Body Armor on Board

With more than 300 officers patrolling a 1,500-square-mile area, 80 percent of them on foot and bike, coupled with Washington, D.C.'s oppressively hot and humid summers, the police department of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority needed to find body armor that would give its officers an appropriate level of ballistic protection yet be lightweight and comfortable.

Metro Transit’s body armor selection committee put more than a year into the search. Some of that time was spent in consultation with the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)—National in nearby Rockville, Maryland, which operates the National Institute of Justice’s (NIJ’s) ballistic- and stab-resistant body armor testing and compliance program.

“I don’t know how some of our guys stand it in the summer,” says Officer Barry E. Housel, Metro Transit Tacticians Firearms Instructor and the point man for research on the selection committee. “We needed to find armor that used the latest technology yet was more wearable for field officers. We ended up stopping at NLECTC, quite a bit for advice on how to proceed.”

Housel estimates that he visited NLECTC three times and exchanged a number of e-mails. Another committee member, Officer Jeff Sesok, says he visited NLECTC seven times and lost count of the telephone calls he made. “NLECTC pretty much rolled out the red carpet for us,” Housel says. “If they couldn’t see us that day, they saw us the next business day. They also made sure we had plenty of copies of their Selection and Application Guide to Police Body Armor, which offered us a step-by-step plan to follow.”

According to Housel, the selection committee, which included a member from each of the department’s five field divisions, focused first on the level of protection the new armor would need to provide. Metro Transit’s jurisdiction covers not only the District of Columbia but extends into a number of counties and cities in Maryland and Virginia. Sesok says the committee visited area police departments to ask about the firearms their officers were confiscating off the street. The committee also considered the firearms its own officers were seizing as well as those issued to them by their department.

Based on their findings, the committee selected Protection Level III-A. “We were kind of on the bubble between [Protection Level] II and III-A,” Housel says. “We could have gone with the lower threat level of II, but we scoured the Selection and Application Guide frontwards and backwards. Our final determination was based on the information in the guide as well as our conversations with the body armor testing staff at NLECTC. They were able to answer our questions and concerns.”

Sesok says that once the committee decided what threat protection level it needed, it addressed wearable issues. Because he spends most of his time on a bicycle, riding up to 15 to 20 miles a day, Sesok wanted to be sure his new vest would be comfortable. NLECTC staff provided the committee information and resources about the types of ballistic material on the market, he says. They also provided a list of models of body armor that complied with NIJ’s ballistic body armor standards.

Once the committee decided what type of ballistic material it preferred, it had to select a carrier—the removable, washable garment that contains the ballistic panels and holds them next to the torso.

“We wanted something that would mold to the officer’s body better than our old ones did,” Housel says. “We also received information from NLECTC regarding carriers, and we were amazed at the different types available. Committee members along with several other officers tried various types of armor for several months. We ran into a number of problems involving too-tight armor and awkward fastenings. Female officers in particular had difficulty finding a good fit. But our aim from the get-go was to get our people a wearable fit without compromising ballistic integrity.”

Sesok says the committee eventually met with a vendor who created a new model to Metro Transit’s specifications. “We were told it was the talk of a trade show when the company first exhibited it,” he says.

(See Body Armor on Board, page 3)
where you can get such realistic training,” says Steve Morrison, interim NCLETTC executive director. Other types of hands-on training include scenarios involving cell extractions, prisoner restraint and control, evidence collection, command post operations, hostage negotiations, bomb/explosives detection, entry procedures, high-risk transportation, aircraft escapes, crowd control, and media interaction.

With Federal grant funding and a board of directors that includes executives from the National Institute of Corrections, American Correctional Association, and the American Jail Association, this nonprofit center has put together a roster of courses specifically for corrections personnel. Training takes place in three new classrooms, one of which doubles as a computer and crime mapping training lab. The prison also offers a testbed and showcase for new and emerging technologies. Vendors are invited to demonstrate new products onsite, or they can loan them to the prison and let staff demonstrate them to incoming classes.

“In short, we provide four options,” Morrison says. “One, students can attend courses offered by the NCLETTC. Two, vendors can rent the facility to provide a demonstration of their products to practitioners, with NCLETTC assisting the vendor with marketing and advertising if needed. Three, technology developers can install their products, which are then evaluated by staff and students. And four, we offer facility rental only, where an agency can rent the facility to provide training to its own staff using its own trainer, course materials, and supplies.”

In addition, Morrison says, every spring for the last 4 years the penitentiary has been the site of the Annual Mock Prison Riot, hosted by the Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization, a program of the National Institute of Justice. This event gives corrections administrators and tactical teams from across the country an opportunity to use and evaluate emerging technologies in riot training scenarios. Ultimately the event helps determine the effectiveness of the technologies by employing them in realistic situations and then allowing for suggestions to modify them. The event also provides corrections personnel training on how to best approach and handle a riot situation.

“We’re now also expanding our scope from corrections and law enforcement to all public safety responders,” Morrison says. “We’re developing classes for EMTs, nurses, doctors in trauma units, and firefighters who respond to HazMat incidents.”

For more information about the National Corrections and Law Enforcement Training and Technology Center and classes currently available, call Steve Morrison, 877-625-3882. For more information about the Annual Mock Prison Riot, call the Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization, 888-306-5382.

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**NIJ Technology Institute for Corrections**

**Overview**

For the fourth year, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) is sponsoring its annual Technology Institute for Corrections. This technology institute, scheduled for November 11-16, 2001 in Washington, D.C., is designed for corrections managers to learn about and discuss technology initiatives and issues affecting the corrections community.

**Agenda**

During the weeklong institute, attendees will receive information and assistance about existing and developing corrections technologies and problem-solving relating to technology implementation, and exchange technology lessons learned. Attendees also will participate in briefings and demonstrations at various locations in the metropolitan area, which may include the US Department of Justice, the National Institute of Justice’s Office of Science and Technology, the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, and local law enforcement or corrections facilities.

**Goals**

✦ To provide participants the opportunity for continued education on technologies applicable to law enforcement and corrections.

✦ To provide participants the opportunity to meet and interact with other corrections professionals.

✦ To provide NIJ the opportunity to improve and build on its technology development programs based on participant experience and comments.

**Registration**

Attendance is limited to 25 mid-level managers from State and local corrections and community corrections agencies who are involved with technology and technology initiatives within their departments. An agency may submit one applicant for consideration. All travel, lodging, and meal expenses for participants are paid for by NIJ. Call Jack Harne at 800-248-2742, or e-mail jharne@nlectc.org to receive an application or additional information.

**Deadline**

Deadline for receiving applications is September 30, 2001.

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**Overview**

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When law enforcement personnel come face to face with armed suspects, they do not think about the "details" of their body armor—the layers of material, the stitching, or how the label is avoided. Their only concern is the ability of that armor to stop a bullet.

But day in and day out, a staff of body armor testing technicians at the National Institute of Justice’s (NIJ’s) National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)–National in Rockville, Maryland, pays close attention to the "details" of ballistic body armor. This attention to detail has helped save the lives of law enforcement officers.

"NLECTC–National has provided third-party oversight and management of NIJ's body armor testing program since the mid-1980s,” says Lance Miller, Equipment Testing Program Manager. “Our testing program staff are mostly former law enforcement officers; one still is. That experience gives them an added awareness of the impact of what they do. The work isn’t highly technical, but it is very detail oriented. You can’t take what you do casually because it ultimately affects the safety of law enforcement officers all over the world.

We oversee the testing of an average of 250 to 300 models of ballistic body armor every year. As Miller points out, law enforcement agencies also face an ongoing issue about how well armor works after it has been in service for a period of time. That is why the Baseline Ballistic Limit test was added in October 2000. This test, he says, is based on the military V50 test, which determines the velocity at which a particular type of bullet will penetrate a given armor model 50 percent of the time.

Several years later, if a department performs the same test on another sample of the same model, a result outside that limit will show that something has changed. The manufacturer may have used different materials, or the materials themselves may have degraded during use. Because the Baseline Ballistic Limit test was added just last year, law enforcement agencies have not yet used its results.

Miller says almost 3,000 armor models have undergone NIJ compliance testing since 1987. NLECTC–National permanently archives the samples in the National Institute of Justice's (NIJ's) body armor testing program. “We encourage them to fax or mail everything they test to us,” Miller says. “We make sure all the testing information is sent back to us in a report. Once we receive the samples and report back from the laboratory we not only make sure the laboratory placed the shots accurately, we also reverify all the construction information contained in the report. Any inconsistencies, no matter how slight, may make a difference in how the armor performs in the field.”

“Historically, about 50 percent of everything we test fails,” Miller says. “The standard is pass/fail; if you fail, you fail. In addition, we do not rate the armor that passes as good, better, or best. What is ‘best’ varies according to each department’s needs. There are a number of issues for agencies purchasing armor to consider, but we’re an important first step in ensuring the armor they buy is safe and reliable.”

To have its body armor tested, a manufacturer must contract with an NIJ-approved independent testing laboratory. Miller explains. The manufacturer schedules the tests and pays any associated fees. The manufacturer must send six armor samples to NLECTC–National approximately 2 weeks before the scheduled test date. When NLECTC–National receives the samples, testing staff examine all of them to see that they meet labeling and workmanship requirements before forwarding them to the testing laboratory for penetration and blunt trauma testing.

“We look for general, commonsense, visual things when the vests come in,” says Alex Sundstrom, one of three full-time equipment testing technicians. “We check the seams and stitching to make sure they’re secure and that nothing is hanging loose. If there are lastenings, we make sure they’re on securely and that they do actually fasten. We make sure the ballistic panels fit properly into the carrier.”

Even the labels on the armor are checked, Sundstrom says. Although NIJ standards specify what information needs to be on each model label and provide samples, the amount of detail the labels must have often presents the biggest challenge to manufacturers, especially those just starting with the program. "We encourage them to fax us labels ahead of time,” he says.

"As we can point out things that they will need to fix.”

If the six armor samples meet the labeling and workmanship criteria, they are sent on to a testing laboratory. Four samples undergo penetration and blunt trauma impact testing. If four of these samples pass, the fifth sample undergoes Baseline Ballistic Limit testing. The sixth is a reserve. Following these tests, the laboratory checks each piece of armor for inconsistencies in construction.

Finally, there is a compliance review of the armor. “A compliance review is just unbelievable,” Sesok says. “We have 250 to 300 models of ballistic body armor all the time.” Sesok points out, however, that in development of the new model, NIJ standards and NLECTC–National’s reputation helped settle an issue regarding the overlap between the front and back panels. "The Selection and Application Guide to Police Body Armor recommends a 2-inch overlap between the front and rear panels,” Sesok says. “This company said they didn’t do it. We had a meeting and pointed out the recommendation to them. They said, ‘We’ll do it.’ ”

For information about body armor selection, call the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, Rockville, Maryland, 800-248-2742.

“Really shows them that you’re an informed consumer, like reading Consumer Reports before you buy a car,” Sesok adds.

"All six sample vests must be made the same way,” Sundstrom says. “The lab counts how many layers of each kind of bullet-resistant fabric make up the armor. They check the stitching to make sure all the layers are the same exact pattern. And they use a commercial linen counter to check the thread count in the material’s weave. This information is sent back to us in a program report. Once we receive the samples and report back from the laboratory we not only make sure the laboratory placed the shots accurately, we also reverify all the construction information contained in the report. Any inconsistencies, no matter how slight, may make a difference in how the armor performs in the field.”

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Stopped by a Sponge
Press-Enterprise
(Riverside, California)
Police departments in California are being inundated with increasingly humane sympathy options when confronted with situations that do not call for lethal force. The idea behind those devices is to stem an individual with the least of impact without causing a life-threatening injury.

In a recent survey, the California Association of Tactical Officers found that out of 1,000 involving less-than-lethal weapons over the last 3 years, the skin was not broken on the individual who was hit in 80 percent of the cases. The facility rate was just over 1 percent, and victims sustained no injuries at all in 6 percent of the time. For years, area police departments have used beanbag guns or plastic bullets to diffuse situations that call for less-than-lethal force, but the latest technology used by the Corona Police Department, the sponge launcher, is cutting edge. According to Riverside County Assistant Sheriff Steve Bloomquist, the sponge launcher is the most simple and effective product available, outperforming its counterparts in distance and accuracy.

Bullet Trajectory Reconstruction With Argon-Ion Lasers
Law Enforcement Technology

A new portable laser may offer the means to establish bullet trajectories by shooting colored light, which can travel up to 1,000 feet, through bullet holes. An argon-ion laser is being used by the Police Department of West Valley City, Utah. The department shot colored lasers through a bullet-riddled car to locate a missing bullet that had passed through and embeded itself one city block away in a building wall.

Satellites To Keep Track of Offenders
Kansas City Star

The Kansas Corrections Department plans to use a satellite tracking system to keep an eye on offenders who violate terms of their release from prison, as an alternative to sending them back. The offenders will spend much of the day at one of three day-reporting centers, except when they are at work or participating in another approved activity. A new 24-hour surveillance system using Global Positioning System technology will allow authorities to track offenders street by street through ankle bracelets worn by the law-breakers, who also must carry a pack containing a mobile receiver. A monitoring station receives data from two dozen satellites to track the defendants. If an offender deviates from his assigned route, his location is instantly communicated to law enforcement officials. Authorities can communicate with the offender, while keeping someone in prison costs five times as much. The program is an attempt to head off new prison construction and provide additional supervision to those who already abide by the rules.

To subscribe to the JUSTNET NewLaw Enforcement and Corrections Technology News Summary, e-mail your request to asksubscribe@NLECTC.org or call 800-248-2742.

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TechBeats presents a sampling of article abstracts published weekly as part of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center’s (NLECTC’s) online information service: the Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology News Summary.

Offered through JUSTNET, the website of NLECTC, this weekly news summary provides synopses of recent articles relating to technology developments and initiatives in law enforcement, corrections, and the forensic sciences that have appeared in newspapers, news magazines, and trade and professional journals. The summaries also are available through an electronic e-mail list, JUSTNETNews. Each week, subscribers to JUSTNETNews receive the summary directly via e-mail.
Mounties Use Secret Cameras at Pearson

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are using a controversial computer face-recognition system to identify criminals at Pearson International Airport in Canada. The system is similar to one used at Ontario casinos, and it represents the first time a face-scanning system has been used at a North American commercial airport. According to RCMP spokesperson Mikele Paradis, there is no general video scanning of travelers. Instead, when a suspicious person is spotted and subsequently detained, the RCMP system uses face scans to help check identity and criminal record.

Sheriff's New Computer System Can Send Fliers Anywhere Within Minutes

Chicago Daily Herald

A new police system, Technology to Recover Abducted Kids (TRAX), allows police to quickly spread the word about missing children and kidnapped victims through electronic alerts and fliers with profiles and photos. Social Tech, a nonprofit organization that developed the system, donated the $5,000 equipment to the DuPage, Illinois, police department and has set up the system in 28 States. The system will also be used to provide communications with information on bank robberies, murders, sex crimes, and attempted abductions. These agencies with a TRAX system will receive instant alerts about crimes, and local businesses can have information delivered to them through their fan mail.

Weighty Issue: High-Tech Checks Let Truckers Pass Inspection Quickly

Richmond Times-Dispatch

The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) recently unveiled its first “motor carrier service center,” an automated vehicle inspection system that promises to reduce the time truckers spend at a weigh station. The service center in Suffolk uses radar tags to identify incoming trucks, inductive sensors to count their axles, scales that weigh the rigs while moving, and a computerized database that can process and update the pertinent information on the trucks. When a rig equipped with one of the electromagnetic loops equipped with piezoelectric sensors, an automated vehicle inspection system that promises to reduce the time truckers spend at a weigh station. The service center in Suffolk uses radar tags to identify incoming trucks, inductive sensors to count their axles, scales that weigh the rigs while moving, and a computerized database that can process and update the pertinent information on the trucks. When a rig equipped with one of the electromagnetic loops, a computer then induces a current that counts the number of axles. A computer then does this for up to 200 trucks, checks the DMV database to ensure the rig is registered and that the taxes on it have been paid, and if the vehicle is in compliance with State law.

TechBeat is the award-winning flagship publication of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) system. Our goal is to keep you up to date with technologies currently being developed by the NLECTC system, as well as other research and development efforts within the Federal Government and private industry. TechBeat is published four times a year: Managing Editor, Rick Neimiller; Contributing Editor/Writer, Lois Pilant; Contributing Editors, Becky Lewis; Editor, Michele Coppola; Contributing Editor, Brian Higgins; Graphic Designers, C. Denise Collins and Tina Kramer.

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Questions/Comments/Story Ideas: We welcome all questions, comments, and story ideas. Please contact Rick Naimiller, TechBeat managing editor, at 800–248–2742, or e-mail to rneimiller@nlectc.org.

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Getting Correction on the Map

Crime mapping is an important tool for law enforcement agencies to analyze crime data and identify patterns. Crime mapping involves the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to analyze and map crime data. This allows law enforcement agencies to identify crime hotspots, trends, and patterns, which can help them allocate resources more efficiently and effectively.

NIJ’s Crime Mapping Research Center, housed within the Crime Mapping Research Center (CMRC) at the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), is a hub for research and development in the field of crime mapping. CMRC uses GIS to support multijurisdictional data sharing and analysis, which helps law enforcement agencies to better understand and respond to crime patterns.

NIJ has funded several projects to develop and evaluate crime mapping tools. These projects include the following:

- Mapping Crime Principle and Practice
- Crime Mapping Research Center
- National Level Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center
- National Institute of Justice
- Office of Justice Programs
- Police Foundation

NIJ’s Crime Mapping Research Center also provides training and resources to law enforcement agencies to help them better understand and use crime mapping tools. This includes training on how to use crime mapping software, as well as resources such as guides and manuals.

Crime mapping can be used to analyze crime data at various levels, including at the neighborhood, city, county, or even state level. This allows law enforcement agencies to identify crime patterns and trends, which can help them allocate resources more efficiently and effectively.

Getting Started with GIS

To implement a GIS program, an agency must first acquire the necessary hardware, software, and training. The cost of a GIS program can vary depending on the size of the agency, but it can range from tens of thousands of dollars to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

NIJ’s Crime Mapping Research Center also offers a hands-on training program to help law enforcement agencies learn how to use crime mapping tools. This program includes a 3-day workshop where participants can learn how to use crime mapping software, as well as how to interpret crime mapping data.

NIJ also offers a range of resources to help law enforcement agencies get started with GIS. These resources include guides, manuals, and other training materials.

Institutional Corrections

The use of GIS in institutional settings is becoming increasingly common. This is because GIS can help law enforcement agencies to better understand and manage crime patterns within correctional facilities.

NIJ has funded several projects to develop and evaluate crime mapping tools for institutional settings. These projects include the following:

- Mapping Crime for Community Policing and Problem Solving
- Crime Mapping Research Center
- National Level Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center
- National Institute of Justice
- Office of Justice Programs
- Police Foundation

NIJ’s Crime Mapping Research Center also provides training and resources to law enforcement agencies to help them better understand and use crime mapping tools in institutional settings. This includes training on how to use crime mapping software, as well as resources such as guides and manuals.

Crime mapping in institutional settings can be used to analyze crime data at various levels, including at the cell, dorm, or facility level. This allows law enforcement agencies to identify crime patterns and trends, which can help them allocate resources more efficiently and effectively.

Community Corrections

NIJ’s Crime Mapping Research Center also provides training and resources to community correctional agencies to help them better understand and use crime mapping tools. This includes training on how to use crime mapping software, as well as resources such as guides and manuals.

Crime mapping in community correctional agencies can be used to analyze crime data at various levels, including at the facility, neighborhood, or city level. This allows community correctional agencies to identify crime patterns and trends, which can help them allocate resources more efficiently and effectively.
any kind of research or analysis about was an absolute nightmare to try to do ware and gave NLECTC–National paper

Until several years ago, laboratories pre-

ular material or type of construction. We

make vests. We don’t endorse any partic-

ber,” Miller says. “We’re not in the busi-

construction of the vest, and send it

needs to be changed in regards to the

vest fails, the manufacturer loses that

archive if they suspect a manufacturer

was revoked the compliance status of models

(continued from page 3)

A secure offsite facility The archived armor has proven its value on several occasions. “Law enforcement agencies have come to us because they did their own testing on vests and want to com-
pare them with the vest we tested, or they purchased vests as part of a major procurement and they want to be sure what they bought is the same as what we tested,” he says. “We have found dif-
ficulties on some occasions. The a-

cies then go back to the manufacturer and work things out.”

In some cases,” he says, “NIJ has

research. Details regarding this program will be forthcoming.

The Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Act of 1998 has

At one time, Miller says, departments were encouraged to give

they're flame resistant, so you can't burn them. And you don't want

so you can't put the vests in a landfill,” says Lance Miller, Equipment

They're also cut resistant, so you can't chop them into small pieces that are recycled into other materials.

and the Bureau of Justice Assistance will match up to 50 percent of

Considering the armor to be serviceable in the old armor to its recruits and make them wear it. This will get

or other equipment before selling or discarding the equipment.

monitor the service for them is that it's free.

For more information about the disposal of body armor,

be used in their training academies. “A department may want to issue

“Most of the materials used to make body armor don't degrade, so you can’t put the vests in a landfill,” says Lance Miller, Equipment

You can’t chop them into small pieces that are recycled into other materials. Agencies should contact their armor manufacturers to find out if this is an option.

Things happen that have taken advantage of this program serve areas with popula-

and the Bureau of Justice Assistance will match up to 50 percent of

The testing program has been the growing number of armor manufacturers. “The number of manufacturers has increased exponentially, to almost 100,” he says, “and many of those new manufacturers are located outside the United States. We've tested armor from almost every continent in the world.”

In fact, according to Miller, almost 50 percent of manufacturers currently send-

For more information about ballistic body armor standards and testing, contact Alex Sanderson at the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center in Rockville, Maryland, 800-248-2742. To obtain a copy of the Selection and Application Guide to Personal Body Armor or NIJ Standard 0101.04, Ballistic Resistance of Personal Body Armor, log on to www.nlectc.org.

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From the Director, Office of Science and Technology

Law enforcement, courts, and corrections officials and officers working in the field know how crucial technology is to their day-to-day operations. In some circumstances, having the right tool can even mean the difference between life and death.

The technological revolution that has swept society as a whole in recent years has also affected the criminal justice system. Some technologies that not long ago seemed advanced—seats that can stop bullets and electronic monitoring of probationers—today seem commonplace. But the revolution continues apace, with even more spectacular advances now being made, or in the testing stages, or on the drawing board.

As the research arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) has, since its founding 30 years ago, been in the forefront in sponsoring the development, testing, and demonstration of technology to improve the justice system. The development of DNA testing standards, soft body armor, and improved fingerprint evidence collection are some of the many areas in which NIJ has played a leading role.

More recently, with strong support from the Administration and the Congress, NIJ has accelerated the pace of its efforts. Less-than-lethal technologies to minimize the use of force, computerized mapping to pinpoint and analyze crime patterns, concealed weapons detection to prevent violence, methods of stopping fleeing vehicles in apprehension suspects, and improvements in DNA laboratories to aid in evidence testing—all these capabilities, and others, are now being explored by NIJ. Their application can mean even greater transformation in law enforcement operations.

TechBeat plays an important role as an essential link communicating the latest information about these developing technologies from the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center. By keeping law enforcement, courts, and corrections personnel current about these developing technologies from the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, the newsletter makes a difference in controlling crime and ensuring justice.

David G. Boyd, Ph.D.
Director
Office of Science and Technology
National Institute of Justice

The National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center is operated by the National Institute of Justice’s (NIJ’s) National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC). National is its most extensive and well-known testing program, but it is not the only one. NLECTC also administers seven other law enforcement equipment testing programs. These testing programs fall into two groups: standards-based testing and comparative evaluation or field testing.

In standards-based testing, equipment is tested on a pass/fail basis against standards developed by the Office of Law Enforcement Standards. Equipment that passes is listed as complying with NIJ standards. Manufacturers submit their equipment for voluntary testing and have some input into standards development. Standards-based testing programs cover:
- Ballistic-resistant body armor.
- Stab-resistant body armor.
- Double-locking metallic handcuffs.
- Semi-automatic pistols.

Equipment that passes standards-based testing is published in the appropriate consumer product list (CPL). All CPLs are available through the NLECTC website at www.nlectc.org. Semi-automatic pistol information is available in print form by calling 800–248–2742.

The second category of testing is comparative evaluation, in which equipment is tested under field conditions and the results published. This allows law enforcement agencies to select equipment that best suits their needs. For example, some tires perform better on wet roads, while others do better on dry roads. A law enforcement agency in Seattle might choose a different tire for their cruisers than one in Phoenix. Comparative evaluations are conducted on:
- Patrol vehicles.
- Replacement brake pads.
- Cut-, puncture-, and pathogen-resistant protective gloves.

Complete results of these tests are published in a series of equipment performance reports, available on the NLECTC system website at www.nlectc.org. Printed copies may be obtained by calling NLECTC—National, 800–248–2742.
NIJ’s NLECTC system consists of facilities across the country that are colocated with an organization or agency that specializes in one or more specific areas of research and development. Although each NLECTC facility has a different technology focus, they work together to form a seamless web of support, providing technology assistance, support, and information.

NLECTC–National
2377 Research Boulevard • Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: 800-308-5742 • Fax: 301-519-5140
E-mail: askniij@nlectc.org

The National Center, located just 30 minutes north of Washington, D.C., is the hub of the NLECTC system. It provides information and referral services to anyone with a question about law enforcement and corrections equipment or technology. NLECTC–National manages the voluntary equipment standards and testing program that tests and verifies the performance of mobile and law enforcement field equipment; electronic entry systems, such as keypads, locksets, and panic buttons; and police vehicles and tires. This office provides consumer product lists of equipment that meets a specific set of performance standards and also operates JUSTNET (Justice Technology Information Network), an Internet website that provides links to the entire NLECTC system and other appropriate sites, as well as assistance to those seeking information about equipment, technology, or research findings.

NLECTC–Northeast
29 Electronic Parkway • Rome, NY 13441
Phone: 800-308-5742 • Fax: 315-330-4315
E-mail: niij northeast@niij.org

NLECTC–Northeast is located at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Rome Research Site (formerly Rome Labora-
tory), on the grounds of the Griffiss Business and Technology Park. The center sponsors research and development efforts into technologies that address command, control, communications, computers, and intelligence. This center draws on the expertise of Air Force scientists and engineers in its development of technologies that can be used to detect weapons concealed on individuals, an effort that is expected to yield stationary equipment for use in building and handheld devices for field and patrol officers. Other areas of research and development include through-the-wall sensors, audio processing, image processing, timeline analysis, computer forensics, secure communications, and command and control.

NLECTC–Southeast
9500 International Boulevard • North Charleston, SC 29418
Phone: 800-308-4385 • Fax: 843-704-4011
E-mail: niij southeast@niij.org

Two of the focus areas of NLECTC–Southeast are corrections technologies and surplus property acquisition and distribution for law enforcement and corrections. The center facilitates the acquisition and redistribution of federal surplus excess property to State and local law enforcement and corrections agencies. The equipment must be used for law enforcement purposes only. Utilizing the JSTNET website, the center educates law enforcement and corrections professionals on how to incorporate used surplus equipment and technology into their programs. The efforts of NLECTC–Southeast have resulted in agencies receiving equipment they would not normally have access to or might not have been able to afford due to budgetary constraints. This facility also studies the needs of corrections agencies; it looks for and assists in the development of criminal-justice, law-enforcement, and corrections practitioners that identifies requirements and sets priorities for research and development. NLECTC–Southeast is allied with the South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA) and the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWAR). NLECTC–Southeast also focuses on information management and technologies, simulation training, and designated special projects.

NLECTC–Rocky Mountain
2650 East Half Avenue • Denver, CO 80210
Phone: 303-471-0866 or 303-671-2302 in the Denver area
Fax: 303-671-2305 • E-mail: niijrocky@niij.org

Located at the University of Denver, NLECTC–Rocky Mountain focuses on communications interoperability and the difficulties that often occur when different agencies and jurisdictions try to communicate with one another. This facility works with law enforcement agencies, private industry, and non-governmental organizations to identify new technology that can improve communications and information sharing. It also focuses on small police agencies and their information needs.

NLECTC–West
2500 East El Segundo Boulevard • El Segundo, CA 90245–4691
Phone: 800-549-1816 • Fax: 310-236-2227
E-mail: niijwest@niij.org

NLECTC–West is housed on the grounds of The Aerospace Corporation, a nonprofit corporation that provides technical assistance to the Air Force and the U.S. Government on space technology and space security. NLECTC–West draws on The Aerospace Corporation’s depth of knowledge and scientific expertise to offer law enforcement and corrections personnel the ability to analyze and enhance audio, video, and photographic evidence. In cooperation with The Aerospace Corporation, this NLECTC facility also conducts research into ballistics and weapons technology as well as information systems. Sandia National Laboratories has been designated as a satellite of NLECTC–Rocky Mountain. The laboratory works in partnership with NLECTC–Rocky Mountain and focuses on technology for detecting and neutralizing explosive devices.

Border Research and Technology Center (BRTC)
1016 Second Avenue, Suite 1930 • San Diego, CA 92101–4912
Phone: 888-656-BRTC (2782) • Fax: 888-656-BRTC (2782)
E-mail: info@brtc.nlectc.org

The Border Research and Technology Center works with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the U.S. Border Patrol, the U.S. Customs Service, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, and the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California, develops measurement methods for analytical techniques and standard reference materials for forensic scientists and crime labs. Since the program began in 1971, OLES has coordinated the development and testing of nearly 200 standards, user guides, and advisory reports. Headquartered at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, OLES works closely with NLECTC–National to conduct tests and to guarantee the performance and quality of equipment used by police and corrections.

Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization (OLETC)
Wheeling Jesuit University
315 Washington Avenue • Wheeling, WV 26003
Phone: 1-888-306-OLES (6537) • Fax: 304–243–2131
E-mail: olectc@wju.edu

The Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization, a program of NIJ, is located at Wheeling Jesuit University. OLETC’s mission is to work with industry, manu-
facturers, and laboratories to facilitate the commercialization of technologies for the law enforcement and corrections mar-
tketplace. OLETC provides specialized services and assistance to innovators, entrepreneurs, universities, Federal and other laboratories, and U.S. manufacturers nationwide in commercializ-
ing technologies that will enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement and corrections practitioners. A national part-
nership is being developed to provide a continual pipeline of innovative products, concepts, and value-added services that will expedite the commercialization of new products and services needed for State and local law enforcement and corrections communities. OLETC has directly assisted in commercializing numerous innovative products, including the Kaaptheke®-a novel vehicle-stopping device; Tiger Vision®, a special low-cost, hand-held night vision device; an Explosive Ordinance Disposal Technician Training Kit; and the Countertop Sab and Slab Protective Vest. OLETC has identified more than 70 additional emerging technologies and concepts that are currently being evaluated for possible commercialization.

In development.
Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES)
100 Bureau Drive, Stop 8120 • Gaithersburg, MD 20899–8102
Phone: 301-975-2777 • Fax: 301-910-0078

Supported by NIJ, the Office of Law Enforcement Standards applies science and technology to the needs of the criminal justice community. While its major objective is to develop minimum performance standards for equipment and technology, which NIJ promulgates as voluntary national standards, OLES also undertakes studies lead-
ing to the publication of technical reports and user guides. Its areas of research include clothing, communications systems, emergency equipment, investiga-
tive equipment, surveillance equipment, security systems, vehicles, and weapons. It also develops standard reference materials for forensic scientists and crime labs. Since the program began in 1971, OLES has coordinated the development and testing of nearly 200 standards, user guides, and advisory reports. Headquartered at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, OLES works closely with NLECTC–National to conduct tests and to guarantee the performance and quality of equipment used by police and corrections.

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In addition to funding the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center, NIJ supports the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS), an international clearinghouse on crime and justice information. NCJRS staff respond to reference questions, provide referrals to other resources, distribute NIJ and other Office of Justice Programs (OJP) documents, and maintain a mailing list of more than 45,000 registered users. In addition, NCJRS sponsors a calendar of events at http://www.eventcalendar.ncjrs.org, which lists conferences and meetings of interest to the criminal justice community. If you are interested in signing up for the NCJRS mailing list, you may request a registration form using any of the following methods:

**Fax-on-Demand**
Dial 800–851–3420, select option 1, then option 1 again. The registration form is #1 on the document index. The form will be faxed to you immediately.

**Fax**
Fax your request for a registration form to 410–792–4358. You will receive a form promptly in the mail.

**Online**
Go to http://www.ncjrs.org/puborder and request registration form BC640. It will be sent to you in the mail. Or, actually register online at http://www.ncjrs.org/register.

**Write**
Send a written request to NCJRS, P.O. Box 6000, Rockville, MD 20849–6000.

**Call**
Call an NCJRS information specialist and request a registration form. The number is 800–851–3420.

As a registered user, you will receive the bimonthly NCJRS Catalog, the NCJRS Users Guide, and news and announcements of new publications and resources based on your criminal justice interests.

For more information about NIJ and NCJRS, visit their websites: http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij http://www.ncjrs.org.

The following publications/videos are available from the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center—National:

**A Resource Guide to Law Enforcement, Corrections, and Forensic Technologies: Office of Justice Programs and Office of Community Oriented Policing Services.** This first-of-its-kind resource guide delivers valuable information on law enforcement and corrections technology programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs, including available technologies; funding sources and demonstration programs; equipment standards, testing, and evaluation; current research and development initiatives; and training.

**Selection and Application Guide to Personal Body Armor (Revised).** This guide, an update of the October 1998 publication, responds to questions about the selection and use of body armor for law enforcement. It responds to commonly expressed concerns and provides information to help determine the level of protection required by officers. This guide provides information on the newly released 0101.06 ballistic-resistant standard and the new stab-resistant standard (NIJ Standard 0115.00).

**A Guide for Applying Information Technology in Law Enforcement.** This publication helps law enforcement professionals choose the information technologies that best suit their needs and incorporate them into their day-to-day operations. This guide is intended to help law enforcement practitioners plan and implement information system upgrades and address connectivity and data sharing issues.

**Equipment Performance Report: Effectiveness of Tire Deflation Devices Against Self-Sealing and Run-Flat Tires.** This report details the results of an evaluation of tire deflation devices, which were tested using several brands of self-sealing and run-flat tires. The devices are for use by law enforcement during pursuits. (Note: This report is available only to law enforcement agencies and must be requested via a written request on department letterhead to NLECTC, P.O. Box 1160, Rockville, MD 20849–1160.)

**Michigan State Police Tests 2002 Police Vehicles.** This bulletin summarizes test results from the Michigan State Police’s annual evaluation of “police-package” and “special-service” patrol vehicles.

To obtain any of the above publications or videotapes or to receive additional copies of the TechBeat newsletter, write NLECTC, P.O. Box 1160, Rockville, MD 20849–1160; telephone 800–248–2742.

Publications can also be downloaded from JUSTNET at www.nlectc.org.
Bomb scene investigators are getting a big assist from the field of forensic sciences through a project that ultimately will help them pinpoint not only the manufacturer of an explosive but also the country where it was made.

Housed at the National Institute of Justice’s National Center for Forensic Science at the University of Central Florida in Orlando, the project is headed by Jehuda Yinon, Ph.D., a visiting professor from the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel. The goal of the project is to create a database of explosives—a database detailed enough for law enforcement agencies to identify the manufacturer as well as the country where the explosive was manufactured.

Yinon says the underlying science for the project is based on processes already found in crime laboratories, primarily liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, which are used to characterize organic compounds, such as in the analysis of inks. By knowing the chemical compounds of various inks and knowing the different chemicals each manufacturer uses from year to year, forensic scientists can determine whether questioned documents are valid or when they were created. The technique has been used in major tax fraud investigations that require the authentication of receipts and documents.

The explosives database will function in the same way. Each type of explosive, whether it is TNT, C4, nitroglycerin, RDX, HMX, or PETN, will be chemically analyzed and the results compiled in a database. Forensic scientists will then be able to compare explosives associated with terrorists and bomb scene debris containing explosives residues with samples in the database to determine the type of explosive and its content and the manufacturer and country of origin.

“If you know this information you can narrow down the investigation,” Yinon says. “What we have found in our preliminary investigation—and we started with the most commonly used military explosive, which is TNT—was that TNT comes from different sources and has small amounts of by-products and impurities in it. The manufacture of TNT involves several solvents and other chemicals, which are reagents in the manufacturing process. In each country, those solvents and chemicals have different impurities and by-products as a result of the manufacturing process. Explosives also have additives, which are put in on purpose. Dyes, for example. One manufacturer can decide the explosive should be yellow. Another wants it to be red or black. What we are trying to do is find a way by using such processes as liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry, to determine those small impurities, by-products, and additives and connect them to a manufacturer.”

When a full analysis of TNT is completed, Yinon says, the project will focus on other types of explosives. He estimates that a comprehensive database is at least 3 years away. When completed, the project may also prove useful to environmental agencies as explosives are toxic compounds requiring special disposal methods. Environmental agencies could use the database to identify illegal dumping of explosives, which are hazardous materials.

For more information regarding the explosives database, contact Jehuda Yinon, 407–823–6469, or e-mail jyinon@mail.ucf.edu.
The Crime Mapping Research Center’s Training Modules were developed as part of the Crime Mapping Research Center’s effort to extend mapping and GIS capabilities to the criminal justice community. These modules were developed by the Crime Mapping Training Resource Group, made up of police officers, crime analysts, researchers, and CMRC staff (see contributor list below). We are pleased to make these modules available to the general public for informational purposes, to be used in training sessions, and for self-paced instruction. Feel free to adapt the information presented in these modules to your individual training and informational needs.

I. What is Crime Mapping?

- Overview Document
- PowerPoint Slides 1-31
- PowerPoint Slides 32-71
- PowerPoint Slides 72-108

II. Crime Mapping for Managers

- Overview Document
- PowerPoint Slides 1-30
- PowerPoint Slides 31-59
III. Crime Mapping for Community Policing and Problem Solving

Overview Document
PowerPoint Slides

IV. Integrating GIS into an Organization

Overview Document
PowerPoint Slides

These training curricula were developed during the course of a NIJ/CMRC Fellowship grant (#98-LB-VX-0003). Visiting Fellow, Julie Wartell, worked in conjunction with a Crime Mapping Training Resource Group and the staff of the Crime Mapping Research Center to conceptualize and develop the training modules. The CMRC expresses its gratitude to Ms. Wartell and the entire Crime Mapping Training Resource Group for the hard work and dedication that made these training modules possible.

Crime Mapping Training Resource Group
Julie Wartell, Principle Investigator, Institute for Law and Justice
Phil Canter, Baltimore County Police Department
Jeff Dean, San Diego Police Department
Noah Fritz, National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center - Rocky Mountain Region
Elizabeth Groff, Crime Mapping Research Center
Keith Harries, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Eric Jefferis, Crime Mapping Research Center
Nancy La Vigne, Office of Justice Programs
Jonathan Lewin, Chicago Police Department
Richard Lumb, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department
Maureen O’Connell, Institute for Law and Justice
Andreas Olligschlaeger, TruNorth Data Systems, Inc.
Mark Stallo, Dallas Police Department
Deborah Thomas, University of Colorado at Denver

Note: The points of view expressed in these modules are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily represent the official position of the National Institute of Justice or the U.S. Department of Justice.
Law Enforcement & Corrections Technology News Summary

- "Spies in the Sky Keep Track of Ex-Cons on the Ground"
- "States’ ‘Tech Upgrade’ Budget System Cuffs Small Police Forces"
- "Forensic Audio: Simple, Affordable Science"

Researching new technologies? Search the News Summary Database

Receive the News Summary via e-mail.
Subscribe to JUSTNETNews

The new National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Guide, Electronic Crime Scene Investigation, is intended for use by law enforcement and other responders who have the responsibility for protecting an electronic crime scene and for the recognition, collection, and preservation of electronic evidence. Order this publication from the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (800-851-3420) or download in either Adobe Acrobat or ASCII Text format.

NIJ has also made available on their web site a list of electronic crime technical resources. Please visit http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/cybercrime_resources.htm to view the list.

Upcoming Conferences/Events

Annual Conference on Criminal Justice and Evaluation, July 22-25, 2001


National Conference on Science and The Law, October 4-6, 2001, Marriott Biscayne Bay, Miami, Florida
The Justice Technology Information Network (JUSTNET) is a service of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC). NLECTC is a program of the National Institute of Justice Office of Science and Technology.