Fort Worth's TRIDENT Program: Regionalizing Real-Time Crime Fighting

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Crime doesn't stop at city limits. And Fort Worth isn't pretending it does. What started in 2015 as a single-agency Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) has evolved into something bigger — **TRIDENT**: Tactical Real-Time Intelligence Detection and Enforcement for North Texas. Translation? A multi-agency RTCC that actually plays as big as the problems it's built to solve.

From Concept to Command Center
The Fort Worth RTCC formally launched in 2015, but groundwork started way back in 2012. "We started dabbling in the field around 2012," said Sgt. Joe Shipp, who leads the program. "By 2015, we officially stood up as a formalized unit." Turns out, running a real RTCC takes more than cameras on a wall. It takes investment — in tech, staffing, space, and trust between agencies. And as Fort Worth built that up, criminals did what criminals do — they adapted. They'd hit Fort Worth and run straight into neighboring cities with fewer resources. So Fort Worth made a move: if crime isn't respecting jurisdiction lines, neither will the crime center.

Building a Regional Coalition
Enter **TRIDENT** — a regional expansion that opens Fort Worth's RTCC doors to neighboring agencies. Instead of everyone spending millions to build their own centers, departments can now plug directly into Fort Worth's tech stack. "We provide the facility, the technology, and the integration," said Sgt. Shipp. "They bring the people." Out of 40 invited agencies, 23 have already signed on, 13 are evaluating, and four are potential declines due to plans to develop their own program. Fair enough. But for most? **TRIDENT** is a cost-effective, high-speed upgrade. And let's be honest — who wouldn't want access to a shared RTCC that's already solving homicides in under an hour?

A Technological Force Multiplier
The **TRIDENT** stack is tight. Everything's integrated, everything's real-time, and everything supports immediate tactical response. Here's what's inside: Milestone for video management and analytics. Flock Safety for ALPR, gunshot detection, and real-time alerts. Flock OS for mapping, visualization, and intel layering. Motorola CommandCentral Aware for live tracking of officers and vehicles. Motorola "Facilities" overlays for floor plans during critical events. Axon body/dash cams with live streaming into the RTCC. Evidence.com for digital case and video management. CLEAR, TLO, FirstTwo for public records, phone links, address history — the fast path to suspect location. This isn't just a wall of screens. It's a rapid-response machine. One recent road rage homicide was closed in 52 minutes — no suspect-victim connection, no delay. Just live data, fast action. Fort Worth: now trending safer, and smarter.

Funding and Expansion
Scaling this up isn't cheap — the new facility will support up to 24 operators (up from 5), with a price tag around 6 million dollars. Funding comes from: the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) — powered by a ½ cent sales tax; the city's General Fund; and federal and state

grants to boost infrastructure. Return on investment? Already obvious. Multiple homicides closed in hours. "That used to take days," said Shipp.

Scaling Smart, Starting Simple
Thinking of building your own RTCC? Don't wait for the dream setup. "One person. One computer. One radio. That's all you need to start making an impact," said Shipp. Start small. Prove it works. Scale up. Even basic intel tools can change outcomes fast — especially when paired with common sense and local knowledge.

Challenges and Triumphs
Sure, there were hesitations. Smaller departments weren't sure they could spare staff. Some weren't sold on sharing intel. Valid concerns — until the first major incident. "When a homicide or an active shooter happens, your one guy is suddenly backed by 24 more," Shipp said. "It's like doubling your department instantly."

A New Standard in Real-Time Policing
TRIDENT isn't just a cool acronym. It's a new way of thinking — a blueprint for how cities can work together in real time. At the core: stop violence faster, present stronger cases, and give prosecutors better tools. "Every day a violent offender is still out there is a day they can create new victims," said Shipp. "**TRIDENT** helps us stop that chain before it starts." As the system scales up, Fort Worth is proving what's possible when smart tech meets smart teamwork. If your agency wants to stay ahead, *this is the playbook.*