

Ensuring Operational Safety at Major Events: Comprehensive Strategies for Law Enforcement Leaders

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Federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies play an essential role in ensuring public safety during major events. To effectively manage these events, they utilize a tool chest of comprehensive planning strategies, which should encompass operational security planning, crisis response and incident management, emergency response and recovery, and judicial prosecution. This is known as the proactive, reactive and judicial cycle of effective operational event safety management. This structured framework forms the foundation of effective operational event safety management. By integrating these strategies, law enforcement agencies can enhance their ability to prevent security threats, respond effectively to crises, and uphold justice, ensuring the safety and well-being of the public during large-scale events.

Proactive operational security planning is the foundation of major event preparation.

This process involves assessing potential threats, identifying vulnerabilities, and implementing measures to mitigate risks well before the start of the event. Law enforcement should collaborate with local, state, and federal agencies to develop contingency plans, allocate resources, and establish secure perimeters. Large-scale events such as political rallies or sporting events require detailed planning to manage crowds, access control, and address cybersecurity issues. Law enforcement will work closely with all agencies, as well as private security firms and emergency management teams, to create detailed contingency plans that outline worst case scenarios, including medical emergencies, terrorism, natural/man-made disasters, and protests. These plans establish clear roles and responsibilities for personnel, ensuring that each agency is prepared to act on its specific assigned function without additional direction.

Proper resource distribution is essential for ensuring a safe event environment. This involves deploying sufficient and efficient manpower. Deploying excessive personnel at an event can create unnecessary distractions and reduce focus on the primary threat area, potentially hindering an effective response. Additionally, it is essential to utilize advanced surveillance technologies and establish secure perimeters to control access and monitor high-risk areas. Large-scale events such as political rallies, music festivals, and sporting competitions demand additional planning measures due to the potential high volume of attendees and the likelihood for targeted incidents.



Beyond physical security, digital threats can also disrupt event operations. Law enforcement agencies and cybersecurity experts cooperate to protect sensitive data, prevent cyberattacks, and monitor social media for signs of coordinated threats.

Reactive crisis response and incident management are critical components of maintaining public safety during major events, ensuring that law enforcement agencies can effectively address unforeseen emergencies as they arise. While proactive security planning aims to prevent incidents, unpredictable situations such as violent disturbances, medical emergencies, natural disasters, or acts of terrorism require a structured and immediate response to minimize harm and restore order.

To properly coordinate an effective response, law enforcement should establish command centers, strategic/protective intelligence operation centers, joint operations centers, and/or tactical operations centers equipped with surveillance technology and communication networks. These command centers serve as the operational center where decision-makers, technical experts, and tactical units monitor events, assess threats, and allocate manpower and resources efficiently. By maintaining constant communication with all key personnel, law enforcement can quickly make smart decisions and move the appropriate personnel and equipment to where they are needed most, and have the greatest impact to minimize the risk of an unwanted outcome.

A critical framework guiding these operations is the Incident Command System (ICS), a standardized structure that ensures an organized approach to crisis management. The ICS enables agencies from multiple jurisdictions to coordinate their efforts efficiently and reduce the likelihood of confusion. This system is particularly essential in large-scale incidents where multiple agencies must work together to control the situation while minimizing panic.

One of the key challenges in crisis response is deploying the most effective personnel to an incident, without overwhelming the response effort. In law enforcement, this principle is commonly referred to as avoiding the “Moths to a Flame,” where too many officers converge on a single incident, inadvertently neglecting broader event security needs, or stretching resources too thin. This approach can often place law enforcement in a compromising position, as it may unintentionally create vulnerabilities, leaving officers exposed to the risk of a coordinated secondary attack.

To mitigate this issue, incident commanders should prioritize posting and ensure that law enforcement are positioned appropriately across the entire event and respond accordingly to instruction.

Beyond the immediate response, post-incident management plays a crucial role in restoring order and assessing the effectiveness of the response strategy. Investigators gather evidence, review surveillance footage, and interview witnesses to determine the cause of the incident and identify any security lapses that can be addressed in future event planning. After-action reports and debriefings allow law enforcement agencies to refine their protocols and enhance future crisis response capabilities.

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Emergency response and recovery planning are integral to addressing the aftermath of incidents that may occur during major events. For those charged with event planning, they have the responsibility to be effective 100% of the time, while the nefarious bad actor only must be lucky once. Law enforcement agencies work alongside emergency medical services, fire departments, military personnel, and other event participants and stakeholders to provide immediate assistance. Recovery efforts focus on restoring public order, conducting thorough investigations, and supporting impacted individuals and communities. Joint training exercises, tactical drills and simulations can enhance agencies' preparedness, enabling them to respond effectively to a variety of scenarios.

Judicial prosecution is the final component of major event planning. It ensures accountability for criminal activities during events and effective consequence management. Law enforcement agencies gather evidence, interview witnesses, and collaborate with their legal teams to build cases against offenders. By holding individuals accountable, agencies can help deter future criminal behavior and uphold the rule of law. This aspect highlights the importance of meticulous investigative documentation and coordination of data between numerous law enforcement and judicial authorities. Coordinating with federal and state prosecutors within operational planning is critical to ensuring participant civil liberties, proactive planning strategies, and safety of the event.

Local, state, and federal prosecutors face a range of challenges that can make their work difficult. These challenges are compounded by emerging technology, advanced and agile criminal networks, borderless crimes, constrained resources, personnel, training, and tools necessary to combat increased criminal activity with a transnational organized criminal nexus.

Leveraging the latest investigative technologies while upholding public safety expectations is critical.



Utilizing the basic concepts of proactive, reactive, and judicial major event planning, law enforcement agencies can more effectively safeguard public safety and ensure the success of major public safety events. By addressing potential risks through operational security planning, crisis response and incident management, emergency response and recovery, and judicial prosecution, law enforcement agencies can maintain order and reinforce public trust and confidence.

Enhancing Security for High-Profile Events with LexisNexis® Risk Solutions

Effective operational safety for National Special Security Events (NSSEs) and other major events demands meticulous planning, precise threat identification, and innovative technological solutions. LexisNexis® Risk Solutions can provide mission-critical tools for agencies responsible for overseeing these high-profile events.

The solutions and services offered by LexisNexis Risk Solutions enable the development of scalable security plans tailored to events of any size, emphasizing efficient resource allocation, emergency preparedness planning, and interoperability. Through innovative technologies agencies can optimize security checkpoints, efficiently manage crowds, and evaluate situations in real-time during major events in their jurisdiction. Additionally, the LexisNexis® Risk Solutions offerings and law enforcement specific training programs empower agencies to optimize operational efficiency while planning operational security events.

Key factors influencing the designation of an event include its significance on a national or international level, highlighting its potential impact and visibility. Events identified as high-value targets for terrorism are also prioritized, as these events necessitate heightened security measures to mitigate potential threats. Additionally, such designations often rely on the specific need for federal resources, including protective services, counterterrorism strategies, and advanced incident management capabilities, to ensure comprehensive safety and preparedness.

Below are some suggested considerations for operational security planning, and how solutions and services offered by LexisNexis Risk Solutions can help support your agency mission.



Identifying Potential Threats and Vulnerabilities

LexisNexis Risk Solutions provides advanced solutions to proactively assess risks:

- **Data-Driven Threat Analysis**

- Accurint® Virtual Crime Center analyzes identity, nationwide crime, and investigative data to help detect high-risk behaviors, recurring patterns, and emerging threats.
- Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) Tools, available through Accurint® Public Safety Marketplace, can provide real-time, multilingual social media intelligence from public, open-source intelligence sources for actionable insights.

- **Geospatial and Situational Awareness**

- Accurint® TraX™: Quickly correlate critical investigative data using data-enhanced call detail record analysis, virtual pen registers and advanced analysis for any investigation.
- Historical Event Insights: Leverage data from previous events to refine threat assessment and enhance planning.



Developing a Scalable Security Plan

LexisNexis Risk Solutions can help to ensure flexibility and preparedness for events of any size:

- **Scalability and Flexibility**

- Resource Allocation with Accurint® AI Insights for trend identification.
- Adapt personnel and resources using solutions, such as Accurint TraX and Accurint® Image Matching capabilities, to ensure optimal deployment.
- Tailor strategies for small events, like county fairs, or adjust for large-scale scenarios, like inaugurations or global summits.

- **Scenario Planning and Contingency Measures**

- Behavioral and crowd modeling through simulating crowd behavior to identify potential disruptions.
- Develop proactive measures and contingency protocols against terrorism, civil unrest, or unexpected challenges.

- **Collaborative Planning**

- Assist with coordinating local law enforcement, private security, and federal agencies through centralized platforms such as Accurint Virtual Crime Center.



Implementing Multi-Layered Security Checkpoints

Optimize checkpoint efficiency and effectiveness during major events:

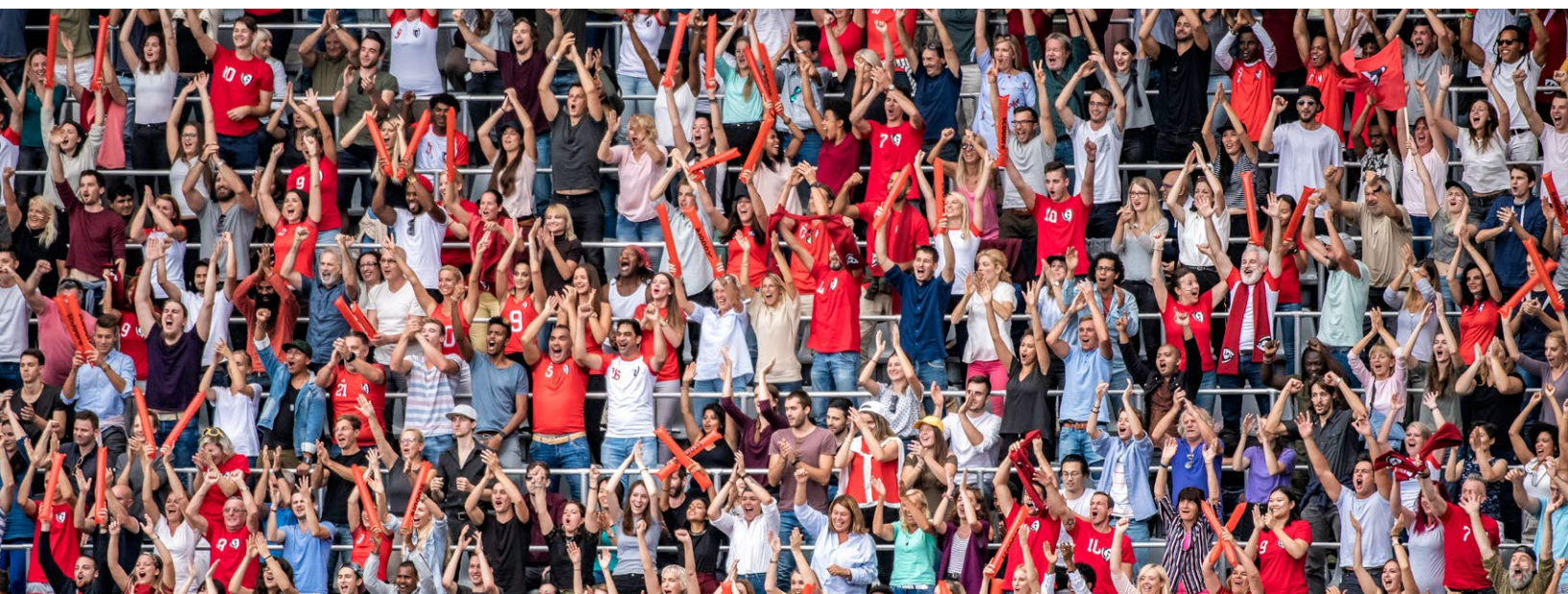
- **Efficient Security Checkpoints**
 - Design checkpoints that enhance attendee flow while maintaining strict security standards using geospatial data.
- **Advanced Identity Verification and Monitoring**
 - Accurint Image Matching capabilities can provide rapid biometric verification to identify flagged individuals.
 - Real-time watchlist updates and activity observation through OSINT tools and Accurint Virtual Crime Center.
- **Team Coordination**
 - Integrated communication systems can help to ensure seamless collaboration and swift decision-making.



Utilizing Technology for Efficient Crowd Management

Ensure safety and control through innovative LexisNexis Risk Solutions technologies:

- **Real-Time Geospatial Monitoring**
 - Accurint TraX can provide evaluation of crowd density, movements, and potential hazards to prevent bottlenecks.
- **Crowd Behavior Analysis**
 - Utilize historical and real-time data to anticipate unrest or emergencies and deploy preemptive measures.
- **Proactive Social Media Evaluation**
 - Deliver timely updates to law enforcement, event staff, and attendees through OSINT platforms.
- **AI-Driven Resource Allocation**
 - Optimize deployment of personnel and resources using Accurint AI Insights.





Advanced Capabilities with Accurint TraX for Mobile Device Geolocation

Enhance investigations and situational awareness with geospatial investigative solutions:

- **Features and Functions**

- Process mobile device records, GPS data, and forensic downloads to map call detail records visually using Google Earth™ Pro.

- **Applications for Investigations**

- Quickly locate individuals and correlate critical leads through diverse datasets.

- **Professional Services:**

- Tactical pattern analysis and next-event prediction.
- Expert witness testimony certified for federal criminal cases.
- Embedded support for accessing closed systems and field operations.



LexisNexis Risk Solutions Criminal Investigative Services:

Leverage specialized services by Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to support law enforcement and federal agencies:

- **Comprehensive Support Capabilities:**

- Geospatial mapping to analyze large datasets for actionable insights.
- LexisNexis® Special Services Inc. (LNSSI) Movement Analytics aid in uncovering patterns and trends in extensive datasets.
- Global mission support for Department of Defense and other classified operations.

- **Training and Expertise**

- Guided training for solutions to include Accurint Virtual Crime Center and Accurint TraX.
- Personnel maintain Top Secret and Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI) clearance to assist with high-security missions.



Jail Booking and Photo Lineup Capabilities in Accurant Virtual Crime Center

Additional features to help streamline operations:

- Jail Booking Records to access local and state facility records.
- Photo Lineup capabilities to quickly create photo lineups for investigations.
- Image Matching capabilities to search proprietary datasets with crop and filter functionalities, including custom search display options for added efficiency.



Access Control

- Additional solutions, such as LexisNexis EssentialID™, can provide robust biometric entry and exit solutions, to help ensure that only authorized individuals gain access to secure areas. These technologies streamline access control, reducing bottlenecks while maintaining high-security standards.



Having the right technology to assist during the proactive, reactive and judicial cycle of effective operational event safety management is critical. LexisNexis Risk Solutions is proud to be a trusted partner to law enforcement agencies through offering a comprehensive suite of advanced solutions, expert services, and industry-specific training. Our innovative technologies, such as Accurant Virtual Crime Center and Accurant TraX, can help to provide real-time threat assessment, efficient crowd management, and streamlined access control for effective operational security planning. ***Your agency is our mission***, and we are committed to supporting mission-critical operations by equipping agencies with the capabilities needed to safeguard events of all scales, helping to ensure operational success and public safety.

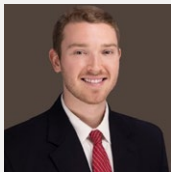
What problem can LexisNexis® Risk Solutions help your agency solve?

Request a customized demo of our solutions today
and let's transform law enforcement together.

About the Authors



Michael Hartenstein is a retired senior executive in federal law enforcement with 22 years of public service in the U.S. Secret Service. His career encompassed criminal investigations, protective operations, major event security planning, protective intelligence, and training. He held increasingly challenging assignments in the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Protection Divisions, the Protective Intelligence and Assessment Division, and served as a Protective Detail Training and Joint External Training Instructor at the James J. Rowley Training Center. In his current role, he advises federal, state, and local Public Safety Teams on strategic customer plans and helps develop solutions to meet the evolving needs of law enforcement and intelligence agencies. As a subject matter expert, he provides guidance on product offerings, customer relationships, and engagement strategies. He holds a Key Executive Leadership Certification from American University, a Master of Science Degree in Environmental Protection and Safety Management from Saint Joseph's University, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in the Administration of Justice from Pennsylvania State University. Throughout his career, he has earned numerous certifications and awards, including the U.S. Secret Service Director's Meritorious Award.



John Frauenheim serves as a Capture Manager at LexisNexis® Special Services, Inc., where he drives strategic initiatives in Public Safety and Intelligence. With a solid foundation in operational safety and intelligence, he brings years of expertise in identifying, developing, and implementing advanced technological solutions designed to enhance public safety and security. His work is characterized by a deep understanding of emerging threats and the application of cutting-edge technologies to mitigate risks and improve outcomes. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he majored in Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness, and Criminal Justice. His background has provided him with a comprehensive understanding of the principles, policies, and practices that reinforce effective homeland security and public safety strategies.



For more information, please visit
<https://risk.lexisnexis.com/le>

About LexisNexis Risk Solutions

LexisNexis® Risk Solutions harnesses the power of data, sophisticated analytics platforms and technology solutions to provide insights that help businesses across multiple industries and governmental entities reduce risk and improve decisions to benefit people around the globe. Headquartered in metro Atlanta, Georgia, we have offices throughout the world and are part of RELX (LSE: REL/NYSE: RELX), a global provider of information-based analytics and decision tools for professional and business customers. For more information, please visit www.risk.lexisnexis.com and www.relx.com.

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