

TENNESSEE FUSION CENTER VISIT

August 7, 2017

Objective/Purpose:

- The purpose of this meeting is to visit the Tennessee Fusion Center to receive an overview briefing and tour of their operations, and participate in a roundtable discussion with Tennessee homeland security and law enforcement leadership.
- The objectives of this meeting are to:
 - Understand how Tennessee has applied the fusion center concept in their unique operating environment,
 - Learn about the highest priority threats that face the State of Tennessee,
 - Understand the unique partnerships Tennessee has with DHS and other federal law enforcement partners, and
 - Identify opportunities to enhance DHS partnerships with Tennessee on threats/issues of mutual interest.

Background:

- In response to information sharing failures that led to the September 11, 2001 attacks, state and local governments established “fusion centers” to improve multiagency information sharing and analysis within and between their local jurisdictions and federal partners.
- Fusion centers are established, owned, and operated by state and local jurisdictions.
- Fusion centers are identified and designated to DHS and the DOJ by State Governors.
- The National Network of Fusion Centers currently includes 79 fusion centers.
- Fusion centers focus on a variety of threats that are pertinent to their respective jurisdiction, including topics/issues ranging from terrorism, to narcotics, gangs, human trafficking, etc.
- Fusion centers provide the Federal Government with critical state and local information and subject-matter expertise that it did not receive in the past. This support includes:
 - Raw information such as suspicious activity reports (SAR) to assist in identifying previously unknown threats or trends,
 - Collaboration with federal partners to conduct joint analytic collaboration to detect trends or patterns in criminal or terrorist activities, and
 - Support for federal investigations, including Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) investigations.
- The Tennessee Fusion Center (TFC) consists of staff from across local, state and federal law enforcement, and is focused on the timely receipt, analysis, and dissemination of terrorism information and criminal activity relating to Tennessee.
 - The TFC is housed within the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI).
 - The TFC uses intelligence information with an ‘all crimes’ approach. It provides a central location for the collection and analysis of law enforcement related information and produces a continuous flow of that information to the law enforcement community. The TFC forecasts and identifies emerging crime trends and gives assistance to law enforcement in criminal investigations.
 - The TFC consists of TBI employees as well as liaisons from the Tennessee Department of Safety & Homeland Security, Department of Correction, Board of Parole, the National Guard, I&A, ATF and the FBI.

- I&A has two personnel deployed to the fusion center: an Intelligence Officer and a Human Collections Operations Manager
- ICE/HSI has also partnered with both TBI and the TFC to advance ICE/HSI's mission areas, while supporting I&A efforts. This includes the development and sharing of reports with the Intelligence Community. These reports have primarily focused on narcotics and human smuggling which have an international nexus. The TBI and TFC have also partnered with ICE/HSI on a number of human trafficking investigations – with a joint investigation on a large-scale multi-national Chinese sex trafficking organization currently underway, as well as narcotics investigations focused on identifying and dismantling pill presses and fentanyl labs across the state.
- The TFC has also supported data exchange efforts to vet potential immigration violators.
- Mark Gwyn was appointed the Director of the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation in 2004. Director Gwyn is recognized nationally for his expertise in law enforcement and homeland security. He currently serves in the following capacities:
 - President of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA),
 - Member of the Director of National Intelligence's (DNI) Law Enforcement Partners Board,
 - Member of NCTC's Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Advisory Board, and
 - Member of DOJ's Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council (CICC).
- David Purkey was designated as the State Homeland Security Advisor and Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Safety and Homeland Security in 2011.
- Both Director Gwyn and Commissioner Purkey are strong supporters of DHS and the Tennessee Fusion Center, and are not expected to raise any concerns.

Discussion Points:

- Recognize fusion centers serve as the cornerstone of a distributed homeland security and information sharing architecture, providing grassroots intelligence and analytic capabilities.
- Recognize that priorities and focus of fusion centers vary from location, based upon unique threats and operating environments.
- Encourage continued collaboration with DHS – specifically with deployed I&A staff – to continue threat reporting and develop joint production.
- Recognize opportunities for enhanced collaboration with DHS operational components, such as with ICE on human trafficking.

Event Demographics/Venue Information:

- Attendees will include fusion center leadership, as well as state-level homeland security and law enforcement executives.
- Closed Press.

Participants:

Acting Secretary Duke
Chad Wolf, Chief of Staff
Christopher Krebs, Senior Counselor, SEC
Jonathan Hoffman, Assistant Secretary, OPA
John Barsa, Acting Assistant Secretary, OPE

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Kevin Saupp, SLTT Liaison, I&A
Mark Gwyn, Director, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation
David Purkey, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
Rick Shipkowski, Assistant Commissioner for Homeland Security, Tennessee Department of
Safety and Homeland Security
Russ Winkler, Co-Director Tennessee Fusion Center
John Curatolo, Co-Director Tennessee Fusion Center
Ronald Hughes, Intelligence Officer, I&A

Attachments:

- A. Talking Points
- B. Biographies

Staff Responsible for Briefing Memo: Kevin Saupp, State and Local Liaison, Office of
Intelligence and Analysis, (b)(6) (C) (b)(6) @hq.dhs.gov