Mission Area Overview

PREVENTION

Focused on ensuring the Nation is optimally prepared to avoid, prevent, or stop an imminent terrorist attack within the United States

Highlights

- New policies increase accountability for intelligence collection and information-sharing activities across the Federal Government.
- State, local, tribal, and territorial governments are using Federal training and assistance programs to enhance their chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosive prevention capabilities.
- The law enforcement community faces new considerations in using financial tracking to detect criminal and terrorist networks, due to the increasing popularity of virtual currencies.

Frameworks in Action

The *National Prevention Framework* (the Prevention Framework) describes the capabilities and associated whole community roles, responsibilities, and coordination structures designed to prevent a threatened or actual act of terrorism against the United States. The Prevention Framework expands on the seven Prevention core capabilities in the Goal and identifies 53 critical tasks necessary for the successful execution of these capabilities. Moreover, three overarching principles guide these core capabilities and critical tasks: (1) engaged partnerships; (2) scalability, flexibility, and adaptability; and (3) readiness to act.

The Prevention Framework emphasizes that individuals and communities possess a strong understanding of the threats they face, and that they help prevent incidents by **sharing information with law enforcement**. To that end, the whole community is taking steps to advance partnerships among government agencies, the private sector, and the public. In 2014, for example, faith-based communities and individuals worked with law enforcement officials to report potential violent extremist activity, contributing to police **interdicting at least seven Americans before they traveled abroad to join the fighting in Syria, possibly with terrorist organizations**. Additionally, the public continued contributing information through the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative and the "If You See Something, Say Something" campaign. The National Network of Fusion Centers receives these tips and shares them with the FBI. The fusion centers also vet, assess, and analyze the tips to identify and extract valuable intelligence information to further terrorism or other law enforcement investigations. In 2014, the fusion centers enhanced their accuracy in **analyzing intelligence to refine investigative leads**—238 out of the 4,326

Core Capabilities in the Prevention Mission Area

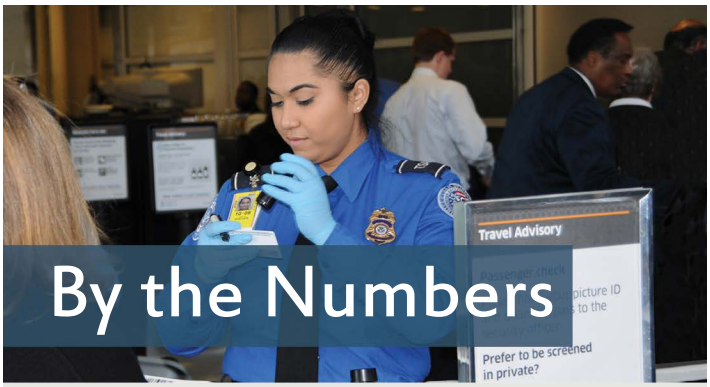
- Forensics and Attribution
- Intelligence and Information Sharing
- Interdiction and Disruption
- Operational Coordination
- Planning
- Public Information and Warning
- Screening, Search, and Detection

reports (5.5 percent) submitted to FBI aided an investigation or helped identify, locate, or interdict individuals on the Terrorist Screening Center watch list, up from 3.3 percent in 2013.

The Federal Government continued to **engage with the public and private sectors** using scalable and flexible technology platforms. For example, FBI's InfraGard platform—a public-private partnership established to prevent attacks on critical infrastructure—continues to grow, with over 80 chapters nationwide that include more than 350 of the Nation's Fortune 500 companies. As of December 2014, InfraGard includes 34,403 active members. Another platform, DHS's Homeland Security Information Network, disseminated over 950 situational awareness and current situation reports to 13,500 critical infrastructure partners during a 10-month span in 2014. Additionally, the Federal Government developed new products to support the private sector. For example, the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA's) SMARToolbox provides the transportation industry with a self-assessment tool to analyze security measures already in place, and a corresponding database of measures that can be taken to improve security.

Private-sector organizations also continued sharing surveillance video camera feeds with local police in 2014, enhancing law enforcement's ability **to locate and identify people associated with imminent terrorist threats**. In 2014, at least 22 cities began voluntary programs to share private video feeds with local police to enhance situational awareness and assist with identifying terrorist suspects.

In 2014, the whole community also initiated new efforts to balance privacy with the sharing of security-related information. In September, several technology companies introduced privacy software that precludes any entity except the user from accessing data stored on mobile devices. These software updates allow users to protect their information if their device is lost or stolen, but the software also limits law enforcement's ability to **conduct digital forensic analysis on the devices**, even after obtaining a warrant. In reaction, FBI has called for a national conversation on the benefits and risks of these software updates.



By the Numbers

3.48 petabytes of data

The U.S. Secret Service completed digital forensics examinations on 5,482 devices in fiscal year 2014, inspecting 3.48 petabytes of data, up from 1.25 petabytes in fiscal year 2013.

653 million airline passengers

In 2014, TSA screened over 653 million airline passengers, intercepting 2,212 firearms, as well as bomb-making supplies and hundreds of other weapons.

65 evaluations

In fiscal year 2014, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) completed 65 comprehensive evaluations and demonstrations of new and improved technologies to prevent nuclear terrorism.

Resilience Innovations

- The Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center and the Depository Trust & Clearing Corporation worked together to develop the first industry-driven platform to share cyber threat intelligence, released December 2014.
- DoD and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released a video, and FBI initiated a pilot program in 12 field offices to raise awareness of the danger of aiming laser pointers at aircraft. Since the February launch, metropolitan areas in the pilot program reported a 19-percent decrease in the number of such incidents.

Whole Community Accomplishments

Ohio Ohio Homeland Security released the "Safer Ohio" phone application to engage the public in anti-terrorism and public safety efforts. The application's "See Something, Send Something" feature allows users to report suspicious activities to Ohio Homeland Security analysts.

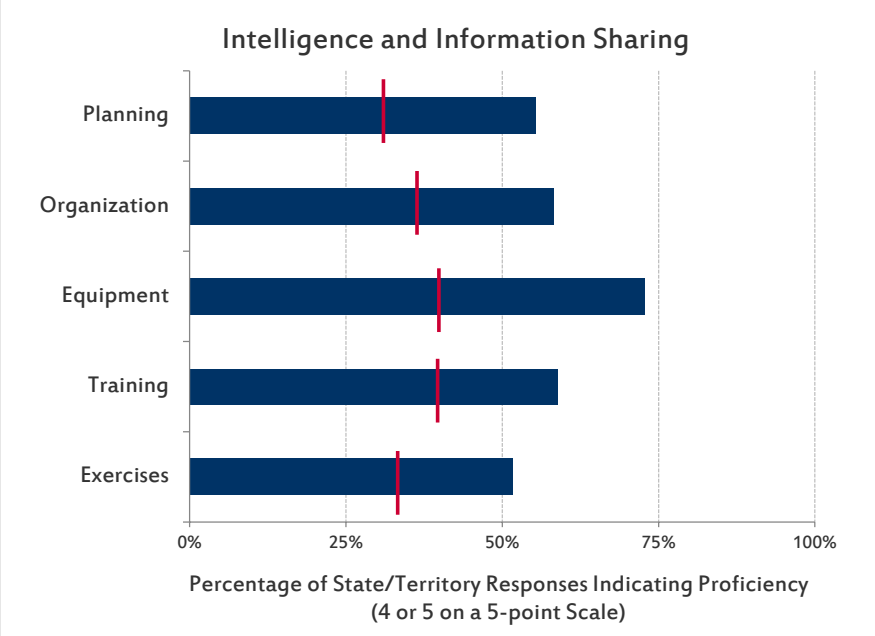
Muslim Public Affairs Council In March 2014, the Muslim Public Affairs Council launched their community-based Safe Spaces Initiative, a nationwide effort to identify individuals who may be susceptible to committing violent acts and positively intervene in their development. The initiative uses a three-tiered approach—prevention, intervention, and ejection—to help youth workers and community leaders offer a healthy outlet and prevent violence at the community level.

University of California, San Francisco, and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
A group of researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory developed a new platform that can simultaneously detect 10 biothreat toxins, the largest number to be simultaneously detected to date, in a variety of environmental and clinical samples. In the event of a bioterrorist attack, this platform can decrease the time required to determine which agent was released, helping individuals to take the necessary measures to prevent people from becoming exposed and to deliver appropriate medical treatment.

State Perspectives on Preparedness

2014 State Preparedness Report Results

- Intelligence and Information Sharing was the highest self-assessed core capability in the Prevention mission area, with 59 percent of responses falling into the top-two rating categories (i.e., a 4 or 5).
- Compared to other Prevention mission area core capabilities, Intelligence and Information Sharing had superior ratings for planning, organization, equipment, training, and exercises.
- Intelligence and Information Sharing was the only Prevention capability ranked in the top-10 of all 31 core capabilities.



Notes: Vertical red lines (|) indicate the average rating for all other Prevention core capabilities in each respective category. The chart and statements do not include contributions from the three common core capabilities—Planning, Operational Coordination, and Public Information and Warning.