

# **Terrorist Screening Center – Distance Learning Application Script**

## **WELCOME**

### **Video – Director Tim Healy**

Hello, my name is Tim Healy. I'm the Director of the Terrorist Screening Center.

Three of the 9/11 hijackers were stopped by state and local law enforcement days and weeks before the event. Had law enforcement known about them then, things would have been a lot different. That's where the Terrorist Screening Center comes into play.

The TSC maintains the most comprehensive database of known or suspected terrorists. Every day in America, hundreds of known or suspected terrorists are identified by law enforcement officers, just like yourselves, on routine traffic stops, normal calls, and normal business. That's why the TSC can help you.

Knowing all you can about that known or suspected terrorist improves officer safety, helps with the counterterrorism effort, and strengthens National Security. One call could save thousands of lives. Your call could save thousands of lives. Please make that call. Thank you.

## **WHAT IS TSC?**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the Terrorist Screening Center (or TSC) introduction. In this short presentation, we will describe TSC's mission, operating procedures, and role in protecting the nation from

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terrorist attacks. More important, you in law enforcement have a critical role in the mission of TSC. Put simply, TSC will not succeed without your help.

One of the biggest disconnects among state and local law enforcement agencies and the federal government concerns information sharing. Too often, information was sent to the federal government but little was returned to state and local law enforcement.

TSC is committed to providing as much information as possible about encounters with watchlisted subjects to any interested state or local law enforcement agency. TSC provides real-time notification of encounters for fusion centers and currently posts daily reports of encounters across the nation to systems such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Law Enforcement Online, the Regional Information Sharing Systems, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Homeland Security State and Local Intelligence Community of Interest, and other widely utilized unclassified systems. For the first time, state and local agencies are provided with a view of the terrorist encounter activity taking place in or near their jurisdictions. In doing so, TSC has created a bridge among screening agencies, the law enforcement community, and the intelligence community.

### **Vision and Mission**

TSC's vision is to be the global authority for watchlisting and identifying known and suspected terrorists.

TSC's mission is to consolidate and coordinate the government's approach to terrorism screening and facilitate information sharing to protect the nation and the international community.

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## **Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6**

After the tragedy of 9/11, a number of reports were published making recommendations on how to improve U.S. preparedness in defending the nation from terrorist attacks.

These after-action reports called for the U.S. government to consolidate the watchlisting process. Previously, approximately 12 different government agencies had a variation of a “terrorist watchlist.”

On September 16, 2003, TSC was established by Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6.

On December 1, 2003, TSC became operational. On March 12, 2004, all the preexisting U.S. government watchlists were consolidated into one “Terrorist Screening Database.” This is commonly referred to as the “Terrorist Watchlist.”

## **Consolidated Approach**

When a law enforcement or intelligence agency has identified an individual as a potential terrorist threat to the United States and wants the individual to be added to the consolidated watchlist, that person must be nominated for inclusion in the Terrorist Watchlist. TSC uses an Integrated Terrorist Nominations Process and receives international terrorist nominations from the National Counterterrorism Center and domestic terrorism nominations from the FBI. These nominations are vetted by the TSC Nominations and Data Integrity Unit to ensure that they meet

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the “reasonable suspicion” standard before being accepted into the Terrorist Watchlist. TSC provides Terrorist Watchlist data to support domestic and foreign screening processes.

TSC is dedicated to quality assurance to ensure that the Terrorist Watchlist records are current, accurate, and thorough. The Nominations and Data Integrity Unit reviews each nomination on a case-by-case basis to determine whether or not the nominated individual is an appropriate candidate for inclusion in the Terrorist Watchlist. Evaluation of nominations ensures that the nominating agency has provided sufficient information to demonstrate that the individual is reasonably suspected of engaging in terrorism or terrorist activities and that the identifying information provided appears to be accurate and valid. The Terrorist Watchlist data will then be made available to all appropriate TSC screening customers.

The consolidated Terrorist Watchlist has become one of the most effective counterterrorism tools available to the United States.

### **Operations**

TSC, with a staff of more than 300, provides coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for our law enforcement, intelligence community, and foreign partner customers.

TSC is composed of employees from various departments and agencies within the federal government, including:

- The U.S. Department of Defense
- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security

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- Citizenship and Immigration Services
- Coast Guard
- Customs and Border Protection
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Transportation Security Administration
  - Federal Air Marshal Service
- The U.S. Department of Justice
  - Federal Bureau of Investigation
  - Drug Enforcement Administration
- The U.S. Department of State

### **WHY CALL TSC?**

#### **Introduction**

TSC was created to provide actionable intelligence to all levels of law enforcement and those engaged in terrorist screening activities. When you call TSC to verify whether or not your encounter is positive, you are doing much more than just making a call. If your encounter is positive, your chief or sheriff will know that there has been a positive encounter with a Terrorist Watchlisted individual in their jurisdiction. The state fusion center will be provided with information on this positive encounter and will receive any information you gather during the encounter. Currently, only 80 percent of law enforcement officers in major cities call TSC when they receive the watchlist notification. TSC's goal is to reach 100 percent contact rate so that all positive encounters are identified. The intelligence gathered during an encounter of a watchlisted individual is invaluable and could prevent the next big terrorist attack. Even a 1

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percent noncontact rate could be devastating to our homeland security. Remember, when you see the notification banner in the National Crime Information Center (or NCIC), call TSC.

Verify whether or not the encounter is a positive match to TSC Terrorist Watchlist.

### **Information to Law Enforcement**

Prior to 9/11, not one of the 9/11 terrorists would have produced a hit in the NCIC. In fact, just days prior to the 9/11 attacks, Ziad Jarrah, one of the terrorists involved in the attacks, was stopped by police. But there was no centralized system in place to advise local law enforcement that he was considered a known or suspected terrorist.

At that time, information about known or suspected terrorists was dispersed throughout the U.S. government. No one agency was charged with consolidating it and making it available for use in terrorist screening. TSC now provides “one-stop shopping.” Every government screener is using the same Terrorist Watchlist—whether it is an airport screener, an embassy official issuing visas overseas, or a state or local law enforcement officer on the street. TSC allows government agencies to run name checks against the same comprehensive list with the most accurate, up-to-date identity information about known and suspected terrorists.

### **Category Codes**

During a traffic stop or other type of encounter with an individual, a police officer submits a query to NCIC. If the subject of the query is on the Terrorist Watchlist, NCIC will notify the officer of the hit. The officer or the dispatcher then contacts TSC, which confirms the match. TSC coordinates with the FBI Terrorist Screening Operations Unit (or TSOU). TSOU works in

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conjunction with the FBI's Counterterrorism Division that collects and disseminates information. TSC's Call Center can usually make a decision as to positive, negative, or inconclusive encounter within 8 to 12 minutes. TSOU contacts the FBI case agent and/or the Joint Terrorism Task Force (or JTTF). TSOU provides operational coordination and assistance as appropriate in response to encounters with known or suspected terrorists.

As the investigation progresses, the local JTTF will respond to TSOU and TSC. Any additional identity information will be added to the database and disseminated to customers.

The NCIC message for a TSC hit for Category 1 will appear as shown. Category 1 hits are very rare, but the potential for danger to the officer is highest with these individuals. This category indicates that the subject already has a federal arrest warrant on file. Remember, officer safety is paramount! Notice also that all TSC Terrorist Watchlist information is law enforcement sensitive. Under no circumstances should any individual be notified that his or her name is on a Terrorist Watchlist.

The NCIC message for a TSC hit for Category 2 will appear as shown. Category 2 hits are also rare. This category indicates that the subject is some type of special interest in an ongoing investigation; therefore, it is important that TSC be contacted for appropriate actions. Again, officer safety is paramount. This information is also law enforcement sensitive.

The NCIC message for a TSC hit for Category 3 will appear as shown. Category 3 hits make up the vast majority of TSC hits. This category indicates that the subject is of interest, but that no

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outstanding warrant or detainer exists. These are subjects whose terrorism-related activities and contacts have brought them to the attention of the U.S. government. Monitoring the movements of these subjects or verifying their identities may provide a critical piece of the investigative puzzle. Again, officer safety is important. This information is also law enforcement sensitive.

This is how the TSC message will actually appear. The TSC code will be found where indicated by the arrow.

The most important thing to remember is this. When you get a TSC hit on NCIC, call TSC at (866) 872-9001.

### **Value Added**

Immediate value was added to national security as a result of the creation of TSC. The existence of a strong link between intelligence and law enforcement communities is critical. TSC establishes a single coordination point for terrorist screening data. TSC also provides a 24-hours-per-day/7-days-per-week operations center for encounter identification assistance. TSC assists in coordinating responses from all law enforcement.

Additionally, TSC contacts the state fusion centers, as well as the local law enforcement chief or sheriff, when there is a positive encounter with a watchlisted individual.

Actionable intelligence is developed from encounters and passed on to appropriate entities. A positive encounter with a watchlisted individual is an opportunity for intelligence collection. Simply by asking questions and collecting all the information you can, key information can be

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gained to aid our nation's counterterrorism efforts. Because TSC is administered by the FBI, TSC is able to initiate assessments on encountered individuals without active FBI cases.

Important intelligence information can be lost when you do not contact TSC. In addition, the TSC call center is the only way to confirm whether an individual is a known or suspected terrorist, giving any officer encountering the individual a greatly improved awareness of the risk possible. Without calling TSC, an opportunity for increased risk awareness and safety can be lost.

The sheriff or the chief of police will never know that a positive law enforcement encounter was recorded in his or her jurisdiction. They lose out on the potential of gaining positive intelligence that could be used by his or her department or agency.

The intelligence that could have been obtained from that positive law enforcement encounter will never get to the investigative agency.

The state fusion center will not receive notification that a positive encounter has taken place in their region.

### **Scenarios**

Consider the following scenario during a routine traffic stop:

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You check local and state systems to determine whether or not the individual you have encountered has any outstanding warrants or other records. Inquiries regarding the driver's license and vehicle registration return no red flags.

Next Step:

Response 1—Since all local and state information regarding this individual are without red flags, there is no need to run further checks. Conclude the stop by issuing the driver a traffic citation and take no further action.

Response 2—There are no red flags in local and state information systems regarding this individual. You proceed by submitting an inquiry into NCIC regarding the subject of the traffic stop to determine whether or not any national information is available. NCIC returns a message indicating a possible hit for a Terrorist Watchlist Category 3. The NCIC message indicates that you should contact TSC during the encounter or immediately following to confirm the positive match. However, additional identifiers associated with the TSC Category 3 message do not seem to match the subject of your inquiry. Based on this information you:

Action 1—Decide that the subject of the traffic stop is not likely the same individual as TSC Terrorist Watchlist subject. You determine there is no need to contact TSC since it is not likely the same individual noted. You provide the subject with his traffic citation and conclude the stop with no further action.

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Action 2—Decide to contact TSC to provide information regarding the subject of the traffic stop. This is to determine whether this is a positive or negative encounter with the watchlisted individual indicated in the notice. During your conversation with the TSC call center, you are able to provide information that confirms the identities:

Result 1—Do not match. As a result, you provide the subject of the traffic stop with the citation and conclude the stop with no further action.

Result 2—Match. A positive confirmation with the Category 3 TSC Terrorist Watchlist subject is confirmed. As a result, TSC notifies the FBI TSOU, which contacts the case agent and may contact the local JTTF to coordinate an investigation. As the investigation progresses, the local JTTF may, if the situation is warranted, respond to TSOU and TSC, where additional identity information will be added to the database and disseminated to customers.

In a positive encounter, consider what some of the implications of not submitting an inquiry to NCIC or not contacting TSC could have been. Your safety as an officer can be compromised. A known or suspected terrorist can be undetected. A valuable opportunity to collect additional intelligence or the opportunity to detain the individual is lost. And, the worst possible outcome, the individual goes on to commit a heinous terrorist attack as the result of indicators that are undetected.

Remember, it is always better to be safe. Call TSC if you receive the NCIC notification. Speak with TSC operations center officials to determine whether the encounter is a positive or negative

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match with the watchlisted individual. There are many people in the world with the same name and same date of birth, so contact TSC to confirm whether the encounter is a positive or negative match.

### **Successes**

#### **California**

In late December 2007, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) conducted a routine traffic stop. Three passengers in the vehicle had been drinking—but not the driver. A vehicle search by the LAPD officer resulted in the discovery of business cards from the FBI Phoenix Division. The driver of the vehicle was a Category 3 positive match to the Terrorist Watchlist. He was a subject of a Phoenix terrorism investigation. Further investigation by the police revealed that two of the passengers were also Category 3 positive matches to the Terrorist Watchlist and were subjects of terrorism investigations—one in New Orleans and one in Los Angeles. This officer had identified three known terrorism subjects of FBI investigations in one car. This critical information was collected by the police officer and passed on to FBI case agents in their respective divisions. A letter commending this officer for his diligence and professionalism in gathering all of this positive intelligence was sent from TSC to the LAPD Chief of Police.

#### **Maryland**

Maryland authorities stopped a person who was filming the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. A routine NCIC check advised the officer to call TSC, which verified that the subject was a match to a known suspected terrorist and contacted TSOU. TSOU then discovered that this person was an

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unindicted coconspirator with three HAMAS individuals. A material witness warrant existed for his arrest.

### **Colorado**

An individual was stopped for DUI by Colorado authorities. Fingerprints revealed a true identity match to the Terrorist Watchlist. Authorities contacted TSC, which coordinated the encounter. The FBI case agent, the U.S. Department of State (DOS), NCTC, and others were notified and records updated. His forged identification would not have been revealed had it not been for the fingerprint match. As a result, the FBI case agent had a lever to use with him to gain positive intelligence through the interview process.

### **HOW TSC SUPPORTS YOU**

#### **Four-Tier Approach**

TSC supports a four-tiered approach to screening for known or suspected terrorists.

First, DOS attempts to stop those identified as known or suspected terrorists before they enter the country. Embassies and consulates around the world use TSC information before issuing visas and passports. Individuals seeking a visa to enter the United States are all vetted against the Terrorist Watchlist. Second, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) screens for known or suspected terrorists at the borders. Third, law enforcement officers around the country encounter them on the streets during traffic stops. Fourth, with cooperation of international partners, TSC assists in identifying known or suspected terrorists in foreign countries.

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All TSC customers have access to information from the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist that is appropriate for their screening needs. With this information, they can make the best possible decision if they encounter a known or suspected terrorist.

### **Primary Customers**

TSC supplies users of the Terrorist Watchlist with subsets of data in order to support the respective mission of the user. Each user has its own set of standards for receipt of Terrorist Watchlist data. The users receive identity information only for known or suspected terrorists that supports their mission or technological capabilities. For example, TSA cannot put someone on the No-Fly list that is not a danger to aviation, and an identity cannot be added to NCIC if it does not contain a date of birth.

NCIC's Known or Suspected Terrorist File (KSTF) is the key to providing information to state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers. KSTF is connected to the Query Warrants search of NCIC. Identifying information submitted to NCIC by law enforcement is compared against the information in the database, including the Terrorist Watchlist. There is usually a quick turnaround from notification to decision.

TSC provides services to border agencies, airlines, state and local police, gun purchase checks, and special events such as the World Series and Super Bowl.

### **Supported Systems**

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Just after takeoff on international flights into and out of the United States, airlines must electronically submit their manifest to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) National Targeting Center (NTC). NTC cross-references that list against the Terrorist Watchlist. NTC, located in Northern Virginia, is a 24/7 operations center similar to TSC. It has the responsibility to vet all international flight manifests as well as all cargo coming into and leaving the United States.

When there is a possible No-Fly or Selectee hit, NTC contacts the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Office of Intelligence and TSC. TSC confirms the match and contacts TSOU, TSA Office of Intelligence, NCTC, and the North America Aerospace Defense Command. A decision is then made regarding the No-Fly status of the subject. According to this decision, the flight either returns to the airport from which it left, diverts to another airport, or continues to its destination. On positive hits, the appropriate JTTF and, when appropriate, the FBI's Legal Attaché Office located in the embassy of that foreign country are notified of the situation.

The Consular Lookout And Support System (CLASS) is the U.S. DOS's database. It is used by all embassies and consulates around the world to screen visa applicants. This is one of the four tiers discussed above and is the "long-range radar" used to keep the United States safe.

These are the steps followed once a visa application is received at a U.S. embassy or consulate. An application is first compared with CLASS. If there is a possible match, consular officers will contact TSC with a Security Advisory Opinion (SAO) of a possible terrorist match. TSC verifies

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the match and notifies DOS. DOS uses this information to deny or issue the visa. After TSC is notified, it then notifies NCTC and updates TSC records. Unlike a traffic stop or a name on a flight manifest, there is more time available to vet these visa applications.

TECS, formerly known as IBIS, is a DHS database, and it is used at all ports of entry to the United States by CBP personnel.

TECS checks are conducted when a person enters the United States. Positive hits are forwarded to CBP's NTC for evaluation. If there appears to be a match, TSC will be contacted to determine whether there is a positive or negative match. Information is then supplied to the FBI case agent through TSOU, which may choose to request through the CBP representative that they collect all of the person's pocket contents and conduct a secondary screening.

### **Redress**

TSC works with DHS and other government agencies on a daily basis to resolve complaints from individuals experiencing repeated screening delays or difficulties that may be related to the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist. TSC's Redress Unit works closely with DHS's Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, called DHS TRIP, to address the complaints of travelers who have been affected by terrorism screening. The formal inquiry is initiated by the complainant through the DHS TRIP Web site, which is then sent to TSC. Research is conducted, and a final disposition is determined. The goal of the Redress Unit is to provide for timely and fair review of individuals' complaints.

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The contents of the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist are derived from classified and sensitive law enforcement and intelligence information. TSC cannot confirm or deny whether an individual is on the Terrorist Watchlist. The Terrorist Watchlist remains an effective tool in the government's counterterrorism efforts because its contents are not disclosed. The nondisclosure of the Terrorist Watchlist information protects the government's operational counterterrorism and intelligence collection objectives. It also protects the personal safety of those involved in counterterrorism investigations.

### **Civil Liberties and Privacy**

TSC's primary responsibility is to ensure that the terrorist identities data already known to the U.S. government is centralized in one location. From this location, it can be queried by those who need it—including local, state, federal, tribal, and territorial law enforcement organizations; border patrol officers; and Bureau of Consular Affairs officers in foreign countries. TSC is dedicated to ensuring that data is maintained in a manner consistent with protecting privacy and civil liberties. TSC regularly conducts comprehensive and case-specific quality assurance reviews of its data. These reviews help to ensure that terrorist identity data meets the substantive criteria for watchlisting and is thorough, accurate, and current.

TSC does not conduct intelligence collection or criminal investigations. TSC receives only terrorist identity information collected by other government entities authorized by law to do so. Those entities also have policies and procedures in place to protect privacy rights and civil liberties.

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TSC also participates in redress processes established by other agencies performing terrorist screening. This helps to ensure that complaints and misidentifications are addressed and any errors are corrected.

### **RESOURCES**

#### **Other Counterterrorism Systems**

After 9/11, valuable systems, such as the Terrorist Watchlist, have been put into place to detect and identify known or suspected terrorists. Other systems, such as the FBI's eGuardian and the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Initiative (NSI) Shared Space, are also committed to sharing information about terrorist activity.

Across the law enforcement communities, *suspicious activity* is defined as “observed behavior reasonably indicative of preoperational planning related to terrorism or other criminal activity.” Suspicious activity may include surveillance, cyber attacks, probing of security, and photography of key infrastructure facilities.

The eGuardian system is a sensitive but unclassified (SBU) version of the FBI's Guardian Threat Tracking System. The eGuardian system will electronically record SAR and terrorist threat information with a potential nexus to terrorism gathered by law enforcement agencies. The system is designed to act as a standardized SAR system. It allows multiple agencies to consolidate existing disparate reporting systems that, in many cases, have no connectivity with other agency SAR systems. Furthermore, eGuardian will be populated with SBU data which can

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flow into the Guardian system—completing the cycle of report sharing among the FBI and federal, state, local, and tribal partners.

The eGuardian system is the only SAR system that communicates directly with the FBI's JTTFs.

SARs that are entered into the eGuardian system from federal entities will be analyzed initially by the FBI's National Threat Center Section, Threat Monitoring Unit (or TMU). TMU determines whether sufficient facts exist to warrant the information being placed into the Guardian system for investigation. TMU will, in effect, act as an e-fusion center for federal agencies utilizing the eGuardian system and for law enforcement agencies that do not report to an established state-administered fusion center.

SARs from federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement that are reported to eGuardian will pass through a state fusion center or similar analytical construct prior to being passed to the Guardian system. There they are assigned to a JTTF or an FBI Guardian squad.

In all cases of data ingest, trained analysts or law enforcement personnel will review the data. Then they will make the judgment as to whether information sufficiently rises to the level that a report should be added to the eGuardian and Guardian systems.

The Nationwide SAR Initiative (NSI) is an outgrowth of a number of separate but related activities over the last several years that respond directly to the mandate to establish a "unified process for reporting, tracking, and accessing [SARs]," in a manner that rigorously protects the

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privacy and civil liberties of Americans, as called for in the National Strategy for Information Sharing (NSIS).

The NSI process is a cycle of 12 interrelated operational activities, which address the requirements outlined in the NSIS. The long-term goal is that most federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement organizations will participate in a standardized, integrated approach to gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing information about suspicious activity that is potentially terrorism-related. In addition to government agencies, private sector organizations responsible for Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources and foreign partners are also potential sources for terrorism-related SARs.

The NSI is not a single monolithic program but is rather a coordinated effort that leverages and integrates all SAR-related activities into a unified nationwide SAR capability. The NSI strategy is to develop, evaluate, and implement common processes and policies for gathering, documenting, processing, analyzing, and sharing information about terrorism-related suspicious activities.

The initiative will ensure that NSI participants at all levels of government adopt consistent policies and procedures that foster broader sharing of terrorism-related SARs, while ensuring that privacy and civil liberties are adequately protected in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

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The SAR process focuses on what law enforcement has been doing for years—gathering information regarding behaviors and incidents associated with crime and establishing a process to share information to detect and prevent criminal activity, including crime associated with domestic and international terrorism.

The NSI technology solution is a distributed data and information repository used to make terrorism-related information available through common terrorism information sharing standards, applications, and services. The Shared Spaces allow authorized users to securely search the SAR data housed on local agency-controlled servers from one central location—the National Criminal Intelligence Resource Center.

The integrated use of information systems such as the Terrorist Watchlist, eGuardian, and SAR aid in our nation's approach to counterterrorism efforts and follow the intelligence-led policing (ILP) model. ILP is a collaborative law enforcement approach combining problem-solving policing, information sharing, and police accountability with enhanced intelligence operations.

### **TSC Products**

TSC directly, as well as through fusion centers, provides information and training support for how to handle encounters with watchlisted subjects.

TSC operates an intelligence unit that develops analytical products for use by law enforcement agencies about Terrorist Watchlist-related activity in their jurisdictions. These products are

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available on the FBI's LEO, DHS's SLIC, and on the RISS network to assist federal, state, and local law enforcement in understanding the level of terrorist activity within their respective areas.

TSC also provides information to law enforcement and the counterterrorism community through Terrorist Watchlist training programs, including train-the-trainer programs for state and local law enforcement through the U.S. Department of Justice's State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT) Program. SLATT is funded through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and provides law enforcement personnel with specialized training and resources to combat terrorism and extremist criminal activity. For more information about SLATT and SLATT training opportunities, visit the Web site at [www.slatt.org](http://www.slatt.org).

For more information about TSC, visit our Web site at [www.terroristscreening.info](http://www.terroristscreening.info).

### **TSC Category 3 Video**

**NARRATOR:** Who can ever forget these images? Who can forget the acts of terror we witnessed on that September day in 2001. And who among us would not have stopped those horrific events if we could have? But we can't rewind our history to September tenth. And we can't push the pause button ...on life. But there are lots of things we can do to prevent future terrorism.

I'm Fred Iacovo for the Terrorist Screening Center. I'm not a cop. I don't even play one on TV. But I can tell you this: State and Local Officers are in a great position to collect important

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information on terrorists and their allies. And the Terrorist Screening Center stands ready to help you.

Before TSC was created in December 2003, the cop on the street had no way of knowing if someone he'd stopped was associated with terrorism. But now, TSC consolidates the terrorist lists of many agencies. And you connect to them automatically, through NCIC. Whenever you run an NCIC name check, you connect with TSC. And running any name that's on our watch list will automatically give you a hit and some specific instructions on how to handle that person. Depending on which category he's been designated, what you should do ranges from clap them in irons to let'em walk.

Category 1 is for the baddest of the bad. This is someone you should arrest immediately, just like you'd handle any other warrant. Then call the TSC. Odds are you won't see any of these guys.

Category 2 is for people who may have ties with terrorism. You should call TSC right away, and you may be asked to detain them for a reasonable time. You probably won't see any of these people either.

Category 3. If you get a hit, it'll most likely be a category 3. These are people that may have ties to terrorism, but don't know that we know. And we want to keep it that way. So don't let them know that they're on a watch list or that you're calling TSC. And don't let them hear the call. Basically, you want to deal with him as you normally would, without the hit. But ask probing questions to get a positive ID. Obviously, someone might have the same name as a guy on the list without actually being that guy.

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Category 4 is for other people who may have ties to terrorism, but the connection is not as sure. So we want you to get positive ID info on them, and then call TSC if you think they should be investigated for terrorist activity. Some people in our database are not active terrorists, but only associates or supporters who are under investigation.

You are the nation's front line in the fight against terrorism. If a terrorist gets into our country, what law enforcement officer is most likely to run into him first? You are! You get up close and personal with more people in this country than anyone else. Through your eyes, the counter-terrorism agencies of America can see and detect terrorist threats long before a deadly act unfolds. Let's look at a couple likely examples.

This officer has just stopped this driver for driving 55 in a 40 mile an hour zone. He ran the car's plate before approaching, then got the driver's license and car registration. When he ran them through NCIC, the driver's name gave a Category 3 hit from TSC, saying he might be connected to terrorism. So how does our officer handle the news? The way YOU should! Watch.

**OFFICER:** Hello? Yes, this is Deputy Chappell of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office in Virginia. Is this the Terrorist Screening Center? Yeah, I've just made a traffic stop. The driver's name gave a category 3 hit through NCIC and I was advised to call you.

**NARRATOR:** And that's the name of that song. Call TSC. The screeners there can help you know for sure if the guy you stopped is really the guy on the list. And even if he's an exact match, he may not be a terrorist. Some of the people we're interested in are associates or

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supporters, under investigation because they're affiliated with terrorism. Since this is a Category 3" hit, the Officer should collect information on both these people, but not let them know that law enforcement is interested in them for terrorism.

**OFFICER:** So where are you coming from?

**DRIVER:** Our home.

**OFFICER:** Is that your wife?

**DRIVER:** Girlfriend.

**OFFICER:** Ma'am, can I see some ID, please? Thank you.

**NARRATOR:** Next step. Run the passenger's name.

**DISPATCH:** Go ahead 217.

**OFFICER:** Name check on Kovack, kilo, Oscar, victor, alpha, Charlie, kilo. Karen, common spelling. DOB 1983, 04,09.

**NARRATOR:** With Category 3 or 4 hits, you won't make any arrests that you wouldn't have made otherwise.

**DISPATCH:** 217, no wants, no warrants.

**OFFICER:** 217, Ten-four.

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**NARRATOR:** Since the results for the passenger were negative, the Officer finishes his normal business for the traffic stop.

**OFFICER:** Your signature is not an admission of guilt. It just certifies that your mailing address is correct. All the other instructions are on the form.

**NARRATOR:** Of course, he's going to keep his eyes open for anything interesting or unusual in the car. That would include cameras, binoculars, video equipment, GPS ... maybe things like sleeping bags that suggest they're living out of the car. With the stop concluded and the suspects on their way, the officer will talk to the Terrorist Screening Center once again. This time he'll give them all the info he gathered on the car and the two people. And TSC may connect him with CT Watch as well. And with that, he's done. Now let's take a look at another call where you might meet someone on the list. The Suspicious Person call. See, way down there, there's a woman taking photos of the dam. Someone called 911 and reported a suspicious person. Our officer took the call and is just arriving on the scene.

**OFFICER:** 217.

**DISPATCH:** Unit 217.

**OFFICER:** I am at the Smith Lake Dam and have a white female in her twenties taking photos near the spillway.

**DISPATCH:** 10-4, 217.

## **Terrorist Screening Center – Distance Learning Application Script**

**NARRATOR:** All of you know how to interview someone, so let's fast forward. We'll pick it up after he's heard her story and gotten her ID.

**OFFICER:** Lima, alpha, November, alpha, tango, alpha. First name, Maria, Middle Initial A.

**DOB:** Nineteen seventy seven, oh seven, thirteen.

**NARRATOR:** As you guessed, she's going to be a Category 3 hit. And since it's very important that we don't let HER know that WE know, both the Dispatcher and the Officer need to make sure that she doesn't hear the radio traffic.

**DISPATCH:** 217, is your radio secure?

**OFFICER:** Standby. If I could ask you to wait right here please...

**NARRATOR:** What our young lady won't be able to hear is the dispatcher telling the officer.... that she MAY be associated with terrorism and that he should get information to make a positive match. Dispatch is also giving him the number to call for the Terrorist Screening Center.

**OFFICER:** Where did you say you were taking those photo classes?

**PHOTOG:** At Stafford Community College.

**OFFICER:** Did you get anyone's permission to shoot here?

**PHOTOG:** I didn't think I'd need anyone's permission just to take a couple of photographs.

**OFFICER:** Please wait right here and do not take any more photographs.

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**NARRATOR:** So now the officer will go back to his car...call TSC on his cell phone, and talk to one of the screeners there who will determine if this woman is really the one we're interested in, or just someone else with the same name. In the case of this young lady, she really is the person on the watch list, and TSC has asked him to get more info on her without letting her know that we're interested. Let's see how he handles it.

**OFFICER:** Ma'am, this is government property and I'm afraid I am gonna have to ask you to leave.

**PHOTOG:** Why, I'm not hurting anything!!??

**OFFICER:** The park manager doesn't want anyone down here and I need you to leave with me.

**PHOTOG:** Well sure, Officer. I didn't think this would be such a big deal, just taking photos.

**OFFICER:** It's a liability thing. The bureaucrats are afraid you'll stub your toe on their property, and that you'll sue.

**PHOTOG:** I guess.

**OFFICER:** Tell you what, I'll take you to your car that way you don't stub your toe.

**OFFICER:** Nice camera.

**PHOTOG:** Thanks.

**OFFICER:** My sister was thinking of getting a Toyota. What model is that?

**PHOTOG:** Camry, the LE.

**OFFICER:** What year?

**PHOTOG:** You know, I don't remember, '99.

**OFFICER:** You like it?

**PHOTOG:** Oh yeah, it's great.

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**OFFICER:** Yeah, you've really got a lot of room back there. Hey, is that your scuba gear?

**PHOTOG:** Yeah

**OFFICER:** How long have you been diving?

**PHOTOG:** About a year.

**OFFICER:** So, like what's the deepest you've ever gone?

**PHOTOG:** I don't know, I don't really pay attention to that sort of thing.

**OFFICER:** OK, you have a good day and be sure to drive safe.

**PHOTOG:** OK, you too, see ya.

**OFFICER:** Take care.

**NARRATOR:** Because our officer handled this encounter correctly, our photographer is on her way, thinking that she won this one. In reality, we just gained some valuable intelligence. By feigning a personal interest in her car, he got a good look at it and her possessions without alerting her. Now he's calling TSC at this number. You might want to keep it handy yourself. We don't need the details.

**OFFICER:** Hello, this is Deputy Chappell of the Stafford County Sheriff's Office. I have some additional information for you on Maria Lanata. Yea, she had some scuba gear in the back of her car. She said she was a diver but she didn't know the first thing about diving. I don't think the diving gear was hers; same thing about the car too.

**NARRATOR:** He'll give TSC info about the car. He'll also give them details about the scuba gear and other things he saw inside. And if the comes back registered to someone else, that's yet

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another connection that could be valuable to know. So there you have it. Simple, every day encounters. No bombs. No guns. No chemical agents. But a few more pieces added to the terrorism jigsaw puzzle. And with the teamwork of local, state, and federal law enforcement, we have an excellent opportunity to see the picture and solve the puzzle, before these terrorists can strike again.

For the Terrorist Screening Center, I'm Fred Iacovo. Thank you for watching and stay safe.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Why was the Terrorist Screening Database (TSDB) created?**

Prior to the creation of the TSDB, information about known or suspected terrorists was dispersed throughout the U.S. Government and no one agency was charged with consolidating it and making it available for use in terrorist screening. Under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 6 (HSPD-6), the Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) now provides “one-stop shopping” so that every government screener is using the same terrorist watchlist—whether it is an airport screener, an embassy official issuing visas overseas, or a state or local law enforcement officer on the street. The TSC allows government agencies to run name checks against the same comprehensive list with the most accurate, up-to-date information about known and suspected terrorists.

#### **Who gets included in the TSDB?**

Per HSPD-6, only individuals who are known or appropriately suspected to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism are included in the TSDB.

## **Terrorist Screening Center – Distance Learning Application Script**

**Does the TSDB contain information on domestic terrorists, like Timothy McVeigh?**

Yes. The TSDB contains information on both international and domestic terrorists.

**Does the TSDB contain information on people who have been convicted of a crime?**

The purpose of the TSDB is not to hold information on individuals who have been convicted of a crime; however, an individual appropriately included in the TSDB may also have a criminal history. None of the information pertaining to the criminal history is contained or referenced in the TSDB.

**Are there U.S. citizens in the TSDB?**

Yes, U.S. citizens are included in TSDB if they meet the HSPD-6 terrorism nexus criteria.

**Can I find out if I am in the TSDB?**

The TSC cannot reveal whether a particular person is in the TSDB. The TSDB remains an effective tool in the government's counterterrorism efforts because its contents are not disclosed. If the TSC revealed who was in the TSDB, terrorist organizations would be able to circumvent the purpose of the terrorist watchlist by determining in advance which of their members are likely to be questioned or detained.

**I am having trouble when I try to fly or cross the border into the United States. Does this mean I am in the TSDB?**

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No. At security checkpoints like our nation's borders, there are many law enforcement or security reasons that an individual may be singled out for additional screening. Most agencies have redress offices (e.g., Ombudsman) where individuals who are experiencing repeated problems can seek help. If an individual is experiencing these kinds of difficulties, he/she should cooperate with the agency screeners and explain the recurring problems. The screeners can supply instructions on how to raise concerns to the appropriate agency redress office.

**I have been told that I am on a terrorist watchlist by an airline employee and I frequently have difficulty when I fly. Does this mean I am in the TSDB?**

No; however, an individual may be a "misidentified person." A misidentified person is someone who is experiencing a delay during screening because they have a similar name to a person in the TSDB. Misidentified persons are sometimes delayed while the government works to distinguish them from the terrorist in the TSDB. Because these delays are frustrating and inconvenient, there are several initiatives in progress to help streamline the clearance process for misidentified persons. If an individual believes he/she is having a misidentification problem, he/she should contact the screening agency's redress office for assistance.

**Are individuals removed from the TSDB?**

Yes. The TSC works with partner agencies through a formal process to remove individuals who no longer meet the HSPD-6 terrorism criteria.

**How does TSC ensure that the TSDB is accurate?**

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The TSC has a staff dedicated to redress and quality assurance that conducts comprehensive as well as case-specific reviews of TSDB records to ensure they are current, accurate, and thorough. TSC conducts research and coordinates with other federal agencies to ensure the terrorist record is as complete, accurate, and thorough as possible. TSC's redress and quality assurance process has resulted in the correction or removal of hundreds of records in TSDB.

### **Does TSA's Secure Flight program have anything to do with the TSDB?**

Secure Flight is a congressionally mandated program that will check the names and dates of birth of passengers on domestic flights against the TSDB. As with all government programs that screen for terrorists, TSC provides this program support to ensure that terrorist identity matches are correct.

### **What prevents the TSC from violating the civil liberties of Americans?**

The TSC only receives information collected by other government entities with pre-existing authority to do so. Each agency that contributes data to the TSC must comply with legislation, as well as its own policies and procedures to protect privacy rights and civil liberties. The handling and use of information, including information about U.S. citizens and legal immigrants, is governed by the same statutory, regulatory, and constitutional requirements as if the information was not to be included in a TSC managed database.

### **Inquiries Related to Visas**

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The State Department's Bureau of Consular Affairs website provides information on how to address questions about the denial of a visa. Individuals who are overseas should contact the American embassy or consular office abroad about visa issues.

### **Review**

#### **Question 1**

The Terrorist Screening Center was established to collect information regarding known or suspected terrorists.

True

False (*correct answer*)

#### **Question 2**

The Terrorist Watchlist is a consolidation of 12 different government watchlists, to provide one-stop shopping for government screeners and law enforcement agencies.

True (*correct answer*)

False

#### **Question 3**

The Terrorist Screening Center removes nominations for the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist from (*check those that apply*)

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (*correct answer*)

The Transportation Security Administration

Local, State, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement Agencies

The National Counter Terrorism Center (*correct answer*)

Embassies and Consulates

The Department of Defense

The Central Intelligence Agency

#### **Question 4**

It is important to contact the Terrorist Screening Center when you receive:

a) the NCIC Category 1 Code

b) the NCIC Category 2 Code

c) the NCIC Category 3 Code

d) any / all of the above (*correct answer*)

#### **Question 5**

The value added when you call TSC to confirm a positive Watchlist hit includes:

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*(Check all that apply)*

- Increased risk awareness and safety information can be gained (*correct answer*)
- Notification provided to the local chief or sheriff in the jurisdiction (*correct answer*)
- Notification provided to the state fusion center (*correct answer*)
- Opportunity to collect intelligence information (*correct answer*)
- Potential to prevent a terrorist event (*correct answer*)

### Question 6

The formal process for travelers to inquire or complain about screening delays or difficulties they may experience related to the consolidated Terrorist Watchlist is known as

- a) Removal request
- b) Redress (*correct answer*)
- c) Appeal inquiry
- d) WatchOut