



Fusion Centers and Public-Private Collaboration

Posted by Major Thomas Soucek on Friday, July 8, 2011

Recently, five fusion centers in the Delmarva Peninsula region collaborated on their first public-private partnership forum. Operation Delmarva is a regional, collaborative effort between the [Delaware Information and Analysis Center](#) [1], the [Virginia Fusion Center](#) [2], the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, the New Jersey Regional Information and Operations Center, and the [Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center](#) [3].

These fusion centers met with their private sector partners to share key information like crime trends and methods of operation, and educate each other about the nuances of their discipline or sector. The forum is also designed to share best practices.

Why meet?

The private sector owns and protects 85% of the nation's critical infrastructure, and fusion centers analyze threat information regarding critical infrastructure. Fusion center and private security partnerships are critical to preventing terrorism and terror-related acts. These partnerships put relevant information into the hands of people that need it and drive operational success within public safety agencies. Fusion centers represent successful and appropriate collaboration and information sharing.

The New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center relies upon its public and private sector partners to enhance our overall perspective of hometown and homeland security. Our non-law enforcement constituents are uniquely situated to provide critical infrastructure and key resources (CIKR) perspectives that allow the ROIC to act as a force multiplier.

Why it works

The fusion centers located on the Delmarva Peninsula, as well as their regional partners in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, collaborate and share information because criminal activity and terrorism crosses jurisdictional boundaries. With this concept in mind, "Operation Delmarva" was born.

These meetings were expanded from a similar initiative sponsored by the Delaware Information and Analysis Center (DIAC) named "Operation Del-Aware." At the last meeting, more than 60 mid-Atlantic area representatives attended from the energy sector, law enforcement, emergency management, and homeland security, and seven area Fusion Centers attended.

Major Soucek of the New Jersey State Police is the director of the New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC), New Jersey's state-designated fusion center.

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[1] <http://dsp.delaware.gov/Intelligence.shtml>

[2] http://www.vsp.state.va.us/FusionCenter/About_Us.shtm

[3]

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=4451&&PageID=481156&level=2&css=L2&mode=2>

[4] <http://www.facebook.com/informationsharingenvironment>

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