



Statement of

James Wolfinbarger

Director/Major

Colorado Department of Public Safety

Office of Preparedness and Security

Colorado State Patrol Homeland Security Branch

Before the

Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Intelligence,

Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment

United States House of Representatives

Presented on

August 10, 2007

I. Introduction

Chairperson Harman, Ranking Member Reichert and Congressman Perlmutter, thank you for the opportunity to discuss the Colorado State Patrol's and the Office of Preparedness and Security's efforts to fight terrorism and the progress we have made in the areas of information sharing and critical infrastructure protection.

II. The Terrorist Threat to Our Local Communities

The terrorist threat to our communities involves continued domestic terrorism and international terrorist plots to inflict harm to Americans and interrupt our economy. This is a critical point to consider, given that the memories of September 11, 2001, have faded from the forefront of the minds of many Americans.

A. Domestic Terrorism

Prior to September 11, local and state law enforcement agencies primarily investigated domestic terrorist groups, including white supremacists, hate groups, and single-issue groups such as the Earth Liberation Front. Investigations centered on sub-cultures that were socially motivated by political ideologies to commit terrorism. The bombing of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City in 1995 had a catastrophic impact on American soil and brought together local, state and federal law enforcement to bring the terrorists to justice. However, in retrospect, Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols left a trail of clues that, if detected, could have prevented the attack, and the deaths of 168 people, including nineteen children. It is the collection, analysis and distribution of information to key end-users that we must focus upon to prevent an attack, rather than complacently believing that response and recovery activities are the only way to address acts of terrorism in America.

B. International Terrorism

Prior to September 11, international terrorism was not in the national consciousness. Despite the first World Trade Center bombing, most Americans did not realize the significant threat of Islamic extremism and the consequences of international terrorism. September 11th changed the mindset of all Americans, including local and state law enforcement.

III. The Colorado Department of Public Safety's Response to Terrorist Threats

Colorado has a number of critical infrastructure and key resource assets that would make our state an attractive target to terrorists, including four major sporting venues, the Denver World Trade Center, critical dams, tourist attractions and agricultural assets. Colorado has a high number of federal facilities and Colorado hosts multiple military assets that include Norad, U.S. NORTHCOM, Fort Carson, the U.S. Air Force Academy Buckley and Peterson Air Force Bases, which employ over 50,000 active-duty National Guard and Reserve personnel. Multiple defense contractors are situated in Colorado including Lockheed Martin, Ball, Boeing and Northrup Grumman. Colorado is also home the Federal penitentiary know as "Supermax," which holds some of the world's most notorious criminals.

The Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS) is required to establish an Office and Preparedness and Security (OPS) whose mission is to detect and deter acts of terrorism in Colorado.

- Colorado Information Analysis Center

A significant step toward the prevention of terrorism was the development of the Colorado Information Analysis Center (CIAC) in 2005. The CIAC strives to provide an integrated, multi-disciplinary information sharing network to collect, analyze, and disseminate information to stakeholders in a timely manner in order to protect the residents and the critical infrastructure of Colorado.

The CIAC was designed as the State's fusion center to create cross-jurisdictional partnerships between local, state and federal agencies and to include private sector participants. The fusion center

concept is integral to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) strategic initiative for information sharing.

The CIAC produces intelligence reports for law enforcement and non-law enforcement personnel and is capable of providing real-time information to over 3400 recipients throughout the United States. The CIAC coordinates local, state and federal agencies, as well as members of the critical infrastructure sectors, to ensure a coordinated intelligence exchange and to disseminate information and “best practices” in order to prevent or mitigate further attacks. The CIAC acts as an early warning system for actual or suspected terrorist acts, natural disasters and criminal activities.

The CIAC strives toward an inclusive fusion center model. While the CIAC is managed by OPS and the Colorado State Patrol, several other organizations have made a commitment to the fusion center concept. These organizations include the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Colorado National Guard; the Colorado Departments of Corrections, Agriculture, and Education; the Colorado Springs Police and Denver Police Departments; the Castle Rock Fire Department; the Pueblo County Office of Emergency Management; the University of Denver; and the U.S. Marshals Service.

- Critical Infrastructure Protection (Rubicon Team)

The Rubicon team is responsible for conducting full-spectrum integrated vulnerability assessments on Colorado’s most critical infrastructure and key resources (CI/KR). The assessments include detailed on-site inspections that identify vulnerabilities from an all-hazards approach, such as crime, natural disasters, sabotage, and acts of terrorism.

During the all hazards, vulnerability assessment, the Rubicon team focuses on and evaluates six key areas for the CI/KR site: physical security, infrastructure, structural characteristics, emergency response, information technology, and business continuity. Vulnerabilities are identified and prioritized, and mitigation strategies are recommended with the ultimate goals of reducing potential loss of life, property damage and economic devastation. The Rubicon team coordinates with the Colorado Information Analysis Center to develop a current threat analysis for each site.

IV. Federal Partnerships and Collaborative Efforts

The Colorado State Patrol, along with other Colorado law enforcement agencies, is an active participant in the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The Patrol has assigned to the JTTF a trooper who acts as a conduit between both operations. The CIAC has an outstanding relationship with the Denver Field Intelligence Group (FIG), and an FBI analyst currently works in the CIAC on a full-time basis. The CIAC and the Denver FBI publish a joint monthly summary of activities occurring in Colorado and Wyoming.

The OPS staff also collaborates and shares information with the Department of Homeland Security's Protective Security Advisor (PSA) who is assigned to Colorado and Wyoming.

The OPS staff has a positive relationship with the Denver Secret Service office. The CIAC shared critical and time-sensitive information with the Secret Service during the recent shooting at the Colorado Capitol. This partnership will be further developed through the planning and implementation phases of the DNC.

The city and county of Denver will host the (DNC) in August 2008. Denver expects thousands of visitors, delegates and support staff before, during and after the convention. The CIAC and the state's Critical Infrastructure Protection Team (RUBICON) will play vital role in the success of the DNC. Initial planning meetings have occurred in advance of the establishment of the Steering Committee.

The relationships between OPS, the Denver FBI, the DHS PSA and the Denver Secret Service Office serve as excellent examples of partnerships with federal law enforcement agencies that provide the opportunity for extensive information sharing.

V. Conclusion

The success of terrorism prevention and preparedness hinges on our ability to develop partnerships with other public and private sector organizations and to establish a comprehensive plan to detect, deter and defend Colorado against potential and actual acts of terrorism.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today.