

KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Introductory Letter To The FY 2010 Annual Report

To: Hon. Steven L. Beshear, Governor

Hon. Members of the Interim Joint Committee on Seniors, Veterans,
Military Affairs and Public Protection

Hon. Crit Luallen, Auditor of Public Accounts

From: Thomas L. Preston, Executive Director

Date: October 30, 2010

Transnational and domestic terrorist threats concerning the Commonwealth of Kentucky and most certainly the United States of America are more acute now than at any period since September 11, 2001.

Even with admitted gaps or voids, state, federal and global Intelligence data and analysis have matured – the process is more inclusive today.

Through electronic intercepts to cooperative exchanges between and among nations, and from confidential sources/informants to citizen alertness and reporting, we're learning much more.

Our Commonwealth is an integral part of the national counterterrorism grid. For instance, statutory mandates call for this office to administer *The Kentucky Intelligence Fusion Center*. Center personnel address threats and potential dangers to our state, region and country. The KIFC is a significant strategic asset encompassing various parties working side by side in a collaborative venture.

We emphasize foreseeability. We intend always to remain pro-active. Without both philosophies, prevention or mitigation of terrorism and other violent acts must rely primarily on plain old luck.

We emphasize safekeeping of information. We stress protection of individual privacies and civil liberties. We interact constantly with numerous jurisdictions.

Through non-state funding we have achieved noteworthy expansion of certain facilities and capabilities, essential in enhancing our intelligence capabilities, procedures and reporting.

We are providing more services to first responders, governmental authorities as well as the private sectors with a wider range of counterterrorism information, training, guidance and education.

This annual report illustrates grant management accomplishments just as it does with our operations involving other disciplines. But with ever-changing rules and regulations, additional reporting requirements, visitations by study groups and expected training updates, time for basic duties is being diminished. *This is especially harmful to productivity when fundamental staffing levels continue their downward trend.*

Demands on KOHS for its many lead roles continue escalating, which is a positive factor because both the private and public environments consider us valuable to their best security interests. Yet resources are lower than ever before. One can not combine insufficient resources with threatening world events without facing even more dangerous situations today and tomorrow.

I urge careful review of this report plus those of the previous two years. They offer financial trends along with a clear picture of innovation and efficiency against growing handicaps to our meeting state and federal rules.

These obstacles must be eliminated. The KOHS staff – let me repeat: woefully short in numbers just for BASIC duties -- performs with exceptional professionalism, dedication, self-sacrifice and ingenuity. Each individual would be a plum for the private sector.

In this regard, I challenge anyone to find a state government agency that in the past three years has achieved more with fewer people and fewer state and federal dollars!

We have reached the stage where demands for our services, expertise and assistance are continuously surpassing our assets. This invites ultimate disaster notwithstanding the fact that *every* terrorist or other criminal incident can't be avoided.

Our enemies who are intent upon bringing chaos and destruction to Kentucky, its neighbors and the U.S. delight in the position we're in.

As before, "for official use only" briefings are available at your request. We are prepared to answer your questions and welcome your visit.