

2010 Homeland Security S&T Summit  
South Central Region  
LIVE INTERACTIVE WEBCAST  
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PANEL: Question and answers  
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**MARY HANSON**

Now, questions, let's start with one in the room. Then we'll go to the web.

If you want to direct it to someone, please say to whom. If you are still thinking about it, we will take one from the web.

I would like to ask you each very briefly to describe where you think we are now compared to one year ago on this continuing quest for the perfect information change solution.

You care to offer an opinion? Are we making progress question mark because we talk about it so much.

Technically, I don't think there's a problem the information sharing. It's the type of information that needs to be shared. We need to be able to identify and prioritize the type of information to be shared. Degree among all agencies how it is going to be shared. Upon that we have, I think, is the issue associated with the investigation and security are permits. Which are imposed by law-enforcement agencies.

Again, it goes back to my view, if you don't have a viable doctrine as to how you are going to be responsible for sharing information, it is just going to be very difficult. Perspective of technical solutions.

Once again, it's not the technology, it's the policy.

I will add to it and agree with Leo. It is not so much a problem of, that we share information. There are maybe some obstacles in the law enforcement do not how we share and the level of privacy and all that is associated with it. I think our focus on D&D has really been on the data fusion. To avoid the data per hour says -- paralysis, to be able to detect and classify and then respond in such a way that you could take appropriate action.

And the number of false positives on alerts, and to decrease the number of false alarms and technology.

The trick is to turn the data into knowledge.

I have nothing to add what they said. Technology is there. It is just the policies and law enforcement sensitive information. All that complicates the information sharing that we do.

If there is anyone online that has the answer to these policy questions, please call in.

Question for Mr. Rios. Can you talk about the web EEOC. You mentioned text map has evolved from border initiative to response and recovery oriented as well. Can you talk between the interface between -- as well as text maps.

First off, as the events occur, and they are reported into the text map system, they are made immediately available to the viewing audience. You can go to any one of the icons that appears and you can understand what is happening. Unfortunately, the -- as a data repository we have to search for the information. We found that during an LE09 we found it was best to use the web and text map. The text map allows you to immediately analyze what is taking place and do trend analysis on yours green. You can understand what is potentially going to happen as a result of being able to understand what has transpired in the past. What is taking place now, and as a result of your analysis, what you project will take place in the future.

If you compare and contrast that to the data already stored within the web EEOC, it is very strong. We found that we can also take the information that is captured on the web EEOC and put in a text map format. So the bottom line is that we are using both. But we are working toward using one and taking the web EEOC data and putting it in the text map.

On the web. Question. Regarding the text map system. Is it integrated with that you see ID system from yesterday question mark and if not are you planning on it speaking with each other?

Yes. As a matter of fact, we have already established a number of contacts with other systems that are available. And what we are capable of doing, we think, is marrying what we have within text map with law-enforcement and with other systems. What is neat is that weekend mind data from any number of systems -- we can mine data from other systems and get into data sources and maintain the integrity of those data sources in such a way that we can make it available very quickly to an analyst. Operators in the field, anybody that can access the web from a patrol car, desk, or wherever they may be.

Follow-up to that. What are your plans for West Texas question mark --?

Or what is the solution for West Texas?

Do you mean a law-enforcement numbers. Unfortunately, one of the problems that you have is that in all counties along the border, is that the law enforcement agents that are employed by these counties

are sustained as a result of the tax base. Unfortunately, West Texas counties have very small tax basis. And so therefore, cannot afford any more law-enforcement folks.

It is not that they don't recognize the problem, it's just that they cannot afford anymore.

Unless there is a program put into place at state or federal level that will augment those folks, it will be very difficult for them to be able to deal with that issue.

That said, the augmentation problem is that anytime you hire a person, you've got all the human resource problems that are associated with that, to include pension. So it is a much larger question than just having a person: for short period of time. A very sticky problem. It needs to be addressed, I think area unfortunately, it has not been. It is a thorn in the side of the West Texas law enforcement officers faced with this.

It was brave of Leo the, peering do this. You have all been in his seat at some point.

When most of us in this room were young, the backyards of suburbia all had a 3 foot chain-link fence around them to hold the dog in. And now, we have the invisible fence that, so we don't see the chain-link anymore. Leo, I'm sure you'll probably love to get that neck brace along all the guys coming across the border. Absent that ability, what new approaches we have, besides bigger higher and bigger fences, to protect the border with different innovative approaches?

By the way, if Mark was to come up and help, he can.

There are a number of different things that can be done. First off, the ability to be able to collaborate is very important. When they first started the border security operations in Texas, we had agents that would not sit next to each other. Because of historical problems that have emerged between their agencies. We found that as a result of getting them together in his uniform -- unified command process, that they now collaborate on a daily basis. And as a result of that, they share not only problems, but solutions. >> And as they are sharing solutions, believe it or not, they are developing a bottoms up type of doctrine. It is very simple right now. But it is getting to the point now where they are calling the plays, I hate to go back to the football and now Jay, but they are calling plays among the different groups in such a way that they can respond with a greater degree of flexibility, agility, and adeptness.

That is important. And I think that is the first thing you need to be able to do, before you start taking a look at the tools. That said, there are lawful -- there are a lot of ideas coming up.

One thing I heard about today was the use of gaming cameras.

Within the RGB sector, we are currently sit porting -- currently supporting with game cameras that report onto a website that is, again, a layer on the Google Earth system.

Also, to a phone. As a result of a customer test, they have demonstrated they have been able to increase their apprehensions by as much as 50%. This is basically changing the way they are doing business. Traditionally, border patrol agents have made a trail. Each evening, they physically drag a road or fence and then in the morning go out and check to see how many people have crossed. And then they actually track them until they catch them or they lose the trail.

In this way, as they see the camera shots, particularly at night, they are now capable of understanding where to intercept, rather than track, but intercept the intruder's.

By being able to see, as you pointed out earlier today, UN understand -- you can understand if they are armed, if they speak languages other than Spanish, if they are carrying bundles of marijuana, if they are being abused. Because you can actually see it on the photographs that are being provided. That is in real time.

Again, I go back to common understanding, which is established as a result of mutual trust. Which is a result of being able to operate on a daily basis together. That gives rise to wonderful ideas like this which is now being employed. I'd be happy to talk about in greater detail.

I like to take a stab at answering to. There is no one silver bullet out there. It will be a family of technologies. There will be some instances where a bigger, higher fences you put it, maybe the solution for that particular area. But we have been doing stuff with an attended -- unattended ground sensors also. People say that his Korean war technology. That may be true.

But to be able to take a mesh network of blogs -- blogs and be able to decrease the number of false alarms, you are providing an additional tool to a border patrol agent to be able to make that time interest at.

I will steal one of your football analogies. Whenever you have a running back that is running loose into the secondary or someone who is caught and midrange pass, and you are the safety, you are going to try to take an angle where you are going to intercept back I before he gets to the goal line. Well, our border patrol agents and our law-enforcement folks are going to try to mate that intercept before that individual gets to a road, or to a highly populated area where they can blend in.

So it is not just a matter of stopping them right at the border, which is a common misconception here it but it's to be able to use a family of technologies to be able to stop them before they totally get away. And to use is limited personnel resources.

But anything we do, and the science and technologies program management guy, I'd love to think that the world revolves around program management. But it doesn't. You have to be able to look at your Dr. and, your operations, your training, you may be able to engineer a Dick's before you start slinging money around and coming up with new technology.

For those capability gaps, that's where we come in. >> I think the board to add something here. At least from the point of view of the department. We are focused here on border enforcement. And border force means increasing the likelihood that we can apprehend people and increasing the consequence of that app engine.

In the past, the likelihood of apprehending somebody was probably lower than it is today. But there were no consequences. So for example, you apprehend somebody, take them back to where they cross the border, and when you turned away, they came back again. >> There's a lot more to this whole dynamic than just securing the border. Clearly, what we want to do, is make it much more difficult for people to come across the border illegally.

But we also know that anything we do will be counteracted by some other effort. For example, tunnels. Or ultralight aircraft.

If we can make it harder, we can filter out the noise and get to the signal. Like smugglers, weapons of mass distraction, etc.

I mention that because border security depends on whether just border in force me. That is why there is all this talk, again, about conference of immigration reform. I do not want to get into politics or the emotional politics of immigration reform. Except to say that it is a part of integrated border enforcement strategy. It is more than technology advances. >> It is about how do we allow the people to come into the country safely that we want to have here. And prevent people that we don't want.

I will not get into the politics of what immigration reform includes or does not include. Let's leave it at a concept that says it has to be beyond border enforcement.

So we need to recognize that. I thought it was important to indicate that the department is not so foolish as to think that if I put a zillion agents and all this technology and all of these fences, that the problem in and of itself will go away.

It will probably decrease, but there's a lot more to this dynamic than just border enforcement.

If I could add to that, one of the problems that has come about as a result of the lack of integrated plans, is that while we were increasing the number of agents over the course of the last couple of years, along the border, we did not increase the number of support people within the Department of Justice.

As a result of that, what we have is we have US attorneys in districts that are severely understaffed. And so, as a result of increasing the number of border patrol agents by this much, you have increased the number of cases now they're being held in federal court by this much. 75% of all felonies, federal felonies, are being Rolands -- are being realized along the border area. But the courts cannot take care of them.

As a result, give longer wait time which incurs a greater costs on the locals. But if they are holding them, they are hospitalizing them, their conduct in autopsies. You are absolutely right. There is an integrated plan that has to be put together. Otherwise you will find that you are going to have people that are going to come up with all the best intentions in the world. But that is not the problem.

We all know that in the room. I think it bears reporting. We are talking about S. NT tools and processes and their usage.

We need to exercise all of our networks and influences to get to that problem.

We have a question from Oklahoma. I'm so glad you're here.

Is there a lot of information sharing between Texas and Oklahoma on the lawn for some five because -- on the law enforcement side because Texas is successful. We suffer because they press the North area as we are successful, Kansas City suffers from our success.

Eventually, Canada will suffer.

If you look at the trends, it comes up Highway 69, goes to East and W. At Hwy. 40. We catch them there. That's where we start suffering. And then they get into Kansas City where it is not our problem.

Is there a lot of information sharing, more specific with the text map question mark --?

As a matter of fact, there's been a recent effort within region six, it was about two months ago. Where text map is being offered to all states within region six for information sharing purposes. Again, free of charge. The intent here is to allow merchants he management personnel, long first or personnel -- law enforcement personnel, to share information.

The difficulty is, what information do you want to share of what protocols you want in place.

We have that agreement with five counties in southern New Mexico. We share it with the I continued basis.

I anticipate over the next few months, I believe you have an exercise here in March, that is going to allow the region six days to collaborate on an emergency management issue using text map.

So yes, there is procedure that is being put into place. It is still in its infancy.

And we are talking, with the FEMA region six headquarters here as far as what we might do to further the conversation on this whole issue. They are all part of the same effort to get the information you need when you need it.

I think, last question from the Web.

The question is for Mr. Cox. Are there plans to roll out the city's program? If so, where will it begin?

Good question. I left that out and should have talked more about it. Security cities program, for some who don't know, was focused primarily on New York City. A lot of money when Intuit and a lot of specialized equipment. We got additional funding this year and a secure the cities program came into the awesome support directorate last month.

What we are going to be doing is looking at the high-priority, US urban highest populated areas and highest risk areas. We will look at those first.

One of the things that we are trying to do on a more cost-effective solution, is something called capabilities deployment initiative. Secure the cities, we basically gave New York City and the surrounding municipalities money to go out and buy their instruments. We provide the training.

Data via -- they develop their own command-and-control center. Very tailored and expensive. Very tailored. For the New York City and what they wanted.

So far, today, we have one secured city through the STC initiative. The CDI initiative, we will go ahead and going back to the secure border initiative, we are going to keep it simple. Get something out there that is cost effective. We'll supply the cities the instruments. What we are going to do is give them pagers and ribs -- ribs. Instead of a device this size double go ahead and identify what you are looking at. We gave them pagers and they can detect it and get one of these things out there so you have 1000 pagers versus one of these. Get them in peoples hands.

And on the CDI initiative, will focus on the border states. We are working with Arizona right now, Phoenix and Tucson. We are going to Texas next. We are looking at the urban areas in the border states. We are getting double benefit of protecting the urban areas and adding another layer along the borders.

It's so clear that, well, we barely touched the surface of border security issue here. The point wasn't to be comprehensive today. It was to peak interest and create links that will continue.