

JUSTICE TECHNOLOGY INFORMATION CENTER

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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JTIC 2019 ANNUAL REPORT





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# INTRODUCTION

During 2019, the Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC) continued to serve as the initial point of contact for criminal justice professionals and other interested parties seeking information about innovative technology and training, as well as the clearinghouse that disseminates information to those constituents. JTIC continued to manage the JUSTNET, SchoolSafetyInfo.org and PoliceArmor.org websites, and produce monthly issues of *TechBeat* and weekly issues of *JUSTNETNEWS*. Staff also continued to manage efforts to distribute School Safe – JTIC’s Safety and Security Assessment Tool for Schools, the Safeguarding Houses of Worship (SHOW) toolkit and Field Search. And staff also converted more than 800 files produced over the lifetime of the program to a 508-compliant format in preparation for their archiving on the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) database. All of these efforts concluded by November 2019.

In addition, JTIC continued to operate NIJ’s Compliance Testing Program (CTP) for ballistic- and stab-resistant body armor and assist with NIJ research efforts in the areas of ballistic-resistant helmets, ballistic-resistant shields, unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and civil disturbance unit equipment. Staff also prepared to transition the operation of the CTP to NIJ’s new Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium, a transition that began in May and concluded in July.

These efforts completed a 34-year mission carried out by JTIC and its predecessor programs, the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)-National (beginning in 1994) and Technology Assessment Program Information Center (TAPIC, starting in 1984).

## COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

Throughout the first 10 months of 2019, the JTIC Communications and Publications team continued to produce content for the three websites (JUSTNET, PoliceArmor.org and SchoolSafetyInfo.org), publish *TechBeat* and *JUSTNETNEWS*, and produce required monthly and semiannual reports. (CJTEC began hosting the websites in late August, but JTIC continued to provide content as it developed.) Through the first six months of the year, they also produced social media content (Facebook, Twitter and YouTube), then prepared the accounts for closure in July.

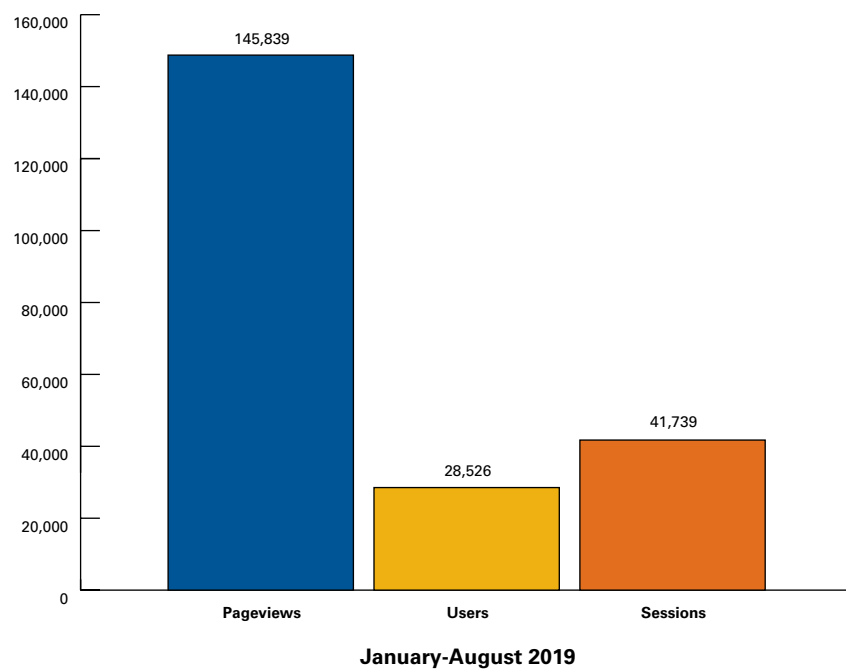
In July through October, staff prepared publication files produced during the lifetime of the contract for addition to the NCJRS library by ensuring their 508 compliance and also created a virtual library of those same publications for delivery to NIJ staff.

Highlighted activities by JTIC staff included:

- Wrote several original articles published in external periodicals, including:
  - “Contraband Detection Technology: A Market Survey,” *Corrections Today*, January/February 2019, pp. 14-17.

- “Schooled in Safety,” *Sheriff & Deputy*, January/February 2019.
- “Caring for Those in Custody,” *Corrections Today*, July/August 2019, p. 16.
- Designed, wrote and produced 11 issues of *TechBeat* (combined issue produced in July/August). *TechBeat* won two awards in 2019: APEX Award of Excellence, E-Newsletter, Communication Concepts, Inc., and second place, Electronic Publication, National Association of Government Communicators.
- Managed JUSTNET, which had 41,739 sessions by 28,526 users and 145,839 pageviews during the year.
- Processed 71 “asknlectc” email box external request referrals and 447 internal information request referrals, as well as 22 toll-free telephone internal information referrals and nine external information referrals.
- Provided technical writing/editing support for two focus group meetings on civil disturbance unit personal protective equipment.

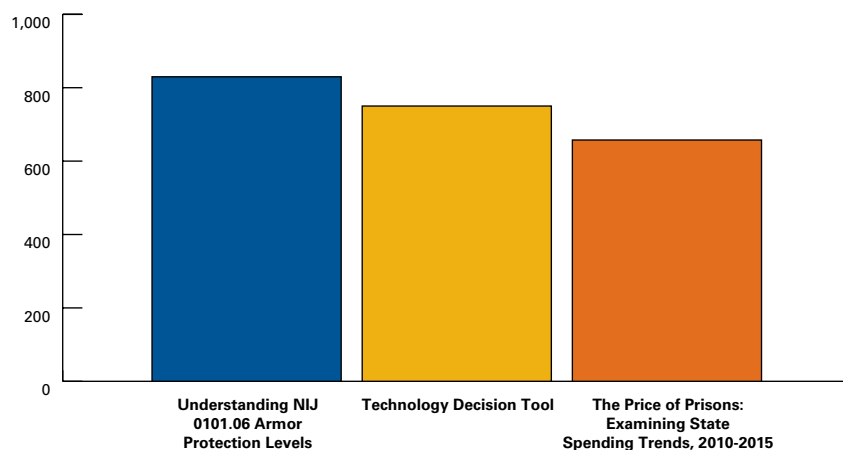
**EXHIBIT 1: JUSTNET  
ACTIVITY**





- Handled five non-conference-related requests for publications.
- Designed, edited and/or produced 25 publications (through September); completing all publication deliverables. In addition to specialty publications listed elsewhere, these products included:
  - *Making Decisions About Criminal Justice Technology: Needs and Challenges.*
  - *Law Enforcement Vehicle Lighting and Reflectivity Studies: An Overview.*
- Processed 141 School Safe app requests and 150 SHOW app requests.
- Coordinated 173 total domestic and international (approved, rejected and new) requests for Field Search software. To date, 8,699 requests have been received and the software has been downloaded a total of 13,661 times. Certified Field Search instructors provided basic Field Search training to 270 criminal justice personnel, and staff approved 255 domestic and international requests for the Field Search software.
- Managed the Corrections Technology Resource Center, which had a total of 79 registered users as of Sept. 30, 2019. The knowledgebase contained 2,260 documents.
- Produced 39 issues of *JUSTNETNews*, a weekly summary of news from the NLECTC System, NIJ and other agencies within the U.S. Departments of Justice and Homeland

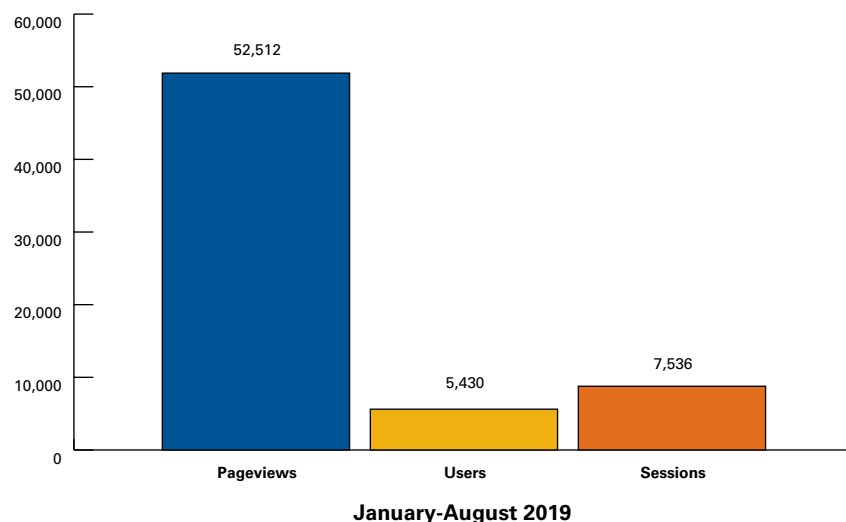
**EXHIBIT 2: TOP  
DOWNLOADS  
JAN.- AUG 2019**



Security; abstracts of mass media articles relating to criminal justice technology; and current funding opportunities and upcoming events.

- Prepared three briefs for NIJ on past work on school safety, UAS and TechBeat, to help inform NIJ’s decisions about the possible future of those efforts going forward.
- Managed PoliceArmor.org, a subsite that provides overall information on both ballistic- and stab-resistant armor for field officers, and includes links to the CTP information on JUSTNET. PoliceArmor.org had 7,536 sessions by 5,430 users and 52,212 pageviews.
- Managed SchoolSafetyInfo.org, a website targeting school resource officers and school administrators that links to resources, a calendar of events, funding opportunities and original articles on free/low-cost school safety activities. SchoolSafetyInfo.org had 8,374 sessions by 9,485 users and 32,935 pageviews.
- Disseminated information to the criminal justice decision-maker community via JUSTNET’s Facebook page (with 669 fans and 11,543 impressions) and Twitter feed (with 710 followers and 152 tweets) through June 2019. In the same time period, JUSTNET’s YouTube channel had 17,104 views with 60,220 minutes watched.
- Produced one original video for the YouTube channel, “Ready for Takeoff,” in partnership with the Alameda County (Calif.) Sheriff’s Office UAS program.

**EXHIBIT 3:**  
**POLICEARMOR.ORG**



## STANDARDS AND TESTING

Through the first six months of 2019, JTIC continued to operate the CTP while making preparations to transition its operation to CJTEC. Staff also continued to work toward resolving any issues with submitted armor, and conducted testing and research related to CDU equipment, ballistic-resistant helmets and ballistic-resistant shields.

Staff also assisted NIJ with ongoing development of standards related to CDU equipment, firearms, and ballistic- and stab-resistant body armor. Standards for both types of body armor and for firearms are nearly ready for publication, while the CDU standards remain in the development stage.

As part of the transition efforts, staff members made several visits to the Leidos warehouse in Lebanon, Tenn., to dispose of older tested body armors and facilitate the move of newer armor and associated collateral material to CJTEC.

Other program highlights included:

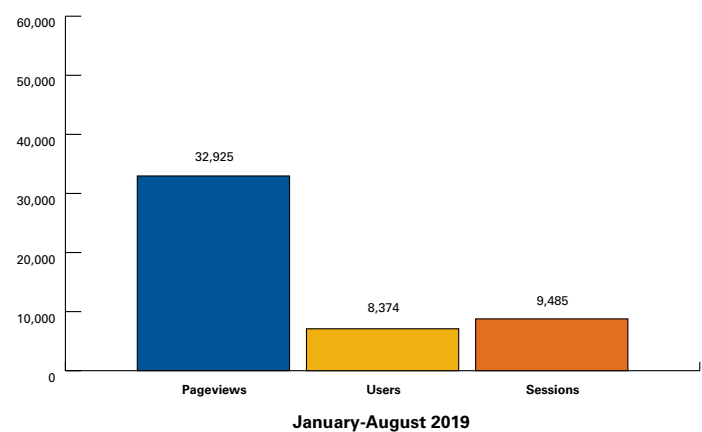
- Provided oversight and administration for the testing of 111 models of ballistic-resistant body armor and four models of stab-resistant armor; also conducted follow-up inspection and testing of 46 models of ballistic-resistant body armor.
- Vetted applications from manufacturers that want to participate in the CTP. As of June 28, 2019, 80 body armor manufacturers participating in NIJ's Voluntary Compliance Testing program for Ballistic-Resistant Body Armor had submitted an application to use the NIJ Certification Mark on their products that have been tested and found to comply with NIJ Standard-0101.06, and were found to satisfy all requirements and approved to use the NIJ Mark.

# SCHOOL SAFETY

JTIC concluded seven years of school safety efforts with the publication of the seventh volume of *Sharing Ideas and Resources To Keep Our Nation's Schools Safe!* in July 2019. This series compiles all of the stories published on the SchoolSafetyInfo.org website in an easy-to-read, illustrated format; volumes one through six were produced in print form, and all seven can be downloaded from the SchoolSafetyInfo.org website.

During the first six months of the year, staff added eight new articles to the website, all of which appear in Volume 7.

## EXHIBIT 4: SCHOOLSAFETYINFO.ORG





## OUTREACH

Through the first six months of 2019, JTIC maintained a presence at conferences and meetings, promoting JTIC UAS efforts, the CTP, the upcoming revisions to the ballistic- and stab-resistant body armor standards, and the availability of both the SHOW and School Safe toolkits. Beginning in June, outreach efforts also focused on the upcoming transition to CJTEC. Outreach efforts concluded in June. In total, staff exhibited at 10 law enforcement and corrections conferences and meetings, distributing 608 hardcopy publications and 27,271 digital publications. An additional 815 hardcopy NLECTC System publications were donated to an international school safety conference. Staff recorded 593 ontacts/transactions into CaptureNet.

A summary of those efforts appears below.

### *January*

**American Correctional Association (ACA) Conference.** The corrections subject-matter expert attended the ACA Winter Conference on Jan. 11-15, 2019, in New Orleans, La. The SME participated in the Information Technology Committee meeting, attended workshops and interacted with technology vendors.

**Shooting, Hunting, Outdoors Trade (SHOT) Show.** Several members of the CTP staff attended the SHOT Show in Las Vegas, Nev., on Jan. 22-25, 2019. While there, staff met with various laboratory representatives, armor manufacturers, material suppliers and firearms manufacturers to discuss upcoming work items and standards development.

## February

**National Sheriffs Association (NSA) Winter Conference.** JTIC staff exhibited at the NSA Winter Conference in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 10-11, 2019, placing special emphasis on JTIC UAS publications. Staff from the FAA also helped at the JTIC booth, distributing several FAA documents and other information related to UAS for law enforcement.

## March

**Piedmont Valley Community College UAS Conference.** JTIC staff attended the Piedmont Valley Community College UAS Conference in Crozet, Va., on March 4-6, 2019. Booth traffic was very steady, with staff handing out almost all publications brought. Among the speakers and guests were Virginia Governor Ralph Northam and Virginia Homeland Security Secretary Brian Moran.

## May

**DHS First Responder Resource Group Annual Meeting.** JTIC staff attended the U.S. Department of Homeland Security First Responder Resource Group Annual Meeting in San Diego, Calif., on May 6-10, 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to find capability gaps within the first responder community and develop statements of objective (SOOs) around those gaps. These SOOs will be used by the DHS Office of Science and Technology to solicit solutions from industry to address capability gaps and find solutions.



**National Police Week/Concerns of Police Survivors Conference.** JTIC staff exhibited at the National Police Week/Concerns of Police Survivors seminar in Alexandria, Va., May 13-16, 2019. Staff distributed primarily publications related to ballistic-resistant body armor to the conference attendees, mainly chiefs and command staff personnel.

**Interfaith Safety and Security Workshop.** JTIC staff presented on SHOW at the Interfaith Safety and Security Workshop on May 14, 2019, in Lanham, Md. The Prince George's County Office of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency sponsored the half-day event.

## June

**First Responder Ready Day.** JTIC staff attended the First Responder Ready Day event in Washington, D.C., on June 11, 2019. Participants discussed the current and future states of communications interoperability and its related technologies. The event included panel discussions on Critical Communications in Times of Crisis and Federal, State, and Local Interoperability and Situational Awareness During Emergencies and Disasters.

**National Sheriffs Association Annual Conference.** JTIC staff exhibited at the NSA Annual Conference in Louisville, Ky., June 14-19, 2019. Staff focused on providing information on the transition of the CTP from JTIC to CJTEC.

**Fairfax County Command Vehicle Rally.** JTIC staff attended the Fairfax County Command Vehicle Rally in Chantilly, Va., on June 28, 2019. The rally brought together federal, state and local first responder agencies and the vendor community to go through an interoperable communications exercise. It also allowed the various first responder agencies to discuss communications technologies and network to see which communications platforms neighboring jurisdictions use.



# UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS

JTIC maintained an assistance program for law enforcement agencies looking to use UAS in pursuit of their mission, beginning in 2016. In 2019, JTIC developed the following documents related to UAS and first responders:

- *The Testing of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) for Law Enforcement Use in Indoor Tactical Missions.* This report summarizes testing done by three law enforcement agencies on using sUAS for indoor tactical missions. Although law enforcement continues to explore alternate uses for sUAS technology, available information on the use of sUAS to support law enforcement operations indoors is limited. Information on the effects and potential limitations imposed by maneuvering in tight, confined spaces and in environments where GPS, video and command/control coverage may or may not be ideal could help agencies considering use of sUAS indoors. The report summarizes

general testing observations and findings for each agency. Distribution is limited to law enforcement agencies.

- *Selection and Implementation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Technology for Law Enforcement.* This report highlights some basic insights/lessons learned from focus group members on implementing a UAS program and choosing and operating UAS technology. As UAS technology continues to evolve, identifying and implementing the best UAS technology to meet the particular needs of law enforcement can be challenging. In late 2017, an NIJ law enforcement focus group on UAS met to discuss and exchange information on their agencies' use or desired use of UAS, lessons learned by agencies with established UAS programs, and trends and issues surrounding the technology. Distribution is limited to law enforcement agencies.
- *Small UAS Initial Pilot Qualification Plan for Law Enforcement and First Responders.* (Draft submitted to NIJ in June). First responder agencies are increasingly incorporating sUAS into their available resources to respond to various public safety events. While the FAA permits these agencies to "Opt In" to the Part 107 flight regulations for such systems, many agencies prefer to operate under both Title 49 Public Aircraft regulations and the FAA's Part 107 Small UAS regulations. One of the hurdles agencies face is the ability to satisfy the initial flight qualifications for their sUAS pilots. Although most agencies require their sUAS pilots to acquire the appropriate FAA UAS certification, the ability to train and qualify each pilot is left to each agency to administer on its own. This document is designed to support an agency in performing and documenting its agency initial qualification for its sUAS officer pilots.
- *UAS Pilot Curriculum for Law Enforcement Agency Self-Certification* (In process). This course can help prepare first responders by providing an opportunity to acquire the regulatory, aeronautical and operational knowledge and sUAS program familiarity to meet the requirements for an sUAS pilot certification that is equivalent to the private pilot ground school curriculum. It is designed to educate first responders on the overall complexities associated with being a pilot. Developed by the JTIC aviation subject-matter expert (a retired FAA employee), it consists of a video presentation of the course with slides and a companion handbook.



