CONFERENCE SPEECH

FOR

RALPH CORBITT

Hello everyone and thank you for joining us today at this at this **Inaugural** Intelligence and National Security Summit. Although we who are involved in the information sharing environment are familiar and practiced in promoting the linking of networks and knowledge available to share data and intelligence across federal, state, local and tribal governments, it becomes more and more obvious each day that in order to be effective, we have to devise the means to involve the private sector while functioning almost on a separate plane. As we strive for transparency in the information-sharing environment, the word “transparency” itself conjures up multiple scenarios. Transparency with regard to intelligence gathering and sharing is the first and most obvious objective, but at the same time, as we do our jobs to insure the safety and security of our citizens, we can see that in order to function, our collective presence must also be transparent to an extent. It is incumbent upon us to encourage the exchange while acting as a vapor that hovers, permeating the atmosphere, while watching over the landscape and encouraging a climate of normalcy-as much as possible. Having the occasion to share our ideas and strategies with important and vital members of the business sector offers us the added opportunity to infuse our strategies and our presence into areas that were previously more challenging to reach. Every year around this time, as we remember how the trust and innocence that lived within in our fellow countrymen was annihilated, my colleagues and I at the ISE rededicate ourselves to discovering and implementing the most effective strategies to re-establish a context of security. Although it has historically always been the mission of concerned citizens to protect and defend their neighbors and their country, in this era of heightened connectivity, we are all bombarded with bits and bytes of information-from news of attacks to purported threats, to somehow foiling the enemy, the world has taken on the mantle of a shooting gallery in many ways…. **(If you want** **to be a little sardonic you can say**) except now the prizes are virtual bulletproof vests instead of cute stuffed toys.

By partnering with top tier business executives and including respected individuals like you in our network, there is an unprecedented opportunity for symbiosis. Every day we work to hone our skills and to extend our outreach and every day the partners that join our “team” teach us to identify new perspectives to analyze and assess possible situations. Every unique sector that supports our work adds a new facet, a new viewpoint, a new opportunity to achieve greater clarity and understanding. It’s been said “An expert is someone who has succeeded in making judgments simpler through knowing what to pay attention to and what to ignore.” (**If you want to attribute the quote, it is by a man named Edward de Bono who is a Maltese physician and author**) As we interact with experts in their respective fields, our intuitive assets become more finely honed. We learn to edit and to more readily authenticate as needed.

All that we do is for the purpose of advancing the effectiveness of counterterrorism and strengthening homeland security. As more and more people become aware of the importance of his or her involvement to share data and enlighten us, ISE’s mission is achieved, and that is to transform intelligence and decision making from ownership to stewardship. No matter what our standing is in our businesses, families, or our communities, to identify as a true concerned citizen, one who is involved at the most essential level, fosters a great sense of propriety and that is something that is greatly needed in a global environment dedicated to anti-terrorism.

Our colleagues at ISE are constantly looking for more and newer strategies to include the public in the burgeoning information sharing network. Earlier this year, Project Interoperability was initiated allowing us to take the “process outside the four walls of government” as we permeate and increase our effectiveness at the community level. The goal of this program is to enable the government in supporting the private sector to familiarize themselves with the foundations of terms, tools and techniques used, with the intent of creating an optimized and egalitarian system. Let’s face it, every segment of government and business has their very own jargon and if basic understanding of procedure remains elusive, that’s counter-productive.

I know I speak for my colleagues at ISE when I say we are thrilled with the interest each one of you has expressed in the work we do. As we stay true to our mission, partnering with diverse areas in the business world affords us the opportunity to refine our process multi-dimensionally. As you find the ways to support us-whatever it may be, our effectiveness will be buttressed, our capabilities will be strengthened, and our ubiquity… albeit mostly “transparent” will expand to support the safety and security of our global community. Thank you!