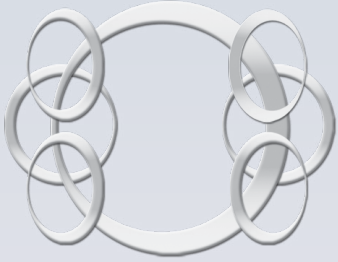


# INFORMATION SHARING

## NATIONAL NETWORK OF FUSION CENTERS: CRIME AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYSIS



Our nation faces an evolving threat environment, in which threats emanate not only from outside our borders but also from within our communities. This new environment demonstrated the critical role state and major urban area fusion centers have in supporting the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information between the federal government and state, local, tribal, territorial (SLTT), and private-sector partners.

Located in states and major urban areas throughout the country, fusion centers are uniquely situated to empower front-line law enforcement, public safety, fire service, emergency

response, public health, and private-sector security personnel to understand local implications of national intelligence, thus enabling local officials to better protect their communities. Fusion centers provide multidisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of government. They conduct analysis and facilitate information sharing while assisting law enforcement and homeland security partners in preventing, protecting against, and responding to crime and terrorism. Furthermore, these efforts can assist in sharing information with law enforcement officers that is critical to ensure their safety.

Fusion centers are owned and operated by state and local entities with support from federal partners in the form of deployed personnel, training, technical assistance, exercise support, security clearances, and connectivity to federal systems. Fusion centers provide the federal government with critical state and local information and subject-matter experts, resources it did not receive in the past—enabling the effective communication of locally generated threat-related information to the federal government. Fusion centers receive information from a variety of sources, including suspicious activity reporting (SAR) information from stakeholders within their jurisdictions, as well as federal information and intelligence. They analyze the information and develop relevant products to disseminate to their customers. These products assist homeland security partners at all levels of government in identifying and addressing immediate and emerging threats.

For additional information concerning fusion centers and how they can assist your agency, please visit <http://www.dhs.gov/fusioncenters>.



# INFORMATION SHARING

## SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING (SAR)

The Nationwide SAR Initiative Program Management Office (NSI PMO) has established standardized processes and policies that provide the capability for federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement to share timely, relevant SAR information—which has been determined to have a potential nexus to terrorism—through the fusion centers, while working to ensure that privacy/civil rights and civil liberties are protected. **Intelligence and information developed by NSI participants provides law enforcement officers with valuable information to prevent violent confrontation and the tools to properly respond to critical incidents that create a**

**threat to the safety of the officers and communities they serve.** The National Network of Fusion Centers is a critical part of this connectivity. Please visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov> to view resources, front-line officer training, and other items of interest related to the NSI.



## SHARING INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE BETWEEN AGENCIES

Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS)—*A Proven Resource for Law Enforcement*—is a nationwide information sharing and investigative support program that:

- Serves hundreds of thousands of officers and criminal justice personnel throughout the country.
- Provides secure information sharing and communications through the RISS Secure Intranet (RISSNET).
- Provides access to intelligence and investigative databases and systems.
- Offers a full complement of investigative services, including analysis, equipment loans, field support, and training.



**RISS services provide law enforcement officers with valuable information concerning emerging trends that involve serious threats to their safety and well-being.**

For additional information concerning RISS and your regional RISS affiliate, please visit <http://www.riss.net/>.