

Ohio Homeland Security

Annual Report

2024

Ohio Homeland Security

Leading Ohio's commitment to addressing the threats and challenges of terrorism.



Department of
Public Safety

CONTENTS

Executive Director’s Message	4
Special Events and Activities	5
Springfield, Ohio Security Operation Response	6
Drones in Ohio.....	6
Education and Outreach.....	7
Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS).....	10
Cybersecurity	13
Terrorism Analysis Unit (TAU).....	14
Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (CIU)	16
OHS Security Team	18
Homeland Security Grants	20
Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC)	20

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

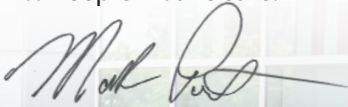
The Ohio Homeland Security (OHS) Division strives to analyze and share information, awareness, and vulnerabilities with Ohio's law enforcement agencies, first responders, local emergency management officials, as well as the private sector when appropriate. OHS develops strategies and initiatives to prevent, prepare for, and protect against targeted violence, terrorism, and threats to our public safety. OHS staff are dedicated to protecting Ohio's homeland and making it a safer place for all to live. Our accomplishments and success stories throughout 2024 are described in this report from all of our sections within OHS:

- Terrorism and Analysis Unit (TAU) within the Statewide Terrorism & Analysis Crime Center (STACC)
- Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (CIU)
- Ohio Cyber Integration Center (OCIC)
- Education & Outreach Unit (EOU)
- Private Investigator Security Guard Services (PISGS)
- Security Team & Grants/Planning

OHS also began pursuing new initiatives that will enhance our division's ability to protect Ohioans:

- **Creating a statewide drone working group** with members from our federal, state, and local partners
- **Improving OHS' ability to receive more Suspicious Activity Reports** by partnering with the private sector to be the first fusion center utilizing Artificial Intelligence to generate and allow citizens to report suspicious activity
- **Establishing the Ohio Critical Infrastructure Data System (OCIDS) platform.** This groundbreaking statewide initiative is aimed at establishing a comprehensive inventory and mapping data system for critical infrastructure across 16 federally designated sectors. This platform is being designed to significantly enhance situational awareness, planning, coordination, and decision-making capabilities during natural disasters and other public safety threats, ultimately strengthening the state's protective posture and resilience.

As the executive director of OHS, I am proud of our accomplishments and the new initiatives we are pursuing to keep Ohioans safe.



Mark A. Porter, Executive Director



SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



Counterterrorism Conference, January 2024



Public Safety Summer Safety Bash, June 8, 2024



Ohio State Fair, July/August 2024



Drone Threat Training, July 18, 2024, at the University of Cincinnati



Intelligence Liaison Officer-Ohio Public Private Partnership Conference, October 10, 2024



Ohio Corrections and Law Enforcement Security Threat Group Conference, November 18, 2024



The Ohio State University Stadium Security Operations: OHS provides assets at many OSU Stadium events, including SkyWatch towers, security guard checks, and intelligence sharing.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO SECURITY OPERATION RESPONSE

During September 2024, OHS staff provided intelligence and security operations support related to the public safety incidents in Springfield, Ohio. The Terrorism Analysis Unit (TAU) provided summaries of local, state, and national implications stemming from immigration issues, the uptick in propaganda and doxing by Ohio groups holding racially and ethnically motivated violent extremist ideology, and threats towards the 2024 elections. Analysts also provided daily support to the Ohio State Highway Patrol with open-source intelligence regarding public demonstrations and the doxing of Springfield residents and government officials.



OHS staff provided intelligence and security operations support in Springfield during September 2024.

During peak activity in Springfield, an analyst worked at the FBI's command post situated in Dayton to assist FBI partners and local law enforcement with situational awareness. Utilizing open-source platforms, analysts searched for derogatory information associated with events occurring in Springfield and provided information in real-time for support and response planning.

OHS staff supported protective responses to bomb threats in local schools and critical infrastructure specialists successfully conducted 25 security and vulnerability assessments throughout Springfield and Clark County, enhancing protective posture and resilience of key facilities.

DRONES IN OHIO



Ohio Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Working Group: In an effort to bring together local, state, and federal stakeholders to discuss emerging technologies and activity regarding drone usage in Ohio, OHS initiated and organized a new working group in early 2024. Participants include local and state law enforcement, county emergency managers, state and federal transportation experts, corrections, and federal partners including the FBI, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and DHS. The working group discussed topics including drone detection, federal legislation, regulatory authorities, and mitigation options, as well as the current drone threat landscape.

Drone Threat Training: Throughout the month of July 2024, OHS and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) collaborated with New Mexico Tech (NMT) and the State University Law Enforcement Association (SULEA) to offer training for Drone Assessment and Response Tactics, Unmanned Aircraft Systems Program Development, and Unmanned Systems and Terrorism Case Studies. These sessions were designed for a wide range of participants, including those from colleges and universities, law enforcement, EMA officials, fire and EMS services, the military, state and federal agencies, and private-sector organizations. The training sessions took place in July 2024 at Kent State

University with 86 attendees, Bowling Green State University with 84 attendees, and the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash with 57 attendees. Education and Outreach Unit staff supported OHS leadership, OEMA, NMT, and SULEA in planning, coordinating, and promoting each of these three trainings, while also collaborating with the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy to provide seven hours of curricular practical training credit for law enforcement.

Drone Activity in Ohio: In December 2024, TAU analysts were made aware of a UAS sighting at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, in Dayton, Ohio. Following that sighting, analysts were tasked to gather information regarding UAS activity in several states that had encountered a high volume of similar UAS activity, including Virginia, New Jersey, New York, and Delaware. In the days following the initial Ohio sighting, an additional nine suspicious UAS incursions occurred across Ohio. Two of those incursions included one sighting each over the Wright Patterson Air Force Base and the Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base. In total, TAU analysts recorded 10 sightings, which included an estimated 17 drones. Analysts coordinated with local law enforcement and military to keep a detailed account of the UAS activity as well as any action taken. Additionally, analysts scanned open-source informational sources (i.e., social media and messaging platforms) to gather information regarding possible drone activity and any potential nefarious actions associated with such activity, giving special attention to areas surrounding critical infrastructure, and compiled information from various sources, and as needed, assisted in uploading the information into the FBI’s e-guardian Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) system. Throughout the period of increased UAS activity in Ohio, TAU analysts remained apprised of the developing situation, updated leadership, collaborated with local agencies, attended relevant cross-agency information-sharing sessions, and shared FBI informational products.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The Education and Outreach Unit plays a vital role in the successful production of OHS projects, trainings, seminars, conferences, tours, and other events or community outreach. In 2024, EOU staff successfully facilitated more than 30 events, from the Ohio State Fair and Department of Public Safety (DPS) Summer Safety Bash to drone threat trainings at state universities and Homeland Security Regional Town Hall meetings.

Intelligence Liaison Officer (ILO) Program Focused on Revitalization in 2024

This effort was organized and accomplished through two initiatives: 1) Implementing programmatic continuity; 2) Establishing partner engagement and sector outreach.

ILO program process, guidance, and databases were developed for continuity. The ILO application was automated to enhance organization and communication. The established ILO database was redesigned to provide formula automation that provided a dynamic analysis of regional and sector data. The data collected was used to develop the 2024 ILO Outreach Plan, and to produce quarterly outreach reports that depicted programmatic growth. Additionally, the ILO coordinator conducted a baseline stakeholder needs assessment, which determined information-sharing gaps and identified essential training needs. The final program continuity implementation involved the creation of exclusive ILO partner acceptance letters and individualized membership cards.

Contact ILO

Email: ILO@dps.ohio.gov

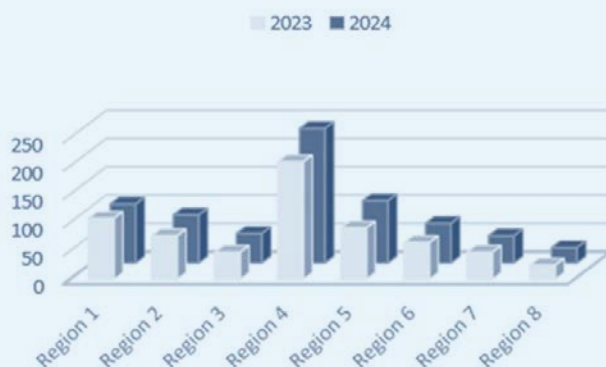
Web: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/ilo

Intelligence Liaison Officer(ILO)-Ohio Public Private Partnership(OP3) Conference



OHS held its first-ever combined OP3 and ILO conference at the Quest Conference Center in Westerville, Ohio, on October 11, 2024. Some 240 of our partners joined our event and heard presentations on: China threats; cyber and election security; Ohio critical infrastructure; power grid safety and security; human trafficking in Ohio; healthcare response to violence and crime; safety and security to the Ohio underground lines and public utilities; an outlaw motorcycle gang case study; current Ohio drug trends; and overviews of the three Ohio fusion centers.

Regional ILO Growth



The ILO newsletter reports on trends and promotes training and education opportunities.

The second initiative in ILO programmatic revitalization was to establish partner engagement through consistent product dissemination and the ILO quarterly newsletter. The quarterly program newsletter consolidated information sharing between sector partners, provided a snapshot of trends from the previous quarter, and announced future education opportunities. Additionally, the ILO coordinator collaborated with the Critical Infrastructure Unit on a combined product that was featured in a partner publication.

To establish sector outreach and regional engagement, the ILO Program, Ohio Homeland Security, and Department of Homeland Security, hosted regional town hall/threat briefings. The collaborative regional town hall/threat briefings educated partners on agency capabilities and resources as well as provided stakeholders the opportunity to hold open conversations, initiating cross-sector collaboration. In addition to facilitating regional meetings, the ILO coordinator participated in 25 various conferences, summits, and community events, to discuss ILO programmatic expansion and the collaborative mission with Ohio Fusion Center Network.

Ohio Public Private Partnership Enhances Disaster Resilience through Strategic Partnerships

Established in 2014, the Ohio Public Private Partnership has been pivotal in improving disaster recovery and resilience by fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors. Designed to facilitate information exchange and streamline disaster response, OP3 has grown into a vital component of Ohio's emergency management framework.

Contact OP3

Email: OP3@dps.ohio.gov

Web: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/op3

In 2024, OP3 expanded its national and state partnerships. On the national front, OP3 strengthened its relationship with the All-Hazards Consortium (AHC), attending the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) inaugural Private-Sector Liaison (PSL) Conference in Washington, D.C. Through AHC, OP3 participated in bi-monthly meetings focused on projects like creating a virtual operations support team and exploring a National Qualification System (NQS) certification for State PSLs to enhance their response capabilities through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact process. OP3 also deepened its ties with the Private-Sector Emergency Management Association, gaining valuable disaster response insights from national training and briefings on hurricanes and fires. Additionally, OP3 strengthened its connections with FEMA Region 5 Midwest Partners by collaborating during monthly networking calls and welcoming new regional partners.

On the state level, OP3 continued to cultivate relationships with Ohio agencies. The program worked closely with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services on mass care initiatives and built a stronger relationship with the Ohio EMA Disaster Recovery Branch in response to the 2024 tornadoes in Logan County. For the first time, OP3 assisted on the ground during the tornado response alongside Ohio EMA regional staff. In 2025, OP3 plans to strengthen its partnerships with field staff across Ohio's regions. OP3 also collaborated with the Ohio Cyber Collaboration Committee to enhance cyber resilience and supported Ohio Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters to improve the state's disaster volunteer response network.

Throughout 2024, OP3 performed an audit of its membership roster in order to re-engage with member

organizations and also expand its ambassador program, which brings together volunteers from various sectors to meet monthly and provide leadership and guidance for the growth of OP3 initiatives. These dedicated ambassadors played a key role in providing insight, planning conferences, and working on new initiatives to be rolled out in 2025. Looking ahead, OP3 aims to build on its successes by offering monthly lunch-and-learn sessions, building relationships within each region, speaking at partner events, participating in state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) exercises, and continuing to strengthen its private-sector partnerships. With a solid foundation of strategic collaborations, OP3 remains committed to enhancing Ohio’s public safety capabilities and disaster resilience.

As the two programmatic areas under Education & Outreach, the ILO and OP3 program coordinators represented OHS and conducted statewide partner education and outreach, further strengthening partnerships and fostering community engagement across Ohio. Collaboratively, ILO and OP3 presented programmatic capabilities and resources to partners during:

- 2024 OEMA Spring Conference
- 2024 OEMA OH230 Course – Introduction to Emergency Managers
- 2024 1st Annual Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security and OHS Counterterrorism Conference
- 2024 Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC) Summit
- 2024 ILO/OP3 Combined Conference
- 2024 Ohio Security Threat Group Conference
- 2024 Ohio State Fair
- Greater Cleveland Safety Council
- 2024 Annual Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center Conference
- Eight Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center (STACC) Tours

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR SECURITY GUARD SERVICES (PISGS)

Administrative Engagement

Category	2024 Total
Invoices Generated	68
Civil Penalty & Fine Revenue	\$607,954.59

Contact PISGS

Phone: (614) 466-4130

Email: PISGLR@dps.ohio.gov

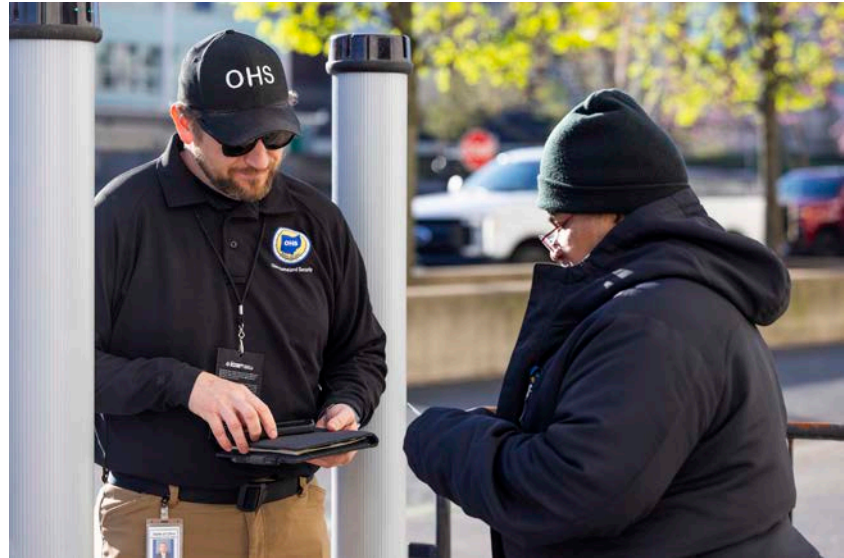
Web: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/pisgs

Accomplishments

In an effort to educate the industry, general public and law enforcement agencies about the importance of licensing and registration, PISGS Education & Outreach disseminated letters and informative brochures to critical infrastructure facilities. The following facilities were contacted as a part of this effort: 30 data centers, 53 large pharmaceutical companies, 20 refineries, 11 large New Albany plants, and 75 food manufacturing plants.

PISGS also coordinated with the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control to send

an email regarding contract security to subscribers of two of their listservs: retail on-premises consumption and attorneys/legal/compliance. This email was sent on June 5, 2024, and was successfully delivered to 12,144 emails with an open rate of 65.8% and a click rate of 2.5%. As a result, PISGS Education & Outreach received and responded to four inquiries.



Enforcement

Category	2024 Total
Administrative Cases	42
Criminal Cases	44
Locations Checked	1,674
Guards Checked	3,867

Accomplishments

Notable Criminal Cases

In Central Ohio, the Avalon Night Club had a been a frequent problem location with fights and shootings. An unlicensed security provider that PISGS investigators had caught previously was providing security for Avalon and PISGS was able to file criminal charges on the individual, leading to the eventual shut-down of the location.

Notable Administrative Cases

Brink's Cleveland (Case 2023-000045)

- Settlement: \$317,900
- Violations:
 - o 2,360 Late Registrations
 - o 4,015 Unregistered
 - o 128 No Waiver
 - o 3,747 No FAB

St. Moritz (Case 2023-000060)

- Settlement: \$92,000
- Violations:
 - o 3,902 Late Registrations
 - o 907 Unregistered
 - o 955 No FAB

Health and Safety Sciences (Case 2023-0000107)

- Settlement: \$94,178
- Violations:
 - o 2,390 Late Registrations
 - o 2,057 Unregistered
 - o 660 No FAB

Notable Compliance Checks

- Ohio State Football Games
- The Arnold Classic Fitness Expo
- The Memorial Golf Tournament
- Bash On the Bay
- Ohio Bike Week in Sandusky
- Fulton Country Fest at Clays Park Resort
- Buckeye Country Super Fest
- Country Concert in Shelby County
- Pan American Masters Games (Cycling, Golf and Curling) in Brecksville
- Pro Football Hall of Fame Game in Canton
- International Soccer Match at Ohio Stadium
- Voice of America Country Music Festival in Butler County and West Chester
- Western Southern Open Pro Tennis Event in Mason
- Cincinnati Tennis Open
- Kroger Queen City LPGA Tournament
- Cleveland Browns Stadium

Licensing & Registration

Category	2024 Total
Registrant New	26,331
Registrant Renewal	10,453
Firearm-bearer Endorsement	5,076
Transfers	327
Provider New	132
Qualifying Agent New	152
Branch New	13
Provider Renewal	565
Qualifying Agent Renewal	594
Branch Renewal	107
Total Applications Processed	45,345
Total Revenue	\$1,609,755

Accomplishments

PISGS Licensing & Registration worked closely with the PISGS Project Team to identify issues with the current database and determine whether a full rewrite was required. After consultation with the business analyst, the final recommendation was to pursue a database rewrite. PISGS Licensing & Registration and the PISGS Project Team began writing the business case for the database rewrite with the hope of submitting it to the Governance Board in early 2025.

CYBERSECURITY

As a component of the Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center and in partnership with the Adjutant General, the Ohio Cyber Integration Center (OCIC) mission is to build a collaborative, operational and interdisciplinary model for cybersecurity that transforms Ohio's ability to protect against cyber threats, promote information sharing, coordinate response efforts, and provide cybersecurity education and outreach.

Building upon a robust state and national fusion center network, the key components to the cyber center are a centralized location with trusted resources for reporting, threat analysis, secure information sharing, and outreach activities. Well-established relationships within the fusion center network with federal entities such as DHS Intelligence & Analysis, the FBI, and DHS Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency provide significant benefits for state and local cybersecurity partners. Services provided by the OCIC include intelligence and informational products, incident response support, and vulnerability notifications.

Notable events in 2024 include a large tabletop exercise of the Ohio Cyber Incident Response Plan, facilitated by CISA in April, with more than 100 participants from public and private sector, and the creation and distribution of a cyber incident response flow chart and reporting form. The purpose of the exercise was to examine the cybersecurity resilience of Ohio agencies responsible for state and local government incident response under the State of Ohio Cyber Incident Response Plan (CIRP) and the impacts to critical infrastructure. A senior OCIC analyst also serves as co-chair of the National Fusion Center Association (NFCA) Northeast Region Cyber Intelligence Network group, which was awarded Best of Homeland Security Information Network 2024, Gold Award Winner, Incident Support.

From July 19-23, an OHS cyber analyst participated in the 2024 Cyber Guardian exercise, hosted by The Ohio State University, an annual cybersecurity

Contact OCIC

Phone: (614) 387-1089

Email: OCIC@dps.ohio.gov

Web: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/cyber



Cyber Partners

OCIC's partner agencies include:

Ohio Department of Public Safety

Ohio Adjutant General/Ohio National Guard/Ohio Cyber Reserve

CyberOhio

Ohio Department of Administrative Services – Office of Information Security

Ohio Cyber Range Institute (OCRI)

Ohio Secretary of State

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

DHS Office of Intelligence & Analysis

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

training event organized by the Ohio Cyber Range Institute (OCRI) in collaboration with the Ohio Cyber Reserve to validate Ohio's Cyber Reserve response capabilities, foster collaboration among cyber professionals, and prepare Ohio's networks against potential cyber threats. Cyber Guardian represents the best of the Ohio volunteer spirit in which OCRI and volunteer expertise is assembled to create a rigorous and challenging training environment for our cyber volunteer force.

OHS cyber staff and leadership were able to visit cyber centers in Kansas and Illinois with Ohio Adjutant General staff to learn best practices and operational tempo.

TERRORISM ANALYSIS UNIT (TAU)

The TAU's primary role within the Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center is to collect and analyze terrorism-related information, in accordance with state, local and federal laws, while safeguarding citizens' right to privacy. TAU operates in a dynamic information-sharing environment that requires the ability to respond quickly to potential threats at the tactical, operational, and/or strategic levels. In 2024, the TAU fulfilled 2,183 requests for information, processed 108 suspicious activity reports, developed 82 intelligence reports, and released 542 products to our customers and partners.

Contact STACC

Phone: (877) 647-4683 or (844) 55-STACC

Email: STACC@dps.ohio.gov

Web: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/stacc

Foreign Malign Influence

In early 2024, the TAU implemented a new program designed to assist the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) in assessing the risk of foreign malign influence. Specifically, the TAU receives requests for information from ODOD regarding the intent and purpose of foreign diplomats' visits to Ohio, ensuring there are no counter-intelligence/information concerns. This may include requests for information pertaining to visits to Ohio's interested parties and/or information related to foreign business development or investments in the state.

Trainings and Education

In March, TAU staff attended the National Fusion Center Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C, and received training on various analytic topics including improving suspicious activity reporting and threat to life reporting and new resources such as style guides, info graphics, workflow guides, and structured analytical techniques for production. Broader topics included cryptocurrency, DarkWeb, transnational organized crime, analytic support for special events, Artificial Intelligence, potential indicators and mitigators of violence at first amendment protected events, and violent extremism.



In September, TAU staff attended training in Maryland on violent crimes and terrorism case studies and workshops, presented by subject matter experts from New Scotland Yard, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the FBI's Behavioral Analysis Unit, the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the New York City Fire Department. Topics that were highlighted included the Salisbury (UK) Attempted Nerve Agent Assassination, the Boston Marathon Bombing, the January 6 Response, and the Times Square Attack.

Partner Engagement/ New Partnerships

TAU analysts provided presentations at the Arnold Sports Festival Public Safety Consortium in February and in March, at the Ohio Law Enforcement Executive Summit, collaborating with the FBI on the Gaza Strip conflict and domestic impacts, as well as the impacts to Ohio, and recent trends with swatting nationwide and the impacts in Ohio.

The year 2024 also brought new partnerships with Meta and Google, with TAU hosting meetings in November and December. The law enforcement outreach manager for Meta presented on developing strategic relationships with key agencies and fusion centers and provided training on how to request user data through Meta's Law Enforcement Online Requests platform and generally serving as a resource for our law enforcement partners. The Global Threat Analysis Manager for Google and the Regional Intelligence Manager for Google Data Centers discussed resources provided through the STACC and how TAU can assist Google data centers in Ohio, as well as how Google can assist TAU with investigations.



Success Stories

January 2024 Ohio School Threat: In January the Ohio State Highway Patrol received a Threat to Life from the FBI National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) regarding a school threat made via SnapChat. Investigative work completed by a STACC TAU analyst indicated the person of interest was an eighth-grade student who attended middle school in Circleville, Ohio. The information was provided to the Ashville Police Department and the Pickaway County Sheriff's Office, specifically the school resource officers (SROs). Deputies made contact with the mother and juvenile, with the juvenile admitting to posting the threat and the mother affirming possession of the handgun, which was located unsecured and seized. Through the investigation, deputies learned a second student had posted a threat and they responded to the second residence, determining that weapon was an air gun. Both students were suspended from school and the case was referred to prosecutors.

July 2024 Skimmer Case: In July a TAU analyst assisted OSP Intel and the Ohio Investigative Unit with target packets for two Romanian nationals (one adult/one juvenile) involved in skimmer installations throughout Ohio and Kentucky. On December 2, 2024, the adult suspect pleaded guilty to six felony counts, including engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity. The suspect was sentenced to serve six to nine years in prison. The analyst that worked the case undoubtedly played a critical role in confirming the suspect's identity — a difficult feat with regard to Romanian Organized Crime actors.

September 2024 Tecumseh School: In September, the Ohio State Highway Patrol received a Threat to Life from the FBI National Threat Operations Center regarding a subject who posted a school shooting threat via Instagram regarding Tecumseh Local Schools. The NTOC identified the individual and confirmed the subject lived in Donnelsville, Ohio, and forwarded the information to the STACC TAU for review. The TAU analyst quickly located the threat on social media and confirmed the subject’s identity and address. All information was then passed to SROs and the Clark County Sheriff’s Office, leading to the timely arrest of a 14-year-old female on a third-degree felony charge of making terroristic threats.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION UNIT (CIU)

Ohio Homeland Security’s Critical Infrastructure Unit protects critical infrastructure, key resources



Contact CIU

Phone: (614) 387-3362

Email: SAICIP@dps.ohio.gov

Web: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/ciu

and assets by sharing information, conducting assessments, and identifying vulnerabilities and consequences. CIU provides intelligence products, threat and vulnerability assessments, and deploys SkyWatch towers at the request of local law enforcement. The unit also provides regulatory support and enforcement over Ohio’s scrap metal industry.

The Unit achieved significant advancements in securing the state’s critical infrastructure throughout 2024. Through strategic leadership, proactive risk mitigation, and strengthened partnerships, the CIU enhanced Ohio’s capacity to protect its vital assets and respond effectively to evolving threats.

Critical Infrastructure Intelligence Analysts

Critical Infrastructure intelligence analysts developed and disseminated 18 comprehensive intelligence products, including sector snapshots, threat assessments, and specialized reports (e.g., Ohio Department of Transportation Critical Bridge Threat Assessment, Natural Gas Threats) and completed 11 targeted-threat assessments in response to regional staff requests. CIU analysts also delivered 15 presentations including eight internal intelligence briefings and multiple presentations at ILO Townhalls, the ILO/OP3 Conference, and briefings to the Ohio Council of County Officials and Ohio Energy Cooperatives. Through targeted



outreach, analysts expanded partnerships with the Ohio Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network, Ohio811 (formerly known as the Ohio Utilities Protection Service), Ohio EPA, and the FBI, published multiple unclassified intelligence products in the Ohio811 magazine, and secured a comprehensive water facility contact list via collaboration with the Ohio EPA.

Regional Critical Infrastructure Specialists

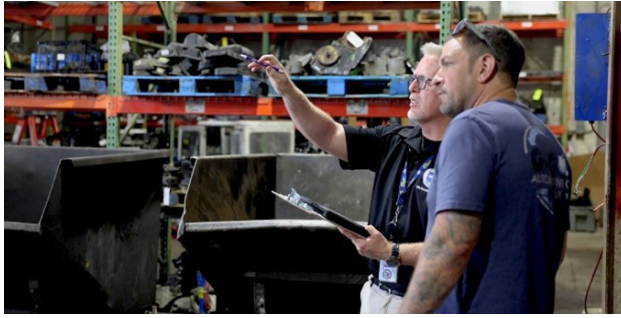
Regional critical infrastructure specialists conducted 89 security and vulnerability assessments by request within their geographic area of the state, including drone operation for aerial assessments, as well as deploying with SkyWatch towers to 130 local events. In 2024, specialists completed trainings at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center on Physical Security and the CARVER Security Assessment training. They earned drone operator licenses, as well as delivering statewide drone trainings and collaborating with CSX Transportation for Emergency Responder Training. Specialists assisted the National Weather Service with aerial assessments of tornado damage and Ohio River flooding, participated in table-top exercises for the Port of Cleveland Federal Supply Chain and the Cleveland Browns Stadium, and supported the Cuyahoga County EOC during Election Day.



OCIDS Project Development

In 2024 OHS officially launched the Ohio Critical Infrastructure Data System, a statewide platform for mapping and managing critical infrastructure. OCIDS improves situational awareness, planning, and emergency response coordination. A pilot meeting with Pickaway County was scheduled for January 16, 2025.

Scrap Metal Program



Contact Scrap Metal Program

Phone: (855) 377-0193

Email: ScrapMetal@dps.ohio.gov

Web: homelandsecurity.ohio.gov/scrap

Ohio's Scrap Metal Program provides scrap dealers with standardized rules that minimize competitive advantage, and help reduce the outlets for metal-theft transactions. In 2024 the Scrap Metal Program team conducted 500 audits, managed 136 law enforcement assistance contacts, completed 21 on-site inspections, initiated 324 business contacts outside of audits, assisted sellers 279 times with Do Not Buy List blocks, posted 10 scrap metal bulletins, processed and mailed 323 scrap metal registrations, and adjudicated 11 administrative actions, collecting \$52,000 in fines and enforcing 97 suspension days.

OHS SECURITY TEAM

On behalf of the Governor's Office via the Governor's Homeland Security Advisor (HSA), Ohio Homeland Security administers the U.S. Department of Homeland Security access to classified information program for Ohio. Guidelines for the program are provided in an implementation directive from DHS. The Governor's HSA serves as counsel to the Governor on homeland security issues and serves as a liaison between the Governor's office, the state homeland security structure, DHS and other organizations inside and outside the state. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's Senior Homeland Security Advisor Karen Huey currently serves in this role.

Each clearance recommendation is reviewed, and approved or denied on behalf of the HSA by the OHS Executive Director and Security Manager (who is a designated DHS Security Point of Contact) based on DHS State, Local, Tribal and Private-Sector Program criteria. All DHS clearances for Ohio are at the Secret level, with the exception of the Governor and HSA, which are at the Top-Secret level. As of January 2025, OHS manages security clearances for 210 clearance holders with a law enforcement and counter-terrorism nexus representing state, county, and local agencies. Additionally, 105 partners from other federal agencies have had their clearances passed to OHS in order to facilitate further collaboration and information sharing.

In partnership with DHS, OHS hosts a monthly classified briefing for federal, state, and local law enforcement and intelligence liaison officers. The briefing, attended by 50-70 people each month, includes information at the classified and unclassified levels on counterterrorism threats, watchlist updates, significant topics of interest, and cyber and suspicious activity reports. OHS' list of partners, both in the public and private sector, are comprised of individuals from 74 various agencies. In 2024 OHS hosted five briefings; those briefings reflected an average attendance of 61 partners representing 32 agencies.

A four-member OHS security team oversees the safeguarding of Classified National Security Information. These DHS-designated security liaisons manage a multi-disciplined security program

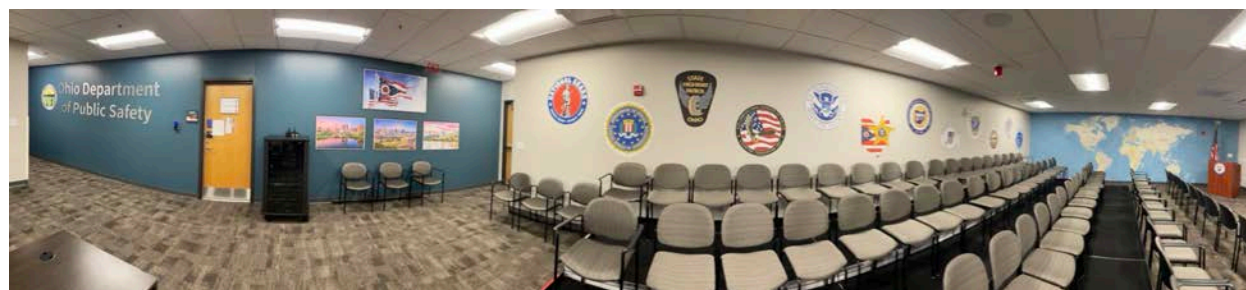
designed to ensure that Federal Classified National Security Information is held and processed within the Statewide Terrorism Analysis & Crime Center, which is Ohio’s primary fusion center and Strategic Analysis & Information Center (SAIC), is adequately safeguarded and protected. The STACC and SAIC have secure rooms where classified information up to the Secret level is handled, stored, and discussed. Security liaisons ensure these secure rooms and their operations meet required federal security standards and have been appropriately certified by DHS. Additionally, they ensure that federal, state, local, and private-sector persons with whom classified information will be discussed or disseminated have been granted the appropriate level of security clearance and require access to the information to perform their official duties.

Initial Clearance Holder Training

In 2024 the OHS Security Team launched a new web-based training platform called ‘Initial Clearance Holder Training’. This course covers the classifying, safeguarding, declassifying and destruction of classified national security information for state, local, tribal, and private-sector security clearance holders. Throughout this course clearance holders are provided a better understanding on the aforementioned objectives, what their clearance means as well as their individual responsibilities moving forward as DHS/OHS Security Clearance Holders. Previously this course was instructor-led; moving to a web-based, self-paced platform has afforded us the opportunity to reduce wait times for briefing attendance and information sharing. Ohio is one of the only states that frontloads this training to those individuals granted a clearance; this is one of the few reasons that DHS refers to Ohio as the “gold standard” when it comes to our security program.



Briefing Room Updates



The OHS briefing room underwent significant equipment upgrades in the summer of 2024, with renovations concluded in October. Prior to 2024 the equipment utilized for briefings was heavily outdated, and some components limited the ability to share information with interested parties outside of the immediate area. With these newly updated features, OHS now has the opportunity to expand its reach with external partners. These state-of-the-art enhancements have afforded OHS the opportunity to help strengthen its mission of analyzing and sharing information, providing awareness and assessing vulnerabilities. Equipment upgrades include high-tech cameras and web-based sharing technology, TV monitors, computers, audio enhancement and recording capabilities for those briefings taking place in the unclassified realm. In addition to technology updates, OHS has also enhanced its briefing room’s

overall aesthetic appeal, which plays a pivotal role in defining workspace dynamics. This includes a focal-point wall proudly displaying agency logos of all OHS partners as well as a detailed full-scale world map. These upgrades have created a positive and functional environment with no technical limitations, ultimately allowing participants to work together more efficiently and improving the collaborative work environment.

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS

Ohio Homeland Security is currently a sub-recipient of two major federal grants, the State Homeland Security Grant Program and the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). Both grants primarily fund state fusion center operations, which now includes the Ohio Cyber Integration Center, through the purchase of data management and intelligence and information sharing systems; personnel to conduct outreach to promote suspicious activity reporting; software and services to assist with the identification, collection, analysis, and sharing of information; and training for analysts and fusion center support staff. SLCGP funding aids OHS in addressing cybersecurity risks and threats to critical infrastructure. This funding supports staff for the Governor’s cybersecurity advisor to help in cyber initiatives and outreach in the state, as well as staffing and technology for the newly formed Ohio Cyber Integration Center’s built-in partnership with the adjutant general’s office.

The grants branch continues to look for funding opportunities that will help support OHS initiatives and efforts to improve public safety throughout Ohio.

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (HSAC)

The Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) was created in April 2006, per Senate Bill 9, Ohio Revised Code §5502.011(E), directing the Ohio Department of Public Safety director to establish a Homeland Security Advisory Council to comprehensively advise on homeland security issues, including relevant funding. The Council replaced the State of Ohio Security Task Force, which was formed as an ad-hoc advisory group to former Governor Bob Taft directly following the events of 9/11. The Council is comprised of executive leadership from local and state agencies, as well as non-profit associations, and leverages its members’ experience, expertise, and statewide connections to provide the director of public safety with independent, real-time advice to support decision-making across the spectrum of homeland security operations.

The HSAC holds meetings quarterly. In addition to standing updates from OHS, the STACC, our regional fusion center partners The Northeast Ohio Regional Fusion Center and the Greater Cincinnati Fusion Center, and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency, the HSAC hosts guest presenters on current events and topics. In 2024, OHS invited representatives from CISA to discuss election security, as well as representatives from the Ohio Secretary of State’s Office to discuss security and communication at statewide boards of elections and polling locations; an OHS cyber analyst presented on how to properly report a cyber incident to the OCIC; a TAU analyst discussed the terrorism trend analysis; the State of Ohio CISO discussed the progress of cybersecurity initiatives in Ohio; and a joint presentation between the Ohio State Highway Patrol (OSHP) Intel unit and OHS TAU provided a threat analysis of the post-election to January 2025 inauguration time frame.