

# **New Jersey State Parole Board**

## **PBIS – NCIC Supervised Release File Project**

**James T. Plousis, Chairman**

The FBI National Crime Information Center (NCIC) was established in 1967 and is a computerized index of criminal justice information that is available to Federal, State, and local law enforcement and other criminal justice agencies.

NCIC provides a computerized database for making inquiries promptly receiving information about crimes and criminals. The system assists in criminal justice and related law enforcement objectives including apprehending fugitives and the protection of law enforcement officers encountering the individuals described in the system. The NCIC database includes 21 files including the Supervised Release File (since 1999) that contains records of individuals on probation, parole, or supervised release or released on their own recognizance or during pretrial sentencing.

When an NCIC inquiry is made that matches an entry in the Supervised Release File, the system responds in real-time with the supervision status of a parolee and related details, including identifying information (aliases, gender, race, ethnicity, citizenship, hair color, eye color, scars, marks, tattoos), driver's license information, vehicle information, offense information, location of incarceration, dates of parole start and expiration, caution and medical conditions, and the supervising parole officer's email address and mobile phone number.

Additionally, NCIC automatically sends a notification in real-time to the agency that entered the record into the NCIC Supervised Release File.

The New Jersey State Police (NJSP) is the State's designated Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) agency and as such is the gateway to FBI NCIC. In December 2013, NJSP gave a presentation to the New Jersey State Parole Board (NJSPB) regarding NCIC and asked the agency to consider entering all 15,000+ parolee records from the agency's Parole Board Information System (PBIS) into the NCIC Supervised Release File. It was immediately apparent that the level of effort required to manually transcribe so many parolee records from PBIS into NCIC would not be practical to attempt even once, and manually tracking and transcribing updates every time that a parolee's information or caseload assignment changed would also be unsustainable.

Instead, NJSPB Information Technology designed an automated system to populate NCIC with all relevant parolee data from PBIS and to send updates to NCIC in real-time whenever related changes occur to a parolee's PBIS record. To fund implementation, the agency obtained \$318,000 in grants and invested an additional \$190,000 in labor, equipment, and licenses. The implementation project began on November 5, 2014 and was completed on September 17, 2015 with the system operational and fully automated.

Immediately after the launch of the system, NJSPB began receiving notifications from NCIC of parolee interactions with law enforcement. NJSPB has received notifications from States as far away as South Carolina, Texas, Wyoming, as well as the U.S. Border Patrol and the Bahamas. NJSPB also receives notifications of parolees who originated in NJ but have moved to other States under the Interstate Compact for Adult Offender Supervision (ICAOS) and are under the supervision of the respective State's parole agency.

An NCIC inquiry by Camden New Jersey Police Department during an interaction with a parolee resulted in an NCIC notification to NJSPB that ultimately led to the May 2016 arrest of this parolee for an unsolved murder.

As of October 1, 2017, NJSPB has received 249,597 automated notifications that have been automatically routed by PBIS directly to the supervising parole officer of the NJ parolee who was the subject of the NCIC inquiry. This equates to 10,255 per month, 342 per day, or 2% of all NJ supervised parolees each day. Throughout the full year of 2016, the agency received 122,390 notifications in total.

NJSPB has received three nationally recognized awards for this project:

2016 March – Public Technology Institute (PTI) Technology Solutions Award; Category: Public Safety

2016 July – GMIS International G2 Award; Category: Government-to-Government (G2G)

2016 October – Government Computer News (GCN) Discovery & Innovation in Technology (DIG) IT Award; Category: Big Data, Analytics & Visualization

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