National Institute of Justice

Briefing to Global Advisory Committee
April 20, 2011

Information-Sharing Activities at the National Institute of Justice

NIJ's information-sharing activities focus on helping practitioners, especially practitioners at the scene, make informed, timely decisions. NIJ-funded research builds on the Global Justice Reference Architecture and the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). Some of our current activities include:

Information and Geospatial Center of Excellence — In 2011, NIJ made an award to RAND Corporation to provide strategic planning, test and evaluation, and outreach support for NIJ's four portfolios related to information technology (IT) and analytics: Information-Led Policing; Geospatial Technologies; Operations Research; and Modeling & Simulation.

Solicitation: Analysis of the Criminal Justice System's Data Architecture — In coordination with BJA and BJS, NIJ posted a solicitation that sought applications to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the elements of the criminal justice system's data architecture that focuses on optimizing the use and flow of information through the system from beginning to end. This research is to build on both the Justice Reference Architecture (JRA) and the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM). The solicitation closed March 7, 2011. Applications are currently under review.

License Plate Reader (LPR) – Practice, Pilot, and Standards — funding a number of related projects to enhance the use of LPR technology. These include:

- With the IACP, developing an LPR policy and operational guide to support replication and customization of LPR implementation across law enforcement agencies. IACP expects to publish this guide by the 2011 LEIM Conference in June
- With ARJIS, implemented an LPR regional server pilot
- With SPAWR, developing of an LPR standard. The Special Technical Committee (STC) developing the standard has been approved with representatives from local, state, and federal agencies and an initial meeting was held.

Handheld Computing Devices — solutions that will improve the ability of mobile (handheld) computing devices to process spatial and nonspatial data to deliver information to the officer at the scene. Current projects include

- Redlands Police Department — developing an iPhone-based crime mapping application to assist law enforcement officers with understanding spatial and temporal crime patterns
- University of Nebraska and the Lincoln Police Department — evaluation of location-based services for police: GPS-enabled cell phones and laptops for applications of law enforcement patrol

Geospatial Service Oriented Architecture for Public Safety (GEOSOAPS) — funding Nlets to produce standardized geospatial information services to support national public safety objectives, including location-based incident reporting, crash data, and alerts. Creating these XML-based specifications will enable states to exchange GIS-based messages using web services.

Entity Resolution — funding SEARCH to develop a set of standard service interfaces, along with a default implementation of these interfaces for entity resolution and correlation. These services will help link critical justice information—initially people, organizations, vehicles, and law enforcement cases—across data sources, ultimately providing officers in the field with the information they need to guide their decision-making and reduce or prevent crime.

State Regional and Federal Enterprise Retrieval System (SREFRS) — funding ARJIS to, among other enhancements to SREFRS, expand the alerting capabilities of the Officer Notification and Smart Alerting System (ONASAS) to include the Nlets RAND (random access to Nlets data) transaction archive database to determine whether persons and vehicles of interest have been queried anywhere else in the nation.

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