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Executive Summary

Overview of the RISS Program

The mission of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program is to assist local, state, federal, and tribal criminal justice partners by providing adaptive solutions and services that facilitate information sharing, support criminal investigations, and promote officer safety.

RISS is composed of six regional centers and the RISS Technology Support Center (RTSC). RISS works regionally and on a nationwide basis to respond to the unique crime problems of each region while strengthening the country’s information sharing environment. More than 9,000 local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement and public safety agencies are members of RISS.

RISS supports efforts against organized and violent crime, gang activity, drug activity, terrorism and violent extremism, human trafficking, identity theft, cybercrime, and other regional priorities. Hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers and criminal justice professionals use RISS services and resources every day to assist with their efforts in fighting crime and safeguarding communities.

RISS Successes in FY2015

During FY2015, RISS continued to demonstrate its value and benefit to law enforcement. Demand for RISS’s services and resources continued to increase. Agencies and programs at all levels turned to RISS for investigative support, its trusted infrastructure, and its officer safety event deconfliction system. These are powerful and valuable tools that law enforcement officers rely on to help solve cases, apprehend offenders, and stay safe. RISS is a leader and innovator in technology, information sharing, officer safety, and investigative support.

RISS is a nationally recognized information sharing program that supports initiatives that help enhance and expand efficient and effective information sharing among the criminal justice community. RISS partners with fusion centers across the country by connecting fusion centers to the RISS Secure Cloud (RISSNET™) and integrating RISS services and tools into fusion
center operations. Other partnerships have resulted in streamlined processes, increased information sharing and officer access to critical data, safer officers and communities, and the advancement of important technology solutions. Some of RISS’s FY2015 partnership highlights include the following:

» In May 2015, the three nationally recognized event deconfliction systems—Case Explorer, SAFETNet, and the RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe™)—were integrated. This represents a significant milestone in further strengthening officer and citizen safety across the country.

» Through the Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEx) and RISS partnership effort, access to N-DEx is becoming available to authorized RISSNET users via the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) without an additional username or password. This capability enables officers to obtain information quickly, saves officers’ time, maximizes operations, and enhances law enforcement’s ability to respond to crime effectively and efficiently.

» As founding members of the Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) Working Group and the National Identity Exchange Federation (NIEF), the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) and RISS have made significant progress in implementing bidirectional, secure single sign-on between the two systems. This integration provides a streamlined approach, enabling users to quickly and easily access critical information.

» The RISS Property and Recovery Tracking System (RISSProp) was expanded to provide access to loss prevention (LP) personnel. Partnering with LP personnel has provided information and connections regarding property crimes that may have otherwise gone undetected. Currently, more than 35 LP personnel are accessing RISSProp. Often, LP personnel are the first line of defense, able to quickly identify threats and inform and collaborate with investigators.

» As part of the Northeast Fusion Center Intelligence Project, RISS is connecting fusion centers’ intelligence systems to the RISS Criminal Intelligence Database (RISSIntel™).
Multiple fusion center systems have been connected to RISSIntel under this project.

**RISSNET** is an SBU system that connects disparate systems, provides bidirectional sharing, and offers a single simultaneous search of connected systems. Hundreds of resources (most owned by RISS partners) rely on the RISSNET infrastructure to share millions of records among and between law enforcement from all levels. Currently, more than **80 systems** are connected or pending connection to RISSNET. More than **42.4 million records** are available through these and other RISSNET resources. RISS has developed a number of resources accessible via RISSNET that are critical to the law enforcement community’s mission.

**FY2015 RISS ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Developed **74,520** analytical products
- Loaned **3,562** pieces of specialized equipment
- Held **826** trainings and trained **40,315** individuals
- Users conducted **5,986,456** inquiries to RISS resources
- Member agencies grew to **9,001**
- RISSNET users increased to **131,505**

Some of RISS’s resources, such as **RISSafe** and the **National Gang Program (RISSGang™)**, are available to law enforcement agencies regardless of RISS membership and are used by thousands of additional agencies and users.

Other RISS accomplishments in FY2015 include the following:

- Supported **hundreds of thousands** of law enforcement officers and criminal justice professionals.
- Served **agencies of all sizes**, from small departments to agencies employing hundreds of officers and agents.
- Responded to **68,018 requests** for research and technical assistance.
- The number of partner intelligence databases available via **RISSIntel** grew to more than **40**. RISSIntel provides a real-time, online federated search of these systems.
- The number of **RISS Secure Hosted Websites** increased to **37**. These sites are available for partners to securely share information and materials.
Increased the number of operational RISSafe Watch Centers. Currently, 28 RISSafe Watch Centers are operational, 22 of which are operated by organizations other than RISS, such as state agencies, fusion centers, and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA).

Users submitted 209,109 events into RISSafe, which resulted in 40,705 identified conflicts.

RISS Field Services staff conducted 18,045 visits to partner and member agencies and conducted more than 1,650 28 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 23 compliance reviews.

Federated Identity users increased to 30,164.

More than 2,826,300 visits were made to RISS websites, such as the RISS Officer Safety Website and the RISSLeads Investigative Website.

Every day, officers use RISS to help detect, deter, prevent, and respond to crime problems. Without these services, narcotics, stolen property, and other contraband, as well as violent offenders, gang members, and other criminals, might still be on our streets.

RISS is proud to support our nation’s law enforcement community and constantly seeks ways to build on proven successes and deliver services that directly aid officers in their effort to fight crime.
RISS Impact Website

The RISS Impact Website (www.riss.net/Impact) provides additional statistics and usage information. In addition, shared successes and quotes from agencies and officers on how RISS's services benefited their efforts are provided at the site. There is also an interactive map of the six RISS regions that contains impact sheets for each state that provide state-specific information and statistics, services provided, and contact information. Hearing from these agencies and officers is extremely valuable.
The RISS Adaptive Strategy approach combines a traditional strategic plan containing goals, objectives, and performance metrics and applies an ongoing adaptive evaluation process to those components to address the rapidly changing environment, emerging security threats, resource needs, available funding, and changes in technology. RISS identified and recommended six primary goals in its RISS Adaptive Strategy.

RISS reviews its goals and objectives at least annually to determine whether these goals and objectives continue to support the RISS vision and mission and are still valid. Objectives may be added and/or eliminated as the RISS operational environment changes, but all objectives are tied to an approved RISS goal. This process is used to validate/approve new initiatives or requests for RISS services to determine whether they meet the vision, mission, and goals of the RISS Program. The RISS Adaptive Strategy provides RISS with the flexibility to adapt to a changing environment while remaining steadfast in its effort to serve the criminal justice community, help fight crime, and ensure the safety of officers and communities.

The RISS Adaptive Strategy goals serve as the foundation of this report to highlight RISS’s services and resources, partnerships, initiatives, and successes in FY2015.
“We are obtaining information through RISS that would normally take days or even weeks to obtain. Its databases are a valuable resource.”
Information Sharing

Facilitate and Expand Information Sharing
Solutions and Services for Criminal Justice Agencies

The ability to share information remains one of the most important factors to help communities address their most pressing criminal justice problems in effective ways. RISSNET is an SBU system that connects disparate systems, provides bidirectional sharing, and offers a single simultaneous search of connected systems. Hundreds of resources (most owned by RISS partners) rely on the RISSNET infrastructure to share millions of records among and between law enforcement from all levels. Currently, 80 systems are connected or pending connection to RISSNET. More than 42.4 million records are available through these and other RISSNET resources. RISS has developed a number of resources accessible via RISSNET that are critical to the law enforcement community's mission.

RISSIIntel

One of RISS's primary goals is to provide law enforcement with a conduit for sharing criminal intelligence information. By leveraging the RISSIntel application, agencies can utilize existing technology. RISSIntel is accessible via RISSNET and contains millions of intelligence records submitted by RISS member agencies and bidirectionally from connected partner systems. These records include targets and organizations suspected of involvement in criminal activity, as well as locations, vehicles, weapons, and telephone numbers.

The RISSIntel user interface provides for a real-time, online federated search of more than 40 RISS and partner intelligence databases, including state systems, the California gang intelligence system (CalGang), and systems connected via the National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS). This search does not require the RISSNET user to have a separate user account with the respective partner systems. This single sign-on approach enables officers to save time and quickly retrieve critical information.
After entering information into RISSIntel, officers often discover that they are investigating the same target as another law enforcement agency or officer. RISSIntel provides the target and investigative data deconfliction necessary to enable officers to leverage each other’s information and increase investigative efficiency.

RISSIntel complies with 28 CFR Part 23. Criminal intelligence databases electronically connected to RISSNET that are available for member agency access must also comply with 28 CFR Part 23. RISS provides member agencies with training and on-site technical assistance to ensure compliance with the regulation.

During FY2015, RISS connected additional partner systems to RISSIntel, including the New York State Intelligence Center, the Vermont Intelligence Center, the Rhode Island State Fusion Center, the Ohio Strategic Analysis and Information Center, the Montana All-Threat Intelligence Center, and others.

WAGang Special Report

The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) approached the WSIN RISS Center to create a secure intelligence database customized for Washington's needs. The WAGang database was developed based on the foundation of RISSIntel; however, it was customized based on features requested by Washington. The database utilizes best practices, strictly following federal and state laws to ensure that the civil liberties of Washington’s citizens are guarded, while providing an investigative tool for law enforcement to address criminal gangs across Washington.

The database is administered by authorized users (called Gatekeepers) who are highly trained and experienced gang professionals with regional responsibility throughout the state. Only Gatekeepers can enter, edit, and delete records within the WAGang database. This process ensures that only high-quality, current, and detailed records that meet the established criteria are retained. This creates a high degree of confidence in the information viewed by officers. The Gatekeepers work on behalf of multiple agencies and officers in their region, providing oversight and review of each record's creation and maintenance.

Uniformed patrol officers are the primary users of the WAGang database. In an effort to make access as user-friendly as possible, RISS has developed a unique type of single-factor (username and password) WAGang access, restricting these officers' access to only the WAGang resources. Washington agencies will have the option, based on an officer’s assignment, to grant this limited access or to provide full RISS access, which provides hundreds of additional resources and capabilities.

A RISS Secure Hosted Website has also been established that works in conjunction with the database, hosting general gang information and classification documents on each gang and memorializing why it meets the definition of a criminal street gang.
RISSGang

Law enforcement agencies work diligently to disrupt and disband gangs, yet violence continues to impact our communities. Many gangs are sophisticated and well-organized and use violence to control neighborhoods and boost their illegal moneymaking activities, which include robbery, drug and gun trafficking, fraud, extortion, and prostitution rings.

Agencies, officers, and gang investigators can leverage available resources through the RISS Program that help identify, apprehend, and prosecute gangs and their members. RISSGang was developed and implemented as a coordinated effort of the six RISS Centers and gang investigators from their member agencies throughout the country.

RISSGang consists of the RISS National Gang Intelligence Database, the RISSGang Website, and informational resources. The database provides law enforcement agencies with access to gang records, including targets, organizations, weapons, locations, and vehicles, as well as visual imagery of gang members, gang symbols, and gang graffiti. The RISSGang Website provides gang-specific news, documents, and publications organized into topical areas, such as motorcycle gangs, drug gangs, street gangs, prison gangs, tattoos, hand signs, colors, and graffiti. In FY2015, there were 16,717 visits to the RISSGang Website.

RISSGang offers secure collaboration tools that enable authorized users to post and share questions and case information. Users are also encouraged to contribute material and other information to the website. Users can access training information and a comprehensive dictionary of gang-related terms.

The RISS interface between RISSIntel; RISSGang; CalGang; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives’ (ATF) GangNet; and several other state and local gang databases provides authorized users with real-time, online federated search capabilities.

Often gang-related crimes have a nexus to other crimes, including homicide and drug trafficking. The resources and services offered by RISS are crucial to continue to ensure that officers and agencies can solve these crimes.
RISS ATIX™

Every day, police officers, firefighters, and public safety officials put their lives at risk to protect our communities. More than ever, communities are faced with greater responsibilities and increased demands while resources are limited. During a time of crisis, community leaders and public safety professionals need secure and timely communications tools that enable them to share information and communicate effectively across disciplines and jurisdictions.

RISS recognized the critical need for first responders to communicate with one another, both within their areas of responsibilities and with other public safety partners. As a result, RISS developed and continues to operate RISS ATIX, which provides a secure platform for law enforcement, public safety, first responders, and the private sector to share secure information.

RISS ATIX participants select a community group based on their responsibilities. Currently, there are more than 40 community groups. New community groups are added to RISS ATIX as the service expands to encompass more entities involved in local and national security.

The ATIX resources contain specific information for each community. RISS ATIX enables members to securely collaborate within their own area of expertise, with additional communities, and with law enforcement partners. RISS ATIX resources include ATIX web pages, discussion forums, and the ATIX document library.

RISS ATIX is utilized for secure communications and the collaboration of multiple officials in a concentrated effort across community and geographical boundaries, such as a special task force and/or the planning, execution, and evaluation of special events.

The threat of terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and other emergencies requires rapid response and comprehensive planning. RISS ATIX is a secure, collaborative tool to help solve communications challenges and is available at no cost to qualified law enforcement agencies and public safety entities, as well as to those in the private sector.

RISS Secure Hosted Websites

RISS Secure Hosted Websites are full-function collaboration websites that are established on a nationwide, regional, local, or team level. These sites provide authorized users the ability to share information, post materials, and communicate. Organizations and associations that have established RISS Secure Hosted Websites include the Assured SBU Network Interoperability Working Group, the Medicaid Fraud Control Units, the Medicaid Integrity Institute, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers,
the Pennsylvania Criminal Intelligence Center, the Nevada Human Trafficking Task Force, the Tennessee Gang Investigators Association, and the National Resource Crime Center. These partners collaborate and share information related to law enforcement and public safety. RISS Secure Hosted Websites are available to approved nonprofit law enforcement associations, governmental organizations, and other groups. There are 37 RISS Secure Hosted Websites, and the number continues to increase.

**RISSLLeads Investigative Website™**

The RISSLeads Investigative Website enables authorized law enforcement officers to post information regarding cases or other law enforcement issues. Authorized users are able to view and respond to posts, ultimately working together by exchanging information on similar or related cases and generating investigative leads. During FY2015, there were 18,006 visits to the site and 6,540 posts added.

**Center-Specific Investigative Systems**

The RISS Money Counter Project (MCP) database was developed by WSIN. The database stores currency serial numbers for comparison to currency submitted by officers in previous cases. Authorized users can query MCP to determine whether a note has been previously stored. Currency information, such as the serial number, is captured and stored by money counter scanning devices, then uploaded into MCP by the case officer. MCP is a powerful tool to combat case-related crimes, such as money laundering and counterfeiting, and enables officers to “follow the money,” enhances investigative efforts, and assists with connecting cases.

In many states, stores are required to submit pawn, scrap, secondhand, and other related transaction data to law enforcement, but often this data is manually tracked and difficult to sift through. NESPIN developed RISSProp to meet this regional need. Investigators in the NESPIN region continue to experience success in solving burglaries, home invasion robberies, and other crimes, while identifying and recovering stolen items. There are more than 11 million records available via RISSProp.

The RISS Master Telephone Index (MTI) is an analytical database designed to compare and match common telephone numbers in law enforcement investigations from across the nation. When numbers are queried or uploaded into MTI, matches from existing cases generate a hit report that includes the name of the agency, the agent’s name, the analyst’s name, and contact information.
“The information and assistance we received from RISS were instrumental in allowing us to build a successful case and make an arrest.”
Investigative Support

RISS provides diverse and specialized investigative services and resources to help identify, apprehend, and prosecute criminals. RISS focuses on proven results-oriented services that maximize resources.

Investigative Support and Research

RISS intelligence research staff responded to 68,018 requests for research and technical assistance during FY2015 and provided comprehensive intelligence and investigative research reports that aided in identifying addresses, witnesses, and other pertinent information. The research staff has access to dozens of research sources, specialized databases, public record information, and criminal justice information. Research staff members search these resources, retrieve and compile information, and provide a comprehensive report of their findings to officers. This assists officers in need of quick, accurate, and complete information. RISS member agency access officers may contact center staff by telephone, fax, or e-mail for assistance.

Analytical Services and Products

In FY2015, RISS analysts developed 74,520 highly complex and specialized flowcharts, link-analysis charts, crime scene diagrams, and telephone toll analysis, as well as financial analysis reports, digital forensics analysis, and audio/video enhancement services. Analysts prepared crime surveys; activity assessment reports, such as terrorism assessments; and national-scope products for distribution. RISS analysts also provided their expertise during court preparation and served as expert witnesses at trial.
Digital Forensics

Digital forensics pertains to the analysis and retrieval of information from computers, cell phones, and other mobile communication devices. Digital forensic analysts recover electronic data that has been deleted, erased, fragmented, hidden, or encrypted from data storage devices. During FY2015, 282 digital forensics cases were opened.

Audio and Video Enhancements

Audio and video enhancements are commonly used in courtrooms to assist law enforcement and prosecutors in convicting criminals. Audio enhancements are useful for undercover operations because analysts have the ability to remove background and frequency noise, enabling investigators to more clearly identify sounds and voices. Analysts have the tools to help enhance video footage in order to present a clear picture, which is extremely useful in robbery and burglary cases. During FY2015, RISS completed 6,197 audio/video enhancements.

Specialized Equipment

The equipment loaned by RISS Centers makes a substantial difference in the ability to build cases and to investigate and apprehend criminals. Examples of equipment include body-wire receivers, Global Positioning Systems, cameras, video recorders, and specialized lenses. RISS Center equipment staff members consult with and train member agencies on the use of equipment and provide expertise in developing specialized equipment. In FY2015, RISS loaned 3,562 pieces of specialized equipment, including specialized cameras, recorders, and other devices.

Specialized Training, Conferences, and Meetings

The RISS Centers provided training opportunities on timely and relevant topics, such as methods to combat terrorism activity and gang and violent crime; computer, financial, and economic crime; and emerging crime problems. Subject areas also included the use of specialized equipment, investigative techniques, analytical techniques, surveillance techniques, and officer safety.

RISS Centers sponsor or cosponsor training classes, conferences, and meetings at the local, county, regional, state, and tribal levels across the country, providing a forum to exchange information on regional crime problems and criminal activity. More than 40,000 individuals were trained during FY2015.
Law Enforcement Briefings and Publications/Educational Materials

During FY2015, the RISS Centers developed law enforcement-sensitive briefings and publications on topics such as sovereign citizens, police ambush, human trafficking, and synthetic drugs. Throughout the year, the RISS Center publications staff researched, developed, and distributed numerous publications, bulletins, flyers, special reports, and other criminal intelligence publications highlighting local, regional, and nationwide issues.

The RISS Insider newsletter is distributed quarterly to educate RISS membership, federal officials, and partners on current RISS initiatives and efforts. The RISS Insider contains RISS-related articles and links to the RISS website, the About RISS page, and the Contact Us page. All RISS Insider newsletters can be viewed at www.riss.net/Resources/RISSInsider.

Field Services Support and Technical Assistance

RISS provides one-on-one technical support to agencies through field services. In FY2015, **16,890 on-site visits to member agencies** were conducted by RISS field staff. Field staff members from each center regularly contact law enforcement and public safety agencies to ensure that RISS is meeting their needs. The RISS Center field staff conducts on-site visits to provide technical assistance to member agencies and potential member agencies to facilitate delivery of RISS services.

“RISS has always been a great resource for our small agency. We would be significantly impacted if we could not rely on RISS to assist in our investigations.”
RISSafe is accessible and monitored on a 24/7/365 basis and available at no cost to all law enforcement agencies, regardless of RISS membership.
RISSafe

Event deconfliction is the process of determining when law enforcement personnel are conducting an event in close proximity to one another at the same time. Events include law enforcement actions, such as undercover operations, surveillance, or executing search warrants. When certain elements are matched between two or more events, a conflict results. Immediate notification is then made to the affected agencies or personnel regarding the identified conflict.

Event deconfliction helps support and protect law enforcement officers in a variety of ways. Officers participating in high-risk operations are able to enhance their personal safety and the safety of those around them. Using an event deconfliction system enables officers to identify operational conflicts and collaborate with other law enforcement agencies and officers. It also safeguards community members, helps ensure operational integrity, strengthens information sharing, helps reduce risk and liability, and builds community confidence. Officers are then able to leverage each other’s information and successfully apprehend criminals. Event deconfliction helps prevent “friendly fire” and helps solve investigations.

RISS recognized the importance of ensuring the safety of law enforcement officers and, in an effort to further enhance officer safety, developed the **RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe)**. Thousands of agencies and officers use RISSafe every day. Since its inception, more than 1,175,800 operations have been entered into RISSafe, resulting in more than 362,000 identified conflicts. Without the identification of these conflicts, officers may have interfered with another agency’s or officer’s investigation, links between cases may have been lost, or officers or citizens may have been unintentionally hurt or killed. **RISSafe is accessible and monitored on a 24/7/365 basis and available at no cost to all law enforcement agencies, regardless of RISS membership.**
Currently, **28 RISSafe Watch Centers** are operational, 22 of which are operated by organizations other than RISS. These organizations have invested resources to support this critical officer safety program. **RISSafe Mobile** enables officers to access RISSafe from their smartphones and other mobile devices.

**RISS Officer Safety Website**

Recognizing the dangerous nature of some everyday law enforcement activities, officers must have the necessary information, resources, and tools to proactively identify, deter, and respond to criminal activities while maintaining their own safety and that of their fellow officers, as well as protecting our communities and citizens.

The **RISS Officer Safety Website** provides secure access to vetted, trusted information and materials on topics including armed and dangerous individuals and situations, weapon concealments (such as those for handguns, knives, stun devices, and handmade weapons), vehicle concealments, narcotics concealments (such as the use of jean seams, PVC pipes, candy, and copper threads), and other officer safety-related concealments. The site includes awareness information regarding topics such as social media, active shooters, gangs, bombs, domestic terrorism, and sovereign citizens.

Training and awareness videos housed at the site show officer survival tips, traffic stops, defensive tactics, sovereign citizen encounters, and high-risk pursuits. Other features include a training calendar, daily roll call, announcements, and the Officer Down Memorial. Registered users of the VALOR Web Portal who are sworn law enforcement officers are also able to seamlessly access the RISS Officer Safety Website.

Officer contributions and feedback are essential for ensuring a dynamic, ever-changing, and comprehensive website. Officers may contribute officer safety-related information to the website and provide feedback with comments and suggestions on how RISS can continue to enhance it. Information is constantly updated, and new information is added to the site on a regular basis. Officers are encouraged to visit the website frequently to obtain new information. In FY2015, there were **22,301 visits** to the website.

The RISS Officer Safety Website is available to all sworn law enforcement officers. RISS is proud to provide this officer safety tool and remains committed to supporting and safeguarding our nation’s law enforcement.

“I have to commend the [RISS] Watch Center analysts for all of the great work they do in connecting the dots in investigations and making these case-overlap connections. Your work is critical to investigative efforts and case coordination!”
In May 2015, the three nationally recognized event deconfliction systems—Case Explorer, SAFETNet, and RISSafe—were integrated. The partners worked in collaboration to accomplish this goal with the help of many vested partners, including the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA); the Office of the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE); the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA); and many others.

Now, no matter which system you choose to use, you will receive conflict information from the other partner systems when you enter an event, since all three systems are deconflicting with each other. The three systems are connected using an interface solution known as the Partner Deconfliction Interface (PDI), which was developed in coordination with the system owners. The PDI serves as a pointer (system-to-system) solution. When a submission is made into one of the systems, the PDI enables a query against the two other systems. If a conflict is identified, information regarding that conflict is returned. Notifications are made to the affected officers. (Note: Work continues to integrate New York.)

The use of event deconfliction enhances officer safety, safeguards community members, helps ensure operational integrity, strengthens information sharing, helps reduce risk and liability, detects conflicting events, brings affected officers together, and builds community confidence. Event deconfliction helps prevent “friendly fire” and helps solve investigations.

There is no cost to use an event deconfliction system. Every law enforcement officer involved in a high-risk operation should participate. Visit https://www.ncirc.gov/Deconfliction/ to learn more about the various resources available, including the Model Event Deconfliction Policy and the Event Deconfliction Frequently Asked Questions.
"We value our partnership with RISS."
RISS is a nationally recognized information sharing program that supports local, state, federal, tribal, and nationwide initiatives that help enhance and expand efficient and effective information sharing among the criminal justice community.

Many RISS partnerships have resulted in streamlined processes, increased information sharing and officer access to critical data, safer officers and communities, and the advancement of important technology solutions.

**Fusion Centers**

RISS continues to connect fusion centers to RISSNET and integrate RISS services and tools into fusion center operations. RISS intelligence analysts interact daily with staff at various fusion centers. RISS initiated the Northeast Fusion Center Intelligence Project, which connects existing fusion centers’ intelligence systems to RISSI Intel via RISSNET. By leveraging RISSNET and RISSI Intel, fusion centers can securely share intelligence data among themselves and other entities and analyze criminal and terrorism data across jurisdictional boundaries, while safeguarding privacy and civil liberties.

**N-DEx**

Through the N-DEx and RISS partnership effort, access to N-DEx is becoming available to authorized RISSNET users via LEEP without an additional username or password. This capability enables officers to obtain information quickly, saves officers’ time, streamlines operations, and enhances law enforcement’s ability to respond to crime effectively and efficiently.
HSIN

As founding members of the SBU Working Group and the NIIF, HSIN and RISS have made significant progress in implementing bidirectional, secure single sign-on between the two systems. This integration provides a streamlined approach, enabling users to quickly and easily access critical information.

Nlets—The International Justice and Public Safety Network

RISS worked with Nlets to further its partnership by implementing a federated connection between the two systems. When the federation connection is complete, officers using a single sign-in to the RISSNET Portal will be able to access the diverse set of resources currently available from RISS, and utilize Nlets' array of law enforcement information resources. This partnership aims to improve public safety and foster interoperability among law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.

Events and Conferences

Throughout FY2015, RISS representatives participated in several regional and nationwide information sharing and law enforcement-related meetings and events, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference, the National Sheriffs' Association Conference, the National Narcotic Officers’ Associations’ Coalition meeting, the International Homicide Investigators Association Conference, and the National Fusion Center Association Conference.

In addition, the RISS National Policy Group (RNPG) Chair, the RISS National Coordinator, and the RISS Chief Technology Officer attended meetings and provided presentations regarding RISSNET and the applications, services, and resources available to users, partner agencies, and potential partners. Some of these partners include the First Responder Advisory Committee (FRAC), the PM-ISE, BJA, the National Alliance of Gang Investigators Associations (NAGIA), the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA), the Transition Technology Working Group, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy.

RISS constantly strives to build new and foster current relationships with partners across the country at all levels of government to enhance information sharing and deliver critical resources to law enforcement.
Examples of RISS Partnerships

- Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP)
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC)
- Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative (Global)
- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)
- INTERPOL
- Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DeX)
- Medicaid Fraud Control Units (MFCU) and the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units (NAMFCU)
- National Criminal Intelligence Resource Center (NCIRC)
- National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS)
- National Fusion Center Association (NFCA)
- National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS)
- National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C)
- Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Intelink-U
- Office of the Program Manager, Information Sharing Environment (PM-ISE)
- U.S. Attorneys’ Offices (USAO)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- United States Secret Service’s Targeted Violence Information Sharing System (TAVISS)
“RISS is a resource that every law enforcement agency should use. This organization has been instrumental in helping me close out my cases or lead them to prosecution.”
Professional Excellence

Operate and Manage the RISS Nationwide Enterprise, the Six RISS Centers, and the RISS Technology Support Center (RTSC) in an Effective Manner

The RISS National Policy Group (RNPG) is composed of the six RISS Center Directors, who are the voting members of the RNPG, and the chair of each center’s policy board or his or her designee. The RNPG is responsible for strategic planning, resolution of operational issues, advancement of information sharing, and decision making affecting the six RISS Centers, the nationwide organization, service delivery, member agencies, and related partners.

RISS works regionally and on a nationwide basis to respond to the unique crime problems of each region while strengthening the country’s information sharing environment. Each RISS Center has a governing board that identifies RISS’s goals and sets expectations. This structure, along with the strong relationship between RISS and its policy board members and law enforcement, public safety, and private sector partners, has enabled RISS to be proactive and responsive, seize opportunities, and expand and enhance programs and services. RISS is a congressionally funded program that is managed and governed locally by state and local law enforcement.

The RTSC Manager oversees the operations of the RTSC. The RTSC staff develops and maintains technical programs and projects that provide critical technology services to RISS and its partners. The RTSC maintains RISSNET and supports the RISS Centers in their information technology (IT) efforts. The RISS Chief Technology Officer represents RISS on a number of nationwide groups, including serving as chair of the SBU Technical Advisory Committee (STAC).

The RISS National Coordinator represents RISS at the nationwide level, ensures optimal communication and coordination efforts with RISS partners, and fosters opportunities to present RISS solutions for information sharing, deconfliction, and investigative support.

The RISS Directors establish working groups or committees to research, review, and provide recommendations on issue-driven items, such as the RISSafe Program Advisory Group (RPAG), the RISS Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC), the RISS STatistical Assessment Team (RSTAT), and the RISS Outreach Committee (ROC).
Currently, 80 systems are connected or pending connection to RISSNET. More than 42.4 million records are available through these and other RISSNET resources.
Advanced Technology

Provide Innovative, Integrated Technology Solutions

RISS technology efforts support all aspects of RISS’s programs, services, and resources. RISS is constantly seeking new and innovative solutions to provide effective and efficient delivery of its programs and expand access to critical information by authorized users.

RISS is the only nonfederal entity participating in the Assured SBU Interoperability Initiative under the auspices of the White House and the PM-ISE. This initiative seeks to expand federated access to resources and to provide single sign-on capabilities for officers to access multiple systems simultaneously. RISS is at the forefront in providing simplified, federated access. More than 31,000 users from trusted partner systems are using Federated Identity to access RISSNET resources, including the FBI’s Law Enforcement Online, the Pennsylvania Justice Network, and the Chicago, Illinois, Police Department.

The RTSC staff was directed by the RISS Directors to move forward and prioritize an account access and authentication administration initiative (A4). The A4 project, once completed, will have significant improvements that will directly benefit users’ experience, streamline operations, and maximize best practices, standards, and protocols. This effort includes numerous components, including online registration, a one-time passcode, merging accounts, user self-service, organization self-service, and a new landing page.

The Search Information Exchange Package Documentation (IEPD) project seeks to implement the Secure Federated Search across information sharing environment partners that combine attribute-based authorization with attribute-based information tagging. In 2015, bidirectional connectivity between RISSNET and HSIN was completed. Phase 3 of this project is under way.

In addition, the RTSC leadership and staff continued developing an accompanying RISS Technology Plan to support the RISS Adaptive Strategy. The plan will include a focus on funding, strategic partnering, maximizing manpower, and promoting vision. Efforts will continue throughout FY2016.
"RISS provides much-needed resources that agencies would not be able to get otherwise."
Looking Ahead to FY2016

Every day, officers, prosecutors, and public safety officials across our nation use RISS to help detect, deter, prevent, and respond to crime problems; to keep themselves and the public safe; and to prosecute and convict offenders. **Without RISS’s services, narcotics, stolen property, and other contraband, as well as violent offenders, gang members, and other criminals, might still be on our streets.** RISS is a vital program that law enforcement and public safety at all levels cannot do without and an excellent return on investment for our nation. There is no other entity available to provide the diverse, comprehensive, and quality-driven services that law enforcement agencies need in one place. RISS helps save lives and solve crimes.

As criminals grow savvier and technologically advanced and as emerging crime problems arise, law enforcement will continue to seek effective, innovative, trusted, accessible, and adaptive solutions and services to help them resolve and respond to criminal and terrorist activities.

During FY2016, RISS will continue to move forward with important technology initiatives in the areas of federation and bidirectional system connections, work with partners to promote the use of event deconfliction, and support federal efforts and nationwide partnerships to expand information sharing capabilities and available resources to officers and law enforcement personnel.

The RISS Directors will continue to evaluate the RISS Adaptive Strategy goals and objectives, as well as progress, metrics, and other factors to refine or adapt its activities. RISS will constantly stay abreast of changing stakeholder needs and opportunities for growth, as well as areas to streamline, and will diligently work to help law enforcement agencies and officers fight crime, solve cases, and remain safe.
The Six RISS Centers and the Areas They Serve

**Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network** (MAGLOCLEN): Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, as well as Canada and England

**Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center** (MOCIC): Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, as well as Canada

**New England State Police Information Network** (NESPIN): Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as Canada

**Rocky Mountain Information Network** (RMIN): Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as Canada

**Regional Organized Crime Information Center** (ROCIC): Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

**Western States Information Network** (WSIN): Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington, as well as Canada, Guam, and New Zealand

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