

What's Being Said About Fusion Centers

"I want to talk to you about fusion centers. ...I've seen the information sharing that they do, and I've been impressed."

—Senator Susan Collins, Ten Years After 9/11: Are We Safer?, September 13, 2011

"The level of cooperation among all levels of government is higher than ever. There are now 105 Joint Terrorism Task Forces throughout the nation, and 72 fusion centers in which federal, state, local authorities investigate terrorism leads and share information. State and local officials have a far greater understanding not only of threats and how to respond to them, but also of their communities and those who may be at risk of radicalization."

—National Security Preparedness Group's Tenth Anniversary Report Card: The Status of the 9/11 Commission Recommendations

"Fusion centers, which I think are a great step forward, something that didn't exist 10 years ago and there are now some 72 of them. And very candidly, some are much better than others. I've visited some that I think are extremely capable. There is a federal nexus to ensure that appropriately designated information is shared quickly with state and local officials."

—Director of National Intelligence James Clapper, House and Senate Select Intelligence Committees' Joint Hearing on the Threats Against the United States Since September 11, 2001, September 13, 2011



"A sustained federal partnership with state and major urban area fusion centers is critical to the safety of our nation, and therefore a national priority."

—National Strategy for Information Sharing (2007)

"The capabilities and resources of state, local, and tribal entities serve as a powerful force multiplier for the federal government's counterterrorism efforts."

—National Strategy for Counterterrorism (2011)

"We will continue to integrate and leverage state and major urban area fusion centers that have the capability to share classified information; establish a nationwide framework for reporting suspicious activity; and implement an integrated approach to our counterterrorism information systems."

—National Security Strategy (2010)



"We must support local capabilities and programs to address problems of national concern. While the demographics of communities and the priorities of local government, communities, and law enforcement vary, our efforts to prevent radicalization to violence and terrorist recruitment must harness the knowledge, expertise, and relationships of local actors."

—National Strategy on Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States (2011)

"State and major urban area fusion centers... serve as the primary focal points within the state and local environment for the receipt and sharing of terrorism-related information."

—National Strategy for Information Sharing (2007)



United States
Department of Justice

“Fusion centers act as the local repository for information and intelligence development, linking state and local law enforcement with their federal counterparts. Their continued development remains integral to the process of protecting the homeland.”

—Heritage Foundation’s “Changing Today’s Law Enforcement Culture to Face 21st Century Threats”

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“We now have the 72 fusion centers. We’ve moved our own analysts into the fusion centers themselves so that they can help not only with the gathering and receipt of information but with the analysis of information. And that itself is helpful. If you look at Zazi and you look at Faisal Shahzad and you look at Pauline-Ramirez, who was connected with Jihad Jane, in all of those cases you would see fusion center activity that was very, very helpful. And indeed, these past three days and ongoing, with the ongoing threat that has been described to you, fusion centers are active in that as well.”

— The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Ten Years After 9/11: Are We Safer?, September 13, 2011

“In the United States, local law enforcement is not the only line of defense against terrorism, but given its ability to detect threats within our communities and its first responder function—it is often both the first and the last line.”

—George Washington Homeland Security Policy Institute’s *Counterterrorism Intelligence: Law Enforcement Perspectives*

“In close cooperation with FIGs and JTTFs, fusion centers represent a foundation upon which to build a strong Homeland Security Intelligence Enterprise.”

—Intelligence and National Security Alliance’s “Intelligence to Protect the Homeland...Taking Stock Ten Years Later and Looking Ahead”



“Leaders of intelligence sections of major U.S. police departments believe there is a critical need for increased analytic capability at the local, state, and federal levels.”

—George Washington Homeland Security Policy Institute’s *Counterterrorism Intelligence: Law Enforcement Perspectives*

“It is essential that fusion centers focus their efforts on existing all-crimes and criminal intelligence activities to leverage existing information, skills, knowledge, and expertise.”

—Intelligence and National Security Alliance’s “Intelligence to Protect the Homeland...Taking Stock Ten Years Later and Looking Ahead”

“[We] must reach beyond the capabilities of the federal government and the intelligence community to identify and warn about impending plots that could impact the homeland, particularly when the individuals responsible for the threats operate within the United States and do not travel or communicate with others overseas.”

—Intelligence and National Security Alliance’s “Intelligence to Protect the Homeland...Taking Stock Ten Years Later and Looking Ahead”

“We have 72 fusion centers around the country...I think they represent probably the best hope for giving you the kind of response you want on unity of effort in any given crisis.”

—The Honorable Lee Hamilton, Former Vice Chairman, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, Hearing on the Attacks of September 11th: Where Are We Today? September 8, 2011