

NORDIC AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY

Public Safety Forum Concept Paper

The NINSS was formed in 2007 in response to a need by the public safety community to have an organization that would take the lead on providing the venue for discussion on difficult and perplexing problems that face the public safety response community. After a very successful conference entitled “Making Communities Safer”, which was sponsored by an American University and other Nordic representatives and agencies that were interested in addressing a number of key issues such as multi-jurisdictional response, natural disaster events, impacts on communities and the public health system (see report *Making Communities Safer*), we intend to continue to arrange seminars/symposias on issues vital to the safety and security of societies.

As a result of this very successful forum a number of us were asked to begin planning for another conference of this type the following year. Consequently, a decision was made to formalize our efforts through the creation of the NINSS which serves as the agency responsible for identifying critical issues and utilizing our comprehensive *network* of public safety response community to include *national, regional* and local representatives as well as US government officials from such agencies as the Department of Homeland Security, Interior of Defense and Emergency management officials, key state and local leaders.

The NINSS focuses on unique problems and issues that are tackled in a forum concept, and by key leaders that have the authority to make decisions. This leaves room for new thinking uses a very unique style that incorporates some of the DELPHI techniques in which a topic is selected and key figures or representatives are identified and asked to participate in the forum. These forums are designed to provide a holistic approach to the problem or issue by the types and nature and types of people asked to participate. The meetings are kept small to ensure problems, concerns and issues with the group. The outcomes include problem solving and creative solutions that are detailed in the Forum Report which is developed following each forum and also includes lessons learned and identifying next steps. These discussion and proceedings are then developed into a report that is made available to the participants, in an online format and also suitable to be used in policy making initiatives.

Due to the success of this method the NINSS has been asked by a number of agencies to develop similar programs for their organizations or agencies as well. One of the benefits of using NINSS to organize and manage your forum is that we have developed one of the most extensive Nordic and International networks

of the public safety community as well as access to a cadre of international subject matter experts from various public safety professions.