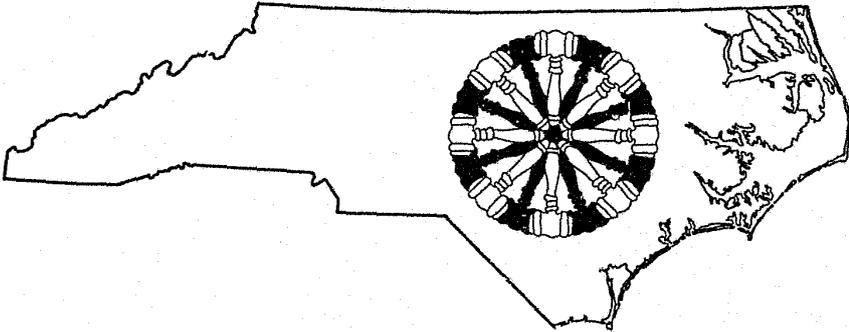




State of North Carolina Department of Justice



North Carolina — Police Information Network

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This document describing the history, concept, and capabilities of the Police Information Network is dedicated to the many law enforcement officers and public officials who have cooperated in its establishment and to all North Carolinians who share their interest in the improvement of the administration of law and justice in this State.



Robert Morgan
Attorney General, State of North Carolina

FOREWORD

The criminal justice community in North Carolina has long recognized the need for rapid communication of information. Each year, more and more crimes are being committed in this State. One method of combatting crime is rapid, accurate, and effective communication among all law enforcement agencies.

For this reason, the Police Information Network was established, in the North Carolina Department of Justice, to form a consolidated communications and information retrieval system which would be available to all criminal justice agencies within North Carolina. The Police Information Network's objective is to provide factual and timely information on crimes and criminals. Because of the excellent support and cooperation of the law enforcement/criminal justice community and the citizens of North Carolina, the Police Information Network has been better able to fulfill its assigned tasks and responsibilities.

I personally am pleased with the progress the Police Information Network has made thus far. Working together, we can continue to expand its effectiveness and potential.

ROBERT B. MORGAN
Attorney General



Howard M. Livingston
Director, Police Information Network

PREFACE

One of the most significant improvements which has been made in North Carolina law enforcement is the establishment of the North Carolina Police Information Network or PIN, as it is commonly called. This agency was created by statute in July, 1969, after a study conducted by the Governor's Committee on Law and Order recommended the formation of such an agency in the Department of Justice to assist in combatting the increasing crime rate.

Building the Police Information Network from its initial foundation to its current operating level was a formidable project, both in size and complexity, requiring extensive planning and scheduling. PIN now supports a large-scale information sharing and communications system, supplying services to its many user agencies in the law enforcement and criminal justice community.

The total concept of the Police Information Network can be stated in the following six principal ideas:

I. The Police Information Network is Designed to Serve All Levels of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Criminal justice agencies are grouped into five broad areas — law enforcement, courts, correction, probation, and parole. The criminal justice process is continuous and is administered at its various levels by agencies in these areas. These agencies developed autonomously, resulting in independent methods of collecting, sharing, and disseminating information. PIN has vastly improved the means for collecting and sharing the vital information that these agencies need by providing a central repository accessed through video terminals at a speed not previously possible.

II. The Police Information Network Assists in and Improves the Record Keeping Tasks of System Users.

The autonomous development of the various agencies resulted in great variation in the development of means for collecting and maintaining information. The Police Information Network provides standards for information collection, storage and improves the methods for interpreting the data exchanged between agencies.

III. The Police Information Network Provides Access to Other Systems Both Within North Carolina and the Nation.

Through computer-to-computer interfaces, the users of PIN are able to access information maintained by other in-state systems such as the Department of Motor Vehicles, and national systems such as the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC), which maintains data of interest to law enforcement communities in all fifty states.

IV. The Police Information Network Maintains the Integrity of the System and the Information Stored in the System.

Through selection processes within the system, access to certain types of information is restricted to selected users. The system also uses security measures of a physical and human nature to safeguard the information maintained.

V. The Police Information Network Provides and Maintains a High-Speed Statewide Communications Network.

Effective communications between the various law enforcement agencies in North Carolina is vital to their tasks. PIN functions as a large message-switching system utilizing video terminals and printers as communications devices. Prior to the establishment of the Police Information Network, such a statewide, highly efficient communications network was not available.

VI. The Police Information Network is a Criminal Justice Accessory.

The Police Information Network is a service bureau and, to this point, provides to the law enforcement community communications and information retrieval capabilities, internal records assistance, criminal justice statistics feedback, fingerprint identification assistance and field technical assistance in criminal justice areas where the Police Information Network can be of service. The value gained by sharing information through the Police Information Network and participating in its operation is substantial. The needs and interests of the users of the Police Information Network are supported in a manner that encourages participation, thereby increasing the effectiveness and services of

the Police Information Network to Law Enforcement communities throughout North Carolina.

Development of an effective Criminal Justice Information System is a joint effort of the Law Enforcement agencies, the Criminal Justice agencies of North Carolina and the entire Police Information Network staff. Serving the needs of the Police Information Network users is paramount. The Police Information Network belongs to the Criminal Justice community of North Carolina and requires the efforts of its users and its staff to effectively fulfill the tasks for which it was designed.

Over one hundred and forty years ago in London, England, Sir Robert Peel created the first modern police force as a combatant against crime. Since that time, many great strides have been made in the continuing battle. The Police Information Network is certainly a giant step forward for North Carolina.

President Johnson in 1966 stated, "The problems of crime bring us together. Even as we join in common action, we know there can be no instant victory. We must with equal resolve, seek out new knowledge, new techniques, and new understanding." With the implementation of the Police Information Network, North Carolina has undertaken the challenge to develop a new weapon for combatting crime. Of this system, North Carolinians may be proud.

Howard M. Livingston
Administrator
North Carolina Police Information Network

THE NEED FOR A LARGE-SCALE COMPUTER BASED INFORMATION NETWORK

During the past decade, 1960-1970, the citizens of North Carolina became apprehensive about increasing crime and violence. Crime had affected their families, their communities, and their lives. On an average day in 1973, our police and sheriffs are informed of the murder of at least 2 persons, the forcible rape of 2 women, the robbery of 9 persons, the aggravated assault of 47 persons, the theft of 23 cars, the occurrence of 148 major thefts, and the commission of 120 burglaries. This is twice the number of such crimes reported on an average day in 1960.

Statistics on reported crime, however, do not convey the magnitude of actual crime that is committed in North Carolina. Surveys conducted for the President's Commission of Law Enforcement and the Administration of Justice have revealed that far more crime is committed than ever reported. Fortunately, although many crimes are committed in North Carolina, its population is generally exposed to less crime on the average than citizens of other states.

Crime is not a phenomenon that is easily examined, analyzed, and described. It occurs in every part of the State and at all levels of society. It is as odious as a violent murder or as invisible as illegal gambling. Crime's practitioners and victims are people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds. In addition to inflicting physical injury and property loss in the community, it also breeds fear. Trends are difficult to ascertain and the cures speculative and controversial.

Law enforcement officers, attorneys, court officials, correctional administrators, and other experts familiar with the problem of crime control have long emphasized that the lack of adequate and timely information lies at the root of many of their problems. These agencies rely on speed and accuracy of information to accomplish their tasks effectively. Based upon information readily available to them:

1. The law enforcement officer must decide whether he has probable cause to arrest a suspect.
2. The prosecutor must decide whether he has enough evidence to prosecute the suspect on the charge or a lesser charge.
3. Magistrates must decide whether to bind a defendant over for trial, release him on his own recognizance, grant bail, or detain him in jail pending trial.

4. Judges must decide questions of law and determine sentences.
5. Correctional personnel must decide on rehabilitative techniques.
6. Probation and parole officers must decide post-trial and post-release recommendations.

In order to make law enforcement and criminal justice decisions more effective, the individuals responsible for operation of the agencies of police, courts, corrections, probation, and parole must be supplied with timely and accurate information about crimes, suspects, known criminals, and the instruments of crime.

In the early 1960's, efforts were made by various law enforcement groups and agencies in the State to improve the information collection and dissemination process. By 1962, preliminary plans for the creation of a rapid information retrieval system had been formulated. It was not until 1968, however, and through the combined efforts of the North Carolina Police Executives Association, the North Carolina Sheriff's Association, and the Governor's Committee on Law and Order that active efforts were made to utilize the services of modern computer technology in combatting crime.

In 1968, following an extensive survey of the need for a computerized police information network in North Carolina, a report was issued by the Governor's Committee on Law and Order entitled NORTH CAROLINA POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK. This report formed the basis for recommending such a system, and in 1969, the General Assembly passed legislation creating the Police Information Network in the Department of Justice. In creating this new agency under the control of the Department of Justice, the Police Information Network was authorized to collect and correlate information in criminal law administration, maintain controlled access to information that would assist personnel in performing the duties required in the administration of criminal justice, and make studies, analyses, and comparison of the information collected.

The Department of Justice was authorized to adopt rules and regulations governing this organization and to cooperate with other state, local, and federal agencies and organizations in accomplishing the mission of the Police Information Network. With the official creation of the Police Information Network, an agency was authorized to develop a computer-based information system and communications network which would provide information to qualified agencies concerned with the administration of criminal justice throughout the State. Development of a system such as the North Carolina Police Information Network required that the needs of the law enforcement community be foremost. The Police Informa-

tion Network intends to be a total criminal justice information system, serving the areas of law enforcement, courts, and corrections, including probation and parole.

The law enforcement agency was selected as the foundation for the development of a total criminal justice system for the following reasons:

1. The law enforcement agency is the agency which confronts crime directly.
2. The law enforcement agency is the agency that can effectively combat crime at its source.
3. The law enforcement agency is the agency through which entry into the criminal justice process occurs.

Within North Carolina, the law enforcement structure encompasses numerous state and local agencies. This structure comprises over 330 municipal police forces, 100 sheriff's departments, the State Highway Patrol, the State Bureau of Investigation, the Alcoholic Board of Control, the Department of Motor Vehicles, and many others. Each of these agencies has defined law enforcement duties within its respective area.

Today, it is easy for a criminal to travel out of his home area to commit a crime. A fugitive is able to travel great distances in a short period of time with almost total disregard for jurisdictional boundaries because of the improvement in transportation methods. Studies show that over sixty percent of the repeaters charged with serious crimes have been arrested in two or more states during the past four years. Therefore, it was important that the administration of law enforcement keep pace with the increasing mobility of the criminal. Required was a means to communicate from one law enforcement jurisdiction to another at a faster rate of speed than the criminal could travel.

Before the development of the Police Information Network, the only methods that law enforcement agencies had for communicating with one another were the telephone, limited telegraph systems, and the radio network of the State Highway Patrol. The Highway Patrol's radio network was the primary means for law enforcement communications, but local law enforcement agencies in several counties did not have access to this service for various reasons. In addition, the heavy use of this communications system required that trained and able Highway Patrol officers had to act as operators relaying messages across the State for the various agencies.

The Police Information Network has improved communications and provides a statewide communications network to the many user law enforcement agencies which allows trained personnel to be utilized in their primary function of enforcing the law.

With the centralized files and timely responses provided by the Police Information Network, a police officer in Winston-Salem knows that he should hold an arrested shoplifter for suspected armed robbery in Raleigh. A law enforcement officer in Craven County knows that the car he stopped for speeding was stolen earlier in Burke County. An officer finding property in the possession of a person arrested in Wilmington knows that it was taken in a burglary in Asheville.

The information available to user agencies has been broadened to include statewide geographic coverage. Also, a measure of standardization for record keeping has been provided through the use of uniform formats for file data submitted by the various agencies. Through improvements to the information and communications capabilities of the various law enforcement agencies, the investigative effectiveness of each law enforcement agency has been improved by the Police Information Network.

In meeting the challenge of crime in North Carolina by improving the tools to effectively combat crime, an analysis of the trends of crime must be made. This is the intent of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program implemented by the Police Information Network. In many instances, no information exists about some types of crime, about characteristics of criminals, or about other aspects of law enforcement and the administration of justice. The Police Information Network provides North Carolina, for the first time, with the means for rapid computation of statistical data on crime. Available are reports for management decisions, statistics on types of crime, and rates of incidence at the local level. Much more precise information is available on trends in crime, high crime areas, and crime rates.

II

THE NORTH CAROLINA POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK

With its creation in 1969 by state legislation, the Police Information Network required a staff, an organization, and offices. To assure the systems implementation in the midst of recruitment and the establishment of offices, the Department of Justice retained a consulting firm to begin detailed planning and design. As the Police Information Network staff members were recruited, the detailed system design and implementation planning became a joint effort.

The services provided, and the importance of being operational at all times to serve the law enforcement community, require that the Police Information Network have a strong administrative organization.

The Administrator is responsible for the total operation of the Police Information Network. Supporting him in his duties is an administrative staff headed by an Assistant Administrator who is responsible for overseeing all activities of the Police Information Network. The Police Information Network activities are currently organized as follows: an Operations Division is responsible for maintaining the "around-the-clock" operation of the communications system as well as operation of the "off-line" system engaged in testing and producing the various statistical reports; a Systems Division composed of analysts and programmers analyzes system problems, develops solutions and implements new applications for increased service to the users of the system; a Criminal Justice Statistics Division administers the statewide Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is developing an Offender Based Transaction Statistics System and provides all training to the Police Information Network system participants.

A generalized administrative organization is depicted in Figure 1:

THE NORTH CAROLINA POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

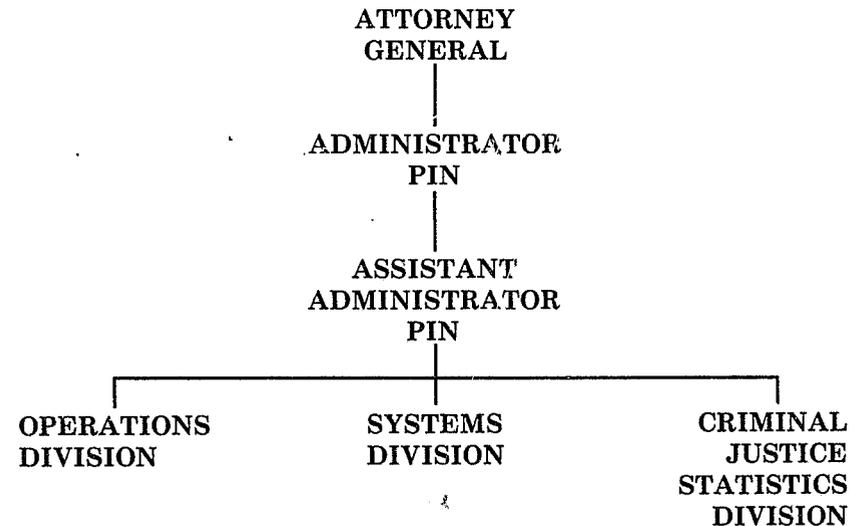


Figure 1

The computer network is the backbone of the Police Information Network. Through competitive bids, the UNIVAC Division of Sperry Rand Corporation was chosen to provide the computers

which control all communications between the terminals, other in-state systems, and the National Crime Information Center. The main computer system also controls the real-time storage and retrieval for PIN/NCIC information files. Through a second round of competitive bids, UNIVAC was selected to provide the video and teleprinter data terminals to be placed at user agency locations.

The Police Information Network system equipment components are:

Central Site Computer:

2 UNIVAC 418-III Central Processors
8 UNISERVO VI-C Tape Drives
2 Fastrand II Drum Systems
(264,241,152 Character Capacity)

1 1782 High Speed Drum
(12,582,912 Character Capacity)
1 UNIVAC 1004 Printer, Card Reader and Punch

User Terminals: UNIVAC UNISCOPE 100
Video Data Terminals with attached UNIVAC
8541-02 teleprinters

Because of the extremely critical and important nature of the services provided by the Police Information Network, the objective of high system reliability dictated most of the equipment design features of the Police Information Network. The basic equipment configuration consists of two computer processor systems which can operate independently or jointly. Under normal operating conditions, one of the processor systems accomplishes all communications and information retrieval tasks while the other processor system is operating independently on administrative data processing tasks (e.g., production of management and statistical reports, testing of new programs). In the event of equipment failure in the communications and information retrieval processor, the other processor will immediately dispense with its normal tasks and take over the communications and information retrieval tasks so that the Police Information Network can maintain uninterrupted service to its users.

To further enhance the reliability of the Police Information Network, an auxiliary electric power generator is available to provide sufficient electric power to operate the computer equipment over sustained periods of time. In the event of a power shortage or power failure, the auxiliary generator allows the Police Information Network to quickly resume normal service to all users.

To insure reliability of communications service between the Police Information Network computers and user agencies, all user terminals are connected to the computers via dedicated telephone lines. Thus, a more-than-normal telephone system workload in any city, county, region, or in the entire state does not degrade the Police Information Network communications.

Another initial design criterion established for the Police Information Network was that even under an extremely heavy workload, the computer system should require no more than 10 seconds to process an inquiry and produce a response for transmission to the requesting agency. The operating speeds of the computer processors and drum storage units provide this desired response.

The standard user terminal for the Police Information Network is a UNISCOPE 100 video data terminal with an attached teleprinter. The video data terminal was selected due to its high transmission speed and ease of operation by the terminal operator. At the option of the terminal operator, any information displayed on the video screen can be produced in hard copy by the attached teleprinter.

The users of the Police Information Network are:

1. Department of Justice (Attorney General's Office)
2. Sheriffs' Departments
3. Police Departments
4. State Bureau of Investigation
5. State Highway Patrol
6. Federal Bureau of Investigation (Carolina District)
7. Military (Provost Marshall)
8. Department of Motor Vehicles
9. Department of Corrections
10. Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (Enforcement Division)
11. Wildlife Commission (Protection Division)
12. Emergency Operations Center (Operated by the Police Information Network personnel during an emergency)

Other terminals are scheduled to be added later. There is, in addition, a high speed communications link between the Police Information Network and the National Crime Information Center in Washington, D.C., and also between the Police Information Network and the Department of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh.

North Carolina Terminal Communications Network

North Carolina, because of its unique geography, was originally divided into three regions. The initial Police Information Network terminals were evenly distributed throughout the state in terms of geographic coverage.

PIN TERMINAL LOCATIONS

10/01/73

ASHEBORO PD
 BOARD OF ALCOHOLIC CONTROL
 AVERY CO SO
 ATTORNEY GENERAL OFFICE
 AHOSKIE PD
 ATLANTIC BEACH PD
 ALBEMARLE PD
 ASHEVILLE PD
 ALEXANDER CO SO
 BUNCOMBE CO SO
 BLADEN CO SO
 CAROLINA BEACH PD
 BEAUFORT CO SO
 BURKE CO SO
 BURLINGTON PD
 BUTNER PD
 BOONE PD
 BREVARD PD
 BRUNSWICK CO SO
 CABARRUS CO SO
 CARRBORO PD
 CONCORD PD
 UNIVAC MAINT. RALEIGH
 CHAPEL HILL PD
 CHARLOTTE PD (COMM) (2)
 CHARLOTTE PD (ADMIN. RM.)
 CLINTON PD
 COLUMBUS CO SO
 CARTERET CO SO
 CUMBERLAND CO SO
 CLEVELAND CO SO
 CALDWELL CO SO
 DEPT. OF CORRECTION RALEIGH
 DURHAM (COMM)
 DURHAM PD (RECORDS)
 DUPLIN CO SO
 DURHAM CO SO
 DAVIDSON CO SO
 ELIZABETH CITY PD
 EDEN PD
 EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTER
 (RALEIGH)
 EDENTON PD
 FT. BRAGG PROVOST MARSHALL
 FBI CHARLOTTE
 FOREST CITY PD
 FRANKLIN CO SO
 FARMVILLE PD
 FORSYTH CO SO

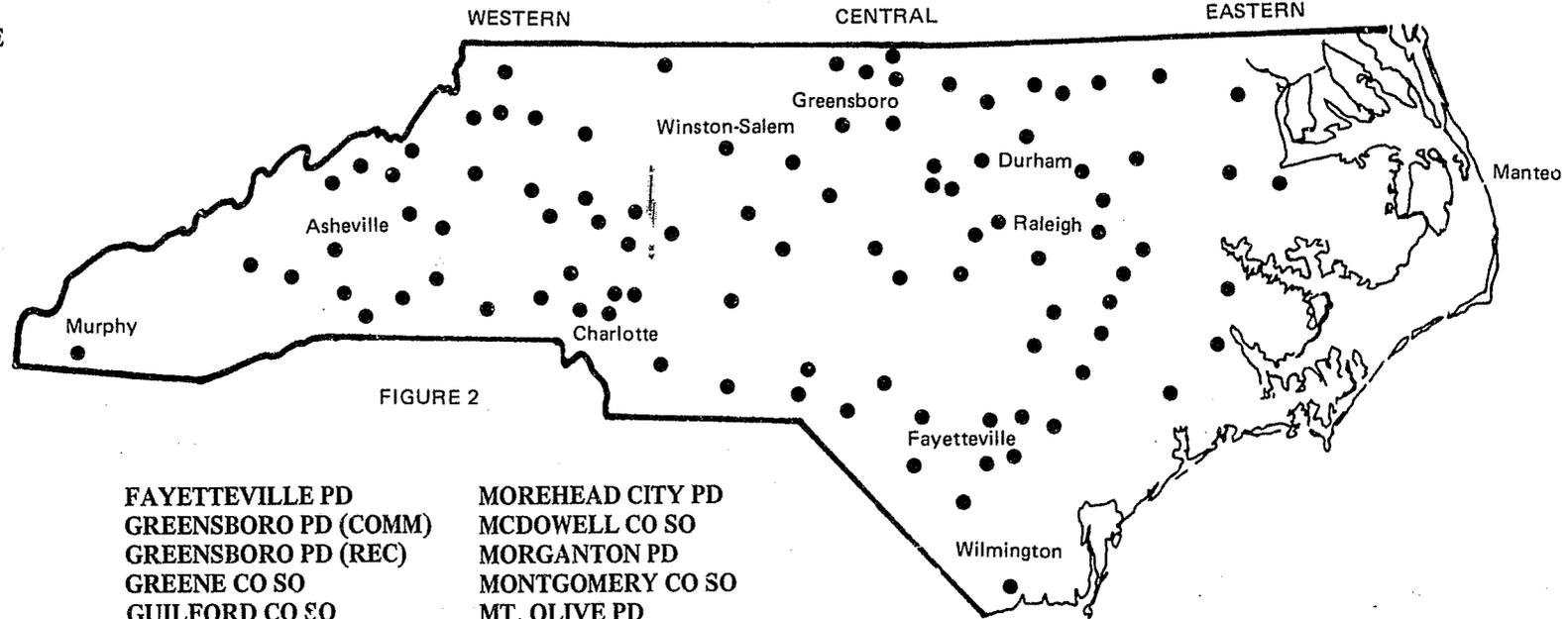


FIGURE 2

FAYETTEVILLE PD
 GREENSBORO PD (COMM)
 GREENSBORO PD (REC)
 GREENE CO SO
 GUILFORD CO SO
 GOLDSBORO PD
 GASTON CO RURAL PD
 GASTONIA PD
 GREENVILLE PD
 HAVELOCK PD
 HENDERSON CO SO
 HENDERSON PD
 HICKORY PD
 HAMLET PD
 HARNETT CO SO
 HIGH POINT PD
 HENDERSONVILLE PD
 SBI (ID) RALEIGH (3)
 IREDELL CO SO
 JACKSONVILLE PD
 KINGS MOUNTAIN PD
 KANNAPOLIS PD
 KINSTON PD
 LAURINBURG PD
 LUMBERTON PD
 LEE CO SO
 LENOIR PD
 LENOIR CO SO
 LEXINGTON PD
 MT. AIRY PD
 MECKLENBURG CO PD

MOREHEAD CITY PD
 MCDOWELL CO SO
 MORGANTON PD
 MONTGOMERY CO SO
 MT. OLIVE PD
 MURPHY PD
 MONROE PD
 MITCHELL CO SO
 MOORESVILLE PD
 NEW BERN PD
 NORTHAMPTON CO SO
 NEW HANOVER CO SO
 ONSLOW CO SO
 ORANGE CO SO
 OXFORD PD
 PITT CO SO
 PIN DIRECTOR RALEIGH
 COMPUTER ROOM, RALEIGH (2)
 TRAINING ROOM, RALEIGH
 PLYMOUTH PD
 SPRUCE PINE PD
 PERSON CO SO
 ROBESON CO SO
 ROCKINGHAM CO SO
 REIDSVILLE PD
 RUTHERFORD CO SO
 ROCKINGHAM PD
 RALEIGH PD
 ROCKY MOUNT PD
 ROANOKE RAPIDS PD
 ROWAN CO SO

ROXBORO PD
 SBI OFFICE, RALEIGH
 SBI RECORDS, RALEIGH
 SBI OFFICE CARY
 SBI OFFICE FAYETTEVILLE
 SBI OFFICE GREENVILLE
 SBI OFFICE KANNAPOLIS
 SBI OFFICE GREENSBORO
 SBI OFFICE ASHEVILLE
 STATE CAPITOL PD
 SANFORD PD
 SHELBY PD
 SILER CITY PD
 SCOTLAND CO SO
 SMITHFIELD PD
 SOUTHPORT PD
 SOUTHERN PINES PD
 SURRY CO SO
 STATESVILLE PD
 TARBORO PD
 TRYON PD
 WARSAW PD
 WADESBORO PD
 WAKE CO SO
 WASHINGTON PD

WILDLIFE RALEIGH
 WEST JEFFERSON PD
 WILKES CO SO
 WALLACE PD
 WILSON CO SO
 WILMINGTON PD
 WILSON PD
 WARRENTON PD
 WINSTON-SALEM PD (COMM)
 WINSTON-SALEM PD (REC)
 WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH PD
 WHITEVILLE PD
 WAYNESVILLE PD
 WAYNE CO SO
 WILLIAMSTON PD
 TROOP A WILLIAMSTON
 TROOP B ELIZABETHTOWN
 HWY PATROL B FAYETTEVILLE
 TROOP C RALEIGH (2)
 TROOP D GREENSBORO
 TROOP E SALISBURY
 TROOP F HDQ CONOVER
 TROOP G ASHEVILLE
 HWY PATROL HDQ RALEIGH
 YANCEY CO SO

Planning for terminal communications required establishing a network of circuits that would best serve the State and allow the implementation of additional terminals as the need occurred.

Through calculations of factors such as population density, crime density, and rate of file usage, the projected peak load factor (heaviest number of messages to and from a location in a one hour period) was defined for each terminal site. These calculations were then utilized to determine how many circuits would be required to provide a satisfactory response time, which terminals should be connected to which circuits, and the required transmission speed of the circuits.

For design and planning purposes, the network of circuits was established for multiple advantages:

1. Installation of the circuits could be made on a planned, orderly basis.
2. Circuit overload could be avoided.
3. Loss of one circuit would not affect others.

At present, there are fourteen telephone lines or circuits connecting all the terminals in North Carolina. The circuits are no longer divided into regions but are placed based on workload demands. With the adding of additional terminals, the design proved to be very effective. The new circuits were engineered in an orderly, non-disrupting fashion. Constantly increasing in number, the lines place the high volume agencies on separate circuits to prevent overloading of lines and to maintain the desired response time. The present terminal layout is illustrated in Figure 2.

III SERVICES OF THE NORTH CAROLINA POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK

In 1970 as the Police Information Network was being implemented, one of the significant tasks to be accomplished was the determination of the services to be provided to local and state law enforcement agencies. With the realization that only the agencies themselves could effectively determine the services they needed, extensive surveys and interviews were conducted. Thus the initial guidelines were defined concerning information needed, speed required, and formats. Since 1970 the Police Information Network under the direction of the Department of Justice has continued to expand in response to other needs expressed by the users. Additional files and systems have been designed, and the collection of other crime information has been authorized.

Based upon these needs and the funds made available by the General Assembly and the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the following services are being provided by the Police Information Network:

1. Message Switching
2. Access to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) files
3. Access to the N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) files
4. Police Information Network files
5. Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR)
6. Internal Records Keeping System (IRKS)
7. Offender Based Transaction Statistics (OBTS) (Some elements of this program are operational and others are under development. 10-1-73)
8. Nationwide Message Switching (Under development)

Message Switching

Providing a statewide communications system requires the ability to transmit messages from any terminal to one or more terminals within the network. Essentially, the message switching capability allows a terminal to transmit or receive, within seconds, any law enforcement information it wishes to exchange with other terminal locations within the network. The message is routed first to the Police Information Network computer and then is redirected to the proper terminal(s) according to the routing identifier(s). The four types of message switching provided by the Police Information Network are:

1. Terminal to terminal
2. Terminal to pre-defined group of terminals
3. Terminal to all terminals within a specified radius
4. Terminal to all terminals within the network (All points broadcast)

National Crime Information Center [NCIC]

The National Crime Information Center is maintained in Washington, D.C., by the FBI. The information which this system maintains is national in nature and communications are maintained through terminals located in all fifty states. Within North Carolina, prior to the Police Information Network, only a limited number of agencies has access to the NCIC files. Thus, a large amount of criminal activity data was not available to the majority of the law enforcement community of North Carolina. It is extremely important that all agencies have access to the NCIC information. A communications link between the Police Information Network and NCIC was defined for early implementation. Providing this communications link to all terminal locations on the Police Information Network system gives them access to NCIC information and greatly improves the availability and dissemination of data on an intrastate basis. The following types of information are available to the Police Information Network users from NCIC:

1. Stolen Vehicles
2. Stolen License Plates
3. Wanted Persons
4. Stolen Articles
5. Stolen Securities
6. Stolen Boats
7. Stolen Guns
8. Criminal History

The terminals located within the Police Information Network system have the capability to enter, modify, retrieve, and cancel their own data in the NCIC files through the link between the Police Information Network and NCIC. An exception is the Criminal History file where a user may only inquire on the data. NCIC was designed and implemented prior to many state systems and specifies its own message formats and codes for the usage of this system. Because the Police Information Network is primarily concerned with events occurring in North Carolina, it was determined that certain characteristics of the NCIC system were not best suited to the needs of the Police Information Network users. Therefore, improvements in the usage of NCIC data have been developed for the Police Information Network users.

To assist the Police Information Network users in accessing NCIC data, the Police Information Network has designed screen formats for entering, locating, modifying, inquiring and cancelling NCIC data. This assists the operator in preparing the NCIC messages and eliminates the need for continuous reference to an operations manual. The formats that are being utilized by the Police Information Network are a unique addition to assist law enforcement personnel in accessing varied types of information in other systems.

N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles

The information that is maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles encompasses both auto registration data and driver history data. This information includes data on all N.C. registered vehicles and all N.C. registered drivers. Previously, access to this information was possible only through a limited number of terminals across the state. The Police Information Network has improved the availability of the DMV information by opening access to this information for every user terminal within the Police Information Network system. As originally designed, access to the auto registration data was available through the input of a vehicle license plate number or a title number. Shortly after the implementation of the Police Information Network, access to auto registration data was also made available by entering the vehicle identification number. Access to the data maintained on all N.C. registered drivers within the state is available to the user of the Police Information Network by entering either the individual's name or driver's license number.

Police Information Network Files

Providing the services of NCIC and DMV to the Police Information Network users assures that a large amount of important data is made readily available. However, following implementation of these services, the Police Information Network began establishing and maintaining its own local files, as listed below, from data submitted by the various agencies. These files are: stolen vehicles, stolen boats, stolen license plates, and wanted persons. Whenever a user enters information into them, the material is automatically sent to the PIN files and to NCIC. When there is an inquiry, the Police Information Network files are checked first for a hit. If no record is found in the Police Information Network files, then the query is automatically sent to NCIC for a check of its files. Duplicate files provide for a more efficient operation and insure back-up access to information in the files.

Stolen Vehicles

The Police Information Network Stolen Vehicles file maintains records on all motor vehicles reported stolen within our state. Local agencies enter the records and they are responsible for accuracy of information and for clearing or locating data at the appropriate time.

Recovered Vehicles

The Recovered Vehicles file is maintained as a part of the Stolen Vehicles file. The format for entering a recovered vehicle is the same format used for stolen vehicle except the message key is changed to indicate that the vehicle has been recovered but has not been entered into either the NCIC or Police Information Network Stolen Vehicle files. The need for this particular file was brought to our attention by law enforcement agencies and should assist them in locating and contacting owners of missing cars.

Stolen License Plates

Motor vehicle license plates which are stolen or missing may be entered into the NCIC/PIN files. As in the Vehicle files, the entering agencies are responsible for accuracy and timeliness of information.

Stolen Auto Parts

Stolen Auto Parts file, maintained as a part of the Stolen Vehicle file, contains auto parts which have been reported stolen.

Stolen Boats

The Stolen Boats file contains boats which have been reported stolen. The boats must have a permanent identifying serial number affixed.

Boat Registration

Boat Registration is a new file to be implemented in mid 1974. It is maintained by the Protection Division of the Wildlife Commission and made available to law enforcement through a semi-manual system. To provide easier access, the Police Information Network is automating the information just as auto registration is available.

Wanted Persons

The Wanted Persons file maintains identification material concerning persons for whom there are outstanding warrants. The individual must have committed (in North Carolina) or have been identified with a felony or a serious misdemeanor and a warrant issued for his arrest. The entering agencies must insure the accuracy and the proper handling of the persons' records when they have been apprehended.

Master Name Index

Master Name Index is an on-line service that allows a department to inquire as to whether or not an individual has a criminal record on file with the SBI (a record that has been documented by fingerprints). Operational since early 1973, the index consists of the criminal files which were once manually maintained by the State Bureau of Investigation and not readily available to other departments. Now, authorized SBI personnel may enter the index of a person's criminal record into the Police Information Network computer system. With this new capability, agencies who have the Police Information Network terminals may inquire as to the existence of a criminal record on file with the SBI by properly formatting the inquiry.

The information contained in a master name index record will include such things as the SBI number, date of birth, physical description, originating agency case number, FBI number, Social Security number, Fingerprint classification, whether there are palm prints and photographs available, aliases, and if there is an outstanding warrant for the individual.

The master name index is contributing to the more efficient operation of North Carolina law enforcement agencies. The identification process can now be accomplished in seconds instead of days. The purpose of this file will be to enable a more efficient and accurate entry of records to the planned Criminal History File.

As the Police Information Network continues to grow in scope and sophistication, additional applications will be selected and designed to better serve its beneficiaries, the North Carolina Criminal Justice Community users of the Police Information Network.

Uniform Crime Reporting

Uniform Crime Reporting is a state program administered by the Police Information Network to collect and disseminate crime data. It is the outgrowth of a need expressed by law enforcement agencies

and others for valid statistics concerning the level of criminal activity which is reflected through the collection of information such as the number and kinds of crimes that occur; the age, sex, and race of the offenders; and the value of property stolen and recovered.

The program was originally administered by the FBI. However, through the FBI's encouragement and the aid of a federal grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the Police Information Network assumed the responsibility because of its scope of operation and technological capabilities. The PIN/UCR staff consists of a director, field representatives, verifiers, key punch operators and programmers. To assist the law enforcement community, each field representative lives in his designated district of the state and maintains daily contact with his agencies. The responsibilities of a field representative include:

- (1) training and continuing assistance in submitting accurate UCR forms
- (2) implementing and/or improving internal records systems in all law enforcement agencies
- (3) training personnel in the operation of the Police Information Network terminal
- (4) conducting seminars before interested groups concerning the Police Information Network

The director coordinates the daily operation of the program. The verifier's responsibilities are to check the returns for accuracy and reasonableness and to compile the statistical reports. The data processing personnel prepare the material for storage in the Police Information Network computer system and design the programs for retrieving the data.

The basis of the UCR program is the collection of monthly forms from police departments, sheriff's offices, the State Highway Patrol, and the State Bureau of Investigation. The returns are verified for mathematical accuracy and for reasonableness in comparison with previous returns. If corrections are necessary, the field representatives make personal visits to their agencies to insure proper understanding of the problems. Later the information from the returns are key punched, reproduced on magnetic tape and forwarded to the FBI for inclusion in national crime reports. In addition, statistical feedback is provided to all contributors. The goal of the program is 100% participation by the N.C. law enforcement agencies so that the whole population of our state will be represented by these statistics.

The purpose of the collection of these facts and figures is to build up a data base to serve the criminal justice system and to inform the

public. The statistics will provide not only a better picture of the crime situation in North Carolina but also information for administrative and operational uses. Many crimes are never brought to the attention of law enforcement officers. Moreover, agencies lack the proper internal records for reporting them. Now UCR will increase the number of crimes reported and standardize reporting procedures so that charts and predicted trends will be more accurate. Crime can be controlled only if people understand what crimes are occurring and why they are being committed. The statistics will contribute to the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies carrying out their responsibilities. Resources in terms of personnel, as well as money and materials, can be better directed to the areas where they are most needed.

Thus far, participation in the North Carolina UCR Program has been excellent. The goal is 100% participation by all of North Carolina's law enforcement agencies and the reporting of every crime committed in this state. The projections for the future include plans for retrieval of the data through the Police Information Network terminals for greater availability and dissemination of the statistics. UCR provides a much needed measure of not only criminal activity but also the effectiveness of law enforcement in combatting and deterring crime.

Offender Based Transaction Statistics System

A major service under development is an Offender-Based Transaction Statistics System (OBTS). A new approach to criminal justice statistics, OBTS is a system that records each transaction that occurs between an offender and a law enforcement agency-police or sheriff's department, court, and through all steps of the corrections/rehabilitation system. There is at present no system that follows the individual offender across all agencies or analyzes the functions of any relationships among the agencies.

The offender-based transaction approach to criminal justice statistics accounts for and describes each encounter between individuals and the agencies in the system. Because the individual defendant/offender is the only unit of count common to all criminal justice agencies and processes, he is the thread that holds the system together. By monitoring the various paths that defendants/offenders take, the functioning of the criminal justice system can be described in terms of the aggregate experiences of those who have passed through it.

The Police Information Network will collect and store OBTS data so that status and statistical information will be available for retrieval through a Police Information Network terminal. In addition,

the data will be made available for statistical interpretation and dissemination.

The services provided by the Police Information Network to North Carolina law enforcement agencies enables them to better serve their community. The Police Information Network will continue to expand to serve the needs of all N.C. law enforcement.

Internal Records Keeping System

The Internal Records Keeping System is a Police Information Network project to provide assistance to law enforcement agencies in maintaining adequate inhouse records. To have an efficient law enforcement operation within each police or sheriff's department there must be an adequate system that supplies the necessary information. Thus, in conjunction with the Uniform Crime Reporting Program and a federal grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, the Police Information Network and groups of user agencies developed a record system as an aid to all North Carolina Law Enforcement agencies.

The Police Information Network will provide not only forms but the technical assistance of field representatives to either establish a records system or improve an existing one. Upon the request of a departemtn the field representative will go in and help assess its record needs. Then when the record system is established he will evaluate its progress. The program is directed toward attaining criminal information that will not only enhance the department's administration but also enable its participation in Uniform Crime Reporting and the Offender-Based Transaction Statistics System.

The need for Internal Records in police and sheriff's departments is critical. The efficient use of resources cannot be determined until the department can evaluate its activities and needs through the use of a competent records program.

Police Information Network Working Group

In an effort to better serve the North Carolina Criminal Justice Community, the Police Information Network initiated a two day semiannual working group meeting to allow the Police Information Network staff to exchange ideas with the users of the system and determine means of improving and increasing service provided by the Police Information Network. Different geographical locations, throughout North Carolina, are used as sites for these meetings to prevent a continuing hardship being placed on any location that participates in these working groups.

The first day of each meeting is devoted to the Police Information Network staff's updating of the criminal justice community on computer programming projects being accomplished by the Police Information Network and is devoted to the exchange and accumulation of recommendations from the Police Information Network users. All changes or enhancements recommended by the working group are presented to the Advisory Policy Board for approval or disapproval prior to computer programming action being initiated. The second day of the meeting the Uniform Crime Reporting, Internal Records and other related programs are discussed.

Terminal operators and law enforcement management are encouraged to attend in order that this can truly be a working group. Each Working Group meeting has experienced excellent attendance and all have derived benefits from the exchange of ideas.

Advisory Policy Board

The Counseling body of the Police Information Network is the Advisory Policy Board. This Board comprises eleven members: one representative each from the Highway Patrol and the State Bureau of Investigation, four Sheriffs, four Police Chiefs and the Administrator of the Police Information Network.

The Policy Board is charged with the responsibility of making recommendations and decisions in all areas of existing capabilities and proposed expansion of the Police Information Network. All recommendations from each working group are presented to the Board for their final approval.

IV

POLICE INFORMATION NETWORK TRAINING

Introducing computers to the law enforcement community of North Carolina has made available a new tool, and the success of the Police Information Network is dependent upon the terminal users acceptance. To insure the users' acceptance of the system, a training program has been developed to acquaint the executive personnel as well as the terminal operators with all of the Police Information Network's capabilities and facilities.

Prior to an agency receiving a terminal, a one-day orientation is held in Raleigh. The personnel learn about the academics of having a Police Information Network terminal and then participate in "hands-on" Police Information Network terminal operation

familiarizing themselves with the equipment and services available.
During the training session, instruction is given in:

1. Teleprocessing and the Police Information Network
2. Information provided by the Police Information Network
3. System Security
4. Terminal Operations
5. Message Types and Formats

Following classes at the central facilities, a Police Information Network Field Representative visits the locations and conducts refresher training, if necessary, for any personnel. The Police Information Network staff is always available for any further assistance concerning the Police Information Network or its services.

Terminal operators are the key link in the Police Information Network system; and by maintaining their proficiency, maximum utilization of the services available to a location from the Police Information Network computer is continually insured.

The Police Information Network continues to expand its scope of operation. Training regarding the Police Information Network Terminal, Uniform Crime Reporting, Internal Records, Fingerprint submission, etc., is a continuing part of the Police Information Network program. Operations Manuals for the above functions have been developed and distributed to all users.

Should further information about the North Carolina Police Information Network be desired, do not hesitate to contact:

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