to threats.
- Expand the visits to include other Middle East countries as the opportunities develop. These opportunities are currently being explored.
- Continue to refine and distribute training and information materials for Ohio first responders.
- Recognize and utilize the services in a partnership manner of law enforcement personnel from other countries. Serve as a host to such personnel so that we may learn from them and receive the benefits of their knowledge and experience.

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