



MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER
Intelligence Analysis Division

Intelligence Bulletin

Phone: 443-436-8800

Fax: 443-436-8825

31 January 2011

Number 2011-20

License Plate Recognition (LPR) Program



(U) Background on License Plate Recognition Technology

(U) License Plate Recognition/Reader (LPR) systems consist of high-speed cameras and sophisticated computer algorithms that convert the images of motor vehicle license plates into computer readable data. When a vehicle comes into a LPR camera's field of view an image is captured of the license plate. The license plate number is then queried against certain law enforcement databases such as the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to identify motor vehicle administration violations, stolen vehicles or stolen license plates, and wanted or missing persons associated with the license plate number. If a match is found, the system notifies the operator of the LPR camera within milliseconds of the vehicle's location and the infraction related to the license plate. This provides the operator the ability to verify the information and obtain the direction of travel of the vehicle. LPR systems are generally equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers which record the date, time, and location of the license plate captured. LPR systems can be on mounted on patrol vehicles or at fixed locations.

(U) Maryland's Role in License Plate Recognition

(U) Although LPR technology is often viewed as a valuable real time, street crime-fighting tool in identifying stolen vehicles and stolen license plates, historical LPR data can help law enforcement agencies with protecting the public and investigating crimes.

(U//FOUO//LES) In Maryland, approximately 25% of the law enforcement agencies utilize LPR technology. With large numbers of agencies embracing this technology, the State of Maryland has embarked on an ambitious plan to network LPR data collected from these various agencies to one central server housed at the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC). The LPR data collected from the various agencies will be managed and stored at the MCAC. Data collected by LPR systems and networked to the MCAC will be retained on the central server for a period of one year, with strict access control and privacy protections in place.

(U//FOUO//LES) As of 31 January 2011, the MCAC has networked approximately 42% of the agencies who utilize LPR technology and continues to integrate the LPR data collected from more law enforcement agencies into the MCAC centralized server. LPR data housed in the central server will be made available to all law enforcement agencies, provided that the data search requested is related to a criminal investigation or relevant to the safety of officers and citizens. Identifying the intended uses of LPR data is critical to protecting the privacy of citizens. Detailed below is the list of networked agencies currently linked to the MCAC.

County	Agency
Anne Arundel	Anne Arundel County PD
Anne Arundel	DGS Capitol Police
Anne Arundel	Annapolis PD
Baltimore City	DGS Capitol Police
Baltimore City	Maryland Transportation Authority PD
Baltimore County	MSP Golden Ring
Calvert	Calvert County Sheriff's Office
Carroll	Carroll County Sheriff's Office
Cecil	MSP JFK Barrack
Charles	MSP La Plata Barrack
Frederick	MSP Frederick Barrack
Prince Georges	Greenbelt City PD
Prince Georges	Hyattsville City PD
Prince Georges	Laurel City PD
Prince Georges	Maryland National Capitol Park PD
Prince Georges	MSP College Park
Prince Georges	New Carrollton PD
Montgomery	Montgomery County PD

St. Mary's County	St. Mary's Sheriff's Office
Somerset	MSP Princess Anne
Washington	Hagerstown City PD
Washington	Washington County Sheriff's Office
Wicomico	MSP Salisbury Barrack

(U) Potential Uses of LPR Data

(U) Identifying the intended uses of LPR data is critical to assessing the privacy impact of the MCAC's collection, maintenance and dissemination of license plate data. Since law enforcement agencies are charged with protecting the public as well as investigating crime and criminal conduct, the MCAC is focused on sharing information and assisting law enforcement in the fulfillment of their duties. The MCAC can serve many public safety goals. Specifically, LPR data can be used:

- ❶ In various forms of crime analysis;
- ❷ To alert law enforcement officials that a license plate number on a hot list or part of a criminal investigation is found in the database; and
- ❸ To identify instances of criminal conduct that might have previously gone undetected without the aid of the LPR system.

(U) The MCAC Watch Division

(U) The Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center's Watch Division is a 24/7 operation that immediately responds to queries, alerts, and requests for information or service (RFI/RFS) for public safety and homeland security agencies. All queries of the LPR server may be received by various methods, such as telephone, fax, email, or teletype. All requests shall be documented on an MCAC RFI/RFS Form. Information required shall minimally include the Requestor's name, agency, identification number, e-mail address, phone number, case number and type of crime or case.

(U) Upon receipt of an RFI/RFS, Watch Division personnel shall assure the requester has a "right to the information" and a legitimate "need for the information." If the request for service is of a more comprehensive or complex nature the Watch Division staff shall forward the RFS to the Intelligence Analysis Division (IAD).

(U//FOUO//LES) Law enforcement officials who wish to query Maryland's LPR data should contact the Watch Division at 443-436-8800 or E-mail: mdwatch@leo.gov.

(U//FOUO) Comments and questions regarding this product may be directed to the MCAC LRP Program Manager, Colleen Richarts, telephone (443) 436-7710 or email: cricharts@mdsp.org



MCAC Customer Satisfaction Survey

Return to: Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center
7125 Ambassador Rd. Ste 130 Baltimore, Maryland 21244 Fax 443-436-7748

Marking Instruction: Circle the appropriate response
Accordingly

- 1 Strongly Agree
- 2 Agree
- 3 Neither agree nor Disagree
- 4 Disagree
- 5 Strongly Disagree
- N/A Not Applicable

Dear Customer,

Please take a moment to complete this survey and help evaluate the quality and value of MCAC products. Your response will help us serve you more effectively and efficiently in the future.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance

Product Title: License Plate Recognition (LPR) Program
Product Date: 31 January 2011

Customer name/agency: (Optional) _____

Quality

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|-----|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | This product was delivered within established deadlines. |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | The product was timely and relevant to your mission, programs, priorities or initiatives. |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | The product was clear and logical in the presentation of information. |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | The product is reliable i.e., sources well documented and reputable |

Value

- | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|---|---|-----|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | This product contributed to satisfying intelligence gaps. |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | The product resulted in change in investigative or intelligence priorities. |
| <hr/> | | | | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | The product resulted in more informed decisions concerning investigative or intelligence initiatives and/or resource allocation. |

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A | The product identified new information associated with pending matters. |
|---|---|---|---|---|-----|---|

Comments

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