

LKA Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

Polizei Journal

Ambassador Coats

Since September 11, more has been demanded from the law enforcement community, at local, national and international levels, than at any other time in history. Law enforcement officials around the world, working together, learned a great deal from the 19 hijackers who carried out the attacks on that terrible day. They learned that terrorists can be hiding in plain sight in any of our cities -- looking at potential targets and landmarks, planning attacks or committing common crimes to fund those who are.

And as a result of September 11, we have seen a host of changes -- new ways of doing business, new ways of working together.

For terrorism is not directed against any single nation. The terrorist respects neither borders nor boundaries. The attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, DC on September 11, 2001 were not carried out just against the United States. The attacks claimed the lives of Americans, of Germans, of citizens from over 80 different countries. The world is the terrorist's battleground -- no country is immune from attack, and innocent civilians everywhere are exposed to the threat of wanton violence. The terrorist uses violence to disrupt order, kills to create fear and prevent our citizens from exercising the liberties that are basic to our societies.

September 11th alerted us to our vulnerabilities, but also reinforced our values and the depth of our partnership. Americans were shocked and angered by the attacks but the support that we received from our friends in Germany, and friends around the world, was an enormous comfort -- and that comfort and support went beyond words.

Within a few hours of the attacks, the FBI determined that some of the hijackers had connections to Hamburg, Germany. The information was immediately conveyed to the BKA and LKA, both of which moved quickly to establish joint task forces with the FBI, one in Hamburg and the other in BKA Staatschutz Headquarters in Meckenheim.

From the very beginning, the cooperation between the BKA, LKA, and FBI was exceptional. The FBI was able to fill the German task forces in on the status of U.S.-based and international investigations. The BKA and LKA kept the FBI informed about the progress of ongoing investigations in Germany. Together, and in a very short time, the BKA, LKA, and FBI were able to determine who committed the attacks and how they were planned and carried out.

Those early successes demonstrated our ability to track terrorists all over the world. Future efforts to detect, disrupt and dismantle terrorist organizations, however, will be successful only with continued international coordination and cooperation. The fight against terrorism cannot be waged in isolation.

President Bush has instructed the FBI to change its primary mission from investigation to the prevention of terrorist attacks. FBI Director Mueller has transferred 500 special agents to Counterterrorism; and an additional 1,000 special agents will be hired in the next year. A BKA officer, working out of Washington, is working closely with FBI task forces in Washington, DC. The FBI will increase its presence in other countries, opening new offices, and enlarging existing offices, including Germany.

In the post 9-11 world, these partnerships are more valuable than ever. At a time when every landmark,

every asset and every critical system is a potential target, it is essential that we carry on the same level of cooperation and coordination as in the early days after the attacks. We need your information and support, and you need ours. We have come to depend on the professionalism, the thoroughness, and the collegiality of the German law enforcement community.

The first anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001 brought back the painful memories of that tragic day. None of us will ever forget the heroic efforts of the police, fire and rescue workers who gave their lives trying to save others. This first anniversary reminded us of the strength of the law enforcement community, across the Atlantic and around the world. Today, we depend on that combined strength more than ever. Thank you.