Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI)

BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

NSI Project Partners

What is a SAR and What is the SAR Process?

- A SAR is "official documentation of observed **behavior** reasonably indicative of preoperational planning related to terrorism or other criminal activity"
- The SAR process is the end-to-end process of gathering, processing, reporting, analyzing, and sharing of SARs
- The SAR process focuses on what law enforcement agencies have been **doing for years**—gathering information regarding **behaviors** and **incidents** associated with crime and establishing a process whereby information can be shared to detect and prevent criminal activity, including that associated with domestic and international terrorism

ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment (EE)

Site implementations accomplished at:

- Boston, Massachusetts, Police Department
- Chicago, Illinois, Police Department
- DoD Force Protection
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement
- Houston, Texas, Police Department
- Los Angeles, California, Police Department
- Miami-Dade, Florida, Police Department
- New York State Police
- Virginia State Police
- Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Initiating hardware and software procurement for:

- Las Vegas, Nevada, Metropolitan Police Department
- eGuardian (Federal Bureau of Investigation)
- Seattle, Washington, Police Department

Additional site pending implementation:

- Phoenix, Arizona, Police Department

Growth of the NSI

- ## Expansion of the ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment

  - Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center
  - Dallas, Texas, Police Department, Metro Operations Support and Analytical Intelligence Center
  - Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center
  - Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department
  - New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness

  - Ohio Strategic Analysis and Information Center
  - Savannah, Georgia, Police Department
  - South Carolina Information and Intelligence Center
  - Tennessee Fusion Center
  - Wisconsin Statewide Intelligence Center

- ## NSI National Data Call

  - Summer and fall 2009
  - Assess state **fusion centers** to determine the current business and technological capabilities for each state
  - Supports the development of a strategy for the determination of future implementation of the NSI

NSI: Positive Outcomes

- Vigilant **privacy and civil liberties protection** through standardized policies and multilevel training
- Training developed by the BJA team
  - IACP—developed the line officer training
  - MCCA—developed the executive-level training
  - Institute for Intergovernmental Research®—developed the analyst training
- Improved data standards for information sharing
  - Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative and National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)
- Catalyst for developing risk assessment plans
- Coordinated national unified ISE-SAR process

NSI Design Attributes That Support National Standards

- Leverages existing systems, networks, and resources
  - RISS, LEO, and HSIN
  - FBI's eGuardian will be the connection between the JTTF and the ISE-SAR Shared Spaces servers
  - Access available through the National Criminal Intelligence Resource Center (www.ncirc.gov)
- Data ownership—locally controlled
- Economically cost-effective
- Potential beyond ISE-SAR
- Decentralized

Why SARs and Why Now?

- Bronx/Newburgh Arrests
  - Suspicious activity reported by employee of a self storage facility
    - Subject of the SARs was part of an ongoing FBI terrorism-related investigation
- Zazi Investigation
  - Purchasing materials at beauty supply stores
    - Hydrogen peroxide and nail-polish remover
- Recent Springfield, Illinois and Dallas, Texas Arrests
  - Both charged with trying to detonate a weapon of mass destruction

Building Communities of Trust Initiative

Purpose: Developing relationships of trust between police, fusion centers, and the communities they serve, particularly immigrant and minority communities, so that the challenges of crime control and prevention of terrorism can be addressed.

Strategy: Local Police Agency hosts a Roundtable with representatives from the local community, police, and fusion center leadership to explore how to effectively engage in meaningful and ongoing dialogue to build relationships of trust. A smaller representative group - the Local Planning Team - will plan for the roundtable.

Location: 3 Pilot Sites - Miami-Dade, Boston, and Seattle

Result: The lessons learned from the dialogues will be used to develop guidance & a training strategy for local police & fusion centers.