

.CJIS ADVISORY PROCESS REQUEST FOR TOPIC

Please provide the following information when submitting a request for a topic paper.

1. Clear statement of request:

2. How this is handled now (or description of problem being solved):

3. Suggested solution:

4. Scenario/example:

5. Benefit(s) to the criminal justice community:

6. Impact on state system users, if known. (Time and resources):

7. Importance/criticality:

8. Contact person: _____

Please provide any additional information that may be helpful to understand the topic.

**CJIS ADVISORY POLICY BOARD
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS
FALL 2011**

STAFF PAPER

WORKING GROUP TOPIC #6

Proposal to Create an Opportunity to Provide U.S. Law Enforcement with Enhanced Awareness of Canadian Police Agency Information Held at Local Levels

PURPOSE

To present a request to provide U.S. Law Enforcement with access to the Canadian Firearms Interest Police (FIP) Database.

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REQUEST OF THE WORKING GROUPS

The Working Groups are requested to review the information included in this paper and provide appropriate comments, suggestions and recommendations to the NCIC Subcommittee on this proposal. Also, provide comments and recommendations as to what priority should be assigned to any approved enhancement.

BACKGROUND

The Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) has been operational since 1972. It is a computerized system, similar to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), that provides tactical information on crimes, criminals, and public safety. It is accessed by more than 80,000 law enforcement and criminal justice resources from more than 3,000 agencies and detachments. The CPIC contains vital information on vehicles, persons, property, marine equipment, criminal records, dental characteristics, inmates and wandering persons. The CPIC system is connected to NCIC through an Automated Canadian United States Police Information Exchange System (ACUPIES) interface.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and Canada have used the ACUPIES interface as a mutually beneficial means to access the crime information centers (NCIC and CPIC) of the partnering country. However, it has been advised that a vast amount of police information exists, at the Canadian local level, that is not currently accessible outside Canada.

The CPIC includes an automated interface to all Canadian Police Records Management Systems (RMS) that use extraction criteria to create a data set of pointers. The data set is known as the FIP Persons Category of CPIC. Currently, this data set is available to only Canadian law enforcement. This paper proposes expanding the access of the FIP to law enforcement agencies in the United States.

The FIP Category on CPIC was established in 1998 in response to the requirement for Firearms Officers in Canada to administer firearms licensing pursuant to the Canada Firearms Act. Due to privacy issues, the Firearms Officers are not permitted comprehensive access to police occurrence records in Canada. However, they are authorized to access certain police information. The FIP data set was established to provide the Firearms Officers with an awareness of specific records, creating the ability to request information disclosures, as appropriate to their mandates.

There are currently more than 5 million records in the FIP Database including crimes against persons, weapon information, and smuggling data. Pointers that are maintained in FIP are created based on role i.e., charged, suspect, and suspect chargeable. As stated earlier, the FIP is maintained as a pointer database. Hence, a response would not include comprehensive data, but contact information pointing to a local law enforcement agency.

The data maintained in FIP is used as an investigative tool for law enforcement. It is anticipated that this investigative tool could assist law enforcement agencies in the U.S. with crimes that may have Canadian ties. For example: a U.S. law enforcement officer encounters an individual whom they suspect may have had previous contact with a Canadian police agency. Currently, U.S. law enforcement can access CPIC records through the Canadian Interface. Access to several categories of records including: wanted persons, vehicles, and boats are available. The U.S. official could select a query into the FIP to initiate a check of the database. A new Message Key (MKE) could be created under the Canadian Interface to allow agencies access to the FIP database. The FIP would only be searched when the direct MKE is used and not as a supplemental search of another person inquiry. The pointer information would be forwarded to the inquiring agency of any potential match. It would be the discretion of the U.S. law enforcement agency to contact the Canadian agency if deemed beneficial.

One issue that should be considered is the technical impact on the state and local users. The states would have to program for the new MKE if they choose to use this functionality. In addition, there could be increased network traffic due to the new MKE and potential hits generated from the FIP Database. However, the impact could be controlled due to the direct MKE being created instead of spawning a query based on another inquiry.

The Working Groups are requested to choose one of the options listed below:

Option 1 - Create a new MKE to access the Canadian FIP Database.

Option 2 - No change.

If the proposal in this topic paper is approved, the system enhancements necessary to implement the proposal should be assigned the priority: ____ (0-5) and categorized as: ____ (High, Medium, or Low).