News
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CrimNet Finds Home with BCA

After leading a nomadic existence since its inception, CrimNet has now found a permanent home at an enviable address. The CrimNet project and personnel have joined the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) and are now housed in the new facility at 1430 Maryland Avenue East. The airy and inviting 240,000 square-foot, three-story building constructed of stone, stainless steel, and glass opened for business in November 2003.

The CrimNet Policy Group will continue to set and approve strategic direction for the project. But the BCA will now lend assistance and oversight to day-to-day operations. BCA Superintendent Michael Campion said he believes CrimNet is a natural fit with the bureau. “I think CrimNet needs and deserves the advantages of being part of an experienced criminal justice agency,” he said.

The BCA Criminal Justice Information System division manages many of the statewide systems that will be integrated through the CrimNet platform. The BCA also has strong, longstanding working relationships with CrimNet stakeholders.

Campion said CrimNet stands to benefit from the methodology, resources, and experience the BCA can provide. Executive Director Bob Johnson is also uniquely qualified to lead the project forward, he said. “CrimNet is not about a bunch of wires,” said Campion. “It is a concept of extraordinary vision, complexity, and scope.”

Campion said he believes CrimNet proponents will now be able to make a stronger case for the attainability and necessity of the project. “People who are taking a wait-and-see approach will get a better understanding of what most of the criminal justice community already recognizes: ‘This is the way to go.’”

CrimNet Update: Public Safety Commissioner Rich Stanek

CrimNet is a critical initiative that is making great strides toward integrating local criminal justice information systems in northeast Minnesota. It is an example of the collaboration and partnership that is essential to successfully solve the problems of crime and violence in our communities.

St. Louis County is making great strides toward integrating local criminal justice information systems in northeast Minnesota. County officials and law enforcement leaders have partnered with other counties in the Arrowhead region to establish standards and services that lay the groundwork for integration.

The result of this collaboration is the North Eastern Minnesota Enforcement and Safety Information System (NEMESIS). NEMESIS will facilitate information system integration throughout the Arrowhead region and serve as the regional gateway to CrimNet.

Benefits of NEMESIS

- Improved accessibility and management of criminal justice information in the Arrowhead region.
- Productivity gains through establishing a single point of data entry and horizontal and vertical systems integration.
- Long-term savings from spreading costs across multiple units of government rather than acquiring, supporting, and paying for individual systems.
- Supports CrimNet vision of local integration.
- Participating Arrowhead counties and major municipalities will gain access to the subscriber-based Attorney Case Management System.

From left: Martin Buscombe, St. Louis County MIS director; Michael Dean, St. Louis County deputy county attorney; Lt. Kevin Kivisto, St. Louis County Sheriff’s Office administration; Mark Boff, St. Louis County MIS senior systems analyst; Terry Uhlesher, Hermantown chief of police.

County/User Profile: St. Louis County

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Martin Buscombe, St. Louis County MIS director, attended a National Governors Association workshop on best practices in information sharing last year. The workshop gave him a sense of where Minnesota ranks in this area.

“It was encouraging for me to see the extent to which Minnesota is a leader,” said Buscombe. “Many states are making great efforts but are clearly years behind reaching what we have already accomplished here in Minnesota.”

CrimNet is the gateway to CriMNet.