

Training Sampler

As a key part of fulfilling its mission to serve state and local law enforcement, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) offers, and encourages law enforcement agencies to take advantage of, a wide variety of free training resources. NIJ sponsors an assortment of training programs, both online and in the classroom, both through the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System and through other contracting agencies.

A complete listing of information on programs outside the NLECTC System can be found at <http://www.nij.gov/training/welcome.htm>. Training programs focus on topics such as corrections, forensics, communications and more, with a large number of online forensics trainings available at NIJ's <http://www.DNA.gov> website. Criminal justice professionals can sign up to get e-mail updates when new training opportunities are offered.

Details on specific training opportunities offered within the NLECTC System follow.

Forensic Technology Center of Excellence

The Forensic CoE and its host agency, the National Forensic Science Technology Center (NFSTC), offer an extensive array of training programs. NFSTC has provided the brief synopses of these training resources listed below.

- **CSI Effect Theory.** NIJ has launched an interactive website dedicated to exploring the CSI Effect Theory and the myths and facts surrounding forensic evidence presentation in the courtroom. The website targets officers of the court and provides the latest research on the CSI Effect Theory as well as observations from trusted experts throughout the justice community. To view the program online, visit <http://projects.nfstc.org/csieffect/>.
- **Principles of Forensic DNA for Officers of the Court.** NFSTC, at the request of NIJ, developed an educational and resource tool for officers of the court — attorneys and the judiciary — to educate the legal

community on issues that arise as a result of implementing and employing forensic DNA. This program is available online or on CD-ROM through the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS). To order, go to <http://www.ncjrs.gov/App/Publications/Alpha-List.aspx> and search for publication number NCJ 212399. Or, take the training online at <http://projects.nfstc.org/otc/index.html> (Spanish version at <http://projects.nfstc.org/otc/espanol/index.html>).

- **Collecting DNA Evidence at Property Crime Scenes.** This interactive training program is designed for investigators and crime scene specialists and focuses on identifying, securing, documenting and preserving biological evidence recovered from a crime scene. The program is delivered in four modules: Types of Evidence, Crime Scenes, Evidence Collection and Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). You can take the free training at http://projects.nfstc.org/property_crimes/.
- **Firearm Examiner Training.** Information addressed in this interactive training program is delivered in 14 modules and includes topics such as firearms history, manufacturing, ammunition, firearms and projectiles examination, evidence collection, residue and comparisons and toolmarks. You can take the free training at <http://projects.nfstc.org/firearms/>.
- **Impression and Pattern Evidence Symposium 2010.** This symposium was specifically designed to bring together practitioners and researchers to enhance information-sharing and promote collaboration among the impression and pattern evidence, law enforcement and legal communities. The symposium provided unique educational opportunities for impression and pattern evidence examiners to learn more about fingerprint examination, firearm and toolmark examination, footwear and tire track evidence, and quality assurance and reporting methods. You can view the videos and presentations online at <http://projects.nfstc.org/ipess/agenda.html>.
- **Biological Screening Workshop.** This four-and-a-half-day seminar and workshop teaches the principles of screening for blood, semen, saliva and other

biological fluids. The platform includes lectures, demonstrations and interactive exercises along with a comprehensive overview of the laboratory and instruction on presenting biological screening evidence findings. You can access the videos and presentations online at <http://projects.nfstc.org/bsw/index.htm>.

- **Missing Persons Training.** This three-day conference facilitated by NFSTC brought together experts from the FBI, NIJ, the Attorney General's office and forensic experts from around the nation to discuss investigation of missing persons cases. You can view the presentations online at <http://projects.nfstc.org/missing/>.
- **Field Investigation Drug Officer Program (FIDO) and Training Workshop.** The efficiency of the entire criminal justice system is impacted by the overwhelming caseload of drug investigations. As a result, many cases fail to be prosecuted in a reasonable timeframe or are dismissed due to a lack of timely sample analysis. Straightforward possession drug cases comprise a significant percentage of those investigations. Handling these cases at the investigative level has the potential to streamline the adjudication process, enabling the reduction of backlogged investigations and the efficient use of resources. You can find program documents for implementation at <http://www.nfstc.org/programs/field-investigation-drug-officer-fido/> and the Technology Transition Workshop for FIDO at http://projects.nfstc.org/tech_transition/fido/index.htm.

TechBeat has featured articles on Forensic CoE programs in the past. Check out the following:

“Center Offers Death Investigation Training,” Spring 2011, http://www.justnet.org/InteractiveTechBeat/spring_2011/DeathInvestigationTraining.pdf.

“CSI Classroom Prepares Students for Real-World Investigations,” Winter 2011, <http://www.justnet.org/TechBeat%20Files/CSI%20Classroom.pdf>.

“Blended Learning Mixes Methods,” Summer 2010, <http://www.justnet.org/TechBeat%20Files/Blended%20Learning%20MixesMethods.pdf>.

Information and Geospatial Technologies Center of Excellence

The Information and Geospatial Technologies CoE supports the Crime Mapping and Analysis Program (CMAP), which offers a range of free courses on spatial

analysis and crime mapping for crime analysts, planners and police officers. The courses are geared toward professionals in the field of investigations, crime or intelligence analysis and provide a strong emphasis on the analysis of law enforcement data and topics through the use of spatial analysis and crime mapping. In 2010, more than 20 classes with 230 law enforcement and corrections personnel representing more than 100 different U.S. law enforcement and corrections agencies were delivered through the CMAP program.

The program includes five classes: Introduction to Crime Mapping, Intermediate Crime Mapping, Advanced Crime Mapping, CrimeStat III for Crime Analysts and SPIDER (Crime Series Analysis Using GIS). In 2011, 17 sessions were being offered in five different locations: Scottsdale, Ariz.; Arlington, Texas; Richmond, Va.; Overland Park, Kan.; and Brookline, Mass. Classes are taught by certified CMAP instructors and the curriculums have been updated to reflect new releases in the ESRI ArcGIS software.

CMAP courses are free. Attendance is limited to staff from law enforcement agencies; further, the classes are limited to two attendees per agency and each attendee can attend only two classes annually. For information on upcoming classes, please visit CMAP's JUSTNET page at <http://www.justnet.org/Pages/cmap.aspx>.

Corrections Technology Center of Excellence

Field Search is a suite of software products developed specifically for use in the field by nontechnical criminal justice personnel to allow them to quickly and efficiently search a target computer and create a detailed report of findings. Field Search for Windows® (FS-Win) runs live in a native Windows environment. Similarly, Field Search for Macintosh (FS-Mac) runs live in the native Mac OS X® environment. This approach provides a fast, powerful, yet easy method of examining and monitoring computer use. In essence, Field Search blends preview functions with evidence gathering and reporting functions. Investigators throughout the country have successfully used Field Search in a number of cases. (See <http://www.justnet.org/Pages/FieldSearchSuccess.aspx>.) Access to the software is limited to law enforcement and corrections personnel. For more information on the product, visit <http://www.justnet.org/Pages/fieldsearch.aspx>. The Corrections Technology CoE sponsors a training video to provide basic instruction on the use of Field Search. Registered users can go to the download page to view the video at <http://www.justnet.org/Pages/fieldsearch.aspx>.

OTHER TRAINING

Outside the NLECTC System, law enforcement and corrections practitioners can find plenty of other free training resources offered by federal government agencies, through federal government funding or through professional associations. If you don't see a listing that meets your agency's particular needs, please try your own Internet search to find the best fit; many free training resources are offered at the state level, for example.

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

ACA offers a range of educational and training opportunities for adult correctional and juvenile justice staff. Current options include the Correctional Certification Program, Online Corrections Academy, Leadership Development Program, workshops and technical assistance. <https://www.aca.org/development/>.

AMERICAN PROBATION AND PAROLE ASSOCIATION

An international association with members from the United States, Canada and other countries, APPA offers a free online training course, "Enhancing Community Supervision Strategies for Hardcore Drunk Drivers," to community corrections professionals working in both juvenile and adult probation and parole. http://www.appa-net.org/eweb/DynamicPage.aspx?WebCode=IIID_Online.

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

BJA supports law enforcement, courts, corrections, treatment, victim services, technology and prevention initiatives that strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Through its National Training and Technical Assistance Center, BJA offers training in the areas of adjudication, corrections, counterterrorism, crime prevention, information sharing, law enforcement, mental health and substance abuse. <http://bjatraining.org/>.

DNA INITIATIVE

The DNA Initiative provides funding, training and assistance to ensure that forensic DNA reaches its full potential to solve crimes, protect the innocent and identify missing persons. Extensive training resources, including free online materials, publications and training aids, are available for forensic scientists, officers and investigators, medical personnel, officers of the court and victim advocates. <http://www.dna.gov/training/resources>.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

FLETC provides training services to more than 80 federal agencies in addition to state, local, tribal and international law enforcement agencies.

Through its Office of State and Local Training, FLETC provides both introductory and advanced tuition-free and low-cost training to state, local, campus and tribal law enforcement agencies. Programs hosted by local law enforcement agencies take place at various sites around the country. <http://www.fletc.gov/osl/tuition-free-training-programs>.

The congressionally mandated Rural Policing Institute evaluates the needs of law enforcement agencies and other emergency responders in rural areas, then develops and delivers advanced and specialized training targeted to those groups. <http://www.fletc.gov/rpi>.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

The IACP manages the Juvenile Justice Law Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Project in collaboration with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, part of the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. This project focuses on increasing the capacity of law enforcement professionals to address juvenile victimization, delinquency and crime from a holistic perspective, and includes no-cost training workshops. <http://www.theiacp.org/Training/GrantFundedTrainingCostFree/JuvenileJusticeTrainingandTechnicalAssistance/tabid/151/Default.aspx>.

NATIONAL DRUG COURT INSTITUTE

In collaboration with OJJDP and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, the National Drug Court Institute provides Juvenile Drug Court Motivational Enhancement Therapy and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (MET/CBT 5) training and certification to juvenile drug courts. This training enables them to implement Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment combined with MET/CBT 5 procedures. <http://www.ndci.org/training/juvenile-training-technical-assistance>.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CORRECTIONS

Through its National Corrections Academy, NIC provides training, technical assistance, information services and policy/program development assistance to federal, state and local corrections agencies. Training covers a broad range of correctional disciplines and topics including leadership, jail and prison programming, offender reentry and mental health. <http://nicic.gov/>.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The NRA, in conjunction with leading law enforcement firearms manufacturers and premier industry shooting academies, hosts tuition-free armorer/shooting schools and seminars at either the NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Va., or at the Fairfax County Police Department's Firearms Training facility in Chantilly, Va. Registration is

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Other Training (continued)

only accepted online and slots are limited. <http://www.nrahq.org/law/training/armorschools.asp>.

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

Through a cooperative agreement with the Office on Violence Against Women, part of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, NSA developed and delivers tuition-free rural law enforcement training titled "Domestic Violence Intervention and Investigation."

This program is offered to law enforcement, prosecutors, criminal justice personnel and victim advocates in small towns and rural areas. Under the same agreement, NSA developed the tuition-free Domestic Violence Training for Communications Professionals (Dispatchers/Call Takers) curriculum for communications professionals from small towns and rural areas. <http://www.sheriffs.org/programs/FreeTraining.asp>.

POLICE OFFICERS SAFETY ASSOCIATION

POSA, the training arm of the Disabled Police and Sheriffs Foundation, Inc., aims to increase safety and effectiveness for law enforcement officers and enhance community security through free and low-cost advanced education and training. In partnership with PoliceOne.com, POSA offers a number of free tactical training videos on subjects including tactical shotgun usage, crisis entry, disarming, close quarter shooting, active shooter and knife defense. <http://www.posai.org>.

VIRGINIA CENTER FOR POLICING INNOVATION

VCPI, one of a number of agencies nationwide that have used National Institute of Justice training to develop training programs, offers a free online version of "Unsolved Cases: Cold Case Analysis for Law Enforcement and Prosecutors," a program offered successfully in the classroom in 2009. To learn more about this program, read "Cold Case Training," TechBeat Fall 2009, <http://www.justnet.org/TechBeat%20Files/Cold%20Case%20Training.pdf>. <http://www.vcpionline.org/>.



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