

FUSION CENTER SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE

- **Access an extensive array of databases** through a single contact point.
- **Receive bulletins** with intelligence and advance warnings regarding possible terrorist and criminal incidents.
- **Save manpower and investigative steps.** Both sworn and civilian personnel with knowledge and expertise in a variety of designated areas of responsibility are available at a fusion center to assist law enforcement agencies around the clock. These experienced and knowledgeable people access a centrally located pool of investigative resources to provide both analytical services as well as general case support.
- **Share a technology standard** that enhances the ability of different computer systems to “talk.” Fusion centers promote a unified standard for information technology systems.
- **Access intelligence information from public safety entities and private sector organizations.** Nontraditional collectors of intelligence possess important information (e.g., risk assessments and Suspicious Activity Reports) that can be “fused” with law enforcement data to provide meaningful information and intelligence about threats and criminal activity. Fusion centers combine efforts with these nontraditional sources.
- **Embrace proactive intelligence efforts.** Those efforts are key to inhibiting criminal networks—whether those groups are terrorists, drug-related groups, organized crime, or other criminal enterprises.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

1. Fusion center resources are available at the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) Global Web site:

www.it.ojp.gov/fusioncenter

For information about DOJ’s initiatives, go to:

www.it.ojp.gov

2. NCIRC.gov is a secure Web site developed to serve as a “one-stop shop” for local, state, Tribal, and federal law enforcement to keep up with the latest developments in the field of criminal intelligence. The Web site contains information regarding law enforcement intelligence operations and practices.

www.ncirc.gov

3. Developed by DOJ and DHS, the *Fusion Center Guidelines* are available in hard copy, CD, and electronic formats. For more information or to obtain copies of the report or CD, contact DOJ’s Global at:

(850) 385-0600

4. The Fusion Process Resource Center is a secure and restricted database for fusion process-related documents, such as best practices, samples, and templates.

www.ilis.gov



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance

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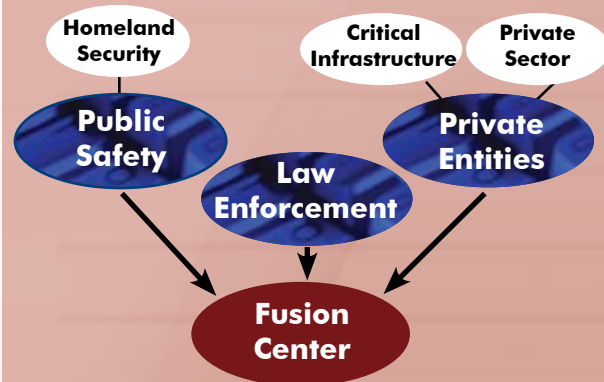
FUSION CENTERS AND INFORMATION SHARING



**SOUTHERN NEVADA
COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER**

**(702) 828-2281 WATCH DESK
(702) 828-8386 HOTLINE**

FUSION CENTERS ARE A COMBINED EFFORT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES



WHAT IS A FUSION CENTER?

A *fusion center* is a collaborative effort of two or more agencies that provide resources, expertise, and information to the center with the goal of maximizing their ability to detect, prevent, investigate, and respond to criminal and terrorist activity. Intelligence processes—through which information is collected, integrated, evaluated, analyzed, and disseminated—are a primary focus.

Data fusion involves the exchange of information from different sources—including law enforcement, public safety, and the private sector. Relevant and actionable intelligence results from analysis and data fusion. The fusion process helps agencies be proactive and protect communities.

NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR FUSION CENTERS

In 2006, the President approved the establishment of a national integrated network of state and major urban area information fusion centers. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the FBI have begun deploying personnel to work within the fusion centers.

NEARLY ALL 50 STATES HAVE FUSION CENTERS

Recognizing the critical importance of information sharing, nearly all 50 states have created fusion centers with various federal, state, and local funds (several major urban areas also have fusion centers).

FUSION CENTER GUIDELINES

The *Fusion Center Guidelines* were developed to ensure that fusion centers are established and operated consistently, resulting in enhanced coordination, strengthened partnerships, and improved crime-fighting and anti-terrorism capabilities. The 18 guidelines and their key elements—as well as additional resources, model policies, and implementation tools—are included in this publication from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and DHS.

ROLE OF FUSION CENTERS

State and regional fusion centers enable local, state, and Tribal governments to gather, process, analyze, and share information and intelligence relating to all crimes and all hazards. Fusion centers communicate, cooperate, and coordinate with each other and with the federal government. These centers:

- Contribute information to ongoing federal and national-level terrorist risk assessments and complete statewide, regional, or site-specific and topical risk assessments
- Disseminate federally generated alerts, warnings, and notifications regarding time-sensitive threats, situational awareness reports, and analytical products
- Gather, process, analyze, and disseminate locally generated information, such as Suspicious Activity Reports
- Produce or interpret intelligence products relevant to stakeholders
- Protect civil liberties and privacy interests of American citizens throughout the intelligence process

FUSION CENTERS IN ACTION

SOUTHERN NEVADA COUNTER-TERRORISM CENTER



The Southern Nevada Counter-Terrorism Center (SNCTC) officially opened its doors in July of 2007. The center consists of counter-terrorism; tactical crime analysis; critical infrastructure; emergency management; and chemical, biological, radiological/nuclear, and explosive incidents (CBRNE) response mitigation functions, employing over 70 personnel in its mission. SNCTC maintains a 24/7 watch operation and acts as a centralized, comprehensive intelligence fusion center, specifically designed to coordinate the exchange of criminal intelligence on a regional/statewide basis.

Located within close proximity to the famed Las Vegas Strip, SNCTC is centrally located to the major pieces of critical infrastructure in the Southern Region of the state. To that end, a long-standing relationship with the various Strip properties ensures that locally generated threat (criminal or terrorist)-related information is identified, collected, and entered into an appropriate data/retrieval system for analysis and appropriate action. The effective and timely sharing of information and intelligence occurs across federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, regional, and private sector entities to achieve coordinated awareness of, prevention of, protection against, and response to domestic/international terrorist threats, as well as major disasters and other emergencies.

The communities of Greater Las Vegas and the counties of the Southern Region have clearly derived an increased benefit from the specialized support and resources provided by this successful fusion center.

For more information:

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