WASHINGTON STATE FUSION CENTER

1110 Third Avenue Seattle, WA 98101

Fusion Liaison Officer Program

THE CONCEPT

The Fusion Liaison Officer (FLO) program is a statewide network of agency-selected law enforcement, fire-fighting and critical infrastructure agency representatives. The FLO program serves as an integral component of the Statewide Integrated Intelligence System (SIIS) and provides the mechanism to gather and analyze information, and share actionable intelligence. FLOs attend a DHS approved basic course of instruction hosted by the Washington State Fusion Center (WSFC).

The FLO program benefits its partners in the following ways:

- Expedites the flow of information throughout the state, providing a more rapid response to matters of both state and national security;
- Increases awareness of pre-incident indicators and warnings of terrorism and significant criminal activity;
- Establishes standardized reporting protocols for the SIIS;
- Opens communication channels between law enforcement, fire-service, critical infrastructure, Regional Intelligence Groups (RIGs) and the WSFC; and,
- Enhances SIIS efficiency and effectiveness while increasing information collection opportunities.
- Provides additional educational opportunities.

OBJECTIVES AND GOALS

The FLO program is an integral component of the Statewide Integrated Intelligence System (SIIS) and provides the mechanism to gather and analyze information, and to share actionable intelligence.

The development and coordination of a network of trained and certified FLOs ensures that vital disciplines are incorporated into the fusion process by serving as the conduit through which homeland security and crime related information flows to the WSFC for assessment and analysis through the state homeland security Regional Intelligence Groups.

The goal is to develop a FLO program that complements the SIIS. The end state is to have FLOs throughout the state in all aspects of law enforcement, fire service and critical infrastructure.

The WSFC will sponsor six one-day FLO Basic classes per year throughout the state, and one FLO Intermediate class, which is a two day course.

The WSFC will facilitate regular communication with the FLOs to promote participation, discuss information needs, announce training opportunities and acknowledge FLO accomplishments.

FLO CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

Recommended Fusion Liaison Officer Candidates:

- Have a desire to be a FLO
- Possess the ability to develop a wide network of contacts within their agency and/or supported region
- Are tenured and respected by peers
- May be a subject-matter expert (SME) in a particular discipline
- Possesses strong interpersonal, oral and written communication skills
- Applicants may be subject to background checks to determine eligibility for program participation, which includes access to the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). HSIN is a secure Department of Homeland Security (DHS) information sharing portal the WSFC uses to share information with stakeholders.

FLO BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

Basic roles and responsibilities of the Fusion Liaison Officer will include but are not limited to the following:

- Collect information from agency sources and provide context before forwarding it to the fusion center through their local RIGs.
- Adhere to WSFC privacy policy.
- Receive information from the fusion center (e.g., reports, alerts, and requests for information) and distribute to agency contacts.
- Develop and maintain open lines of communication with the WSFC and other agency FLOs to facilitate cooperation and sharing of information.
- Inform agency personnel on criminal/terrorist indicators and warnings,
- Understand and apply the principles of the SIIS.
- Provide situational awareness and current tactics, techniques, and procedures to improve field officer safety.

STRUCTURING MANAGEMENT

The FLO Program Coordinator is the link between the WSFC and the FLO's. The Program Coordinator is responsible for developing, organizing and managing training, reviewing recruit applications, and supervising FLO Program outreach operations. The FLO Program Coordinator is located at the WSFC.

FLO's will be provided contact information for their Regional Intelligence Groups (RIG's) and are encouraged to dual report suspicious activity to the WSFC and their RIG. The WSFC, as well as the FLO Coordinator, will address any questions and/or concerns FLO's have about reporting, training, or the FLO program, in general.