

Delivering Mission Success

The HSIN ADVOCATE

Planning and Preparedness

Planning is essential for success in almost every aspect of life, and when homeland security is the objective, HSIN is the answer. HSIN Mission Advocates work with partners nationwide to develop and implement information sharing plans that help keep America safe and secure. Partners across the country—including emergency preparedness officials, military personnel and fusion center staff—use HSIN's capabilities daily to support their tactical and strategic planning activities, which make a difference nationally as well as locally in maintaining a safe environment. Whether the task involves interagency collaboration and/or public-private sector partnerships, HSIN is the trusted network partners depend on for planning and preparedness.

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Getting Your Ducks in a Row: Using HSIN for Planning

In today's environment, almost no major event, exercise or incident involves support or response by only a single agency. As a result, effective planning and preparedness requires seamless interagency and public-private sector collaboration, which is why more organizations are now relying on HSIN as their trusted network for information sharing.

Homeland security partners know the value of planning with HSIN because they see the benefits played out during the planning process, during operations, and during after-actions. Partners realize the time and energy devoted to the process pays enormous dividends not only when incidents arise but also during planned events and daily operations.

"When using HSIN as a planning and preparedness platform for an event, exercise or potential incident, all partners can work as a cohesive unit," remarked Andrew Sloan, HSIN Mission Outreach Manager. "All the planning resources are in one place, and operations people know exactly where to find information when the event or exercise occurs."

HSIN Mission Advocates provide partners information sharing subject matter expertise so they can make full use of the resources available from HSIN as they begin the planning process. Mission Advocates bring to bear the experience of supporting planning and execution for law enforcement operations, large-scale interagency exercises such as Integrated Advance and CyberShield, and special events ranging in size from the Super Bowl to local Fourth of July celebrations. "We work with the planning team to understand their information-sharing gaps and then create solutions to address those gaps using tools from the HSIN suite of services," said Sloan.

Mission Advocates also work with partners to ensure a smooth transition from information sharing during planning to information



sharing during execution. By storing information in a secure, common location, accessible from any internet connection, using HSIN is a proven strategy for planning and preparedness that enables all partners to move seamlessly from planning to execution.

"There are typically four phases to consider when using HSIN," explained Sloan. "First, there's the awareness of available HSIN resources, then the planning process, followed by operational activities and finally an after-action meeting where we review the lessons learned during the event, which sets the stage for more effective planning and operations in subsequent events."

With HSIN's secure platform to store the information generated during the event, all of the data is ready for use in later activities, which helps at every step of the process.

Sloan recommends reaching out to your Mission Advocate as early as possible if you think you'll need to plan for an upcoming event. They can help identify potential risks, determine appropriate resources and ensure successful operations. You can contact the HSIN Outreach team at HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.



HSIN Exchange

A SECURE RFI SOLUTION



HSIN Exchange: Success through Collaboration

How does a big idea become an actual capability? The answer is collaboration—having all the key partners coming together to share experiences and perspectives, establishing a new and better way forward. The delivery of HSIN Exchange exemplifies the value and success of listening to users' needs and working together to accomplish them. HSIN Exchange provides an innovative solution for fusion centers to respond to and track information more efficiently.

"HSIN Exchange strengthens the national network of fusion centers and enables partners to quickly wrap up investigations that previously took more time and resources to resolve," said Donna Roy, Executive Director, DHS Information Sharing and Services Office. Roy explained that prior to HSIN Exchange, there was a critical need for law enforcement officers to "connect the dots" more quickly and "see patterns that would enable them to make faster decisions." The solution to this issue required gathering all the necessary organizations—fusion centers, terror screening centers, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice and the FBI—together to discuss needs and gaps in information sharing. Each organization brought a unique perspective to the conversation.

The U.S. was in "a very dynamic and diffused threat environment overlapped by the crime threat, terrorism threat, and the need

to improve coordination and collaboration in an era of tight budgets," said Kshemendra Paul, Deputy Director, Mission and Strategy, DHS Information Sharing and Services Office, "HSIN Exchange would offer that next level of maturity in homeland security, counterterrorism and public safety."

The result of this collaboration? A secure digital communications tool that ensures fusion centers are able to respond and track information more efficiently. HSIN Exchange launched in 2015 and is now used by 79 fusion centers, which "greatly enhances the entire national homeland security enterprise," explained Roy. HSIN's ability to drive interoperability across all fusion centers and interagency partners is an important factor in the system's success. Real-world results have shown that the use of HSIN Exchange provides a solution which rapidly reports and responds to both jurisdictional and national levels—in a secure application with the right governance and policy in place. HSIN Exchange made it easier to share info securely, and in a timely way.

HSIN Exchange was developed in partnership with the national network of fusion centers and the Terrorist Screening Center and launched in the summer of 2016. The future of HSIN Exchange includes the addition of more partners. If your organization is interested in how to use HSIN Exchange to fit its mission, send us an email at HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov.

Expanding the Operational Impact of HSIN

For Organizations:

[Fact Sheet: Streamlining the RFI Process for Fusion Centers](#)

Fusion centers rely on HSIN every day to share intelligence products, collaborate on cyber threat response strategies, and support real-time communications during incident response and event management operations. Now, HSIN is working to streamline information requests and provide improved tracking capabilities along with the ability to classify and prioritize both incoming and outgoing RFIs.

For Community Managers:

[Case Study: HSIN Improves Situational Awareness during the Kentucky Derby Festival](#)

Each year, HSIN supports the Kentucky Derby and corresponding events from the early planning phases to the end of the race. The dedicated HSIN community and related resources have provided a single location for all event and venue information. Through HSIN, partner organizations have access to a combined directory of contacts and a variety of helpful resources, including a rolling dashboard of the latest event updates, geospatial mapping and real-time chat capabilities.

“For Fairfax County, the greatest advantage was the instantaneous interaction with all the other operations centers. We, as local police departments, don't have the capacity or infrastructure to make that happen.”

Maj. Richard Perez

Fairfax County Police Department

HSIN in Action

To learn more about how HSIN has been used in planning and preparedness, check out these additional resources:

- [Planning for Preparedness](#)
- [Do You Have a Planned Event? Let HSIN Help!](#)
- [Preparing for Severe Weather](#)



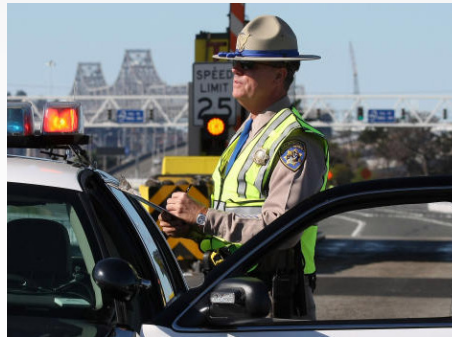
HSIN Across the Country

HSIN's role in planning and monitoring applies to many different types of high-visibility events and operations nationally, including U.S. territories. Below are just a few of the events where HSIN was used this month:



Kentucky Derby (5/4–5/6)

HSIN provided onsite training and event support for the 143rd renewal of the Kentucky Derby and related activities. HSIN has been working with the Kentucky Derby since 2013.



DHE Conference (5/21–5/24)

HSIN was on hand at the Domestic Highway Enforcement Conference to present updates to the program as well as to engage participants on how to improve their information sharing capabilities.



Indianapolis 500 (5/25–5/29)

HSIN provided onsite training and event support for the 101st running of the Indy 500. HSIN has been working with the Indy 500 since 2015.

HSIN and DVIC are Co-MVPs at Philadelphia's NFL Draft

The Delaware Valley Intelligence Center (DVIC) teamed with HSIN to support safety and security at the National Football League (NFL) Draft, which took place April 27-29 in Philadelphia. To help coordinate public safety activities for the massive event, city officials turned to DVIC and HSIN. Approximately 250,000 fans descended upon the venue for three days of festivities.

DVIC used HSIN resources, including HSIN Connect, to collaborate across state and local agencies as well as between public and private sector partners. Security was paramount at the high-profile event, which drew top-name talent and fans eager to participate in activities related to the NFL Draft Experience, which included autograph sessions and other attractions. HSIN was used for real-time situational awareness, incident monitoring, daily briefings, and information sharing with homeland security partners.



Watch Now Using HSIN Across America



In this video, various organizations discuss the varied and unique use of HSIN for real-time secure information sharing. Across the country, HSIN has grown to meet the needs of different types of situations and events.

You can watch this and other videos on DHS.gov or HSIN Central.

GMO and HSIN Support Incident Tracking for Indy 500

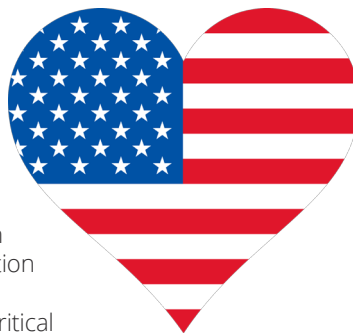
The DHS Geospatial Management Office (GMO) and HSIN teamed up to support incident tracking at this year's Indianapolis 500. HSIN Mission Advocates and GMO provided onsite, hands-on support and information sharing expertise that enabled cross-jurisdictional communications and live mapping of incidents. With the improved situational awareness, the command structure benefited from easy tracking of emergency service calls and clear operational direction as incidents occurred.



Over 100 representatives from 22 agencies—including the Indiana State Police, the City of Indianapolis and Indianapolis Motor Speedway staff—used HSIN to collaborate and share information with partners from DHS and other agencies. The Indy 500 is among the largest sporting events in the world, and HSIN's trusted network allowed homeland security partners to assure the safety of more than half a million attendees at the race and related events held May 25–28.

HSIN Cited as Exemplary Model for “Great Gov”

HSIN was cited in a recent article in MeriTalk, a publication focused on improving the outcomes of government information technology. The article, [Adobe's Goal: Get Citizens to Love Their Gov](#), referenced HSIN Connect, stating, “Adobe is also behind the Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security Information Network, which provides a real-time collaboration and information sharing network for federal, state, and local governments, as well as first responders, and critical infrastructure managers.”



Speaking of HSIN, John Landwehr, Adobe's vice president and chief technology officer for the public sector, said, “It's been a very successful platform to bring all those different groups from all those different levels of government organizations together when you need to do either disaster preparedness, and planning, and exercise, or response. So that when all these forms of government quickly come together, to respond to disasters or other security incidents, they've got a platform to do that.”

REMINDER!



HSIN Best Practices CoE Session June 27th!

Please join us for the June HSIN Best Practices Community of Excellence session, where Mr. Cameron Stelzig (Director, Crime Information Center, Louisville Metro Police Department - LMPD) will share how updated HSIN capabilities were recently used during a long-standing HSIN supported event—the Kentucky Derby. Based on previous cooperation, LMPD worked with HSIN to refresh incident tracking and display operational information for analysis and decision making.

Join us for this exciting information sharing session. We look forward to your participation in the June meeting!

Date: June 27th

Time: 1:00 p.m. EDT

Connect Session:

<https://share.dhs.gov/huwgbestpractice/>

Conference Line: 1-888-950-6750

Conference Pin: 205-2685

Please contact HSIN Outreach at HSIN.Outreach@hq.dhs.gov with any comments or questions.

Training Tip Closing Out HSIN Connect

Are you closing out your HSIN Connect rooms properly? Often, when the meeting is over, users either close their computers or exit the browser window without properly closing their HSIN Connect meeting rooms. Review HSIN's quick reference guide on [How to Properly Shut Down a HSIN Connect Meeting](#) and be sure to back up any files, chat pods or note pods before closing down your session.

