PSAS AUDIT OBJECTIVES: CYCLE 3 (2014-2017)

Generally, the PSAS approach to audits is to dig a little deeper during each cycle—a "nudge" approach to moving agencies toward a desired direction. PSAS does this by changing the depth of the audits in specific areas during every cycle. A "shallow" audit makes sure the "skeleton" is in place (policies, procedures, other admin structures) a "deeper" audit examines how the entire system connected to a specific part of the "skeleton" works to support a specific practice.

Cycle 1 (2006-2009): Two goals

1. Introduce the Standards and relevant business process changes to all agencies and
2. Ensure all agencies had relevant policies and procedures and business practices in place.

This cycle achieved these objectives. All agencies either were fully compliance or had a plan in place to address identified issue. The feedback acquired during this audit cycle also guided revisions of the provincial standards and PSAS audit processes. The findings resulted in revisions to the Standards.

Cycle 2 (2010-2013): Two goals

1. Test the capacity of all agencies to maintain compliance with the standards
2. Examine practices in specific areas: Vehicle pursuits, CEW use, reporting the use of force

This cycle achieved these objectives. Areas of concern were identified and addressed with regard to file maintenance and the identified standards. Again, all agencies learned and adjusted where necessary. PSAS identified and addressed issues relating to compliance proofs and the conduct of audits. The results of this cycle also indicated a need for further revisions to the Standards (commenced in 2015).

Cycle 3 (2014-2017): The current audit cycle has two goals

1. Examine practices in specific areas: Business planning and the information systems essential to inform the planning processes.
2. ViCLAS submission compliance. Ensure relevant policies, procedures and practices comply with expected ViCLAS reporting practices

Goal 2 of this round was selected because the Alberta ViCLAS Report Center data indicated that the Alberta submission rate was low. The data collected via the ViCLAS system is essential to understanding and investigating substantially dangerous, but very rare, crimes against persons.

Goal 1 of this 3rd round was selected because business planning is a system—not just a linear process—that drives how policing is provided to a community. Sound, consistent business planning practices will play an essential role in the introduction and maintenance of standardized police performance measures.

Specifically, PSAS will examine the processes that handle the information required to support planning and guide the actions required to put the plan into effect. The expectation is that the information flow will be two-way; spanning the entire organization and stretching into the community. Integral processes we will examine will include data / information collection, collation, and analysis and how the output of those processes informs organization practice (essentially an intelligence cycle).

Although Standard OM 3 Planning speaks specifically to business planning, many other Standards address processes / practices that provide information for planning and guide the flow of information needed to act on the business plan. For example:

- OM 1.1 – Formally consult with the community (c and d)…the involvement of police officers with their community and its citizens / public perceptions regarding safety and security in the community.
- OM 1.2 Appropriate steps to address identified needs, concerns
- OM 3.1 Planning (b and c) fluctuations in population, workload and staffing requirements
- OM 3.2 Annual report (all bullets)
- PA 3 training…several standards relevant to skills, competencies, etc.
- PA 7.9 Professional standards. Analysis of complaints (individuals and units)
- PA 8.2 Employee assistance (call type analysis, stress related to volume….etc)
- PA 9 Volunteers …as well as civilian staff related to work load, training needed etc.
- OP 1.2 Crime prevention planning
- OP 2.3 Traffic plan and OP 2.4, collision data collection and analysis
- OP 4 Motor Vehicle pursuit (trends, practices etc)
- OP 5 Investigations (types of investigations, additional resources, training)
- OP 6 Criminal intelligence (essential background information, trends)
- OP 9.4 Use of force incident analysis (essential background information, trends)
- SS 2 Communications: Data collected / generated by communications is essential for understanding workload, resource management and risk