TECH Beat

Dedicated to Reporting Developments in Technology for Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Forensic Sciences

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LEARNING TO SPEAK "SOCIAL MEDIA"

P. 3

INTERACTIVE FEATURE

NLECTC
National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center

A Program of the National Institute of Justice NIJ

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TechBeat is the quarterly newsmagazine 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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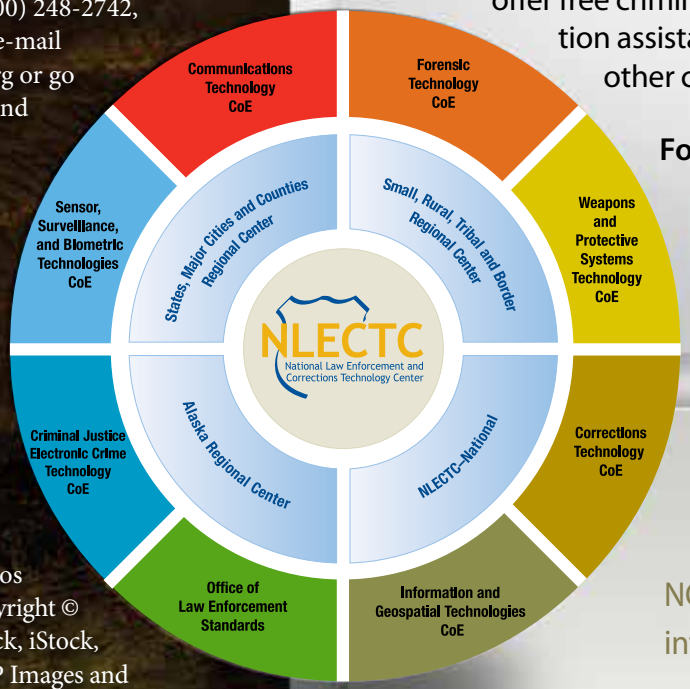
LOOK FOR TO UPLOAD INTERACTIVE FEATURES

The NLECTC System

The National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System is critical to the National Institute of Justice's mission to assist state, local, tribal and federal law enforcement, corrections and other criminal justice agencies address technology needs and challenges.

The NLECTC System is an integrated network of centers and Centers of Excellence that offer free criminal justice technology outreach, demonstration, testing and evaluation assistance to law enforcement, corrections, courts, crime laboratories and other criminal justice agencies.



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NCJRS
National Criminal Justice Reference Service

NCJRS is a federally funded resource offering justice and substance abuse information to support research, policy and program development worldwide.

For information, visit www.ncjrs.gov.

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Learning to Speak social media

Do you know what a microblog is? How about understanding what "terms of service" means? What about the issues that surround posting information to social media sites that can be accessed by the public?

If you're already confused, you have plenty of company. Until recently, Jennifer Beskid was confused by social media concepts, too. Now, she facilitates a "Social Media Policy 101" training that can help public safety agencies make social media a gold mine — not a minefield.

In October 2009, Beskid, the research and grant coordinator for the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC), had just learned to send text messages on her cellphone. She'd heard about social media, but her knowledge was quite limited. That all changed when Lt. Katie Goodwin of the Anne Arundel County Police Department asked if Beskid — whose responsibilities include researching and developing training on current and emerging trends impacting law enforcement and corrections personnel — could develop a training program pertaining to social media policy.

When she started the development process, Beskid found herself in the same position as many agencies and officers; that is, starting from square one.

"I started out with Facebook® and moved on from there," Beskid says. "I made some calls into the field to some of the bigger agencies we have connections with, like the National Security Agency and other agencies at the federal level, the Maryland State Police, and so on. I asked if they had social media policies and the most common response was, 'Not really, but if you develop something, please let us know.' "

Her network of contacts ultimately led her to Sgt. Eliott Cohen of the Maryland State Police, who does provide extensive and in-depth training on the mechanics of social media, but not on policy. Beskid worked with Cohen to expand her own knowledge of social media, then used that newly acquired knowledge to develop the up-to-six-hour MPCTC training program, which she can customize to meet an agency's needs.

"It's always growing and evolving, just like social media itself. It's pretty easy to modify depending on the target audience," she says.

As part of her job, Beskid has traveled throughout Maryland and even central Pennsylvania to give the training at minimal cost (expense reimbursement only) to sponsoring agencies. She'll also provide, at no charge, lesson plans and training materials to agencies so they can offer the training themselves. One recent presentation took place at the Spring 2012 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Technology Institute for Law Enforcement (LETI), which resulted in an invitation by NIJ Law Enforcement Program Manager Mike O'Shea to present again at the Fall 2012 LETI, as well as numerous other requests from participants to become a "friend" and to help them learn more about social media in general and the training in particular.

Regardless of how the MPCTC training is customized, key points include:

- Embrace the technology.
- Set policies that are reasonable.
- Educate officers about professional online behavior and why this behavior matters.
- Above all, do not publish anything you would not want strangers to be able to access.

Beskid says that when she began developing the training program, only Minneapolis had a social media policy.

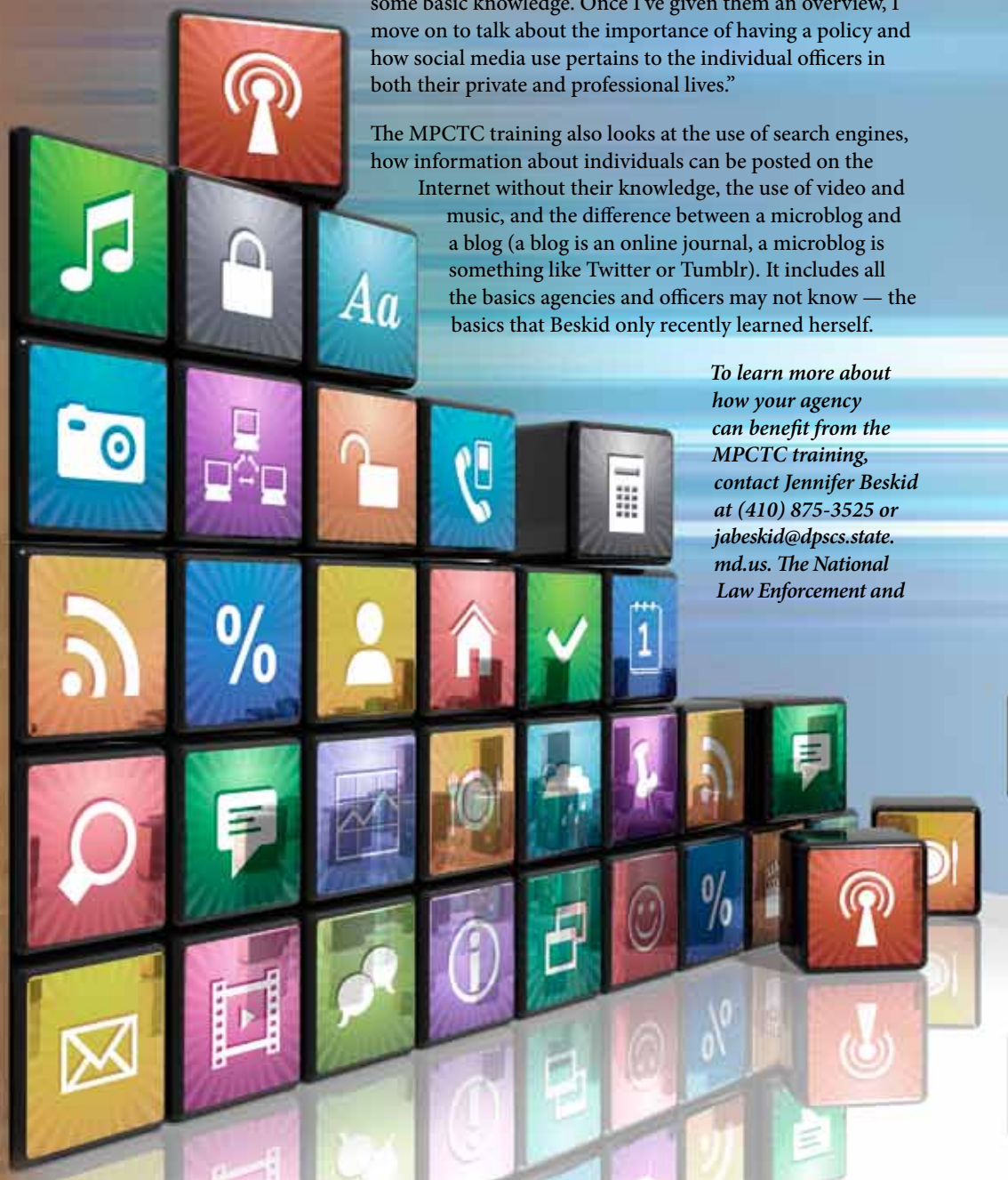
"I looked at all the policies that were out there, which were mostly brief and written fairly generically," Beskid says. "Therefore, my training was approximately 15 minutes. To make it worth the time, I partnered with Sgt. Cohen."

After training with Cohen and determining that his training is very technical, she developed Social Media 101.

"I tried to gear the MPCTC program toward people who didn't grow up using computers," she says. "These people are now in supervisory positions and need to acquire some basic knowledge. Once I've given them an overview, I move on to talk about the importance of having a policy and how social media use pertains to the individual officers in both their private and professional lives."

The MPCTC training also looks at the use of search engines, how information about individuals can be posted on the Internet without their knowledge, the use of video and music, and the difference between a microblog and a blog (a blog is an online journal, a microblog is something like Twitter or Tumblr). It includes all the basics agencies and officers may not know — the basics that Beskid only recently learned herself.

To learn more about how your agency can benefit from the MPCTC training, contact Jennifer Beskid at (410) 875-3525 or jabeskid@dpscs.state.md.us. The National Law Enforcement and



About the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions

The mission of the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions is to ensure the quality of law enforcement and correctional services through the establishment and enforcement of standards and the facilitation and delivery of training, education and prevention programs. Other agency responsibilities include administration of the Maryland Community Crime Prevention Institute and the Leadership Development Institute.

Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)-National maintains a social media presence for the entire NLECTC System via Facebook, Twitter and YouTube outlets. To connect with these outlets, visit JUSTNET, the website of the NLECTC System, at http://www.justnet.org. To learn more about NLECTC-National, contact Michael O'Shea, NIJ Law Enforcement Program Manager, at (202) 305-7954 or by e-mail at michael.oshea@usdoj.gov.

International Association of Chiefs of Police Offers Online Training

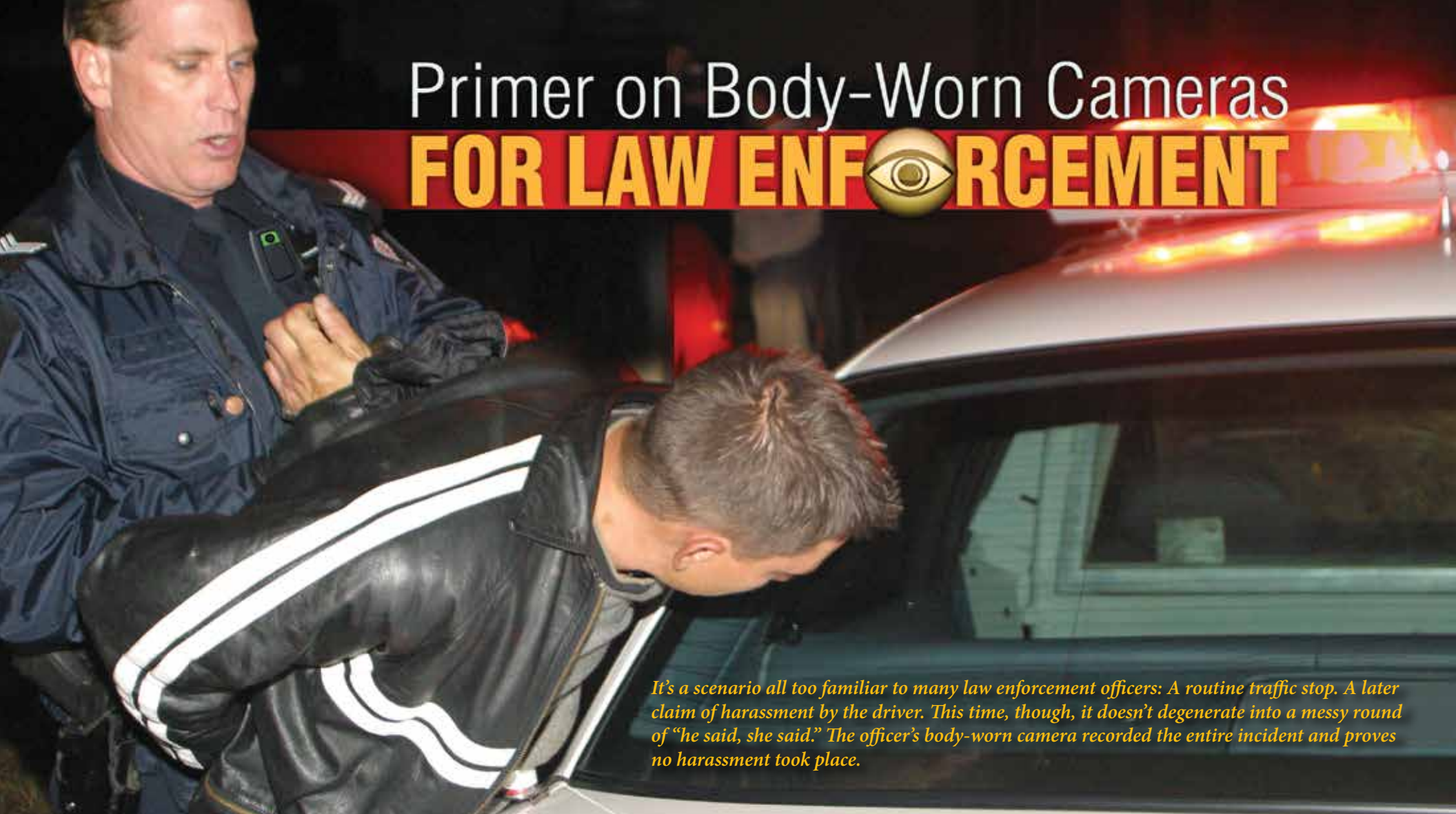
Agencies looking online for help can find a wide array of resources at the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Center for Social Media (http://www.iacpsocialmedia.org/), a site created in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice s Bureau of Justice Assistance in October 2010.

According to the site, The goal of the initiative is to build the capacity of law enforcement to use social media to prevent and solve crimes, strengthen police community relations, and enhance services. IACP s Center for Social Media serves as a clearinghouse of information and no cost resources to help law enforce ment personnel develop or enhance their agency s use of social media and integrate Web 2.0 tools into agency operations.

The IACP Center for Social Media includes the following sections:

- Getting started (includes developing strategies and policies, then putting them into action).
- Detailed information on various social media technologies and platforms (e.g., blogs, dashboards, podcasts).
- Information arranged by topics such as crime prevention, investigations, research and strategy.
- Additional resources, including case studies, an FAQ section, and a variety of tools and tutorials.
- An ever growing directory of more than 2,500 agencies that use social media, and a form to fill out that will add an agency to the directory.
- Links to articles of interest.
- A blog.

Primer on Body-Worn Cameras FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT



It's a scenario all too familiar to many law enforcement officers: A routine traffic stop. A later claim of harassment by the driver. This time, though, it doesn't degenerate into a messy round of "he said, she said." The officer's body-worn camera recorded the entire incident and proves no harassment took place.

According to *A Primer on Body-Worn Cameras for Law Enforcement,* a pending publication produced by the Sensor, Surveillance and Biometric Technologies Center of Excellence (SSBT CoE), body-worn cameras (BWCs) can play an important role as an officer's technological partner, faithfully capturing what the officer sees and hears. Attached to items such as helmets, glasses or badges, or riding snugly in a shirt pocket, they can provide valuable evidence in situations related to emergency response, self-initiated public contacts and routine patrol. However, a lack of technical recommendations and implementation guidance may leave agencies confused about their use and their usefulness, says Dr. Lars Ericson, SSBT CoE director.

The Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Sensors and Surveillance Technology Working Group has identified this lack of both a technical standard and guidance on standard operating procedures as a high-priority need. Development of the primer by the SSBT CoE, which is part of NIJ's National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System, is a first step in addressing those concerns, Ericson says.

"As with many new technologies, the technology is out in front of policy and protocols. Agencies need sample procedures and information on how to best use them," he says.

The primer addresses issues such as management and storage of evidence and records, implications for the court system and the need for training. It covers BWC types, reasons for adopting the technology, and implementation issues, and includes a listing of reference materials and the results of a market survey. Much of the information for the survey was gleaned from one-on-one contacts at both of the 2011 NIJ Technology Institutes for Law Enforcement and the 2011 NIJ Rural Law Enforcement Technology Institute, in addition to conferences such as the Technologies for Critical Incident Preparedness Conference.

Jonathan Hayes, lead engineer at the SSBT CoE, obtained several sample cameras and used them to help solicit information from practitioners at these and other events, and in the process learned a valuable lesson himself.

"In our research, we obtained three units. Two of the units were roughly equivalent in cost but were drastically different with respect to features and specifications, as well as the overall quality of the product," Hayes says. "The third unit was the approximate cost of the two other units combined. This unit was robust in features and specifications for the price, but is likely out of budgetary range of many departments. This drove home the point that doing proper research first will reap great benefits in the long run. Departments should contact vendors and ask for loaner units to try to find the best fit."

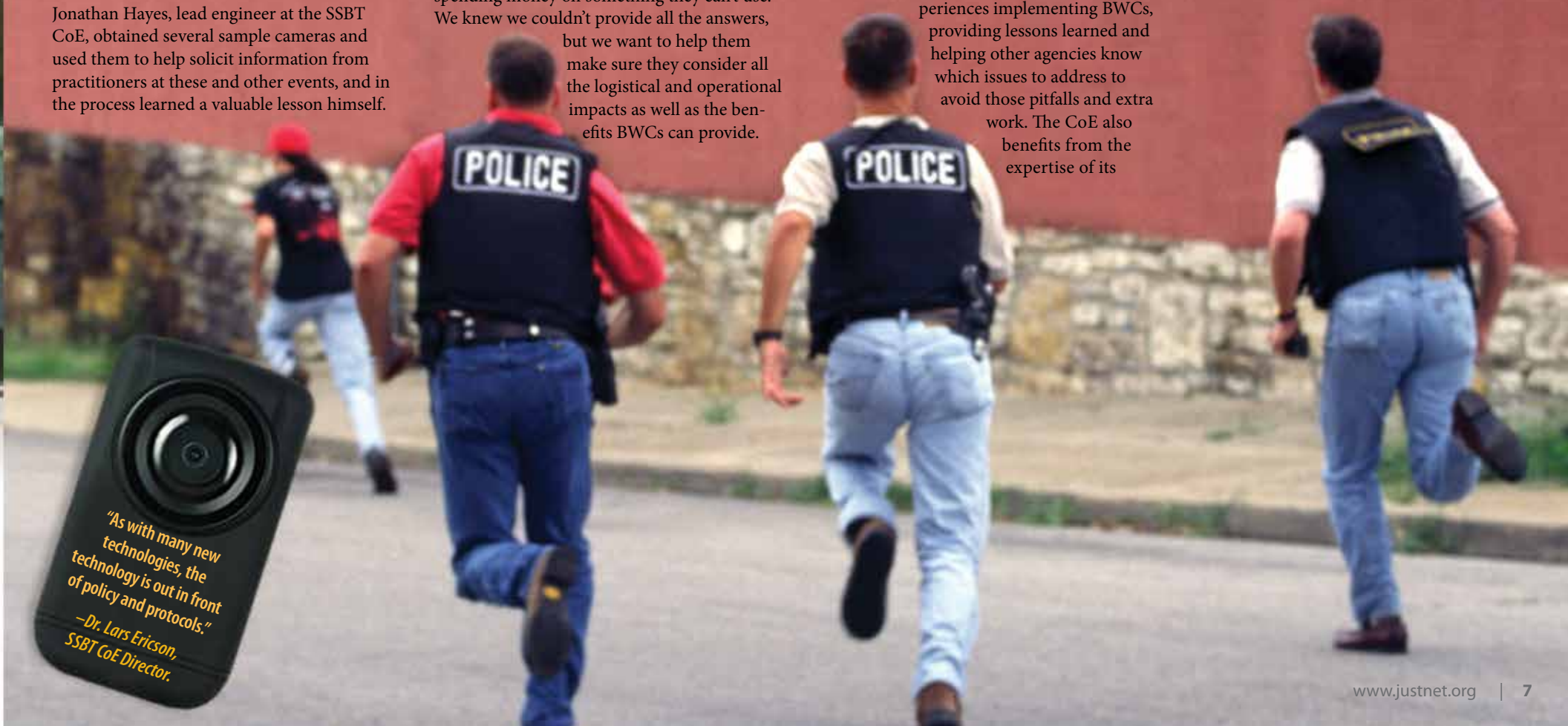
"Without doing that kind of research, a department could potentially buy units that they end up shelving," Ericson adds. "In these times of tight budgets, no one has the luxury of spending money on something they can't use. We knew we couldn't provide all the answers, but we want to help them make sure they consider all the logistical and operational impacts as well as the benefits BWCs can provide. Agencies can then develop better informed policies and procedures. We don't want to see any department hitting those kinds of pitfalls with budgets the way they are."

And agencies should plan to develop those policies and procedures first, Hayes says.

"Although the tendency is to buy something and try it out first, they should start with an in-depth effort to lay out how officers are going to use BWCs, how and when to upload data, and other key operational factors," Hayes says. "If they don't completely and thoroughly think about it first, they may create more work for themselves in the end."

Police departments such as those in Granville, W. Va., and Trophy Club, Texas, contributed information to the project on their own experiences implementing BWCs, providing lessons learned and helping other agencies know which issues to address to avoid those pitfalls and extra work. The CoE also benefits from the expertise of its operational law enforcement subject matter expert, Dr. Jack Fuller, a law enforcement professional with more than 35 years of experience with the U.S. Customs Service who is currently a counter-terrorism lead for the Joint Task Force North based in El Paso, Texas.

For more information on the research involved in developing* A Primer on Body-Worn Cameras for Law Enforcement*, contact Dr. Lars Ericson at the Sensor, Surveillance and Biometric Technologies Center of Excellence at (304) 368-4216 or lars.ericson@mantech.com. For information on the National Institute of Justice's Sensor, Surveillance and Biometric Technologies portfolio, contact Program Manager Mark Greene at (202) 307-3384 or mark.greene2@usdoj.gov.



METH Lab Training for FIRST RESPONDERS

The bottle sits by the side of the road in the sunlight, looking, at first glance, like the other roadside debris thoughtless drivers throw away. On second glance, it appears to contain some nameless substance, neither the soda that originally filled it, nor water that someone used to refill it. But that substance isn't nameless. It has a name: shake and bake meth. And it's been left by the roadside for a short time to "cook" — and possibly explode.

This "quick and easy" method of making the illegal methamphetamine has been a law enforcement issue for the past 10 years. Earlier this year, staff from the States, Major Cities and Counties (SMCC) Regional Center provided a course aimed at helping other public safety professionals — firefighters and emergency medical services personnel — recognize the bottles as well, and know when to stay away and call their law enforcement partners to help them handle a Hazmat scene.

SMCC is part of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, a program of the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice. SMCC Assistant Director Scott Barker brought a background as an FBI agent, a former drug task force member and a volunteer firefighter to developing "When Your Fire Scene Becomes a Crime Scene: Meth Labs and the Fire Service," a free two- to three-hour training first presented at the Daniel Boone Firefighters Association Annual Training Conference in Morehead, Ky., in May 2012.

Within weeks of that initial training, Barker had received more than a dozen requests to repeat the training elsewhere in the region, and had made plans to share his outline and training materials with public safety professionals from other areas of the country so they can create their own versions of the training if one doesn't already exist. The session has the following objectives:

- Educating first responders on the signs of the meth user.
- Recognizing a clandestine meth lab, especially the one-step (shake and bake) method, and knowing the importance of alerting law enforcement on finding a suspected lab.
- Using proper protective equipment.
- Decontaminating the meth patient.
- Following hospital protocols.

Barker's training also includes a brief overview of the NLECTC System and how it can help law enforcement professionals and other public safety professionals.

slide show online

"I've taught courses on meth lab awareness for law enforcement before, but this time the focus is on first responders so they can learn how fire scenes turn into crime scenes, and how they should work together with law enforcement. We wanted to remind them that even though they might have Hazmat training, they aren't meth lab techs. They should call in law enforcement and let them handle it."

–Scott Barker, SMCC Assistant Director.

"The course shows them the dangers they might find in a lab and what signs to look for, such as lithium strips taken from batteries, kerosene and of course pseudoephedrine," Barker says. "If a guy says to them, 'It was just a little fire, it's out, and I'll just wait outside while you check it out,' go outside too and wait for law enforcement personnel who are trained in dealing with meth labs. It emphasizes the importance of wearing proper equipment, especially respirators, and how to handle possibly contaminated patients."

Barker explains that the "soda bottle labs" are especially dangerous because the plastic containers are designed to hold beverages, not combustible chemicals.

"It's easy to make it this way but incredibly more dangerous," he says. A video posted on YouTube by the Tulsa (Okla.)

Police Department shows just how easily these bottles can explode, even in trained hands (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnT2jfgSllI). In fact, so many of these bottles explode and cause serious injuries, it resembles an epidemic that could potentially overwhelm the nation's burn centers, according to an article in medicaldaily.com (http://www.medicaldaily.com/news/20120123/8873/tax-payer-shake-and-bake-meth-methamphetamine-meth-lab-basement-shed-drug-illegal-police-h.htm).

"I've taught courses on meth lab awareness for law enforcement before, but this time the focus is on first responders so they can learn how fire scenes turn into crime scenes, and how they should work together with law enforcement," Barker says. "We wanted to remind them that even though they might have Hazmat training, they aren't meth lab techs. They should call in law enforcement and let them handle it. There's a direct benefit to law enforcement as well in that the first responders learn how to better protect evidence."

The initial response to the training has been so strong that the Kentucky State Fire Commission is considering offering the class on a continuing basis with hazardous materials credit.

"It's not like we're offering training on something that has a 1 percent chance of happening. They're going to see it. It's probably already in their community," Barker says.

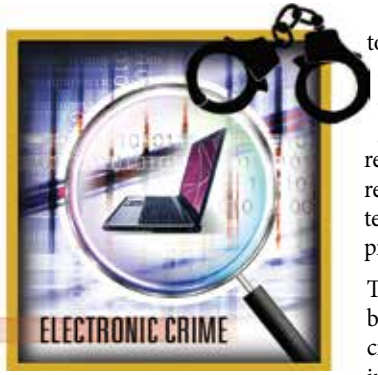
For more information on "When Your Fire Scene Becomes a Crime Scene: Meth Labs and the Fire Service," contact the SMCC at (800) 248-2742 or asknlectc@justnet.org. For more information on the programs of the SMCC Regional Center, visit http://www.justnet.org or contact NIJ Program Manager Michael O'Shea at (202) 305-7954 or michael.oshea@usdoj.gov.

TECHshorts
Technology News Summary

TECHshorts 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 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, JUSTNETNews, 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, www.justnet.org. Subscribers to JUSTNETNews receive the news summary directly via e-mail. To subscribe to JUSTNETNews, go to https://www.justnet.org/subscribe.html on NLECTC's website, or e-mail your request to asknlectc@justnet.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.



New Technology Decision Tool Provides Cost/Benefit Analysis for Public Safety

NLECTC-National

As budgets shrink and public safety needs grow, agencies must keep a watchful eye on the bottom line. Whereas officer and community safety is always a priority, efficiency of operations is a key consideration when making purchasing decisions. The Technology Decision Tool helps agencies make safe and sound acquisitions.

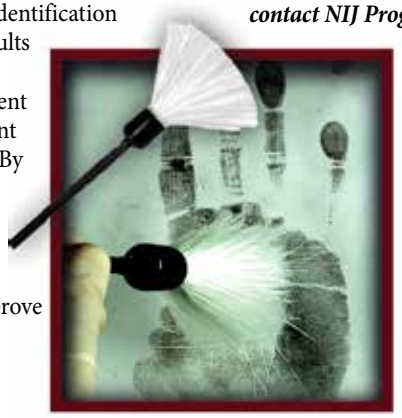
The new tool was developed by NLECTC with input from technology experts from both large and small agencies who have first-hand experience in successfully evaluating and implementing technology projects. It guides agencies through a customized cost/benefit analysis exercise to help them make the best decisions for their officers and their communities, and directs decision-making based on needs, availability of technology and life-cycle costs of products and training.

To see how the Technology Decision Tool can help your agency, visit https://www.justnet.org/pdf/Technology-Decision-Tool.pdf. For more information, contact Mike O'Shea, NIJ program manager, at (202) 305-7954 or michael.oshea@usdoj.gov, or Ron Pierce of NLECTC at (301) 519-5439 or piercer3@justnet.org.

Latent Print Survey Coming Soon

National Institute of Justice

The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) plans to conduct a survey of state and local law enforcement this fall that will assess the current status of state and local latent print interoperability. The survey targets law enforcement agencies that own an automated fingerprint identification system (AFIS), and the results will provide baseline input for analysis and improvement of state and local latent print interoperability over time. By identifying successes and barriers, NIJ and other law enforcement-related policymakers and funding sources can be used to improve state and local latent print interoperability.



NIJ developed the survey in cooperation with the AFIS Interoperability Task Force, which is part of the Subcommittee on Forensic Science that serves the Committee on Science and the National Science and Technology Council. It contains questions concerning AFIS product information, AFIS funding (acquisition, upgrades and maintenance), enrollment capabilities, repositories (finger, palm and latent), latent print-related staffing, search capacities, official agreements for searching, and search methods and capabilities from different perspectives such as state to state, and local to state.

Due to the nature and scope of this effort, the survey falls under the Paperwork Reduction Act and is currently undergoing the Office of Management and Budget review process, with plans calling for its launch sometime during fall 2012. For further information regarding the survey, contact NIJ Program Manager Mark Greene at mark.greene2@usdoj.gov.

Center Offers Additional Software Evaluation Reports

Criminal Justice Electronic Crime Technology Center of Excellence

NIJ's Criminal Justice Electronic Crime Technology Center of Excellence (ECTCoE) has completed additional software tools evaluation reports to aid law enforcement in electronic crime investigations. The evaluation reports support the NIJ research, development, testing and evaluation process.

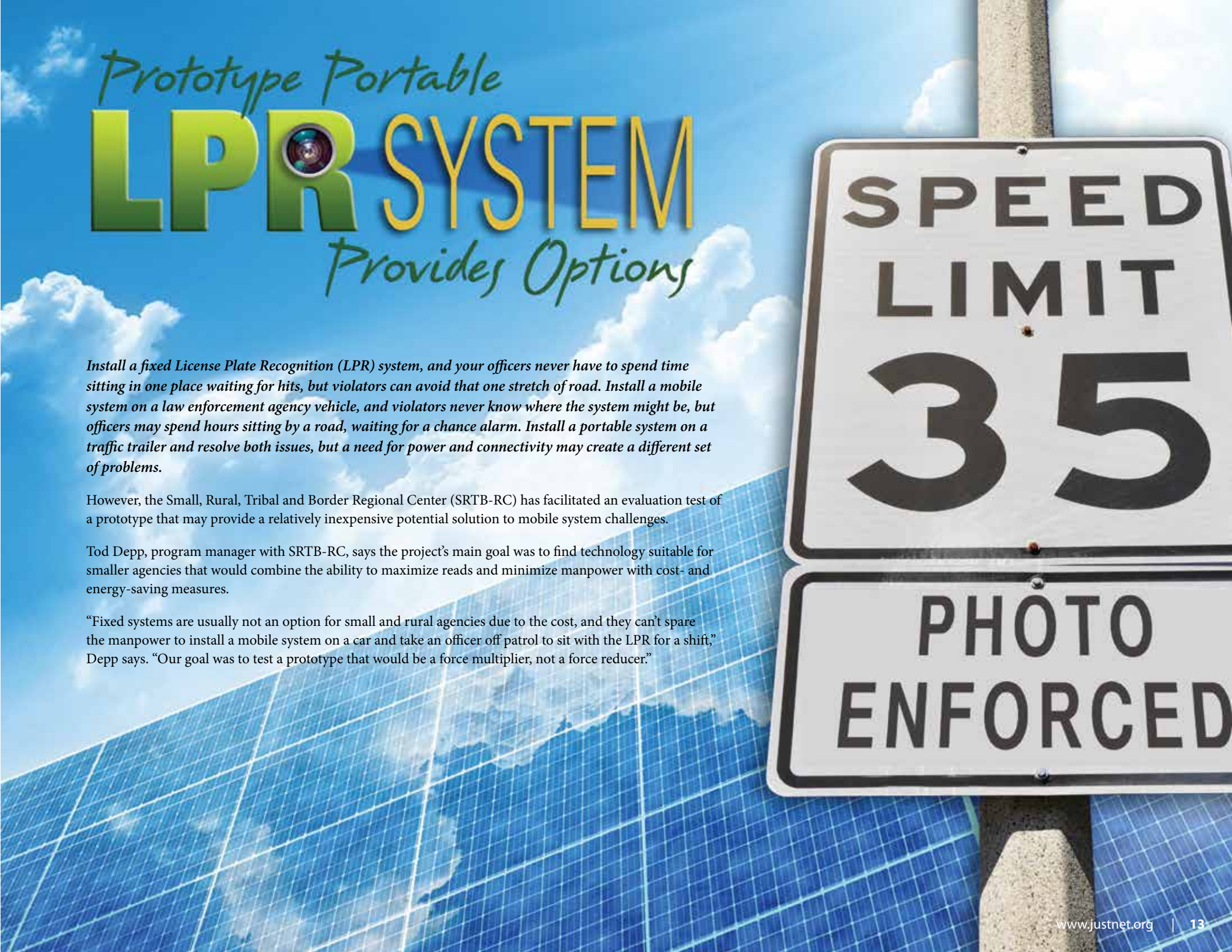
The ECTCoE assists in building the electronic crime prevention and investigation, and digital evidence collection and examination capacity, of state and local law enforcement. The center identifies electronic crime and digital evidence tools, technologies and training gaps; assists in the review of ongoing research and development efforts; facilitates outreach; and coordinates demonstrations of NIJ-funded technologies.

The reports, listed below, are available in electronic format only.

- *Secure View, Version 3.4.0,* Evaluation Report, August 2012.
- *Registry Decoder, Version R2 (Live) & 1.2 (Offline),* Evaluation Report, August 2012.
- *Paraben Device Seizure, Version 4.3,* Evaluation Report, July 2012.
- *Cellebrite UFED, Version 1.1.7.6,* Evaluation Report, July 2012.
- *US-LATT, Version 1.60,* Evaluation Report, June 2012.
- *WebCase, Version 1.9b,* Evaluation Report, May 2012.
- *SFP1215W Forensic Pouch,* Evaluation Report, April 2012.

To download these reports and others in the series, go to http://www.ectcoe.net/resources/toolreports. For more information, contact Mark Davis of the ECTCoE at mdavis@ectcoe.org.

Prototype Portable LPR SYSTEM Provides Options

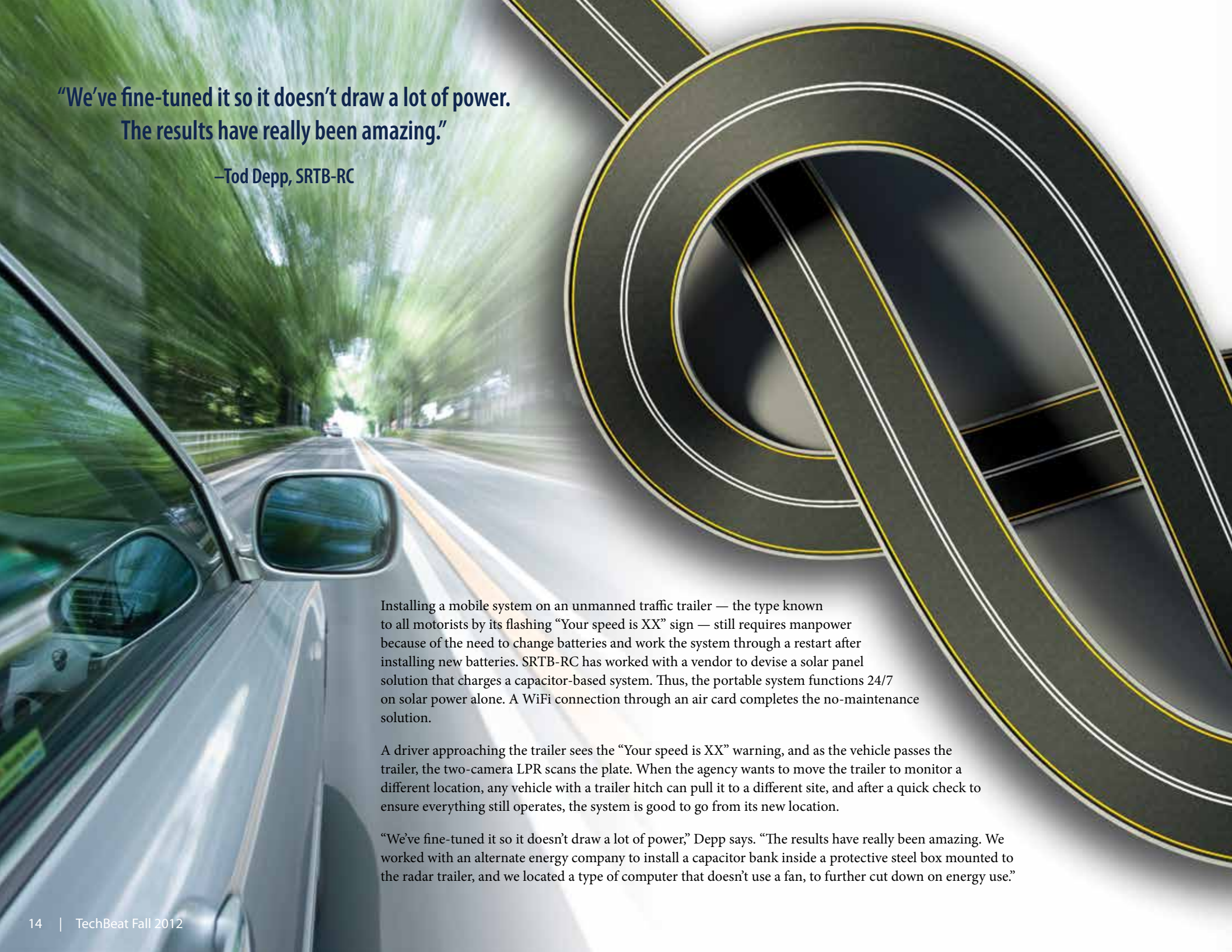


Install a fixed License Plate Recognition (LPR) system, and your officers never have to spend time sitting in one place waiting for hits, but violators can avoid that one stretch of road. Install a mobile system on a law enforcement agency vehicle, and violators never know where the system might be, but officers may spend hours sitting by a road, waiting for a chance alarm. Install a portable system on a traffic trailer and resolve both issues, but a need for power and connectivity may create a different set of problems.

However, the Small, Rural, Tribal and Border Regional Center (SRTB-RC) has facilitated an evaluation test of a prototype that may provide a relatively inexpensive potential solution to mobile system challenges.

Tod Depp, program manager with SRTB-RC, says the project's main goal was to find technology suitable for smaller agencies that would combine the ability to maximize reads and minimize manpower with cost- and energy-saving measures.

"Fixed systems are usually not an option for small and rural agencies due to the cost, and they can't spare the manpower to install a mobile system on a car and take an officer off patrol to sit with the LPR for a shift," Depp says. "Our goal was to test a prototype that would be a force multiplier, not a force reducer."



"We've fine-tuned it so it doesn't draw a lot of power. The results have really been amazing."

–Tod Depp, SRTB-RC

Installing a mobile system on an unmanned traffic trailer — the type known to all motorists by its flashing "Your speed is XX" sign — still requires manpower because of the need to change batteries and work the system through a restart after installing new batteries. SRTB-RC has worked with a vendor to devise a solar panel solution that charges a capacitor-based system. Thus, the portable system functions 24/7 on solar power alone. A WiFi connection through an air card completes the no-maintenance solution.

A driver approaching the trailer sees the "Your speed is XX" warning, and as the vehicle passes the trailer, the two-camera LPR scans the plate. When the agency wants to move the trailer to monitor a different location, any vehicle with a trailer hitch can pull it to a different site, and after a quick check to ensure everything still operates, the system is good to go from its new location.

"We've fine-tuned it so it doesn't draw a lot of power," Depp says. "The results have really been amazing. We worked with an alternate energy company to install a capacitor bank inside a protective steel box mounted to the radar trailer, and we located a type of computer that doesn't use a fan, to further cut down on energy use."

The prototype system runs against a listing of stolen vehicles from the National Crime Information Center database, the Texas Crime Information Center database of stolen vehicles, and the local agency's customized alert list. Alerts go to the dispatch center for review before they reach the field.

"The dispatcher makes sure the make and model match the wanted vehicle," Depp says. "A reader can sometimes misread an 8 and a B, for example, so by dispatch's verification of the alert, it saves unnecessary work in the field."

Although the prototype saves manpower, development costs are approximately $50,000, making it more expensive than a mobile system. Depp says it is possible that the various vendor partners who provided the components (trailer, solar power, LPR) may one day work together to commercialize the product, but in the meantime, an interested agency could purchase those components and put together its own setup.

"This was a proof-of-concept project, to prove it could be done," Depp says. "It wasn't to say this is better, it was to say here's another option if a fixed site is not possible and a mobile system is not practical."

SRTB-RC is part of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System, a program of the Office of Justice Programs' National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

Agencies interested in learning more about the License Plate Recognition trailer setup may contact Tod Depp at (512) 660-7782 or TDepp@SRTBRC.org. To learn more about LPR systems in general, download* License Plate Recognition (LPR) Systems: Function, Performance, and Considerations for Law Enforcement Agencies, *a publication produced by the Small, Rural, Tribal and Border Regional Center, from https://www.justnet.org/pdf/LPR-Report-Lowres.pdf. For more information about the programs of SRTB-RC, contact NIJ Program Manager Mike O'Shea at (202) 305-7954 or michael.oshea@usdoj.gov.

The Numbers Add Up to Success

The prototype portable License Plate Recognition system at the Texas law enforcement agency testbed read more than 900,000 plates in its first four months of operation, resulting in 700 alarms and 11 arrests — all this in a municipality of less than 50,000 residents. For example, in March, the system generated two separate alerts related to stolen vehicles, and responding officers made arrests in both incidents.

The majority of alarms turned out to be notifications of registered sex offenders traveling in a nonrestricted area, which did not warrant any type of interdiction.

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JUSTNETNews. 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, protective gloves and more.

Calendar of Events. Lists upcoming meetings, seminars and training.

Social Media. Access our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube feeds for the latest news and updates.

Do More With Less. Highlights creative programs and resources to help agencies meet challenges as budgets shrink and demands on departments grow.

Tech Topics. Browse for information on specific topics such as biometrics, cybercrime, forensics and corrections.

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