



Response to Protests and Demonstrations— Policies, Procedures, and Best Practices

*2017 International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators
Industry Challenge, Sponsored by Securitas USA*

By Barbara McCormack, Vice- President, Sales and Marketing, Securitas USA

The 2017 International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA) Annual Conference Committee elected to focus this year's Industry Challenge on understanding any continued impact and best procedural practices when faced with a protest or demonstration on a college campus.

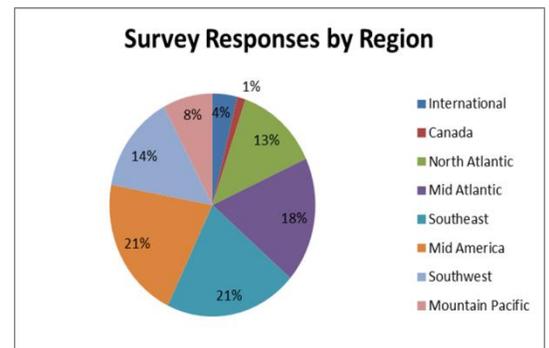
By actively surveying all IACLEA members, this year's committee goal was to assist administrators in addressing the top concerns of public safety departments when dealing with a demonstration or protest, by leveraging the Industry Challenge to provide insight into these collective challenges and offer an open forum to discuss how these threats and concerns are being addressed.

Supporting this discussion, a panel led by IACLEA Executive Director Sue Reisling provided a brief overview of the results and current trends. As noted in her opening remarks, she pointed out, "Protests and demonstrations are not a new occurrence on college campuses, they have been happening since the '60's. What has changed is how public safety professionals handle (address) these events," including the pre-planning and broader scope early action to involve various campus departments.

Panel participants included: John Vinson, PhD, Assistant Vice-President for Student Life/Chief of Police University of Washington–Seattle; Michael Newton, Assistant Vice-President/Chief of Police Iowa State University; Marlon Lynch, Vice-President for Global Campus Safety New York University Department of Public Safety; and incoming IACLEA President David Bousquet, Chief of Police, Becker College. With over 150 campus law enforcement officials present during this year’s Industry Challenge session, audience participants played an overwhelming part in this discussion.

About the Survey

The 2017 IACLEA Conference Education Committee reviewed and approved the member survey, which was sent to the entire Association membership for response. The questions focused on identifying, by importance, areas of commonality and best practices as pertained to such demonstrations on campus.



Respondents to the survey represented all IACLEA regions. Although 65% of all respondents identified their demographic as an urban environment with resident halls, the size of student body had no major dominating impact on responses. Eighteen percent (18%) of respondents represented community colleges.

Survey Results and Panel Discussion

Forty-four percent (44%) of respondents confirmed an increase of demonstrations or protests on their campus over the last 12 months.

Respondents were also asked to identify and rank reasons that lead to a possible protest or demonstration on campus, and the following were the most common observed:

1. Presidential Election
2. Governmental Policy Changes (healthcare, immigration etc.)
3. Equal Rights
4. Controversial Speaker Invited on Campus
5. Environmental Policy or Issue
6. Campus Policy or Labor Issue on Campus

Supporting comments from panel members and audience participants agreed that there was a big flare-up of unplanned demonstrations on campuses directly related to the 2016 Presidential Election, but activity continued throughout the year with special interest groups and public controversial speakers. Director Riesling further expressed, “How do we handle the event when we are often in the storm or trying to keep the storm from happening?”

As indicated by the results of the survey, campus public safety departments need to incorporate a variety of communication tools into tracking a possible planned or unplanned event. Tracking of events (planned or unplanned) presented no one clear communication method being available to public safety departments. Respondents reported the use of a combination of methods to track events to be most effective, followed by informal campus reports and social media as primary methods. Formalized communication from other campus officials and local or federal law enforcement were identified as some additional methods used for tracking, but not necessarily the primary method of notification.

The panelists concurred that for these types of events, senior campus officials should be engaged early in the process of planning and clearly communicate with senior leaders, as well as other internal stakeholders

at their respective college or university, what the expectations are for public safety. It was discussed that often both senior and other internal stakeholders do not place a priority on planning for public disorder on campus. However, the issues that surround a poorly managed event can extend from human injury to destruction of facilities, along with impairment of the normal course of business on any given day. It was noted during the panel discussion that when the protests occurred at the Wisconsin State Capitol, there was no contingency budget in place, and the event led to an unplanned \$8 million dollar expense covering the costs of public safety and support over a thirty day period. The panel further cited that sanctuary and long duration events go beyond public safety planning and additional considerations should be taken into account such as relief for staff, food services, parking, and possible media coverage, as well as possible counseling services for first responders.

From an unplanned event perspective, the survey did observe how response to protests and demonstrations impacted emergency management planning. Approximately two-thirds (66%) of all respondents indicated that their campus emergency plans included provisions for covering security and safety during a protest or demonstration, and fifty-four percent (54%) of those with plans do not differentiate specific procedures based on the reason for an event, such as labor protest versus equal rights. Most of the respondents (88%) indicated that their institution does not maintain a contingency budget to address the additional costs associated with mitigating the disruptions from demonstrations or protests.

Drilling down, the survey attempted to categorize the most common emergency plan considerations for those campuses whose plans did incorporate protests and demonstrations. Respondents indicated:

- 40% had a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with local law enforcement;
- 36% had a formalized communication plan;
- 33% included all aspects of business continuity to support staff, faculty, and student services (such as food service, business functions, and payroll);
- 24% had a pre-established contract for supplemental physical security support;
- 23% had a remote or mobile command center; and
- 6% had some sort of mutual aid agreement with neighboring institutions.

The session panel, along with audience participants, continued to support the argument that broad planning with all internal stakeholders and law enforcement is essential. That such planning should incorporate tabletop exercises, debriefs, and details regarding *who is going to be responsible for what*. Further, public safety should look to perform, in advance, research on speakers and extremists to identify how other colleges or prior venues were impacted. It was noted by the panel that often this type of investigation will also incorporate or uncover any prior criminal activity that may be of concern. Additionally, panelists noted that private institutions don't have to let controversial speakers or protestors on their campuses and that along with public institutions they may also consider designating specific areas on campus for these types of events.

In summation, the Executive Director concluded by stating, "Time, place, and manner of the event are always the key drivers for

consideration for public safety and security,” along with remarks from the incoming IACLEA President, based on his experience, that collaboration at all levels is important, especially with local law enforcement even when an event is near the campus, and while students may not procure an event, it should be expected that they will join in.

As a Corporate Partner of IACLEA since 2008, Securitas Security Services USA has demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting campus public safety and offers a wide variety of campus public safety services. Through this partnership, Securitas advocates continued support of the organization by sponsoring the Industry Challenge Session at the 2017 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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