
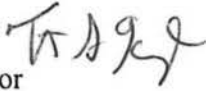





U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

MEMORANDUM FOR: Derek N. Benner
HSI Deputy Executive Associate Director (EAD) and Senior
Management Official performing the Duties of the EAD

THROUGH: Alysa Erichs 
Acting Deputy Executive Associate Director

FROM: Tatum King 
Assistant Director
Domestic Operations

Clark E. Settles 
Assistant Director
National Security Investigations Division

SUBJECT: HSI Domestic Field Office Reporting to NSID on a Designated
National Security Event / U.S. based Terrorist Attack

Purpose:

It is recommended HSI Deputy Executive Associate Director (EAD) and Senior Management Official performing the Duties of the EAD approve this memorandum to direct HSI domestic field offices to report Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) investigative activity directly to the National Security Investigations Division (NSID) following a declaration of a National Security Event (NSE) / U.S. based terrorist attack that is deemed to be International Terrorism (IT). Such reporting will continue through the duration of the investigative response, until directed to return to normal reporting protocol by NSID. This protocol does not change any other reporting requirements outside of a designated NSE.

Background:

The U.S. has faced an increased threat posture as a result of numerous U.S. based terrorist attacks. During the response, HSI domestic field offices have internal reporting requirements, while continuing operations and investigations. As the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)-led JTTFs are tasked with primary investigative responsibility for terrorism events, and most IT information is classified or originator controlled, HSI agents are faced with difficulty in reporting

classified information and filtering the operational “need to know”. Following many after action reviews, there is clearly a need for a more efficient mechanism for reporting. NSID is uniquely situated to provide reporting in real-time, based upon its placement and access within the International Terrorism Operations Section (ITOS) of the FBI HQ’s Counter-terrorism Division (CTD). ITOS is the command and control center for all U.S. based terrorism events, and NSID has embedded the Counterterrorism Section (CTS) of the National Security Unit into ITOS for the purpose of streamlined coordination of all JTTF IT investigations, threat streams and Counterterrorism (CT) responses following U.S. based terrorist attacks. CTS program managers and analysts are embedded within CTD teams which provide coverage of domestic regions. CTS supports HSI special agents (and their management) who are assigned to the JTTFs nationwide. This placement affords HSI NSID full visibility into JTTF operations. CTS personnel are the subject matter experts on CT operations, and provide the NSID Assistant Director a comprehensive picture of investigations and disruptions. CTS provides ICE and HSI strategic, National Security Law Section (NSLS) legal review, tactical capabilities, administrative immigration authority, and disruption options for ultimate decision making by JTTF/ITOS leadership.

Discussion

(b)(5)

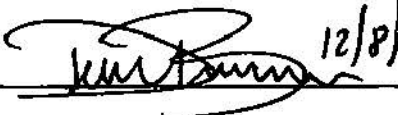
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(b)(7)(E)

Recommendation:

HSI domestic field office reporting on JTTF investigative activity and support following a designated NSE must flow directly and exclusively to NSID through CTS. NSID will subsequently report all such activity through the chain of command to HSI leadership. All events begin as a domestic investigation before being classified as an NSE. Since the initial conduit for all reporting from the field is Domestic Operations, NSID will immediately advise Domestic Ops when NSID is assuming reporting responsibilities. NSID will also advise Domestic Operations of ICE JTTF field activity resulting from such an event.

Respectfully request approval of this recommendation to ensure HSI, ICE, and ultimately DHS leadership is provided accurate, consistent, and timely reporting during responses to U.S. based terrorist attacks/NSE.

Approve  12/8/17 Disapprove _____
Modify _____ Needs more discussion _____