Where do the good ideas come from?
In this column, we offer our readers the opportunity to learn about—
and benefit from—some of the cutting-edge technologies being implemented
by law enforcement colleagues around the world.

Bradley County Schools Launch TIPS Safety Platform

The Bradley County, Tennessee, school system has implemented a new program to help keep children safe.

TIPS (Threat Assessment, Incident Management and Prevention Services) is an award-winning web-based risk management and incident reporting platform from Awareity. The TIPS platform is successfully being used in school districts across the United States to identify, prevent, and effectively intervene in threatening behaviors.

TIPS provides an avenue for all students, parents, staff, and community members to safely report disconcerting behaviors, suspicious incidents, or general concerns to school staff. Concerns which may be reported include bullying, cyber-bullying, weapons, drug or alcohol use, vandalism, threats of violence, suicide risk, sexual harassment, abuse, and truancy.

"TIPS is a tool to be utilized by school administrators and law enforcement to increase awareness of student safety and concerning behaviors within our schools," said Scotty Hernandez, Bradley County Schools safety and security coordinator. "This tool has the potential to detect, deter, and disrupt unwanted behavior or criminal activity."

TIPS does not take the place of emergency services, but it does provide all stakeholders in Bradley County Schools another avenue to deter or disrupt unacceptable behaviors or illegal activities.

"If someone has information about concerning behaviors or suspicious activities that could potentially jeopardize the safety and security of students, faculty, or staff, the individual can access TIPS from the Bradley County Schools' website and report that information," Hernandez said.

Reports are reviewed by school administrators and school resource officers (SROs). Reports can also be shared with SROs at other locations in the event of bullying between students at different schools, on the bus, and so forth. Since its implementation, the SROs have taken advantage of TIPS to keep track of over 400 reports, ranging from daily log activities, custody issues, and juvenile citations to teaching DARE and making arrests.

Funding for TIPS in Bradley County Schools is through a Safe Schools grant. The system can be accessed through the school's website by visiting http://www.bradley schools.org and clicking on the TIPS: Report Incident logo.

For more information, visit http://www .awareity.com/public/solutions.asp.

Sheriff's Office Uses Twitter to Save Hours on Shift Call-outs

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office recently freed up hundreds of employee hours a year by allowing deputies to learn about shift vacancies using the simplest of tools: Twitter.

Sergeant John Naccarato noticed the usual system for filling shift vacancies was time-consuming; a Community Service Officer (CSO) spent hours calling a long list of deputies to see if any were interested in filling shift vacancies.

"The CSOs would have to call the deputies, who might be asleep or on vacation," recalls Naccarato. "There had to be a better way."

That's when Naccarato hit on a call-out system that used Twitter, the free social-messaging service.

Hours spent with a phone and a spreadsheet were replaced with the typing of a single Twitter post, or "tweet," about a shift vacancy. Deputies see the new tweet—and the shift opening—and call in if they're interested in filling the vacancy.

"We set up private Twitter accounts for each shift," explains Naccarato, "and then we assigned private Twitter accounts to participating deputies. The deputy Twitter accounts follow the shift Twitter accounts."

"All the CSO has to do now is log into a shift Twitter account and send out a single tweet about a shift vacancy. The deputies see the tweet about the vacancy and call in if they're interested."

After a successful trial run, the system was implemented on a larger scale at the sheriff's office. Time savings proved enormous for CSOs. "Instead of spending three hours of a 10-hour shift calling a list, the CSO now spends 30 seconds composing a tweet, hits send, and waits for the call," explains Naccarato. "It frees the CSOs up to interact with the public, work on warrants—all the things we really need."

For more information, visit https:// twitter.com/ClackCoSheriff or http://www .clackamas.us/sheriff.

Haystax Launches National School Safety Cloud

Haystax Technology, Inc., announces the launch of its National School Safety Cloud, an integrated portfolio of online software applications that enables school districts and their public safety partners nationwide to securely manage their school safety operations and data in the cloud.

"[The Haystax School Safety Cloud] provides us with a much greater level of situational awareness in and around schools in our region. Having emergency plans, floor plans, and key personnel information literally at our fingertips and viewable even when we're on the move saves critical time during an incident response," said Gary Coons, Chief of Indianapolis Homeland Security. "Even during non-crisis periods, the Haystax system is an ideal tool for preparedness planning, training, and drills. It allows us to partner with education officials to make our schools safer."

The web-based and mobile apps in the National School Safety Cloud are accessible to all authorized users, providing a shared and continuously updated picture of the school security environment and seamless coordination during a crisis, as well as integrated software tools like custom safety assessment forms and field alerting apps.

School safety engages a wide cross-section of the community, from students and parents to teachers and superintendents, plus a range of public safety officials and government administrators, policymakers, and legislators. Diverse stakeholders constantly strive to understand the broad threats and risks facing all schools in their areas of responsibility, as well as the aspects of the security environment unique to each school. The School Safety Cloud enables them to do both by providing the information they need, when they need it.

From the smallest school districts to the largest states, authorized users of the School Safety Cloud can do the following:

- Catalog their school facilities, with detailed site descriptions, location data, contact information, and more;
- Upload vital documents like floor plans and emergency plans, plus photos of key personnel and facilities;
- Conduct safety audits and assessments, which can be customized to match existing assessments mandated in many U.S. states, and can generate automated written reports on the threats and risks facing each facility;
- Schedule and manage events such as school community activities and emergency drills;
- Report and track incidents in and around schools using a variety of news sources and emergency dispatch feeds, plus alerts from a mobile reporting app;
- Dynamically and continuously monitor school-related threat data from social media networks and other digital sources. ❖

For more information, visit http://www .haystax.com/solutions/public-safety-cloud/ school-safety.

IACP's Email Newsletter

The IACP Newsletter arrives every other week on Tuesday afternoon via email. Be sure to add us to your safe sender list!

IACP News

- covers significant national and international news
- presents additional resources, documents, and studies
- provides talking points for you to develop presentations and discuss within your community
- keeps you up-to-date on major releases, new techniques, and technology before your boss or subordinates bring them up

Stay at the cutting edge by reading IACP NEWS!

IACP WORKING FOR YOU

In the mission to support the law enforcement leaders of today and develop the leaders of tomorrow, the IACP is constantly involved in advocacy, programs, research, and initiatives related to cutting-edge issues. This column keeps you up to date on IACP's work to support our members and the field of law enforcement.

Ambush Project

IACP, in partnership with CNA, is seeking to fill the void in research on ambushes of police and use the knowledge gained to inform policy, training, and operational practices in U.S. police departments. The project team will review existing research and literature on the topic; analyze data sets of assaults on police officers; present the research review and data analysis to a series of focus groups comprised of leading practitioners and academics specializing in officer safety; and produce and disseminate reports, guides, and other materials based on research, analysis, and focus group findings to the field.

The project team is interested in obtaining incident and after action reports of ambush attacks on law enforcement officers to further inform this important initiative. If you wish to provide copies of such reports or any additional information pertinent to the topic, please contact IACP representative, Ian Hamilton, hamilton@theiacp.org.

Visit http://www.iacp.org/Ambush-Project to learn more or to view the project's new factsheet.

Citation in Lieu of Arrest

In 2012, law enforcement made more than 12 million arrests—of which less than 5 percent were for violent crimes. Some jurisdictions have sought to reduce the number of physical arrests of low-risk offenders by using citation in lieu of arrest. However, little information is available about which jurisdictions use citation and the impact of this approach on community safety and justice system efficiency.

The IACP has formed a partnership with the Laura and John Arnold Foundation (LJAF) to conduct research on how police departments approach the use of citation in lieu of arrest. This research will provide stakeholders with baseline information about the citation use across the United States. It will also provide the basis for LJAF to develop innovative tools to help law enforcement make data-driven decisions about the use of citations. These tools will help law enforcement determine which individuals pose a risk of committing a new crime or failing to come back to court, and therefore, should be arrested and booked rather than cited and released.

Preliminary findings from the first phase of the partnership will be released in mid-2015. For more information, contact Jennifer Foley, foleyj@theiacp.org

Youth Focused Policing Resource Center

The IACP's Youth Focused Policing (YFP) Resource Center is an online clearinghouse of information and resources to help law enforcement deliver effective services to youth within their communities. The YFP Resource Center includes a searchable program directory of youth law enforcement programs from across the United States; a searchable resource library of materials relating to youth crime, delinquency, and victimization; IACP's training and technical assistance opportunities in the areas of juvenile justice, children exposed to violence, and child sex trafficking; news articles on current issues in youth policing; facts on juvenile delinquency; and a moderated discussion forum. The YFP Resource Center also includes a Youth Program Impact Toolkit, an online guide for law enforcement to measure the impact of their youth programs and services. The toolkit contains an overview of the impact evaluation process, an eight-step guide for evaluating impact, sample evaluation plans, and a customizable evaluation template.

The website is part of IACP's Improving Law Enforcement Responses to Youth Training and Technical Assistance Program, funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, an initiative designed to educate law enforcement and allied juvenile justice professionals on strategies to effectively address juvenile delinquency, crime, and victimization and build positive relationships with youth. ❖

Access the Youth Focused Policing (YFP) Resource Center at http://www.iacpyouth.org.