

NATIONWIDE SAR INITIATIVE ACTIVITY SUMMARY



May 2009

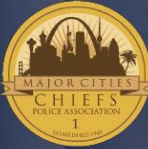
Program Overview

State, local, tribal, and federal partners, along with several national law enforcement organizations, have collaborated to develop the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI). Although the initiative began as an operational study project, it is currently an evaluation environment involving multiple pilot projects throughout the United States. The effort will be evolving into a national program to share terrorism-related SAR data at all levels of government. The NSI incorporates agencies' individual SAR processes (the gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing of suspicious information) into a nationwide capability to share terrorism-related SAR data on a national level. The SAR process focuses on what law enforcement has been doing for years—gathering information regarding behaviors and incidents associated with crime and establishing a process to share information to detect and prevent criminal activity, including crime associated with domestic and international terrorism. This document is a monthly summary that illustrates the accomplishments and upcoming activities and events associated with the NSI. This fifth edition provides a summary of the NSI activities over the course of May 2009.

Accomplishments

ISE-SAR Functional Standard, Version 1.5, Released

On May 21, 2009, Ambassador Thomas E. McNamara, Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE), announced the release of the ISE-SAR Functional Standard to incorporate suggestions provided by state and local law enforcement agencies and members of the privacy and civil liberties advocacy community. The PM-ISE and its partners have met with privacy and civil liberties advocates and state, local, and tribal law enforcement officials to better understand their concerns and suggestions for improving the Functional Standard. The ISE-SAR Functional Standard, Version 1.5, directly supports local efforts to fight terrorism-related crime, while at the same time protecting the privacy and civil liberties of Americans. The ISE-SAR Functional Standard, Version 1.5, is available at <http://www.ise.gov/pages/sar-initiative.html>.



United States
Department of Justice

Accomplishments (continued)

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Issues a Press Release Regarding the ISE-SAR Functional Standard, Version 1.5

In conjunction with the release of the ISE-SAR Functional Standard, Version 1.5, the ACLU released a complimentary press release regarding the updated Functional Standard and the collaborative efforts that took place between the PM-ISE, the ACLU, and other privacy and civil liberties groups, as well as local and state law enforcement. The press release is available at <http://www.aclu.org/safefree/general/39656prs20090522.html>.

ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment Privacy Policies

During the month of May, 2 of the 12 fusion centers—the New York State Intelligence Center and the Boston Regional Intelligence Center—participating in the ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment (EE) submitted privacy policies that were recommended by the ISE-SAR EE's privacy policy review team to the federal partners as meeting all NSI-related policy requirements to enable them to share and access privacy field information within the ISE-SAR Shared Spaces. Of the remaining participating centers, all but one have submitted privacy policy documents that have either been returned with comments and recommendations or are currently under review. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) SAR team continues to work with the remaining agencies to finalize their policies, and it is anticipated that the remaining policies could be completed during early summer 2009.

ISE-SAR Training

Ensuring that personnel are trained in and understand the SAR process is an integral part of the NSI. Since its inception, ISE-SAR training has been conducted for the following agencies:

Chief Executive Officer Briefing:

- Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department (December 2008)
- Boston, Massachusetts, Police Department (February 2009)
- Miami-Dade, Florida, Police Department (February 2009)

- Los Angeles, California, Police Department (February 2009)
- Las Vegas, Nevada, Metropolitan Police Department (March 2009)
- Chicago, Illinois, Police Department (March 2009)
- Houston, Texas, Police Department (April 2009)
- Seattle, Washington, Police Department (May 2009)

Analyst/Investigator Training:

- Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department (December 2008)
- Miami-Dade Police Department (January 2009)
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement (January 2009)
- Boston Police Department (February 2009)
- Chicago Police Department (March 2009)
- Houston Police Department (March 2009)
- New York State Police (March 2009)
- Virginia State Police (April 2009)
- Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (April 2009)
- Seattle Police Department (May 2009)

Line Officer Training:

- Washington, DC, Metropolitan Police Department (December 2008)

ISE-SAR Shared Spaces System Deployment

During the month of May, computer hardware and software systems were installed at the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD), the eGuardian integration effort, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Air Marshal Service (FAMS) data center in Northern Virginia. With the inclusion of LVMPD, nine fusion centers have received ISE-SAR Shared Spaces hardware, network, and software applications and are “technically ready” to begin sharing ISE-SAR information. In addition, hardware has been ordered for the Los Angeles Police Department and for the Seattle Police Department. Discussions continued to finalize a technical approach for the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center.

Accomplishments (continued)

Federal ISE-SAR Shared Spaces

eGuardian—eGuardian software engineers are working actively with the BJA Technical Team to develop, test, and integrate ISE-SAR Shared Space eGuardian applications, with the goal to have a fully functional eGuardian ISE-SAR Shared Space available by the end of June 2009.

DHS—The FAMS is working closely with the BJA team to finalize a technical approach to integrate both archived and current SAR data for inclusion in a FAMS Shared Space environment. It is anticipated that the DHS ISE-SAR Shared Space will be implemented in June 2009.

Safeguarding America—It All Starts With You Education Program

In late 2008, the *Safeguarding America: It All Starts With You* DVD was distributed to every state and Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) fusion center across the country. Additional copies of the DVD have been distributed to fusion centers as well other public safety and law enforcement professionals, all coordinated through the area fusion center. To date, more than 3,700 copies have been distributed nationwide. Featured below are some examples of how the DVD is being used:

- During Fusion Liaison Officer training
- Distributed to various agencies around the state
- Companion tool during presentations for first responders and the public
- During a state regional training event to encourage state fusion center coordination
- Distributed to analysts and managers within the fusion center

Upcoming Planned Activities/ Events

ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment Meeting

A meeting has been scheduled on June 2–3, 2009, to bring together the ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment sites—specifically, the individuals responsible for implementing the SAR process within their agency and a lead analyst that reviews SARs. The goal is to bring the

sites together to discuss the ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment and the ISE-SAR Shared Spaces and any issues or questions they may have with their systems or the process. The sites will also have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on a new training curriculum provided by DHS. The training will illustrate the behaviors and indicators of terrorists and reaffirm the necessity for the sharing of suspicious activity at all levels of law enforcement.

ISE-SAR Training

The development of the SAR training for line officers continues to make progress. Pilot training is scheduled for June 9, 2009, in Richmond, Virginia, with the Virginia State Police. The training will introduce key concepts/practices related to SAR and reinforce the vital role played by line officers.

ISE-SAR Shared Spaces Rollout Schedule

The remaining fusion centers tentatively scheduled for installation in the summer of 2009 are:

- Los Angeles Police Department
- Seattle Police Department
- Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center
- DHS (Federal Air Marshal Service)
- FBI (eGuardian)

Expansion of the ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment

Several other fusion centers not included in the initial ISE-SAR EE have expressed interest in joining the initiative. Currently, an NSI team is conducting interview assessments of the agencies' and technology to determine whether they could be included in the evaluation environment.

For More Information on the NSI,

Contact:

Mr. Thomas J. O'Reilly

Senior Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
(202) 353-8590
thomas.o'reilly2@usdoj.gov

Mr. David P. Lewis

Senior Policy Advisor
Information Technology Office, Policy Division
Bureau of Justice Assistance
Office of Justice Programs
U.S. Department of Justice
(202) 616-7829
david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov

or visit:

www.ncirc.gov/sar

www.ise.gov