

# TECHBeat

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**NLECTC**

National Law Enforcement and  
Corrections Technology Center

A Program of the  
National Institute of Justice **NIJ**

## ABOUT TECHBEAT

*TechBeat* is the quarterly news magazine of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System. Our goal is to keep you up to date on technologies for the public safety community and research efforts in government and private industry.

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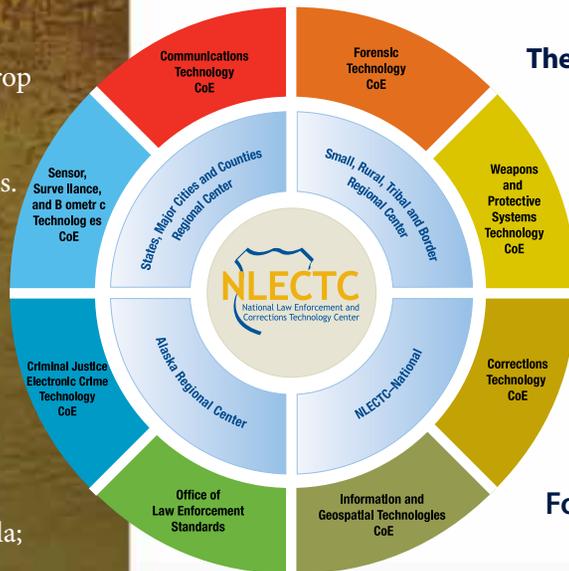


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# CSI CLASSROOM

## Prepares Students for Real-World Investigations

Es•sen•tial: of the utmost importance; basic, indispensable, necessary; includes photography, fingerprint collection, toolmark identification. *That's how a student attending the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC) class, Essentials of CSI Training, might define the term.*

From January to August 2010, NFSTC used funding from the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ) (Grant No. 2008-DN-BX-K201) to hold 16 sessions of "Essentials," a no-cost blended-learning course that pairs 16 hours of online course work with 24 hours of hands-on, instructor-led practical activities. In all, 232 individuals from 40 states received training. (For more information on blended learning, see "Blended Learning Mixes Methods," *TechBeat* Summer 2010.)

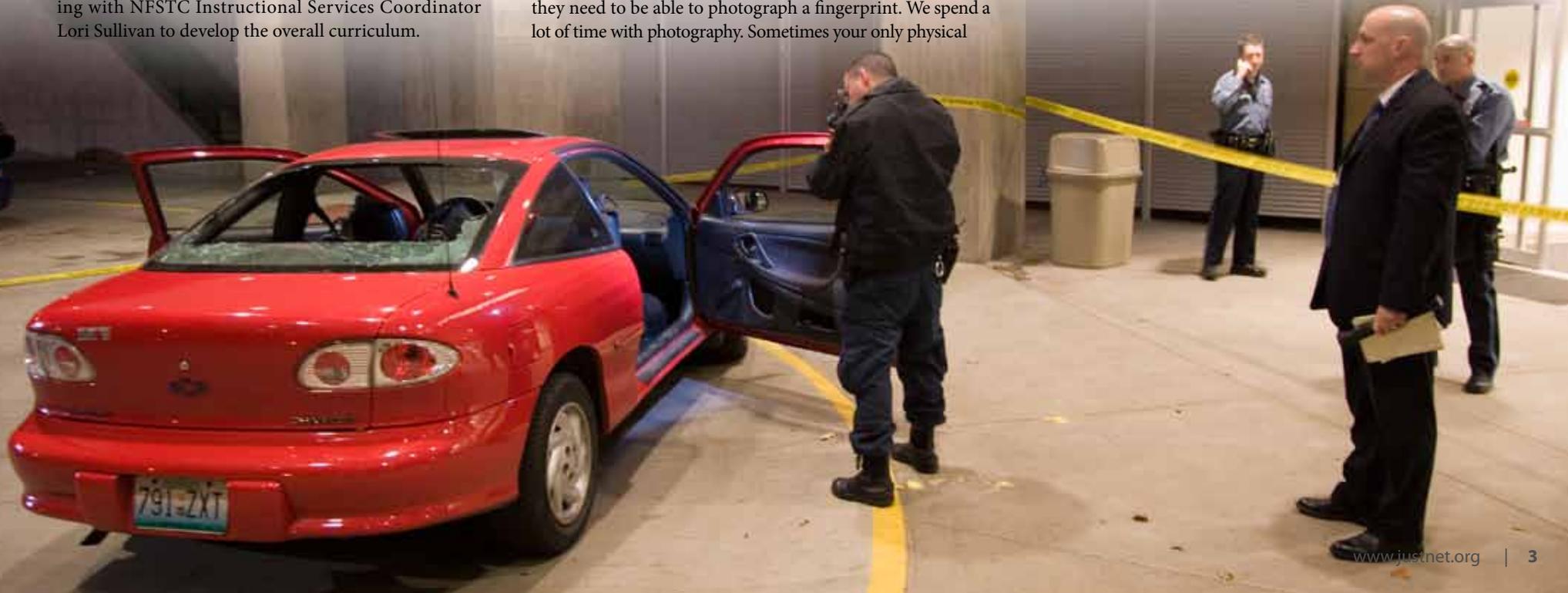
Retired Milwaukee police officer and present-day Ron Smith & Associates consultant Scott Campbell served as instructor for the hands-on portion of the course, working with NFSTC Instructional Services Coordinator Lori Sullivan to develop the overall curriculum.

Campbell's instruction provided most of his students with their first hands-on training in techniques related to collecting physical evidence; most students work at very small law enforcement agencies and would never have the opportunity to participate in this type of training without the NIJ-funded project.

"The main goals are to introduce the students to how to process crime scene evidence, how to handle and recover different kinds of physical evidence," Campbell says. "We start off with what is physical evidence and how it can help solve a crime. We begin by measuring and sketching the evidence, then we can recreate the scene. Before they lift a fingerprint, they need to be able to photograph a fingerprint. We spend a lot of time with photography. Sometimes your only physical

evidence will be a photograph, such as in a domestic violence case where a victim says 'my boyfriend grabbed me around the neck,' and she has bruises. The officer needs to be able to photograph that to verify her story."

After completing the prerequisite online coursework, students walk in with a core foundation of theoretical knowledge, which allows the onsite training to focus on practical-based activities. After two days of hands-on learning about trace evidence such as hair and fibers, learning different methods of lifting latent fingerprints, and taking impressions of their own shoes, students are put to the test on the final day when they process evidence from a "burglary" that occurred



in the NFSTC mock crime scene house. Upon completion of the course, participants can return to their agencies and often immediately apply the skills they've learned when processing crime scenes, in addition to sharing these skills with their colleagues.

"The skills we send them back with are the skills that they would need to do basic auto thefts, burglaries and assaults, although they could do a homicide as well," Campbell says. "We do a survey on the first day and some of the students' agencies don't have one homicide a year. They may not have one in five years. They're going to get 50 stolen autos, 100 burglaries, a lot of property crimes, and those crimes are where we get the physical evidence."

"We have found that the most needed skill [used in processing those property crimes] is photography," Campbell explains. "Cameras are hard to learn because everybody has a different camera and it takes a lot longer to learn. They come in with a camera and say 'here's what my department gave me, how do I work it?' And the department figures, 'well, it's a point and shoot camera, it's easy, just go ahead and turn it on and point and shoot.' That can work, but I call them point and hope cameras because it doesn't always get what you want. I would say that almost every post-class survey says that the first skill they can apply when they get back to work is photography."

Officer Gary Helton of the Kenton County Sheriff's Office in northern Kentucky says the photography portion of the class was a tremendous help.

"Photography was my weakness, and being able to take good photos, with very little light, or no light, and to get my camera to do what I want it to do instead of what it wants to do is the most important thing I think anybody could take away from here," Helton says. "I didn't know anything about cameras and after these last two days, I'm very comfortable with them."

Helton, who serves as a member of the evidence-collection team for his 40-man department, says he had no previous opportunities to participate in this type of training. Fellow student Phoenix Perez, a forensic scientist with the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences, had previously taken scientific training classes, but no classes on evidence collection.

"Everything I've learned is pretty much new but photography is a big thing. We spent a lot of time on photography and I did not know anything about it," Perez says.

She adds, "For me, crime scene visits are few and far between, but it's beneficial for someone on my team to have this type of knowledge."

***Providing forensic science training to criminal justice practitioners like Helton and Perez is a core mission for NFSTC, which also leads the combined efforts that make up the NIJ Forensic Technology Center of Excellence. For more information on NFSTC and its other training programs, visit <http://www.nfstc.org/>.***



video

Transcript



### Additional Photos from the *Essentials of CSI Training* Course

slide show



video

Transcript

Photographs by Brian Lewis

# CSI

## INTERMEDIATE

NIJ has funded development of a follow-up training program that continues where the Essentials of Crime Scene Investigation program concluded. Current plans for the intermediate-level program will expand investigators' skills in areas such as:

- Sequential processing.
- Light sources and theory.
- Techniques for advanced fingerprint processing.
- Advanced footwear collection and documentation.
- Forensic field testing.
- Specialized photography.
- Detection techniques for trace evidence.

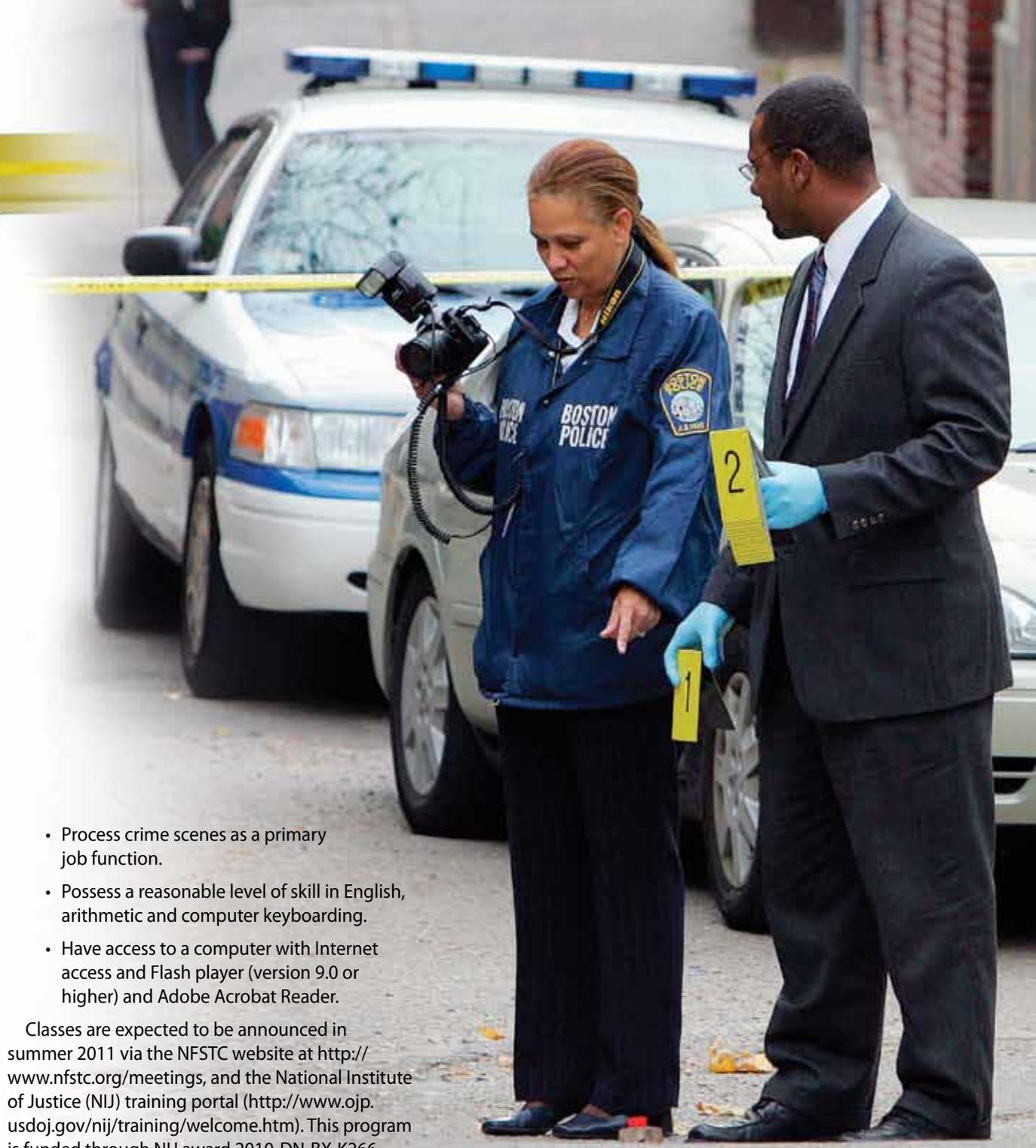
The program will be delivered in a similar format as the Essentials course, using a blended approach that provides online theory to prepare trainees for an intensive, multi-day, hands-on training experience at the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC).

Target audience: Crime scene investigators who meet the following criteria:

- Successful completion of a basic or introductory crime scene investigation training program.
- Three-plus years of crime scene experience.
- Sound working knowledge of camera equipment and thorough understanding of the basic principles of crime scene photography.

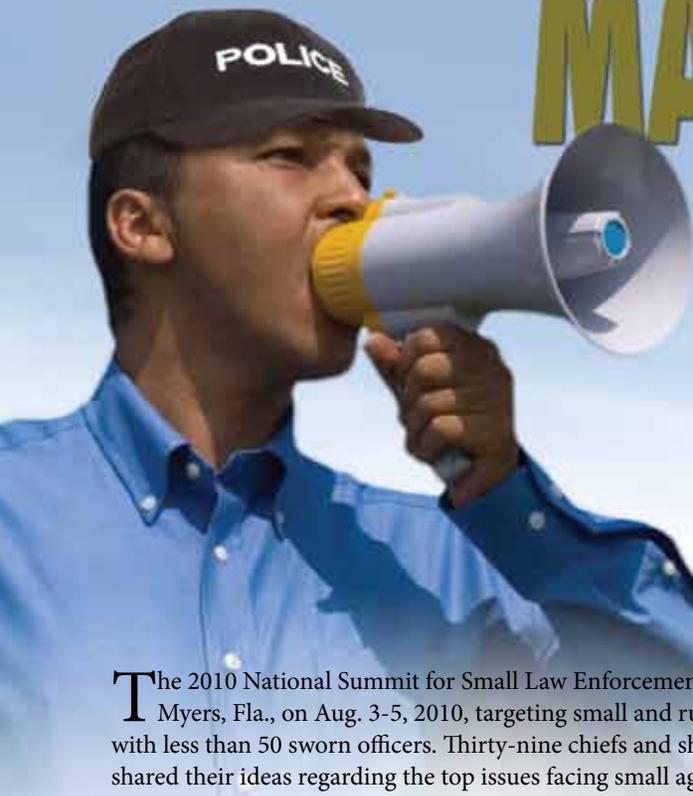
In addition, potential students must:

- Work for a publicly funded state, local or tribal agency as a professional law enforcement practitioner. (Note: Federal employees and contractors are not eligible.)



- Process crime scenes as a primary job function.
- Possess a reasonable level of skill in English, arithmetic and computer keyboarding.
- Have access to a computer with Internet access and Flash player (version 9.0 or higher) and Adobe Acrobat Reader.

Classes are expected to be announced in summer 2011 via the NFSTC website at <http://www.nfstc.org/meetings>, and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) training portal (<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/training/welcome.htm>). This program is funded through NIJ award 2010-DN-BX-K266.



# MANY AGENCIES ONE VOICE

*If a speaker stands in front of a crowd, and many people shout their individual questions, no individual concern stands out. If, however, the audience members confer and realize that many of them want to ask the same question and appoint one person to ask it, the chances of the speaker hearing and answering it increase astronomically.*

The 2010 National Summit for Small Law Enforcement Agencies took place in Ft. Myers, Fla., on Aug. 3-5, 2010, targeting small and rural law enforcement agencies with less than 50 sworn officers. Thirty-nine chiefs and sheriffs representing 27 states shared their ideas regarding the top issues facing small agencies.

The event was hosted by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System's Small, Rural, Tribal and Border (SRTB) Regional Center. NLECTC is a program of the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ). NIJ and SRTB selected the participants, who attended at no cost, based primarily on their recognized roles as leaders in the small and rural law enforcement community.

Participants identified their primary concern as the lack of a unified voice at the national level to present the concerns of small and rural agencies. Attendees agreed that this concern needed to be addressed in order to attain their other top goals (see sidebar, "Top Concerns From the 2010 National Summit for Small Law Enforcement Agencies") and developed a working plan to meet this goal.

"What we consistently heard is, 'we just want one voice,'" says Scott Barker, director of the SRTB Regional Center. "Quite often, when the national organizations form committees and working groups, they typically select representatives from major cities. It isn't that they have a hidden agenda, they just don't realize that policing is different in rural areas. They've been asked in the past to have small agency tracks at conferences, and they're willing, but they don't know what to include. We've prepared a list of suggested topics that will help them with that."

Barker says it is hard for any one small agency to have much of an impact on policy, but because there are so many of them (the majority of the nation's law enforcement agencies have less than 50 sworn officers) they can make a big impact by speaking together. "They just want their unique concerns to be heard."

To be sure those concerns reach the right ears, NIJ and SRTB invited representatives from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's rural training institute and other major players to attend the event. This allowed all the stakeholders to come together to learn about each others' wants and needs.

Barker says the summit started out with a purpose of examining the specific needs of law enforcement, but as the group met to discuss needs, the participants realized that input into the big picture from small and rural agencies outweighed all other goals. Participants agreed to start out by trying to work within the existing national organization framework, with a backup plan of starting their own association specific to small and rural agencies. As part of the main plan, participants agreed to work through their state agencies to promote the "one voice" goal for small, rural, tribal and border agencies.

Kim Wallace, chief of a six-officer force in Dover, Tenn., says her state association has made plans to start a Rural Law Enforcement Committee, on which she will serve.

"I was very pleased with the way the summit progressed," Wallace says. "It seemed like we were all on the same page in feeling that small law enforcement agencies are underrepresented."

**“Ninety percent of law enforcement is rural, yet in front of Congress, a rural sheriff would not pull the same weight as a chief from a major city like Los Angeles or New York, or even a smaller one like Columbia (S.C.). We just don’t have the pull that the larger agencies have.”**

*—Lee Foster, Sheriff, Newberry County, S.C.*

She adds, “I think that training is definitely an issue and it should be a priority for all agencies. A lot of smaller departments focus on in-house training due to budget restraints and it’s just not the same quality of training. I believe there is a need for more funding in training specifically for smaller agencies, and this will allow smaller departments to seek out affordable opportunities for training that will benefit them.”

Chief Jeff Sale of the 14-officer Cheney (Wash.) Police Department, who played a key role in organizing the summit from the participant perspective, agrees that the event went well and feels that compared to the first summit held in 2009, participants came away with a better action plan.

“Obviously, the number one issue is the sense that we, as small and rural agencies, don’t play a part in national policy issues,” Sale says. “Our needs differ from those of major metropolitan areas and we want a say in how law enforcement works in this country. The kind of feedback that I’m getting from around the country is this has been a long time coming. The perception has always been there, but the need to be heard has never been brought to the forefront and no one has said ‘Let’s do something about it.’ Now, we’re going to do something.”

From Newberry County, S.C., Sheriff Lee Foster also notes that many participants immediately returned to their respective local organizations to promote summit goals, a much-needed step.

“The number one item that came out of the meeting was the lack of representation,” says Foster, who leads a department of 47 sworn officers. “Ninety percent of law enforcement is rural, yet in front of Congress, a rural sheriff would not pull the same weight as a chief from a major city like Los Angeles or New York, or even a smaller one like Columbia (S.C.). We just don’t have the pull that the larger agencies have.”

“The national organizations don’t have any special programs for small agencies, but they do for larger ones,” he adds. “Rural areas are sparsely populated and spread out. In somewhere like Alaska, Montana or the Dakotas, a sheriff may have to cover thousands of square miles with just a few deputies. That’s a completely different picture and different needs than those of larger agencies. We need to make that known at the national level.”

*For the latest information on progress made toward realizing the summit’s action plan, visit <http://srtbrc.org/summit-2> or contact Scott Barker at [sbarker@srtbrc.org](mailto:sbarker@srtbrc.org).*

# TOP CONCERNS

From 2010 National Summit for  
Small Law Enforcement Agencies

At the three day summit, participants formed working groups that identified the top five issues facing small and rural agencies, as follows:

- **Representation.** Small agencies need representation in larger national organizations like the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Sheriffs’ Association. Although the majority of agencies are considered small (50 or less sworn officers), neither organization recognizes them with a formal branch.
- **Funding.** Our perception is that the vast majority of funding goes to agencies with more than 50 officers.
- **Training.** Ancillary costs associated with sending officers to training causes problems. Departments often cannot afford overtime to backfill staff positions while other officers train. Also, nontraditional, computer based, online training needs to be explored. Lastly, a standardization of basic training needs to be adopted and accepted by all states.
- **Communications.** Federal “unfunded” mandates place undue hardships on small agencies. Also, a need exists to take control of standards for communications and not to allow product manufacturers to dictate what public safety needs.
- **Technology.** Law enforcement needs user driven technology standards. Also, life cycle management is a must to prevent vendors from obsolescing technology to force new equipment purchases.

All participants agreed to work within their respective state associations to make these issues known.



# Many Locks + One Key = **IMPROVED SECURITY**

*In 2009, Sgt. Tom Graham of the Lincoln County, Ore., Jail Division made a presentation at the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Technology Institute for Corrections about how his county took a long, convoluted path and learned many lessons before finally reaching a solution to door control and video integration issues. The annual technology institute provides participants with the opportunity to share their technology challenges and relate success stories, such as Graham's, and some of his fellow participants likely benefitted from the lessons learned in Lincoln County. A successful 2010 pilot electronic key project proved that Graham also learned how to apply them to other Lincoln County technology needs.*



Graham says he was searching for an alternative to recording hourly cell checks in a manual logbook, because the human memory can prove fallible when it comes to doing the check or remembering to write it in the log book later. In a separate issue, staff members had grown increasingly frustrated with managing the huge number of physical keys required to maintain security in the jail system.

“I started looking around for solutions and I ran across a technology that addressed both issues,” Graham says. “It easily converts an existing locking system into a wireless access control product. Best of all, it was made by a local vendor that came right out and wanted to work with us.”

The Jail Division had struggled with several vendors before finding the right one during a previous door control/video integration project. Graham said during the presentation that the division went through years of upgrades, and he didn’t want to ever repeat it on another project.

Lincoln County implemented a successful 30-day test of the electronic key system in July in one 34-bed minimum security housing unit and plans to eventually expand its use throughout the division.

“The way the system works, all of our traditional keys have been replaced by electronic keys that are reprogrammed daily,” Graham explains. “An officer comes on duty, goes to the key vault and checks out the key, then goes to a synchronization station and enters a code representing the day’s tour of duty. The system then downloads appropriate lock access.”

Thus, the many large and heavy keys once carried by an officer have been replaced by one electronic key that opens only authorized locks. Officers use the same key to do their hourly “inmate welfare checks.” When the key touches an appropriate lock, it automatically records data related to that check. When officers turn in their keys at the end of the shift, staff download the data into a computer database that electronically replaces that old manual logbook. The key’s memory is then wiped clean. A planned upgrade will send an alert to an officer’s supervisor if an officer misses an hourly lock check.

“We’re cautious people [a lesson learned during the previous project]. We didn’t find any information on similar systems deployed in our area, so we decided to do a test phase,” Graham says. “We did one unit to make sure it did what we expected it to do, and we were very happy with the results.”

Several reasons drove the project’s inception, starting with the expense involved in changing locks if an officer loses a key.

“A lost key might be the most expensive object on the planet,” Graham says. “With this system, if an employee loses a key, we take our master key and go to the perimeter locations and download the information on the lost key. If someone tries to use it, it is disabled. It takes only a five-minute walk around the exterior doors to kill the key. Before, we had to rekey all of the locks. The savings are astronomical.”

He adds that keys can also be set with an expiration date. “For example, my key



for my personal office expires every 10 days. If I don’t get it reauthorized, it just expires.”

With the pilot project successfully completed, Graham says Lincoln County is now planning phased implementation in the rest of the Jail Division. He considered numerous other technology solutions before finding this one during an Internet search. He remembered having seen the technology at a conference and contacted the company about starting a pilot project.

“I think that it’s a going to be a very cost-effective solution in the long run,” he says. “We won’t be replacing tumblers anymore, we will simply be reprogramming, and the ability to collect data is a huge asset.”

*For more information on Lincoln County’s use of the Cyberlock system, contact Sgt. Tom Graham at (541) 265-0702 or [tgraham@co.lincoln.or.us](mailto:tgraham@co.lincoln.or.us). For more information on NIJ’s Corrections Portfolio, contact Program Manager Jack Harne at [jack.harne@usdoj.gov/](mailto:jack.harne@usdoj.gov/).*



# Tool Provides Information Access for **EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

*Beep beep beep. The signal does not mark the arrival of an everyday type of text message, but rather an alert that a suspected shooter has been reported in a downtown high school. The shift commander quickly accesses the Kansas City Regional Asset Protection and Response System on his PDA and instantly begins to review critical infrastructure information that will help lead to a quick and successful resolution of the situation.*





Originally developed as a Microsoft® Excel spreadsheet in the wake of the 1999 Columbine High School shootings, the Asset Protection and Response System has evolved into a sophisticated Internet-based program that can be accessed from desktops, police cruisers and PDAs/smartphones. Although the Kansas City Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) Region, with the Kansas City (Mo.) Police Department serving as the lead agency, produced the package as a solo effort, the agency plans to willingly share the tool with other departments at no charge.

Kansas City police Capt. Michael Corwin, a member of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) States, Major Cities and Counties Regional Center Constituent Advisory Group, says the region will only ask that other agencies sign an agreement to not make any changes to the system, because Kansas City wants to maintain version control. NLECTC is a program of the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice.

"We will develop a working group and users will work together on what updates the system needs and who will pay for them," he says. "I think it's the most robust municipality-developed program of its sort in the country. Its primary purpose is to provide first responders with information they can use during an incident."

Corwin notes that some practitioners may be familiar with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Automated Critical Asset Management System (ACAMS), which serves more as a planning tool, and that Kansas City has worked cooperatively with ACAMS ([http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc\\_1190729724456.shtm](http://www.dhs.gov/files/programs/gc_1190729724456.shtm)) to develop a partnership.

The Kansas City system has a secondary function of providing risk assessment tools to help determine whether specific infrastructure is well protected and recommend measures to "harden the target," Corwin

**"You really never complete entering data, because it will hold as much as you want to put in. We have tiers, and the critical national and regional infrastructure goes in tier 1, and we can put a drug house in tier 5 and input information that will help tactical officers.**

**The possibilities are just limitless."**

*—Capt. Michael Corwin, NLECTC,  
SMCC Advisory Group.*

says. "But primarily, it gives first responders of all types—police, fire and emergency medical services access to floor plans, GIS mapping, contact information, photos and much more. It's as robust as the user [at the participating facility] wants it to be. It's really unlimited as to how much and what kind of information can be input. Preplanning for perimeters and command post sites, triage sites, continuity of operation plans, evacuation plans, anything you can imagine—there are examples of all of them in there."

That capability has come a long way from the original spreadsheets, Corwin explains, adding that the originator passed his work on to another supervisor, and then the program went through IT hard-coding so that personnel could perform site surveys at schools and other recognized critical infrastructures and input information. Eventually, after several years, a project rescope moved it to the Internet and the Kansas City Police Department's Homeland Security section. Once the program moved to the Internet, officers gained access from mobile data terminals, although that option had to be temporarily lifted during the latest redesign phase. However, version 2.0 brings back that access and adds the PDA/smartphone capability.

"We have approximately 1,200 sites that are at some level of completion for the region," Corwin says. "You really never complete entering data, because it will hold as much as you want to put in. We have tiers, and the critical national and regional infrastructure goes in tier 1, and we can put a drug house in tier 5 and input information that will help tactical officers. The possibilities are just limitless."

*For more information on the Kansas City project, contact Capt. Michael Corwin at (816) 889-6130 or [Michael.corwin@kcpd.org](mailto:Michael.corwin@kcpd.org).*



# JUSTICE ATLAS

## OF SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONS



*A new corrections-oriented online mapping tool is available to help states and agencies better target scarce criminal justice resources.*

The Justice Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections allows users to map the residential distribution patterns of people entering and returning from prison and those under probation and parole supervision. The maps expose clusters of criminal justice activity.

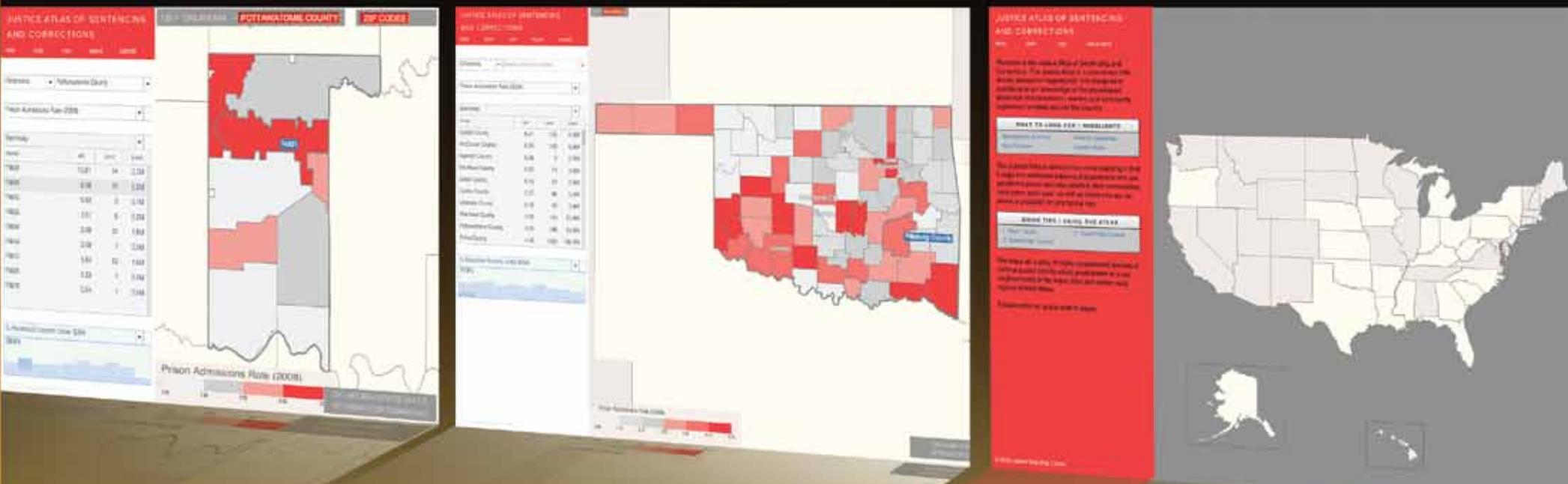
The system was created and developed by the New York-based Justice Mapping Center, with support from the Ford Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trust and the Open Society Institute.

“As we know, pictures are worth a thousand words, and these pictures will provide state and local leaders with a powerful new tool to analyze what is driving their crime and incarceration rates and to devise new strategies that will produce a better return on the billions we spend on corrections,” said Adam Gelb, director of Pew Center on the States Public Safety Performance Project, during a webinar held in the fall to officially launch the Atlas.

Eric Cadora, founder and director of the Justice Mapping Center, noted that the Atlas differs from traditional crime mapping tools. It maps where people live, not where crimes occur.

“In many ways it’s very distinct from what we traditionally understand as crime mapping. Crime mapping maps crime events, where they happen, their intensity,” Cadora said. “We’re mapping where people live, the concentrations, disparities, as well as a number of other dimensions. When we really looked at the data and started to map it, what we found were cycles, rather than static numbers, these cycles of high rates of removal to prison from particular neighborhoods and returns to prison in particular neighborhoods.”

*Photograph by George Prentice*



## The Atlas highlights four issues:

- **Revocations to Prison.** Revocation from parole and probation to prison plays a significant role in rising state prison populations. The Atlas provides data on the types of prison admissions, either through court conviction or through revocation of parole or probation.
- **Cost Centers.** The system calculates how much is being spent on behalf of the neighborhoods that are experiencing high rates of incarceration and reentry.
- **Reentry Disparities.** This addresses the disparity between a community's share of returning prisoners and its share of the overall resident population.
- **Gender Rates.** Ninety percent of people in prison are male. The Atlas provides a comparison between men and women admitted to and returned from prison under probation and parole.

Twenty-two states currently participate in the Atlas, and Cadora said the system will be expanded and updated each year to include additional states, data and features. The states on active status are Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas and West Virginia.

The system is free. System users can select a state and find, for example, information by county on prison admission and release rates and parolee rates. As examples of the information the system can reveal, Cadora cited that 9 percent of prisoners returning to Austin, Texas, are returning to one ZIP code, which has only 2 percent of the general city population. In one county in Kansas, 75 percent of people admitted to prison are through revocation of probation and parole.

“It’s important because this can provide a source of savings and a way of thinking about spending dollars differently in those places,” Cadora said. “It also sort of highlights, and in some ways suggests, what the return on the public safety investment is for those particular places.”

“Eric Cadora and his team pioneered the concept of the million dollar block — areas where government spending exceeds a million dollars in just a very small area to lock up offenders in that area,” Gelb said. “He has helped reframe our understanding of effective criminal justice strategies and bridge the knowledge gap between cops on the beat and leaders at the capital. We’re excited about this technology and what it can do across the country for policymakers in this arena.”

The system has an export function to allow users to save and print tables and maps, which can be presented to decision makers to illustrate the need for resources in certain areas.



**“When you have to be more effective with funding, you have to prioritize and target and these kinds of maps will help demonstrate that there are different ways of doing business on a lot of fronts.”**

**–Adam Gelb,  
Pew Center on the States Public Safety Performance Project.**

Cadora noted that every major urban area included in the system has ZIP codes that stand out as problem areas. The difference between the highest incarceration rate and the lowest incarceration rate neighborhoods is dramatic in every major city.

He said the data shows a remarkable amount of people nationwide returning to prison from probation and parole and spending shorter amounts of time in prison than people entering through court convictions.

“The states where we have worked have focused on that particular issue as a way of exploring new approaches to working with parolees and probationers that do not so quickly result in high rates of returns to prison,” Cadora said. “That is some of the ways states are starting to manage their growing prison population better.”

As the Atlas evolves to include more information, it may provide a broader community picture.

“The costs we have attributed to these places are the minimal way of figuring the per day use of a prison cell; it does not include unintended costs resulting from men returning to

prison, such as law enforcement, parole and probation costs, social costs. These are minimal costs of renting a prison cell,” Cadora said.

The system is meant as a tool to help states better use existing resources.

“The maps help policymakers set priorities and realize there are concentrations,” Gelb said. “When you have to be more effective with funding, you have to prioritize and target and these kinds of maps will help demonstrate that there are different ways of doing business on a lot of fronts. There are a lot of efficiencies that can be squeezed out of systems, and these maps will help state and local policymakers find them.”

*For more information on the Justice Atlas of Sentencing and Corrections, contact Eric Cadora at [ecadora@justicemapping.org](mailto:ecadora@justicemapping.org) or visit <http://www.justiceatlas.org>. For information on the National Institute of Justice’s Mapping and Analysis for Public Safety (MAPS) program, contact Steven Schuetz at [steve.schuetz@usdoj.gov](mailto:steve.schuetz@usdoj.gov), or visit the MAPS website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/NIJ/maps/>.*

**NIJ CBRN**  
Ensemble Standard for Law Enforcement

The National Institute of Justice has released a standard specifically for chemical/biological/radiological/nuclear (CBRN) ensembles for law enforcement.

*CBRN Protective Ensemble Standard for Law Enforcement, NIJ Standard-0116.00, defines performance requirements for protective ensembles and methods used to test performance.*

It is a vital part of ensuring that law enforcement officers responding to criminal incidents with the potential for CBRN hazards have appropriate protective gear.

To view the standard, go to <http://www.justnet.org> or <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>.

# TECHshorts

## Technology News Summary

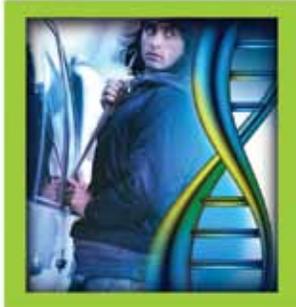
**T**ECHshorts is a sampling of the technology projects, programs and initiatives being conducted by the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and the centers and criminal justice technology Centers of Excellence (CoEs) that constitute its National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System. If you would like additional information concerning any of the following TECHshorts, please refer to the specific point-of-contact information that is included at the end of each entry.

In addition to TECHshorts, an online, biweekly technology news summary containing articles relating to technology developments in public safety that have appeared in newspapers, newsmagazines and trade and professional journals is available through the NLECTC System's website, JUSTNET, at <http://www.justnet.org>. This service, the Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology News Summary, also is available through an electronic e-mail list, JUSTNETNews. Every other week, subscribers to JUSTNETNews receive the news summary directly via e-mail. To subscribe to JUSTNETNews, e-mail your request to [asknlectc@nlectc.org](mailto:asknlectc@nlectc.org) or call (800) 248-2742.

*Note: The mentioning of specific manufacturers or products in TECHshorts does not constitute the endorsement of the U.S. Department of Justice, NIJ or the NLECTC System.*

### Study: Using DNA to Catch Car Thieves

National Institute of Justice



The Dallas Police Department is one of two police departments participating in an NIJ-funded study to determine the usefulness of DNA in solving vehicle theft.

Investigators began collecting samples from recovered stolen vehicles in May 2010. The goal is to collect 500 samples for the study, according to Dallas police Sgt. David Landry.

Police are targeting organized auto theft rings. NIJ wants to test the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of using DNA to solve motor vehicle theft cases. Crime scene detectives process recovered vehicles to collect possible DNA samples from items left in the car or from areas that thieves may have touched, such as the steering wheel, rearview mirror and seatbelt buckles.

DNA samples are also collected from vehicle owners. Samples are submitted to the Southwestern

Institute of Forensic Sciences, a Dallas County crime lab, to determine if samples taken from the vehicle are from the owner. If not, the sample is uploaded to the state database and the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), the central nationwide database of DNA profiles, for possible matches.

Half of the 500 samples will be tested; the other half will serve as a control group for police to try to solve using more traditional investigative means such as fingerprints. "They want to see if it is more effective to use DNA or do it the traditional way," Landry says.

The New York Police Department is also participating in the study.

Dallas had 10,455 vehicle thefts in 2009, a decrease of about 50 percent since 2000, according to Landry.

"A lot of it is due to improved technology in vehicles that make them harder to steal," he says. "We don't see the joy riders like we used to in the 1980s, when we had 26,000 stolen vehicles a year. The people we are seeing now are more organized and sophisticated and they are stealing cars for parts."

*For more information, contact Sgt. David Landry of the Dallas Police Department at*

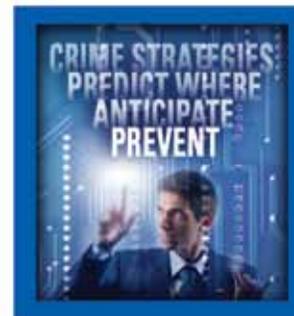
*(214) 671-3522 or [david.landry@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us](mailto:david.landry@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us), or Kathy Browning of NIJ at [katharine.browning@usdoj.gov](mailto:katharine.browning@usdoj.gov).*

### Article Examines Predictive Policing

National Institute of Justice

Published in the *NIJ Journal* in June 2010, "Predictive Policing: The Future of Law Enforcement," explains predictive policing and its role in anticipating, preventing and responding more effectively to crime.

Speakers at a symposium explained that predictive policing is not meant to replace traditional police techniques, but to build on policing strategies. Current analytic tools such as crime mapping, hot spots and social network analysis can be applied to anticipate a local crime spike and plan accordingly. Predictive policing can help departments become more efficient in a time of tight budgets.



To view the article, go to <http://ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/230414.pdf>. For more information about the NIJ Predictive Policing Program, contact Steve Schuetz at (202) 514-7663 or [steve.schuetz@usdoj.gov](mailto:steve.schuetz@usdoj.gov).

### Constituent Advisory Groups Channel Feedback Regional Centers



As part of the recent reorganization of the NLECTC System, the National Center and the three regional centers — States, Major Cities and Counties; Small, Rural, Tribal and Border; and Alaska — have formed Constituent Advisory Groups (CAGs) to provide input from the field into the Center System process. Feedback is channeled back to NIJ via these representative groups of practitioners that provide first-level review of the technology needs and requirements developed by the NIJ Technology Working Groups (TWGs). The TWGs, also composed of first-level practitioners, are aligned with specific NIJ technology portfolios, and meet twice each year to define technology needs and requirements related to these specific areas. The CAGs provide an overall "grassroots" review of all TWG needs and requirements, and thus provide valuable input to the TWGs; the Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Advisory Council (a practitioner group composed of higher level administrators); and the NIJ research, development, testing and evaluation process.

*For more detailed information on an individual CAG, contact the affiliated center through the links on <http://www.justnet.org>. For general information, contact Mike O'Shea of NIJ at [michael.oshea@usdoj.gov](mailto:michael.oshea@usdoj.gov).*

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**Online News Summary.** Online News Summary includes article abstracts on law enforcement, corrections and forensics technologies that have appeared in major newspapers, magazines and periodicals and on national and international wire services and websites.

**Testing Results.** Up-to-date listing of public safety equipment evaluated through NIJ's testing program. Includes ballistic- and stab-resistant armor, patrol vehicles and tires, protection gloves, handcuffs and more.

**Publications.** Publications from NIJ and NLECTC that you can view or download to your system, including printer friendly versions of *TechBeat* articles and features.

**Calendar of Events.** Calendar of Events lists upcoming meetings, seminars and training.

**Links.** Links takes you to other important law enforcement and corrections websites.



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