Sharing with State, Local, and Tribal Partners

State, local, and tribal law enforcement organizations are critical to the success of homeland security and the prevention of future terrorist attacks. The events of 9/11 highlighted the desire and resiliency of terrorist organizations who want to commit acts of terrorism against the United States. These groups have shown that they are willing and able to live in U.S. communities and engage in criminal activity while planning to attack targets within the United States. In recent years, there has also been an increase in threats posed by so-called homegrown terrorists. Regardless of where the threat originates, state, local, and tribal law enforcement entities play a significant role in the prevention of a future attack.

To continue to facilitate information sharing and improve collaboration between federal, state, local, and tribal entities, several information sharing networks have been developed that include the Department of Justice’s Regional Information Sharing System (RISS), the Department of Homeland Security’s Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN), and the FBI’s Law Enforcement Online (LEO). Tribal entities are a unique and important partner in the sharing process. They are the primary source of law enforcement on over 55 million acres of land within the United States. Over 260 of the 5,900 miles of the northern and southern U.S. borders and many additional miles of seacoasts are located on tribal lands; 11 out of the 21 border patrol sectors have tribal lands in their jurisdiction. Tribal law enforcement authorities participate in Regional Information Sharing Systems programs, through which criminal intelligence can be shared.

Sharing Information with the Private Sector

Just as important as the partners at the state, local, and tribal levels is the private sector. Private industry accounts for approximately 85 percent of the infrastructure and resources within the United States. This infrastructure is deemed critical to national and economic security. A number of collaborative efforts exist to support sharing information with the private sector, with improvement efforts initially focused on sharing with the owners and operators of the United States’ critical infrastructure and key resources. In accordance with the National Infrastructure Protection Plan, a network approach to information sharing is being implemented that allows distribution and access to information using secure networks and coordination mechanisms.
Example of Intelligence Sharing Success

A routine Customs and Border Protection (CBP) examination on a nonimmigrant visa holder attempting to enter the United States revealed that the individual was in possession of video images depicting improvised explosive devices and manuals on how to construct them. Following procedures established after 9/11, the FBI and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shared information and confirmed that the individual had definitive links to terrorism. This higher level of collaboration permitted the agencies to quickly and positively establish the link between the suspect and terrorism and prohibited the individual from continuing to his destination. Subsequently, the subject was added to the terrorist watch list, and the Department of State revoked his visa.