

# TECHBeat

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

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**NLECTC** **JTIC**  
National Law Enforcement and  
Corrections Technology Center System  
Justice Technology  
Information Center  
A Program of the **NIJ**  
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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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Michael O'Shea, (202) 305-7954, [michael.oshea@usdoj.gov](mailto: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.

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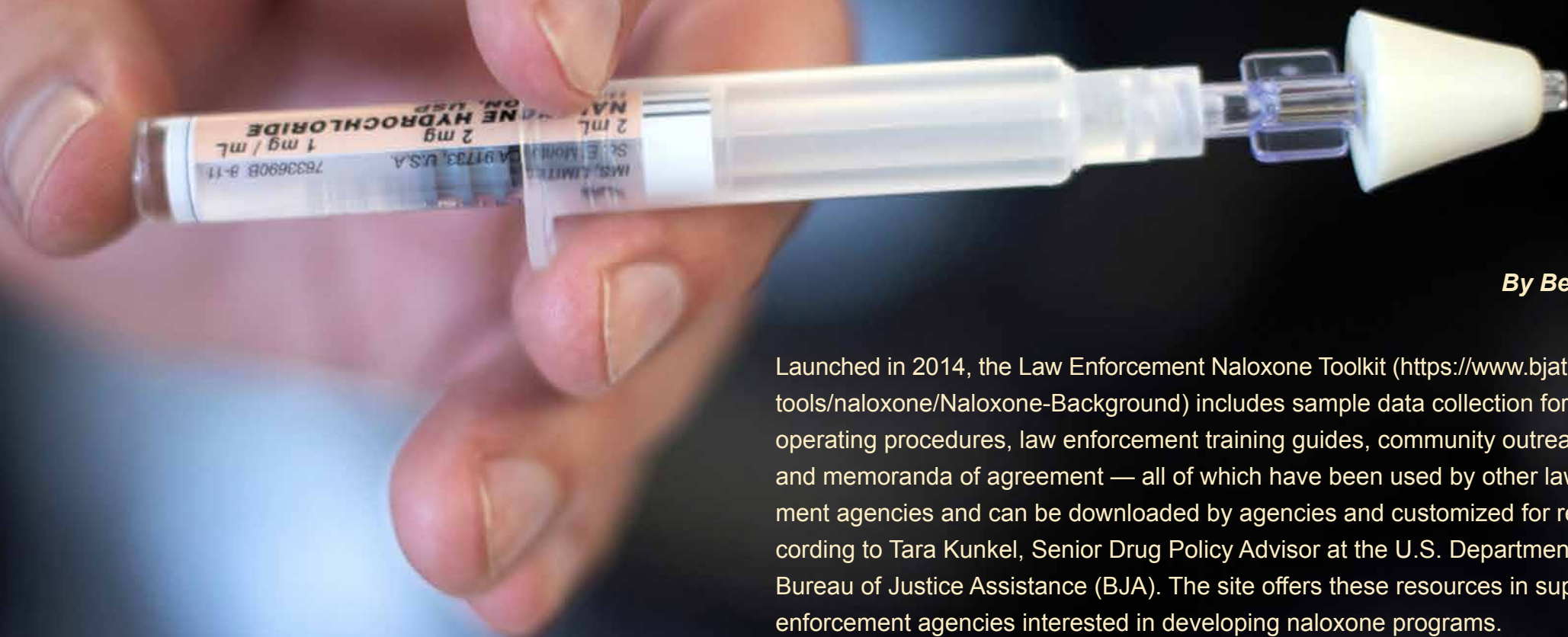
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# LAW ENFORCEMENT NALOXONE

*Toolkit Offers Support to* **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**



*By Becky Lewis*

Launched in 2014, the Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit (<https://www.bjatraining.org/tools/naloxone/Naloxone-Background>) includes sample data collection forms, standard operating procedures, law enforcement training guides, community outreach materials and memoranda of agreement — all of which have been used by other law enforcement agencies and can be downloaded by agencies and customized for re-use, according to Tara Kunkel, Senior Drug Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The site offers these resources in support of law enforcement agencies interested in developing naloxone programs.

As of Dec. 6, 2016, the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition reported that 1,214 law enforcement agencies carry naloxone, up from 971 agencies in April 2016 (<http://www.nchrc.org/law-enforcement/us-law-enforcement-who-carry-naloxone/>). Research indicates that the vast majority of opioid overdoses occur as a result of taking opioids





inappropriately and/or mixing them with other substances. Death can occur within 45 to 90 minutes, leaving a narrow timeframe in which lifesaving intervention is possible. To maximize the potential for treating overdose victims in time, many law enforcement agencies have turned to training their officers to carry naloxone.

By reversing overdoses caused by opioids such as prescription painkillers and street drugs (including heroin), naloxone restores respiration within two to five minutes and may prevent brain injury and death. The drug has no potential for abuse, and even if it is administered to someone who is suffering the effects of an opioid overdose, it will do no harm. According to the Toolkit, law enforcement agencies that have implemented naloxone overdose reversal programs through taking a public health approach to drug abuse report improvements in both community relations and cross-agency communication.

According to the website, law enforcement officers learn to recognize the signs of an active opioid overdose and reverse it through the use of naloxone, thus increasing the time for an overdose victim to receive lifesaving assistance. By using the tools and resources offered through the Toolkit, law enforcement agencies can design effective programs that can help officers save lives.

Using a question-and-answer format, the site offers information on administering treatment, acquiring naloxone, training officers, collaborating with other local agencies, and dealing

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**Administration of Naloxone**

Law enforcement have three ways in which to administer naloxone. Currently, the most common administration method for law enforcement overdose rescue programs is intranasally (IN). During this mode of administration, a liquid form of naloxone is sprayed into the victim's nostrils. Many first responders prefer IN delivery because it does not involve needles, eliminating the risk of an accidental needle stick injury. Naloxone is FDA-approved as an injectable drug and approved by the FDA through IN delivery in November 2015. Boston Basic Life Support medical responders have been using IN naloxone since 2005 to make IN doses available prior to FDA-approval. The needleless syringe containing the naloxone vial is first connected to a separate device called an atomizer that converts the liquid stream of the drug into a fine mist. The different components are typically sold separately, although limited quantities of pre-packaged IN rescue kits may be available from regional compounding pharmacies. The above does not pertain to the Ataxist product which is a pre-mixed and ready for immediate use device.



with liability and risk issues. It notes that nearly half of states have passed laws to shield all individuals, including law enforcement officers, from civil and criminal liability if they administer naloxone, and points out that administering naloxone carries a similar general occupational risk as do other first aid activities.

Officers should follow universal precautions when coming into direct contact with overdose victims, and since many of those individuals are injection drug users, they should be aware that hypodermic needles are likely to be present. The 2015 introduction of devices that administer intranasal naloxone, rather than through an injection, has somewhat decreased the risk associated with administering naloxone, and many agencies choose to purchase these devices, even though they cost more.

The many resources available on the site, including videos, training guides and handouts, offer much more detailed information on the subject. The Toolkit is provided through, and administered by, BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center, which connects state, local and tribal justice agencies with specialized national experts to help address technical assistance needs.

"In addition to the Toolkit, the Bureau of Justice Assistance is pleased to build on our early work supporting overdose prevention work through the release of a new funding opportunity," Kunkel says. This new opportunity, the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Site-Based Program, supports law enforcement overdose outreach projects and other critical pathways to intervention. The application deadline was April 25, 2017. To read the solicitation about the project, see <https://www.bja.gov/Funding/CARA17.pdf>. For a success story about this type of project, see related article, "Arlington Outreach Initiative Treats Overdoses, Increases Community Trust."





## ARLINGTON OUTREACH INITIATIVE

# TREATS OVERDOSES,

*Increases Community Trust*

*By Becky Lewis*



*Another probable overdose call. Her fourth of the day, and who knew how many more in town today or over the weekend. As her patrol car rolls to a stop in front of the ordinary-looking brick ranch on a cul-de-sac, the officer realizes this is not her first call to this home. She's been here before. Twice. And each time, she waited helplessly for the paramedics, not knowing whether the victim would live or die.*

*This time, the young man, who was the father of three small children, didn't make it.*

Across the United States, scenarios like this play out every day in large cities, small towns and out in the country. As the opioid abuse epidemic continues to grow, law enforcement agencies are taking steps to counteract overdoses by adopting programs where officers carry and administer naloxone, bringing treatment to overdose victims sooner. (For information about how the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance can help agencies start and maintain programs through its online Naloxone Toolkit, see the companion article, "Law Enforcement Naloxone Toolkit Offers Support to Law Enforcement Agencies.") Some agencies take these approaches even further by reaching out into the community in proactive ways to try to stop overdoses before they happen.



*"Providing Narcan [a trade name for naloxone] as a community service provides the handshake between local officials and families who have loved ones who are suffering."*

*--Chief Frederick Ryan*

One such program, the Arlington Outreach Initiative, has succeeded in not only reducing the number of overdose deaths in the exterior Boston suburb, it has increased community trust and brought about a corresponding decline in property crimes as well, according to police Chief Frederick Ryan. In Arlington, Mass., a town of 43,000-plus residents, officers not only carry naloxone to administer to victims themselves, the police department also conducts outreach efforts to share naloxone for free with community members who might have need to administer it as well.

"Providing Narcan [a trade name for naloxone] as a community service provides the handshake between local officials and families who have loved ones who are suffering. We can then begin to help them with intervention planning," Ryan says. "We've found this has increased the trust the community has in the police department, and that's helped the program grow exponentially."

The chief says that a 19-percent drop in property crimes may be due "in part ... to the trust and the willingness of the community to access the police and provide us with important information."

Arlington achieves those results by using a two-pronged approach, detailed in an action plan available at <http://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/police/opiate-outreach-initiative>. Those two prongs focus on reaching out after an overdose with phone calls or visits and then making referrals through community policing, and a detailed community education/awareness component.

Oversight and organization for the program come from Rebecca Wolfe, a mental health clinician embedded in the Arlington Police Department who co-responds






with officers on calls where psychiatric assistance is needed, including some overdose-related calls. Wolfe, who came to the department as a result of a 2010 grant, says that the initiative started because of a sharp increase in overdoses — from eight overdoses and two fatalities in 2013 to 34 overdoses and six fatalities in 2015, including the death of a young woman who overdosed three times in one week.

“If you’ve overdosed before, your chances of overdosing again are greater,” Wolfe says. “We wanted to educate the public about the epidemic in order to reduce associated stigma and encourage users to get to treatment. We held Narcan Night in April 2015 to kick off the project and it’s just grown from there.”

“We had a situation where we didn’t know what we knew, that is, those who are the highest risk of overdosing are those who had OD’ed previously. Their names were in our database, and it finally dawned on us that we had a list of those who needed the most help,” Ryan says. “We try to explain it as your loved one has a medical condition, and at some point will reach out for help. You need to be prepared to react quickly when that happens. We parallel it to expecting a child: you put a plan in place, you map out a route to the hospital, you pack a bag. We need to apply that same concept for persons suffering from substance abuse disorders, so when they hit rock bottom, we can act quickly to get them into detox and long-term recovery.”

“I think every town should be doing something like this,” Wolfe adds. “When you’re in the middle of this addiction, you’re in the worst place in your life. Towns should be organized and ready to try to help people.”

From its start, the Arlington Outreach Initiative had that needed support from key state and community stakeholders. That group includes Ryan, who moderated that first community forum and has gone on to become a member of the board of directors of the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative (P.A.A.R.I.), a national organization that supports local police departments in their work with opioid addicts. P.A.A.R.I

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is sitting on a stone ledge outdoors. He has his head buried in his hands, with his fingers spread across his face, suggesting a state of despair or exhaustion. The background shows a blurred view of trees and foliage, with sunlight filtering through the leaves, creating a dappled light effect on the ground and the man's clothing. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

*“When you’re in the middle of this addiction, you’re in the worst place in your life. Towns should be organized and ready to try to help people.”*

*--Rebecca Wolfe, Mental Health Clinician*







# 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, 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/subscribe.html>, 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.*

## Law Enforcement Social Media Survey

### International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Urban Institute

A report summarizes how law enforcement agencies are currently using social media.

The *2016 Social Media Survey* is a collaboration between the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Urban Institute. The survey was designed to build on the findings of previous social media surveys and fill gaps in knowledge on how law enforcement agencies use the technology, according to the report.

The survey focused on understanding the various ways agencies use social media, the tone of their online presence, their barriers to success and their future needs.

The survey found that more than 80 percent of agencies with a social media presence use it to notify the public of safety concerns, engage with the community, manage their agency's reputation, or notify people of noncrime issues, such as road closures and emergency information. Agencies continue to use the technology for other purposes, such as recruiting and vetting new applicants (58 percent), communicating with other government agencies (29 percent) and training (6 percent).

To read the report, go to <http://www.theiacp.org/Portals/0/documents/pdfs/2016-law-enforcement-use-of-social-media-survey.pdf>.





# Report on Law Enforcement Hiring in the 21st Century

## Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and Police Executive Research Forum

A report discusses the findings of a forum hosted by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Police Executive Research Forum on hiring and retaining officers who reflect the diversity and character of the communities they serve.

The report, *Hiring the 21st Century Law Enforcement Officer: Challenges, Opportunities, and Strategies for Success*, reflects discussions and recommendations from a forum held in fall 2016. The report offers insights from law enforcement executives, labor representatives, human resource professionals and academic experts on how to effectively update hiring practices to attract the best candidates. Experts address key topics around hiring, including psychological screening, educational requirements, promotion policies and methods for retaining the best officers.

The majority of forum participants were sworn and civilian personnel from a range of police agencies of different sizes and from different regions of the country. These practitioners were selected because their agencies had implemented innovative hiring programs that have shown promise in their communities and that may be useful models for other jurisdictions.

The forum covered a wide variety of issues, including hiring philosophies and advancing diversity. The session also included discussions of the practical aspects of streamlining the hiring process and of organizing and operating police cadet and internships programs to introduce high-quality candidates into the hiring process.

This report summarizes the major issues explored in the forum, organized under three themes: hiring candidates who share the values and vision of the community and the department; making the hiring process more efficient; and advancing diversity and inclusiveness in the hiring process.

To read the report, go to <https://ric-zai-inc.com/Publications/cops-w0831-pub.pdf>.





# PUBLIC SAFETY TECHNOLOGY

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## In The News

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

### **Corrections Launching Study on Mentally Ill Inmates in County Jails**

*WESA, (04/05/2017), Katie Meyer*

Pennsylvania is embarking on a long-term plan to reduce the numbers of mentally ill inmates in county prisons. The Department of Corrections is working with the Council of State Governments Justice Center to implement a program called Stepping Up to improve the consistency on how mentally ill inmates are handled. Thirteen Pennsylvania counties have joined the effort so far. The group will collect data to help form a plan to standardize how mentally ill inmates are treated, and potentially reroute them to more appropriate care.

<http://wesa.fm/post/corrections-launching-study-mentally-ill-inmates-county-jails#stream/0>

### **DHS S&T Inaugurates New Explosive Detection System Testing Facility**

*ExecutiveGov, (04/06/2017), Scott Nicholas*

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate has opened a facility at DHS' Transportation Security Laboratory in New Jersey for testing and evaluation of explosives detection systems. DHS said the new building, located at the William J. Hughes Federal Aviation Administration Technical Center, includes space for specialized explosive storage and handling and multi-laboratory infrastructure built to assess blast mitigation, contraband and explosives detection technologies. The facility will also help TSL assess commercial explosives detection equipment designed for checkpoint environments and check-in luggage inspection areas.

<http://www.executivegov.com/2017/04/dhs-s-robert-griffin-comments/>

### **New York Prisons See Jump in Older Inmates**

*Press-Republican, (04/06/2017), Joe Mahoney*

*The number of inmates over age 50 in New York's prisons has risen as the overall number of inmates has declined, according to an audit by the state comptroller's office. New York's total prison population fell to about 52,000 over the past 10 years, a decrease of nearly 11,000, the audit found. In that same period, the number of inmates aged 50 or older increased by 46 percent, to more than 10,000.*

[http://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local\\_news/new-york-prisons-see-jump-in-older-inmates/article\\_917d3cf4-22dc-5a1b-bf85-90155e1d6048.html](http://www.pressrepublican.com/news/local_news/new-york-prisons-see-jump-in-older-inmates/article_917d3cf4-22dc-5a1b-bf85-90155e1d6048.html)

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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.

*Click here for recent public safety-related articles from the news media.*





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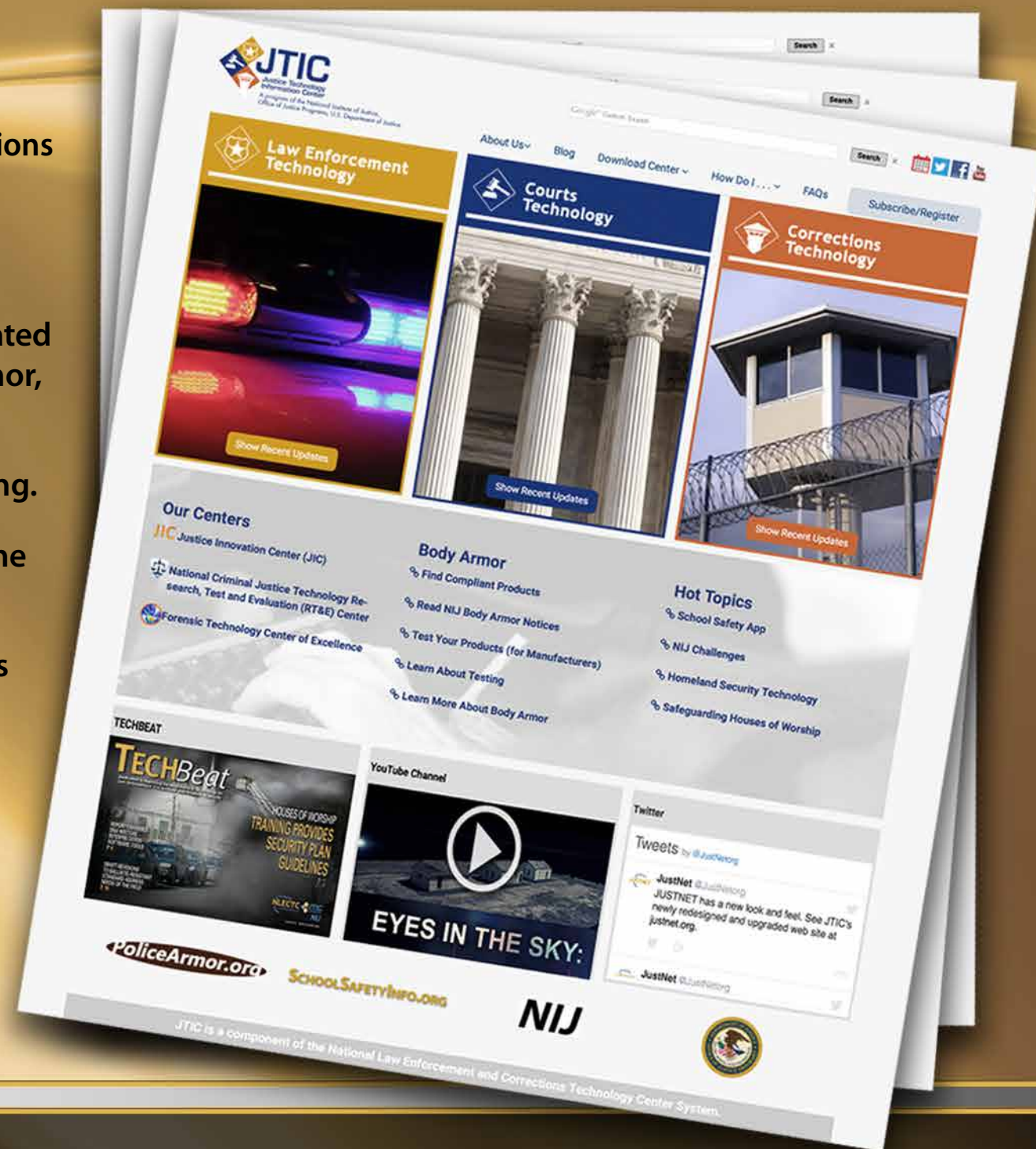
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