

IACP TECHNOLOGY CLEARINGHOUSE



Law Enforcement Technology Program Survey

Agency Name: Juneau Police Department

Technology Program Name: Alaska Law Enforcement Info Sharing System

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Total Sworn : 48

Total Civilian: 35

Agency Type: Municipal

Program Status: Permanent Program

Funding Description

NIJ funds through NLECTC - NW

Hardware Manufacturers

Network: [Cisco](#) 2950 Switch [Cisco](#) 506 PIX Firewall Administration Workstation: [Dell](#) 2400 PC Servers: Web Server (Attached to DMZ) [Dell](#) 2650, Dual 3.06 Proc, 4GB mem, 2-36GB disks Mirrored, Raid Perc3, Win 2003, 24x CD/DVD, Redundant PS, Perc4 DC (Spare) Database Server (Behind [Cisco](#) PIX) [Dell](#) 2650, Dual 3.06 Proc, 4GB mem, 2-36GB disks Mirrored, Raid Perc3, Win 2003, 24x CD/DVD, Redundant PS, Perc4 DC (for connection to Array) Software: Microsoft SQL Server 2000 STD Edition (two Copies) Disk Array: [Dell](#) Powervault 220S Redundant PS, 6-73GB disk Drives (5-raid 5, 1-hot spare) Backup: [Dell](#) Powervault 110 LTO-2 Tape drive Veritas

Software Manufacturers

[Coplink](#)

Program Narrative

Although police work is much the same no matter what part of the world you are in, Alaska's cops face some unique challenges. Our state is over twice the size of Texas yet has a population of only 650,000, about half of which is centered in the south central area of the state, with the remainder spread over 570,833 square miles. In addition to the obvious challenges created by cold weather, many Alaskan towns are geographically isolated and inaccessible by road. Modern communications infrastructure taken for granted in the Lower 48 often presents a real challenge due to mountainous terrain, treacherous weather, and the sheer distance between communities. In spite of this, Alaska's police departments have traditionally been very open towards sharing information with each other. In fact, our isolation demands cooperation and team work between agencies. This spirit of cooperation has been hampered by a technological problem not unlike other areas of the country. While many of our police departments are quite modern and have had computerized records management systems in place for years, these systems were incompatible and dissimilar. RMS information could not be exchanged between agencies without the old-fashioned phone call to the agency and a manual query. Computerized analysis of crime data was limited to whatever capability resided on the local

system – typically very rudimentary. In September 2002, at a meeting hosted by the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center – Northwest (NLECTC-NW), several criminal justice leaders were shown a possible solution. Representatives from the Tucson, Arizona Police Department and Knowledge Computing Corporation demonstrated the COPLINK software which had been developed at the University of Arizona and had been successfully deployed at the Tucson Police Department. Coplink was jointly developed by the Artificial Intelligence Lab at the University of Arizona and Tucson Police Department with funds from an National Institute of Justice Grant. The presentation resulted in active discussions between police leaders across the state. The matter was presented to the governing board of the Alaska Association of Chiefs of Police at their spring 2003 meeting, where they decided to endorse an effort to bring information sharing to Alaskan agencies. Subsequently, after a number of organizational meetings, a memorandum of understanding was signed in August of 2003 and the Alaska Law Enforcement Information Sharing System (ALEISS) was born. Detailed security directives, operation procedures, and a privacy impact statement followed, after months of meetings, legal review, and significant collaboration between participating agencies. These documents are available at the ALEISS website www.aleiss.org. After collecting and reviewing system requirements, the ALEISS consortium selected COPLINK as the most cost-effective solution. Start-up 'demonstration' funding, technical advice and expertise, system administration, and space to store necessary hardware were provided by NLECTC-NW. Additional funding was provided by the State of Alaska. Operational funding and technical support for ALEISS are being provided by NLECTC-NW, for the first three years, as a demonstration of this new technology on a state-wide basis. Before the end of this period, the ALEISS consortium must identify new funding sources or consider assessing member agencies' proportional operational fees. The original consortium was composed of the following seven police agencies: Homer, Kenai, Juneau, Alaska DPS, Anchorage, Seward, and Soldotna. ALEISS' vision is to someday include every agency in Alaska that has RMS capabilities. Fairbanks, Wasilla and North Pole have since joined the original alliance. ALEISS will soon contain data contributed by approximately 66 percent of the state and local law enforcement officers in Alaska. The ALEISS software is relatively user friendly. However, it is also multi-featured and robust. We realized that for officers across the state to begin using the tool to its full potential, training would be required. NLECTC-NW provided training sessions to all the agencies in the consortium, as well as at the Alaska Department of Public Safety Law Enforcement Academy in Sitka. A self-paced training disc was provided to members. NLECTC-NW hosted a user's group meeting and a system administrator training session as part of the Alaska

Summer Justice Institute in July, 2004. Plans to continue training and support are ongoing. ALEISS uses software that provides an easy-to-use, intuitive, web-based interface. Information is presented in clearly-labeled columns and tables with hypertext links to underlying data and originating documents. The browser-based format allows the user to navigate through the program as if they were navigating the Internet. ALEISS software also provides advanced analysis capability using artificial intelligence techniques. ALEISS has been a significant step towards bridging the law enforcement information gap here in the "Last Frontier." We feel confident it will provide our state's law enforcement professionals an effective crime fighting tool and in turn make our state a safer place to live.

Additional Concerns

N/A