
From: Tillery, George
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 10:55 AM
To: O'Leary, Karin (JMD); Flanagan, Maura (JMD); [REDACTED] (DEA-US)
Cc: Martin, Ralph; Newton, Nyesha; Rose, Kristina; Schuetz, Steve; Ford, William; Atsatt, Mikki (JMD); Sutton, Jeffrey (JMD); Bechtel, Robert S (JMD)
Subject: Re: Follow-up to JMD question NIJ/DEA LPR efforts

b(7)(C)

Thank you Karin

Bill, please reach out to Gisele this week.

Chris

From: O'Leary, Karin (JMD) [mailto:Karin.O'Leary@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 10:34 AM
To: Tillery, George; Flanagan, Maura (JMD); [REDACTED] (DEA-US)
Cc: Martin, Ralph; Newton, Nyesha; Rose, Kristina; Schuetz, Steve; Ford, William; Atsatt, Mikki (JMD); Sutton, Jeffrey (JMD); Bechtel, Robert S (JMD)
Subject: RE: Follow-up to JMD question NIJ/DEA LPR efforts

George:

You should reach out to [REDACTED] at DEA. [REDACTED] said that she and others at DEA briefed NIJ last year on DEA's LPR efforts but there was no mention of NIJ's efforts.

Thanks,
Karin

From: Tillery, George (OJP)
Sent: Wednesday, October 05, 2011 9:59 AM
To: Flanagan, Maura (JMD)
Cc: Martin, Ralph (OJP); Newton, Nyesha (OJP); O'Leary, Karin (JMD); Rose, Kristina (OJP); Schuetz, Steve (OJP); Ford, William (OJP); Atsatt, Mikki (JMD); Sutton, Jeffrey (JMD); Bechtel, Robert S (JMD)
Subject: Follow-up to JMD question NIJ/DEA LPR efforts

Ms. Flanagan,

As a follow-up to your question on the relationship of the DEA and NIJ LPR efforts, I think it might be helpful if we were able to speak with the individual(s) in DEA that prompted JMD's inquiry.

Your question came as a bit of a surprise as [REDACTED] with DEA and [REDACTED] with DHS CBP were invited to participate on the special technical committee writing the NIJ LPR performance standard.

Clearly, we missed someone in DEA in our outreach efforts.

Sincerely,

Chris Tillery
Office Director
Office of Science and Technology
National Institute of Justice

202-305-9829

From: Martin, Ralph
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2011 11:04 AM
To: O'Leary, Karin (JMD)
Cc: Flanagan, Maura (JMD); Bechtel, Robert S (JMD); Atsatt, Mikki (JMD); Sutton, Jeffrey (JMD); Newton, Nyesha
Subject: Response to your Email on JMD/DEA LPR issue

Karin,

I think we need to get the DEA and NIJ program people to talk to each other. I am certain the two offices can work out any issues on this topic.

The purpose of the LPRD software is to overcome stovepipes. While developed to meet the needs of state and local agencies, the software will enable law enforcement agencies, federal, state, local, or tribal to exchange data from different LPR systems. It is NIEM compliant, so it should be compatible with the DEA software, unless the DEA has gone down the proprietary route.

The LPRD software was developed based on evidence coming out of an NIJ research program in the area of LPR technology that stretches back to at least 2005, and involves both manufactures and law enforcement agencies, including DHS agencies.

Ralph

From: O'Leary, Karin (JMD) [mailto:Karin.O'Leary@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, September 14, 2011 11:58 AM
To: Newton, Nyesha
Cc: Flanagan, Maura (JMD); Bechtel, Robert S (JMD); Atsatt, Mikki (JMD); Sutton, Jeffrey (JMD)
Subject: RE: Competing LPR systems?

Nyesha:

I still do not get why NIJ would fund connectivity of LPR systems without linking up state and local law enforcement with existing federal efforts - specifically, the DEA LPR program, which is funded with AFF dollars. The budget optics of this is terrible - at least in my mind. I can just imagine what OMB or the Hill would think. I'm very familiar with the LPR program and its success.

It appears the software below is just for state and locals and an approach to try and get all state and locals to hook together. I get that there are states doing their own thing, which ties back to what the expectations are for their jurisdiction. The DOJ approach is for all LE to have access and have all of the data from the devices DEA (and CBP) has deployed and to make it available to all federal, state and local LE. Why would we continue to encourage a stove-pipe approach?

DEA's applications were built upon existing apps and lessons learned at, in essence, no cost. The apps are available

through DICE (approx 10,000 users, of which, the majority are state and local LE), DARTS, and through the EPIC Watch. And DEA uses a universal translator, which makes it easier on all LE to link in. DEA currently has 60 ongoing partnerships with state and locals who are looking to leverage what has already been done.

I also checked with the LPR program people at DEA and they have never been briefed on this program. When NIJ requested a briefing from DEA last October on their LPR system, NIJ made no mention of this program.

I believe we need NIJ to loop back with DEA on this program and get the right program people talking to one another ASAP.

Karin

From: Flanagan, Maura (JMD)
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 07:21 PM
To: O'Leary, Karin (JMD); Atsatt, Mikki (JMD); Sutton, Jeffrey (JMD)
Cc: Bechtel, Robert S (JMD)
Subject: Fw: Competing LPR systems?

Fyi

From: Newton, Nyeshia (OJP)
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 05:49 PM
To: Flanagan, Maura (JMD)
Subject: RE: Competing LPR systems?

Hi Maura,

As you know, a part of NIJ's mission is to conduct a program of research and development to address the technology needs of law enforcement agencies, with a focus on the needs of state, local and tribal agencies.

One of the hallmarks of NIJ's research efforts in the area of information technology is open systems and standards to provide agencies the greatest degree of freedom when it comes to selecting and purchasing systems to meet their needs.

NIJ did not fund development of an LPR system. What we funded was development of a software that enables state and local agencies that may be using different LPR systems to share their data.

The aim of this effort was to develop a free software product called License Plate Recognition Data (LPRD) to standardize the LPR data and sharing between various agencies. LPRD utilizes a National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)-based XML LPR data standard created in coordination with 13 companies from the LPR vendor community including such companies as CitySync, ElsagNA, L-3, MV Trac, NDI, PIPS, and Vigilant. The LPRD web service application utilizes a standard format to make the LPR data interoperable and allows agencies to share their data regardless of which LPR system is used.

This effort began in 2007. NIJ believes that DEA has been briefed on it, as has the DOJ OCIO's office and DHS.

If necessary, NIJ welcomes the opportunity to brief JMD on LPR efforts, including LPRD but also including other efforts such as the LPR system performance standard that we are developing with the IACP. For more information on these efforts please see:

http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/LPR/for-police-leadership_LPRD.html

http://www.justnet.org/Pages/standards_LicensePlateReaders.aspx

Thanks again,
Nyesha

From: Newton, Nyesha
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 11:20 AM
To: Flanagan, Maura (JMD)
Subject: Re: Competing LPR systems?

Thanks Maura. I will let you know what I learn.
Thanks,
Nyesha

From: Flanagan, Maura (JMD) [mailto:Maura.Flanagan@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 10:12 AM
To: Newton, Nyesha
Subject: RE: Competing LPR systems?

Here is the concern:

From the information below, it appears that NIJ has made and is marketing a system to state and local law enforcement that competes with the LPR system that DEA stood up and what is largely funded with AFF. We're trying to get as many state and locals on the federal LPR system so this NIJ supported system appears to be in competition with other DOJ funding. I'd like to get the facts from OJP.

In light of the above, please let me know what you can about this system, and how it relates to the one already funded by DEA.

From: Newton, Nyesha (OJP)
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 10:01 AM
To: Flanagan, Maura (JMD)
Subject: Fw: Competing LPR systems?

Hi Maura,

Can you be a bit more specific as far as what you're seeking at this time? See question below.
Thanks,
Nyesha

From: Newton, Nyesha
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 09:59 AM
To: Hughes, Diane
Subject: Re: Competing LPR systems?

I believe they're just looking any additional background & confirming the status. I can double check though.
Thanks,
Nyesha

From: Hughes, Diane
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2011 09:38 AM

To: Newton, Nyesha
Subject: FW: Competing LPR systems?

See Chris' question . . .

From: Tillery, George
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 5:38 PM
To: Hughes, Diane
Cc: Graham, Portia; Ford, William; Scott, Frances; Schuetz, Steve; Rose, Kristina
Subject: RE: Competing LPR systems?

Diane,

Do we know what the question is regarding SPAWAR's LPRD Tool?

Chris

From: Hughes, Diane
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 4:30 PM
To: Tillery, George
Cc: Graham, Portia
Subject: FW: Competing LPR systems?

Chris, see email below . . . Is this an OST initiative?

From: Newton, Nyesha
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 3:41 PM
To: Graham, Portia; Hughes, Diane
Cc: Wilkins, Cassandra; Alamin, Kashan
Subject: Fw: Competing LPR systems?

Good afternoon ladies,

Per the request below, our budget contact at the Department is seeking some background information on these efforts. Do you happen to have additional insight I can offer in response?

Thanks,
Nyesha

From: Flanagan, Maura (JMD) [mailto:Maura.Flanagan@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2011 02:59 PM
To: Martin, Ralph; Newton, Nyesha; Alamin, Kashan
Subject: FW: Competing LPR systems?

Folks,

Can you give me some background information about this? I have been asked to check with you on this. Thanks.

Maura

LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION DATA (LPRD) SYSTEM

A National Institute of Justice supported project

In the GMU Report, Lum et al. suggest that the strength of License Plate Recognition technology as a crime prevention and reduction tool depends heavily on how it is operationalized in deployment as well as the underlying information that it searches. With regard to the latter, many principals of information technology apply including the breadth and depth of information, as well as the ability to connect different data systems. Thus, information sharing can be critical to addressing crime problems and increasing situational awareness. Further, given that crime often ignores jurisdictional boundaries, both information sharing within and across jurisdictions may be key. While LPR can support investigations and crime analysis, existing LPR systems have proprietary data formats that are not compatible, making the information sharing and analysis of LPR data across multiple jurisdictions difficult.

To decrease data stove-piping, a free software product called License Plate Recognition Data (LPRD) has been created to standardize the LPR data and sharing between various agencies. LPRD utilizes a National information Exchange Model (NIEM)-based XML LPR data standard created in coordination with 13 companies from the LPR vendor community including such companies as CitySync, ElsagNA, L-3, MV Trac, NDI, PIPS, and Vigilant. The LPRD web service application utilizes a standard format to make the LPR data interoperable and allows LE to share their data regardless of which LPR system is used. The application is freely available to LE. Utilizing LPR-collected data, analysis can be performed to increase arrest rates and situational awareness. As a result, officers are equipped with more knowledge that may relate to criminal activity/ behavior and possibly in advance of suspect approach. The safety of the officer, as well as the citizens of the community, is enhanced. LPRD provides common protocol to the criminal justice community for information sharing and analysis.

FEATURES

Free software

Web Service

Standards-based

Service Oriented Architecture

<http://www.firstresponder.gov/Pages/FRArticle.aspx?AID=38>

Law Enforcement Uses Software to Pool License Plate Data

As a patrol car traverses city streets, the License Plate Reader (LPR) system on the vehicle scans license plates and processes the data. This technology, which can read thousands of plate numbers per hour, immediately alerts officers if it finds a wanted vehicle. Also, records compiled by the LPR can be used as evidence to confirm a suspect's vehicle was in the area of a crime when it occurred.

The benefits of LPR records are limited, however, by the abilities of neighboring law enforcement agencies to share these records. When a suspect vehicle travels between jurisdictions, agencies need to coordinate to determine if any license plate scans can place it close to a crime scene. If two investigative agencies purchase LPR systems from different vendors, it can create obstacles to sharing the data.

To address this problem, the Department of Justice's National Institute of Justice (NIJ) plans a release of the License Plate Reader Database (LPRD) system software by the end of 2010. With this software, law enforcement agencies can set up a Web portal where LPR data can be aggregated and shared among authorized agencies, said William A. Ford, director of the NIJ Office of Science and Technology Information and Sensor Technologies Division. Each agency can provide its data in an interoperable format called the Global Justice XML standard and make it available using the Web portal. The LPRD software allows all partner agencies to view each other's data, providing a larger "picture" of a vehicle's whereabouts. Investigators can search the collective database with a single query. Even agencies without license plate reader units, such as investigators for the district attorney's office, can gain access to the pool of data.

LPR technology was first developed in the 1970s, but it has only recently matured to a point where first responders can easily use it, according to Ford. As law enforcement agencies began investing in LPR systems, interoperability issues arose. Members of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Criminal Justice Information Systems Committee challenged federal agencies to address the lack of data interoperability standards during an October 2007 meeting. In response, NIJ supported the U.S. Navy Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center (SPAWARSYSCEN) Atlantic's work to develop LPRD, an interoperable LPR Web service that adheres to the National Information Exchange Model.

NIJ and SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic teamed up with LPR manufacturers, the IACP, and first responder agencies to create the software. SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic took the lead on developing the Global Justice XML data standard, the accepted interoperable format for scans in LPRD. IACP took the lead on developing the policy on LPR use for law enforcement. "As this technology is incorporated into the criminal justice community, having the license plate data in a standard, interoperable data system working in combination with other existing first responder databases has the potential to provide a greater awareness," said Ford. "We hope this system assists agencies in protecting the public, ensuring officer safety, improving the efficiency of justice, and enabling informed decision making."

Law enforcement officers are testing the software in the San Diego, Calif. area and other locations. The Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS), a joint powers agency for sharing information among law enforcement agencies in San Diego and Imperial counties, piloted LPRD at three municipal police departments: Escondido, Chula Vista, and La Mesa. The software makes it possible for agencies using different LPR products to pool data, which otherwise would be difficult and time-intensive, according to Dale Stockton, LPR project manager at ARJIS and a retired Carlsbad, Calif. police captain. "You can have [LPR] Brand A used by the city and Brand B used by the county," he said. "So right there, you've got a challenge with the data not [being] viewable by neighboring agencies."

Agencies often need to exchange information during investigations of a related series of crimes, according to Stockton. Neighboring jurisdictions can pool their license plate scan data to establish where a suspect vehicle was during each crime. Being able to show a suspect vehicle was two or three miles away in a neighboring jurisdiction just before or after the time of the crime can help investigators build a case. ARJIS wants to make LPRD available to all local law enforcement agencies and has plans to connect to agencies in the Los Angeles region, said Stockton.

LPRD is being tested, perfected, and packaged for release by the end of 2010, according to Joey Pomperada, information-led policing technical agent for SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic Advanced Law Enforcement Technology Branch. The software will be provided free of charge and available for use by government agencies. SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic and NIJ have not yet determined whether the complete software will be released as a download or in a different format. Until its formal release, law enforcement agencies can contact SPAWARSYSCEN Atlantic at ilp.spawar@navy.mil to obtain a test version of the code.

Police in the San Diego region already have used LPR technology to investigate various crimes, according to Ford. During the investigation of a fatal hit-and-run case, for instance, detectives searched the LPR database for a partial license plate number provided by a witness. A matching plate had been scanned by an LPR unit three months earlier. When detectives visited the site of the license plate scan, they found the vehicle owner in a nearby driveway. The owner was repairing damage to the vehicle that had been sustained in the hit-and-run accident.

"This software tool is a valuable force multiplier," said Pomperada, "as each user's pool of reference is increased with each participating agency."

For more information, visit www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij or www.spawar.navy.mil. To download the software, visit http://gemini.gmu.edu/cebcp/LPR/for-police-leadership_LPRD.html.