



KANSAS ADJUTANT GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT
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JOINT COMMITTEE ON KANSAS SECURITY
REMARKS OF MAJOR GENERAL LEE TAFANELLI
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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I would like to take a few minutes to outline key efforts occurring within the state related to homeland security.

The Department is currently analyzing systems-level threats to Kansas' critical infrastructure, working with private industry to improve cyber security, and partnering with key subject matter experts on identifying bio-threats to animal, plant and human health. We continue to work with other agencies, private industry and academia to develop fiscally sustainable methods to identify new and emerging threats, and deal with them in a state-based approach; not dependent on federal strategies.

The Kansas Intelligence Fusion Center (KIFC) is the core of Kansas Homeland Security efforts. Fusion center predictive analysis provides vital information for early threat warning, prevention efforts, risk assessment, and for public officials charged with making sound policy decisions. It is seen as an unparalleled "model" center among federal and states programs for both effectiveness and protection of civil liberties.

Kansas' ability to identify and fulfill its own analytical needs is, and will increasingly be, critical to the well-being of our citizens, government and critical infrastructure. The collaborative nature of its business model means that our state's security efforts are resilient in the face of funding and policy shifts affecting other programs.

The effectiveness of the KIFC design is based on three pillars. First, maintaining a mission focus on true homeland security strategic analysis ensures we are filling intelligence gaps on rapidly changing and high impact threats to Kansas. Second, maintaining the correct access to classified information ensures that Kansas leadership and responders have the best understanding of the threats we face, so they can develop the best short term and long term policies for Kansas. Finally, complete integration of multi-discipline/multi-entity partners maximizes the subject matter expertise (by individual and organization) focused on understanding and addressing Kansas vulnerabilities and concerns.

This multi-discipline approach also happens to be the most economical and sustainable model in existence, and is only found in Kansas. The result is Kansas relevant analysis that is often months if not years ahead of analysis pushed out by federal agencies to state and local governments.

Here are a few examples:

- KIFC Critical Infrastructure Focus Team is being recognized by an ever widening circle of states (15 who are in discussions to emulate the KIFC model) and federal agencies as a preferred model for cyber security efforts across the nation. In a cyber-security mission analysis for the FY14 National Defense Authorization Act, the current Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense provided a specific finding that lists the KIFC as a “leading example” of “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Nation” cyber capabilities.
- KIFC Biological Threat Team’s predictive analysis of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, as early as February 2014, provided critical intelligence support to advanced planning and preparedness efforts within our state.
- Through persistent analysis of local suspicious activity reporting, reported encounters with watch-listed terrorists and classified threat stream data, the KIFC developed customized intelligence support for local, state and federal efforts to prevent terrorism. This level of state coordination is unheard of in the rest of the nation.

Despite the KIFC’s remarkable successes, the center is far from reaching its full operational potential due to highly limited staffing. The KIFC is currently limited by its ability to address the intelligence analysis needs of additional critical infrastructure sectors and its ability to keep pace with rapidly changing terrorism, cyber and weapons of mass destruction threats. An additional lead analyst position and individual analyst positions dedicated to each focus team will be required to move the KIFC to more effectively address the widening threats impacting Kansas.

The Way Ahead

We know that there are real resourcing challenges on the horizon. Homeland security and emergency management grants and other associated funding will likely continue to be focused more and more on the major urban areas, with high-population density.

I can’t say that we have all the answers on how to deal with this. But I am confident that the professionals in our department remain vigilant, with an eye on emerging threats, and the sobering knowledge that their fellow Kansans depend on them to be ready.

I give you my word that the Adjutant General’s Department will do its best to innovate and find new and improved ways to provide homeland security core capabilities in the years ahead. We will continue to study current and future challenges, develop high value actions within our control, and then carry out those actions in the most effective way possible. And finally, we will never forget that we do all of this in service to the people of Kansas and the United States of America, their freedoms and continued way of life.

I stand ready for your questions.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maj Gen Lee E. Tafanelli
Kansas Adjutant General
7 November 2014