

objective, reliable, and timely information on technologies and equipment, such as who are the producers and users; where high-cost, seldom-used equipment can be borrowed for temporary or emergency situations; what the current equipment standards are; tests and evaluations; and what safety, health, or procedure bulletins have been issued. The TIN will also link the centers with the current Regional Information Sharing Service (RISS) that will then create an overall law enforcement technology exchange network. NIJ is also in the process of establishing an Office of Law Enforcement Technology Commercialization (OLETC) to help bring technology to the market place for criminal justice procurement.

One of the most significant developments of NIJ's criminal justice technology and standards program was the development of soft body armor for police officers and standards governing its manufacture and sale. NIJ has also developed standards for vehicle tracking devices, security systems for doors and windows, breath alcohol testing, autoloading pistols, mobile antennas, and other equipment. The Institute is currently completing the development of performance standards for two DNA testing procedures: Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP) and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). The standards program is funded by NIJ through the Office of Law Enforcement Standards (OLES) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

NIJ's research and development efforts have also been significant and broad in scope in other areas. In the area of forensic science, NIJ has supported a wide range of research on fingerprints, blood and semen, DNA, trace evidence, bite marks, and forged or altered documents. Further research is needed, particularly in DNA testing, weapons identification, fingerprinting, and trace evidence. Progress is also being made to develop alternatives to lethal force. When confronted with the need to use force, officers are limited to the use of firearms, batons, physical "hands-on" restraint, or, more recently, chemical agents such as pepper spray. To provide alternatives, NIJ initiated a Less-Than-Lethal technology program to develop innovative, nonlethal measures suitable for use in situations involving fleeing suspects, domestic disturbances, barricades, issuing search warrants, drug raids, prison or jail disturbances, etc.

This announcement also supports research recommendations of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the

Department of Defense (DOD) under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for interagency collaboration in developing and sharing dual-use technologies for law enforcement agencies and military operations other than war. Congress has appropriated fiscal year 1995 funds for this program through the Defense Authorization Bill. The day-to-day management of the program is carried out at the DOD Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) under a Joint Program Steering Group (JPSG) with equal numbers of program managers from the Defense and Justice Departments.

In soliciting research and development topics, NIJ principally focuses on technologies and studies that will support the needs of State and local criminal justice agencies. The Institute's science and technology research also addresses the legal and social issues related to the employment of new technologies in order to ensure that they will be acceptable to the agency and the community.

Research Areas of Interest

Listed below are examples of research areas under Goal VI of the NIJ Research Plan where new or improved technologies could enhance the efficacy of the criminal justice system and reduce the level of injuries and death during policing and correctional operations. Individuals are encouraged to suggest their own topics of interest. Projects should be directed toward the production of affordable and practical equipment or systems that will have reasonably wide application to Federal, State, and local agencies. Research is encouraged in, but not limited to, the following areas:

Forensic Sciences. Identification and development of evidence in DNA/serology, finger-prints, trace evidence, pathology, entomology, odontology, toxicology, questioned documents, and weapons identification.

Less-Than-Lethal Technology. Reduction in the incidence of injuries and death to officers and the public during confrontations, especially those requiring the use of force, arrest of suspects, transport of suspects or prisoners, pursuit of fleeing suspects on foot or in vehicles, and control of violent individuals or crowds in the streets or in prisons and jails. Enhancement of officer safety. Field evaluations of new less-than-lethal technology.

Science and Technology. Virtual reality technology for officer training; command and control operations; providing improved courtroom security; improving the efficiency of probation

and parole operations; identifying concealed weapons; monitoring the status, health, and location of officers or prisoners; and detecting and disabling explosives. Technology useful in the detection and apprehension of persons engaged in computer crime.

Drug Testing. Developing or adapting analytic techniques for extracting drug-related material from hair and urine and other body fluids. Comparative efficiencies and relative costs as well as the utility of the testing techniques in various criminal justice settings.

Contact

Grant Proposals

Applicants are encouraged to contact NIJ Program Managers to discuss topic viability, data availability, or proposal content before submitting proposals. To obtain specific information on the programs described under this goal, potential applicants may contact:

Richard M. Rau, (202) 307-0648, for the Forensic Sciences Program and the Drug Testing Program
Raymond Downs, (202) 307-0646, for the Less-Than-Lethal Program and the Science and Technology Program
Kevin Jackson, (202) 307-2956, for the Standards Development and Testing Program and the Law Enforcement Technology Centers. DOD/DOJ Memorandum of Understanding
Peter Nacci, (703) 351-8608, for information on the law enforcement aspects of the DOJ/DOD MOU
John Pennella, (703) 696-2372, for information on the Military Operations Other Than War aspects of the DOJ/DOD MOU

General Law Enforcement Technology Information

Marc Caplan, National Law Enforcement Technology Center, (800) 248-2742, for information on specific law enforcement technologies that are under development or in production, technologies in use by law enforcement agencies, soft-body armor and other equipment standards, equipment testing and results, and other such nongrant-related questions.

Administrative Guidelines

In this section applicants will find recommendations to grant writers, requirements for grant recipients, general application information, and a reiteration of the 1995-1996 grant application deadlines.

Application Information

Please see "Requirements for Award Recipients" below for general application and eligibility requirements