

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**
National Institute of Justice

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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.

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FIT-RELATED *Requirement to Receive* BULLETPROOF VEST PARTNERSHIP FUNDS TAKES EFFECT *By Becky Lewis*

“Hey, you been down to get measured for your new vest yet?”

“Oh, I don’t need to do that. I wear a medium. Every shirt I own, a medium. I’ll just tell them that.”

“Not really the best way to get a vest that could save your life, my friend. Didn’t you read that handout that went around, the one that talked about how important it is for your armor to fit properly? They’re giving us the chance to be measured for our new vests to help make sure they fit right and don’t leave parts of our chests and backs unprotected.”

Conversations similar to the above may be taking place in agencies across the United States that receive funds from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance’s Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) program and are preparing to procure new ballistic-resistant vests. A recent amendment to the legislation reauthorizing the BVP program says that beginning in 2017, all agencies applying for BVP funding are required to offer their officers the opportunity to receive vests that “are uniquely fitted,” “including vests uniquely fitted to individual female law enforcement officers.”



(See sidebar, “Amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968.”)

What that means, says Dan Longhurst, an engineer working on standards with the U.S. Department of Justice’s National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Body Armor Compliance Testing Program (CTP), is that “officers should review the fit guidance and make sure that your armor vest meets those criteria.”

The guidance that Longhurst refers to stems from ASTM E3003-15 *Standard Practice for Body Armor Wearer Measurement and Fitting of Armor*, available free to qualified criminal justice professionals through an agreement between NIJ and ASTM International, which developed the standard at NIJ’s request. This standard, which criminal justice professionals can access through a portal (https://justnet.org/NIJ_ASTM_Standards_Portal.html) on JUSTNET, the website of NIJ’s National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System, describes how to take an individual’s measurements for concealable (normal duty) and tactical (special duty) armor for both male and female officers, and includes guidance on how to check armor to be sure that it fits the wearer properly. Its main goal is to ensure “[p]roper measurement of the wearer and fitting of the armor to that individual ... to obtain sufficient

BULLET PROOF

coverage of the torso and vital organs while allowing the full range of motion required for officer operations.”

Cassy Robinson of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology’s (NIST) Standards Coordination Office, who participated in the development of the ASTM standard, says efforts have been underway for more than seven years to interact with officers in the field to check the fit of their armor.

“We have seen some really poorly fitting armor, which led us to develop initial guidance on measurements in 2012,” she says. “As our efforts continued, we realized that although proper fitting armor starts with taking measurements, assessing the fit of the armor made to those measurements is equally as important. We’ve seen officers who were measured properly, but the armor delivered to them still didn’t necessarily fit. This led to developing ASTM E3003, which addresses measurement and fit.”

Part of the reason some of those officers may have continued to wear armor that didn’t fit properly lies in perception: Most officers don’t know what it means



Amendment to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968

The amendment discussed in this article is a change to the language.

The change reads:

SEC. 7. UNIQUELY FITTED ARMOR VESTS.

Section 2501(c) of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796ll(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “; or” and inserting “; and”;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) provides armor vests to law enforcement officers that are uniquely fitted for such officers, including vests uniquely fitted to individual female law enforcement officers; or”.

(<https://www.congress.gov/114/plaws/publ155/PLAW-114publ155.pdf>)

to have armor that truly fits; that is, it’s the correct size, has sufficient coverage and allows the officer to perform normal duties, she says.

“An officer may like a vest because it feels relatively comfortable, but typically we find that this comfort comes from a lack of coverage. It is important for officers to understand proper fit and how to assess a vest for proper fit, as well as understanding that the purpose of protective vests is not comfort, but providing protection during deadly force incidents,” Robinson says.

To assist officers, NIST and the Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC), which administers JUSTNET, teamed up to produce a pair of reference materials that extract information from ASTM E3003 and put it in portable, easy-to-understand format. On JUSTNET, criminal justice professionals can find *Personal Armor Fit Assessment Checklist* (https://www.justnet.org/pdf/00-BA-Assessment-Handout_laser%2007082016.pdf), which asks officers to check their individual vest’s fit while donning and removing the armor, assuming a shooting stance, taking a sitting position, restraining a subject and driving a car. It also includes a section on visual inspection of the armor while being worn to assess the coverage of the vest. Its companion piece, a brochure titled *Ballistic-Resistant Body Armor Basics*, (<https://www.justnet.org/pdf/Ballistic-Resistant-Body-Armor-Basics-Web-final-07142015.pdf>), includes two panels titled “Does Your Body Armor Fit?” that are derived from ASTM E3003.

In addition, NIJ and JTIC also provide other resources that can help agencies and officers determine whether vests fit the unique measurements of the wearer:

- *Selection and Application Guide to Ballistic-Resistant Body Armor For Law Enforcement, Corrections and Public Safety NIJ Selection and Application Guide-0101.06* (<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/247281.pdf>), published in December 2014, includes a chapter on measurement, fit and coverage that features photographs and a diagram illustrating proper fit and areas of concern for both soft and hard ballistic-resistant armor (see Chapter 5: Measurement, Fit and Coverage, pp. 23-26).
- *Body Armor: Survive in the Line of Fire* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5li_Ktht6Zs), produced for NIJ and designed to encourage officers to wear their body armor, includes a segment on measurement and fit.
- *NLECTC Minutes: Female Body Armor* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXyaSTs6B6E>), features Lt. Brandi Adamchik of the U.S. Police, a member of NIJ's Special Technical Committee on ballistic-resistant body armor and its focus group of female armor issues, discussing issues related to the fit of female body armor.

For more information on the CTP and the BVP, go to JUSTNET at www.justnet.org, <https://ojp.gov/bvpbasi/home.html> and to www.PoliceArmor.org, a one-stop site for body armor information that is also maintained by JTIC. For more information on NIJ's body armor portfolio, contact Senior Law Enforcement Program Manager Mike O'Shea at michael.oshea@usdoj.gov.



OPTICAL TOPOGRAPHY

Increases Potential for

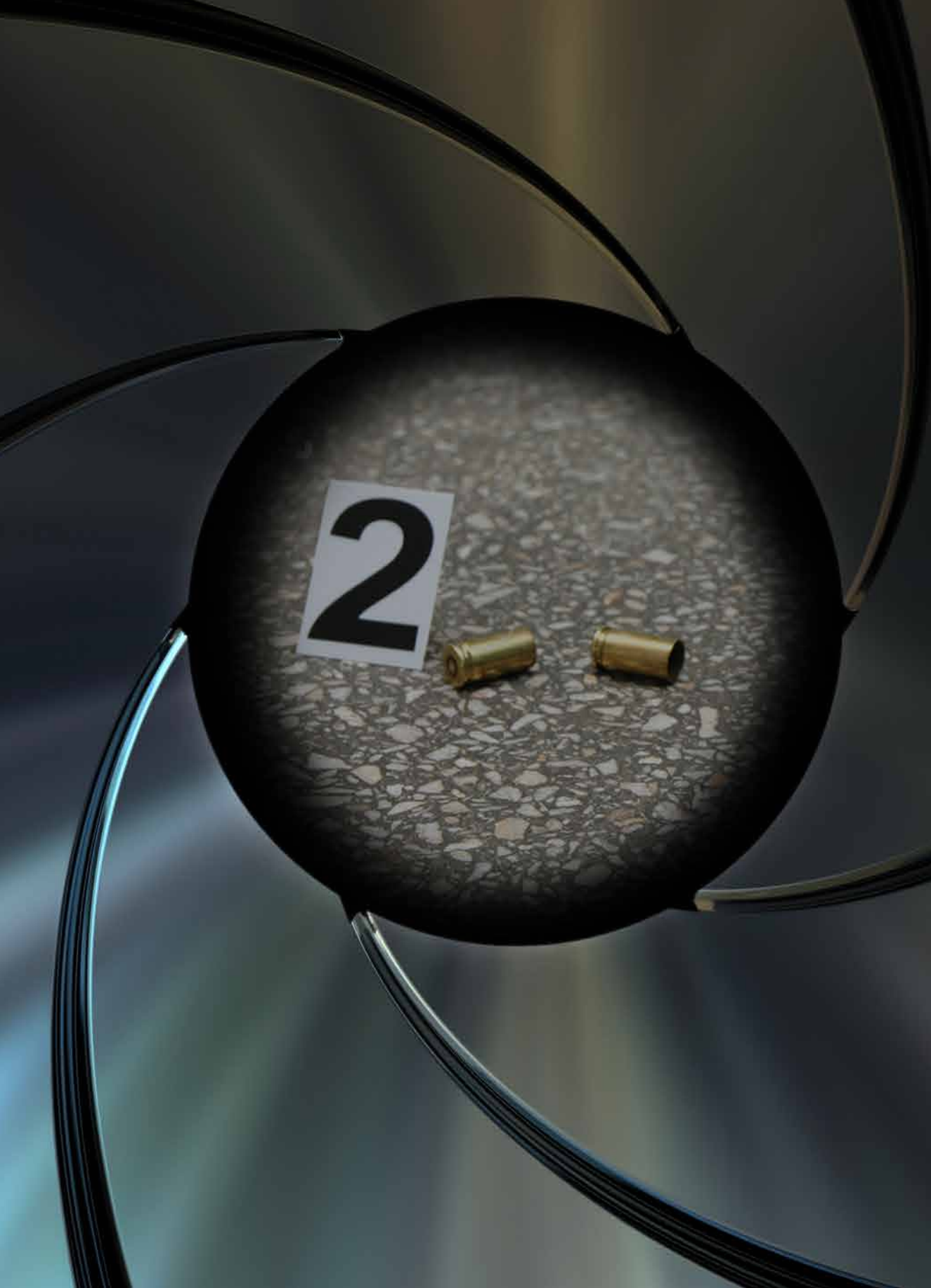
FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION

By Becky Lewis

Every gun crime is a serious offense, so researchers have worked for many years to improve the tools available to the firearms examiner. For the team that worked on the National Institute of Justice's Forensic Technology Center of Excellence (FTCoE) report, Forensic Optical Topography: A Landscape Study, next-generation microscopy may represent a revolution for the firearms examiner like the impact of DNA had for the forensic biologist. The field seems to agree. Within hours of the report's release, agencies were contacting the lead researcher to learn more about the technology.

That lead researcher, Dr. John Morgan, says that many law enforcement agencies share that concern about improving their response to firearms crimes: "If you told a police chief a technology could improve the clearance rate of firearms crimes solved by 10, 20, maybe even 30 percent, most would say 'I'll take it.' "





In contrast to traditional approaches to identify ballistic markings, optical topography provides a three-dimensional view of the surface of a bullet or cartridge case at resolutions that can capture the full range of subclass and individual characteristics. Agencies have begun using this technology to build searchable reference databases and to complement the use of the comparison microscope, the typical modality, in making difficult comparisons. The detail in an optical topography image can supplement image data used in completed comparisons and clarify the basis on which an examiner has made a decision. Optical topography generates reference collection searches that are more rapid and more accurate, and if an agency uses the technology with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), it can also provide more interjurisdictional links with greater reliability.

“ATF wants to encourage optical topography’s use, and has improved some of the backbone of NIBIN to make it easier to use both [optical topography and comparison microscope images] within a single jurisdiction and across jurisdictional boundaries,” Morgan says. “Traditionally, some agencies haven’t spent a lot of time and resources entering guns into NIBIN because the benefits were hard to realize. With optical topography, agencies can expect to get more hits, and this will make it more worth their time to enter data, thus increasing NIBIN’s usefulness for everyone.”

In fact, he says, a version of the technology is being incorporated into new NIBIN workstations for use in database searching, which makes it a more powerful tool. Using traditional comparison microscopy images could result in a lengthy list of possible matches. However, using optical topography data greatly increases the chances that, if a bullet or cartridge case fired from a particular gun the examiner is searching for has been entered into NIBIN, it will come out near the top of the list: “This will allow agencies to use firearms data as an intelligence tool that, like a latent print, could potentially generate a rapid lead on a case.”

Although optical topography has been around for a number of years, agencies have been slow to adopt it, in part because firearms examiners have been trained in comparison microscopy, which is based on generations of training and historical data and a common understanding of the systems' limitations. However, the process depends on the skill of the examiner. Theoretically, with optical topography, examiners from two different labs should be able to look at evidence and come to the same objective and quantitative conclusion, even if they are using different instruments.

"It will improve the power of the firearms examiner. I think we can envision, sometime in the foreseeable future, that every firearms examiner should have access to it for the full range of their work, not just database searching," Morgan says.

Dr. Jeri Roper-Miller, FTCOE director, says that sometimes a new technology may take a while to get off the ground, but she thinks that optical topography has reached the point where it's ready to move to the next phase, and raising awareness about it will help push the technology to greater acceptance.

"This report really was written to be useful to nonscientist law enforcement administrators," she says. "It's a good primer to set the stage for where the technology is now and it serves as an introduction to the state of the science. For nonscientists in law enforcement, it's a report they can relate to well."

And while administrators at the nation's small and rural departments might be quick to dismiss the technology as something of use to only large agencies, Roper-Miller notes that although these agencies may not have their own NIBIN workstations, they often can take advantage of a state system, and "for the most part, small agencies may find it difficult to get much value out of the older version of NIBIN. Now, especially in states that are aggressively pushing to expand the use of the technology, small jurisdictions can get greater benefits because interjurisdictional hits are much easier to obtain and therefore will become more common."

Getting that message out to agencies both small and large is one of the main reasons for producing the report, says Morgan: "This landscape report is designed to get the field excited about optical topography, and to get the field moving in the direction of training, proficiency testing and other elements needed to put this into practice."

Download Forensic Optical Topography: A Landscape Study, a 41-page PDF published in December 2016, from <https://rti.connectsolutions.com/opttop/>. For more details on its contents, see sidebar "Optical Topography Report: Findings, Methodology, Recommendations." For information on other FTCoe activities, contact Jeri Roper-Miller at jerimiller@rti.org. For information on other programs in NIJ's forensic technology portfolio, contact Gerald LaPorte, Director, Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences, at Gerald.LaPorte@usdoj.gov.





Optical Topography Report: Findings, Methodology, Recommendations

Forensic Optical Topography: A Landscape Study, provides a landscape view of currently available optical topography systems for firearms identification and serves as an introduction to the basics of the technology. (Landscape studies are designed to provide a comprehensive list of market participants, their products and product features.)

Objectives of this particular study include:

- Inform forensic professionals about applicable uses of optical topography in the crime laboratory.
- Compare available instruments.
- Discuss barriers to broader adoption of the technology.
- Provide practical and technical considerations.
- Provide an overview of ongoing technology developments and associated standards (see p. 4).

Jeri Roper-Miller, FTCoe Director, says the Center began researching the technology at the request of Gerald LaPorte, Director of NIJ's Office of Investigative and Forensic Sciences. NIJ had invested research and development funding in the technology for several years, and he asked that the FTCoe assemble a working group to investigate why adoption of its use hadn't become more widespread. The research also produced a working group report (*Forensic Optical Topography Working Group Meeting Final Report*, published in April 2015, <https://rti.connectsolutions.com/p2isay529wa/>), in addition to the landscape study. The more recent report provides background information on the use of optical topography in forensics, considers issues related to implementation and compares the capabilities of various systems.

In addition to convening the working group, which included firearms examiners, researchers and industry, the FTCoE conducted a literature review, and discussed the technology with subject-matter experts such as crime laboratory practitioners, stakeholders, technology developers, academics and key decision makers. The research team then documented, summarized and released findings.

Forensic Optical Topography: A Landscape Study provides details on available options; considerations in selection and deployment; and approaches to training, validation and database development. It includes a table that provides a summary of commercially available vendors, two case studies and a glossary. It also offers the following recommendations (p. 21):

- Improve data sets and the understanding of similarities and differences among firearms' evidence, particularly with respect to consecutively manufactured firearms, mark persistence and firearms that present identification challenges.
- Establish validation, methods, best practices, certification and training for firearms examiners using optical topography in practice.
- Examine factors that improve database searching using optical topography.
- Improve the understanding of the impact of the application of optical topography in the laboratory.
- Improve interoperability of instruments and databases across laboratories.





REAL TIME *Reporting System* MAPS DRUG OVERDOSES

By Michele Coppola

A free online overdose reporting system allows law enforcement and other first responders to quickly report and map the location of known and suspected overdose incidents and share information across jurisdictions.

The Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) was developed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) with support from the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

ODMAP sends geocoded event information to a secure server, where it is mapped and made available for viewing by participating agencies. Users are able to sort events by date, time and location to identify overdose spikes. The service is provided free to first responders and their agencies. It can be used on a smartphone, iPad, mobile terminal in a patrol car, or by a fire or paramedic unit.

Washington/Baltimore HIDTA Deputy Director Jeff Beeson says the program can provide law enforcement, fire, EMS and public health agencies with a tool to share data and help address the alarming increase in drug overdose deaths.



Since 1999, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids (including prescription opioids and heroin) quadrupled. From 2000 to 2015, more than half a million people died from drug overdoses.

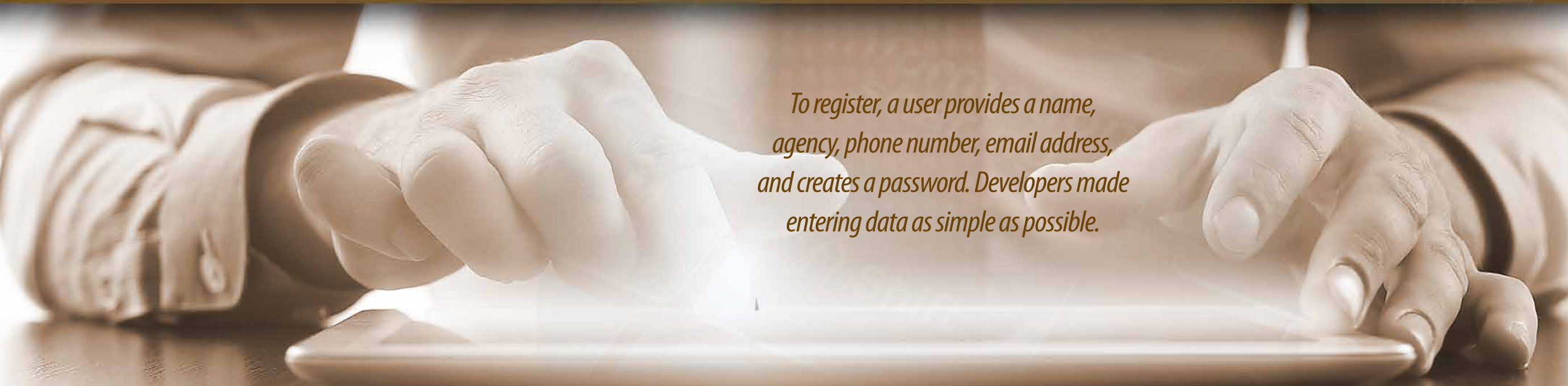
Drug overdose deaths and opioid-involved deaths continued to increase in the United States in 2015, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The majority of drug overdose deaths involve an opioid. Since 1999, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids (including prescription opioids and heroin) quadrupled. From 2000 to 2015, more than half a million people died from drug overdoses. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>)

From January through March 2017, two counties in West Virginia and one in Maryland participated in a pilot program for ODMAP. The West Virginia counties tested the technology through fire and EMS services, while the Maryland county participated through its police department. During the trial period, 418 incidents were submitted to ODMAP among the three counties.

The HIDTA program, created by Congress with the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988, provides assistance to federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the U.S. The Washington/Baltimore HIDTA is one of 28 HDTAs across the U.S., and is working with other HDTAs to get the word out about the ODMAP and help interested agencies implement it.

“When we look at overdoses and drug abuse, in addition to the support of law enforcement, we also need to have a demand reduction strategy,” Beeson says. “Tools are necessary, and the number one thing public health officials discuss is a lack of real-time data across jurisdictions, and how impactful that knowledge would be in responding to or anticipating an overdose spike or lethal synthetic like fentanyl in our communities. That is the premise of ODMAP, to let first responders have real-time data and not wait days for reports.”

ONLINE REGISTRATION

A close-up photograph of a person's hands, wearing a light-colored shirt, interacting with a tablet device. The hands are positioned over the screen, with fingers touching the surface. The background is blurred, showing a wooden desk and some papers.

To register, a user provides a name, agency, phone number, email address, and creates a password. Developers made entering data as simple as possible.

The program can serve as an early warning feature; if a spike in overdoses occurs in a neighboring area, officials can anticipate a spike in their area and prepare. Agencies with authorized access can view the data even if they are not entering data.

To register, a user provides a name, agency, phone number, email address, and creates a password. Developers made entering data as simple as possible.

“We wanted the interface to be simple, easy to use so that we weren’t creating any additional or undue pressure on our officers or first responders as they are using the data,” Beeson says.

To enter data, the system needs the name of the person submitting the data, their agency, email, phone number and county and state. An information entry screen is divided between nonfatal and fatal overdoses, with three buttons under each: naloxone not administered, naloxone single dose administered and naloxone multiple doses administered. Naloxone is used to reverse opioid overdoses. It is carried by EMS and increasingly by other first responders such as police officers.

If accessing ODMAP from a device in the field, the location for the overdose defaults to the GPS coordinates of the device. Users can also access the system from an office and enter the address where the overdose occurred. The system is automatically updated within minutes and provides confirmation that the information was entered successfully, and shows an image on a map. Dots on the map are color coded to indicate fatal, nonfatal and whether naloxone was used.

ODMAP does not collect personal identifying information on the victim, such as name or telephone number.

ODMAP can show total incidents submitted for the U.S. at any point in time, and the system can be customized. For example, if a city wants an option to see data for three surrounding counties, it can be set up for that. Also, alerts can be set up to notify an agency by email if, for example, there is a spike of six or more overdoses in an area within a 24-hour period. Filters can be used to check by jurisdiction, date and incident type (e.g., nonfatal, naloxone administered).

Berkeley County in West Virginia is one of the counties that participated in the pilot phase and is using the technology. Kevin Knowles, community recovery services coordinator for the county, said he is pleased with how rapidly information can be gleaned using the system.

Knowles said previously, data for the prior month would not be available until two weeks into the current month. “With ODMAP, we can see whether there has been a spike in overdoses within a 24-hour period. I am sadly pleased with what I have been seeing, because it is about overdoses and deaths, but prior to this I was concerned we were not getting information on spikes faster so we could act. We also can see neighboring trends.”

Beeson says the initial level of interest in ODMAP has been high, and HIDTA has received numerous inquiries from agencies in the U.S. as well as Canada.

“I anticipate in the next six months this will be in localities throughout the U.S.,” Beeson says.

For more information, contact Jeff Beeson of the Washington/Baltimore HIDTA at jbeeson@wb.hidta.org. A webinar about the project was held on March 29, 2017. To view it, go to <https://ndews.umd.edu/resources/hidta%E2%80%99s-overdose-detection-mapping-application-program-odmap-and-hidta-heroin-response>.



NEW JERSEY *Launches Program for* SRO—TRAINED SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

By Becky Lewis



There will be new faces at many New Jersey schools when the 2017-2018 school year starts. But unlike the students attending new schools for the first time, these Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEOs) will have already completed their classwork: School Resource Officer (SRO) training.

With the official start of a new academic year on July 1, 2017, New Jersey schools looking to add to, or implement, a law enforcement presence on their campuses have a new option: Schools may now hire retired law enforcement officers who meet specific conditions. And thanks at least in part to the actions of the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers (NJASRO), these officers will go into their new posts with the same training taken by sworn SROs.

Requiring that training played a key role in Gov. Chris Christie's eventually signing Bill S86 on Nov. 30, 2016; prompted by NJASRO, he had conditionally vetoed the measure in September 2016 pending restoration of the training requirement. The law permits the hiring of a third special classification of officers in New Jersey (Class 1 officers have no law enforcement powers and are used in some jurisdictions to write parking tickets, while Class 2 officers, hired to expand shore town police departments during beach season, have law enforcement authority only when performing their seasonal duties.) The new Class III SLEOs can be hired to work as SROs under the following terms:

- No benefits.
- Can work full-time hours, limited to when students are present in the schools.
- No older than age 65.
- Retired within the past three years (with a one-year start-up exemption of five years for the 2017-2018 school year only.)

And most importantly to NJASRO, according to Executive Director Capt. Patrick Kissane of the Ft. Lee Police Department, they'll be certified as having completed the association's SRO training.

"New Jersey was one of the first states to make training mandatory for SROs, in 2006, and we had to put up a fight to keep that training requirement for the Class III SLEOs, but we knew it was necessary," Kissane says.

In 2006, the Police Training Act (N.J.S.A. 52:17B-66 et seq.) required the Police Training Commission, in consultation with the New Jersey Attorney General, to develop a 40-hour training course for school resource officers. A course developed by NJASRO was then implemented in police academies throughout the state, and before SROs can begin working in New Jersey schools, they must complete this comprehensive training. The 40-hour course, currently in the process of being updated, covers areas including the roles and responsibilities of an SRO, such as instructional





time, threat and risk assessment, and working with school personnel; legal issues, such as search and seizure, outreach programs, interviews and processing; teaching methodologies, such as lesson plan development, classroom management and how children learn; mentoring; working with administrators; bullying prevention; and a new section on community college policing and how it differs from policing in public schools.

“This is an opportunity to get more cops in schools, which we want, but we want it to be with the right model. I want a cop in every school, but at the same time, I want less policing. I want our SROs to be community police officers, mentors, coaches, teachers,” Kissane says.

“I hope this new program piques a lot of interest. I hope there will be officers all over the country saying ‘Did you see what they’re doing in Jersey? They’re recognizing the value of using retired cops in schools,’ ” he says, adding although other states may already allow schools to hire retired officers, no other state has a formalized program like the one in New Jersey.

The majority of just-retired officers range from their mid-40s to early 50s, he says, and they have years of valuable experience. However, these officers need to learn all the ways that school policing differs from what they’ve done in the field as SWAT team members, detectives

and narcotics officers. Most schools are safe places, Kissane explains, and the NJASRO training focuses on the need to put the right officers in the right schools so that they can help shut down the “school-to-prison pipeline” by not criminalizing petty offenses and keeping the students from becoming adult offenders.

“This isn’t a security guard post. We want them to go back to the roots of walking the beat and we want them to be a member of the school community,” Kissane says.

That position agrees with the one taken by the New Jersey Safe Schools Task Force in its April 2013 report, which states that serving as an SRO is essentially a type of community policing where the officer’s beat happens to be in a school. Emphasizing positive interactions with students and staff allows them to understand that SROs are much more than armed security guards, and the resulting trust can help make students comfortable sharing information that might help stop bullying or violent behavior before it escalates.

“The new Class III SLEOs will be playing a valuable role. It will make students and staff feel good to know the new SRO has 25 years of law enforcement experience, and we hope they become the ‘Andy Griffith’ for the school community, the good cop that’s a helpful resource,” Kissane says.

For more information, contact Capt. Patrick Kissane, executive director of the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers, at flpdsro@gmail.com.



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. 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 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.

Diffusing Difficult Encounters Brochure

Bureau of Justice Assistance

The *Defusing Difficult Encounters* brochure, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, presents law enforcement officers with information to better prepare them for the challenges they face in defusing difficult encounters.

The brochure is part of the VALOR for Blue Spotlight on Safety series, which provides safety-related topics and offers resources associated with an identified theme.

The brochure presents basic steps that can help officers lessen difficult encounters. It notes that if a situation permits, incorporating the three principles of slow down,

constantly assess and take action provides an alternative means to understand a difficult encounter, tone down a potential conflict and defuse the event. The result is increased safety for the officer, the subject and anyone else involved in the encounter.

Access the brochure at <https://www.valorforblue.org/Documents/DefusingDifficultEncountersbrochure.pdf>.



Partnering to Address Opioid Use

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and Police Executive Research Forum

As the incidence of opioid and heroin addiction has grown, law enforcement in the U.S. has developed new approaches to combating it. Based on collaborative partnerships with public health and other professionals, these new strategies stress prevention and treatment as well as enforcement.

To identify the most effective of these approaches, the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services hosted the Law Enforcement and Public Health: Successful Partnerships in Addressing Opioid Use Forum, in partnership with the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Police Executive Research Forum. The forum was convened to explore how the public health and public safety sectors can better collaborate to address the opioid epidemic.

Nearly 100 law enforcement officials, public health providers, prosecutors, researchers, federal officials, and other experts discussed strategies for building partnerships and shared promising programs from the field. They discussed the establishment of treatment and prevention partnerships, the use of naloxone deployment programs and best practices to mitigate drug use. They also discussed methods for sharing access to data and intelligence.

The 2016 report, *Building Successful Partnerships between Law Enforcement and Public Health Agencies to Address Opioid Use*, documents the discussions and describes innovative programs based on collaboration between the public health and public safety sectors.

To read the report, see <https://ric-zai-inc.com/Publications/cops-p356-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.

A Fresh Take on Ending the Jail-to-Street-to-Jail Cycle

The Marshall Project, (05/10/2017), Christie Thompson

A program launched in April 2017 in New York City provides apartments for repeat offenders who have cycled in and out of jail for years, usually on low-level drug charges. The program identifies frequent offenders and offers them permanent housing and support services on release, an initiative that will save the city some \$16,000 per person compared to the costs of returning them to jail. Services include addiction treatment and counseling. Similar programs have been started in other cities across the country.

https://www.themarshallproject.org/2017/05/10/a-fresh-take-on-ending-the-jail-to-street-to-jail-cycle?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter&utm_source=opening-statement&utm_term=newsletter-20170510-753#.Axe8y5x5u

Washington Prisoners Get Chance to Pursue 2-Year Degrees

Campus Dispatch, (05/17/2017), Dian Schaffhauser

A new Washington State law will open doors for programs that offer state-funded associate's degree and certificate instruction to qualified individuals among the 18,000 inmates in state correctional facilities. Previously, inmates only had access to one-year vocational certificates and privately funded academic degree programs. Research shows that inmates who receive such education are 43 percent less likely to recidivate and 13 percent more likely to become employed.

<https://campustechnology.com/articles/2017/05/17/washington-prisoners-get-chance-to-pursue-two-year-degrees.aspx>

Three Arizona State Prisons Plan to Add Employment Centers to Help Soon-to-be Released Inmates Find Jobs

Havasunews, (05/17/2017), Jenna Aronson

Inside three state prisons, the Arizona Department of Economic Security has partnered with the Arizona Department of Corrections to launch an employment program staffed by employment specialists from ARIZONA@WORK to help inmates find employers who are willing to hire them despite their backgrounds. A pilot program in the Mesa and Tucson parole offices led to the centers in the Tucson, Lewis and Perryville correctional facilities.

http://www.havasunews.com/news/three-arizona-state-prisons-plan-to-add-employment-centers-to/article_10a6195c-3861-57ba-8fe0-c00af5f797c4.html

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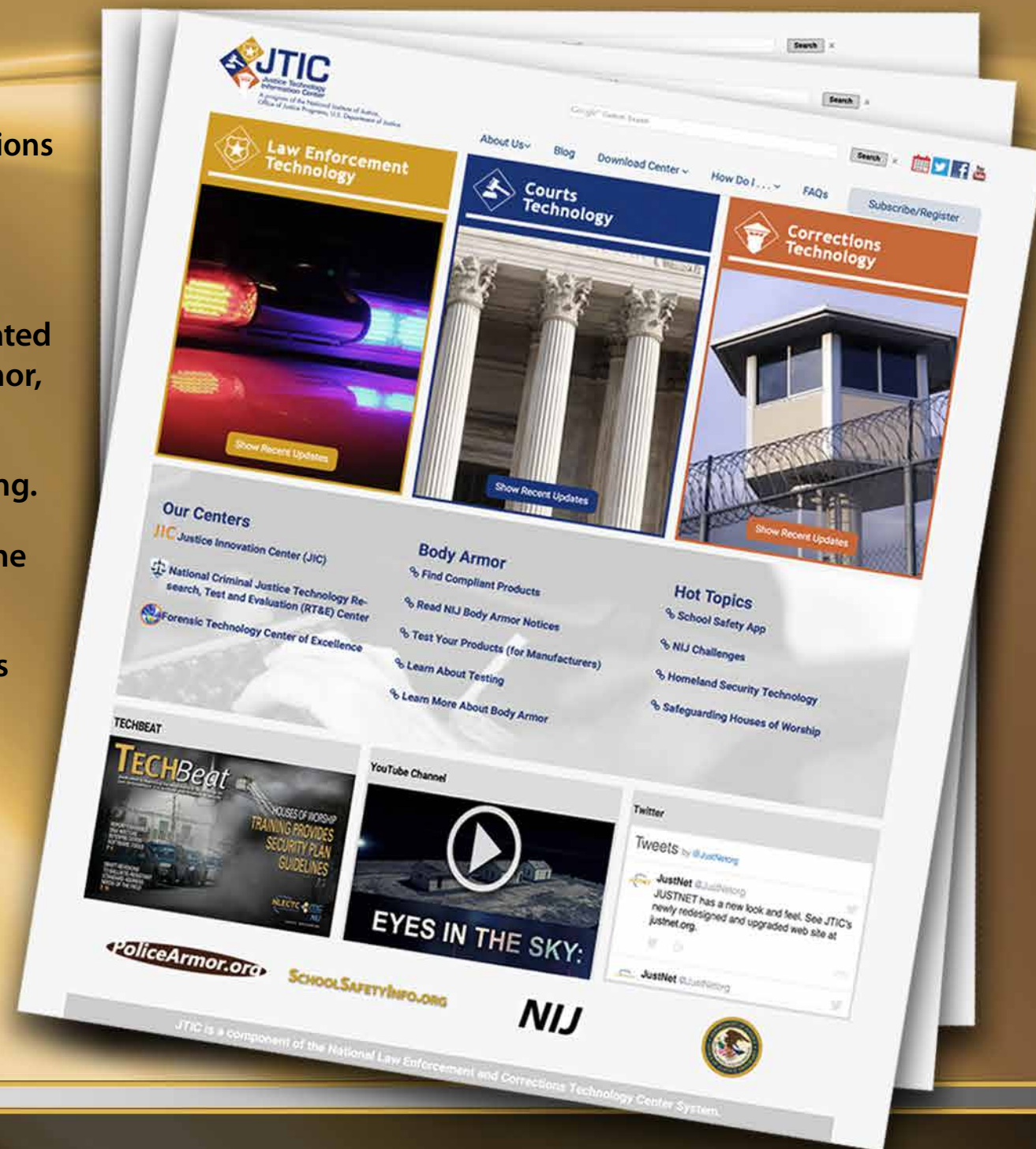
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