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THE HSIN ADVOCATE

A Message from Sandy Peavy

*Chief Information Officer, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center,
Department of Homeland Security*

Optimizing Efficiency

This past year has been one of migration and stabilization for the HSIN community. The coming year will be one of optimization—optimizing the platform, optimizing its effectiveness and optimizing efficiencies across the entire homeland security community. This last effort mirrors one of my stated missions as the Chief Information Officer at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), an interagency law enforcement training organization for 91 Federal agencies. FLETC also provides services to State, Local, Tribal and international law enforcement agencies.

In my role, I look to find ways to fully use information technology to support law enforcement training. This is not only for the classroom environment, but also for ongoing information sharing activities. Like all Federal agencies, FLETC does not work in a vacuum and it makes sense to leverage those tools developed in other parts of the government that support our mission. HSIN is one such tool.

Leveraging Mission Overlap

FLETC's operation is based on the long held premise that taxpayers are far better served through a consolidated approach to law enforcement training. Like HSIN, FLETC has a similar mission to provide Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information to our users. It makes sense to consolidate this effort and for FLETC to make use of the development efforts that

the HSIN team has already undertaken. With the roll out of HSIN R3, the scale and security FLETC needs to reach our U.S. and international communities now exists. Consolidating efforts will allow us to provide more cost effective training and state-of-the-art information sharing via a network with tools that are beneficial to the law enforcement community.

Tools to Use from Recruitment to Retirement

FLETC caters to law enforcement personnel early in their careers. By introducing students to HSIN early and teaching them how to best take advantage of this robust system, we will set them up for long term success. HSIN enables a level of collaboration and coordination that had previously not been possible. The network is more than a repository of program data; it enables real time collaboration for both emergency management and incident response operations.

The partnership between FLETC and HSIN will enable us to build a repository of standard training modules that are pervasive across law enforcement curriculum. FLETC students graduate from our programs confident in the lessons and tactics they learned while using the tools, such as HSIN, that are available to them in their real world jobs. Further, the vision for the FLETC site within HSIN includes a library of reference materials that students will be able to access long after they've left our campus. As students start



their career and move between various agencies, they will maintain this access via a single profile and login details.

HSIN provides strong identity credentials and a secure platform that can be leveraged by FLETC to ensure law enforcement officers get the training they need for career development. Leveraging HSIN can help all law enforcement agencies deliver more cost effective training by eliminating duplicative efforts and opening existing training to more law enforcement officers throughout their careers. Finally, and perhaps most important, because they will have more access to training, our nation's law enforcement officers will improve their effectiveness and continue to build critical skills throughout their careers.

Planners for International, High-Profile Event Use HSIN to Collaborate

Planning for the first face-to-face meeting of top homeland security leaders from five countries is a daunting task. To collaborate in real-time with international partners, DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD) used HSIN, which made the task of planning the high-profile, inaugural meeting of the Five Country Ministerial (5CM) much easier.

“HSIN has a tried-and-true process for getting trusted foreign nationals onto the system quickly”

Robert Mocny
Director, Office of Biometric Identity Management

“As host to the first 5CM meeting [held in Monterey, CA], the United States wanted to set the right tone for the event. It was crucial that we had an open, collaborative working environment with our international counterparts,” explained Robert Mocny, Director, Office of Biometric Identity Management and on detail to the Office of International Affairs as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Multilateral Engagement. “HSIN has a tried-and-true process for getting trusted foreign nationals onto the system quickly. For the 5CM, working daily with four other countries, we needed—and still need—HSIN.”

Today, 5CM uses HSIN to collaboratively deliver on the action items that came out of the 5CM meeting. If you would like more information about how 5CM uses HSIN or about bringing international partners onto the platform, please contact Mission Advocate Monique Garrett. The



5CM is a singular forum in which cross-cutting issues inform discussions on how the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand collectively achieve optimal balance of mobility and security, including developing common approaches to shared threats.

**THIS IS
YOUR BRAIN
WITH
HSIN**



**THIS IS
YOUR BRAIN
WITHOUT
HSIN**



ANY QUESTIONS?
IF SO, LET US KNOW AT HSIN.OUTREACH@HQ.DHS.GOV

HSIN Best Practices Site



The HSIN User Working Group (HUWG) has rolled out a new site. The **HUWG Best Practices site** is user driven and is the perfect place to share ideas, provide input on a particular topic or get help developing a HSIN solution. In addition, the site includes contact information for Mission Advocates as well as their areas of operation.

The first question on the site, **how to streamline the nomination/validation process**, has already drawn numerous suggestions to simplify the process. Another suggested topic for discussion is HSIN R3 mobile applications. The HUWG would like to hear how members have used **HSIN on their mobile devices** as well as feedback concerning other topics of interest to the HSIN user community. Information gained from these conversations will provide both guidance for further development of HSIN capabilities and an expanding knowledge base of good ideas.



© Bank of America Chicago Marathon

Marathons: A Unique Security Challenge

Marathons present a unique security challenge for race organizers—hundreds of thousands of attendees, staff and athletes spread out over a huge swath of urban terrain. Even when things go smoothly, keeping security officials at the State, Local and event staff levels informed can be problematic. HSIN provides a solid backbone for real-time information sharing.

As the first major marathon since the bombing at the Boston Marathon, security officials at the Chicago Marathon knew they needed to heighten security during the event as compared to years past. On race day, more than 1.7 million attendees, athletes and support staff were on hand, spread out over the 26.2 mile course. For the Marine Corps Marathon, the security challenge was even greater as the race course spanned Washington, D.C and Arlington, VA, which meant the information sharing requirement wasn't just inter-agency, but inter-state as well. At both events, HSIN Connect was used to synchronize public safety efforts throughout the day.

"HSIN Connect enables us to maintain eyes on all of the various security and

support activities being undertaken by the different agencies in charge of securing such high profile events," said Lieutenant W. Payne Marks with the Virginia Fusion Center. "HSIN is a valuable asset during mass gathering events where public safety efforts are coordinated in order to make the best use of resources."

In addition to enhancing security efforts during the event itself, HSIN also plays an important role in preparedness efforts. HSIN acts as a virtual command post connecting local officials to the national network of Federal, State, and Local law enforcement agencies. In the event an incident were to occur, these entities could be notified in real time and begin investigation and response efforts immediately. Luckily, both the Chicago and Marine Corps Marathons went off without a hitch and no additional response actions were necessary.

To learn more about how to use HSIN to manage public safety efforts during mass gathering events, please contact the HSIN Mission Advocate team at HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

Welcoming International Partners

International partners play a large role in the United States' homeland security mission, collaborating with U.S. Federal, State, Local and Tribal partners. Trusted international partners are welcome in the HSIN community with a similar vetting process as standard users.

As with standard users, foreign nationals must be sponsored to gain access to HSIN and a particular Community of Interest (COI). As the nomination and validation procedure continues, some additional information is required in order to comply with the DHS IT Security policies. Once DHS Foreign Access Management approves the request, the application is returned to HSIN to finalize the validation process.

To find out more information about this process or to request access for one of our international partners, contact a Mission Advocate at HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

Interagency Information Sharing

Chicago Marathon

- Chicago Police Department's Crime Prevention and Information Center (CPIC)
- FBI's Chicago office
- Illinois Statewide Terrorism and Intelligence Center (STIC)

Marine Corps Marathon

- Virginia Fusion Center (VFC)
- Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center (NVRIC)
- Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center (WRTAC)

Upcoming Events

National Fusion Center Association (NFCA) Annual Training Event
November 5-7, 2013
Alexandria, VA

International Disaster Conference & Expo
January 7, 2014
4:00-4:50pm
New Orleans, LA

HSIN Use Continues to Rise

Last month, we celebrated the launch of HSIN R3. This achievement was more than simply building a new system and turning it on—which was no small feat! Launching HSIN R3 meant migrating all the users, their unique communities of interest (COIs) and an enormous amount of data to the new platform.

Since the migration was completed, HSIN has continued to grow—adding hundreds of registered users each week. In the past ten weeks, the number of HSIN R3 users has increased by 30 percent. On any given work day, more than 1,200 individuals log

in to HSIN as part of their standard course of business while many more people rely on the other benefits of HSIN membership, such as HSIN Connect for secure web conferencing as well as incident response and event monitoring.

As HSIN continues to grow, we rely on feedback from our users to make the system better and add capabilities. If you have feedback or an idea you'd like to share, please reach out to HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov or open a discussion on the [HUWG Best Practices page](#).



HSIN Team Member Spotlight: Melvin Brown II

HSIN Director for Portal Consolidation and Training



I joined HSIN a little more than two years ago as the Director for Portal Consolidation and Training. That title really means I help make HSIN play nicely with other networks, ensuring that the right partners are connected to the right communities, getting the right information at the right time.

In a training capacity, I ensure all our community members have the training necessary to support critical mission needs. I take my role

as Trainer-in-Chief very seriously and continue this role outside HSIN as an adjunct professor at the University of Phoenix. This experience has expanded my knowledge of how adults engage and learn in a team environment.

Outside the office, I keep busy with my wonderful wife, four kids, two grandchildren, pet rabbit, Lola, and the travel baseball team I manage.

Lessons Learned:

Using HSIN Connect Chat Pods to Best Advantage

Chat pods in HSIN Connect enable users to quickly and easily share information with the group whether from their desktop or mobile device. With a few simple tricks, this capability can add even greater efficiency to your preparedness and response operations.

Focus discussion threads with separate chat pods

During the recent Bridge Day events, officials opened separate chat pods to separate discussions concerning weather updates, medical transports and real time information on jumper locations.

Quickly see progression of events

During the Hells Angel USA Run Rally, officers in the field posted real time updates of biker locations. Because chat pods display comments in a timed sequence, users can accurately see the most up to date information.

Email a record of the event

During or after an incident, chat histories can be emailed as an official record of the event.



Got Stories?

Have you achieved a particularly successful outcome as a result of HSIN R3? Do you have an idea about how to improve network features? We want to hear about it! Let us know by sending an email to HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

Better yet, a picture tells a thousand words. If you have an image that helps tell the HSIN story and want to share it with the HSIN community at large, email it to us with a few brief words.