

**Statement of**

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**Before the**

**House Committee on Homeland Security's  
Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing,  
and Terrorism Risk Assessment**

**Presented on**

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## Introduction

Chairwoman Harman, Ranking Member Reichert and Congressman Perlmutter, thank you for this opportunity to discuss with you this important topic of Information Sharing and National Special Security Events with a focus on the upcoming Democratic National Convention which Denver will host August 25<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> of 2008.

There are many positive programs in various stages of development in the Denver metro area, at the State level and also the Federal level. While the Denver Metro area is still working towards optimizing the collection and sharing of information, I believe that there is a spirit of collaboration at all three levels of government which is leading us in the right direction.

## LEAP Report

Near the end of 2006, a Law Enforcement Assistance and Partnership Strategy (LEAP) was sponsored by Congressman Bennie Thompson. The topic of the report was Improving Information Sharing between the Intelligence Community and State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement. The report focused primarily on input from State and local law enforcement. In that report there were seven recommendations:

1. Participating in an Intelligence cycle at the Federal and Non-Federal level.
2. Local law enforcement sending liaisons overseas to gather intelligence first hand.
3. Border fusion centers.
4. State fusion centers.
5. Actionable intelligence.
6. A system that facilitates faster Secret and Top Secret clearances for State and local law enforcement.
7. Conducting a benchmark survey.

I agree, for the most part, with these recommendations and would like to focus on three that I believe would have the largest positive impact on the Denver metro area. The first I'd like to address in the alternative that being the concept of local law enforcement sending liaisons out of the country to gather intelligence first hand. I believe there are only a hand full of local jurisdictions that have the capability to do this and that this

recommendation arose out of frustration from not obtaining timely information from Federal agencies. To me, the collection of intelligence from overseas is the role of the Federal government and solutions within the current system should be explored in lieu developing a liaison program. The Denver Police Department works very well with its local Federal partners and is a participant in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). Where I believe there is room for improvement is in the timeliness of sharing information between the home offices of the Federal agencies and the local JTTF. Information that has not been fully vetted but is distributed to local jurisdictions in a timely manner is often times more valuable than fully vetted information given out days after an incident.

The second point on which I would like to expand is that of Actionable Intelligence. When intelligence information is distributed at the Federal level the question is often asked, "What does this mean for my city?" The more that information is made available regarding what the threat actually is, the better local law enforcement can act upon the intelligence. Recently the Department of Homeland Security has begun issuing Special Assessment Bulletins. These bulletins provide greater specificity of information that allows local law enforcement the ability to take preventative steps in addressing the topic of the bulletin. Expanding on this type of actionable intelligence will be a direct benefit to local law enforcement.

The third item I would like to touch upon is that of State Fusion Centers. Colorado's version of the fusion center is the Colorado Information and Analysis Center (CIAC). I believe another panel member is going to go into more detail about the CIAC but I would like to say, that I believe this is a very viable concept and that the spirit of cooperation around enhancing the capabilities of the State's CIAC is running high. I see the Federal government as having an opportunity to support local, state, and federal intelligence sharing by developing a funding source for FTEs to staff state fusion centers.

### Democratic National Convention

The LEAP report provides a back drop for my comments on how I see the sharing of intelligence during the Democratic National Convention

will be conducted. I am basing my statements on discussions I have had with numerous Federal partners that have participated in past NSSEs.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will be the lead agency in coordinating the collection of information for the Democratic National Convention. An Intelligence Operations Center will be established with participants from a multitude of State, Local, and Federal agencies. These agencies may include, but are not limited to, all local and State law enforcement agencies which will be participating in the security of the DNC, to include the Colorado National Guard. Some of the Federal agencies participating will be the United States Secret Service, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Air Marshals, FEMA, TSA and the Department of Energy.

As the information is collected from the various agencies it can be shared in real time with all of the other represented entities. Once the information has been analyzed it may then be forwarded to the Multi-agency Communication Center (MACC) where the decision is made as to what the appropriate response to the information will be.

### Conclusion

By utilizing the Intelligence Operations Center and the Multi-agency Communication Center during the Democratic National Convention this will act as somewhat of a *super fusion center*. This will be the largest number of agencies ever assembled at one time in Colorado, all agencies sharing information real time face to face. Analysis of the information will be conducted to make it actionable intelligence and then forwarded for the appropriate response. An after-action report may be completed at the conclusion of the DNC to facilitate discussion on improvements for future NSSEs. This after action report may then be utilized in the development of benchmark surveys.

This operational structure addresses four of the seven conclusions stated in the LEAP report: 1) Participating in the intelligence cycle at the local, state and federal level 2) State Fusion Centers 3) Actionable Intelligence and 4) Conducting a benchmark survey.

With Colorado hosting the Democratic National Convention it gives the State along with its federal and local law enforcement partners an

exceptional opportunity. Many of the operational challenges in standing up a fusion center will be overcome during the DNC. The framework left behind by the creation of the *super fusion center* should be built upon, with the financial support of the Federal government through funding for FTEs. I believe this can be accomplished and would in turn leave an intelligence sharing legacy.

Thank you for your time, I truly appreciate you taking an interest in this important topic.

## **Supplemental**

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### **Summary of Comments**

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