

# TECHBeat

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

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National Law Enforcement and  
Corrections Technology Center System Justice Technology  
Information Center  
A Program of the **NIJ**  
National Institute of Justice



TechBeat is the monthly 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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## The NLECTC System

The Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC), a component of the National Institute of Justice’s National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, serves as an information resource for technology and equipment related to law enforcement, corrections and courts and as a primary point of contact for administration of a voluntary equipment standards and testing program for public safety equipment.

JTIC is part of the realignment of the NLECTC System, which includes the Justice Innovation Center for Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Criminal Justice Agencies, which focuses on the unique law enforcement challenges faced by those types of agencies; the National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test and Evaluation Center, which provides technology-related research and testing and operational evaluations of technologies; and the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, which supports technology research, development, testing and evaluation efforts in forensic science. In addition, a Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative exists to assess and prioritize technology needs across the criminal justice community.

**For information, visit [www.justnet.org](http://www.justnet.org) or contact (800) 248-2742.**



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*Follow-Up* **INSPECTION and TESTING** *Program*  
**HELPS STOP POTENTIAL**  
**ARMOR ISSUES**

*By Becky Lewis*

*748 models of ballistic-resistant body armor pulled from production lines and tested in the past six years.*

*73 (9.76 percent) variations in construction identified and resolved.*

*13 models removed from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Compliant Products List (CPL) as the result of inspections.*

*All thanks to the Follow-up Inspection and Testing (FIT) program administered by the Compliance Testing Program (CTP) for NIJ.*

The first follow-up inspection took place in September 2010, and through September 2016, inspectors contracted to the CTP completed 251 inspections at various manufacturing locations and pulled 748 total armor models, the vast majority of which have passed through the FIT program with no issues. (For more details on how the program operates, see sidebar, “How the Follow-up Inspection and Testing Program Works.”) Take this high statistical success rate, add the development of a process wherein the manufacturing community works with CTP staff to resolve as many of the issues as possible, and the result is increased confidence in body armor’s protective capability among members of the law enforcement community.



Although only a small number of FIT inspections have resulted in the recall of fielded armor, an added benefit has been helping manufacturers identify and resolve potential problems before armor reaches the field. And the lesson learned from a particular inspection sometimes even has implications that help other manufacturers improve their products as well, says Alex Sundstrom, CTP Testing Coordinator.

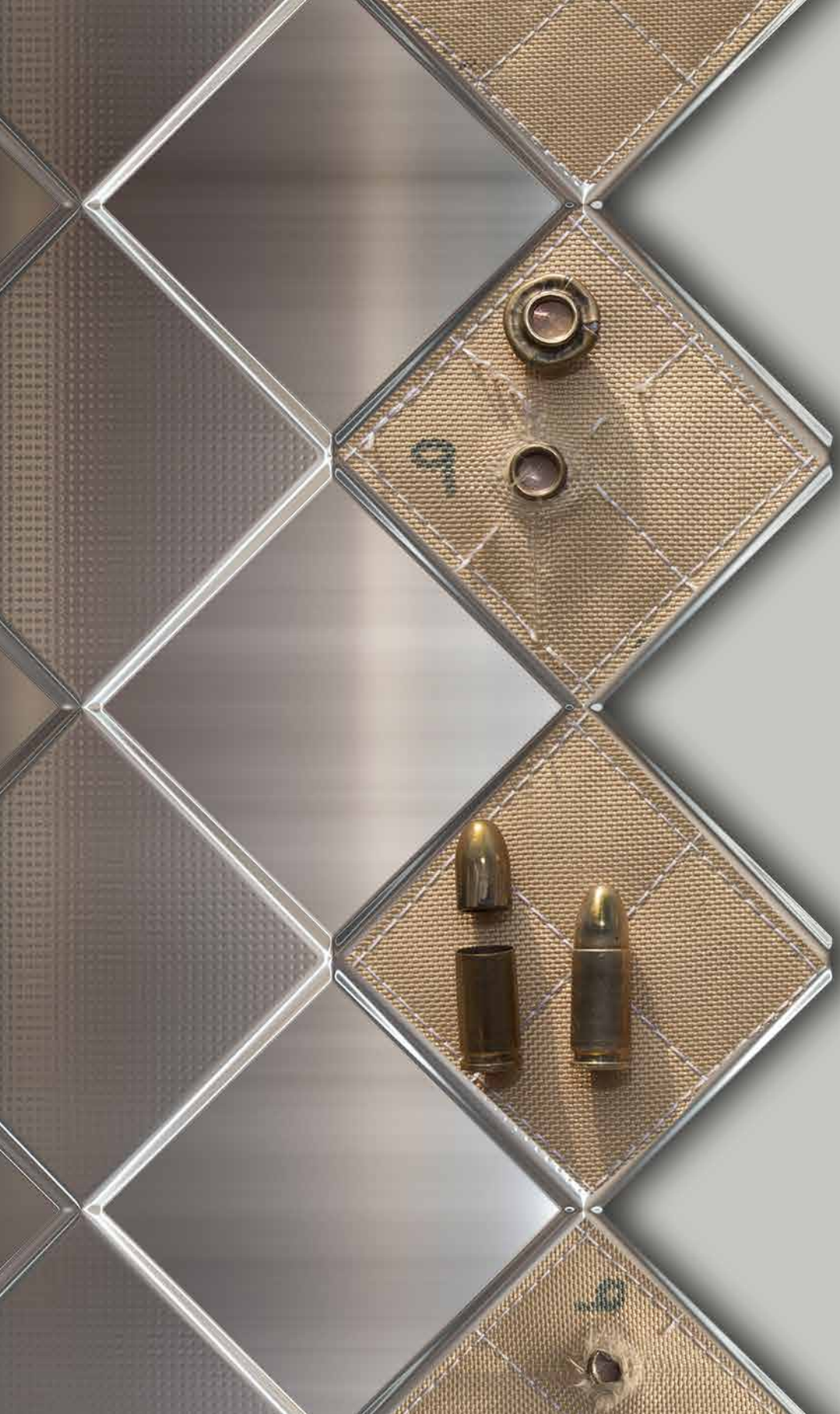
“Through the FIT program, the CTP can identify issues and require a manufacturer to perform a root cause analysis that makes the product better. The end result is you have a more consistently made product,” Sundstrom says.

One case that resulted in more consistently produced products occurred in 2015, when a particular armor model underwent a FIT inspection that resulted in multiple perforations during the ballistic testing phase. Testing lab staff noticed that the perforated panels were saturated with water from the pre-testing submersion process (part of the testing protocol). The NIJ CTP suspended the model from the NIJ CPL, issued an Advisory Notice to law enforcement, and asked the manufacturer to investigate and provide a corrective action plan. The investigation revealed that during assembly, some ballistic material fibers became caught in the seam and compromised the seal. The manufacturer changed the assembly process, and the model was restored to the CPL.

In late 2015 and early 2016, a different armor model also experienced multiple perforations that resulted from saturated panels. Again, the manufacturer investigated and found an issue with the sealing process, which was resolved with a change in the production protocol. Cases like these have led to other manufacturers re-examining their sealing processes as well, Sundstrom says.







“When you talk about building body armor, you need to remember that it’s a system ... that is, you combine different materials to achieve a desired result, and that result is meeting a specific performance level as defined in the NIJ standard,” says Lance Miller, director of the Justice Technology Information Center, which administers the CTP for NIJ. “When you do that, details matter. The FIT program helps manufacturers identify areas that can potentially impact the performance of their armor.”

Prior to the inception of the FIT program, the CTP tested only pre-production design samples of armor models, more of a “once and done” approach. This approach began to change as a result of the Body Armor Safety Initiative (BASI) launched by NIJ in 2003. BASI came about as the result of an incident earlier that year wherein a Forest Hills, Pa., police officer suffered serious injury due to perforation of his ballistic-resistant vest by a round that it was expected to stop (based on the armor model’s performance during initial product testing). Miller says the introduction of FIT provides enhanced quality assurance showing that not only did the pre-production test items meet the requirements of NIJ Standard 01010.06 *Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor*, but also that fielded armors are produced consistently and have the capability to meet the requirements of the standard and the NIJ CTP.

“Previously, we did not have any insight into the quality of production units. The result is assurance that the end products perform consistently, which fits into our overarching mission of keeping officers safe,” he says.

And sometimes that mission to keep officers safe does result in the removal of an armor model from the CPL. For example, in 2015, a particular model experienced multiple perforations from one caliber of ammunition during FIT testing. The manufacturer and its material supplier worked together to determine the root cause, while the manufacturer simultaneously recalled the armor model. Together, the two companies identified a potential issue with one of the materials used in the armor construction, and based on this information, the manufacturer discontinued production and requested that the model be permanently removed from the NIJ CPL. In the meantime, the material provider determined that this particular material performs very well in certain configurations but not in others. That vendor can now provide other purchasers of this material with better guidance on how to use it.

“FIT deals with the whole area of quality assurance in manufacturing, which is where ISO 9001 and our body-armor specific component, BA 9000, comes in. However, the limitation with ISO





standards is they speak to the quality of the manufacturing process; that is, that a manufacturer can repeat the same process consistently. For instance, if you produce pens, they're always made the same way," Miller says. "But ISO standards don't speak to the performance of the product; your pen may not write. That's where something like the NIJ standard comes in, because it covers the minimum performance of what the product is expected to do. If a pen fails, it's annoying, but you just go get another pen. In the case of body armor, it's an officer safety product, and if it fails, somebody could get hurt, or even die.

Sundstrom adds that CTP staff consistently strive to refine and improve those quality control processes, encouraging manufacturers, for example, to be more specific in their initial product design sheets so that CTP staff can more easily catch production inconsistencies.

"Everything is documented," he says. "Our main goal is to help manufacturers improve their processes, but we want to improve our internal processes as well to ensure we are also as consistent as we can be."

"The NIJ standard is a performance benchmark, not a cookbook telling you how to build armor. By its very nature, the standard encourages innovation in use of materials and in design," Miller says. "FIT acts as a check and balance to make sure as innovations are introduced, there is ongoing monitoring of the processes to identify potential issues."

*Ballistic-resistant body armor has been credited with saving the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since the mid- 1970s, when NIJ began testing body armor and developing performance standards. For more information on the FIT and compliance testing programs, visit <https://justnet.org/law-enforcement/LE-body-armor.html> or contact NIJ Senior Law Enforcement Program Manager Michael O'Shea at [michael.oshea@usdoj.gov](mailto:michael.oshea@usdoj.gov).*

# How the Follow-up Inspection and Testing Program Works

The Follow-up Inspection and Testing (FIT) program applies to armor models found by the National Institute of Justice Compliance Testing Program (NIJ CTP) to be compliant with NIJ Standard 0101.06 *Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor*, published in 2008. Under FIT, periodic unannounced inspections are conducted, during which independent inspectors pull production armor samples and send them for testing and inspection.

The FIT program is the latest stage in the progression of the CTP, which also conducts initial type testing. During this phase, documented armor model designs are put through a specified series of conditioning protocols and test series by NIJ-approved test laboratories to verify that they comply with the standard. CTP staff then add compliant models to the Compliant Products List (CPL), which is posted on the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System website, [www.justnet.org](http://www.justnet.org). The NIJ ballistic-resistant body armor standard is a minimum performance standard, and manufacturer compliance with this and all other NIJ standards is voluntary.

Manufacturers that participate in initial compliance testing also agree to participate in FIT, which gives confidence that recently manufactured armors will perform similarly to samples used in initial type testing. Follow-up inspection and testing has two aspects: performance testing and construction



inspection. Each month, the CTP prepares a list of armor and locations for follow-up inspection, based on the number of models a manufacturer currently has on the CPL that have not been inspected within the past 10 months.

Some models of ballistic-resistant body armor are initially manufactured for a single contract and are not produced again for a significant amount of time, which could result in the CTP not analyzing production samples in a timely manner. To address this issue, the FIT program also includes initial product inspection, which requires that follow-up inspection occur as soon as a model is listed on the CPL and production begins.

Under FIT, labs send the follow-up ballistic test results and tested armor samples to the CTP for inspection. This testing and inspection are used to ensure the production model is built the same way as samples submitted for initial compliance testing. By conducting multiple inspections both before and after production begins, FIT helps provide greater confidence that production armor fielded to practitioners meets the requirements of NIJ Standard 0101.06.





# New NIJ App Helps HOUSES *of* WORSHIP Plan for SAFETY

*By Becky Lewis*

*Oak Creek. Charleston. Any number of other cities, small towns and rural roadsides where mosques, churches and synagogues have been burned and defaced. In today's world, the literal definition of the word sanctuary, "a place of refuge or safety," no longer seems to apply to houses of worship (HOW).*

*To the reality of those threats, add the "ordinary" crises of medical emergencies, lost children, custody disputes and natural disasters, and it's clear that just as schools began developing and implementing safety and security plans in the wake of Columbine and Sandy Hook, HOW leadership now needs to look to do the same.*

*To help them plan and become prepared to handle emergencies, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has released Safeguarding Houses of Worship, an app that helps a HOW assess its risk factors and start a draft plan that can be expanded and customized to meet its specific needs.*

Distributed through NIJ's Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC) to vetted public safety professionals, the Safeguarding Houses of Worship app can be a way for local law enforcement agencies to connect with HOW in their jurisdictions. Whether the agencies choose to work with HOW on a one-to-one basis or hold local workshops/planning meetings to discuss the need for a safety plan, the availability of the app helps law enforcement agencies work together with HOW to make communities safer.





“It isn’t just an assessment tool; it actually helps HOW write a plan,” says Ron Pierce, JTIC Deputy Director. “It provides guidance on the issues they should address and includes boilerplate policy language that gives them a good pathway to creating an expanded policy that meets their needs.”

Safeguarding Houses of Worship guides a user through a series of questions designed to assist a HOW in evaluating the current safety and security posture of a campus, as well as prioritizing threats and making recommendations for improvement. Template text provides assistance with developing job descriptions and policies and procedures;

as Pierce notes, the template text can then be revised, expanded and customized. Users are cautioned that safety plans are living documents that a HOW should periodically review and update as needed.

Safeguarding Houses of Worship builds, and expands on, design principles used by JTIC in creating School Safe — JTIC’s Security and Safety Assessment App for Schools, released in October 2015 to assist schools with performing security assessments of their campuses. NIJ and JTIC were working on the development of the school app in October 2014 when Todd Coleman approached them with the idea to create a tool for





HOW. Realizing that the school app could be a foundation for meeting the need brought to their attention by Coleman, NIJ hired him as a consultant for the project and the process to develop Safeguarding Houses of Worship got underway.

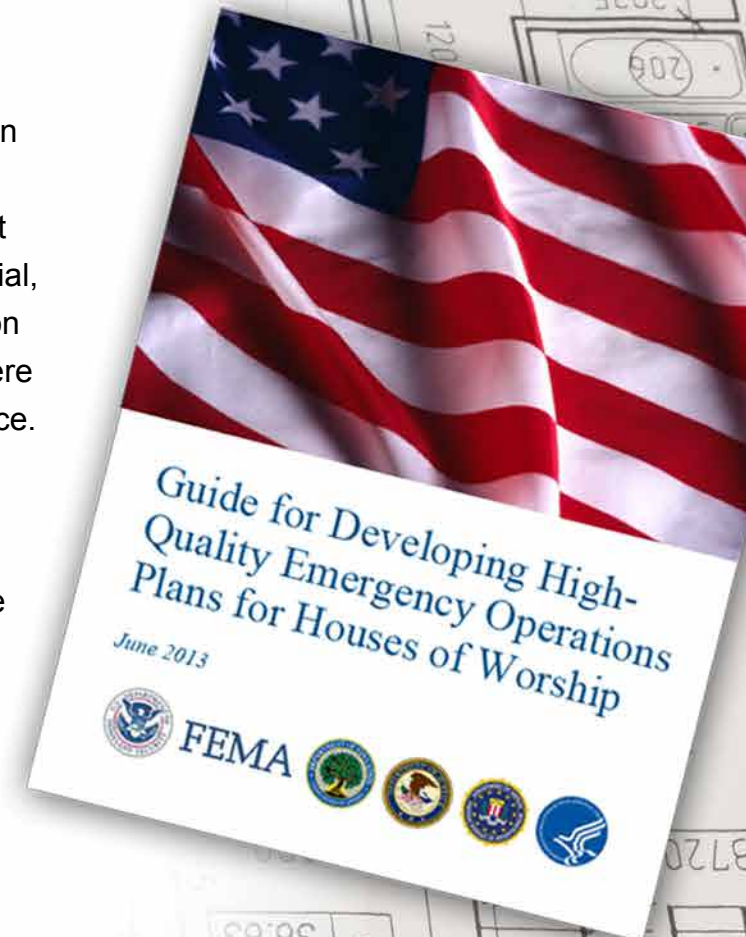
Coleman, a scientist who has worked in the area of law enforcement for more than 20 years and as a reserve deputy sheriff in Columbia County, Ga., for 15 years, attends an urban church in downtown Augusta, Ga. When his congregation decided the time had come to create a safety and security plan, members scoured the Internet for a tool that would help them develop one, and although they found a great deal of resource material, they couldn't find a tool that would help them create a plan. Ultimately, the congregation wrote a plan without such assistance, but Coleman couldn't help thinking that there were other HOW that might find the task too daunting to start without some type of assistance.

"I asked if there was interest in creating an automated process that would produce a draft plan, and NIJ went with it," Coleman says. "We started by convening two panels of experts consisting of law enforcement representatives and HOW administrators. We quickly learned that while each of us knew how our own campuses operate, we had to learn about the differences."

The panels had online meetings two weeks apart, and in between the two meetings, the June 17, 2015 shooting at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, S.C., took place, killing nine people.

"It really hit home for me, not just because we were working on the app, but because people from my church knew people from Charleston," Coleman says. "The shooting reminded everyone about the ongoing need and the urgency to get the app out."

Input from the panels helped inform the content, and the JTIC team worked with an app developer for the next 15 months to create a prototype, a beta test version and the final product.





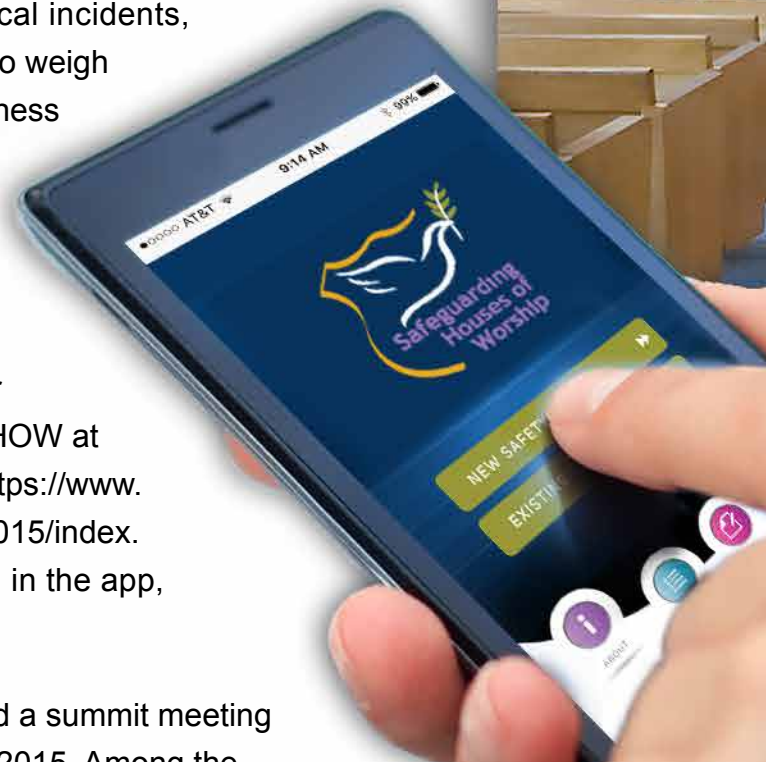
Safeguarding Houses of Worship walks the user through a series of questions and answers, marking a floor plan with critical points such as gas and water shutoff valves, taking an inventory of emergency management skills in the congregation and implementing recommendations on training for dealing with medical incidents, serious weather situations and missing children. It also asks users to weigh risks from specific hazards such as earthquakes, wildfires and nearness to a potential hazard such as a dam or a nuclear facility, and offers a glossary of relevant terms as well as sample forms for handling a bomb threat call, stocking a medical trauma kit and more.

“As we began the development process, we came across FEMA’s *Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship* and became aware of ongoing efforts to assist HOW at DHS and FEMA,” Pierce says. (See *TechBeat*, March/April 2015, [https://www.justnet.org/InteractiveTechBeat/eTECHBEAT/eTechbeat\\_MarApr\\_2015/index.html](https://www.justnet.org/InteractiveTechBeat/eTECHBEAT/eTechbeat_MarApr_2015/index.html)). “After Charleston, there was quite a bit of interest generated in the app, and we began pushing to get it out as quickly as possible.”

Pierce experienced some of that interest firsthand when he attended a summit meeting on safety and security for HOW at Augusta University in November 2015. Among the participating organizations, he saw “great interest in what FEMA had done already and in what the app could do for them. Many of them had started plans that included fire drills, but they didn’t touch on how to deal with a lost child or an active threat, and they hadn’t thought about assessing their specific risk factors.”

Now, with the availability of Safeguarding Houses of Worship, HOW can assess these risk factors and create job descriptions, draft policies and more, all as part of an effort to keep their campus and the community safe.

*For more information and for instructions on obtaining the app, visit [https://www.justnet.org/resources/Houses\\_of\\_Worship.html](https://www.justnet.org/resources/Houses_of_Worship.html) or contact Ben Bolton of JTIC at [asknlectc@justnet.org](mailto:asknlectc@justnet.org).*







## PLAN ENSURES SAFE, SECURE, SMOOTH WORSHIP

Like Col. John “Hannibal” Smith of “The A-Team” television show fame, Bellevue Baptist Church Director of Security Andy Willis loves it when a plan comes together.

That is, when the plan is the Memphis facility’s security plan that worked flawlessly to stop a potential gunman on Easter Sunday morning.

Willis, a reserve officer with the Memphis Police Department who oversees security for the 377-acre, 1-million-square-foot campus, says Bellevue’s security plan is “more of a comprehensive operating structure involving not just identified security personnel but also our greeters, our ushers and really the laity in general.”

Bellevue’s plan starts with the volunteers who comprise the parking lot team. The volunteers are trained in basic behavior detection and in being very observant, especially in the visitor area, and they know if something seems off, they should call security. That emphasis on being observant continues inside the facility with the greeters and the ushers, and it played out exactly as it should have on March 27, 2016. One of the greeters noticed that a man was carrying a handgun in his pocket, and when this same man wouldn’t shake hands or take a bulletin, she became alarmed enough to report it to one of Bellevue’s ministerial staff. The minister walked into the sanctuary, where members of the congregation quickly told him they had also noticed the handgun. At this point, he called in Willis.

“When people come to church to come to church, even if they’re really broken, they don’t brush by you and refuse to shake your hand and look at you,” Willis says. “Instead, they’re desperate for someone to talk to, and the first person they see is going to hear the whole story. But someone bent on causing harm, unless he’s a trained operative on a mission, will likely try to not personalize what he’s about to do by not shaking hands or looking anyone in the face. We make sure the congregation members know if they see that sort of behavior, don’t just whisper ‘that guy looks odd’ to the person they’re with. Instead, they should engage the situation and call, text or tell someone. That’s what happened here on Easter, and the plan worked.”



Willis emphasizes that plans need to be as specific as possible rather than dealing in nebulous concepts. In addition to the behavior detection training given to specific groups of volunteers, Bellevue issues copies of a guidance checklist, created by Willis and based on several U.S. Department of Defense training materials. It's also important for the plan to have an integrated workflow, so that everyone knows the next step to take in the event an incident occurs.

"On Easter morning, I had about 40 security people in place and working," Willis says. "Probably 25,000 people came through here that morning, and even 40 paid professionals can't put their eyes on all of them. Rather than expecting security to also see the guns and thus know to take care of the situation, the minister followed the plan by calling me for help while choosing to follow this individual at a safe distance."

Because he received that prompt notification, Willis was able to follow through and engage the armed man in a manner that led to his eventual disarmament and arrest.

"For the most part, the members of the congregation didn't know anything had happened, and that's good. That's part of the plan," he says. "Our goal is always to support our mission, which in this case was to have a worship service. We wanted to ensure safe, secure, smooth worship, and we did."

"We can point to this incident and say 'this went according to plan, and we were able to do it without one shot being fired,'" Willis adds. "You can go forever and ever and ever and never have an incident, but if there's a day when the bad guy comes, you want to be prepared. You want to have a plan and you want it to work."

*For more information, contact Andy Willis at [AWillis@Bellevue.org](mailto:AWillis@Bellevue.org). Willis served as a member of the focus group that helped inform content for the Safeguarding Houses of Worship app during its development stage.*

*Photo courtesy of FEMA/Jannah Scott*





# REGISTERED

National Institute of Justice

# MARK

INDICATES COMPLIANCE

*with Program Standards*

*By Becky Lewis*

*“Buyer Beware!,” a 2011 brochure produced by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), warned criminal justice professionals to check and double-check whether a specific model of ballistic-resistant body armor had gone through the NIJ Compliance Testing Program (CTP) by asking to see the statement of compliance on its label, and also by visiting NLECTC’s JUSTNET website to ensure the armor is listed on the Compliant Products List (CPL). As of October 2016, practitioners have a simpler way of double-checking as the NIJ CTP phases out the compliance statement and replaces it with the new, simpler, more recognizable NIJ Mark of Compliance.*

The NIJ CTP independently evaluates criminal justice equipment for compliance with NIJ performance standards, then communicates compliance status through both a published compliant products list and a statement of compliance applied to the equipment. NIJ has now begun authorizing ballistic-resistant body armor manufacturers to move from using the statement of compliance to using the NIJ Mark.



Using the NIJ Mark will improve criminal justice practitioners' ability to identify body armor that has been manufactured under the oversight of the applicable NIJ CTP surveillance program. Registering the Mark with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office establishes rights that provide certain legal protections against misuse by manufacturers; the statement of compliance did not have these protections and was susceptible to manipulation by manufacturers. (In the past, some manufacturers created statements very similar to the NIJ CTP statement of compliance that implied participation in the NIJ CTP. Thus, some criminal justice practitioners may have mistakenly purchased armor that did not participate in the NIJ CTP, according to NIJ CTP Conformity Assessment Coordinator Jamie Phillips of the Justice Technology Information Center, which manages the NIJ CTP for NIJ.)

“The NIJ Mark indicates that the ballistic-resistant body armor model to which it has been applied has been determined by the NIJ CTP to be compliant with the current version of the NIJ ballistic-resistant body armor standard. By placing the NIJ Mark on the armor, a manufacturer declares that the armor was both constructed in the same manner as the original test items evaluated by the NIJ CTP, and assembled under the NIJ CTP's surveillance program that periodically inspects and tests production samples,” says Phillips. “Even with the addition of the Mark, we still recommend that criminal justice agencies go to JUSTNET and verify the armor's status by checking the CPL.”

Manufacturers must complete legal agreements and have draft labels approved for production before they begin placing the NIJ Mark on production units. Phillips expects it to take several months before all manufacturers complete the necessary processes and paperwork, but it is likely that by early 2017 all newly produced compliant armors will carry the NIJ Mark.

“I believe manufacturers will jump on it just as quickly as they possibly can because the NIJ Mark will help to differentiate their products from armors that have not been independently tested and evaluated by the NIJ CTP,” he says.

*Manufacturers have received specific implementation guidance through a revised Applicant Agreement and NIJ CTP Product Conformity Assessment System documents (<https://justnet.org/howto/NIJ-Mark.html>). Questions about the NIJ Mark should be addressed to the U.S. Department of Justice/Office of Justice Programs/NIJ Program Manager, Mike O'Shea, at [michael.oshea@usdoj.gov](mailto:michael.oshea@usdoj.gov).*





# What a Label Should Include

In addition to the NIJ Mark, an NIJ CTP-approved label should include a number of other elements, some of which are listed below (manufacturers receive a more detailed list that includes specifics on type size, label appearance and so on). Also, please see the sample label that accompanies this article.

Name, logo or other identification of listed company.

Location and date of manufacture.

Model designation as it appears on the manufacturer's Notice of Compliance.

Date of issue (filled in by user).

Applicable standard version.

Length of warranty and point of contact for warranty information.

Rated level of protection, referencing the standard.

Declaration as to whether the armor provides ballistic protection, stab/slash protection or both.

Size (name of individual if custom-fitted).

Clear identification of either strike face or body side.

Serial number.

Care instructions.

Lot number.

(Listed Company's) Name  
(Listed Company's) Address

Model: \_\_\_\_\_



NIJ Standard-0101.06

Threat Level (NIJ 0101.06): \_\_\_\_\_

Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Lot Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Manufacturer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Manufacture: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Issue: \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer's  
Ballistic Performance Warranty Period: \_\_\_\_\_

For Warranty Information Contact:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## WARNING!

This garment is rated **ONLY** for the ballistic threat level stated above. It is **NOT** intended to protect against rifle fire or sharp-edged or pointed instruments.

**\*\* Wear Face \*\***

This side to be worn against body.

Care Instructions for Ballistic Panel:  
(Sample Instructions Shown):

1. Do not wash or dry clean.
2. Wipe with a damp cloth.



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, as well as other agencies. 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, *JUSTNET News*, an online, weekly 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](http://www.justnet.org). Subscribers to *JUSTNET News* receive the news summary directly via email. To subscribe to *JUSTNET News*, go to <https://www.justnet.org/app/puborder/subscribe/subscribe.aspx>, email your request to [asknlectc@justnet.org](mailto: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.*

## Report on State and Local Law Enforcement Training Academies

### Bureau of Justice Statistics

*State and Local Law Enforcement Training Academies, 2013*, presents findings on the basic training programs of more than 600 state and local law enforcement training academies, including data on teaching methods, major subject areas, average hours of instruction, characteristics of recruits, completion rates and employment data. Data are from the 2013 Census of Law Enforcement Training Academies, which collected information from all state and local academies that provided basic law enforcement training from 2011 to 2013.

Findings include that on average, 45,000 recruits entered basic law enforcement training programs each year from 2011 to 2013 and during that period, 86 percent of the recruits who started a basic training program completed it successfully.



Almost half of training academies were based at an educational institution. This included 33 percent at two-year colleges, 7 percent at four-year colleges or universities and 7 percent at technical schools. Academies were also operated by municipal police departments (20 percent), sheriffs' offices (10 percent), state police or highway patrol agencies (6 percent), and State Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) agencies (5 percent).

To read the report, go to <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=5684>.



## Report: How Prison Work Release Affects Recidivism and Employment

National Institute of Justice

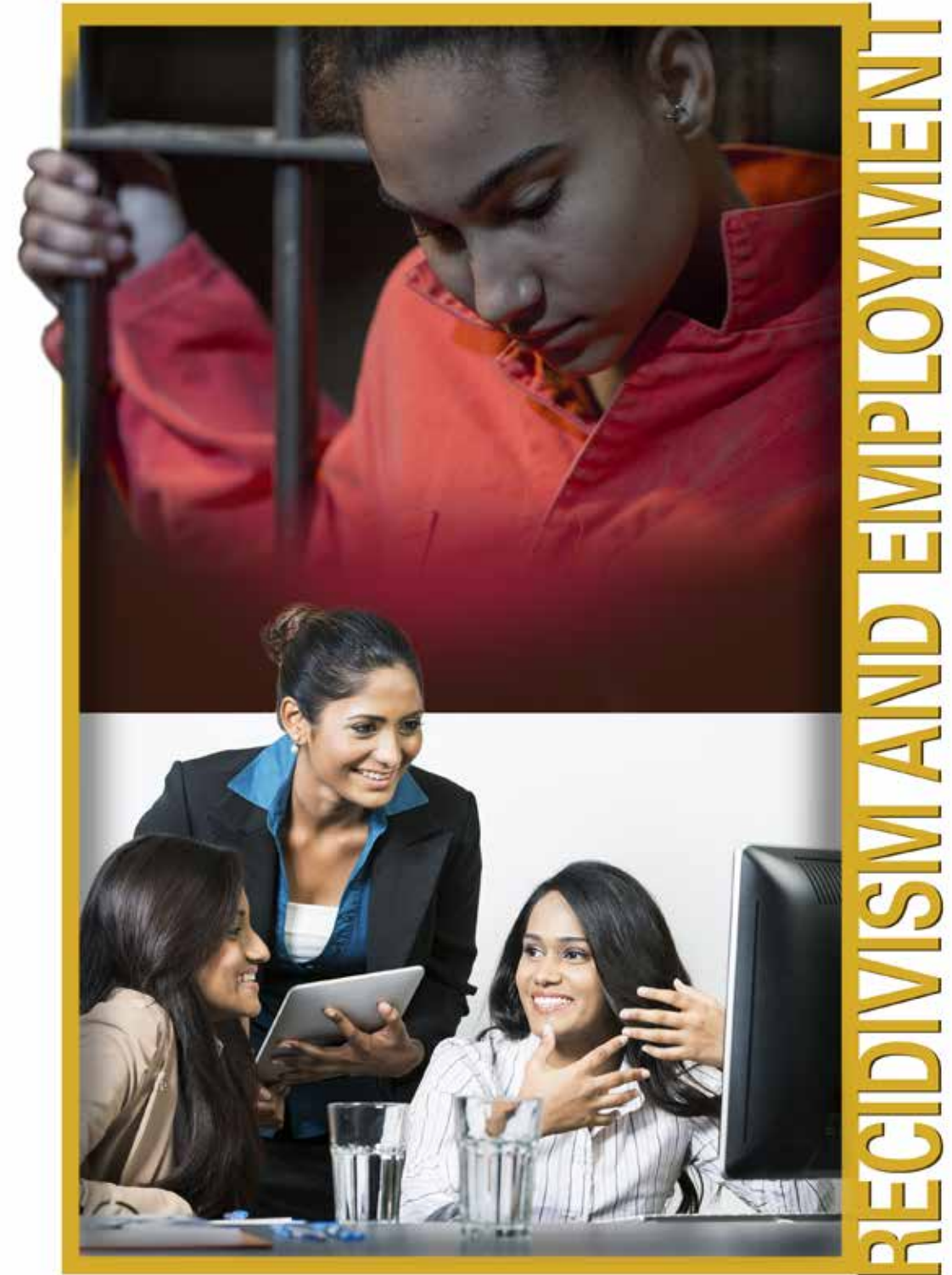
Work release is a community transition program in which eligible prison inmates are housed in a community work release facility during non-work hours and are employed in the community during the day. This program provides inmates with opportunities to enhance their job skills, re-establish ties with their family and community, and build financial savings prior to release.

This study, *An Assessment of the Effectiveness of Prison Work Release Programs on Post-Release Recidivism and Employment*, assesses Florida's work release programs and their impact on recidivism and post-release employment. It determines whether privately owned work release centers produce different outcomes compared to state operated programs under the Florida Department of Corrections.

Findings indicate that inmates released from work release facilities have significantly lower levels of recidivism as measured by arrest for any new crime, felony offense, and conviction for a new felony offense when compared to the control group. However, they have higher rates of returning to prison. Also, work release is a highly significant influence on the likelihood of obtaining employment within the first quarter following release.

When considering public versus private facilities, researchers found no meaningful differences in terms of recidivism. However, inmates who completed a work release program in a privately operated facility are significantly more likely to find employment when returning to their communities.

The report was prepared by the Florida Department of Corrections and Florida State University College of Criminology and Criminal Justice with a grant from the National Institute of Justice. To read the report, go to <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249845.pdf>.





# PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

JUSTNET

## In The News

Following are abstracts on public safety-related articles that have appeared in newspapers, magazines and websites.

### **Marshall, TX Police Acquire New Use of Force Training Simulator**

*KSLA, (09/06/2016)*

The Marshall Police Department has a new simulator to help with use of force training. The simulator is preloaded with nearly 600 different scenarios, and approximately 50 new scenarios are added each year. The scenarios require the officer to respond appropriately to everything from simple verbal commands to necessary lethal force.

<http://www.ksla.com/story/33034046/marshall-tx-police-acquire-new-use-of-force-training-simulator>

### **Learning to Apply a Tourniquet Stressed as Active Shooter Events Increase**

*Lincoln Journal-Star, (09/19/2016), Nancy Hicks*

Because many of the victims in mass casualty events bleed to death before medical assistance arrives, law enforcement officers are learning new first aid and trauma treatment techniques that may help save lives. As part of this growing trend, police cruisers and fire and rescue vehicles in Lincoln, Neb., are now equipped with new trauma kits and some 300 officers have received training in the use of combat application tourniquets, which require only one hand to apply.

[http://journalstar.com/news/local/learning-to-apply-a-tourniquet-stressed-as-active-shooter-events/article\\_8e3a019c-5235-57eb-b742-ea09f400bbba.html](http://journalstar.com/news/local/learning-to-apply-a-tourniquet-stressed-as-active-shooter-events/article_8e3a019c-5235-57eb-b742-ea09f400bbba.html)

### **Daviess County Jail Installs New Body Scanner to Detect Contraband**

*WKU, (09/15/2016), Rhonda Miller*

The jail in Kentucky's Daviess County has a new state-of-the-art body scanner for use in detecting contraband. Similar to those used at airports, the machine uses technology to make two scans from different angles to help detect hidden items.

<http://wkyufm.org/post/daviess-county-jail-installs-new-body-scanner-detect-contraband#stream/0>

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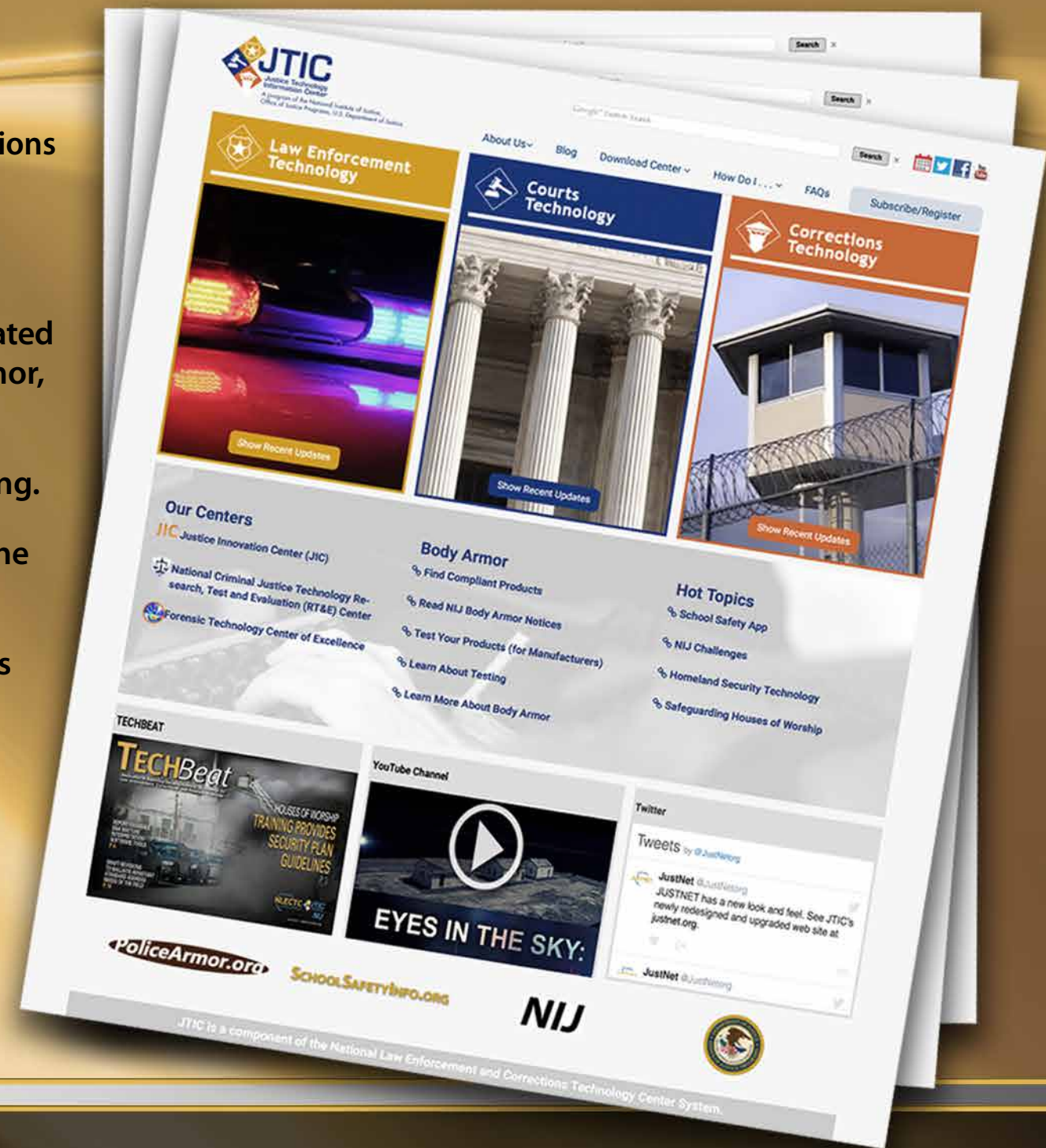
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