

NATIONWIDE SAR INITIATIVE



NATIONWIDE SAR INITIATIVE (NSI)

Every day, law enforcement officers at all levels of government—state, local, tribal, and federal—observe suspicious behaviors or receive such reports from concerned civilians, private security, and other government agencies. What might not seem significant (for instance, taking a picture of a ferry during loading), when combined with other actions and activity, may become a composite indicating the possibility of criminal—even terrorist—activity. Traditionally, street officers have had little to do with counterterrorism. But after the terrorist attacks of September 11, it became obvious that al Qaeda members had prepared not only in far-off Afghan training camps but also in Minnesota and flight schools in Florida. Therefore, in today's policing, "connecting the dots" of suspicious activity before an incident occurs has become an integral and imperative job for America's law enforcement, from the officer on the street to supporting analysts. The NSI is designed to do just that, connect the dots.

NSI IS A PARTNERSHIP

The NSI is a partnership among state, local, tribal, and federal agencies, including the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department Of Justice (DOJ); the Program Manager for the Information Sharing Environment; the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; the Federal Bureau of Investigation's eGuardian; the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative; and the U.S. Department of Defense. This effective partnership provides law enforcement with another tool to combat crime and terrorism. The NSI establishes a national capacity for gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing SARs—also referred to as the SAR process.

SAR SUCCESSES

A great deal of SAR successes have been achieved through the partnership of the NSI. These successes include:

- **Unanimous support of the SAR process** by the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), the Major County Sheriffs' Association, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).
- The continued priority to safeguard the **privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties** of our nation's residents (including the assurances that not only is information shared appropriately

with authorized personnel but that the information that is exchanged is "quality" information).

- Capitalizing on **innovative technological solutions** for information sharing by utilizing existing data collection methods and making them available through a federated search capability to include all the NSI partners.
- Development of separate but **coordinated ISE-SAR training efforts** targeting law enforcement professionals with varying duties and responsibilities—agency executives, analytic/investigative personnel, and line officers.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT OFFICE

As a part of the implementation of the NSI, a program management office (PMO) has been established in DOJ to assist local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies participating in the NSI. The PMO will work with the participants of the NSI to develop site-specific plans to document its achievement of the following: executive sponsorship from all participant agencies, privacy policy development and adherence, training development and delivery, technical solutions that are flexible and cost-effective, outreach and communications across disciplines and organizations, and adherence to issued NSI functional standards.

QUESTIONS?

For more on the NSI, please visit nsi.ncirc.gov. Questions about this initiative? Please contact nsi@ncirc.gov.

SAR CHECKLIST

- Leadership must recognize the importance of implementing a SAR process.
- Identify existing SAR processes and determine what SAR processes need to be developed.
- Incorporate national guidelines into standard operating procedures.
- Implement an agency privacy policy.
- Train all agency personnel on the SAR process.
- Institutionalize the SAR process within the agency.
- Educate the community on the SAR process.
- Partner with others and connect to information sharing networks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

NSI.NCIRC.GOV

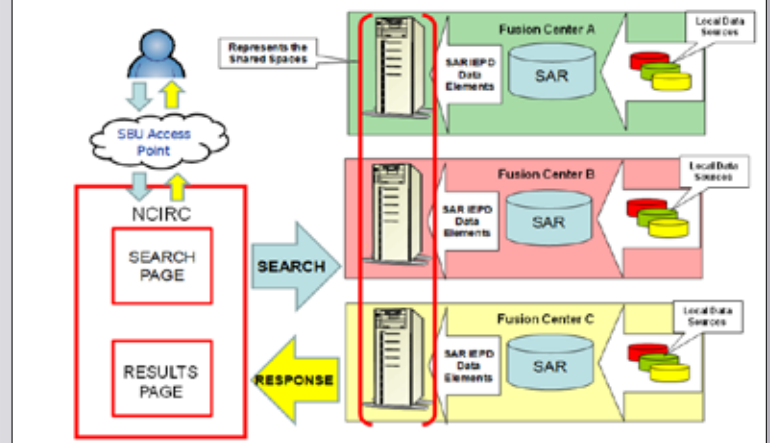
TECHNICAL DIAGRAMS FOR THE ISE-SAR SHARED SPACE

The right side of the graphic shows on the right local information being gathered from sources such as RMSs, CADs, tip lines, etc., and then moved into a local SAR database. A vetting process must be completed by the fusion center, which will then decide which SARs are moved to the shared space server.

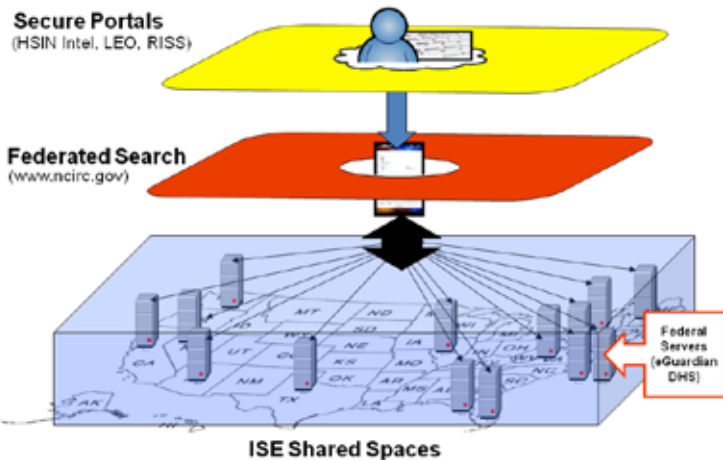
The shared space server has the same data structure at all locations based on the SAR IEPD.

The left side of the graphic shows the secure user access of the NSI Search Tool limiting user access to only the data stored in the common box server.

Moving Local Data to the Shared Space (Common Box Server)



Conducting a Federated SAR Search



This three-dimensional graphic shows the current locations of the shared spaces common boxes, the connectivity through existing secure portals, and the single access point through the NCIRC.gov Web page.

- The yellow layer is the secure access.
- The red layer is the NSI Search Tool access point through the NCIRC.gov secure location.
- The blue box appears over all locations—this depicts what the shared spaces concept actually means: it is not one location but all working together.

Slide shows the 3 options for getting SARs to the JTTF, since the JTTF has the primary responsibility for investigating terrorism SARs.

- Option 1 – A direct call from an agency to the JTTF for incidents requiring immediate attention.
- Option 2 – Submitting a SAR utilizing eGuardian, in which a user completes the eGuardian Web form, the entry is vetted, and once all approvals are in place, the SAR becomes viewable by all users. This approved SAR is also moved to the eGuardian shared space, where it is searchable through the NSI Federated Search.
- Option 3 – This is the process, as depicted in graphic 1 above, in which local data is moved to the local database, vetted, and then moved to the shared spaces server to be accessed by the other partners. This option also provides for an electronic push of a selected SAR to the JTTF.

All these options are what constitute the Nationwide SAR Initiative (NSI). All options work together as a unified program.

