From reacting and responding to predicting and preventing, a transformation is happening in public safety. Handling the huge increase in available data with advanced analytics to predict where crimes may erupt, technology is taking police beyond basic crime mapping. By combining surveillance, local intelligence and real-time investigative tools, agencies are multiplying their capabilities and mitigating risks.

Police departments face a tough balancing act. With manpower constraints and leaner budgets, they must ensure services are immediate and citizens are safe. In the UK, volunteers are stepping in as crime investigators, forensic experts and emergency planning officers as budgets get cut 20 percent.1 Across the pond, 41 percent of U.S. agencies slashed budgets.2

Agencies need proven technology-driven solutions that can increase response efficiency and change the trajectory of a single moment while in the moment. Yet the key is to never distract an officer during a mission. Unlike citizens with consumer devices, officers often confront high stress situations and must stay focused throughout. The right information delivered at the right time in the right way can change the result.

Public safety agencies must be able to deliver time-sensitive information to multiple users while an incident is in progress (mid-incident), from incident commanders to first responders. Video has to arrive instantly based on the location of an incident. Officers need to see where their closest support will come from fast. Maps that depict hot spots and predict crimes must be automatically updated. Time sensitive information from the public must be prioritised, analysed and expedited to those in the field.

Public safety is moving from a world that reacts and responds to one that predicts and prevents. When incidents do happen, those with improved real-time response and better, fresher information will change the trajectory, and ultimately the outcome.
AGGREGATE BIG DATA INTO BETTER INTELLIGENCE

Data is streaming into law enforcement from virtually anyone and anywhere—from citizen smartphone snapshots to commercial aerial video feed. The abundance presents a huge challenge. How to capture, correlate and share all this data in real time and make it instantly actionable?

Police are monitoring video surveillance, social media, information volunteered by the public, analytics, sensors and alarms to give officers detailed in-the-moment information as a crime unfolds. Investigators must monitor all the incoming streams and perform “virtual patrols” using a unified operating picture of data overlays and advanced computer mapping.

As agencies leverage technology to aggregate data, they are improving policing. By integrating all the inputs—voice, video and data—they can access a common operating picture, turn it into critical intelligence and send it directly to those in the field.

DATA ANALYTICS CONVERT IT INTO ACTION

How can police fully leverage the power of all this data and use it as a force multiplier? First, they must look at existing technologies and investments and find ways to expand them to be more predictive and preventative.

Then they must recognise the importance of interconnecting their systems to share and convert data into intelligence and intelligence into action. Instead of being overwhelmed with multiple computers and log-ins, integration will streamline operations between dispatchers and analysts.

When relevant, in-the-moment information can be conveyed in the right way, it minimises officer distraction, enhances situational awareness and enables rapid response.

Stronger links with the community can be forged by sharing real-time crime reporting and alerts, improving transparency and citizen engagement.

INCREASING REAL-TIME RESPONSIVENESS MID-INCIDENT

USE LOCAL INTELLIGENCE TO INCREASE SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

By tapping into local intelligence—from sensors to the public—to complement technology, law enforcement is raising their level of situational awareness. More citizens are sending data that agencies can use, whether mobile phone photos or Twitter feeds mid-incident. Online crime reporting by the general public is becoming so popular, 82 percent of U.S. police departments expect to increase its use.5

Many departments are looking at proactive policing, as advances in technology and data collection enable them to focus on hot spots and predict where a crime will likely happen. At the same time, their front lines are pressing for better, fresher information as investigations move from paper-based processes to automated, real-time data.

SAFETY IS WHAT YOU CAN’T SEE

Smart public safety solutions work behind the scenes to provide a common operating picture, aggregate data and ensure a better flow of real-time information to achieve better outcomes. When the context of each user is understood—including location, status, back-ups and more—meaningful information can be pushed out to minimise officer distraction and maintain their focus as the incident unfolds.

Thousands of connections from citizens, social media, video and sensors can be generated in an instant to help predict crimes and solve incidents. Ultimately, by leveraging technology as a force multiplier, public safety agencies can protect their communities with less cost and greater efficiencies.

SOURCES

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6. Motorola Solutions 2014 Public Safety Survey

For more information on how Motorola is helping public safety agencies work better, smarter and faster through next generation technology, visit motorolasolutions.com