



# NNOAC *Insight*

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*The Official Position of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition*

## **NATIONAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE SHARING PLAN**

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) strongly supports the *National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan* (NCISP) as the blueprint for local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies to use for information and intelligence development and sharing. The NCISP is a comprehensive document that identifies resources and action steps for law enforcement officials to use in order to increase information and intelligence sharing. The NCISP is a key tool that law enforcement agencies can employ to support their crime-fighting and public safety efforts.

The impetus for the NCISP began in spring 2002, when law enforcement officials attending the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Criminal Intelligence Sharing Summit agreed that law enforcement agencies at all levels must work towards common goals—gathering information and producing intelligence within their agency and sharing that intelligence with other law enforcement and public safety agencies. Summit participants called for the creation of a nationally coordinated criminal intelligence council that would develop and oversee a national intelligence plan. In response, the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global) Intelligence Working Group (GIWG) was formed. Local, state, and tribal law enforcement representatives were key participants in the development of the NCISP.

On October 24, 2003, Attorney General John Ashcroft approved the NCISP. In addition, the IACP, the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Intelligence Centers, the National High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Program, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation—Intelligence Office have all endorsed the NCISP. Your participation in implementing the NCISP is critical to ensuring that our nation and the law enforcement community, in particular, address our needs as they pertain to terrorism and the evolving nature of crime in the twenty-first century. The basic elements of the Plan include:

- ❖ Providing minimum standards for establishing and managing an intelligence function;

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- ❖ Establishing a Criminal Intelligence Coordinating Council to provide a nationally coordinated process for intelligence generation and sharing;
- ❖ Offering guidelines for protecting individuals' privacy and constitutional rights within the intelligence process;
- ❖ Providing safeguards to ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place to protect individuals' privacy and civil rights;
- ❖ Providing model policies and guidelines for implementing or reviewing an agency's intelligence function;
- ❖ Recommending methodologies for sharing classified reports;
- ❖ Promoting the concepts of standards-based intelligence sharing and intelligence-led policing through education and outreach;
- ❖ Issuing training standards for all levels of law enforcement personnel;
- ❖ Providing a nationwide, sensitive but unclassified communications capability for criminal intelligence sharing; and
- ❖ Recommending fingerprint-based background checks for access to the intelligence systems accessible on the nationwide communications capability.

It is imperative that we learn from the lessons of the September 11 terrorist attacks and that we build a cooperative environment among all local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies in order to facilitate information and intelligence development and sharing. The effective and appropriate use of a criminal intelligence function is crucial to a law enforcement agency's ability to combat crime.

Whether it is the narcotics officer on the street, the intelligence manager, or the agency executive—having access to the information that will help them do their job is essential. The NCISP provides local agencies with the tools and resources necessary for developing, gathering, accessing, receiving, and sharing intelligence information; this is critically important to improving public safety and homeland security. The NNOAC strongly encourages the law enforcement and intelligence communities, national organizations, and other governmental and public safety entities to become involved in implementing the *National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan*.