## ECHBeat

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

FREE MOBILE PHONE SAFETY APPLICATION TRACKS LOCATION, SENDS ALARMS AND RECORDS DATA P. 6

FRESNO REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER HELPS RESOLVE INCIDENTS SAFELY P. 9

FORENSICS TRAINING TOOL TAKES "REAL WORLD" APPROACH TO USING NEW TECHNOLOGY P. 13

## FREE SOFTWARE TOOL CAN "PROVE" VALUE OF DATA MINING P.3



November/December 2016 WWW.JUSTNET.ORG

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.

#### **Subscriptions:**

TechBeat is free. To subscribe, go to www.justnet.org and click on subscribe. If you have questions, call (800) 248-2742, fax (301) 240-6730 or email asknlectc@ justnet.org.

#### **Photo Credits:**

Photos used in this issue © Shutterstock, PhoneFlare,Vic Bedoian, iStock and Getty Images/The Washington Post/Contributor.

Publisher/Federal Program Manager: Michael O'Shea, (202) 305-7954, michael.oshea@usdoj.gov.

#### Staff:

Managing Editors, Lance Miller and Ron Pierce; Editor, Michele Coppola; Lead Writer, Becky Lewis; Graphic Designers and Multimedia, Tina Kramer, Amy Ahrens and Christian Baker.

#### **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 or contact (800) 248-2742.

NCJRS National Criminal Justic 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.

#### ANDROID AND IPHONE APPS AVAILABLE



Android and iPhone apps are now available to access *TechBeat*. Keep current with research and development efforts for public safety technology and enjoy interactive features including video, audio and embedded images. iTunes: http://www.justnet.org/iphoneapp/

Android: http://www.justnet.org/androidapp/

# Can PROVE Jaine of DATA MINING

101101017

010 0001

0 100 001

100 1110

01101010

010100011

01 000001111

1000 110

011 101

Crock Ti dag

10000110

11 0101010

001100

By Becky Lewis

Innovations in technology have made it easier to track data related to repeat crime patterns. If agencies can mine this data for information, it could help them allocate limited staffing resources and potentially even keep crime from happening. Software that would allow them to reach that goal may have previously been out of reach financially, but now, a free tool developed as the result of research funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) puts that potential within the reach of every law enforcement agency in the country.

Prediction of Repeat Offending and Victimization in the Environment, better known as PROVE, has the capability to predict future crime risk potential and produces both a visual and a statistical report that agencies can use to help inform their crime prediction efforts. To develop the tool, a team from Temple University's Center for Security and Crime Science explored the capability of various combinations of U.S. Census Bureau information for the city of Philadelphia and previous crime data from the city's police department to predict future crime risk potential. The research team examined statistics for crimes to include homicide, rape, aggravated assault and robbery, and property crimes such as burglary and motor vehicle theft; considered long-term and short-term risk; and looked at near-repeat crimes in a two-week timeframe. Using a model combining community structural characteristics, crime counts from the previous year and an estimate of near repeat activity that generated the best results overall, the research team partnered with Azavea, a Philadelphia-based company that creates civic geospatial software and data analytics for the Web, to develop PROVE.

"If a department has crime data, they can use PROVE to get to maps that show where risky locations are. Any department, as long as they have crime data in an electronic form, can use it. It doesn't require any proprietary software at all," says developer Jeremy Heffner. "Some departments that already use hotspot maps may find this to be more accurate."

Heffner says that PROVE produces two types of maps: a long-term projection that could prove useful for changing staffing levels or looking at needed infrastructure changes such as additional cameras and lighting, and a short-term map that allows departments to make weekly or daily adjustments in patrols and community policing. Larger departments with full-time GIS analysts on staff may choose to explore more advanced options, but even small departments will be able to download, install and begin using PROVE immediately.

14

"We've seen predictive policing become a significant feature of police innovation and technology in the past few years," says Jerry Ratcliffe, criminal justice professor at Temple and lead researcher. "Numerous approaches have been taken, and while most are practical, we wanted to take a step back and examine the most robust theories available around communities and crime, and around crime at the neighborhood level, and then take those academic theories and turn them into a practical tool that pairs a rigorous street crime theory with an easy-to-use and free software program."

Ratcliffe says that agencies can purchase, often at a significant cost, a number of predictive policing programs that have not been rigorously tested or are not necessarily founded on a robust theoretical framework; others require departments to expend considerable efforts in gathering and maintaining a number of different datasets.

"From the perspective of a patrol officer driving around a busy district, most criminological theories have little practical application," he says. "We focused only on approaches that use data that are freely available to every U.S. police department: They have access to their own crime data and they can also access demographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau. The software automates the process of gathering census data so if the department contributes crime data on a regular basis, predictions are available almost up to the minute."

The hardest task for a department using PROVE may be setting up the crime data in the required format, but the program's manual gives detailed instructions on how to do so. The software itself downloads and installs automatically. In addition to the software and manual that are already available, the developer plans to also release the source code so that interested departments can develop and share their own ideas and improvements.

"As a company, we think it's important to advance the field overall. Developing this free tool goes along with our overall mission: It's the right thing to do and it moves everyone forward," Heffner says.

"We're really pleased that NIJ supported this effort because creating a tool that was freely available to all U.S. police departments was important to us," Ratcliffe says. "A lot of departments are going through fiscal constraints and budget crises, and we didn't want them to be excluded from the benefits of predictive policing because they need to spend limited budgets elsewhere. We think we've got a really strong tool, yet one that doesn't require expensive maintenance or ongoing costs. We hope it can benefit departments of every size."

To read Predictive Modeling Combining Short and Long-Term Crime Risk Potential: Final Report, a report detailing how the Temple team carried out the research, go to https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249934.pdf. To download the software, which underwent beta testing by the developer using a variety of departments of different sizes, go to http://www.cla.temple.edu/cj/center-for-security-and-crimescience/prove-predictive-policing-software/. Mobile Phone Safety Application TRACKS LOCATION, SENDS ALARMS and RECORDS DATA

By Becky Lewis

Sometimes, when confronted by an attacker, even the time it takes to make three jabs of the finger to call 911 is too long. With PhoneFlare, a new free security app, it takes only a single ripping gesture on the headphone cord to raise an alarm for help.

PhoneFlare, launched by a nonprofit group in August 2016, can be downloaded from both Apple and Google Play at no charge. Targeting primarily college students, but available to anyone, the app activates an alarm when the user either misses a designated check-in time or makes a manual call for help by pulling headphones or another accessory out of a phone's audio jack or charging port. In either instance, the phone automatically texts designated friends and family and sends them the GPS coordinates of the user's location. For students at participating colleges and universities, the app also sends a message to the school's security dispatch.

To help reduce false alarms, PhoneFlare sends reminders at five-minute intervals as check-in time approaches, giving the user the opportunity to reset the designated check-in time. Once the deadline has passed, PhoneFlare begins sending emergency messages, but the user still has a chance to call it a false alarm and stop the messages. However, as an additional safeguard against a user's being coerced by an attacker to turn off the app, the disarm function includes a request to choose a color; an incorrect color choice gives the appearance that the alarm has been disabled, while in actuality it continues to broadcast the user's GPS coordinates.

Funded entirely by grants and donations, PhoneFlare is the brainchild of app developer and filmmaker Christopher Cinq-Mars Jarvis. As a student at New York University, he became aware of the many issues surrounding campus sexual assault and the need for additional resources to help his female friends.

According to Kristina Clark, spokesperson for PhoneFlare, the original concept dealt with creating a resource that would help gather evidence; hence, PhoneFlare's option to record audio to the phone and to catalog the unique device identifiers (UDIDs) of nearby devices. Should a user want to retrieve the UDID log, PhoneFlare staff will provide assistance with retrieving the data and emailing it to a personal account.

"After they developed a way to gather potential evidence, the developers came up with the idea of pulling an accessory out of its connection to trigger an alarm as an easy way to call for help," Clark says.

911 Tap above to call Emergency Service

You are currently in an Emerg

I'm OK!

OR

arm

Connect headphones or an accessory and hit the **arm** button above to prime your device for an emergency.



1:30 AM Wed 7/20

Add a time you would like to check back in with PhoneFlare by hitting the + button. If you fail to check-in within a 5 minute grace period, your contacts will be reached.

TechBeat November/December 2016 7

Some of the funds raised to cover PhoneFlare's operating expenses have gone toward the purchase of so-called "dust plugs," which are non-functional plugs that can be inserted into a port, then pulled out to raise an alarm. PhoneFlare plans to hand these plugs out free of charge on campuses and also at women's shelters.

"We are partnering with colleges to make sure this easily accessible resource is communicated to their faculty and students, and we have high schools pushing it out to their students as well," Clark says, adding that PhoneFlare has also received interest from hospitals and from retirement communities.

Although there is no automatic alarm to a security dispatch outside of campus settings, anyone can use the option to have the app send text messages to designated friends and family, along with the user's GPS coordinates. (A disposable link opens Google Maps and updates the individual's position every 10 seconds.) For those institutions of higher learning listed in a crowdsourced database — more than 700 signed up in the first month — the automated call to security/law enforcement dispatch relays the students' verified school email as well as the GPS coordinates.

"We hope this app will continue to grow and evolve as an important resource for sexual assault prevention," Clark says.

For more information, visit http://www.phoneflare.com/ or contact Kristina Clark at (931) 308-2977, email press@phoneflare.com.

## FRESNO REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER Helps Resolve INCIDENTS SAFELY

By Becky Lewis

In these days of tight budgets and "do more with less," Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer came up with a different approach to creating a Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) for his department: All funding to create the center came not from the city's operating budget, but from private donations.

The RTCC opened in July 2015, and on about one-quarter (650) of the approximately 2,800 calls fielded by dispatch every 24 hours, RTCC staff finds a way to use its vast resources to provide additional information that can potentially improve the outcome of the department's response.

Sgt. Steven Casto explains that in-progress and life-threatening crimes calls rated as "0" or "1" in priority send RTCC staff looking for information that could provide assistance to responding officers. The agency has built an application that connects with dispatch to bring high-priority calls into the RTCC. If the dispatch information includes an address as opposed to an intersection, operators can pull up the names and histories of persons most likely residing at that address, allowing the operator to check for warrants, restraining orders or a history of violence. Having that kind of information available might change the way an officer approaches a call, Casto says.



"The goal is to provide officers with information that would help them resolve incidents safely while providing needed assistance to the public."

—Sgt. Steve Casto, Fresno Police Department

Photo courtesy of Vic Bedoian

"Like all Real-Time Crime Centers, ours was created to provide relevant information to officers responding to emergency events. The goal is to provide officers with information that would help them resolve incidents safely while providing needed assistance to the public. That's the primary goal," Casto says.

Those 0 and 1 priorities come from a dispatch center that operates in the same building, but is not co-located with the RTCC. Dispatchers create computer-aided dispatch (CAD) records and the RTCC brings the high-priority events into the system, where an operator determines what type of assistance the RTCC can offer.

"They might reposition video cameras, or they might start doing workups on individuals named on the call. Tasks like these can be time consuming and are not normally done by dispatch," Casto says, adding that dispatch might check for wants and warrants, but does not have the time to perform deep background checks.

Operators use one of the center's eight workstations, which face a 12-screen video wall. All operators have the ability to put video feeds related to an in-progress incident on the wall, and the RTCC also includes three Mondopads as part of the video array. The Mondopads can be linked



for videoconferencing with each other, with a similar Mondopad in the department's mobile command center, and with Mondopads in the Joint Multi-Agency Command Center.

Casto says those feeds draw from approximately 200 departmental cameras; 1,500 cameras positioned throughout the Fresno Unified School District; approximately 250 Traffic Operations Center cameras; and the camera system at city hall. The department is also working on bringing on board private camera systems such as those used at major shopping centers and hospitals. In addition to video feeds, operators can also access the CAD, the records management system and the department's radio system.

An Automated Vehicle Locator System shows where units are located in the city, allowing opera-

tors to pick up on areas that need additional coverage or help establish incident perimeters. Links to other law enforcement agencies in Fresno County, including the sheriff's department probation and parole records and jail management data; a mug shot database; and several well-known commercial systems for communication via personal devices, license plate recognition, gunshot detection, crime mapping and predictive policing, help round out the list of available tools.

"We haven't had a success story that was big national news, but there have been a lot of small successes, like an incident where an operator responded to a call in a convenience store and the center operator repositioned a camera to monitor the situation," Casto says. "The officer attempted to ask for help over the radio because the subject was resisting, but all that came over the audio was a mike click. Because the operator could see through the video feed that the officer needed help, he dispatched additional officers to respond."

Other successes have involved identifying suspect vehicles in robbery series, quickly identifying suspects immediately following major crimes

TechBeat November/December 2016

such as murder, and frequently informing responding officers of wanted subjects or subjects with restraining orders who may be present at locations to which they are responding.

Although Fresno has 800 sworn officers to service its more than a half-million residents, Casto believes that many of the same principles that went into designing the RTCC could be applied by departments of all sizes.

"LAPD probably has many millions invested in their RTCC, while we have more on the order of \$500,000 to \$600,000. A small agency might be able to designate someone to check addresses, wants and warrants and provide information to the field," he says. "Smaller departments might not have their own video programs, but they might be able to access assets in their jurisdiction. Lots of homes and small businesses have cameras now, and many departments are at least registering them so they can check for video in the event of an incident."

"Overall, we haven't done any studies on whether our RTCC has reduced crime numbers, but I think the biggest value is that having additional information available as officers respond to these events may help prevent a major incident," he adds. "That kind of impact is hard to measure."

For more information on the Fresno RTCC, contact Sgt. Steven Casto at steven.casto@fresno.gov, phone (559) 621-2618.



## Forensics Training Tool "REAL WORLD" Takes REAL WORLD" New Technology

By Becky Lewis

With a new software forensic training tool, one mouse click on the link, and you're in the scene. It's just like the real world, like you're right there where the action takes place, with all the latest cutting-edge technology you need to complete your mission: learn how to use massively parallel sequencing (MPS) to give you more detailed forensic information than ever before.

In other words, this new training tool from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) is not "death by PowerPoint."

Massively parallel sequencing uses advanced technology platforms to analyze millions of strands of DNA at a time, allowing analysts to look at many more Short Tandem Repeats (STRs)<sup>1</sup>, including nuclear STRs and the STRs found on the Y chromosome, as well as hundreds to thousands of Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)<sup>2</sup> in one run.

<sup>1</sup> Short Tandem Repeats (STRs) are the locations of the genome currently used for forensic DNA analysis. Spe cific STRs are used in forensic casework and stored in local, state and national DNA databases. The FBI's Combined DNA Index System, or CODIS, was designed to compare a target DNA record against the DNA records contained in the database.

<sup>2</sup> Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) are locations of the genome that may vary one single nucleotide. By analyzing many of these differences, analysts have the potential to increase match statistics, make associations between closely and even distantly related individuals, and give inferences on physical traits of individuals.



According to Donia Slack, FTCoE associate director, using MPS can make STRs more informative by increasing the statistical power of DNA results. And in order to help the forensic community become familiar with, and feel comfortable using this new technology, the FTCoE developed a virtual reality training tool, housed on its website at https://www.forensiccoe.org/massively\_parallel\_sequencing\_workshop. This tool puts users in a mock laboratory setting where they actually perform the tasks needed to use the new technology and learn about the science behind it along the way.

"We wanted to make it seem a little bit less daunting by creating a tool that used virtual reality to make it almost like a video game," Slack says. "The tool helps users learn how the process is different, and at the same time shows them the general basic lab flow is not as foreign as they think. It helps individuals who just want to know more about the technology gain a comfort level with it, and for labs that adopt the technology, it can be used as no-cost training that doesn't involve travel or gaining access to the equipment for multiple users."

The FTCoE debuted the tool at an International Symposium on Human Identification workshop in Minneapolis, Minn., on Sept. 26, 2016. Feedback from participants indicated the tool was extremely beneficial and made the MPS process seem less intimidating.

"Attendees also indicated that they had seen presentations on the technology, but they'd never been able to grasp it at the molecular level. When you're working in a lab, you use processes like moving a liquid from Tube A to Tube B, and you knew why you were doing it when you were in school, but after working in a lab for many years, sometimes you may lose sight on what's happening," Slack says. "With the tool, whenever you complete a step, it pops up and explains the science that's going

on at that point. It might say something like 'the DNA is now making millions and millions of copies of itself.' The tool not only teaches the lab process, but it also marries it to the principles behind the technology."

Those principles behind the technology provide better statistical matches between DNA from the evidence and DNA from a suspect by looking at nucleotides and drilling down to SNPs, a level that can distinguish very similar DNA belonging to two different people.

"SNPs not only make it easier to distinguish between individuals, they also can ensure greater accuracy in familial associations, which can help identify victims as well as suspects. If the only available DNA comes from a second cousin, associations can be made more easily and quickly, with more confidence behind them," Slack says. "In addition, it may be possible to even determine characteristics such as ancestry, height, predisposition to obesity, even brown hair or blue eyes or a tendency to freckle."

SNPs can also help when DNA from multiple contributors is found on a piece of evidence, such as a gun handled by various members of a gang but used by only one to commit a crime. Using MPS, an analyst may be able to determine if DNA belonging to a suspect is present; its absence could also exonerate an individual. And given that the technology is compatible with existing databases, it might appear that the only drawback to adopting its use may lie in the cost. However, Slack explains that even though the technology may initially appear to be more costly, ultimately that might not be the case.

"The instruments themselves are slightly cheaper, but the actual lab consumables cost more, and because the process takes more time, the labor costs appear higher. However, if you tally up what it would cost you to perform individual processes to determine all of the information you can get with one MPS run, the cost would be astronomical. With this, it's one and done, and in the end, it should cost less money to get the same results," she says, adding that the FTCoE would like to do a cost-comparative analysis sometime in the near future.

For more information on the Massively Parallel Sequencing Simulation Tool, contact Donia Slack at dslack@rti.org, and for more information on FTCoE programs in general, visit https://www. forensiccoe.org/. For more information on forensics programs of the National Institute of Justice, contact Gerald LaPorte, Director, Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, at Gerald. LaPorte@usdoj.gov.

## ECF Shorts 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, 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. 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 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.

#### **Sexual Assault Policy Symposium**

#### Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

The Forensic Technology Center of Excellence hosted Looking Ahead: The National Sexual Assault Policy Symposium on Sept. 8-9, 2016, in Washington, D.C. The symposium focused on how the nation is moving forward and finding solutions to the complex issues that arise in sexual assault cases and in testing sexual assault evidence. It featured an array of stakeholders, including medical staff, law enforcement officers, crime laboratory analysts, victims' advocates and prosecutors; highlighted current accomplishments; and shared valuable experiences from jurisdictions throughout the country.

Day 1 panels addressed the Immediate Aftermath of Sexual Assault; Victim-Centered Approaches to Sexual Assault Response; Progress on Testing Sexual Assault Kits: An



Update from the Nevada Sexual Assault Kit Backlog Working Group; Investigating Sexual Assault: Lessons Learned and Promising Practices; Legislative Reform: Addressing Sexual Assault Across the Nation; and What is Probative: The Role of Evidence in Sexual Assault Cases. Day 2 topics covered Behind the Pulitzer Prize Winning Story "An Unbelievable Story of Rape"- How Inter-Agency Cooperation Led to the Apprehension of a Serial Rapist; In the Lab - Testing Sexual Assault Evidence; Building an Efficient Laboratory Using Technology and Innovative Processes; Funding and Resources to Solve Sexual Assault Cases; and Using Multidisciplinary Collaboration to Improve Sexual Assault Response and Create Positive Change.

For more information, visit https://www.forensiccoe.org/Looking-Ahead-The-National-Sexual-Assault-Policy-Symposium.

#### How Foot Patrols Benefit Law Enforcement and Communities Police Foundation

A report from the Police Foundation highlights how foot patrol can benefit law enforcement officers and the communities they serve, and the challenges of implementing a foot patrol program.

The study involved the Cambridge (MA) Police Department, the New Haven (CT) Police Department, the Evanston (IL) Police Department, the Kalamazoo (MI) Department of Public Safety and the Portland (OR) Police Bureau. The report, *Engaging Communities One Step at a Time: Policing's Tradition of Foot Patrols as an Innovative Community Engagement Strategy*, identifies the benefits of foot patrol, challenges of establishing foot patrol and recommendations for implementation planning.

#### Benefits of foot patrol include:

- Foot patrol facilitates relationship-building between officers and the community.
- Foot patrol enhances the enforcement and problem-solving capability of law enforcement.
- Relationships built through foot patrol can change how the community views police officers.
- Relationships built through foot patrol can increase the legitimacy of the police in the eyes of the community.
- Foot patrol is rewarding and psychologically beneficial for the officers involved.

#### Challenges of implementing and maintaining foot patrol include:

- Foot patrol is manpower intensive.
- Traditional productivity measures may be inappropriate for assessing the performance of foot patrol officers.



Foot patrol focused on community engagement may be seen as antithetical to the traditional crime control model of policing, which may create challenges for internal acceptance in some cases.

The report said based on the analysis and emergent themes, departments considering implementing foot patrol as an operational strategy should consider four key areas: purpose, resources, continuity and commitment. These areas reflect both the challenges of foot patrol as discussed by various agencies and components of implementation that foot patrol officers and community members noted as beneficial.

To read the report, go to https://www.policefoundation.org/publication/engaging-communitiesone-step-at-a-time/.





### Report on Researcher-Practitioner Partnership and Field Experiment

#### National Institute of Justice

A report evaluates the effect on crime of a project that involved intensified police patrols and enforcement, and the researcher-practitioner partnership that underlay the project.

Researchers worked with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department to devise a field experiment to evaluate the effects on crime of hot spot police patrols in areas of the city with high levels of firearm violence. Crime activity in the target areas were compared with control areas subject to normal police activity during the nine-month experiment period. Data analysis consisted of comparing firearm assault and robbery levels in the target and control areas with baseline levels during nine months prior to the experiment.

The report, *Evaluating a Researcher-Practitioner Partnership and Field Experiment,* said that statistically significant reductions in firearms assaults occurred in the target areas with enhanced patrols and enforcement tactics, compared with the control area.

The hot spot evaluation was made possible by the St. Louis Public Safety Partnership, a formal agreement between the city's mayor's office, the police department and the University of Missouri-St. Louis to share data and expertise to improve public safety in the city. Researchers interviewed participants in the partnership, noting that trust in the researchers' commitment and value of the partnership grew over time.

To read the report, go to https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249807.pdf.



## PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY JUSTN In The News

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

#### Sheriff's Office Rolls Out Inmate Search Database

Times-Herald, (12/01/2016), Kayla Galloway

The Solano County Sheriff's Office website has a new search feature to ease access to information about inmates in county detention centers. The feature will allow users to search for current inmates in all of the county's detention centers. Users can schedule video visitations with inmates, purchase commissary goods for inmates and access inmates' personal information, including bail totals, birth dates, court dates and whether the individual has been sentenced in court.

http://www.timesheraldonline.com/article/NH/20161201/NEWS/161209980

#### **Aviation Unit Returns to the Department of Natural Resources**

HeliHub, (12/04/2016)

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources again has a helicopter as an enforcement tool. The aircraft will be used as a surveillance platform to assist Natural Resources police officers as they patrol 17,000 miles of waterways and nearly a half-million acres of public lands. The department once had a police aviation unit, which was eliminated in 2009 and its helicopter transferred to another agency. That same helicopter became available last year, and after it was refurbished, was brought back to the department.

http://helihub.com/2016/12/04/aviation-unit-returns-to-the-department-of-natural-resources/

#### Sacramento, Calif., Police Launch Real-Time Crime Center

#### Government Technology, (12/07/2016), Eyragon Eidam

The Sacramento Police Department has a new Real-Time Crime Center, which will provide officers in the field with real-time, tech-enabled intelligence during large events and critical incidents. Law enforcement officials now have access to more than 46 police mobile camera systems and other streaming video feeds from surface streets, public transit and popular public areas. Center staff also monitor radio traffic, social media feeds and a gunshot detection system.

http://www.govtech.com/dc/articles/Sacramento-Calif-Police-Launch-Real-Time-Crime-Center.html

#### **CONTACT US**

Call the NLECTC Information Hotline at 800-248-2742 or email asknlectc@justnet.org

JUSTNET News is a service of the Justice Technology Information Center, a component of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, a program the Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. We are always interested in our readers' comments and feedback about this service. Please send your comments, questions or suggestions to asknlectc@justnet.org.

#### **Subscription Details**

Unsubscribe from this newsletter. Subscribe to our e-TechBeat newsletter.

#### **Federal Funding Opportunities**

See www.nij.gov or www.grants.gov.

#### **Give Us Your Tech Ideas**

We are actively seeking ideas to help us identify technology needs and requirements as part of the National Institute of Justice's Research, Development, Testing, and Evaluation process.



## WWW.JUSTNET.ORG

JUSTNET News. 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, 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.

Tech Topics. Browse for information on law enforcement, corrections and courts technologies.





The Justice Technology Information Center, a component of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System, is supported by Cooperative Agreement #2014-IJ-CX-K004 awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. Analyses of test results do not represent product approval or endorsement by the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice; the National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce; or Lockheed Martin. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

**SJTIC** 

**Our Centers** 

Justice Innovation Center (JIC)

arch, Test and Evaluation (RT&E) Cen

rensic Technology Center of Excelle

D National Criminal Justice Tech

Law Enforcement Technology

Seath

FAQs

How Do I .....

Hot Topics

% School Safety App

6 Homeland Security Technol

feguarding Houses of Worshi

JUSTNET has a new look and feel. See JTIC's redesigned and upgraded web site a

o NIJ Challenges

Twitter

weets by duran

Download Center ~

Courts Technology

Body Armor

% Find Compliant Products

Read NIJ Body Armor Notice

About Testing

& Learn More About Body Arm

ouTube Channel

6 Test Your Products (for Manufacturers

NI

Search

Canto - 🛗 💟 🛐 🛎

Subscribe/Register

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Office for Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.