Use of National Intelligence Assets by Law Enforcement

Britain Cox

HSM 201: Department of Homeland Security Missions and Current Issues

Instructor: Heather Woodson

Date: 03February 2020

**Introduction**

In the United States, law enforcement and intelligence communities have been thriving on the antagonistic, and imbalanced relationship. Much of this antagonism rises from the various jurisdictions placed to regulate the actions of the departments set for national intelligence. More, these departments have disagreed on the assets allocated to each department and the roles they are designated to play for the security welfare of the Americans. Homeland Security (DHS), one of the cabinet intelligence communities in the federal United States, is designed to protect the sovereignty of the United States within and beyond its borders. Specifically, this community is designed to prepare, avoid, or respond to any domestic emergencies such as terrorism. With such a crucial function of this intelligence community, Homeland Security is divided into 22 minor federal agencies and departments such as the Coast Guard, Customs and Border Protection, and Transport Security Administration, among other subgroups. This research paper attempts to answer; how Homeland Security collects intelligence assets, how Homeland Security uses intelligence assets, and the jurisdictions that the federal government place on the use of intelligence assets by Homeland Security.

**Analysis**

The Homeland Security Department is made to collect intelligence from within and around the United States. This intelligence is received by the agency deploying agents in the field to collect information about to provide a warning on potential terrorist attacks, evaluations on vulnerability, as well as the recommendations for counteractive engagements at state, federal, and local heights (Best, 2004).

Intelligence collection at DHS can also be done by setting up interceptive actions on target communication channels. These include phone calls and email monitoring, from where the DHS can derive any messages that may lead to a terror attack in the country. Also, the DHS uses directed surveillance, an action where DHS agents physically observe and track down its suspected targets to derive a correlation between their effects and the occurrence of a terror attack (Best, 2004).

This information is analyzed and later used to counter terrorism and any other potential danger in and around the country. Despite collecting its data on the prevalence of terror attacks, among other functions, Homeland Security also borrows information, both evaluated and unevaluated, from other intelligence units and private divisions in the country such as the FBI and CIA. The jurisdiction of the DHS allows this department to collect any information on the security of the country, thus expanding the horizons through which this agency acquires its intelligence (Chen, Wang & Zeng, 2004).

After collecting information from various sources, the DHS analyzes the data to identify clues on any element of terror attack the country might be subject to. From this analysis, the DHS can conclude potential terror attacks and acts upon these insights with jurisdictions from the federal government. While the United States allows the DHS jurisdiction to collect intelligence outside the US borders, given the consent from the neighboring nations, the DHS is subjected to operate inside national borders but can still run between different states.

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, this paper researched how Homeland Security collects intelligence assets, how intelligence assets are used by Homeland Security, and the jurisdictions that the federal government place on the use of intelligence assets by Homeland Security. It concluded that DHS collects information from the field through observation or communication interception. It also collects information from other intelligence communities and out of national borders. In a foreign land, the DHS acts upon the jurisdiction placed against it in interacting with foreign affairs. Upon gathering of intelligence, the DHS analyzes it and concludes the prevalence of a terror attack, thus taking any necessary measures to curb such attacks.

References

Best Jr, R. A. (2004, February). Homeland Security: Intelligence Support. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS WASHINGTON DC CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE.

Chen, H., Wang, F. Y., & Zeng, D. (2004). Intelligence and security informatics for homeland security: information, communication, and transportation. *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Transportation Systems*, *5*(4), 329-341.

Jenkins, B. M., Liepman, A., & Willis, H. H. (2014). *Identifying enemies among us: Evolving terrorist threats and the continuing challenges of domestic intelligence collection and information sharing*. RAND NATIONAL DEFENSE RESEARCH INST SANTA MONICA CA.