

**HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK:  
MOVING PAST THE MISSTEPS TOWARD BETTER INFORMATION  
SHARING**

**TESTIMONY OF  
INSPECTOR BARRY S. LINDQUIST  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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PREPARED FOR THE  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, INFORMATION SHARING, AND TERRORISM RISK ASSESSMENT

## ***HOMELAND SECURITY INFORMATION NETWORK-FLORIDA (HSIN)***

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Good morning Madam Chair and distinguished members of the Subcommittee.

My name is Barry Lindquist and I am a member of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). I am an Inspector assigned to Domestic Security matters in the FDLE Office of Statewide Intelligence and the Florida Fusion Center. In this position, I have been the primary point of contact for the Department of Homeland Security for matters relating to HSIN.

### **Introduction**

Florida was one of the first states to pilot the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and since implementation in early 2005, HSIN-Florida has become a cornerstone in our information sharing strategy. Additionally, the HSIN State and Local Intelligence Community of Interest (HSIN-Intel COI) is currently becoming our primary method of sharing information with the Department of Homeland Security, office of Intelligence and Analysis.

Homeland Security in Florida is called Domestic Security and is structured around our multi-disciplinary Domestic Security Task Force (DSTF). The DSTF structure is further subdivided into seven Regional DSTF components (RDSTF) with an FDLE Special Agent in Charge and a regional Sheriff or Police Chief as Co-Chairs of their RDSTF.



Florida RDSTF Regions



Each RDSTF had components that include the following workgroups;

- Law Enforcement,
- Fire,
- Emergency Management,
- Health and Medical,
- Schools and Education,
- Communications Critical Infrastructure, and
- Public Information.

### **HSIN-Florida**

When the Department of Homeland Security first approached Florida in early 2005 with the opportunity to pilot HSIN, we already had a statewide anti-terrorism intelligence database named InSite and an Internet website named ThreatCom that was used to share information and alert our task force members about events and potential threats. Both of these systems were created in 2002 and were well integrated into our Domestic Security information sharing strategy. The challenge that HSIN presented was determining how it could be effectively integrated with our existing systems without confusing our partners.

Florida worked with the Department of Homeland Security to simplify and tailor the system to meet our needs, HSIN-Florida has four main components;

- **Home Page**
  - Announcements
  - Recently uploaded products
  - Calendar
- **Situational Awareness** – a discussion thread
- **DHS Documents** – Recently uploaded documents contained in the government.hsin.gov site
- **Document Library** – that has a statewide document library and libraries for each of our seven regions.

Using this basic structure, HSIN-Florida allows every user to view and upload the documents. Every user has the ability to decide what they believe is important and share their information with other users. In support of our RDSTF structure, Regional HSIN-Florida Administrators have the ability to edit and delete content, and also nominate and validate new users into the system.

Every HSIN-Florida user is asked to complete an application for access to the system. Our Regional Administrators ensure a background is conducted before user access is granted. The Regional Administrators are also responsible for ensuring that users are removed from the system when their position changes and no longer justifies access.



Since HSIN-Florida was deployed, significant enhancements have been made in the Common Operating Picture (COP) that is deployed in many of the national HSIN sites. Florida did not include COP in HSIN-Florida because of our strong partnership with the Department of Emergency Management which has its own system for managing events in Florida. In its new and improved form, Florida has a pending request to include COP in HSIN-Florida to better inform our task force members about national incidents managed by DHS.

### **HSIN- State and Local Intelligence**

Florida also participated in the HSIN-State and Local Intelligence (HSIN-Intel) pilot initiated by the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A). Our goal in this pilot was to establish a known and trusted community of intelligence professionals that could collaborate together and work with I&A on common Homeland Security matters.

The goal of HSIN-Intel is to provide DHS and selected State and local participants with a trusted and centralized information sharing mechanism for the exchange of controlled, unclassified intelligence and threat related information. In Florida, HSIN-Intel is being deployed in the Florida Fusion Center and with our other fusion centers around the state.

### **Other HSIN National Communities of Interest**

Florida has not widely deployed other HSIN national communities of interest. The Florida information sharing strategy focuses on collecting and analyzing information received from our DSTF regions and ensuring the accuracy and validity of this information as it flows from Florida to our national partners.

National communities of interest such as Emergency Management have been deployed to the Florida Department of Emergency Management. The Law Enforcement community of interest has been made available to some of our state and local Fusion centers and Intelligence partners.

Contact Information:

Barry S. Lindquist  
Inspector  
Florida Department of Law Enforcement  
Office of Statewide Intelligence  
PO Box 1489  
Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489  
850-410-7060  
[BarryLindquist@fdle.state.fl.us](mailto:BarryLindquist@fdle.state.fl.us)

