NASCIO 2011 NOMINATION

Suspicious Activity Reporting System (SARS)
Date Launched – 11/8/2010

https://secure.kentucky.gov/homelandsecurity/sar/

Categories:
- Digital Government: Government to Citizen

State:
Kentucky

Executive Summary:

The Suspicious Activity Reporting System (SARS) is a web-enabled system that is used to submit and analyze suspicious activity reports submitted by the general public, private sector and non-law enforcement first responders. SARS allows people familiar with an area to report on suspicious activities such as people asking unusual questions about building security, asking detailed questions about the schedules of public transportation, timing the arrival and departure of public transportation, loitering around reservoirs, water-treatment plants, dams or power plants, and watching a building for extended periods of time. This valuable information is submitted directly to analysts who are trained to take action, as appropriate, on valid threats.

Users of the application have the ability to input their contact information or remain anonymous. To complete a Suspicious Activity Report, users enter incident details such as the date, time, recurrence, and whether or not any law enforcement agencies have been contacted. Users can manually key in the address of the incident or take advantage of the application's G.I.S. capabilities to pinpoint the incident on a map. By using several dropdowns, detailed information can be captured about the subjects' physical characteristics.

The Suspicious Activity Reporting System provides the ability to input data for multiple types of vehicles, including: Aircrafts, Boats, Roadway Vehicles (Car, Truck, Bus, and Bike) and Trains. Based on the vehicle type selected, a series of more in depth questions are dynamically generated. For example, if "Roadway Vehicle" is selected, the application prompts the user for details such as the Vehicle Type, Year, Make, Model, Color, License Number, and any other distinguishable features/characteristics. The application also dynamically filters vehicle Models by the Make the user selects. For example, when the user chooses Toyota as the Make of the suspicious vehicle in question, the dropdown for Model will show only Toyota Models. Additional helpful information about the incident can be uploaded in the form of images and documents. SARS allows a variety of file types as attachments, including: PNG, JPEG, GIF, BMP, PDF, and Microsoft Word Documents.

Public Value of the Project

As we approach the 10-year anniversary of the terrorist attacks on 9/11/2001, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and the Office of Homeland Security, remains vigilant about protecting the state's citizens and resources from acts of terrorism. Developed under the Eyes and Ears on Kentucky initiative, the Suspicious Activity Reporting System provides an extremely valuable channel for citizens to communicate threats quickly, and with great detail, to the Office of Homeland Security. The public is often the first line of defense against potential threats and the SARS web application puts hundreds of thousands more technology-savvy eyes and ears on the ground to help protect Kentucky.

Significance to the Improvement of the Operation of Government

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security is striving to ensure our Commonwealth's communities, first responders, and families have the resources they need to be ready and prepared. With every state agency facing budget concerns and cutbacks it is more important now that ever to look for as much help from the public as possible. By allowing citizens to complete Suspicious Activity Reports over the Internet using SARS, we are able to expand our information base, analyze information more effectively, and focus agency and law-enforcement personnel on credible and immediate threats. One of the biggest benefits KOHS has seen from the SARS application is the ability to identify patterns of suspicious activity. By pinpointing areas that are at greater risk, we can keep law enforcement, first responders, and Intelligence Liaison Officers aware of potential threats, as well as provide details regarding the nature of the suspicious activity.