

Secure Ohio

February 2010 Newsletter



Ted Strickland, Governor

Cathy Collins-Taylor, Director
Ohio Department of Public Safety

William J. Vedra, Jr., Executive Director
Ohio Homeland Security

OHS Fusion Center awarded TSA National Award

Ohio Homeland Security's Strategic Analysis and Information Center (SAIC) has been awarded the 2009 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) *Honorary Security Intelligence Award* for accomplishments that have promoted security through the effective sharing of intelligence and information in the overall prevention of terrorism.

The SAIC has been a partner with TSA since 2005. Over the years, this collaboration on intelligence and information sharing has provided immense operational benefit, in both Ohio's and TSA's operations, through comprehensive information and intelligence exchanges.

"Ohio Homeland Security is honored to receive this award," said William Vedra, executive director of Ohio Homeland Security, a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety. "This award highlights our continued commitment to ensuring the state of Ohio is fully informed and prepared to prevent and protect against acts of terrorism."

Vedra, who has served as Ohio Homeland Security Executive Director since June 2007, was also recently named Homeland Security Advisor to Governor Strickland by Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) Director Cathy Collins-Taylor.



Pictured: Cleveland Federal Security Director Michael Young, HSD Executive Director William Vedra, Lt. Rudy Zupanc and Columbus Federal Security Director Don Barker.

"The ability to effectively collect and share information from many different sources is central to any successful interdiction of terrorism," said Director Collins-Taylor.

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“William’s commitment to inter-jurisdictional relationships and collaboration is reflected in the how the SAIC operates and the partnerships it has developed, and is vital to facilitating effective information sharing.”



Ohio’s SAIC was also recently recognized by U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and the National Fusion Center Coordination Group as the *National Fusion Center of the Year* for its excellence in developing a statewide information sharing environment.

The SAIC was selected from 72 centers that make up the National Fusion Center Network, all working to improve homeland security as part of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

Working collectively with partners from Ohio’s eight homeland security regions, the SAIC has established a network of officers across the state of Ohio with the support of DHS. These working groups support regional information sharing and plan homeland security initiatives in their respective regions.

The Terrorism Liaison Program has successfully worked to provide outreach and information to the regions and local agencies. One of the key relationships in the success of this program has been with the Columbus Police Department Terrorism Early Warning Group, a key law enforcement partner responsible for a large part of Ohio’s reporting to the national intelligence community.

The SAIC is also working to involve the public and private sectors with the sharing of information in a manner to better protect Ohioans from any potential threat, while ensuring the protection of privacy and civil liberties.

During the 2008 National Fusion Center Conference, Ohio’s SAIC was recognized as one of the first state fusion centers to complete a privacy protection policy and meet requirements as audited by the Institute for Intergovernmental Research.

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

February 16 - 17 Cyber Security Summit for state and private sector audience (OHS co-sponsoring).

Location Columbus Police Academy
1000 Hague Avenue, 43204
614-645-4300 X1110
www.columbuspolice.org/lawenforcementtraining/academy/academy.html

NBI Preventive Radiological Nuclear Detection Program

As part of the NBI Preventive Radiological Nuclear Detection Program (PRND), the NBI received 26 Canberra Personal Radiation Detectors that will be distributed to NBI Marine Patrol personnel.

The NBI has designated a lead PRD Trainer who will work with the 13 NBI PRD Trainers to deploy the new equipment and coordinate future deployments of additional PRD detection equipment within the NBI Task Force project. OHS is currently working with Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) in creating a "fluid" state-wide PRND program and preparing to conduct a state-wide assessment of local police, fire and EMS PRND capabilities.

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Radiagem™ 4000

Personal Portable Dose Rate and Survey Meter

Features

- Measurement of H*(10) ambient dose equivalent rate up to 10 rem/h
- Easy-to-read and backlit analog bargraph and digital display
- Visual and audible alarms on dose rate and integrated dose equivalent
- External probes for remote measurements, dose rate and surface contamination (1000 points in probe memory and 1000 points in Radiagem memory)
- Scaler/timer mode in Data-logging
- Lightweight, waterproof and easy to decontaminate
- Rugged and easy-to-use

Olen Martin, representing NBI, attended a DHS - Domestic Nuclear Detection Office state and local (DNDO-SNL) working group meeting in December and gave a presentation titled, "Ohio's Northern Border Initiative, A national model and success story in regional collaboration of multi-agency, multi-state enforcement."



The presentation focused on the mission of the NBI and how NBI fits into the state's strategic plan, specifically the NBI PRND program. As a result of the presentation, he learned from DNDO leadership that Ohio's PRND presently far exceeds most states' programs and two of DNDO's maritime pilot projects. In addition, Olen was asked to work with the DHS DNDO Capabilities Framework Sub-committees as a maritime subject matter expert and Officer Ellis Fuiava of the Port Clinton Police Department has been designated as the NBI Task Force PRND Lead and Lead PRD Trainer.

Local Television Station WBNS 10TV features NBI Program

Initiative Aimed At Keeping Ohio's Northern Border Safe

Reporter: Angela An

PORT CLINTON, OHIO — The Northern Border Initiative is a collective of more than 60 agencies working to keep America's northern border safe and they are working daily along Lake Erie, CrimeTracker 10's Angela An reported Tuesday.

Ohio's northern border is the line between the state and Canada with Lake Erie in between and it sits mostly unprotected.

The NBI is a collection of agencies from Ohio and Michigan aimed at stopping terrorists, people sneaking into America anyone or anything that should be stopped at the border, An reported.

But after 26 years working Lake Erie, Port Clinton officer Ellis Fuiava knows nothing is routine.

"You look at, come across a boat with no poles, no fishing poles or nothing on the boat, just documents that's a big red flag," Fuiava said.



Ohio Homeland Security Director William Vedra says semi-submersibles have been on the radar for some time.

"We know that single person submersibles have been used in drug trade on different coasts," Vedra said. "We want to be on the lookout, so to speak, for those types of threats."

"The threat of them being used in the Great Lakes is real," Vedra said.

Protecting the border between Ohio and Canada is no easy task because 158 miles of the border stretch through Lake Erie.

Officer Fuiava pointed out the number of possibilities for criminal activity.

"It's water, I mean, it's not like you can park your cruiser out here," Fuiava said.

That's why NBI is asking the public to help. Because even with routine patrols and vessel checks Vedra said there is no telling what tactics criminals might think of next.

This year the NBI performed more than 1,400 marine patrol missions, boarding about 450 vessels for closer inspection.



License Plate Reader Technology

The Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program (LETPP) is acquiring automated license plate readers (ALPRs) through the regional LETPP committees throughout the state.

Each region, as pictured, has a LETPP Advisory Council made up of local law enforcement leadership/representatives that determines the most efficient way to spend its regional LETPP allocation.



Once a license plate is captured, it is automatically run through a processing unit in the officer's vehicle to check against warrants, stolen vehicle listings, Amber Alerts, etc. If a plate is scanned and is not wanted or on a hot list, the processing unit continues on with the next scan.

This system is designed to make the officer more efficient and safer on the road. Without an ALPR system, officers have to manually run plates into their computer systems or dispatch centers and are limited in the plates they can scan. Instead of having to look down and distract from their driving, the officers not only increase their safety, but also are able to run most of the vehicles in their area thereby increasing the odds of finding a hot-listed plate.

Response times on the ALPR systems from the time a license plate is captured and run through the database are very quick – normally a few seconds.

The ALPR processors are well adapted to capture the plates in their system and run them simultaneously against the databases chosen by the department. In the event of multiple hits, the system will automatically notify the officer with an audio/visual alert and prioritize the hits. For example, a felony warrant would have higher priority than a misdemeanor warrant.

There have been several articles printed by local newspapers in Cincinnati, Dayton, Norton and Columbus regarding this technology. While many units are as inconspicuous as the one pictured above, other units can be mounted to the trunk of the vehicle or on the side of the light bars. As the technology becomes more viable and the costs of the equipment go down, we may begin to see more law enforcement agencies utilizing ALPR units.



ACAMS 2009 Final Training

The Division of Ohio Homeland Security's (OHS) Office of Protection and Security manages the Infrastructure Information Collection and Protection (IP) Section. This section works with various sector partners both private and governmental to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, structural failures and terrorism by implementing plans to protect Ohio's critical infrastructure and key resources.

A key component in collecting, cataloging and maintaining standardized risk-related infrastructure information is the *Automated Critical Asset Management System* (ACAMS).

ACAMS is a federal Department of Homeland Security program developed to assist first responders in deploying resources quickly and effectively in case of a disaster. It also allows users to effectively collect, manage and prioritize infrastructure information that supports the development and implementation of protective measures within their critical infrastructure protection plans.

OHS IP Section's final 2009 ACAMS training at Ohio University in Athens, increased Ohio's ACAMS certified first responders by 11.



David Winn, Infrastructure Protection Section Chief and ACAMS's Administrator, conducts an executive briefing of the system on the first day of the program. Senior staff members from various first responder agencies, which include others with homeland security duties, both private and governmental, attend the briefing.

Students learn the role of ACAMS, terminology and the system's functionality, hands-on buttonology, target hardening, assessment methodologies and critical infrastructure identification and prioritization. During the week long class, the students participated in a hands-on field assessment exercise of a local facility. Once the exercise was complete, the students assessed teams and provided "options for consideration" in protection measures to the asset manager.



Partnership

Ohio Department of Development Tourism Division

Recently, Ohio Homeland Security (OHS) established a partnership with the Ohio Department of Development, Division of Tourism, in a joint effort to collect information on special events occurring throughout Ohio. The OHS Infrastructure Protection section conducts an assessment of these events and prepares information to be submitted into the Federal Department of Homeland Security's Data Call program.

The Data Call program provides an objective, calendared framework through which federal, state and local entities can identify special events occurring within their jurisdictions. The program further identifies specific events that, after careful evaluation and assessment, may receive appropriate coordinated federal, local and state support in the way of increased protection and security.

The Division of Tourism partnership and support in Ohio Homeland Security's protections mission is an essential part in the security of Ohio's most important special events.



Law Enforcement Representatives Recognized for Terrorism Liaison Efforts

Recently, numerous law enforcement representatives were recognized by the division of Ohio Homeland Security for prevention, investigation and collaboration efforts that resulted significant benefits to Ohioans as well as other law enforcement officials through the Terrorism Liaison Officer (TLO) Program.

The Program formally recognizes law enforcement officials for their significant contributions to the Ohio Homeland Security Terrorism Liaison Officer Program.

The TLO Program began with the first Terrorism Liaison Officer Workshop in September of 2008. The program aims to identify proactive officers that

will assist in the facilitation of information sharing across jurisdictional and multi-disciplined boundaries. This includes reports of suspicious activity in their area of responsibility, as well as attending regional TLO meetings that discuss trends, patterns, and ongoing issues in the region, state, and any international situational awareness reports.

Those that received recognition from Ohio Homeland Security for their outstanding TLO related work were:

Lt. Mark Clark – Jefferson County Sheriff's Office,
Detective KC Jones – Muskingum County Sheriff's Office,
Captain Jerrod Alford – Hocking County Sheriff's Office,
Detective Ed Downs – Hocking County Sheriff's Office,
Sgt. Pat Allison – Hocking County Sheriff's Office,
Chief Deputy Dixon – Pike County Sheriff's Office,
Major Nakoa Spradlin – Pike County Sheriff's Office,
Detective Jerry Hallowell – Athens County Sheriff's Office,
Sgt. Curtis Braniger – Guernsey County Sheriff's Office,
Captain Randy LePage – Cambridge Police Department and
Chief Deputy Tom Morgan – Union County Sheriff's Office.

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