CNA

CNA After-Action Reviews: Equipping Justice Agencies for Critical Incidents

CNA provides comprehensive post-incident analysis services for law enforcement, correctional, and government agencies at all jurisdictional levels. Backed by decades of experience and a proven record of enhancing public safety through rigorous analysis, practical tools, and hands-on training, our analysts deliver objective, actionable reviews of justice agency responses to real-world events to facilitate learning and continuous improvement.

WHAT is a post-incident analysis?

A post-incident analysis (also commonly termed "after-action review" (AAR) or "critical incident analysis") is a structured process conducted to evaluate and document the outcomes and lessons learned from specific events or incidents so that agencies can improve for the future. To conduct this type of analysis, CNA uses its ADEPT™ process, a framework for critical incident analysis that encompasses several key stages (right). Entities may conduct AARs at various levels, including independent entities, local jurisdictions, and regional partners. The scope of an AAR may be limited to one aspect of the response or encompass the entirety of the response. In addition, a single-incident AAR might focus on a particular event, whereas a larger meta-analysis of an agency's AAR library might focus on an organization's entire history to help consolidate lessons learned and implement corrective actions.

The **ADEPT**™ Process

SCOPE
Define the purpose, objectives, and outcomes

COLLECT
Identify data sources; implement data collection plan (including workshops, interviews, document review)

ANALYZE
Compile, deconflict, analyze, visualize, and validate data

VALIDATE

SHARE
Document and refine findings; share with stakeholders

ACT
Develop and monitor corrective actions; support implementation as needed

WHY should your agency conduct a post-incident analysis?

CNA's post-incident analysis empowers agencies to accomplish the following:

- Reduce risk and liability through independent critical incident reviews grounded in national standards and best practices.

- Accelerate reform and readiness by consolidating and evaluating corrective actions from various responses and agencies to identify common lessons learned and model corrective strategies.

- Enhance jurisdiction, agency, and officer preparedness and organizational learning via virtual training.

WHO should engage in post-incident analysis?

Post-incident analysis is an important step for a wide range of justice organizations and agencies at all jurisdictional levels and of all sizes and types (e.g., small, large, rural, urban). Agency types include local (city and county), tribal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; correctional agencies; and probation and parole offices. Entities engaged in developing justice-focused AARs may include oversight boards, local governments, response partners, community services providers, and community stakeholders.

HOW can CNA help your agency with post-incident analysis?

CNA has extensive experience reconstructing, documenting, and analyzing incidents in after-actions reviews, or critical incident analyses. Our dedicated personnel bring a deep understanding of best practices and access to extensive resources to ensure a thorough, objective, and unbiased post-incident analysis and improvement plan for your agency. This ranges from smaller low-cost reviews to larger comprehensive reviews with options to develop personalized training based on AARs or corrective action repositories.

Tiers of Service

Small

- Small-scale or standard response event
- 10-20 interviews; 1-2 data sources
- Final report and improvement plan

Medium

- Medium-scale or standard event response
- 20-30 interviews; 3-5 data sources
- Final report and improvement plan

Large

- Long-duration or high-profile event
- 30-75 interviews; surveys; complex data sources
- Final report and improvement plan

Extra Large

- Extremely long duration event or multiple events
- 75+ interviews; surveys; complex data sources
- Final report and improvement plan

Additional Services:

- Interactive AAR report using StoryMaps or similar programs
- Agency corrective action repository
- Personalized virtual training

About CNA

CNA is a not-for-profit analytical organization dedicated to the safety and security of the nation. With nearly 700 scientists, analysts, and professional staff across the world, CNA's mission is to provide data-driven, innovative solutions to our nation's toughest problems. It operates the Center for Naval Analyses—the Department of the Navy's federally funded research and development center (FFRDC)—as well as the Institute for Public Research. The Center for Naval Analyses provides objective analytics to inform the decision-making by military leaders and ultimately improve the lethality and effectiveness of the joint force. The Institute for Public Research leverages data analytics and innovative methods to support federal, state, and local government officials as they work to advance national and homeland security.

To learn more or request post-incident analysis from CNA, please contact Vivian Elliott at elliottv@cna.org.