**Diversity in Thought, Unity of Action**

“Diversity: the art of thinking independently together” –Malcolm Forbes, American entrepreneur

Each agent of Homeland Security brings forth a different set of qualifications. Therefore, the investigation of each agent’s life experience is warranted by the premeditation that it distinguishes them, but ultimately, their collective knowledge resulting from their diversity as a group is what establishes this team as exceptional. Hence we were led to evaluate the education, cultural background, and personal life of each agent to enhance our understanding of the group as a whole. According to an article by the Scientific American, an acclaimed scientific magazine, years of examination of a group’s dynamic and their productivity level as a whole have led demographers, sociologists, and psychologists to come to the conclusion that people with different backgrounds are prone to inventive and groundbreaking ideas as well as a higher level of efficiency regarding solving anomalous problems.

Each agent has gone through at least eight years post-high school graduation of further education to attain a doctorate degree; this higher level of education implies that each agent is not only proficient in their respective fields, but they are also goal-oriented, both of which are ideal attributes of an effectual and well-organized team. For example, Agent Michael Swanbom has a D.B.A., and Agent Amanda Sanford has a Ph.D. in International Security. Their prowess in different topics combined proves to be more useful in comparison to their sole knowledge.

Furthermore, most agents have a permanent address in different states, and different regions in the United States, such as the South or the New England area, have distinctive cultures. Additionally, each agent was born in a different state. While Agent Nicole de Fee was born in Tennessee, Agent Drew McKevitt was born in New Jersey. Most agents having a permanent address in different states along with the fact that each agent was born in a different state leads us to determine the variety of upbringing and cultural influences among the group; this denotes the difference in opinions amid the agents and the balancing out of prejudice or convictions due to exposure to other perspectives. Hearing opposition provokes thought, which makes a decision-making process much more thorough.

Lastly, the agents have a spectrum of personas; some agents are happily married with children, and others have pets. Take Agent Scott Levin; his profile does not disclose his location from the years 2006-2010, and his personal life is ambiguous, which gives the impression of his reservation and potential involvement in covert affairs. In comparison, Ernest Rufleth is married with two children and seemingly lighthearted and cordial. An assortment of perceived demeanors and lifestyles demonstrates that each person has their own strength, whether it is diplomacy or independence.

The agents of the Department of Homeland Security each have different areas of expertise, all contributing to completing a common objective, which is to preserve the safety of American citizens. The profiles of the DHS agents makes the gravity of their situations as well as their inherent ability to work in tandem evident; the heterogeneity of their areas of expertise, personal lives, and general cultural experiences, furthers their attempt on keeping the American public safe through improving factual processing by decreasing partiality and strengthening innovation.