Abstract

**The Arizona VICAP/SCAN Program**  
*Track: Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice*  
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Today's serial sex offenders cloak their identity and level of activity by committing crimes in multiple jurisdictions. Law enforcement agencies often are not aware of sexual assaults or child molestations with similar or identical suspect behavior patterns that occur in adjacent jurisdictions. Since there is no known link between cases committed in different jurisdictions, when an arrest occurs in one jurisdiction the search for the suspect continues in the other jurisdictions. This often allows the suspect to escape being charged with the additional crimes, and victims may fear their attacker is still stalking them.

Arizona sex offenders are contained and mapped within the Sex Crimes Analysis Network (SCAN) and the accompanying offender report of their crime(s) will be indexed in the FBI’s ViCAP program. The Arizona Department of Public Safety’s ViCAP/SCAN project provides a framework allowing law enforcement to expand investigations cooperatively with other agencies. The enhanced sharing of information and the investigators ability to query the system and map the results will minimize their administrative time freeing them to investigate the crime. It will identify parallel investigations and will promote a SMART (Systematic Multi-Agency Response Team) approach, thereby enhancing the positive effect of coordinated resources, however limited.

This merging of a Federal law enforcement database and a private provider of GIS is the first of its kind in the country. This benchmarking is enabling the FBI, law enforcement, and private industry to utilize GIS technology to work cooperatively streamlining the coordination between agencies in the apprehension of offenders.

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