

# NATIONWIDE SAR INITIATIVE ACTIVITY SUMMARY



October 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 tenth edition provides a summary of the NSI activities throughout October 2009.

## Accomplishments

### Los Angeles, California, Police Department Unveils “iWATCH”

The Los Angeles, California, Police Department (LAPD) unveiled “iWATCH” at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference in Denver, Colorado. iWATCH is the latest tool in the fight against terrorism and is being hailed as the twenty-first-century version of Neighborhood Watch. iWATCH is a community program to help neighborhoods stay safe from terrorist activity and will educate community members about specific behaviors and activities that they should report. This community program was designed to be easily adopted by law enforcement agencies nationwide.



United States  
Department of Justice

## **Accomplishments** (continued)

For more information on iWATCH, visit: [www.iWATCHLA.org](http://www.iWATCHLA.org) or [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org).

### **Seattle, Washington, Police Department/ Washington State Fusion Center**

During the month of October, the Seattle Police Department/Washington State Fusion Center finalized its privacy policy after meeting all NSI-related privacy policy requirements. This accomplishment enables it to share information within the Information Sharing Environment (ISE)-SAR Shared Spaces. Final technical testing is currently under way for the center to “go live.” 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 three policies could be completed by the end of the year.

### **ISE-SAR Training**

**Chief Executive Officer Briefing (CEOB)**—The Virginia Fusion Center received the CEOB training on October 29, 2009, and 35 command staff personnel from approximately 26 law enforcement agencies participated. With the completion of this delivery, all 12 ISE-SAR Evaluation Environment sites have received the briefing. Currently, the Major Cities Chiefs Association team is developing an “evaluation report” detailing the feedback and input by more than 400 participants. It is expected that the report will be released in November 2009.

### **ISE-SAR Shared Spaces System Deployment**

With the installation of Version 2.0 of the SAR Vetting Tool software application within the installed ISE Shared Space Environment, LAPD; the Houston, Texas, Police Department; the Miami-Dade, Florida, Police Department; the Chicago, Illinois, Police Department; and the Boston, Massachusetts, Police Department have all submitted SARs to their respective ISE-SAR Shared Spaces systems. During the month of October, the development of legacy SAR extraction programs to

enable the Arizona Counter Terrorism Information Center to push SARs from its existing tips and leads system (NC4) into the ISE-SAR Shared Spaces is near completion. In addition, network and hardware connectivity tests were completed at the Washington State Fusion Center. It is expected that both sites will be operational in November.

### **Federal ISE-SAR Shared Spaces**

**eGuardian**—Joint technical testing between the ISE-SAR Shared Spaces team and eGuardian continued during October to accommodate needed improvements to the eGuardian ISE-SAR Shared Spaces data import routines.

**DHS**—The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has decided to conduct a new privacy impact analysis on suspicious activity reporting before DHS components can actively participate in the ISE-SAR Shared Spaces environment. Additionally, DHS components are now being considered for inclusion in the NSI over the coming year.

**United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission**—The United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has renewed its interest in joining the NSI and would install an ISE-SAR Shared Spaces system to share NRC SARs within the NSI. Planning discussions are currently under way.

### **NSI Data Call**

Efforts by the BJA SAR team continued during the month of October to gather the online data calls from the designated state and recognized Urban Areas Security Initiative fusion centers nationwide. The information collected in the data call will help identify the technical, functional, management, and fiscal resources needed to support future NSI efforts. To access the NSI National Data Call Web site, visit: [www.iir.com/nsi/assessment.cfm](http://www.iir.com/nsi/assessment.cfm).

### **Building Communities of Trust**

Building Communities of Trust is an initiative to develop relationships of trust between police, fusion centers,

## **Accomplishments** (continued)

and the communities they serve—particularly immigrant and minority communities—so that the challenges of crime control and prevention of terrorism can be addressed. Four law enforcement agencies—Boston, Massachusetts, Police Department; Dallas, Texas, Police Department; Miami-Dade, Florida, Police Department; and Texas Department of Public Safety—have agreed to assist in the pilot of the initiative. The goal of this project is to bring together local police agencies in a roundtable format with representatives from the local community, police, and fusion center leadership to explore how to effectively engage in meaningful and ongoing dialogue to build relationships of trust. The lessons learned from the dialogues will be used to develop guidance and a training strategy for local police and fusion centers nationwide.

## **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](http://www.ncirc.gov/sar)

[www.ise.gov](http://www.ise.gov)