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THE CLEAR/CJIS SYSTEM

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Changes in law enforcement guidelines have provided a need for high-speed communications and investigative techniques among police agencies. Forty-three independent law enforcement departments — City, Village, Township, County and Regional Federal Offices — of Hamilton County, Ohio, have, by united action, developed such a tool. Project CLEAR (County Law Enforcement Applied Regionally) is the police system of the Regional Computer Center of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

With the CLEAR System as a base, a comprehensive Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) was also developed. Service is provided to Cincinnati and Hamilton County for sixty-one police installations (federal, county, and municipal), nine court offices, and two corrections agencies.

The Regional Computer Center of Hamilton County and the City of Cincinnati, Ohio, is an agency which fulfills all the data processing needs of the City and the County by sharing facilities, hardware and technical staff. This shared environment operates on the *only* contractually shared city/county computer center in the county. By sharing facilities and staff, the police systems of Cincinnati and Hamilton County can each be provided services at 60% of the cost of maintaining separate facilities; a 40% savings in three different areas.

The CLEAR System is financed by a county tax levy. The development of CLEAR led to the expansion of the Project into CJIS. CJIS is supported by LEAA Discretionary Grant 72-DF-05-0019 for installation and one year of operation. With the emphasis on development, CJIS will be brought under the umbrella of the CLEAR tax levy with no appreciable budget increase. This investment, with enthusiastic support of the tax paying citizen, has made Project CLEAR/CJIS the only tax levy financed criminal justice computer system in existence.

The hardware required to perform the functions of this System includes computer equipment:

- 1 RCA Spectra 70/60 Central Processing Unit
- 1 RCA Spectra 70/668 Communications Controller Multi-Channel

- 1 RCA Spectra 70/243 Printer
- 9 RCA Spectra 70/594 Disk Drives
- 2 RCA Spectra 70/432 Tape Drives

and user terminals:

- 24 RCA Spectra 70/752 Video Data Terminals
- 46 AT&T ASR-35 Teletypewriters
- 35 AT&T RO-28 Teletype Receivers.

CLEAR/CJIS functions can be roughly grouped into three categories:

1. Message Switching
2. Data Storage and Retrieval
3. Reports.

Message switching provides communications among the 105 terminals within the System for point-to-point, point-to multiple-point, and area or county-wide broadcast communications. Interface with the Ohio Highway Patrol's Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) permits the CLEAR/CJIS terminals communication with the 293 terminals of the state system and use of the Ohio terminal of the 54 station National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (LETS).

Data storage and retrieval includes the file packages of CLEAR/CJIS, Ohio LEADS, and the FBI National Crime Information Center with automated interface among the three systems. All are accessed on-line in a real-time environment.

CLEAR/CJIS users have update capability and access to the Name Index cross reference and the three files which it controls: wanted persons, criminal history, and subject-in-process within the court procedures throughout the county. The same use is made of the wanted vehicles, wanted and registered guns, and stolen or missing articles files. Inquiry is provided into the vehicle registrations for a four-county area and ownership of real property within Hamilton County.

The CLEAR/CJIS interface with Ohio LEADS provides update and retrieval of the wanted vehicles and warrant and wanted files, and inquiry into the Ohio vehicle registration and drivers' license files.

The CLEAR/CJIS interface with NCIC allows update and access to wanted persons and vehicles and stolen guns, articles, boats and securities in the national files.

The use of these files can best be illustrated by following a typical case through the entire System.

A police warrant is issued for the arrest of the subject. An inquiry into the name index will determine whether this warrant is to be attached to pre-

vious activity for the individual or if it is a new addition to the name index. The warrant is then entered either as a new entry or as part of the subject's "portfolio". The entry builds a name index entry or flags an existing entry as wanted, and creates a detailed record in the wanted person's file.

When arrested, the subject's wanted record is cancelled; the wanted record is then inactive and the wanted indicator is removed from the name index. The arrest is then entered which assigns a case number, flags the name index as a "Subject-in-Process", builds a criminal history record for that arrest and creates a subject-in-process record. The arrest entry triggers the date activity system which will control the chronology of the case throughout the process. The date activity process will dispatch a message to all manual records centers to update their records with the arrest and to the Clerk of Courts, and the Probation Department. The arrest record source document is printed by the System.

Preparation for the first appearance in court is controlled by the date activity program. Criminal history is scanned and a "rap sheet" is automatically printed by the system for the Clerk of Courts. Subject-in-process is used to create individual docket sheets for each defendant and a docket list of all scheduled cases. A "bring-up" list is sent to the corrections sites indicating prisoners who are to appear in court. All proceedings and reports just described are prepared in a real-time on-line operation. Expansion of these programs will trip alarms where conflicts of judges, courtrooms, counsels, prosecutors, or witnesses exist.

At the first court appearance, the case is called by the court and the clerk displays the case history on a video screen in the court room in a format which both shows all activity to date and serves as a transaction to update the developments as they happen.

The preparation of succeeding court appearances are the same as the first appearance. The rap sheet, individual docket, and docket list are prepared by the date activity system.

Continuance appearances follow the same process as the first appearance as does the final appearance. The case is displayed on the screen and updated by the clerk. The plea of the defendant, the finding of the court, and the final disposition as well as sentence, fine, cost, probation, etc., are entered. The date activity system continues to control the chronology of the case. This includes a "completed docket" at the end of each court day to double check the disposition of each case.

At completion of the disposition such as the termination of confinement or probation, the date activity system produces a "release list" for the appropriate agency, makes the final update to the criminal history record, and cancels the Subject-in-process record.

The reports which are produced by the CLEAR/CJIS programs have eliminated mountains of paper work which had encumbered justice agencies. These reports are published on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis.

The daily reports are six: docket sheet, docket list, rap sheet, arrest record, completed docket and the sixty-day case load report.

The docket sheet is an individual work sheet which specifies the particulars of a given case with a summary of prior action. The activity of the court appearance is filled in by the clerk and signed by the judge. This document is then compared to the completed docket at the end of the court day to double check the day's activity.

The docket list is prepared for the clerk in each court room. It lists each case on the calendar for that day with space to fill in the sentence as confinement, fine, cost, probation, and remarks. This report is also checked against the completed docket at the end of the court day.

The rap sheet is prepared for the clerk to show the history of the defendant in arrests and convictions and the disposition or sentence of each case.

The arrest record is the official document of record for the arrest of the individual. It contains all information required by the police and court agencies for their files.

The completed docket is published at the end of the court day. A report is prepared for each judge showing each case which he heard, the disposition of the case, and the date and type of the next action, if any.

The sixty day case load report is prepared each day to assist the judge in setting continuance and reappearance dates. It lists the total number of cases scheduled for each court room for the succeeding sixty days.

The weekly reports are nine: arraignment lists, probation caseload, case activity analysis, disposition summary, new probations, attorney activity, case status, prisoner analysis, and new bills.

The arraignment list is a "docket list" for first appearance in Common Pleas Court prepared for cases indicted by the Grand Jury.

The probation caseload is a report by probation officer listing the total cases currently assigned to him. It is used for the assignment of probation

officers in new cases.

The case activity analysis lists each active case in Common Pleas Court with the length of time, in thirty-day increments, that it has been active.

The disposition summary lists the individual cases which were completed that week. It includes the disposition and judge for each.

The new probation report lists the individuals placed on probation for the past week and the probation officers assigned.

The attorney activity report is a list for each attorney showing the appearance of his cases in Common Pleas Court for the week.

Case Status is a report by Common Pleas Court of the current status of each case which is pending at the end of the week.

The prisoner analysis report is a list of each prisoner in the county jail or the municipal workhouse with totals by sex and type (e.g., awaiting trial, contract, sentenced, etc.)

New bills is a Grand Jury report of all cases heard that week listed as indicted or ignored.

There are nine major reports produced monthly; they are Prosecutor Activity, Probation Purge List, Probation Analysis, Case Disposition by Elapsed Time, Jail Meals Served, Workhouse Bills, Days in Confinement, Arrest, Case Filed, and Appearances, and Continuances and Summary.

Prosecutor Activity shows, by assistant prosecutor, the common pleas case totals for the month. It lists convictions and acquittals by cause and days in trial. Summary totals for these, Grand Jury activity, resettlings, and new caseload are included.

The probation Purge List shows, by case, all probations which have been terminated in the past month showing the probation officer and reason for termination.

Probation Analysis is a monthly list for municipal probation and one for County Probation of the names and particulars of each subject currently on probation.

Case Disposition by Elapsed Time is a breakdown, by offense, of case totals and elapsed times in thirty-day increments with sub-totals and grand

totals by offense and by elapsed time. Two reports are published: one for elapsed time since arrest, and one for elapsed time since indictment.

Jail Meals Served is a report for the County Jail listing each prisoner and the meals served and three-meal days with summary totals by twenty-five prisoner pages. A summary page lists totals from each page with designations of federal prisoner totals.

Workhouse Bills are statements of charges from the Municipal Workhouse to other municipalities for prisoners confined for them.

Days of Confinement shows a total of prisoners released in the past month with a total of days served by each. A report is prepared for both the County Jail and the Municipal Workhouse.

A report of Arrests, Cases Filed, and Appearances provides monthly totals of activity in those three categories for both Municipal and Common Pleas Court in a separate report for each.

The Continuance and Summary Report lists, by case, each continuance for the month and the reason for the continuance. The Summary is a separate report, by judge, showing continuance totals by reason and grand totals.

The unique pioneer efforts made in the technical facets of the Regional Computer Center are matched by the dedicated spirit of involvement in administration. Overlooking political and geographic differences, the officials and citizens of Hamilton County have made the Center a monument to unselfish cooperation. Cincinnati City Council and the Hamilton County Commissioners have designated the Regional Computer Center's Control Board of government management representatives to execute the fiscal policy of the Center. The police and justice systems are managed by the CLEAR Board of Advisors, built on a history of inter-jurisdictional cooperation by the Hamilton County Police Association. This spirit has gained the support of the citizens of Hamilton County who have permitted the Regional Computer Center to prove its worth.



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