

NSI TRAINING OVERVIEW



NATIONWIDE SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING (SAR) INITIATIVE (NSI)

The NSI training strategy is a multifaceted approach designed to increase the effectiveness of state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement and public safety professionals and other frontline partners in identifying, reporting, evaluating, and sharing pre-incident terrorism indicators to prevent acts of terrorism. The overarching goal of the training strategy is to facilitate appropriate agency implementation of the SAR process and to enhance a nationwide SAR capability. To increase the effectiveness of this multifaceted approach, the NSI has developed training programs for frontline officers, analysts, and chief executives regarding the behaviors and indicators of terrorism-related criminal activity, as well as a SAR awareness training for other key non-law enforcement constituencies, or "hometown security partners," who are important to the SAR effort, including fire and emergency medical service personnel, public safety telecommunicators (e.g., 9-1-1 operators), emergency managers, corrections and probation and parole officers, private sector security professionals, maritime industry professionals, public health and health care professionals, and other related occupations, such as those charged with protecting the nation's critical infrastructure.

LINE OFFICER TRAINING

Frontline law enforcement personnel are trained to recognize behavior and incidents that may indicate criminal activity associated with terrorism. Their routine duties position them to observe and report suspicious behaviors or activities. The SAR Line Officer Training focuses on the critical role line officers have in the effective implementation of the SAR process by identifying and documenting suspicious activity. To efficiently deliver training to a large number of line officers in a timely manner, this training is delivered through a 15-minute CD that has been posted to several online/distance-learning formats and can also be customized for an agency's distance-learning platform.

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OR HOMELAND SECURITY PROFESSIONAL,

it is your responsibility to ensure that the public you serve understands how to report suspicious activity and that your agency/organizational members support the collection, analysis, and submission of suspicious activity reports to your fusion center or the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Forces.

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ANALYTIC TRAINING

Ensuring that SAR information is properly reviewed and vetted is critical to promoting the integrity of information submitted; protecting citizens' privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties; and successfully implementing the SAR process. The SAR Analytic Role Training focuses on the evaluation of suspicious activity reports to identify behaviors that may be associated with pre-incident terrorism planning and the process for sharing this information nationwide. Through this curriculum, analysts and investigators are trained to recognize terrorism-related pre-incident indicators and to validate whether the behavior has a potential nexus to terrorism and meets criteria for submission. The training is delivered in an eight-hour workshop format.

FUSION CENTER EXECUTIVE AND PARTNER BRIEFING

Law enforcement executives and critical partners play a vital role in ensuring that the SAR process is not only successfully implemented but effectively supported. The SAR Briefings focus on executive leadership, policy development, privacy and civil liberties protections, agency training, and community outreach. Fusion centers, law enforcement professional associations, and additional entities conduct these types of briefings in a variety of venues.

HOMETOWN SECURITY PARTNERS

The NSI has developed a SAR awareness training for other key non-law enforcement constituencies, or "hometown security partners," who are important to the SAR effort, including fire and emergency medical service personnel, public safety telecommunicators (e.g., 9-1-1 operators), emergency managers, corrections and probation and parole officers, private sector security professionals, maritime industry professionals, public health and health care professionals, and other related occupations, such as those charged with protecting the nation's critical infrastructure.

The purpose is not to empower public safety officials to act on behalf of law enforcement but to have them understand the critical role they play in identifying and reporting suspicious activity to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement.

OUTREACH AND COORDINATION

The success of the NSI largely depends on the ability to earn and maintain the public's trust. As such, advocacy groups served an essential role in the shaping of the NSI Privacy Protection Framework and also assisted in the development and review of NSI products and resources. As the NSI moves forward, community outreach will help in addressing concerns of citizens and advocates by demonstrating that agencies engaged in the SAR process have adopted and maintain appropriate privacy and civil liberties safeguards.

The NSI is a critical aspect of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary's "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign, which is a simple and effective program to raise public awareness of indicators of terrorism and terrorism-related crime and to emphasize the importance of reporting suspicious activity to the proper local law enforcement authorities. Both the "If You See Something, Say Something™" campaign and the NSI underscore the concept that homeland security begins with hometown security, where an alert public plays a critical role in keeping our nation safe.

These key foundational elements of the NSI are being administered within the development of all NSI training products. As a part of this engagement effort, the NSI has also developed and participated in the Building Communities of Trust (BCOT) initiative. The BCOT initiative supports local law enforcement agencies and fusion centers as they interact with their various communities to explain the SAR process, the NSI, and the role of fusion centers. Additionally, agencies can use this opportunity to present their privacy policy and outline the safeguards built into the information sharing system.