

## Connecting Military Public Safety with State and Local Public Safety

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Following mass shootings at U.S. military installations in the last 10 years, the Department of Defense (DoD) has taken steps to improve mass warning and notification operations. DoD has launched the Enterprise Mass Warning and Notification (EMWN) program in partnership with the Department of Transportation’s National 911 Program, the National Association of State 911 Administrators (NASNA), and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA). The EMWN program’s purpose is to ensure that DoD personnel are quickly informed of potential threats to themselves and to military facilities in the United States.

An element of the EMWN program is recognition that Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs)—where emergency calls for law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services are answered—are often among the first to be notified of an event or incident that may impact DoD personnel or facilities. In early 2017, IDA helped implement a pilot effort in which 25 PSAPs were asked to report applicable incidents and relay information to the U.S. Northern Command Joint Operations Center as soon as the incident was verified and after law enforcement, fire, or emergency medical services were dispatched.

The 3-month alpha pilot produced timely and actionable information (see table) that, if communicated routinely, could help DoD avert future threats to military personnel or facilities. A beta pilot is being planned and will increase the number of participating PSAPs to about 250.

Date/Time (MDT)	Location	Incident	DoD Nexus	Other Information	North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) Command Center Decision
1/5/2017 19:08	Pueblo, CO	Person with thoughts of killing soldiers at Fort Carson	About Fort Carson	Person called police for help with his threatening thoughts	Alert notification to Fort Carson.
2/7/2017 19:16	Colorado Springs, CO	Suspicious person assembling rifle on side of highway	Near U.S. Air Force Academy	Contacted U.S. Air Force Security who swept the area	Situational awareness (SA)—suspicious person not located.
2/17/2017 08:14	McLean, VA	Suspicious package located outside of CIA building	Outside CIA Langley building	CIA police department called Fairfax County to provide SA and closed off the road to investigate	Lead Duty Officer recommended calling Joint Forces Headquarters to provide SA only. Command Center Director (CCD) concurred. Fairfax County, VA, called back and briefed that the suspicious package was clear and no explosives were found. Incident cleared.
2/21/2017 21:17	Bellevue, NE	Threatening person	U.S. Army recruiting center	Arabic male in office; language barrier; upset and refused to leave	Notified U.S. Army North (recruiting center), and U.S. Air Force Service Watch Cell (near Offutt Air Force Base). Recommended a conference call and text alert be sent to a 10-mile radius warning individuals to stay away from recruiting center—CCD approved this suggestion (not currently implementable).
3/28/2017 18:13	Colorado Springs, CO	Fire	Fire near Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station	Fire size was estimated to be 0.2 acres	Met internal criteria for notification and reached out to the installation and Service Operations Center.

Simultaneously, IDA researchers are supporting the development of a NENA standard related to military notifications by PSAPs. This standard will help ensure that vital information from the nearly 6,000 U.S. PSAPs is shared effectively in times of crisis. Together, the DoD EMWN program and the NENA standard accentuate the role that PSAPs can play in ensuring homeland security; they can act as national sensors to inform DoD about emerging threats and emergency incidents involving DoD assets.

NS D-9297