LAW ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STANDARDS COUNCIL
COMPUTER AIDED DISPATCH AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

For years, the law enforcement community has struggled with the challenges and high costs of implementing technology that facilitates effective information sharing within their agencies and with their public safety and criminal justice partners. Standardized functional requirements for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management Systems (RMS) will enable agencies to lower the cost of procuring and implementing information sharing systems by automating many critical procedures.

With the guidance and leadership of the Office of Justice Programs' (OJP) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Law Enforcement Information Technology Standards Council (LEITSC)[1] is working in partnership with the Integrated Justice Information Sharing (IJIS) Institute to foster the definition and implementation of national standards for CAD and RMS. BJA and OJP's National Institute of Justice have partnered over the last two years to support this work, to make the CAD and RMS requirements available in 2006.

CAD systems collect the initial information generated by an incident and often transmit it to RMS. RMS stores, archives, and retrieves incident-based information, as well as other data such as records on a suspects' previous arrests, citations, warrants, vehicle, or mental health status, and whether they are listed on a sex offender registry. These technologies equip officials with powerful tools to address violent crime and potential terrorist activity.

With CAD and RMS standards, more law enforcement officials will be able to:

▪ Implement systems to access critical information in real-time across jurisdictions.

▪ Reduce implementation costs by using an already established standard, or using a proprietary system that may not be able to share information.

▪ Reduce personnel costs by automating and expediting processes.

For more information on CAD and RMS standards, contact David Lewis, BJA Senior Policy Advisor for Justice Information Sharing, at david.p.lewis@usdoj.gov, or Heather Ruzbasan, LEITSC, at ruzbasan@theiacp.org.

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[1] Formed in 2002 by BJA, LEITSC comprises members from the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Sheriffs' Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and Police Executive Research Forum.