

Bringing Technology to Law Enforcement

by

NCJRS

Dr. Alan Preszler
Visiting Scientist
National Institute of Justice

MAY 21 1993

ACQUISITIONS

There are many potential ways to improve the process for developing and providing useful technologies to law enforcement whether on the Federal, State, or local level. Assuming that technology can help law enforcement and the criminal justice system, then the overall task is to evaluate the issues involved in applications development from the perspective of users and providers. Systems and expert technical support can be provided by national laboratories and by private industry. It is axiomatic that all technical providers need to understand user requirements and operational needs. In turn, users need to be appreciative of the limits to technology.

Commercial, national laboratory, and criminal justice system experiences were represented by the panel. Experiences in the utilization of national technical resources were described by Michael Calvert, Special Agent, California State Department of Justice, and by Brian Andresen, Manager, Forensic Science Center, at the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Applications testing and development experiences were described by Richard Jadamec, Physical Scientist, U.S. Coast Guard Research and Development Center,

and by Kenneth Wood, President, Barringer Instruments, Inc.

Technology development process elements that were discussed included: communications between users and providers, legal requirements on the process, cost limitations, roles of federal and private organizations, and policy limitations. In order to provide the resources and mechanisms for applying technology to law enforcement problems, it was concluded that:

1. National and defense technical resource agencies need to acquire the mission to support technology development in this area, and
2. Private industry needs support and government coordination/framework for adapting and developing current technologies.

Utilization of national technical resources is expensive, subject to manpower limitations, and requires new cooperative efforts between agencies. Liability, impacts on time, and testimony need to be quantified. There are many potentially adaptable technologies that have been developed and proven useful for other applications. Communications and data sharing between law enforcement and technical laboratories need to be supported and enhanced in order to identify useful technologies. Commitment of funds and resources from technical resource agencies

142275

**U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice**

This document has been reproduced exactly as received from the person or organization originating it. Points of view or opinions stated in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the National Institute of Justice.

Permission to reproduce this ~~copyrighted~~ material has been granted by

Public Domain/NIJ

U.S. Department of Justice

to the National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS).

Further reproduction outside of the NCJRS system requires permission of the ~~copyright~~ owner.

will be required, particularly to support state and local law enforcement needs.

Government-coordinated field evaluations for operational testing of new and current devices should be encouraged and enlarged in scope to cover all application environments important to law enforcement. There are many commercial instruments that can meet specific needs. However, without field applications experience, critical adaptations and equipment changes cannot be properly identified.