



Federal Bureau of Investigation Congressional Notice

The FBI provides the following information for the Committee's consideration, in furtherance of its oversight responsibilities:

Date: January 5, 2010

Subject: eGuardian Threat Tracking System

Summary: The FBI's Counterterrorism Division (CTD) developed the Guardian Program to communicate reports about suspicious activities that may be linked to terrorism, to standardize the basis for such reporting, and to enable further review in an organized, timely manner. The eGuardian system extends capabilities to state, local and tribal law enforcement partners at the unclassified level, through a secure Internet network administered by Law Enforcement Online (LEO).

Background: The eGuardian system functions as an alert, recording and reporting system for law enforcement. It allows recognized law enforcement (LE) entities to record suspicious activity or threat information with a potential nexus to terrorism, in a standardized format using pre-defined business process flow, and submit the information for review and analysis at the local agency and regional levels. The system enables analysis of links, relationships and matches among data elements. Tools included in eGuardian allow analysts and investigators to quickly develop leads, identify potential suspects and share vetted information with LE at all levels. At any point, information may be appended or linked to these incident reports using tools incorporated into the eGuardian and Guardian systems.

Access to eGuardian is through a Special Interest Group hosted via LEO. Once validated, accounts can be accessed from any computer with Internet access. All of the information ingested into the system must be thoroughly vetted to determine if a nexus to terrorism exists and if additional investigative follow-up is warranted. Concerns about inappropriate sharing of personally identifiable information are mitigated by the inclusion of customizable workflow and accesses based on each agency's own requirements, federal, state and local criteria for data retention, and data segmentation. Access to eGuardian is based on role and function – users must be sworn law enforcement officers or support personnel assigned to perform law enforcement analysis, and receive online security and privacy training. Careful auditing is performed throughout the workflow process.

EGuardian-935

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The eGuardian system development continues to progress on schedule. Initial beta testing began in July 2008 at the Richmond Fusion Center. A phased deployment of eGuardian began with initial pilot locations in California, Virginia and Florida, followed by deployments to numerous federal, state and local agencies, as well as FBI field offices. In support of the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, eGuardian was deployed to the Washington Field Office and the Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center and utilized as the main reporting system for all unclassified threats with a potential terrorism nexus.

Nationwide implementation continues along with additional system enhancements, to include an interface for first responders and private security, geo-spatial mapping tools, advanced search functions, analyst reporting features that will allow unclassified Guardian information to be transferred to eGuardian, and an automatic disposition feature that will share the results of any Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) investigations with the appropriate eGuardian partners. [REDACTED]

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Please direct all inquiries to the Office of Congressional Affairs at (202) 324-5051.

FBI

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