

In early December, I had a chance to travel to Israel as part of the *Law Enforcement Exchange Program* of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, otherwise known simply as JINSA. JINSA's mission is to increase American understanding of the national security challenges Israel faces as a result of radical Islamic terrorism.

Along with 10 other American law enforcement executives, I spent a week in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, working with the Israeli National Police, gaining a new perspective on Israel's war against terrorism. We specifically focused on the lessons that nation's security services, private sector and citizens at-large have learned in securing their homeland and their applicability to America's own homeland security interests.

Much has been written in our local papers about the Redlands Police Department's interest in the use of surveillance cameras as a crime control strategy. Our interest was piqued after learning how the Israelis use this technology in the "Old City" of Jerusalem. Throughout the Old City are cameras that transmit real-time images to a dispatch center located at the "David Station" police facility within the walls of the Old City. Here, dispatchers monitor the cameras for everything from minor acts of vandalism to pickpockets and terrorist acts.

It is our intention to replicate a similar model at the RPD. We envision our current dispatch center modified – using federal grants we have already obtained – to accommodate workstations devoted to monitoring cameras at those places where we have challenges ranging from vandalism to auto theft and assaults. To ensure we don't overburden our dedicated dispatchers, we are employing sophisticated software to make the cameras "smart" and actively notify the dispatchers when it's imperative they monitor the images from the cameras. And to ensure we don't enter the world of "Big Brother," and use the cameras in a manner unacceptable to Redlands, we have created a citizen advisory committee to review our use of this technology.

The modifications to our dispatch center are intended to allow us access to cameras at city sites, select schools, historic sites and private businesses after hours. This latter use is taken directly from the Israeli experience of collaborative work between the national police force and the private sector. This connects perfectly with the intent of the Chamber's *Public Safety Subcommittee*.

In Israel, private security firms, businesses and the police work together seamlessly to ensure the public is as safe as possible from terrorist acts. Safety plans are crafted in a collaborative manner, there are regular meetings between the police and private security, and direct and timely communication between private security guards and the police is a principle objective. While the majority of this communication relates to terrorist activities, the same model is applicable to our community's interest in combating crime.

We have started a police-private sector security consortium to better communicate pertinent information and analyze local crime trends. In several instances, we have allowed private security officers access to our radio frequencies so they can immediately communicate crucial information about public safety problems or crimes to our patrol officers. We have also started the process of forwarding camera images to our dispatch center so we have access to the same images private security firms have. And finally, like the Israeli National Police, we have created a *Business Liaison Unit* with three officers assigned full time to oversee business safety.

Our primary *Business Liaison Officer*, Ric Rincon, has a wealth of expertise in military, security and policing issues. He currently works with numerous businesses to create safety plans and help businesses do what they can to increase their security and ensure the RPD is being responsive to their needs. He can be most easily reached at businessliaison@redlandspolice.org.

Out of necessity, the Israelis have developed new ways of thinking about local safety and transcending the organizational boundaries that separate the police from the business community. We can continue to learn from their experience, transfer their ideas into local practice and make Redlands a safer place.

If you have any questions or comments about policing in Redlands please feel free to contact me at 909-798-7661 or via e-mail at chief@redlandspolice.org.