

## Dear Reader,

In this issue of the *Primer*, we are featuring a program that can leverage technology budgets and support your goal of enabling officers to focus more on policing and enforcement. The program is Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), and is ready made for small departments and agencies. Read how the VIPS program can help you cut costs and expand service to your community.

If your department is about to undertake either a redesign or the initial development of a Computer-Aided Dispatch and/or Records Management System, you need to know about an important event that occurred recently in Sacramento, California. Find out more about this milestone event in the Project Portfolio Section.

With the emphasis on intelligence and its use in strategic and tactical decision-making, we will use the resources of the Global Information Sharing Initiative to assist you in creating an intelligence capability, accessing regional and national databases, and receiving alerts on homeland security operations.

In the *Did You Know?* Section, you will learn how the National Equipment Register assists law enforcement in recovering stolen heavy equipment, where some experts estimate that losses could be as high as \$1 billion each year.

Finally, to all of our Law Enforcement comrades who have accepted the challenge and are serving on active duty both at home and abroad, we offer our thanks and best wishes for a safe return.

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## Project Portfolio

The Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council (LEITSC) is a partnership that includes representatives from the IACP, Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), National Sheriff's Association, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NOBLE). LEITSC supports law enforcement by expanding and promoting justice information technology standards, offering technical advice on integration efforts, and educating practitioners on best practices and techniques for successful information sharing.

At a milestone meeting in Sacramento, California on May 7, 2004, the LEITSC Functional Standards Committee took a first-cut at recommending functional standards for Computer-Aided Dispatch and Report Management Systems. The results of this meeting should prove to be a benefit for those departments about to build or reinvest in these systems. Look for a future publication that will identify the minimum functional standard requirements for both CAD and RMS. You can read more about LEITSC at <http://www.leitsc.org>, or by contacting Jennifer Hicks, Project Manager, at 800-843-4227, extension 275.



## Volunteers in Police Service “Taming the Technology Torrent”

In his 2002 State of the Union Address, President George W. Bush announced the creation of the USA Freedom Corps, an effort to foster the spirit of volunteerism in America. The Citizen Corps programs are part of the USA Freedom Corps initiative and share the common goal of helping communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to crime, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) is one of four charter Citizen Corps programs. The International Association of Chiefs of Police is implementing and managing the VIPS Program in partnership with, and on behalf of, the White House Office of the USA Freedom Corps and the U.S. Department of Justice. VIPS ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers. The foundation of this initiative, [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org), serves as a gateway to inform for both law enforcement agencies and community members interested in law enforcement volunteer programs.

Volunteers can provide a value-added level of support to local, county and state law enforcement agencies of any size. Volunteers do not replace sworn officers, but rather supplement and augment their work. They can fill critical gaps in program support and provide needed technical expertise that might otherwise be unavailable because of budget considerations.

### Technology Troopers

The following profiles provide a glimpse of the innovative ways that law enforcement agencies are using volunteers to specifically address technology needs.

#### *Billings, Montana Police Department*

The Billings, Montana Police Department employs 125 sworn officers serving a population of almost 100,000. Volunteers provide a variety of support services for the Department, from crime prevention planning to special projects. This story is about two volunteers with expertise in computer programming who took on a special project to redesign, upgrade, and streamline the resident pawnshop database.

With 23 pawnshops in the city and county, tracking and recovering stolen property was a time consuming process. There was no single mechanism to compare stolen items against the pawnshops' inventory. Volunteers Michael Smith and Bill O'Neil created a system that allows pawnshops to send transactions over the internet, then “dump” the information into the Department's redesigned database. The database matches serial numbers from stolen property against pawned items. Dave Hinkel, Captain of Detectives, points out that because of counterchecking capabilities built into the new system, inaccurate, false, or misleading entries are more likely to be discovered on the Department's end. Within three months of commencing operations in 2003, the new database resulted in the issuance of over 60 arrest warrants. Credit Michael and Bill for their outstanding work, and VIPS with with another success story.

## RESOURCE CONTACTS:

*Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)*  
<http://www.policevolunteers.org>  
Alissa Huntoon, Outreach Coordinator  
800-843-4227, x 812

*Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council (LEITSC)*  
<http://www.leitsc.org>  
Jennifer Hicks, Project Manager  
800-843-4227, x 275

*National Equipment Register*  
<http://www.NERusa.com>  
20 East 46th Street, Suite 1402  
New York, NY 10017  
866-FIND-PIN

*GLOBAL Justice Information Sharing Initiative*  
<http://it.ojp.gov/global/index.jsp>

“National Criminal Intelligence Sharing Plan”  
<http://it.ojp.gov/documents/ncisp>

“Applying Security Practices”  
<http://it.ojp.gov/documents/asp>

*Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit*  
“Intelligence 2000: A Guide for Intelligence Professionals”  
<http://www.LEIU-homepage.org>

***San Diego, California Police Department***

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) employs 2,000 sworn officers serving a population of 1.25 million, with volunteers playing a major role in providing technical and administrative support. Department personnel files were a paper nightmare. Enter Fred Zuckerman, SDPD volunteer, who designed a program called "PD Roster Plus" that now maintains these records electronically. Fred also designed a system to more efficiently track officer scheduling of court appearances. Yet another volunteer designed a paperless electronic journal to track volunteer hours and activities. Data from this journal automatically populates a mainframe system, generating statistical reports for the Volunteer Coordinator and providing valuable information for Department administrators.

The Billings and San Diego Police Departments exemplify how law enforcement agencies have matched citizen skills against technology needs. These VIPS technology troopers enable departments to more proactively allocate frontline officers where they are needed most, on the street fighting crime.

To learn more about other law enforcement volunteer programs, please visit [www.policevolunteers.org](http://www.policevolunteers.org) or contact Alissa Huntoon at 800-843-4227, extension 812, or through e-mail at [huntoon@theiacp.org](mailto:huntoon@theiacp.org).

**Did You Know?**

The National Equipment Register (NER) offers law enforcement cost-free, 24-hour equipment identification assistance. The national database assists in recovery of the estimated \$1 billion in losses that occur each year due to lack of availability of accurate data on missing and stolen equipment. NER analysts help to verify product identification numbers and determine whether or not the equipment in question has been stolen. You can register to use NER's online search facility at [www.NERusa.com](http://www.NERusa.com). Once approved, you will have password protected 24-hour access to check suspicious equipment. For additional information, call their toll-free number at 866-FIND-PIN.

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# A POLICE CHIEF'S PRIMER ON INFORMATION SHARING

*"Promising Practices  
for  
Rural and Suburban Law Enforcement"*

## Highlight: VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE

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