

The Propeller Club of the U. S. Port of New Orleans

Michael Anderson, FBI Special Agent in Charge of New Orleans Division, presents "State of the Local FBI".

Mr. Anderson gave a "State of the Local FBI" presentation to members and colleagues of the Propeller Club of the United States, Port of New Orleans, in February at the New Orleans Hilton Riverside.

He presented an overview of the organization referring to the local field operations and how they address and assess localized threats, stating that it's not a "one size fits all". He is given the latitude to address local threats accordingly. Louisiana's Eastern district remains busy across the board, addressing among other threats, law enforcement corruption, contract corruption and regulatory corruption.

Mr. Anderson addressed the violent gang problem in New Orleans noting that there are now more resources dedicated to the problem than in the past. He clarified that these are neighborhood gangs versus nationally based gangs and pose many challenges to investigate. Three task forces are assigned specifically to gang related activity; Safe Streets Task Force, Gang Task Force, and a Multi-Agency Gang Unit. These task forces have great partnerships with all law enforcement entities involved, i.e., NOPD, State Police, ATF, DEA, JPSO. He noted the drop in the murder rate since last year but realizes that the number is still too high. The FBI works hand in hand with the U.S. Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's Office and his priority remains prompt indictments of criminals resulting in lengthy prison sentences.

He touched on the Crimes Against Children Program and how it is connected to Online Child Exploitation and sex trafficking. The FBI has spoken with Federal, State and local officials in an attempt to try to do more to combat this crime. The intention is to dedicate more agent resources to this program and to partner with both the U.S. Attorney's Office and District Attorney's Office to prosecute the threat. He added that the FBI and its partners have been very active in a task force environment. Rescuing juveniles from prostitution remains a top priority.

White collar crime, healthcare fraud, mortgage fraud, and bank fraud are among the other criminal threats. He added that an increase in resources to address the Civil Rights Program will be overseen by a subject matter expert Supervisory Special Agent recently promoted from Washington.

He closed with comments about national security stating that terrorism is and always will be their number one priority and that all resources, if needed, will be diverted to such threats. On a local level, and resources permitting, he is proposing splitting the one squad joint terrorism task force (JTTF) into two JTTF squads; a "reactive squad" and a long-term international and domestic terrorism investigations squad. The reactive squad would, among other things, address bomb and terroristic threats, special events security, and the weapons of mass destruction program. National security-related cyber intrusions was also addressed by Mr. Anderson.

He added that special events such as the Super Bowl are a major resource diversion for all agencies and can take up to one year to plan.

Propeller Club President, Robert R. Barkerding, Jr. emceed the event. Among the attendees were **Gary LaGrange**, President and CEO for the Port of New Orleans, U.S. Coast Guard Admiral, **Kevin Cook**, **Ms. Jackie Clarkson**, President, New Orleans City Council and Plaquemines Parish President, **Billy Nungesser**. Also in attendance was Captain **Pete Gautier**, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Commander for New Orleans.

The Propeller Club aggressively promotes the maritime industry through many of its programs and partnering with other similar organizations. Their goal is to educate legislators and the public as to the importance and necessity of all waterborne commerce.

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