

2021 UASI/DVE Collin County-Regional Fusion Center Analysis (LE)

Agency Name: Collin County

Project Title: 2021 UASI/DVE-Collin County-Regional Fusion Center Analysis (LE)

Division or Unit to Administer the Project: Collin County Sheriff's Office

Start Date: 10/01/2021

End Date: 09/30/2022

Narrative Information:

Executive Summary: What will your project fund? 2-3 sentences

The North Texas Fusion Center (NTFC) is essential to our Region. It is analysis driven. The fusion process proactively seeks to identify threats posed by terrorists (to include domestic violent extremists) or criminal enterprises and stops them before they occur. Prevention is essential in the intelligence process. This project will partially fund two Intelligence Analysts to perform data mining activities, reporting, and monitoring specifically associated with Combating Domestic Violent Extremism. Remaining salary amounts for these analysts will be provided from a fusion center project under the Intelligence and Information Sharing Investment Justification (IJ). This will allow the NTFC to continue to strengthen information analysis, product development and dissemination and the FLO network through fusion liaison officer recruitment and training.

Project Summary: Briefly summarize the project, including proposed activities and intended impact.

This project will fund partial staff salaries for two fusion center intelligence analysts to perform job duties specific to research, data mining activities, monitoring, analysis, and suspicious activity reporting of Domestic Violent Extremism activities. This project supports several performance measures identified in the DHS annual fusion center assessment as well as accounting for transnational criminal organizations that was recently added to the calculations for our Urban Area risk profile.

Problem Statement: Provide detailed account of the issues, threats or hazards that your project will target. For federal Homeland Security Grants, include specific page references to the regional or state Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), as applicable.

NTFC's project will target the Combating Domestic Violent Extremism national priority. NTFC will also continue to enhance information and intelligence sharing and cooperation with federal agencies by sustaining analytic capability and activities. These analysts will assist in providing threat and vulnerability assessments for special events within their coverage area and monitor social media and other information outlets prior to, during and after events to prevent domestic violent extremists from coordinating an attack and protect the public.

During special events the analysts will assist in identifying potential DVE threats; reduce potential violence from extremist motivated individuals; prevent potential public safety issues from individuals in domestic extremism activities; and prevent and protect government facilities, critical infrastructure and public citizens against the threats posed from DVE.

This project supports the THIRA by providing Intelligence and Information Sharing for a Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attack (CCTA) p. 14.

Existing Capability Levels: Describe the existing capability levels, including resources that are currently in place to support this project prior to the use of grant funds.

NTFC operates from 0600 to 1900 hours, Monday – Friday, with two full-time research analysts whose salaries are paid using Homeland Security Grant funds. These analysts work under the Collin County Sheriff's Office supervision.

NTFC takes an all-crime, all-hazards approach to try to mitigate threats or hazards to the region. They coordinate with the Texas Department of Public Safety (TX DPS) and the Texas Fusion Center (TXFC) for Suspicious Activity Reporting submitted via iWatchTexas.org.

The NTFC has also built a robust Regional Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) network that includes 181 LE officers, 118 private-sector partners, 27 fire personnel, 32 emergency-management professionals, 8 military personnel, 11 public health officers, and 24 critical-infrastructure advisors from 391 agencies. The network maintains two-way flows of information during members' operating hours and meets twice a year. As part of its role, NTFC provides training and resources, as well as intelligence products, to the members.

Collaborative Effort: NTFC houses part-time and full-time personnel from the following agencies: DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A), DHS Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), TX DPS, Texas National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force Analyst, Texas Department of Family & Protective Service, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. NTFC also accepts temporary duty assignments for local law-enforcement personnel.

NTFC's hosting of part-time and full-time personnel and coordination of the FLO Network extends NTFC's value and ability to serve the counties in the DFWA UA.

Existing Capability Gaps: Describe the existing gap(s), which will be addressed by the project. For Federal Homeland Security grants, include specific references to the regional or statewide State Preparedness Report (SPR).

With respect to this project, the NTFC's biggest capability gap would be the absence of funding for the research analysts; because without the Homeland Security Grant funds, the fusion center would not exist. The two analysts serve the nation's 8th ranked urban area with a population – over 7.5 million people and 150 jurisdictions. The NTFC is unable to operate 24/7 due to funding that would be needed to support the additional analysts that would be required. As a result, this project is aimed at maintaining the analysts' capabilities, not extending their hours of operation.

Impact Statement: Describe the project goals/objectives and how this project will maintain capabilities or reduce capability gaps identified in the SPR and address the National Priorities.

The project will be effective in helping to sustain the NTFC's analytical ability and capacity to fulfill a fusion center's basic functions. It will also be effective in helping to meet the UASI priorities of enhancing information and intelligence sharing and cooperation Combating Domestic Violent Extremism. Financial support of the two Intelligence Research Analysts allow the NTFC to continue to strengthen information analysis, product development and dissemination, Combating Domestic Violent Extremism and the FLO network through fusion liaison officer recruitment and training.

Homeland Security Priority Actions: Identify the State Homeland Security Priority Action.

Goal 1 – Prevent Terrorist attacks and organized criminal activity in Texas.

Objective 1.1 – Expand and enhance the statewide intelligence capability that reduces the threat of terrorism enterprises. Lead for reporting: *Texas Department of Public Safety*.

Priority Action 1.1.2 – Expand and Enhance multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional intelligence fusion and sharing capabilities throughout the state, to include establishment of a common operational picture among state and local law enforcement agencies, establishment of a Highway Safety Operations Center, and other data sharing initiatives.

UASI Strategy Priority Actions: Identify the UASI Strategy Priority Action.

Goal 5 – Enhance Intelligence and Information sharing, gathering, and analysis.

Objective 5.1 – Expand and enhance regional intelligence capability and collaboration in accordance with DHS/DOJ Baseline Capabilities for State and Major UA Fusion Centers.

Priority Action 5.1.4 – Enhance operations managing emergency and special events as described in the Texas Homeland Security Regional Response Plan with specific focus on terrorism/crime nexus: intelligence, analysis, operations, investigations, and resource management.

Target Group: Identify the target group and population expected to benefit from this project.

The project directly benefits the North Texas Fusion Center. However, all FLO Network partners and citizens in counties benefit from the project.

Long – Term Approach: Describe how the applicant agency will maintain the capabilities supported by this project without additional federal funds. If sustainment is dependent upon federal grants, describe the ongoing need for future grants, as applicable.

The NTFC relies on Homeland Security Grant funds to continue to pay for the analyst’s salaries as well as their training, equipment, and other needs. Without the grant funds, the fusion center would not exist to the extent that it is today.

Project Activities:

Investment Category: Violent Extremism

Implementation Strategy: Provide a brief description of how the project activity is performed.

The North Texas Fusion Center is a U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) designated fusion center that has been operational since February 2006, and provides tactical intelligence analysis to regional, state, and federal partners. They facilitate the preparation/distribution of bulletins, requests for information (RFI), and other analytical projects for regional stakeholders. The analysts disseminate counterterrorism related products, conduct national threat coordination calls, resources, and DVE related information to Federal, State, and Local agencies.

Performance Measures:

Fusion Center Measures: State and Major Urban Area fusion centers receiving UASI grant funds will be evaluated based on compliance with the guidance and requirements for the National Network as set forth by DHS Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) through the annual Fusion Center Assessment. The applicant must utilize its data from the annual fusion Center Assessment when developing the planned project investment. Each Fusion Center project must align to, and reference, specific performance areas of the Assessment that the funding is intended to support.

Reference # DHS I&A Fusion Center Performance Measures:

2020.1 Percentage of Federal Information Intelligence Reports (IIRs) originating from fusion center information that address a specific Intelligence Community need

2020.2 Percentage of evaluation Federal IIRs originating from fusion center information that the Intelligence Community otherwise used in performing its mission (e.g., contained first-time reporting; corroborated existing information; addressed a critical intelligence gaps; or helped define an issue or target)

2020.3 Percentage of fusion center distributable analytic products that address a specific Intelligence Community need

2020.4 Number of Suspicious Reports (SAR) vetted and submitted by fusion centers that result in the initiation or enhancement of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

2020.5 Number of SAR vetted and submitted by fusion centers that involve an individual on the TSC Watchlist

2020.6 Percentage of Requests for Information (RFIs) from the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) for which fusion centers provided information for a TSC case file

2020.7 Percentage of I&A Watchlist nominations that were initiated or updated existing case files based on information provided by fusion centers

2020.8 Number of distributable analytic products co-authored by one or more fusion centers and/or Federal agencies

2020.9 Percentage of fusion center distributable analytic products that address Homeland Security topics

2020.10 Percentage of fusion center distributable analytic products that address state/local customer information needs

2020.11 Percentage of key customers reporting that they are satisfied with fusion center products and services

2020.12 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services are relevant

2020.13 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services are timely for mission needs

2020.14 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services influenced their decision making related to threat response activities within their AOR

2020.15 Percentage of key customers reporting that fusion center products and services resulted in increased situational awareness of threats within their AOR

2020.16 Number of tips and leads vetted by the fusion center

2020.17 Number of tips and leads vetted by the fusion center that were provided to other F/SLTT agencies for follow up action

2020.18 Number of responses to RFIs from all sources

2020.19 Number of situational awareness products developed and disseminated by fusion centers

2020.20 Number of case support and/or tactical products developed and disseminated by fusion centers

2020.21 Percentage of Federally designated special events in which fusion centers played a direct role

2020.22 Percentage of Federally declared disasters in which fusion centers played a direct role

2020.23 Number of public safety incidents in which fusion centers played a direct role

Output Measures:

Output Measures	Target Level
Number of exercises conducted.	0
Number of individuals participating in exercises.	0
Number of intelligence and information sharing systems created, maintained or enhanced.	8
Number of intelligence products created.	20
Number of people trained.	0
Number of trainings conducted.	0

Outcome Measures:

Outcome Measures	Target Level
Number of agencies actively participating in the Intelligence and Information Sharing program.	250
Number of agencies served by the interoperable communication system.	1
Number of intelligence products distributed/shared.	150
Percent (%) of population that can be reached by emergency public information technologies.	0

Homeland Security:

Capabilities:

DHS Project Type: Enhance/Establish a terrorism intelligence/early-warning system, center, or task force.

Core Capability: Intelligence and Information Sharing.

Identify if this investment focuses on building new capabilities or sustaining existing capabilities: Existing Capabilities (Sustain)

Are the assets or activities deployable or shareable: Shareable

Will this investment require new construction or renovation, retrofitting, or medication of existing structures?
No

Will these funds support a project that was previously funded with HSGP funding? Yes

Milestone: List 3-5 milestones of this project, and then list the intended completion date for each milestone. Milestones should occur throughout the project.

Milestone 1

Description: NTFC Research Analysts will attend at least two training events to enhance their analytic tradecraft capabilities related to DVE.

Intended Milestone Completion Date: 01-31-2022

Milestone 2

Description: Facilitate a minimum of four training sessions for area law enforcement and detention officers.

Intended Milestone Completion Date: 03-31-2022

Milestone 3

Description: Conduct a minimum of one training seminars for Fusion Liaison Officers (FLO) in an effort to increase the FLO network and DVE awareness.

Intended Completion Date: 06-30-2022

Milestone 4

Description: NTFC Research Analysts will establish a liaison network of public and private sector experts in DVE and Radicalization; Analysts will leverage this network to increase analytic collaboration and information sharing among law enforcement partners, facility/personnel security providers, and members of the general public who seek to report DVE-related threats.

Intended Milestone Completion Date: 07-31-2022

Milestone 5

Description: NTFC Research Analysts will identify websites, develop open source internet tools, and utilize analytic tradecraft to discover the activities of known and suspected DVE groups in North Texas area; Analysts will publish informal bulletins or formal serialized products on valid threats related to these DVE groups as they arise.

Intended Milestone Completion Date: 09-30-2022

Budget:

Amount of funding for UASI: \$64,808.91

Overall Budget Description: Narrative of what will be purchased, and explain cost effectiveness, purchasing process, and compliance with all local, state, and federal procurement rules.

Personnel:

Two full-time Fusion Center Research Analysts partial salaries will work in a collaborative effort to provide resources, expertise, and information with the ultimate goal of detecting, preventing, investing, and responding to criminal activity. Intelligence processes-the vehicles through which information is collected, integrated, analyzed, and disseminated-are a primary focus. Analysts provide suspicious activity training through the Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) Network and resources regarding Counterterrorism from the NCTC, FBI, and Nationwide SAR Initiative. They will offer briefings from SMEs regarding International and Domestic Terrorism during FLO Trainings to assist in identifying DVE individuals, groups, ideologies, tactics, and procedures. They will receive, process, and analyze suspicious activity reports relating to terrorism related activities and/or planning. Provide analysis and process reports into State and Federal databases. They will utilize social media tools and applications to analyze open source and social media channels, applications, and networks for potential signs of DVE threats to the North Texas region and homeland for situational awareness. They will develop intelligence products and assessments to support public safety partners in security planning during special events across North Texas. Enhancing security posture to reduce threats from extremists groups and individuals during large mass gatherings, identifying DVE activities and potential event site vulnerabilities.

Two Full-Time Fusion Center Research Analyst partial salaries, 10/01/2021 – 09/30/2022, Salary and fringe benefits: \$64,808.91.