

The Maine Information and Analysis Center Annual Report 2021



Maine Information and Analysis Center

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Introduction

The Maine Information and Analysis Center (MIAC) was created on December 8, 2006 by Executive order. The MIAC is tasked with ensuring that both strategic and tactical information is produced and/or shared between federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector partners. The overall goal of the Center is to assist law enforcement, emergency management, and other public and private sector officials in securing Maine's citizens and infrastructure from the threat of terrorism and other criminal and public safety threats.

The MIAC serves as the central point in the State of Maine for the collection, analysis, and timely dissemination of suspected or actual terrorist acts and criminal activity. The MIAC produces intelligence analysis for both law enforcement and private sector partners, is capable of providing information in real-time to our key partners throughout the United States and is part of the nationwide fusion center network.

The mission of the Maine Information and Analysis Center is – for criminal justice, national security, and public safety purposes only – to seek, acquire, and receive information, analyze such information, and, when lawful and appropriate, retain and disseminate such information to individuals and agencies permitted access to the information.

Annual Information

On June 11, 2021 25 M.S.R.A chapter 201§ 1801 an Act to Require Annual Information Reporting by the Maine Information and Analysis Center was passed, requiring the MIAC to generate an annual report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over criminal justice and public safety matters.

The following is a general narrative about the types of cases, crimes, incidents and reports the MIAC has reviewed and evaluated in a manner that protected personal privacy and the integrity of the work of the center from January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

In 2021 the MIAC had 3,146 entries in its activity reporting system and assisted 387 different federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector partners.

The biggest workload for the MIAC in 2021 was receiving and disseminating information and intelligence. This occurred 812 times.

- Intelligence is simply information that has been analyzed. Analysis converts the information into intelligence.
- MIAC will share information if, 1.) there is a valid investigative request, and 2.) it has been determined that the requesting party has a “*valid and legitimate need to know and right to know.*” Before information is released or disseminated, the information is evaluated to determine who it is from, how it was obtained, and whether the information is law enforcement sensitive and/or for official use only.
- Information shared by MIAC must be in a manner consistent with the mission, internal directives and procedures, and the applicable provisions of the Centers' privacy policy. The MIAC assisted

our partners 415 times by disseminating other agencies informational bulletins to our distribution lists.

In 2021 there were 595 entries in the MIAC activity reporting system detailing administrative activities of employee's daily schedule and responsibilities.

The MIAC received 405 requests for information from our partners. These requests vary but were related to the following reasons: Arson, Assault, Assisting Another Agency, Burglary, Child Pornography, Counter Terrorism, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Mischief, Death Investigations, Drug Crimes, Financial Crimes, Firearms Investigations, Forgery, Criminal Gangs, Harassment, Homicide, Identity Theft, Criminal Immigration Investigations, Kidnapping, Missing Persons, Motor Vehicle Crimes, Officer Safety, Prostitution, Robbery, Sexual Assaults, Terrorism, Thefts, Criminal Threatening and Wanted Persons.

The MIAC received 269 requests for information through the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). HSIN is the Department of Homeland Security official system for nationwide information sharing between agencies. This allows access to Homeland Security information and a secure platform to send requests, plan events, respond to incidents and share information.

The MIAC received 263 Tips and Leads:

- “Tips and lead information” means generally uncorroborated reports or information generated from inside or outside a law enforcement agency that allege or indicate some form of possible criminal activity. This includes data, usually from a single source, which has not been fully processed, evaluated, analyzed, and/or interpreted.
- A tip or lead can come from a variety of sources, including, but not limited to, the public, private sector, law enforcement agencies, field interview reports, and anonymous or confidential sources.
- Such information may be based on mere suspicion or on a level of suspicion that is less than “reasonable suspicion” and, without further information or analysis, it is unknown whether the information is accurate or useful.
- Law enforcement agencies and fusion centers deal with tips, leads, and suspicious data on a daily basis. Although this information by itself may not be indicative of a potential crime, when collated and analyzed with correlating pieces of data from other sources may be key in the prevention of or response to a criminal or terrorist act.

During this time period the MIAC created 118 bulletins to be disseminated to our partners:

- The MIAC issued several bulletins designed to inform and provide situational awareness to law enforcement and other partners, for example:
 - Wanted bulletins for fugitives and people for whose arrest there is probable cause.
 - Situational Awareness bulletins that bring attention and awareness to criminal activity and suspicious activity that is occurring in the State to include officer safety matters,

Amber alerts, Silver alerts, lost or missing children and other at-risk persons.
(comparable to a law enforcement teletype to include pictures)

- All bulletins are peer reviewed and are marked with appropriate classifications and sourcing before dissemination.

The MIAC received 67 requests for Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) information. All of these requests were for LPR information in conjunction with criminal investigations or missing or endangered persons.

The MIAC made 58 entries into RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe). This is a nationwide system developed to ensure law enforcement deconfliction during investigations. This process identifies overlapping investigations between different agencies so notifications can be made to reduce the risk of accidents or compromising investigations.

During this time period the MIAC conducted 24 Threat Assessments. These assessments are conducted to help mitigate risk at large scale events and also with criminal investigations.

The MIAC recognizes that Americans have constitutionally protected rights to assemble, speak, and petition the government for a redress of their grievances. The MIAC safeguards these First Amendment rights and only reports on those activities for operational planning in the interest of assuring the safety and security of the demonstrators, counter demonstrators, the public and to raise situational awareness for public safety officials. Additionally, potential criminality exhibited by certain members of a group does not negate the constitutional rights of the group itself or its law-abiding participants to exercise their individual liberties under the First Amendment.

- Upon request and in support of public safety agencies, the MIAC often assists in the pre-planning and organization for special and/or significant events to ensure the safety of the participants regardless of the political or social motivations behind the events.
- The Constitutions of the United States of America and of the State of Maine guarantee, among other rights, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of the Press, and Freedom of Peaceable Assembly. Therefore, law enforcement responses to incidents involving the exercise of such rights must focus on whether criminal activity and/or suspicious activity has occurred or is occurring at such incidents. Determinations of whether any such activity has occurred or is occurring must be based on specific, articulable facts. At times the MIAC will report on First Amendment-protected activities in order to raise general situational awareness and protect the safety and security of persons participating in and observing such activities, the general public, and law enforcement personnel. This is critical in the case of counter-protest groups with opposing views or others that may present a specific threat to people in attendance exercising their constitutional rights.
- Fusion centers can play a valuable role in supporting law enforcement's involvement in First Amendment-protected events. As part of the Pre-Event Stage, fusion centers can support state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies as they undergo a Pre-Event Assessment. This support may include the completion of an applicable assessment and the utilization of publicly available material (such as social media tools and resources) that pertains to potential threats to the event and/or organizations participating in the event, including potential counterdemonstration groups. If the Pre-Event Assessment does not identify any risk or threat, then the assessment is not disseminated beyond those who are serving a public safety role for the event.

In 2021 the MIAC made 18 entries into the FBI's "eGuardian" system:

The eGuardian system was developed in 2007 to allow Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial jurisdictions to share terrorism-related information. eGuardian is the repository for validated Suspicious Activity Reports (SAR's). It is an unclassified system created by the FBI that only approved, vetted law enforcement and public safety officials can access. An example of an eGuardian submission would be a social media threat of violence to a school.

In 2021 the MIAC received 4 requests for facial recognition to assist with criminal investigations:

All requests were from out of State agencies and forwarded to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The requests were related to the following crimes: child abuse, human trafficking, sexual assault, and felony theft (over \$100,000).

2021 Privacy Audits

The MIAC conducted two Privacy Audits for 2021. The 1st and 2nd Privacy Audits are attached.