



Faith-based Security and Communications Advisory Committee

Homeland Security Advisory Council
May 2012



Secretary's Tasking of HSAC

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a consistent history of reaching out to, and working with, faith-based organizations (FBOs) on a broad range of issues. Secretary Napolitano tasked the HSAC to “...explore current and potential security information sharing opportunities and methods between DHS and FBOs. The Committee will address how DHS can better support local security officers and organizations efforts to keep FBOs communities safe, secure, and resilient while providing recommendations to the HSAC for consideration.”



Secretary's Tasking (Cont.)

Specifically, the recommendations will focus on the following issue areas:

- **Structural Organization:** In times of crisis, FBO leaders often play a critical role in providing support and delivering accurate and trusted information to communities. How can DHS better support FBOs efforts to relay threat-based information to appropriate parties? How can information sharing be improved when DHS receives threat-specific information? How can DHS help FBOs more effectively receive and appropriately disseminate information?
- **Deepening the Partnership:** Two-way information sharing is a critical asset in preventing crime and terrorism in communities across the country. What immediate and long term steps can be taken to enhance this exchange? What roles can FBOs play in facilitating two-way information sharing? What mediums or mechanisms would best facilitate two-way information sharing? What roles can fusion centers play in ensuring that time-sensitive threats are relayed effectively to FBOs?



Development of Recommendations

- Recommendations were developed through a series of conference calls and two in-person meetings.
- From January 2012 to May 2012, the Faith-based Security and Communications Advisory Committee (FBAC) conducted a series of conference calls, meetings, and deliberations, engaging Subject Matter Experts from around the nation.
- Led by Co-Chairs Bonnie Michelman and Sheriff Leroy D. Baca, and Co-Vice Chairs John Hodson and Paul Goldenberg, the FBAC developed a series of principles, findings, and recommendations.



Faith-based Advisory Committee Value Statement

The members of the faith-based organizations that serve on the Department of Homeland Security Advisory Council's FBAC strongly, and uniformly denounce violence against any other faith-based organizations to include their houses of worship and those who worship. When any threats target one member of the faith-based community, they target all of us and will be met with stiff resistance in their attempt to divide us against hate.



Guiding Principles:

- We encourage further outreach and training in order to achieve social cohesion between FBOs.
- Ensure all outreach efforts are based on mutual respect, transparency and trust.
- The FBAC hopes that recommendations contained in this report benefit all FBOs.
- Provide safe places of worship for constituencies and protection of assets for all faiths.
- Protect our country and preserve our freedoms within our religious communities.
- Proactively diminish our risks.
- Build collaboration between state, local, tribal and FBOs.



General Findings

- **DHS recognizes the importance of sharing homeland security information with FBOs** – The Advisory Committee members felt strongly that the Secretary and the Department recognize the importance and value of a two-way security information process with FBOs to ensure their infrastructure is resilient and protected, by being a strategic and valuable partner in security awareness, prevention, planning, operations, and response.
- **A more formal relationship is wanted and required** - Both DHS and FBOs would benefit from stronger, more structured relationships that will strengthen the nation's security by the effective sharing of relevant, accurate, timely, and actionable homeland security information. Advisory Committee members felt that faith-based organizations would like to enhance the current partnership with DHS to a structured one that will establish better communications relationship regarding security between DHS and the faith-based organizations.



General Findings (Cont.)

- **Improved relationships** – FBOs recognize the importance of DHS in assisting them to ensure their infrastructure is resilient and protected. Faith-based institutions understand that they are located in communities and have a unique and critical role in the “home town” security strategy.¹
- **Faith-based organizational capacity** – FBOs currently have different capacities to implement a two-way security information sharing process. Many FBOs recognize and agree on the value of DHS and FBOs information sharing collaboration.



General Findings (Cont.)

- **Successful FBO information sharing models** – DHS has successful two-way homeland security information sharing models with various FBOs.
- **Resilience and protection** – FBOs are committed to the resilience and protection of their houses of worship and individuals who worship there.
- **Civil rights and civil liberties** – FBOs will work diligently to ensure civil liberties are preserved in their engagement with DHS or other Federal agencies.
- **Religious freedom** – FBOs will preserve principles of religious freedoms during any and all discussions with DHS or other Federal agencies.
- **Partners with law enforcement** – It is important that FBOs are not perceived as extensions of law enforcement but as partners with law enforcement entrusted by their own communities.



Recommendations to DHS on Sharing of Threat Information

- 1. DHS should identify and work with FBOs to establish a formal two-way process for sharing homeland security information.**
- 2. DHS should designate points of contact to interact with faith-based communities.**
 - DHS should designate a senior level full time position with access to senior DHS leadership within the DHS Headquarters whose primary responsibility is sharing homeland security and threat information issues with the faith-based community.
 - DHS should assign points of contact in each fusion center to work with their state and local faith communities.



Threat Information Recommendations (Cont.)

3. **DHS should support additional infrastructure to share security information with FBOs.**
 - Example:
 - DHS created a secure portal for DHS and FBOs to share information on the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN).²
- 3(a). DHS should work with the FBOs on methodology and best practices for an effective information sharing network.



Threat Information Recommendations (Cont.)

4. **DHS should include FBOs in current and future planning documents.**
 - FBOs should be included in the communications and implementation plans of the National Terrorism Advisory System³ in order to ensure communities remain engaged and informed about potential terrorist threats and acts.
 - DHS should ensure that the FBOs information-sharing component is placed in the Presidential Policy Directive 8, specifically in the Resilience, Prevention and Protection sections under current revision status of the National Response Framework.⁴



Recommendations to DHS on Engagement and Outreach to FBOs

5. **DHS should increase its outreach to all FBOs at the local level to inform and educate individuals and communities about DHS, its mission, and to support security needs of the FBOs.**
 - DHS should leverage existing relationships between state and local law enforcement and local government officials as part of this outreach in order to streamline communication with local FBOs.
 - DHS should coordinate with fusion centers and Infrastructure Protection's Protective Security Advisors (PSA).⁵
 - DHS should demonstrate that this initiative is a priority by allocating appropriate funds.



Recommendations to DHS on Engagement and Outreach to FBOs (Cont.)

6. **DHS should support collaborative forums to highlight the effectiveness of multilateral engagement and to build trust between FBOs and Public Safety officials.**
 - DHS should participate in community FBOs activities which build trust and highlight cooperation.
 - DHS should facilitate introduction to national and local incident emergency responders and local elected officials to advance FBOs own readiness and security infrastructure.



Recommendations to DHS on Engagement and Outreach to FBOs (Cont.)

7. **DHS should create messaging campaigns on FBO partnerships, which include public service announcements highlighting collaboration with state and local law enforcement.**
 - DHS should support FBOs in developing a comprehensive communication strategy (share best practices of timely actionable incident-specific collaboration among FBOs).
 - DHS should assist FBOs in assessing international threat information and its relevance to their domestic constituencies.

8. **DHS should continue the operations of the Homeland Security Advisory Council's FBAC and provide it with additional taskings focused on FBOs security.**



Recommendations to DHS on Engagement and Outreach to FBOs (Cont.)

9. **DHS should continue to develop and support DHS faith-based pilot projects (e.g., DHS pilot projects with the Office of Infrastructure Protection and with the Office of Intelligence and Analysis).**

10. **DHS through the FEMA grants process should continue to support and increase grant funding (e.g. federal, state, and local grants) to bolster FBOs homeland security information sharing, resilience efforts and infrastructure protection.**



Recommendations to DHS on Training and Best Practices

11. **DHS should train and monitor the Protective Security Advisors (PSA) to engage and work closely with faith-based communities on infrastructure protection, training, etc.**
 - DHS should create a PSA manual for collaborating with FBOs (e.g., train PSAs in cultural awareness, reporting procedures).
 - DHS should support and provide a “comprehensive” security response to FBOs such as: providing infrastructure resiliency assessments for houses of worship, information on significant events/meetings, cyber-security, etc.
 - DHS should work with its Federal partners to create a fusion center manual for collaborating with FBOs that further integrates federal, state and local law enforcement best practices.
 - DHS should provide additional funding for PSA support and training.



Recommendations to DHS on Training and Best Practices (Cont.)

- 12) **DHS should work with fusion centers and FBOs to educate each other on their respective roles and responsibilities.**
 - DHS should provide a “common-scenarios” quick reference guide for FBOs. For example it could include a matrix that highlights what to do if a certain scenario occurs.
 - DHS should develop FBO/fusion center joint training programs with strategic partners (e.g. an FBO fusion center liaison) on relationship-building and best practices. These programs should include local, state and federal law enforcement.
- 13) **DHS, in partnership with local law enforcement, should train interested FBOs on Suspicious Activity Reporting (SARs) and "If You See Something, Say SomethingTM" to empower and encourage suspicious activity reporting.**



Recommendations to DHS on Training and Best Practices (Cont.)

- 14) **DHS should work with FBOs to share best practices and to assist them in developing a security manual for houses of worship, religious schools and faith-based activities.**
 - DHS should train and assist FBO representatives to assess information sharing capacity and security capabilities.
 - DHS should train FBOs to identify, communicate, and utilize their basic National Incident Management System⁷ roles for prevention and protection response.

- 15) **DHS provide an annual FBO award for security best practices.**

- 16) **DHS should include representatives of FBOs in the planning for the National Fusion Center Annual Training and other appropriate venues to initiate action around the mutual needs of FBOs and fusion centers.**



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE 2-WAY INFORMATION SHARING

1. **FBOs are encouraged to designate a security point of contact within their community and communicate who that person is with the designated DHS point of contact.**
2. **FBOs should provide their information sharing security needs with the designated DHS point of contact.**
3. **FBOs should provide DHS with qualitative and quantitative feedback to assure the security information product is disseminated, acted upon, and useful to the FBOs.**
4. **FBOs should meet with their network to discuss information sharing, risk management, "If You See Something, Say SomethingTM" Campaign, etc.**



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ENDNOTES

1. Home town security strategy - <http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/hometown.shtm>
2. Homeland Security Information Network - http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1156888108137.shtm
3. National Terrorism Advisory System - <http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/ntas.shtm>
4. National Response Framework - <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf/aboutNRF.htm>
5. Protective Security Advisors - http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1265310793722.shtm
6. If You See Something, Say Something™ and Suspicious Activity Reporting - <http://www.dhs.gov/files/reportincidents/see-something-say-something.shtm>
7. National Incident Management System - <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nims/>