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NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER

MENU | GLOSSARY | RESOURCES

Pursuit Group

A "reasonable and articulable suspicion" is the legal standard by which the NCTC analyst can determine whether data constitutes terrorism information, which means NCTC may retain that USP data.

Only a CT analyst can determine whether data constitutes terrorism information.

The "reasonable and articulable suspicion" requires essentially two elements:

- The analyst must be able to explain the "math" (logic) on their analysis and how they arrived at their conclusion. This is the articulable portion of the standard.
- The "math" or analysis must be prudent to the average counterterrorism analyst. This is the reasonable portion of the standard.

The totality of the facts - even if the facts individually appear innocent in nature - is considered collectively and should lead a sensible person to follow the analyst's logic and reasoning.

There is no requirement that the analyst's wisdom be rock solid or infallible. In fact, it is expected to change as new information comes to light.



LESSON TITLE: Rules of the Road/Pursuit Group



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