

Hillard's security firm branching out to consult police departments, cities

By FRANK MAIN / April 4, 2010

A former Chicago Police superintendent and a retired chief of the Secret Service here have been quietly growing a law enforcement consulting firm that was recognized last year by Inc. magazine as one of America's fastest-growing companies.

Terry Hillard retired from the Chicago Police Department in 2003, and Arnette Heintze from the Secret Service the same year. Their Chicago-based firm now employs 85 people in offices across the country.

The Hillard Heintze firm was in the headlines a few years ago for its representation of the company that manufactures Tasers, but it also focuses on conducting investigations into allegations of corporate misconduct and in advising clients such as McCormick Place on boosting security.

On Wednesday, Hillard and Heintze announced they are creating a law-enforcement dream team of sorts to consult police departments and municipalities on how to improve. Among the departments they hope to count as clients are some that are under federal consent decrees for alleged civil rights violations.

"Progressive communities can fix things early on," Heintze said. "The question is whether the department is trying to identify rogue operations or dysfunctional management." Hillard added, "If they see a problem, they have to be very aggressive. They need to address the kinds of issues that can bring a chief down."