



National Institute of Justice Operational Technology Evaluation

Evaluating Technology in the Field: Importance for First Responders

Nancy Merritt
National Institute of Justice

Not for attribution, quotation, or publication



OVERVIEW

- National Institute of Justice
 - Who we are
 - What we do
- Efforts in Technology Operations Development
- Relevance to First Responders and Technology Developers

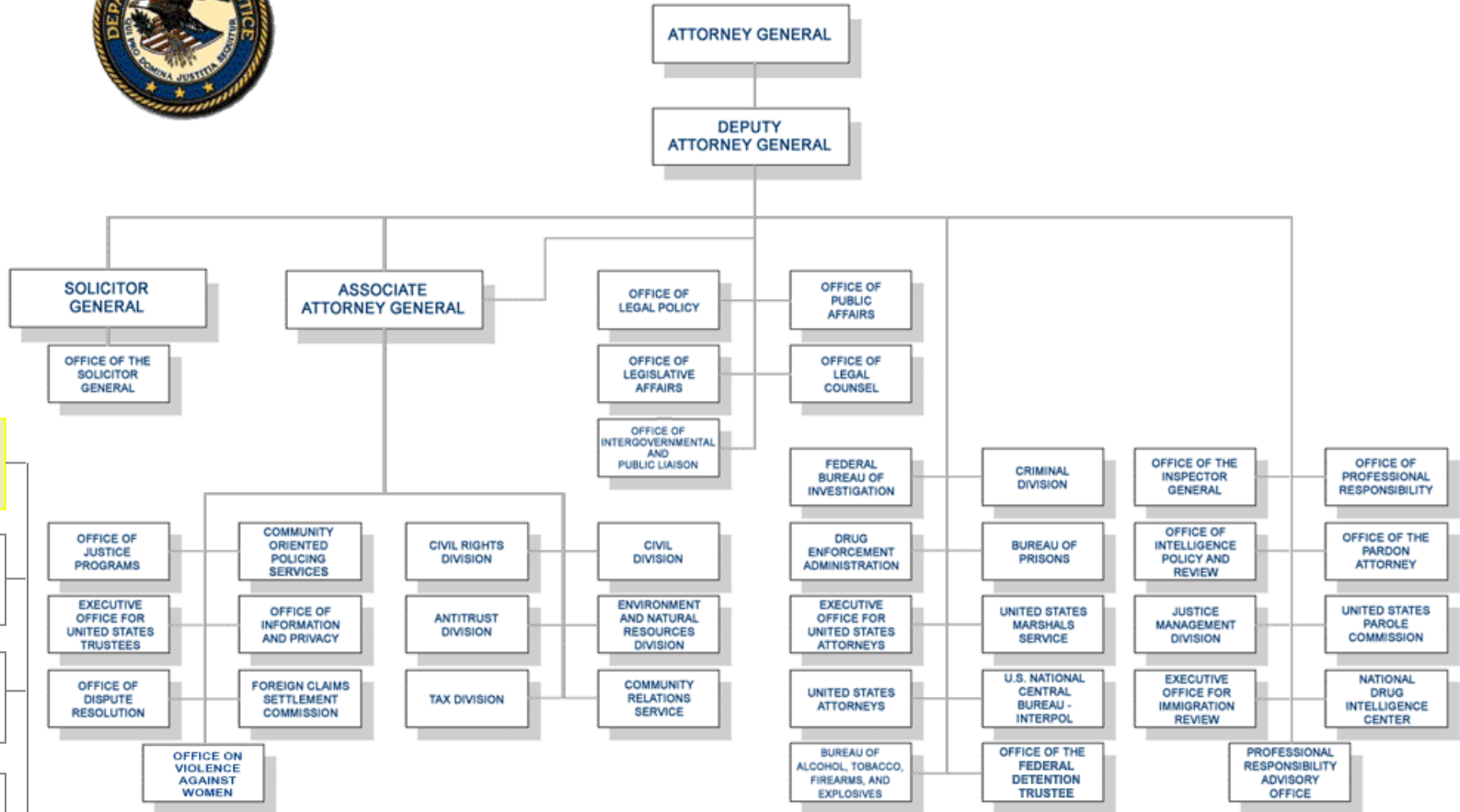


Who we are

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



- National Institute of Justice
- Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Office for Victims of Crime
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention





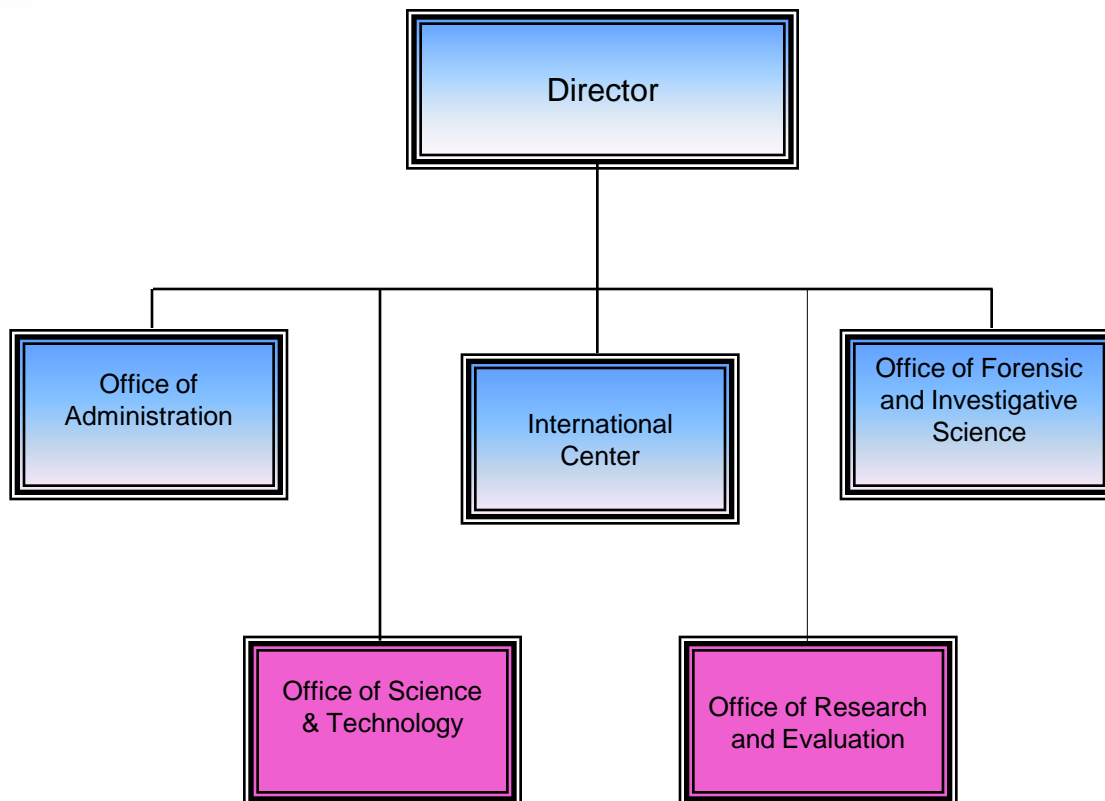
NIJ's Mission

Research, Development and Evaluation arm of U.S.
Department of Justice

- Advance scientific research, development, and evaluation in the Public Safety sector
- Committed to scientific process of open competition, peer-reviewed, published reports and archived data



NIJ Structure





What we do



OS&T ROLE AND MISSION

Provide technology assistance to Criminal Justice agencies

- Assess criminal justice technology needs
- Fund research, development, tests and evaluation
 - Leading to adoption of improved tools and technologies
- Establish and maintain voluntary performance standards
- Conduct equipment compliance testing program
- Establish and maintain a National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System
- Coordinate the Federal approach to CJ technology issues



CORE ROLE AND MISSION

Support social and behavioral science in the advancement of criminal justice practice, policy, and programs

- Assess the research needs of criminal justice practitioners and policymakers
- Engage criminal justice practitioners and policymakers in research development and dissemination through funding and leadership
- Coordinate research programs with local and federal partners
- Research and evaluate major federal criminal justice initiatives
- Conduct national evaluations of locally implemented programs



NIJ Program Customers

- Federal, state & local criminal justice practitioners
 - State and local law enforcement agencies
 - State and local corrections agencies
 - Crime laboratories
 - Courts, probation & parole
 - Public safety, community at-large
- Federal agencies involved in criminal justice and public safety
- Policymakers, researchers, the American public



Processes



THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER PROCESS

National Security Community



Local Criminal Justice Community

- Collaboration and coordination
 - Leverage other agencies' investments
 - Avoid unnecessary duplication
- Invest in the highest payoff
- Invest in the gaps
- Develop Strategic Partnerships



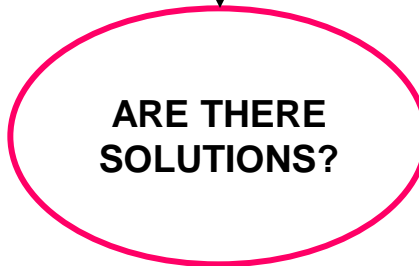


RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

**Phase I:
Determine needs**



**Phase II:
Develop program plans**



**ARE THERE
SOLUTIONS?**

YES

**Phase IIIA: Demonstrate, test, evaluate
and adopt into practice**

NO

Phase IIIB: Develop solutions



BUILD CAPACITY & CONDUCT OUTREACH



Efforts in Technology Operations Development



Purpose

Answer the “So What?” Question

Eliminate “solution in search of a problem”

Avoid reliance on anecdotal “evidence”

Test technology in an operational environment

Benefit from past experience, build “what works”
knowledge base and net-working community for the
practitioner



Collaboration

Federal Partners

- Department of Homeland Security; Department of Defense
- Bureau of Prisons; Federal Communications Commission; National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Local Partners

- Los Angeles Sheriff's Department
- Mississippi Department of Corrections

Vendors

Professional Organizations

- Sheriff's Association; Association of State Correctional Administrators; American Probation and Parole Association



Evaluation Partnerships

Los Angeles Officer Tracking Device

National
Institute of Justice

Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department

Private/Public
Partnership

Equipment Vendor



Evaluation Partnerships

Cell Phone Detect/Defeat Technologies

National
Institute of Justice
&
State Corrections

Private/Public/
Professional
Partnership

Association
of
State Correctional
Administrators

Equipment Vendor



Impact of Operational Evaluations

- Provide insight into technology transferability
- Reduce need for duplication of technology testing and evaluation across agencies
- Develop uniform standards for equipment and technology
- Allow cross-technology and cross-vendor comparisons
- Disseminate findings to a wide audience



Relevance to First Responders and Technology Developers



Criminal Justice practitioners are also first responders

- Multi-band radios (LE)
- Position Location Systems (LE/Corr)
- Cell Phone Technology (Corr)

Lessons learned can have applicability across disciplines

Knowledge gained in one field can be used in another



NIJ Contact

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij>

Nancy.merritt@usdoj.gov