

**BJA**

Bureau of  
Justice  
Assistance

# *RISS*

Regional  
Information  
Sharing Systems

*The RISS Program: 1998*

March 1999

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1 *The RISS Program: 1998*

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March 1999

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# Introduction

## RISS Services

- RISS Nationwide Intelligence Network (riss.net)
- RISS Intelligence Database (RISSIntel)
- RISS National Gang Database (RISSGang)
- RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board (RISSLeads)
- Analytical Services
- Telecommunications (WATS/Patch)
- Specialized Investigative Equipment
- Confidential Funds
- Information Sharing/ Training Conferences
- Publications

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program is a federally-funded program to support law enforcement efforts to combat multijurisdictional criminal conspiracies and activities.

The six RISS Intelligence Centers operate in mutually exclusive regions and provide numerous support services to member law enforcement agencies so that they can more effectively investigate and prosecute a wide spectrum of regional crimes. Examples of crimes for which member agencies receive RISS center resources to investigate are narcotics trafficking, organized crime, criminal gangs, and violent crime. Each center's staff possesses sufficient flexibility to tailor the individual center's priorities and operations to the particular—perhaps unique—needs of the region served. This report presents the information technology implemented and enhancements made to the RISS nationwide intelligence network (riss.net) by the RISS centers during 1998. The RISS network provides for the rapid exchange and sharing of information on criminals and criminal activity among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. By providing rapid access to information otherwise unavailable or too time-consuming to obtain, the RISS centers' support to law enforcement agency activities across the country has made a significant difference in the fight against crime.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance provides funding oversight and program management for the RISS Program. In addition, each RISS center has established an oversight group (policy board or executive committee) composed of representatives from state and local member agencies in the center's multistate region. Each center's oversight group provides policy and direction regarding center operations and administration.

The Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) provides training, research, and analysis activities related to the management performance and information systems of the RISS Program, through grant awards received from BJA. IIR's tasks and activities under the grant awards are directed by BJA.

During 1998 and prior years, the RISS centers and BJA worked jointly in implementing new information technology for use by RISS law enforcement member agencies nationwide. This report highlights technical achievements and progress made by the RISS Program to benefit the investigation and prosecution efforts of RISS member agencies. The report describes RISS service support components and activity, as well as examples of member agency case investigations supported by center services.

## The Six Regional RISS Centers

**Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes  
Organized Crime Law  
Enforcement Network  
(MAGLOCLEN)**  
Newtown, Pennsylvania

*Serving:* Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, as well as Canada



**Mid-States Organized Crime  
Information Center (MOCIC)**  
Springfield, Missouri

*Serving:* Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, as well as Canada



**New England State Police Information  
Network (NESPIN)**  
Franklin, Massachusetts

*Serving:* Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as Canada



**Rocky Mountain Information Network  
(RMIN)**  
Phoenix, Arizona

*Serving:* Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as Canada



**Regional Organized Crime Information Center  
(ROCIC)**  
Nashville, Tennessee

*Serving:* Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as Puerto Rico



**Western States Information Network  
(WSIN)**  
Sacramento, California

*Serving:* Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington, as well as Canada, Guam, and Australia



# Progress Through Technology

- During the past several years, the directors of the six RISS Intelligence Centers and the Bureau of Justice Assistance adopted strategies to utilize advanced systems technology to improve and enhance the RISS information sharing network for easy and more rapid access to criminal intelligence information.
- The technology advances implemented by RISS permitted the development of the RISS nationwide intelligence network—riss.net. The components of riss.net are:
  - RISS Secure Intranet
  - Intelligence Database Pointer System
  - RISS National Gang Database (RISSGang)
  - RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board (RISSLeads)
- The RISS Program, since inception, has been a consortium of six criminal intelligence database systems covering six geographic regions in the country where intelligence information from the databases is used for criminal investigations and proactive and reactive intelligence analysis purposes. Implementation of riss.net does not change this concept. It simply provides quick and easy access to the intelligence information.
- During 1998, RISS worked on the following activities to enhance riss.net and expand easy electronic access for local, state, and federal participating agencies for rapid communication and information sharing.
  - Each RISS center distributed security packages and enrolled member agencies for access to riss.net resources. More than 2,400 member agency officers are currently enrolled and using riss.net.
  - A Web interface to the RISS intelligence database pointer system was implemented for member agency direct access for inquiry and entry of information.
  - RISS began development efforts to provide an enhanced RISS intelligence database pointer system fully utilizing Web browser technology for member agency access. The enhanced system—called RISSIntel—will be implemented during 1999 to replace the current database pointer system.
  - RISS installed communications lines and implemented dial-up access capability for member agencies to connect to the RISS secure intranet without the need for an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Member agencies may now enroll and connect to RISS resources and databases via their agency ISP or via direct dial-up access without using an ISP.

- RISS developed a policy for electronically connecting other law enforcement agency intelligence systems to riss.net as nodes.
- In partnership with the Southwest Border States Anti-Drug Information System (SWBSADIS), RISS began the planning and development efforts for enhanced system connections, using Web technology for all participants—the six RISS centers, Arizona Department of Public Safety, New Mexico Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Public Safety, and the California Department of Justice.
- To enhance information sharing with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, RISS entered into memorandums of understanding with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), and the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC).



RISS planning committees meet to address current and long-range technology development, implementation, and policy issues.

## Looking Ahead

The RISS directors have established technical, security, and strategic planning committees to plan, develop, and implement operational policies for enhancing RISS systems through use of advanced technology. These staff committees are integral to the achievement of RISS technology goals and will continue to work toward keeping RISS systems on the leading edge of technology to support the nearly 5,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement member agencies. Activities being addressed include:

- Implementation of RISSIntel to provide an enhanced RISS intelligence database pointer system using Web browser technology for member agency access.
- Increased enrollment of RISS member agency officers to riss.net for electronic access to RISS databases and services.
- Electronic connection of law enforcement agency intelligence systems to riss.net as nodes. In cooperation with the member agencies, RISS is currently working to connect several High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) projects, state intelligence systems, and the National Drug Pointer Index (NDPIX) to riss.net.
- Implementation of Web technology to enhance system connection of the Southwest Border participants, including the six RISS centers and the four state agencies.
- With NDIC support, installation of equipment at each RISS center for law enforcement teleconferencing and distance training.
- Maintaining riss.net security and conducting annual security penetration tests as upgrades and system configuration changes occur.

# RISS Nationwide Intelligence Network — riss.net

The primary function of the RISS Program is sharing of information about known or suspected criminals and criminal activity. The implementation of the RISS Nationwide Intelligence Network—riss.net—has expanded the information sharing capabilities available to member agencies. The four components and operation of riss.net are described below.

## RISS Secure Intranet

- ❑ The RISS secure intranet utilizes Internet technology to provide a secure private “intranet” network that connects the six RISS centers and member agencies.
- ❑ Member agencies utilize the RISS secure intranet for:
  - Secure electronic mail (e-mail) transmissions to RISS center staff and other member agencies.
  - Secure access to RISS databases: the Intelligence Database Pointer System and the RISSGang database.
  - Access to RISS center Web sites for information on RISS support services and posting information on the RISSLeads bulletin board.
- ❑ RISS member agencies have the option to directly access their respective regional RISS center intelligence database via Web interface and e-mail capabilities for subject inquiry and entry. Member agencies may also continue to contact their RISS center by telephone for database inquiries.
- ❑ RISS member agencies connect to riss.net Web sites an average of 33,000 times per day.

## Security

Security is the highest priority of the riss.net design

Multiple levels of firewall protection are utilized

All transmissions between RISS centers and member agencies are encrypted

Member agency officers must use the security package provided by RISS to gain access

RISS security policies and monitoring are in place at each center

An independent company performed security penetration testing of the RISS secure intranet and was unable to access the system—penetration testing will be performed annually

## RISS Intelligence Database Pointer System

- ❑ Each RISS center maintains a criminal intelligence database which contains information pertaining to suspected criminals or criminal activity. All six RISS center criminal intelligence databases are electronically connected. The database contains information on:
  - subjects
  - organizations
  - vehicles
  - weapons
  - phone numbers
  - addresses
- ❑ As of December 31, 1998, the number of criminal subjects maintained in the RISS criminal intelligence databases for all centers combined was 623,609. For purposes of this report, criminal subjects are defined as individuals, organizations, groups, and associates. The combined databases at all six RISS centers also maintained data on 1,133,687 locations, vehicles, weapons, and telephone numbers, for a grand total of 1,757,296 data entities.
- ❑ During 1998, the total number of inquiries to the RISS criminal intelligence databases for all six regional intelligence centers combined was 849,649. The total number of hits (information found) was 109,404.
- ❑ During 1998, development began on RISSIntel—an enhanced RISS intelligence database pointer system utilizing Web technology. The RISSIntel database will be implemented at each RISS center during 1999 and will replace the current pointer system.
- ❑ RISS member agencies connect to the RISS intelligence databases via riss.net an average of 1,000 times per day.

riss.net along with Web technology provides the capability for fast electronic inquiry and retrieval of information from databases at one or more, or all six, regional centers simultaneously.

## RISS National Gang Database (RISSGang)

- ❑ RISSGang, the RISS National Gang Database, is a centralized, crime-specific database which houses information on:
  - gang subjects
  - gang organizations
  - images
  - vehicles
  - weapons
  - phone numbers
  - addresses
- ❑ The initial Web browser version of the database was operational in September 1997. Additional features and capabilities were implemented in early 1998.
- ❑ RISS member agencies and non-member participating agencies, as well as center staff, access the database via riss.net Web browser and e-mail capabilities for subject inquiry and entry. A non-member participating law enforcement agency must sign a participation agreement and obtain security equipment like that used by a member agency before access is permitted. Non-member agencies may access RISSGang, but will not have access to the Intelligence Database Pointer System or RISSLeads.
- ❑ As of December 31, 1998, the RISSGang database contained nearly 35,000 gang subjects and gang organizations.
- ❑ During 1998, inquiries to the RISSGang database for all six centers combined was 42,365. The total number of hits (information found) was 11,841.
- ❑ RISS member agencies connect to the RISSGang database via riss.net an average of 500 times per day.

## RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board (RISSLeads)

- ❑ RISSLeads utilizes a collaborative computer file server, often called a bulletin board system (BBS) or a newsgroup. This server is available only to RISS member agencies which have been given access to the RISS secure intranet by obtaining security equipment from their regional intelligence center.
- ❑ The RISSLeads bulletin board allows agencies an opportunity to post investigative information regarding a particular criminal case or other law enforcement problem and receive replies posted by other agencies.



RISS staff train law enforcement member agencies in how to use riss.net and Web technology to support their investigation, prosecution, and information sharing needs.



# The RISS Program: 1998

- ❑ Nearly 5,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies are members of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program. The six regional intelligence centers are comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, prosecution agencies, and others such as multijurisdictional task forces and regulatory agencies with law enforcement or criminal investigative authority.
- ❑ For all six centers combined, local (municipal and county) law enforcement agencies represent 74% of the total membership. There are currently 605 federal agencies which are members in the six RISS regions.
- ❑ The individuality of the regional centers permits each center to tailor activities and priorities to the types of crime problems in the region served. The focus of each center reflects the overall objective of the RISS Program to support member agencies' efforts to combat criminal conspiracies and activities which span multijurisdictional boundaries.
- ❑ Each regional intelligence center funded under the RISS Program offers support services to member agencies. Mandatory services are information sharing, analytical services, and telecommunications. Optional services include, but are not limited to, investigative support (confidential funds), loan of specialized investigative equipment, training, and technical assistance.

## RISS Membership (As of December 31, 1998)

MAGLOCLEN	591
MOCIC	931
NESPIN	440
RMIN	737
ROCIC	1,169
WSIN	1,075
Total	4,943

## Database Activity

- ❑ RISS database services are designed to encourage exchange of information and coordination among member agencies investigating the same individuals or organizations. Agencies obtaining information on criminal subjects from the databases are referred to other agencies that have information on the subject.
- ❑ The capability for fast electronic inquiry to one or more regional centers simultaneously is provided by riss.net along with Web interface technology. Electronic notification and referral to other agencies is also provided via riss.net, as well as e-mail for quicker contact among agencies.

### 1998: Criminal Intelligence Database Activity for All Six RISS Centers Combined

1.8 million database records

850,000 inquiries

110,000 hits (information found) to assist officers

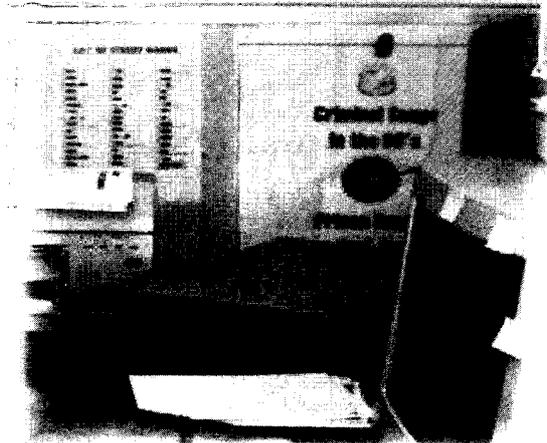
136,700 agencies notified of other agency interest as the result of a hit

Connections to the databases via riss.net average 1,000 per day

## Analytical Services

Analytical services provided by the six RISS Intelligence Centers consist of investigative data compilation and analysis to assist members in multijurisdictional investigations and prosecutions.

- ❑ All centers have the capability to provide traditional analytical service activities, such as telephone toll analysis, investigative case analysis, financial analysis, and criminal activity trend analysis to their member agencies. Analytical service activities result in the dissemination of various products to the requesting agency, such as investigative charts, link diagrams, special criminal activity reports, and automated listings of investigative data and telephone call data.
- ❑ Individual RISS centers provide specialized analytical services and products tailored to the requesting agency needs, such as computer software for use by the member in entering telephone toll data for analysis and analytical staff trained in retrieval of data from computers seized in member investigations.

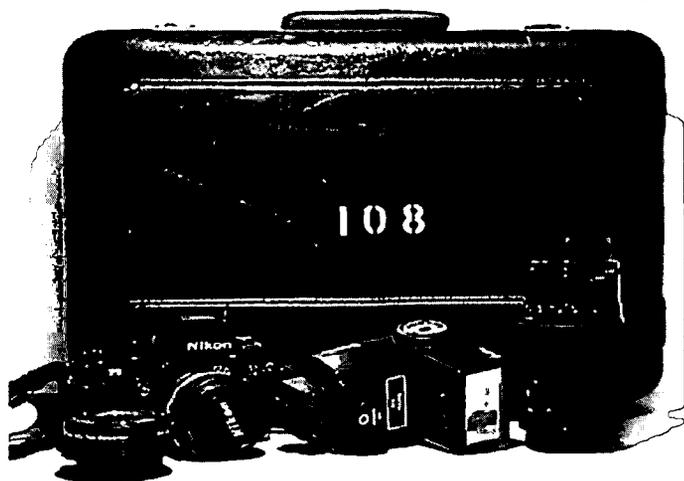


During 1998, the six RISS centers combined delivered over 11,500 analytical products to member agencies in support of their investigative and prosecution efforts.

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## Investigative Equipment

- ❑ Currently, five of the six centers maintain pools of specialized investigative equipment for loan to participating member agencies. (The RMIN center does not currently provide this optional service activity.) The center equipment pools generally contain similar investigative equipment (photographic, communications, surveillance, etc.), differing primarily in the number of each type of equipment available and the age of the various pieces.
- ❑ Each center has developed criteria to process requests by member agencies for loan of equipment, and each has implemented inventory controls and procedures for operation of this service activity.
- ❑ The centers require member agencies to provide reports on the use and benefits of the equipment in supporting their investigative activity. These reports also provide information for submission to the center databases.



During 1998, the RISS centers made 3,711 investigative equipment loans to member agency personnel.

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## Confidential Funds

- ❑ All six RISS Intelligence Centers have confidential funds available to member agencies for the purchase of investigative information, contraband, stolen property, and other items of an evidentiary nature, or to provide for other investigative expenses. The availability and use of confidential funds are strictly controlled by federal guidelines, and internal policies and procedures are developed by each center.
- ❑ The centers require member agencies to report on the use and benefits of the confidential funds in supporting their investigative activity. As in the use of investigative equipment, these reports also include information for submission to center databases.
- ❑ The net amount of confidential funds provided (confidential funds lent – less the return of unused funds) by the centers to member agencies totaled \$265,526 for 1998.

## Other Support Services:

### Telecommunications, Information Sharing Meetings, Training Conferences, Publications, and Technical Assistance

The RISS Intelligence Centers provide many additional support services to their membership other than those already mentioned in this report. Some of the additional services are described below.

- ❑ All six centers operate long distance telecommunication (WATS) systems for the primary purpose of facilitating information sharing and exchange among center member agencies. Telecommunication services include the optional service of call patching capabilities for interstate telephone calls. The telecommunication systems are operated at no cost to member agencies and support the operations of the information sharing and analytical components of each center, as well as center-supported investigations and activities.
- ❑ Each of the RISS centers enhances its information sharing services by sponsoring or co-sponsoring conferences and meetings for the purpose of sharing information on specific investigations or emerging criminal groups. Conference formats often provide a mixture of information sharing and training activities. Specialized investigative techniques training programs on various topics are also made available to member agencies.

- ❑ Types of conferences sponsored by the centers include subject areas related to: specialized equipment; analytical techniques; surveillance techniques; techniques for investigating narcotics trafficking, organized crime, economic crime, and terrorism; and center orientation and overview of services.
- ❑ Each RISS Intelligence Center distributes criminal information bulletins and flyers, as well as other intelligence information publications to their member agency personnel. Some publications are distributed on an as-needed basis; others are routinely published monthly, bimonthly, or quarterly. These publication services enhance the ability of RISS member agencies to share information on criminal activity in their region.
- ❑ All six RISS Intelligence Centers have active field staff units to provide technical assistance to their member agencies. Field staff personnel familiarize member agencies with the utilization of center services, such as submission of data to the center database, use of specialized equipment, investigative procedures, confidential funds in support of multijurisdictional investigations, and information analysis capabilities.



In 1998, 37,481 law enforcement agency representatives attended RISS center-sponsored information sharing programs.

# Results of Member Agency Investigations Supported by RISS Center Services

## 1998 Results

Member agency investigations supported by the RISS centers resulted in:

Arrests: 4,160

Narcotics Seized or Recovered:

\$104,829,617

Currency Seized or Recovered:

\$2,841,749

Property Seized or Recovered:

\$22,134,993

The six RISS centers provide criminal information exchange and related services to support local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in their investigative and prosecution efforts. A few of the many examples of member agency cases supported by RISS are summarized in this section.

## Criminal Information Database Support — Example Cases

### RMIN

RMIN staff assisted the Idaho Prosecuting Attorney's office in locating a subject wanted for passing numerous bad checks and two counts of rape of a child. Before absconding, the suspect stole the driver's license of his brother-in-law and assumed his identity. RMIN staff researched databases and information sources and provided the investigator with a prior address, which led to his current address. With the assistance of other law enforcement agencies, the subject was arrested at his home in October 1998.

## MOCIC

The Wichita, Kansas, Police Department submitted information to the MOCIC database through the Kansas Law Enforcement Intelligence Network on four suspects. The suspects were involved in cashing high-quality counterfeit payroll checks that had been produced using an inexpensive, commercially available software package complete with check paper. The main suspect, believed to be the one who generated the checks, was also suspected of having ties to methamphetamine production and sales. MOCIC staff checked the four suspects' names in the MOCIC database and found a hit on the main suspect from an inquiry made several months earlier by an officer with the Omaha, Nebraska, Police Department. When the Omaha officer made the inquiry, he was investigating the suspect for selling methamphetamine, but had lost track of him. No hits were found then, but the officer submitted the suspect's name for entry into the database. MOCIC advised the Omaha officer that the Wichita Police Department had submitted information on the suspect. The officer promptly called Wichita Police Department and the two agencies exchanged information on the suspect.

## MAGLOCLLEN

The Lancaster, Ohio, Police Department requested assistance from the MAGLOCLLEN center database unit in a major narcotics trafficking investigation. Investigators made controlled purchases of cocaine from two individuals from New York. The organization was comprised of four family members. Four weeks before the investigation culminated, two of the family members, who were key players, moved to North Carolina. It was imperative that the two individuals in Ohio and the two suspects in North Carolina be arrested at the same time. MAGLOCLLEN's database unit was able to provide investigators with an address for the suspects in North Carolina. As a result of this information, the apprehension of these individuals was a success.

## WSIN

The WSIN center received an inquiry from the San Francisco Police Department regarding a narcotics investigation. A query of the WSIN database identified the suspects, addresses, telephone numbers, and a vehicle license plate as targets of a current investigation being conducted by the Los Angeles IMPACT (Interagency Metropolitan Police Apprehension Criminal Task Force), Los Angeles Police Department, Inland Regional Task Force, and the Orange County Task Force. Appropriate agencies were notified and agreed to share information and jointly investigate the suspects.

## Analytical Support — Example Cases

### MAGLOCLLEN

The Franklin County, Ohio, Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, utilized the assistance of MAGLOCLLEN's analytical unit. MAGLOCLLEN staff compiled and analyzed thousands of telephone records for the investigation of an illegal bookmaking operation. The task force was able to conduct a wiretap that resulted in 12 search warrants. Many of the individuals would not have been identified had it not been for the analytical services provided by MAGLOCLLEN. Over \$250,000 in cash, properties, vehicles, and elaborate telephone and computer systems were seized. Nine individuals pleaded guilty to charges including operating an illegal gambling business, money laundering, and obstruction of justice.

### MOCIC

MOCIC received a request for analytical assistance from the Kansas City field office, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). ATF Special Agents were preparing to try two men on charges of first degree murder in conjunction with the disappearance of an ATF confidential informant seven years earlier (1991). MOCIC was asked for telephone toll analysis and analytical mapping assistance to concretely describe the activities of the defendants in this case. MOCIC showed the progression of calls depicting the pair's travels from Missouri to Colorado and back during 1991. The precise locations of their activities were displayed on the analytical map. As a result of these joint efforts, one defendant pleaded guilty to lesser charges and the other was successfully convicted on federal charges of first-degree murder.

### NESPIN

The NESPIN analytical section provided assistance to prosecutors in a Berkshire County, Massachusetts, narcotics investigation. A financial analysis on the principal defendant was prepared with information supplied by the investigators. The prosecutor showed the financial analysis products to the defense attorney, who claimed that the analytical products were incorrect. In order to prove his allegation, he voluntarily supplied more documents from the defendants. The analyst was then able to show that the defense was not fully forthcoming with all credit cards owned by the defendant. Once the defense attorney was graphically shown the difference between what he supplied and what investigators were able to supply, he had the principal defendant plead guilty. The investigation involved the Pittsfield, Massachusetts, Police Department; Massachusetts State Police; Berkshire County Sheriff's Office; and the Drug Enforcement Administration. Four arrests were made and the defendants were charged in a conspiracy to sell 4.4 pounds of cocaine in powder form. At the time of the arrest, police confiscated seven pounds of marijuana along with \$15,000 in currency.

## RMIN

The RMIN analytical section provided assistance to the Montana Department of Justice in a narcotics trafficking investigation. The telephone billing records of 27 different phone numbers connected to the defendants were analyzed. The records consisted of 24,080 calls made between 1992 and 1998. RMIN provided over 100 computer printouts and six large poster-sized charts to the U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuting five defendants on a 23-count indictment. All five defendants were found guilty on all counts. A RMIN analyst was called to testify during the trial.

## ROCIC

A prosecutor's office requested analytical services from ROCIC on a homicide that occurred in its jurisdiction. The homicide was committed by a convicted felon. ROCIC was asked to prepare crime scene diagrams for use in court. Before the trial, the agency requested ROCIC to take faxed sketches of the crime scene and make two crime scene diagrams, one immediately preceding the murder, and another as the scene looked when deputies arrived. ROCIC analysts completed the charts and sent them overnight to the agency. The two diagrams were admitted as evidence and used in the trial. The suspect was found guilty of 2nd degree murder. The member agency representative was quoted as saying "he did not conceive how important the diagrams would become until the defense posted their arguments." The Assistant District Attorney said that the entire case was centered around the two diagrams. In deliberation, the jury asked to see the diagrams and later returned a guilty verdict.

## WSIN

The WSIN center provided analytical assistance to the Santa Cruz County (California) Narcotic Enforcement Team (SCCNET) during a nine-month narcotics investigation. The investigation involved a major narcotics trafficking family and their ongoing conspiracy to distribute controlled substances throughout Santa Cruz County. An analyst from WSIN assisted with processing and organization of the telephone call data obtained during the investigation. One of several charts prepared by the WSIN analyst was attached to the search warrant to aid the judge and prosecuting attorney with the completion of the search warrant and prosecution of the case. Search warrants were served at seven residences throughout Santa Cruz County. Nine individuals were arrested for various narcotics violations and felony charges. One subject was a fugitive wanted for an outstanding warrant for sales of cocaine. SCCNET agents seized the following narcotics: 434 pounds of psilocybin mushrooms valued at \$250,000, 6.4 grams of marijuana valued at \$50, 150.9 grams of cocaine valued at \$9,054, and 53.9 grams of (TGW) heroin valued at \$3,234. Property seized included one house valued at \$250,000; firearms, including a Tech 9 submachine gun, valued at \$1,500; and over \$250,000 in U.S. currency.

## Investigative Equipment Loan Support — Example Cases



Marijuana seizure in a member agency investigation supported by RISS services.

### WSIN

WSIN assisted the Alaska State Troopers, in collaboration with Juneau, Sitka, Petersburg, and Ketchikan Police Departments, by providing a pen register for an investigation of narcotic dealers. The information obtained from the pen register led to ten arrests, the seizure of three pounds of marijuana, three and a half pounds of cocaine, ten ounces of methamphetamine, \$50,000 in U.S. currency, 20 weapons, and one automobile. The estimated worth of the seizure was over \$300,000.

### NESPIN

The Hartford, Connecticut, FBI Gang Task Force utilized a NESPIN surveillance van and photographic equipment for a long-term narcotics investigation. Agencies involved in this investigation included the FBI, Connecticut State Police, Hartford Police Department, Connecticut Corrections, DEA, ATF, and HUD. Two major gangs were identified in the narcotics trafficking operation. Seventy-five arrests were made and over 100 criminal subjects identified. Seizures included one pound of marijuana valued at \$2,000, 34 ounces of cocaine valued at \$13,600, 13,000 bags of heroin valued at \$130,000, and \$5,000 in U.S. currency.

### ROCIC

ROCIC loaned surveillance equipment to a North Carolina member agency to conduct a narcotics investigation. During the two and one-half months of the operation, the member used the equipment while making purchases of narcotics in a three-county area. The investigation resulted in 96 arrests, a total of 714 narcotic charges, and the seizure of numerous amounts of narcotics, \$46,927 in currency, and three weapons and seven vehicles. The investigation also resulted in the forfeiture of \$21,916 in U.S. currency. Only one case has gone to trial. To date, 49 of the 96 defendants have been convicted and sentenced. According to the member agency, most of the defendants do not want the surveillance tapes obtained with the equipment to be shown in court. This example helps to demonstrate that the use of surveillance equipment makes court cases much easier to try.

## Confidential Funds Support — Example Cases

### NESPIN

Montague is a small rural town in the western part of Massachusetts. Within the past few years, street gang members in the town have caused an increase in the sales of crack cocaine and weapons. Gangs were moving into this rural town to escape the pressure being exerted on them by the police departments from nearby cities such as Hartford, Connecticut, and Boston, Massachusetts. In order to combat the gang activity, the Montague Police Department requested assistance from the Massachusetts State Police and the Amherst, Ashfield, and Springfield, Massachusetts, police departments to form a task force. The task force requested confidential funds from NESPIN to assist in the investigation. Twenty street dealers were targeted. As a result of the investigation, 35 criminal subjects were identified, over 31 arrests were made, and 7 search warrants were served.

### MOCIC

The MOCIC center provided confidential funds support to the Rock Hill Drug and Gang Task Force. The task force was formed to combat an increase in criminal gangs and gang-related drug trafficking problems in the city of Rock Hill and surrounding communities in the St. Louis area. The Rock Hill, Missouri, Police Department, five other local law enforcement agencies, U.S. Customs, and the Drug Enforcement Agency formed the task force. With the confidential funds support provided by MOCIC, the task force made 135 undercover drug buys that resulted in 87 defendants, 20 search warrants in eight communities in the St. Louis County area, and seizures of \$50,493 in cash, 14 weapons, and illegal drugs valued at \$71,650.

## Information Sharing Meetings and Publications Support — Example Cases

### RMIN

RMIN supported and assisted in a recent four state/20 investigator information sharing meeting to review and profile unsolved homicide cases. Ten police departments and sheriffs offices from Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, and Nevada reviewed and shared information on homicide cases, some of which have remained unsolved for more than ten years. Cases of 11 victims were reviewed. The information sharing and profiling directly contributed to developing two new suspects and other possible leads.

### ROCIC

An article on a male suspect was submitted to ROCIC for publication in the center's criminal activity bulletin for distribution to all ROCIC member agencies. The article was submitted by a Louisiana agency and published in the August edition of the ROCIC bulletin. The agency was contacted by many other agencies that had outstanding warrants for the suspect. He was involved in money laundering, credit card fraud, theft, and burglary. The suspect was wanted in Louisiana for questioning in a theft. He was wanted in Mississippi for grand larceny auto and in Texas for burglary, as well as probation and parole violations. The suspect was arrested in Springfield, Missouri, in August 1998. As stated by the ROCIC submitting member agency, "without the broad distribution of the ROCIC bulletin, contacts from these other agencies would have never occurred. The suspect will be tied up in the judicial system for some time and several cases will be cleared."





# Regional Information Sharing Systems

## MAGLOCLEN

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### Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network

140 Terry Drive, Suite 100  
Newtown, PA 18940  
(800) 345-1322  
<http://magloclen.riss.net>

## RMIN

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### Rocky Mountain Information Network

2828 North Central Avenue, Suite 1000  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1027  
(800) 821-0640  
<http://rmin.riss.net>

## MOCIC

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### Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center

1610 East Sunshine, Suite 100  
Springfield, MO 65804-1313  
(800) 846-6242  
<http://mocic.riss.net>

## ROCIC

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### Regional Organized Crime Information Center

545 Marriott Drive, Suite 850  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(800) 238-7985  
<http://rocic.riss.net>

## NESPIN

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### New England State Police Information Network

124 Grove Street, Suite 305  
Franklin, MA 02038  
(800) 343-5682  
<http://nespin.riss.net>

## WSIN

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### Western States Information Network

Post Office Box 903198  
Sacramento, CA 94203-1980  
(800) 952-5258  
<http://wsin.riss.net>



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