

PREVENTION/PROTECTION



Highlights

- Efforts to engage private-sector partners in intelligence and information sharing continued to expand. (Intelligence and Information Sharing, p. 22)
- DHS's Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) are using risk-based security initiatives to expedite screening for low-risk travelers. (Screening, Search, and Detection, p. 25)
- Antiterrorism programs increased public awareness of bomb-making supplies and secured nuclear material around the world. (Interdiction and Disruption, p. 23)
- Technological improvements and greater interoperability enhanced FBI and DHS use of biometric databases. (Forensics and Attribution, p. 21)
- Emerging technologies introduce opportunities for innovation, as well as implementation challenges for homeland security personnel at all levels of government. (Screening, Search, and Detection, p. 25)

Trends The Prevention mission area includes the capabilities necessary to avoid, prevent, or stop a threatened or actual act of terrorism. It focuses on ensuring that the Nation is optimally prepared to prevent an imminent terrorist attack within the United States. The Protection mission area focuses on safeguarding the Nation against all threats and hazards through steady-state programs that protect people and critical assets, systems, and networks. Three core capabilities involve activities that fall within both of these mission areas: Intelligence and Information Sharing; Interdiction and Disruption; and Screening, Search, and Detection.

State, local, tribal, and territorial governments are strengthening these capabilities traditionally viewed as Federal responsibilities. For example, while antiterrorism programs remain a priority for the Federal Government, state and local partners are also contributing through initiatives to counter violent extremism, raise public awareness about threats from explosive devices, and share intelligence through the national network of 78 fusion centers. State and territory responses in the 2013 State Preparedness Report process reinforce this trend, with slight improvements in their self-assessment ratings and a perception that they are mostly or entirely responsible for addressing remaining capability gaps.



Technology is enhancing core capabilities that support the Prevention mission area. For example, the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) completed 48 evaluations and demonstrations of new radiological detection devices and the DHS Office of Health Affairs' BioWatch program introduced new technology to provide greater specificity for identification of biological agents. Federal agencies are also using technology to increase speed and efficiency for government programs. For example, automated passport screening saves time for travelers, and updates to data management programs streamlined the information-gathering process for law enforcement officers. However, some emerging technologies present both opportunities and challenges.

By the Numbers

The Food and Drug Administration maintained the ability to provide laboratory surge capacity to inspect **2,500** radiological and **2,100** chemical samples each week in the event of an attack on the food supply.

USDA plant and animal health monitoring and surveillance efforts prevented **\$1.19 billion** in damage from pest and disease outbreaks.

The U.S. Coast Guard assessed the effectiveness of antiterrorism programs in over **180** port facilities in **63** maritime trading partners, and imposed conditions of entry to improve maritime security.

Resilience Innovations

- The [Food and Agriculture Readiness Measurement \(FARM\) Toolkit](#) helps state and local governments to access capabilities to manage foodborne disease outbreaks.
- The [Water Contaminant Information Tool](#) provides information on chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants of concern for water security.
- DHS's independent study course [Surveillance Awareness: What Can You Do?](#) teaches employees at critical infrastructure facilities to detect and report suspicious activities.
- The [Against Violent Extremism](#) online network helps former violent extremists and survivors of violent extremism partner to prevent recruitment of at-risk youths.

Preparedness in Action

Immediately after explosions erupted near the finish line of the Boston Marathon, first responders rushed to the scene and investigators began working to identify the perpetrators and assess any continuing threats. Local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies demonstrated increased interagency coordination by using existing partnerships and information sharing resources. For example, the Boston Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) managed intelligence related to the investigation and guidance on bomb recognition and protective measures flowed through established channels designed to reach the whole community, including the Homeland Security Information Network and DHS's TRIP*wire* platform, a public-private information-sharing website. In addition, investigators, the private sector, and the public carried out unprecedented information sharing. Investigators provided regular situation updates and tailored information on how the public could assist, while the general public and private sector contributed surveillance video, photos, and thousands of tips.

Meanwhile, forensics experts from the FBI; Boston Police Department; Massachusetts State Police; and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) recovered physical items related to the blast and sent them to the FBI's laboratory for examiners to reconstruct the device to determine its makeup and components. Bomb squads—in some cases with explosive-detection canine teams—also responded to reports of suspicious packages during the week after the bombings.

Throughout the investigation, law enforcement officers relied on surveillance video, photographic evidence, and advanced screening technology to aid the search for the suspects. On April 19, 2013, one of the two suspects remained at-large. Over 1,000 officers conducted an unprecedented manhunt, searching door-to-door across a 20-block area. Ultimately, Massachusetts State Police used an infrared imaging unit purchased with preparedness grant funds to search for, locate, and apprehend the suspect.

Whole Community Accomplishments

New York, NY: New York City's Domain Awareness Program aggregates over 6,000 police and private business surveillance video streams in real-time to provide a comprehensive view of potential terrorist threats and criminal activity. For example, the program notifies the New York City Police Department of suspicious packages and employs advanced search capabilities, such as smart cameras and license plate readers.

Cook County, IL: In partnership with the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Cook County Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is convening community members, public works, city officials, and first responders to create a national training program on countering violent extremism.