

## Maryland Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services Technology & Communication Division



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## Director's Corner

In 1998, Maryland became one of 47 participating states in the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) Interstate Identification Index System (III). III is designed to allow law enforcement agencies to obtain the most current and accurate information about a subject directly from the state or states that hold arrest information on that subject. In the past, the FBI was the "warehouse" of criminal history record information (CHRI). The FBI collected and stored CHRI from the states and provided that information to the requesting agency. Under III, the FBI serves as a "clearing house", directing requests for CHRI to the state or states housing arrest information. The state of record is responsible for responding directly to the requesting agency.

In 2002, Maryland's Criminal Justice Information System Central Repository (CJIS-CR) began a project to reconcile Maryland CHRI with the NCIC database. The purpose of this project is to determine whether Maryland or the FBI has the best record for providing CHRI for arrest records that pre-date 1998, the date when Maryland joined the III system. Using National Criminal History Improvement Program (NCHIP) grant funds, CJIS-CR hired 9 contractual employees to review 750,000 arrest records. As of April 1, 2005, the project team has conducted 705,000 (94%) record reviews resulting in Maryland claiming and accepting responsibility to provide CHRI responses for 396,000 of those re-



*Carole J. Shelton*

records. The FBI will retain responsibility for any records not claimed by Maryland.

The result of this effort, in concert with technology and reporting improvements in other CJIS-CR processes, is a more accurate and timely CHRI when and where it is needed. Stay tuned to this and future issues of "The Loop" for more information on CJIS-CR initiatives to improve timeliness, accuracy and completeness of CHRI in the state of Maryland.

**For Your Information:**

**Maryland Sex Offender Registry**

**Megan's Law data found tough to access**

A nationwide survey by New Jersey-based Parents for Megan's Law suggests most states aren't providing much access to information contained in their sex offender registries. "Megan's Law was supposed to guarantee that if a sex offender moved in next door, you would be notified by law enforcement" the group's executive director Laura Ahearn said. "But that's just not the case."

When graded on how much information they make available to the public, the average state received 58 percent or failing grade, Ahearn said. Florida and Maryland received the highest grades, while Vermont and South Dakota scored the lowest. California has a very strong privacy law, right so, for those reasons, the legislature has put restriction on releasing information about all sex

offenders. Among the survey's other findings: 22 states don't require active community notification when offenders move into new neighborhoods; 27 states don't offer a phone number to access the registry; 21 state don't include all sex offenders on their Internet registries; 15 states don't require juvenile sex offenders to register.

**Alert!**  
**As of March 15, 2005, there are 4,211 registrants in Maryland 's Sex Offender Registry**  
[www.dpsc.state.md.us/online servs/son](http://www.dpsc.state.md.us/online servs/son)

**Arrest Booking System (ABS) User Group Meeting Resume**

We are pleased to announce the resumption of ABS Users Meetings. The meeting will be held once a month. We can accommodate up to 3 representatives from each ABS Site. Contact Mr. Lowell Anderson (410-585-3431) for further information of the date, the place and the time of upcoming ABS User Group meetings.

**UPCOMING MEETING**  
April 21, 2005  
9 a.m. to 12 noon  
Central Hiring Conference Room  
Reisterstown Road Plaza  
6776 Reisterstown Road  
Baltimore, MD., 21215



**UPDATE**

**Congratulations!**

**Cumberland Police Department**

Congratulations to Cumberland Police Department for their hard work and dedication to provide timely, complete and accurate Criminal History Record Information. Cumberland P.D. scored 100% Completeness & 93% Accuracy in a recent CHRI audit of this agency.



**For Your Information:**

**Hazmat**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) published an Interim Final Report (IFR) on May 5, 2003 requiring a security threat assessment be conducted on all commercial drivers who are currently authorized to renew or apply for a commercial drivers license (CDL) with a Hazmat endorsement. The IFR implements several Federal mandates. CJIS-CR, in conjunction with Maryland's Motor Vehicle Administration, is responsible for conducting a criminal history background check for commercial drivers applying for or renewing their CDL



with Hazmat endorsement. DPSCS opened the first site for capturing commercial driver fingerprints at MVA's Headquarters in Glen Burnie on January 31, 2005. The site is manned with CJIS-CR employees who capture the fingerprint and submit those fingerprints for the background check. To date, the Glen Burnie site has processed 120 fingerprints in support of the Hazmat project. MVA sites in Bel Air, Waldorf, Frederick and Salisbury are scheduled to be opened in the near future. Watch future editions of "The Loop" for updates.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CJIS CRUSHERS ARE RE-ACTIVATED

Last year, the CJIS CRUSHERS, ITCD's entry in the 15th Annual Bowl-A-Thon for the Chesapeake Center for Youth Development (CCYD), helped to raised (\$50,000) for the Center. CCYD is a non-profit organization focused on assisting young, disadvantaged adults to become fully functioning members of society by providing educational and social development support for the youth's individual needs. The CJIS CRUSHERS team of Carole Shelton, Ray Miles, Dave Wolinski, Sherman Stephens, Paul Kozloski and Juanita Johnson-Dixon, has been reactivated for the 16th Annual Bow-A-Thon, scheduled for Saturday, April 30th at the Ritchie Lanes in Glen Burnie. Mary Ann Saar, Secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, will once again serve as Honorary Chair of the 2005 event and has extended a challenge to all participants to not only raise more sponsorship money for CCYD with a overall goal of \$50,000, but also to improve their team scores!!!

WHEN: Saturday—April 20,2005

WHERE: Ritchie Lane (Glen Bernie)

TIME: 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

GO DPSCS—WE WANT TO WIN !!!!!



### CJIS-CR Staff Visits FBI CJIS Division

On February 24, 2005, 6 members of the CJIS-CR Data Entry and Response Teams and a representative of the Maryland State Archives were hosted by the NICS Section of the FBI's CJIS Division located in Clarksburg, WV. The group toured the FBI facility and participated in an information exchange about the NICS Firearm Background Check program. The CJIS-CR group brought back valuable information on how the FBI conducts a NICS background check while our group provided insight into the processes used to respond to the FBI's requests for information. As a result, both agencies have a better understanding of each others needs and are better equipped to respond in a more timely manner and with better information. The end result is better service to the purchaser of a firearm and the firearm dealer and a safer community for everyone.



## **FBI CJIS DIVISION TO AUDIT NON-CRIMINAL AGENCIES**

The FBI CJIS Advisory Policy Board and the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council recently approved the expansion of the FBI CJIS Audit Unit's (CAU) audit programs to include agencies that receive criminal history information/"rap sheets" for licensing and/or employment purposes pursuant to the referenced laws. These agencies that submit fingerprints to the FBI and meet this criteria could be subject to audit. The Non-Criminal Justice Information Audit will assess compliance with applicable policy, regulations, and rules approved by the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council.

The FBI CJIS Audit Staff is developing and piloting an audit to determine the compliance with policy, regulations, and rules approved by the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council. The CAU is expanding current audit programs to include the use, dissemination, training, and security of criminal history information for non-criminal justice purposes. The audit shall also include private contractors performing the administration of non-criminal justice functions for authorized non-criminal justice agencies. With the exception of authorized non-criminal justice agencies that have direct access to III for the emergency placement of children in exigent circumstances and non-criminal justice governmental agencies or private contractors performing criminal justice dispatching functions or data process/information services for criminal justice agencies, current audit programs only audit the use of CHRI at criminal justice agencies. The CAU will audit Maryland CJIS-CR and certain non-criminal justice agencies during the week of June 13 to 17, 2005.

At the local level, beginning in April 2005, Maryland's CJIS Central Repository is expanding its own External Audit program to include Non-Criminal Justice Units (NCJU). The audit will review the use, dissemination, training and security of criminal history information used for non-criminal justice purposes.



*The FBI, in conjunction with its biannual audit, will be examining the Sexual Offender Registry (SOR). This in-depth audit will examine procedures, laws, and data quality. The SOR is currently preparing a response to a lengthy pre-audit questionnaire. In preparation for the FBI audit in June, we are designing an internal audit to help us identify potential problem areas.*

**Visit the FBI CJIS on the Web at**  
[www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/ident.htm](http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/ident.htm)

## **NICS and the Brady Handgun Act**

The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act was enacted and signed into law by President Clinton in 1993. This law mandated federal firearms licensees (FFL) to conduct a background check on all prospective firearms purchasers. The law stipulates that a sale or denial of sale decision must be made within 3 business days of when the prospective purchaser submits the application to purchase a firearm. 14 of the 55 states and territories make the

"proceed with purchase" or "deny purchase" decision for themselves. In the remaining 41 states and territories, including Maryland, the FBI plays a role in the "proceed" or "deny" decision process by using the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). In Maryland, FFLs query the Maryland State Police for handgun purchases while long arm purchase queries are sent to the FBI. The FBI uses several of its databases

to make a "proceed with purchase" or "deny purchase" decision. The FBI reports that during 2004, 92% of the FFL queries resulted in instantaneous responses to the FFL. In some cases, the FBI will query the states for additional background information. CJIS-CR received 2,200 such inquiries from the FBI in 2004 and responded to all of those inquiries within 24 hours. In most cases, CJIS-CR responds to the FBI in 2 hours or less.

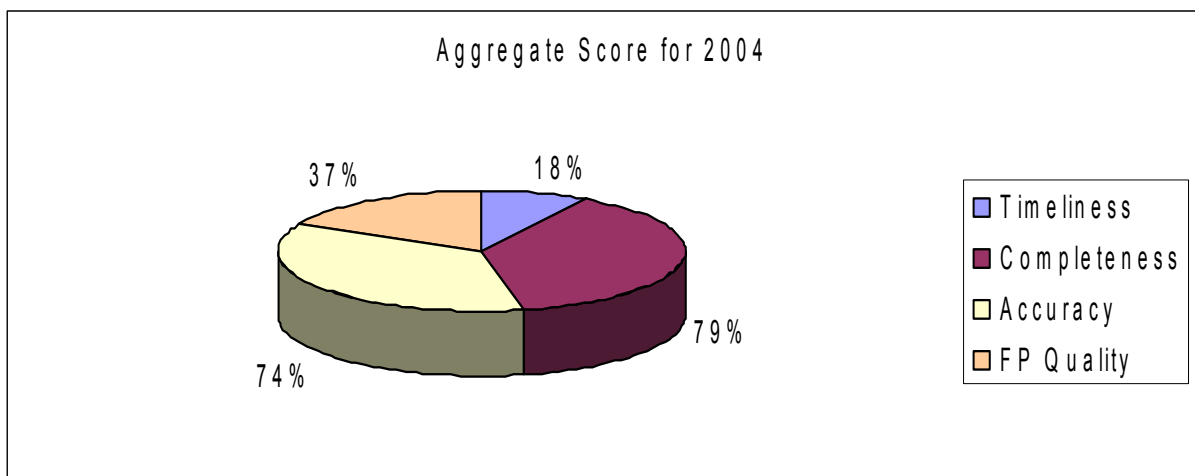
## CJU Audit Outcomes Scores

### CJU Audit Outcomes Scores : Compliance Jan–Dec., 2004

During 2004, the CJIS External Audit Team visited 17 law enforcement agencies across the state. Overall, these 17 agencies averaged 18% compliance with Annotated Code of Maryland 10-214, 79% completeness, 74% accuracy and 37% fingerprint quality rates. We would like to work to improve these areas and thus improve the integrity of MD's criminal history. For Fingerprint Techniques training contact Rodney Jones at:

[rjones4@dpscs.state.md.us](mailto:rjones4@dpscs.state.md.us)

<i>Agency #</i>	<i>Timeliness</i>	<i>Completeness</i>	<i>Accuracy</i>	<i>FP Quality</i>
1	0%	96%	80%	8%
2	43%	96%	93%	47%
3	25%	97%	96%	56%
4	0%	95%	91%	20%
5	10%	96%	94%	37%
6	0%	75%	72%	57%
7	0%	99%	89%	44%
8	27%	82%	77%	80%
9	0%	22%	18%	0%
10	0%	50%	46%	13%
11	3%	91%	87%	47%
12	0%	44%	42%	59%
13	0%	86%	84%	64%
14	0%	100%	93%	20%
15	0%	60%	55%	23%
16	100%	58%	55%	44%
17	90%	94%	90%	4%
<b>Aggregate Score for 2004</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>37%</b>





Maryland Department of  
Public Safety &  
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*How many words can you make out  
of this combination of letters?  
**3 letter words or more ONLY.***

*No abbreviations or acronyms!!*

Send email responses to:

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**U A L E C N**

**FLASH!**  
ITCD raised approximately  
\$14,000 for the Maryland  
Charities Campaign.  
Way to go!!

Editors:  
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