



## **U.S. Department of Homeland Security**

### **Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A)**

#### **State and Local Program Office**

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The Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) State and Local Program Office (SLPO) partners with and supports the National Network of Fusion Centers (National Network) to serve as the nexus between the Intelligence Community and state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector partners. Beginning in 2003, the federal government, in cooperation with state and local entities, published guidance enabling fusion centers to operate and to form a robust and fully integrated National Network. The National Network allows the federal government, state, local, tribal, territorial and private sector partners to participate as full contributors to, and beneficiaries of, the homeland security enterprise.

#### **FUSION CENTERS**

Fusion centers are state and locally owned and operated assets and are uniquely situated to empower front-line personnel to understand local implications of national intelligence. Fusion centers also provide multidisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of government.

Uniquely situated in states, territories, and major urban areas around the U.S., fusion centers build trusted relationships and collaborate with state and local partners on gathering and sharing the information necessary to pursue and disrupt activities that may be indicators of—or potential precursors to—criminal and terrorist activity and other events, thus enabling local officials to better protect their communities.

Fusion centers are designated by the governors of their respective state/territory and recognized by the federal government. In November 2007, the Secretary of Homeland Security and the U.S. Attorney General wrote a letter that requested governors “designate a single fusion center to serve as the statewide or regional hub to interface with the Federal Government and coordinate the gathering, processing, analysis, and dissemination of terrorism, law enforcement, and homeland security information.” This letter also encouraged governors to develop an information sharing strategy that includes any major urban area fusion centers.

Fusion centers receive support from federal partners, to include DHS, in the form of deployed personnel, training, technical assistance, exercise support, security clearances, grant funding and connectivity to federal systems.

## **FUSION CENTERS LOCATED WITHIN THE TERRITORIES**

### ***Virgin Islands***

The Virgin Islands Fusion Center (VIFC) was created by Executive Order No. 452-2011 on June 24, 2011. The Executive Order states that the VIFC will support the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA) Homeland Security strategy of providing protection to citizens and maintaining the economic stability of the Virgin Islands by emphasizing intelligence coordination between federal, state, local, tribal and private sector organizations in order to prevent potential terrorist attacks and aid in response to attacks as well as respond to organized criminal activity. Physically collocated within VITEMA and the 911 call center, the VIFC operates under the umbrella of the VITEMA's Office of Homeland Security and the Office of the Homeland Security Advisor.

As an all-crimes, all-hazards fusion center with a focus on border security and transnational criminal groups, the VIFC works almost daily with intelligence offices of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), CBP Tactical Analytical Units, the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations; as well as the Puerto Rico Police Department Unified Forces for Rapid Action and, most recently, the Puerto Rico Fusion Center.

The VIFC sits on the Virgin Islands High Intensity Drug Trafficking Board (HIDTA), the Virgin Islands Harbor Security and Safety Committee, and chairs the USCG Area Maritime Security Committee.

### ***Guam***

Guam's fusion center—the Mariana Regional Fusion Center (MRFC)—serves as the focal point for all-crimes, terrorism and all-hazards; to include natural or man-made disaster information sharing and dissemination of actionable intelligence to ensure our federal, state, local, territorial and private sector partners are equipped with the necessary tools to keep the U.S. Territory of Guam safe, secure and resilient.

Guam Governor Eddie Baza Calvo, in conjunction with DHS and the Department of Justice, officially recognized the MRFC as the nation's 78th Fusion Center in January 2013. Homeland Security Advisor, Mr. Ambrosio Constantino, has direct oversight of all MRFC activities and functions under the territory's Office of Homeland Security. Mr. James McDonald serves as the official MRFC Director and directs operational control of MRFC activities.

MRFC is uniquely structured to empower front-line law enforcement, public safety, fire service, emergency response, public health, critical infrastructure protection and private sector security personnel to understand local implications of national intelligence—thus enabling local officials to better protect their communities. In addition, the MRFC coordinates closely with the Hawaii Fusion Center; it's closest Asia-Pacific regional fusion partner.

The MRFC staff consists of Intelligence and Operations Officers from federal, state and local law enforcement and public safety organizations. Current MRFC member agencies include:

DHS I&A; USCG Sector Guam; FBI; Department of Defense; and the Guam Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

Current program initiatives of the MRFC include:

- Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI), which is a standardized process to identify and report suspicious activity in jurisdictions across the Pacific waters;
- Travel threat briefings to the state's senior leadership;
- Homeland Security Information Network and Virtual Command Center support to federal, state, local and territorial law enforcement as well as public/private partners during large public events; and
- Alternate collaborative tool enhancement to support Information Sharing Initiatives.