

ITACG Video Script

Narration

Our Nation's approach to intelligence is changing. Today, all levels of government are more open to sharing intelligence and information. U.S. intelligence is becoming more accessible to state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies, and private sector partners.

New intelligence products are being developed to meet the unique needs of law enforcement agencies, the fire service, and other first responders. The products provide situational awareness about terrorists' techniques, tactics, and procedures, and emerging threats to our communities.

Shawn Dyball, Investigator, Organge County Sheriff's Department, California (346)

We need to know this information at the line level, at the state and local level. We need this information in order to protect our communities, in order to protect ourselves, in order to keep these attacks from happening. (11)

Jim Schwartz, Fire Chief, Arlington County Fire Department, Virginia (33)

We're looking for information about the tactics and techniques, and the procedures that may be used to form the threats that we could face in our communities so we can better train and equip our responders. (13)

Today, we face terrorism both abroad and at home, we need to recognize terrorist behavior and respond appropriately.

Solid investigations, police work, and information sharing have led to arrests in the United States of people suspected of plotting terrorist attacks, or supporting terrorist groups abroad.

Information sharing at all levels is essential. Information sharing allows the Intelligence Community to produce timely threat profiles, threat Indicators, and Warnings. It enables federal agencies to provide life-saving information to first responders ... and receive useful information from communities across the country.

Mike Washington, Firefighter, Seattle Fire Department, Washington (30)

It's important that we share information from the national level all the way down to the state, local, tribal, and private level, but also amongst agencies because we come across information that each one of us can use. (11)

James McMahon, Deputy Executive Director, International Association of Chiefs of Police (622)

I think the biggest component – and especially in today's times when we're dealing with domestic terrorism – is the importance of state, local, tribal, private sector entities and what information not only do they need but what can they provide. (17)

At the direction of the President and Congress the Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group was established as part of the Nation's Information Sharing Environment. Called the ITACG, the Group helps make U.S. intelligence available to state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners.

Jack Harris, Chief, Phoenix Police Department, Arizona (324)

We develop that relationship with the intelligence community and we're able to enhance the transmission of critical information to the local agency. That is going to be absolutely paramount during an emergency or when we find out that there is a perceived threat. (20)

The ITACG is led by the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It operates within, and in close cooperation with, the National Counterterrorism Center.

The ITACG comprises first responders, such as police officers, fire fighters, and medical professionals. They come to Washington, D.C., on detail to provide a local perspective to intelligence.

Joe LaPorte, Director of Public Safety, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Michigan (103)

It has been a great experience networking with the other agencies be it the FBI, CIA, DoD, all the federal agencies that have come to the table and actually wanted to participate in the information sharing environment (with Indian country). (16)

Jeff Rogers, Sergeant, Arlington Police Department, Texas (648)

The accesses that I have now as a detailee include very highly classified systems, down to the unclassified systems. But I also have access to intelligence portals, many portals that I didn't know existed, that are just focused on getting information products to state, local, tribal and private partners. (17)

ITACG members go through the same security clearance process that federal intelligence professionals follow. They're able to access U.S. intelligence ... and identify information that first responders need to protect the public.

The ITACG supports the production of intelligence products for first responders. For example, a product called Roll Call Release provides intelligence on terrorist threats and tactics, such as improvised explosive devices or (IED's) and chemical weaponry. It's distributed during roll calls and shift briefings that take place in police departments, sheriffs' offices, and fire stations.

Rich Stanek, Sheriff, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota (244)

Now today we're able to take that same intelligence information, sit side by side with the analysts, the federal law enforcement agencies, and operationalize that intelligence information so that we can use it better on the street, the boots on the ground, the deputies, the troopers, the officers, to protect our communities across this great country. (21)

To learn more about the intelligence process, contact the fusion center or FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force nearest you. Ask about ways to access our Nation's intelligence, such as the Homeland Security Information Network, called HSIN, and Law Enforcement Online, known as LEO.

As a first responder, you're encouraged to take advantage of intelligence products written specifically for you. You're also encouraged to help identify gaps in the information and to suggest ways to make the products more useful.

Let us continue working together to keep our Nation safe.