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Employee dedication, partner collaboration keys to success

I am pleased to present the CJIS Division’s 2021 Year in Review publication. This edition includes information on the progress we have made across our programs and services during fiscal year 2021 (FY2021) and showcases our partnerships and successes. This year’s edition highlights our employees and includes some of the faces that make up our community of more than 3,000 employees and contractors behind the CJIS Division's programs, as well as our strong diversity and inclusion program.

The innovation and forward thinking of our employees fueled the great strides we made during the year. This included significant increases in participation in our crime and law enforcement statistics programs, as well as progress on important initiatives, such as establishing a new file in the National Crime Information Center for Extreme Risk Protection Orders. We also grew our Next Generation Identification Iris Service and increased use of our National Data Exchange System and Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal. Our National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) staff also had a record-breaking year, marking the highest day in the history of NICS on March 17, 2021.

All of our work was accomplished while maintaining and enhancing our technical systems that process millions of transactions every day in support of the FBI and our partners and undertaking significant projects to refurbish the CJIS Division’s 25-year-old main facility.

Going into FY2022, we are looking to increase engagement with FBI field offices and our state and local law enforcement partners, as well as tackle solutions to ensure we continue to be the leader in providing biometric-based criminal history information. We are also reshaping aspects of our NICS Program to become more efficient and effective and piloting methods to use contactless fingerprint technology.

I am proud of the achievements of the CJIS Division’s staff in FY2021, with the support of our partners, and look forward to what we will accomplish together in FY2022. We continue to be dedicated to our mission to protect our nation and its people and combat crime and terrorism.

Michael A. Christman
Assistant Director of the FBI’s CJIS Division
Zach
CJIS employee for 12 years

“NCIC is the first line of defense in officer and public safety. The new Extreme Risk Protection Order File and NCIC 3rd Generation modernization efforts demonstrate how the CJIS Division continues evolving NCIC to meet the needs of law enforcement. It is truly an exciting time to work in NCIC!”

National Crime Information Center
NCIC system upgrades improve, expand support
When law enforcement officers make a traffic stop or come across a suspicious person on the street, they know they can depend on the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to provide vital information quickly. Agencies enter valuable information (e.g., wanted persons, stolen vehicles, stolen items, protection orders) into the NCIC System to be shared with law enforcement partners across the country to help in the ongoing battle to keep communities safe.

For the past five decades, NCIC has continuously improved and expanded to meet the needs of law enforcement. From its beginning of 356,784 records in 5 files to more than 17.2 million records in 21 different files today, NCIC strives to provide the most efficient, beneficial, and user-friendly system available to support the criminal justice community nationwide.

Fiscal year 2021 was another extremely busy one for NCIC; the system averaged 6,996,118 transactions per day with an average query response time of a lightning 0.0050 seconds. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the system maintains an average availability time of 99.76 percent.

User friendliness is the core of N3G
Through the NCIC Third Generation (N3G) project, NCIC’s staff continues to convert to a more modern, easier-to-read message format that will allow users to customize their responses. Feedback from users led NCIC to develop a template that helps users customize the interface.

Next up for NCIC
A new addition coming to NCIC’s repertoire, a file for Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs) resulting from more and more states passing “red flag laws,” is slated for testing in the system in April and scheduled to become operational in August 2022. ERPOs allow law enforcement, family members, and others to petition courts to temporarily remove firearms from individuals based on the belief that they may harm themselves or others. Sixteen states have implemented red flag laws promoting firearm restrictions. As part of NCIC, the ERPO File will benefit both law enforcement officers on the street as well as staff with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, who have access to the file to prevent prohibited persons from purchasing a firearm.

NCIC used to locate New York fugitive in Texas
This year, an investigator with a violent felony task force in New York contacted the NCIC’s staff for information about a subject wanted in a homicide investigation. NCIC conducted an off-line search of the NCIC transaction log. Results showed that officers in Texas had searched the subject’s name three times. The New York investigator contacted the Texas police department and learned a detective had searched the subject’s name during a robbery investigation. The Texas officer gave the New York investigator a vehicle license plate number and the name of a known contact of the subject, who lived in Texas. Armed with this information, the investigator contacted the violent felony task force in the subject’s suspected area. Task force officers performed surveillance based on the provided information and subsequently arrested the subject.
Charles “Chuck”
CJIS employee for 35 years

“The character and ‘whatever it takes’ attitude of NICS employees are demonstrated in their commitment to overcome challenges and obstacles. As I retire this year, I am most proud to reflect on the resolve of our staff to simply get the job done.”
National Instant Criminal Background Check System Program

NICS staff handles record-breaking volumes

High volumes of transactions, coupled with a global pandemic, did not deter the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) staff from getting the job done in fiscal year 2021 (FY2021). NICS processed 41,336,374 transactions. The staff rose to this challenge, processing 11,614,382 federal firearm background checks, proceeding 10,899,234 transactions, denying 156,080 requests, and processing 87.76 percent of the transactions using the NICS E-Check system.

NICS marked several records in FY2021. These included:

• The highest volume transaction day in NICS’ history was marked on March 17, 2021, with 7 of the 10 top highest days occurring in FY2021.
• Seven of the top 10 highest weekly transaction volumes occurred in FY2021. The week of March 15 took the top spot for the highest volume of transactions, with over 1.2 million background checks performed.
• Six months in FY2021 had the highest background check totals in the system’s history. During two of the months, more than 4 million transactions were requested, with March hitting the top spot.
• In August, NICS processed the system’s 400 millionth transaction.

Meeting these milestones, despite record volumes, is the result of the hard work of dedicated NICS employees (and state and local partners and points of contact), the robust support of CJIS information technology (IT) staff, and the implementation of innovative solutions. The NICS staff addressed unprecedented volumes of work and overcame circumstances to meet the purpose of NICS: to enhance national security and public safety by conducting background checks to determine a person’s eligibility to possess firearms or explosives in accordance with federal and state laws.

Doing things better

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, NICS staff held virtual networking sessions to keep its state partners informed, providing users information that would help them process and transmit transactions successfully.

In late summer 2021, testing began on a new electronic digital disposition request form that allows users to email requests for criminal record information to agencies that house the information. The agency accesses the request using a link and PIN that provides added security for transmitting available information to NICS and allowing automated responses to be used for final determinations on firearm background checks.

NICS staff are also developing a system that will digitize telephone transactions. This new system will quickly provide NICS users with a final status for telephone-generated background checks.

NICS aids in detaining a potentially dangerous offender

In March 2021, a defendant was charged for inciting a riot during civil unrest in August 2020. The judge ordered the defendant’s pretrial release subject to certain conditions including that the defendant must not possess a firearm, destructive device, or other weapon. While on pretrial release, the defendant attempted to purchase a firearm. The defendant’s request to purchase a firearm was denied because the background check revealed the defendant was under federal indictment for a felony offense. The court found that his attempt to buy a firearm while on pretrial release showed he was both a flight risk and a danger to the community; a warrant was issued for his arrest, and he was detained pending trial. The courts would not have known about the defendant’s attempted firearm purchase without the NICS notice.
Rita Jo
CJIS employee for 25 years

“N-DEx has been my home at the CJIS Division for over 18 years. The success stories N-DEx has played a key role in, along with our unprecedented partnership with the criminal justice community, are a few reasons I am proud to be part of the CJIS/N-DEx family.”
National Data Exchange
Increased N-DEx participation leads to higher utility

The National Data Exchange (N-DEx) provides the criminal justice community with the ability to share, search, link, and analyze millions of unclassified records with a single search. With this capability, investigators can quickly, securely, and more efficiently locate leads and identify relationships between people (subjects/victims/witnesses), things (vehicles/property), locations, and crime characteristics.

In fiscal year 2021 (FY2021), N-DEx experienced promising growth. Distance learning sessions reached 2,351 agencies from all 50 states (including all 56 FBI field offices), plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, and Canada. As a result, more than 500 criminal justice agencies began sharing their records with the N-DEx System, boosting the nationwide collection to 8,130 participating organizations in 44 states. Larger law enforcement agencies are sold on N-DEx’s utility; 94 percent are actively using the N-DEx System; and 80 of the 100 largest state and local departments are contributing their records.

With more participants, N-DEx witnessed a record number of searches during FY2021. Users performed more than 20 million searches, a 4 percent increase when compared with the 19.4 million searches conducted the previous year.

Improved processing times and capabilities

The transition to a cloud environment is improving processing times and increasing capabilities in N-DEx. The system is also equipped to return more relevant results, leading to a higher probability of a match, whether it is an individual’s name or other information, such as a phone number or social security number. One system component that assists with that goal is the geovisualization mapping tool, which creates maps based on location data when available.

Several system enhancements were also implemented in FY2021 to improve the user experience. N-DEx staff upgraded the system’s live messaging feature, which increases the time available before archiving. Users can now also upload files to their messages. Other system enhancements include a help resource for searches conducted in the National Crime Information Center and a secondary query of the Next Generation Identification’s Interstate Photo System, which enables users to obtain photos and tattoos, scars, and marks associated with the individual. In addition, automated test tools were added to speed up future developments.

N-DEx records assist investigators in locating a missing person

With a shortage of leads, a case involving a missing young person was turning cold. However, information was provided to an FBI intelligence analyst and a Safe Streets task force officer who shared it with the special victims unit of the police department that had opened the case. The source provided information regarding the potential disposal of a body, the first name of a suspect, and the name of an associate. Searches using biographic data were performed in N-DEx, which revealed an incident report referencing the suspect from the same police department. After identifying the suspect’s location using N-DEx, investigators entered the suspect’s residence and found the missing victim’s body. According to the intelligence analyst, “Without N-DEx sharing these reports, it would have been much harder to identify and locate the suspect.”
“Although I’m relatively new to LEEP and the Virtual Command Center, my operational experiences have helped me understand the true value of both programs. I’m excited about their continued growth and evolution.”

Kim
CJIS employee for 24 years
Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal
Increased usage confirms LEEP’s value

The Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) gives instant access to critical information at the controlled, unclassified level to criminal justice and law enforcement agencies to support their operational goals. From LEEP, users can access many tools and systems containing information about national security threats and public safety. Some examples include:

- Nationwide criminal justice records
- National security and suspicious activity reporting data
- National gang information
- Geospatial tools
- Reporting tools for police data and crime statistics

Users are also connected to criminal intelligence and homeland security communities as well as other federations serving the U.S. Intelligence Community.

Increased demand

Approximately 59,000 individuals accessed LEEP each month during fiscal year 2021 (FY2021), culminating in nearly 15 million visits to the portal. This usage represents a 6 percent rise from the number of FY2020 visits. Increased user activity demonstrates the value this platform has with providing access to analytical, tactical, and investigative resources. Contributing to this growth are LEEP users at the nation’s largest law enforcement agencies, including the top 100 state and local departments, as well as users in all 56 FBI field offices.

Enhancements and training help users and partners

Despite the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic presented, the LEEP team was innovative and flexible in offering virtual training to federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial users. LEEP also enhanced users’ profiles to increase security and provide easier navigation.

In FY2022, the LEEP team will be continuing its efforts to improve services. LepID account management will transition to an automated process and modernized vetting to better comply with government standards. New login screens will provide easier access to the portal. In addition, the entire website is scheduled for a redesign.

LEEP provides access to a partner service, resulting in the rescue of an individual

One evening in November 2020, an elderly individual known to frequently ride a bicycle in the Santa Anna Wildlife Refuge had not returned home. A United States Customs and Border Patrol agent, who was investigating the missing persons case, used LEEP to access Drawbridge. Drawbridge is a border security system managed by the Texas Department of Public Safety, which is used by federal and state law enforcement agencies to monitor criminal activity along the Texas-Mexico border. Camera footage obtained from Drawbridge confirmed the individual’s presence in the Santa Anna Wildlife Refuge. Air and ground rescue resources assisted with locating and rescuing the individual, who had fallen and sustained incapacitating injuries while becoming disoriented. The agent stated, “The source of information used was a still Drawbridge capture image. It was extremely beneficial in bringing about the live finding of the incapacitated individual.”
Dreama
CJIS employee for 27 years

“For 25 years, I have been with the UCR Program. In that time, I have come to know and appreciate the impact the UCR Program has within the law enforcement community. It is rewarding to serve our law enforcement partners.”
Uniform Crime Reporting
Changing to keep pace with law enforcement and public needs

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program’s long-awaited transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) took effect on January 1, 2021. Most states (48) and two agencies in the District of Columbia are certified to report NIBRS data, and the remaining two states are projected to submit their data via NIBRS in 2022. The UCR Program created the NIBRS Collection Application to help agencies in those last two states gain the ability to submit NIBRS data.

Participation in the National Use-of-Force Data Collection, which compiles data on law enforcement interactions that result in the death or serious bodily injury of a person or the discharge of a firearm at or in the direction of a person, continues to grow. Thanks to the extensive outreach and recruitment efforts of the CJIS Division’s staff, the data now represents agencies employing 54.9 percent of sworn officers in the United States in 2021. Also during the fiscal year, the UCR Program approved quarterly releases of the National Use-of-Force Data Collection data exclusively through its Crime Data Explorer (CDE). (The CDE is an interactive website used to provide law enforcement and the public with easier access and use of the data collected by UCR.)

The UCR Program continued its tradition of providing law enforcement, academia, researchers, the media, and the public with the reliable crime data they have come to expect. Data from the UCR Program is used to chart trends in crime that help law enforcement in planning strategy, to enhance officer safety, and to keep the public informed on the state of crime in the nation.

Future data collection solutions
UCR plans to implement the Collection of Law Enforcement and Crime Tool (COLECT), an interface to give federal, state, local, and tribal agencies a simple means of submitting data directly to the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection (LESDC) and the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program.

On January 1, 2022, LESDC will begin collecting statistics related to suicides and attempted suicides by members of the law enforcement community. This program asset will provide information that will help law enforcement better understand this critical issue.

The timeliness of data
NIBRS—only data has assisted in the publication of the new Quarterly Uniform Crime Reports for 2021—information that typically would not have been available until early 2022. Also, the 2020 hate crime statistics were released in August instead of the traditional November release—three months earlier than normal. These improvements speed up the process to supply law enforcement with up-to-date information to better combat crime and provide citizens with useful information regarding crime in the nation.
Joshua
CJIS employee for 9 months

“As a new employee with the Bureau, I find it a very fascinating environment to work in. My current job as a threat intake examiner is very fast paced and deals with numerous important events. I really enjoy the work as it is always evolving to meet the mission of the FBI which is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States.”

National Threat Operations Center
National Threat Operations Center
Public safety concerns rise, but NTOC meets the challenge

Every hour of every day, the staff of National Threat Operations Center (NTOC) process information submitted by the public about federal crimes, threats to national security, and potential threats-to-life. Staff members assess the tip information then send it as appropriate to FBI field offices or law enforcement agencies. NTOC improves public safety every day by identifying threats and national security concerns.

Streamlining and innovating
NTOC received 772,269 calls and 1,195,340 electronic tips (E-Tips) during fiscal year 2021 (FY2021). E-Tips have increased 60 percent compared to FY2020 numbers. With NTOC growing volumes, technical innovations and efficiency must follow. Case in point: NTOC started receiving threat information from private sector companies in 2019 through a secure interface. The interface provides a more streamlined way to receive and process threat information by allowing private sector companies to directly forward E-Tips to NTOC.

NTOC promoted the Threat Intake Processing System (TIPS) Read-Only application to FBI field offices which provides real-time access to all tips received by NTOC. TIPS Read-Only gives FBI personnel working on cases another source of information for investigations. NTOC’s staff can provide virtual training and demonstrations for this productive tool.

For calls received by NTOC which require immediate attention from state or local law enforcement, NTOC deployed a method to expedite direct communication to emergency personnel in the geographic area of the caller. NTOC connected the TIPS application to the Public Safety Answering Points registry. This capability allows for a direct connection to the nearest first responding entity, saving time in emergency situations.

Looking ahead, NTOC plans to enhance the online E-Tip form which the public uses to submit information about federal crimes and threats to national security, including threats to life. The updated form will capture useful and comprehensive information in a more user-friendly format. NTOC is also developing an international suicide/threat-to-life policy to help staff quickly pass information about potential suicides, incidents of self-harm, and threats to life to the appropriate foreign agency.

Nashville bombing suspect identified with help from NTOC call
An NTOC staff member received a call from a woman on December 25, 2020, who reported she recognized the recreational vehicle (RV) shown on a newscast after a bombing in Nashville, Tennessee. The caller knew the owner of the RV and said he had talked about making bombs, and she had been afraid he would harm her and others. She reported the subject had purchased bomb-making materials in bulk and stored them in his home. The staff member promptly forwarded the information to the FBI Memphis Field Office. The next day, field office personnel used the information and DNA samples to confirm the subject of the tip was responsible for the bombing.
Edward
CJIS employee for 15 years

“I have always appreciated the teamwork, camaraderie and pride of CJIS. It’s a great example of professionals working together to strengthen our mission and share in that success. The culture and commitment of CJIS is unmatched.”
Information Technology Services
Solid support today while advancing to meet tomorrow

The CJIS Division’s information technology (IT) services are the backbone of the CJIS Division, keeping essential systems operating reliably and ensuring the CJIS Division’s partners have the crucial information they need. To accomplish this, IT staff provide the software and hardware to keep the work of CJIS running smoothly. In addition to maintaining technology, CJIS IT staff are continuously focused on enhancing systems and improving the user’s experience, always with an eye to security.

Operational improvements
In fiscal year 2021 (FY2021), IT services impacted all CJIS systems and programs. Here are just a few examples:

The National Crime Information Center received a boost with several system enhancements, including the development of the Extreme Risk Protection Order File (set to go live in 2022), which will help make law enforcement aware of these temporary restrictions on individuals who are deemed to pose a risk to themselves or others.

Law enforcement agencies can now enter National Incident-Based Reporting System crime data directly into the Uniform Crime Reporting system by using a newly deployed, online cloud application.

A new enhancement to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System helps establish rules to determine which transactions should be automated.

FBI executives can now check in with the CJIS Division Risk Dashboard to evaluate the cybersecurity readiness of IT systems. Constantly keeping a finger on security is paramount to IT services.

Leader in 508 accessibility
In FY2021, CJIS IT staff set out to configure the division’s information and communication technology to more closely comply with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires federal agencies to make digital information accessible to people with disabilities. The IT staff took measures to ensure compliance and tested the systems for successful performance. All 14 CJIS Division systems addressed in this initiative had been fully tested by the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year. Equally important with advancing the systems is training CJIS personnel on the new technology. Last year, 95 percent of the employees on this project had been trained in Section 508 compliance. Heading into the new fiscal year, the project to make CJIS Systems 508-compliant is well along in achieving its goals to make all CJIS systems accessible.

Secured telework
Many employees continued to work remotely in FY2021 due to the pandemic. CJIS IT staff worked hard to ensure all remote work met rigorous security demands, such as having some functions automatically lock down if a user is not on a trusted device. These and other security measures make CJIS compliant with the conditional access requirement for processing FBI data with trusted devices.

24 hours a day/ 7 days a week/ 365 days a year
During FY2021, the CJIS Division’s systems were operational an impressive 99.92 percent of the time. The only exceptions to availability were 15.75 hours spread throughout the year when the systems were undergoing maintenance.
Doug
CJIS employee for 12 years

“In my years at CJIS, I’ve seen new biometrics such as iris and facial recognition be instrumental in apprehending fugitives. I believe in what I do!”
Biometric Identification Services
Enhancing investigations and aiding humanitarian efforts

From providing identification services for employment purposes to supporting law enforcement agencies’ major investigations, the biometric services at the CJIS Division continue to prevent and avert criminal and terroristic activities. In fiscal year 2021 (FY2021), operational milestones, growth in agency enrollments, and increased biometric submissions improved the value of these services and expanded them to better cater to the CJIS Division’s partners.

Iris identification sees success in first year

In its first year of operation following the conclusion of a pilot phase, the Next Generation Identification (NGI) Iris Service proved to be a rapid, contactless method to validate the identities of individuals involved in criminal matters. By adding offenders’ iris images to the NGI Iris Service at the time of the arrest, staff at correctional facilities can use the biometric to ensure the correct inmate is being transferred or released; thereby, increasing public safety. In fact, agencies can use the NGI Iris Service as part of the administration of criminal justice—from the time of arrest, at booking, at court appearances, and up to the time of release.

Since the inception of the NGI Iris Service in 2020, it has accumulated more than 1.6 million sets of iris images, which represent nearly 1.2 million unique identities. More than 355 criminal justice partners and law enforcement agencies currently provide iris images to NGI. The iris image algorithm is more than 99 percent accurate.

In FY2021, the average iris identification search time was 18 seconds with an impressive 87.6 percent candidate match/hit rate. Identifying information concerning wanted persons, sex offenders, and immigration violators from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) accounted for 13 percent of those results. Of the NCIC data returned, 57 percent were associated with wanted persons. In the year ahead, the NGI Iris Service will implement an automated tool to detect and redirect any degraded iris images that may adversely impact data quality. As more iris images are added to the system, the NGI Iris Service will provide an additional method that law enforcement can use to identify individuals who manipulate or alter their fingerprints to avoid subsequent arrest.

Ten years of RISC providing mobile capabilities

Through the Repository for Individuals of Special Concern (RISC) Program, authorized law enforcement personnel use mobile ID devices to search a special subset of criminal files from the NGI System. Within seconds of submitting two to ten fingerprint images, RISC returns a response to notify the officer if an individual has a record related to known or suspected terrorists, wanted persons, immigration violators, sex offenders, or foreign subjects of interest. The benefits of this rapid search include greater protection for the public and law enforcement officers and enhanced investigative support.

In September, RISC marked ten years of service having processed more than 6.3 million submissions searching the 4 million plus records it accesses. Currently, 35 states and 2 federal agencies participate in RISC. Additional states and U.S. territories are working toward using this capability. In FY2021, there were 541,112 RISC searches completed with 457,379 hits returned.
Innovation Technology Center offers greater agency collaboration
In FY2021, the Innovation Technology Center (ITC) opened in the Biometric Technology Center on the CJIS campus. The ITC offers unclassified laboratory space for algorithm evaluation, certification of biometric devices and biometric capture equipment, and hands-on applied research and development. The lab space will permit easier collaboration with stakeholders and partners, including the Department of Defense, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and West Virginia University.

Biometric systems aid in identifying victims following building collapse
In late June 2021, a large residential housing building in Surfside, Florida, partially collapsed. In the three weeks that followed, the local police department requested assistance from the FBI in identifying 72 victims. As authorized for humanitarian purposes, staff conducted extensive research using the Civil Name Index Files, launching database checks of the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense, and performing searches of the NGI System. They used information from transaction histories about the victims’ names and identification submission cards with both criminal and civil records. As a result, 45 victims were positively identified.
The National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council (Council) governs the use of criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes such as employment, licensing, immigration and naturalization, or sponsoring an unaccompanied child. Knowing that the person put in a position of great trust—working with children, the elderly, or disabled persons—is fit for the position, or that the person immigrating or seeking to sponsor a child has been evaluated and determined eligible to do so, is crucial to public safety. Over the years, the demand for background checks for these purposes has significantly increased, making the need for accurate and current information especially important. The Council and its committees evaluate the effectiveness of the rules and procedures that are in place to effectively facilitate these checks, and it makes recommendations to improve them or establish new ones when needed.

Expanding the NFF
Compact states are required to transition to participation in the National Fingerprint File (NFF) Program. Each NFF state submits an offender’s first arrest to the FBI to establish the identity in the Next Generation Identification (NGI) System, and once established, an NFF state then maintains its records only in its state repository to ensure the most up-to-date records are available.

In fiscal year 2021 (FY2021), three additional states, Vermont, Connecticut, and Michigan, joined the NFF, bringing the total to 23—the first time since the program’s inception that three states have joined in a single year. Vermont and Michigan became participants through the 2016 Council-approved Alternate NFF method. Because it does not have as many programming changes, this method allows for a faster, less expensive way to join the NFF. More states are slated to join the NFF in 2022. The Council continually engages with non-NFF states to determine their potential for joining the program.

Looking for innovation in identification
There are currently two Council-approved methods of determining positive fingerprint identification, the ten-finger flat and ten-finger rolled methods. The ten-finger flat method captures all four fingers simultaneously from both hands with the thumbs completed separately. The ten-finger rolled method captures each finger and thumb separately, rolling them from nail to nail. During a spring 2021 virtual meeting, the Council learned of a federal agency pilot to collect contactless fingerprints for potential study, laying the groundwork for future engagement with the Council.

Moore brings extensive experience to Council role
Ms. Leslie Moore is the Information Services Division Director for the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. With over 25 years of experience, Ms. Moore is responsible for various state repositories and has served as Kansas’ State Compact Officer since 2010. She was a member of numerous Council committees and task forces prior to being appointed to the Council in 2017. In November 2018, she was elected as the Council Vice Chairman, prior to serving in her current role as Council Chairman since March 2020.
Facilities Management

Erin
CJIS employee for 4 years

“What I enjoy most about my job is getting to do what I love daily. When I decided to pursue architecture 8 years ago, I never thought I would have an opportunity to work for the FBI as an architect.”
Our Campus

Driving up to the main entrance and Visitor’s Center of the FBI’s CJIS Division provides an impressive sight for guests and employees as they approach the massive marble FBI sign and the vast wooded campus beyond the gate. Even with the natural, rural beauty of the campus, the staff never rests in improving the jewels of architecture and design that sit in that wooded acreage—and plans for fiscal year 2022 (FY2022) are no exception.

Construction of a memorial to commemorate the victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, will begin in the upcoming year. Elements of the 9/11 memorial will represent the lost World Trade Center and surrounding area. A tall, steel box column salvaged from one of the towers will be the focal point, symbolizing the North Tower, and a stone monolith will represent the South Tower. Concrete benches and other elements will represent the buildings that were destroyed, buildings with significant damage, and the block where the buildings were located. This memorial will also represent the FBI’s dedication to continue its mission to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution.

Architectural and engineering design projects of interest planned in FY2022 include a remodel of the auditorium at the CJIS Main facility, a classroom addition at the Child Development Center, and improvements to the East and West Gate entrances. Replacement of the original hydraulic elevators in the CJIS Main building will begin in FY2022.

All these projects continue the momentum from improvements that occurred at CJIS in FY2021. Updating the 25-year-old CJIS Main building progressed throughout the year; most notably, the opening of the cafeteria and coffee shop in the newly constructed CJIS Square. Meanwhile at the Biometric Technology Center, a new lobby annex for National Threat Operations Center training and the Programs Research and Standards Innovative Technology Center were constructed.

Ongoing and upcoming construction projects help the CJIS Division to continue to welcome visitors into a cutting-edge facility with beautiful architecture, unsurpassed technology, and superior services.
The CJIS Advisory Policy Board

Overcoming obstacles to improve operations

Unique to the CJIS Division, the CJIS Advisory Policy Board (APB) was established to provide recommendations to the FBI Director concerning policies for national criminal justice systems managed by the CJIS Division. The CJIS APB makes recommendations to the FBI Director on the most effective use of the CJIS Division's systems and provides guidance to the CJIS Division on policy, strategy, technical, and operational issues affecting its programs. Recommendations are based on solicited proposals from CJIS program users representing criminal justice agencies throughout the nation. Our law enforcement partners participate in the Advisory Process through subcommittees and working groups that review information, discuss and vote on topics, and make recommendations for consideration by the CJIS APB, which makes final recommendations to the FBI Director. CJIS programs and systems are more effective for law enforcement nationwide based on this unique, shared-management partnership.

CJIS APB meets in “hybrid” format

In fiscal year 2021, the CJIS APB held its June meeting in Orlando, Florida. This was the APB’s first “hybrid meeting” supporting both in-person and remote attendance. The Advisory Process staff overcame numerous challenges to mitigate risks during the pandemic, and more than 450 attendees, including representatives from the FBI, vendors, CJIS APB members, and the law enforcement community participated. The CJIS APB also encouraged CJIS Systems Officers, Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) state program managers, and local representatives and their staff to attend.

Numerous recommendations generated

Members of the CJIS APB made 43 recommendations during the June meeting. One significant recommendation pertained to the National Crime Information Center’s (NCIC’s) new Extreme Risk Protection Order File, which is comprised of orders that temporarily restrict an individual, who a court has determined could pose a threat to themselves or others, from possessing or purchasing a firearm, ammunition, or other related items. Members also supported the Lawful Access Challenge which highlights an impediment to law enforcement’s ability to obtain evidence, despite having the legal authority to have it, because of encryption technologies placed on electronic information. Other recommendations were made to modernize the CJIS Security Policy, to address the need to improve data for the National Incident-Based Reporting System, and to handle gender reporting challenges within UCR.
First female sheriff elected APB chair brings more than 30 years of experience to the advisory process

In December 2020, Sheriff Kathy H. Witt from Fayette County, Kentucky, became the first female to be elected to the chair of the CJIS APB. Sheriff Witt is the sheriff of the second most populous county in Kentucky, is the longest serving sheriff in the country, and has 37 years of experience in law enforcement. Sheriff Witt also brings more than 30 years of experience to the advisory process. After serving on the NCIC Advisory Board’s Regional Working Group, Sheriff Witt was selected to represent Kentucky on the Southern Working Group in 1991 and elected by her peers to represent them as a local representative on the CJIS APB in 2004. In addition, she held various offices and served on several CJIS APB subcommittees, including UCR, National Instant Criminal Background Check System, NCIC, Compliance Evaluation, Bylaws, and Public Safety Strategy. “The CJIS Advisory Policy Board has a vital role to provide input and make recommendations on initiatives that assist law enforcement and criminal justice agencies,” Sheriff Witt said. “One example of such an initiative is the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection. To have data surrounding these incidents will enable us to study this issue and, hopefully, improve our nation’s ability to prevent these tragedies.”
CJIS Diversity and Inclusion Program

This edition of the CJIS Year in Review highlights our employees, the people behind the tremendous work the division accomplishes. It also provides a great opportunity to feature the CJIS Division’s active Diversity and Inclusion Program, a reflection of the FBI’s core value of “diversity.” Individual backgrounds reflect the variety that is the backbone and strength of our country. Diversity makes us stronger. It makes us more effective as an organization. The FBI is committed to embracing diversity and to creating and sustaining a workforce that reflects all segments of American society.

At the CJIS Division, a vibrant Diversity and Inclusion Program celebrates the special emphasis programs recognized by the FBI with Diversity Advisory Committees. The nine FBI Diversity Advisory Committees consist of the:

- American Indian/Alaska Native Advisory Committee
- Asian Pacific American Advisory Committee
- Black Affairs Diversity Committee
- Hispanic Advisory Board
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Allies Advisory Committee
- Near & Middle East Advisory Committee
- Persons with Disabilities Advisory Committee
- Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee
- Women’s Advisory Committee

In addition, the CJIS Division has a dynamic employee newsletter that focuses on diversity called The CJIS Tapestry. Efforts to highlight diversity at the CJIS Division help support the FBI’s dedication to creating and sustaining an FBI workforce that reflects the society we serve and to fostering a culture that values human differences, opinions, and perspectives to empower individuals to achieve their fullest potential.
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Scan the following QR codes with your smartphone or tablet to learn more about:

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The CJIS Division, or you can visit www.fbi.gov/services/cjis.

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