

The hub of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, NLECTC-National provides law enforcement and corrections professionals with an entry portal into the system and its component centers. The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has charged the National Center with two principal missions: offering the criminal justice community a variety of easy-to-use access routes to information about relevant technology and related matters of interest, and supporting NIJ's standards and compliance testing program (which ensures the safety and effectiveness of equipment used by the law enforcement and corrections communities). As the focal point for information dissemination, NLECTC-National ensures that requests for information and assistance are channeled to the other NLECTC System components, if and as appropriate.

Information and Referral Services

The National Center provides information and referral services to anyone with questions about law enforcement and corrections equipment or technology through a toll-free hotline (800-248-2742), email (asknlectc@justnet.org) and online content on JUSTNET (<http://www.justnet.org>). Channeling inquiries through this central portal ensures that requests quickly and easily make their way to the resource that best meets an individual user's needs.

Equipment Standards and Testing Program

The National Center serves as the public interface for information on products evaluated through NIJ's voluntary Compliance Testing Program (CTP). Although the CTP is best known in the criminal justice community for its ballistic-resistant body armor component, NLECTC-National also coordinates and facilitates programs related to stab-resistant armor, restraints and autoloading pistols. Other CTP components in areas such as duty holsters and chemical/ biological/ radiological/nuclear protective ensembles are in development. As NIJ continues to develop new standards through its practitioner-led Special Technical Committee process, NLECTC-National will manage public review and comment on draft standards.

The National Center works with equipment manufacturers, test laboratories and NIJ to ensure that the compliance testing process conforms to established procedures.

NLECTC-National also has longstanding relationships with entities such as the Michigan State Police (MSP)—which conducts and reports on comparative evaluations of patrol vehicles, motorcycles and brake pads—to release and distribute the results of these evaluations to the criminal justice community.

eTechBeat and Other Publications

eTechBeat, an award-winning bi-monthly newsletter, highlights relevant technology breakthroughs and applications, and is available in a new dynamic, user-friendly online format. Subscribe by visiting <http://www.justnet.org/Pages/Subscribe.aspx> or calling (800) 248-2742. The NLECTC-National communications staff also reviews and synthesizes highly technical data and information and produces usable, easy-to-read and understandable publications for use by non-technical audiences. More information about publications available from the NLECTC System can be found on JUSTNET (<https://www.justnet.org/app/puborder/login.aspx>).

NLECTC-National also produces and disseminates weekly news summaries on the latest technology developments in the field and sends JUSTNET news alerts that provide time-sensitive news and announcements. To subscribe to this service, visit <https://www.justnet.org/app/puborder/login.aspx>.

JUSTNET

The website for the entire NLECTC System, JUSTNET provides information on the NLECTC System components and offers links to other technology sites. JUSTNET currently provides a myriad of online collaboration tools and forums for information sharing among NIJ, NLECTC System staff and practitioner-based groups. JUSTNET also offers a form for individual practitioners to submit their technology needs and requests (https://www.justnet.org/tech_need_form.html).

A new feature, JUST-LINK, is a secure invitation-only forum moderated by NLECTC and designed to share ideas, technologies and solutions. Any federal, state or local unit of government, or an Indian tribe or special district (e.g. airports, schools) authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in, or supervise, the prevention, detection, investigation or adjudication of any violation of criminal law, or authorized by law to supervise criminal offenders, is eligible to apply for membership. Apply by submitting a request on agency letterhead to justlink@justnet.org. Include a designated point of contact (name, rank/title, mailing address and phone/fax/email) who is eligible to post information on JUST-LINK on the agency's behalf. Once the information is verified, the applicant will receive a password to participate in the forum.