Guideline 6

Leverage the databases, systems, and networks available via participating entities to maximize information sharing.

Database Resources

Justification

During the focus group process, participants reviewed a number of information and intelligence sharing initiatives. Most of the initiatives have access to some local, state, and federal databases, as well as other organizations or data sets. Centers may want to evaluate the types of databases that participating agencies have available. Gaps should be identified and researched. Leveraging the databases and systems available via participating entities will help maximize information sharing. This is an opportunity to access previously unavailable information. It is recommended that ownership and control of law enforcement information shared through the center remain with the originating agency. Data owners should be responsible for the quality of data shared. Access to data can be controlled in a variety of

ways, including fusion center leadership controlling who has access or data originators controlling access levels. For more information about the security of data, see Guideline 9 (Security). Another option is for the center to house their information. If a center chooses this option, it is important for the necessary policies and procedures to be in place to govern use and access.

Fusion centers should consult with public safety and private sector personnel to determine if any information sharing databases may be available within their respective jurisdictions. Special consideration should be given to the development of policies and procedures that ensure public safety and private sector information is not combined with federal data that contains personally identifiable information, and when a criminal predicate, threat, or public safety need is identified, access to this information will be virtual through networking and utilizing a search function. Additionally, fusion center participants should ensure compliance with all local, state, and federal privacy and civil liberties laws and statutes.

Issues for Consideration

When accessing databases, consider obtaining access to a variety of databases and systems, such as:

- Driver's license
- Motor vehicle registration
- Location information (411, addresses, and phone numbers)
- Law enforcement databases
- National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Nlets–The International Justice and Public Safety Information Sharing Network, and the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC)
- Criminal justice agencies
- Public and private sources (Security Industry databases, Identity Theft databases, Gaming Industry databases)
- Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS)/Law Enforcement Online (LEO), U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), including the United States Private-Public Partnership (USP3)—formerly HSIN-CI. (Note: RISS, LEO, and DHS's HSIN are currently collaborating on a network capability.)

- Organizational and association resources (InfraGard, The Infrastructure Security Partnership)[44]
- Corrections
- Sex offender registries
- Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (VICAP)
- Health- and Public Health-Related Databases (Public Health Information Network, Health Alert Network)

Also important are such issues as:

- Controls and safeguards for data access levels
- Technical specification of databases (structured/unstructured data)
- Identification and leveraging of partner resources
- Ownership of the data in the fusion center
- Data quality and data reliability

System/Network Resources

The following are available resources for law enforcement entities. This list is not meant to be all inclusive. Additional resources and Web sites may exist to assist fusion centers.

El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC)—EPIC established a Southwest Border Intelligence Service Center with a concentration on drug movement and immigration violations. Members of EPIC have access to a wide range of intelligence, including information from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). www.usdoj.gov/dea/programs/epic.htm

Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) LEO Program—LEO is a national, interactive computer communications system and information service, an intranet exclusively for the law enforcement community. www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/leo.htm

FBI's National Data Exchange (N-DEx)—N-DEx will provide the first implementation of structured search and index capabilities for the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Law Enforcement Information Sharing Program. All kinds of data (e.g., structured, full-text, multimedia) will be available through N-DEx, although searching, matching, and linking will only be possible on well-defined entities (people, vehicles, locations, weapons, phone numbers, etc.), not arbitrary text (full-text data). The initial focus is on structured incident data but will be expanded to other structured data (extracted entity data from full-text documents). N-DEx's focus is on large agencies and aggregated data sources, such as RICs, but will expand to any law enforcement agency.

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44 The goal of InfraGard is to promote ongoing dialogue and timely communication between members and the FBI concerning various counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and criminal matters. This information sharing is accomplished by 84 InfraGard chapters that are linked with the 56 FBI field office territories and their FBI Special Agent Coordinators. Any critical infrastructure owners and operators can join InfraGard and participate in local chapter training and education initiatives; receive sensitive, unclassified information updates; and participate in meetings. All InfraGard applicants must submit to a records check, including a criminal history check, prior to becoming a member, in order to ensure the program is composed of well-intentioned, law abiding citizens. For more information, visit www.infragard.net.

FBI's Regional Data Exchange (R-DEx)—R-DEx provides an interface to Regional Intelligence Centers (RICs) to enable searching of unstructured documents and for retrieving matching documents. R-DEx serves two main functions: providing RICs with access to DOJ's data and enabling a RIC's user to perform full-text searches over DOJ unstructured documents for the region, in addition to the state and local documents accessed internally.

Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN)—FinCEN supports law enforcement investigative efforts and fosters interagency and global cooperation against domestic and international financial crimes. Its objective is to provide United States policymakers with strategic analysis of domestic and worldwide money-laundering developments, trends, and patterns. FinCEN controls over 150 million reports filed under the Bank Secrecy Act and other similar laws. www.fincen.gov

High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)—This program provides federal funds to problem areas to help eliminate or reduce drug trafficking and its harmful consequences. Analysts at HIDTA centers have access to a variety of databases and systems that are available to law enforcement. www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov/hidta/index.html

Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)—HSIN provides a secure Internet-based technology that allows real-time information sharing at the sensitive but unclassified level. It is the collaborative system used by the DHS Operations Center to collect and disseminate information between DHS and local, state, tribal, and federal agencies involved in combating terrorism. HSIN also includes public safety and private sector connectivity (USP3), homeland security, and other information. Access to secret information will be available in the near future on HSIN-Secret. www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3350

International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA)—IACA helps crime analysts around the world improve their skills and make valuable contacts, helps law enforcement agencies maximize use of crime analysis, and advocates for standards of performance and technique within the professions. www.iaca.net

International Association of Law Enforcement Intelligence Analysts (IALEIA)—IALEIA's mission is to professionalize analysis in law enforcement, the military, and private industry. IALEIA has published a number of booklets and holds major conferences, local or regional chapter meetings, and training sessions. www.ialeia.org

International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)—INTERPOL is a worldwide law enforcement organization, established for mutual assistance in the prevention, detection, and deterrence of international crimes. It houses international police databases, provides secure international communications between member countries for the exchange of routine criminal investigative information, and is an information clearinghouse on international criminal/fugitives and stolen properties. www.usdoj.gov/usncb

Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU)—The purpose of LEIU is to record and exchange confidential criminal information on organized crime not previously available through regular police communication channels. Membership in LEIU is open

to local or state law enforcement agencies having a criminal intelligence function. The applicant must be sponsored by a current member. LEIU may be reached at the State Terrorism Threat Assessment Center, Bureau of Investigation, Intelligence Operations Program, Central Coordinating Agency, Post Office Box 163029, Sacramento, California 95816-3029. www.leiu-homepage.org/index.php

National Crime Information Center (NCIC)—NCIC is a nationwide information system that links together local, state, tribal, and federal criminal justice agencies. NCIC's capabilities include an enhanced name search, fingerprint searches, information on persons on probation or parole, a convicted sex offender registry, and a registry of individuals incarcerated in the federal prison system. www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/ncic.htm

National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC)—The NDIC supports national policy and law enforcement decisions with timely strategic domestic drug intelligence assessments, focusing on the production, trafficking, and consumption trends and patterns of all illicit drugs inside United States national borders and territories. www.usdoj.gov/ndic

National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C)—NW3C provides a national support network for local and state law enforcement agencies involved in the prevention, investigation,

and prosecution of economic and high-tech crime. NW3C is a member-affiliated organization comprised of law enforcement agencies, state regulatory bodies, and local and state prosecution offices. Support services are offered in five main categories: economic and computer crime training, intelligence and analytical services, case funding for designated cases, research, and fraud-compliant referral and analysis through its National Fraud Complaint Management Center/Internet Fraud Complaint Center. www.nw3c.org and www.training.nw3c.org

Nlets—The International Justice and Public Safety Information Sharing Network—Nlets is an interstate law enforcement network for the exchange of law enforcement and related justice information. www.nlets.org

RISS Automated Trusted Information Exchange (ATIX)—RISS ATIX™ provides users with secure interagency communications and information sharing resources for exchanging public safety and law enforcement information. www.rissinfo.com/rissatix.htm

RISSNET™—RISSNET provides the six RISS centers with a secure criminal intelligence network for communications and information sharing by local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. www.rissinfo.com