



Bureau of Justice Assistance

Program Brief



Regional Information Sharing Systems Program

The Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program supports federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts to combat criminal activity that extends across jurisdictional boundaries. Six RISS centers currently provide member law enforcement agencies nationwide with a broad range of intelligence exchange and related investigative support services. RISS centers focus primarily on violent crime, terrorism, gang activity, organized crime, and drug trafficking.

Background

The RISS Program is the only multijurisdictional criminal intelligence system operated by and for state and local law enforcement agencies. The operation of a regional information-sharing center was first supported by U.S. Department of Justice grant funding in 1974. The concept grew as more law enforcement agencies expressed a need to extend the range of intelligence across jurisdictional boundaries.

The 6 RISS centers now serve nearly 6,000 federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Australia, England, and the Canadian provinces. Among the 6,000 agencies, there are more than

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49,000 individual users. The number of member agencies participating in each of the 6 RISS centers ranges from 540 to more than 1,300. Local (municipal and county) law enforcement agencies make up approximately 75 percent of the total membership. More than 300 state agencies and more than 700 federal agencies and offices also participate. Federal agencies participating in the RISS Program include, but are not limited to, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Attorneys' Offices, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Customs Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, administers the RISS Program. RISS centers operate under the BJA RISS Program Funding Guidelines and the Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies (28 CFR Part 23). Each of the six centers has developed operating policies and procedures that comply with the federal guidelines and regulations. The Institute for Intergovernmental Research, a Florida-based nonprofit research and management consulting organization that specializes in law enforcement, juvenile justice, and criminal justice issues, assesses performance and analyzes management operations for the RISS Program.

About BJA

The Bureau of Justice Assistance was established in 1984 as a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. BJA provides leadership and resources to state, local, and tribal governments and communities to reduce crime, violence, and drug abuse and to strengthen the nation's criminal justice system. BJA provides this assistance through formula and discretionary grants, training and technical assistance, publications, and the BJA web site.

For Further Information

For information about the RISS Program, contact the center that serves your region (see back page) or

Institute for Intergovernmental Research

P.O. Box 12729
Tallahassee, FL 32317
1-800-446-0912 or 850-385-0600
Web site: www.iir.com

Bureau of Justice Assistance

810 Seventh Street NW.
Washington, DC 20531
202-616-6500
Fax: 202-305-1367
Web site: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA

For publications and information on other BJA-funded programs, contact

Bureau of Justice Assistance Clearinghouse

P.O. Box 6000
Rockville, MD 20849-6000
1-800-688-4252
Web site: www.ncjrs.org

Clearinghouse staff are available Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. eastern time. Ask to be placed on the BJA mailing list.

U.S. Department of Justice Response Center

1-800-421-6770 or locally at 202-307-1480

Response Center staff are available Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time.



Key Program Elements

Goal. The overall goal of the RISS Program is to enhance the ability of state and local criminal justice agencies to identify, target, and remove criminal conspiracies and activities that span jurisdictional boundaries.

Center composition. Each of the six RISS centers is overseen by an executive board or board of



directors that comprise representatives from its member agencies. The board develops membership criteria according to federal guidelines and regulations; each center comprises federal, state, and local criminal justice and regulatory agencies located within the center's multistate service area. Agency membership application procedures vary from center to center, but each requires formal application review and board approval. Centers also require a nominal membership fee.

Services provided. The RISS Program provides member agencies with an information-sharing, analysis, and communications network to support investigative and prosecutorial efforts that address multijurisdictional offenses and conspiracies. Training sessions are held at a variety of locations within a center's service area. Center offices are staffed by analytical personnel and field representatives. Only member agencies are eligible to receive center services (which are offered at no charge).

The following core services are available to member agencies by telephone, in person, or through their secure Internet site:

- ◆ **Information sharing**—RISS operates riss.net—a secure, web-based, nationwide network—for communications and sharing of criminal justice information by member agencies.
- ◆ **Data analysis**—Telephone toll analysis (to identify common connections and significant numbers), computer forensics analysis (to retrieve e-mail and files as evidence), financial analysis, information-sharing, and data analysis services about center-sponsored investigations and activities.

The following additional services are available to member agencies:

- ◆ **Investigative support**—Financial assistance for conducting multijurisdictional investigations.
- ◆ **Specialized equipment**—Specialized investigative equipment available for loan.



An equipment specialist at the Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center uses an audio-filtering console to filter audiotape recordings provided by member agencies.

- ◆ **Technical assistance**—Consultation and information provided by center personnel concerning use of specialized equipment, investigative procedures, accounting of funds provided by the center to support investigations, and information analysis.
- ◆ **Training**—Specialized training to upgrade the investigative skills of personnel at member agencies. Assistance may include financial support to send personnel to training courses, seminars, and conferences. Training also can be delivered electronically via the RISS training web site.

Program Accomplishments

From fiscal years 1991 to 2001, RISS centers assisted with almost 58,000 arrests by providing information, analytical services, equipment loans, and confidential funds to member agencies. Approximately \$10 billion in drug seizures and \$21 million in civil Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) seizures were made possible because of RISS center services. Each year, approximately



35,000 law enforcement personnel are trained in RISS center-sponsored sessions on a variety of current criminal justice issues.

Regional Centers

Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLEN)

140 Terry Drive, Suite 100
Newtown, PA 18940
1-800-345-1322 or 215-504-4910

Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)

1610 East Sunshine Street, Suite 100
Springfield, MO 65804-1313
1-800-846-6242 or 417-883-4383

New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN)

124 Grove Street, Suite 305
Franklin, MA 02038
1-800-343-5682, ext. 102, or 508-528-8200

Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC)

545 Marriott Drive, Suite 850
Nashville, TN 37214
1-800-238-7985 or 615-871-0013

Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)

2828 North Central Avenue, Suite 1000
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1027
1-800-821-0640 or 602-351-2320

Western States Information Network (WSIN)

P.O. Box 903198
Sacramento, CA 94203-1980
1-800-824-7868 or 916-263-1166



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