



Talking Points Summary
Bay Area UASI Grant Effectiveness Report
November 2012

The report evaluates how investments better position the Bay Area region to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from acts of terrorism and other hazards. The analysis focuses on the expenditure of approximately \$52 million in UASI funds from FY 2007 through FY 2010.

Key Findings:

- 1. The region successfully invests UASI funds in documented high risk areas.** The region identifies capability gaps using a sophisticated risk analysis center software platform. Approximately 86% (\$45million) of total funding has been invested in 22 priority target capabilities to address those gaps. These investments have contributed to improvement or sustainment in capability in all cases.
- 2. All regional emergency response capabilities have improved.** For example, SWAT teams can better assess an incident and deploy necessary tactics against terrorists, bomb squads can successfully render safe IEDs through remote devices, and search and rescue teams conduct safer operations.
- 3. Capability enhancements are in almost all cases dual use.** The Bay Area has built dual use regional capabilities that can address both the terrorism and natural hazard scenarios (i.e., earthquakes, floods, wildfires) that pose the greatest risk to the region.
- 4. The Bay Area UASI program tests capabilities on annual basis through a full scale preparedness exercise.** Urban Shield is a multi-day event involving dozens of local, state and federal agencies and thousands of responders.
- 5. UASI funds continue to enhance interoperable communications in the Bay Area.** The region met National Emergency Communications Plan Goal 1 for interoperability.
- 6. The UASI-funded Northern California Regional Intelligence Center is the largest provider of Suspicious Activity Reports that result in the FBI taking counter terrorism action.** The NCRIC generated an average return on investment of \$991 for every dollar invested in law enforcement. In 2012, the Department of Homeland Security and the Director of National Intelligence recognized the NCRIC as a best practice.
- 7. Funding cuts threaten critical capabilities.** Although the Department of Homeland Security increased the Bay Area's risk score, funding was cut by 39% (from \$43 to \$26 million) in FY2012. This cut delayed the completion of interoperable communications systems and prevented the acquisition of critical equipment to support bomb squads, search and rescue teams, and evacuation of people with access and functional needs.