FUSION CENTERS NATIONAL STRATEGY

TALKING POINTS

FOR

RALPH CORBITT

**MISSION OF INFORMATION SHARING ENVIRONMENT**:

* ADVANCE RESPONSIBLE INFORMATION SHARING, IMPROVE NATIONWIDE DECISION MAKING, PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS, THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND INTERNATIONALLY WITH THE PURPOSE OF FURTHERING COUNTERTERRORISM, HOMELAND SECURITY AND CYBERSECURITY MISSIONS.
  + **ISE FOCUS**:
    - Specifically on the sharing of terrorism and homeland security information
    - Extends beyond terrorism-related issues to encompass all information relevant to the national security
    - Enable mission partners (including fusion centers) to capitalize on consistent training, privacy and civil liberty protections, oversight, and change management investments developed for the ISE and apply them as needed

**MISSION OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK OF FUSION CENTERS:**

* TO USE THE CABABILITIES UNIQUE TO THE NNFC AND THE STATE AND MAJOR URBAN AREA FUSION CENTERS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL NETWORK TO RECEIVE, ANALYZE, DISSEMINATE, AND GATHER TREAT INFORATION AND INTELLIGENCE IN SUPPORT OF STATE, LOCAL TRIBAL, TERRITORIAL, PRIVATE SECTOR, AND FEDERAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT THE HOMELAND FROM CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS, INCLUDING ACTS OF TERRORISM.
  + Currently \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fusion centers on the National Network.
  + Challenges to enabling the Fusion Centers’ strategic vision:
    - Insufficient/ineffective training of personnel at “ground level” hinders effective information sharing.
      * Urgency to distinguish grades and quality of intelligence
      * Substandard training yields substandard results.
      * Those trained at local levels need to be reoriented to recognize and prioritize most valuable data
      * Importance of “thinking locally” while assessing “globally”
    - Need for federal government to increasingly leverage and integrate intelligence, law enforcement and homeland security capabilities
    - Fusion centers provide crucial matrix for information sharing while ISE provides the tools and perspective to keep the channels clean and receptive to swifter and efficient editing and sharing of data
    - Need for standardized training in information sharing policies and practices to yield optimal effectiveness.
* ISE Function and Assets:
  + Purpose of ISE: to improve the management, discovery, fusing, sharing, delivery of, and collaboration around terrorism-related information to enhance national security
  + PM-ISE relentlessly advocates identifying, integrating, and sharing best practices. Focus on best practices raises confidence, lowers risk, and accelerates adoption.
  + As additional ISE efforts mature sufficiently, they will follow a similar path: starting out with strong PM-ISE sponsorship and support and, ultimately, assigning lead responsibility to the mission partner best postured and equipped to fully institutionalize the capability.

Ultimate Goal for ISE Collaboration with National Strategy of Fusion Centers:

* To acknowledge the potential and critical role fusion centers play at the state, local, tribal and territorial levels of information gathering and sharing, and the fundamental importance of being connected to vital local sources of information receipt and distribution.
* To strengthen the interconnectedness and synergies between the growing network of Fusion Centers and to expand their cohesiveness, impact and fluency.
* To insure the efficient collection, interpretation, and dispersal of critical information and to share in an effective and time efficient manner across all necessary channels, nodes and networks.
* To leverage distinction and recognition of valuable information and to optimize its impact for the safety and security of the United States at all levels.