



# Violence Reduction Network Quarterly Newsletter

Strategic Solutions • Focused Actions • Reduced Violence

- Page 1** Overview and Stats
- Page 2** Inside the Network
- Page 3** VRN Site Activities This Quarter
- Page 4** Trending Requests
- Page 5** Site Highlights: Camden
- Page 6** Site Highlights: Chicago and Detroit
- Page 7** Site Highlights: Oakland/Richmond
- Page 8** Site Highlights: Wilmington
- Page 9** Site Highlights: Compton
- Page 10** Site Highlights: Flint
- Page 11** Site Highlights: Little Rock
- Page 12** Site Highlights: Newark
- Page 13** Site Highlights: West Memphis
- Page 14** ATF NIBIN Spotlight
- Page 15** Federal Funding Spotlight
- Page 16** VRN Web Site, Webinars, Contact Us

## VRN Cumulative Statistics As of 12/31/15, VRN has provided:

Customer Satisfaction Rating*	4.2/5.0
Peer Exchanges	26
Research Partner Connections Supported	8
Resource Documents Cataloged	165+
SME Hours Provided	700+
SSL Hours Provided	3,500+
Technical Assistance/ Resource Requests	276
Training Hours Delivered	21,400+
Training Deliveries	60
Training Participants	1,900+
Webinar Deliveries	12
Webinar Participants	553
Webinar Overall Rating*	3.6/5.0
Web Site Documents Downloaded	4,354
Web Site Page Views	31,018
Weekly News Deliveries	87
Weekly News Overall Rating*	4.1/5.0

\*Feedback as of 02/10/16 from Phase 1 and 2 VRN sites.

## *VRN Progress, Expansion, and Sustainability*

The ultimate goal of the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) is to develop and deploy strategic solutions and focused activities that not only have a positive impact on the VRN sites but can be replicated throughout the country. To that end, as VRN enters its second year, we continue to assess the impact of the resources provided to the VRN sites, with an eye towards transitioning VRN-developed resources to all communities.

The Network has demonstrated unprecedented value in its first year and recognizes the importance of sustainment in both the Phase 1 (2014) sites (Camden, New Jersey; Chicago, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; Oakland/Richmond, California; and Wilmington, Delaware) as they transition out of VRN and the Phase 2 (2015) sites (Compton, California; Flint, Michigan; Little Rock, Arkansas; Newark, New Jersey; and West Memphis, Arkansas) as they begin to integrate resources and initiatives into their communities. In this edition of the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter*, we focus on new strategies introduced by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) law enforcement partners and VRN subject-matter experts (SMEs). In addition, we will highlight how state-of-the-art technologies have been shared and adapted and how departments have taken cutting-edge investigative practices from one jurisdiction and applied them to their own. We will also share how federal agents have partnered with their local counterparts and trained together, shared intelligence, and worked hand in hand to strengthen relationships with the citizens they serve.

As the Phase 1 sites enter their final year as formally designated VRN sites and begin to transition to a sustainment strategy, the collaborative relationships and enduring alliances established through the Network will serve as a strong foundation to build upon each site's violence reduction strategy.

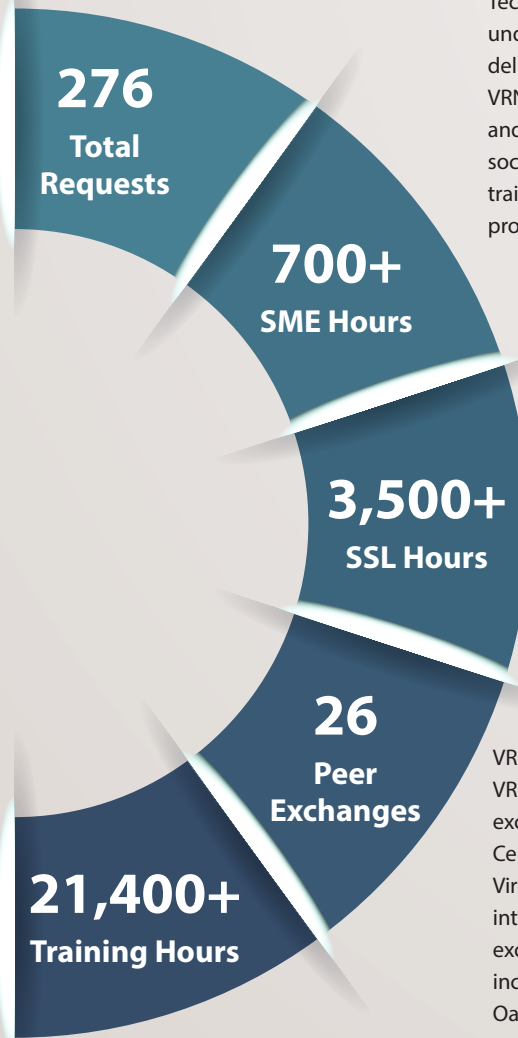
*The VRN Team*

# Inside the Network

Now that VRN has been active for 15 months and with the addition of five new sites in September 2015, this edition of the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter* highlights the remarkable level of collaboration and durable alliances that have been created since the Network's inception.

*“The department’s involvement with the Violence Reduction Network (VRN) program has also contributed to the increased homicide clearance rate. As Wilmington was among just five cities selected to participate in the elite new federal network, which provided the department with access to experienced federal government officials and resources, officers in the detective division were able to receive extensive training. Through the VRN, officers were trained on homicide protocol, how to execute effective crime-solving strategies, and case management. The Executive Officer of the Criminal Investigative Division also holds regular meetings with the Attorney General’s Office, which has facilitated a more effective process for moving homicide cases to arrests.”*

*Chief Bobby Cummings  
Press Release  
September 2, 2015*



Technical assistance from subject-matter experts is undoubtedly one of the most valuable assets that VRN delivers. The connections and expertise developed through VRN have proved successful in areas of grant strategies and development, technology assessments, crime analysis, social network analysis, domestic violence victimization training and assistance, homicide investigations, and witness protection strategies.

The VRN Strategic Site Liaisons (SSL), who have an extensive law enforcement background and collectively bring over 315 years of law enforcement and public safety experience, have contributed over 3,500 hours supporting the VRN sites through regular site calls; communications with DOJ, law enforcement, and program champions; training and technical assistance (TTA); and consultations. Their expertise and commitment to excellence directly contribute to the success of VRN.

VRN has coordinated 26 peer-to-peer exchanges among VRN sites and model jurisdictions across the country. Peer exchanges delivered include DEA’s El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC); NYPD; High Point, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; and other sites focused on homicide investigations, intelligence analysis, CompStat, and technology. Peer exchanges have also occurred within the Network—including visits to Camden, Chicago, Wilmington, and Oakland/Richmond.

VRN has provided 60 trainings to the VRN sites, representing over 21,400+ hours. Some of the trainings delivered include:

- Blue Courage
- VALOR
- T3 training
- Crime Analysis for Chief Executives
- FBI Media training
- Social Network Analysis
- FBI DIVRT
- USMS VirTra
- Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Grant Writing and Development
- Major Crime Scene Preliminary Investigation
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

# VRN Site Activities This Quarter

See the Site Highlights on pages 5–13 for more details!

- Increased collaboration
  - Technology Working Group
  - Regional Case Review
  - Hosted peer exchange for Compton
  - ATF eTrace data
- page 7

- FBI DIVRT training
  - ATF eTrace training
  - Grant TTA
  - Technology assessment
  - Evidence Storage assistance
- page 10

- FBI DIVRT training
  - Technology assessment
  - Peer exchange to Camden
  - Crime Analysis training
  - National Prosecution Summit
- page 12

- NYPD peer exchange
  - FBI DIVRT usage
- page 6

- Increased collaboration
  - MSU Embedded Analysts
  - New York DA peer exchange
  - NYPD peer exchange
- page 6



- ATF NIBIN training
  - Project LEAD support
  - FBI DIVRT training
  - Peer exchange to Oakland/Richmond
  - Technology assessment
  - Gang assessment
- page 9

- ATF NIBIN assistance
  - Grant TTA
  - FBI DIVRT training
  - VALOR training
  - New York DA Peer Exchange
- page 11

- Firearm backlog cleared
  - FBI DIVRT training
  - Tactical Crime Analysis training
  - Grant TTA
  - Criminal Intelligence Systems training
- page 13

- Homicide Investigations Enhancement
  - Crime Analysis training
  - Domestic Violence training
  - Gang Model training
- page 5

- Increased homicide clearance rate
  - Supporting Survivors of Homicide training
  - Blue Courage training
  - Crime Analysis training
- page 8

★ 2014 Sites  
★ 2015 Sites

# Trending Requests

Since the official launch of VRN in late September 2014, the VRN sites collectively have submitted nearly 300 requests for assistance. These requests vary by type—training, on-site SME technical assistance, peer exchange, policy review, academic partner support—covering a broad range of topics. There are several resources that have been commonly requested among the VRN sites—many of which have been delivered or are scheduled to be completed within the next year. Below are highlights of the trending requests of the VRN sites.

Request	Camden	Chicago	Compton	Detroit	Flint	Little Rock	Newark	Oakland/Richmond	West Memphis	Wilmington
ATF Gun Tracing Assistance (NIBIN/eTrace/Matchpoint)	√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√
Blue Courage Training	√	√		√	√		√	√	√	√
Body-Worn Camera Information or Assistance	√			√				√		√
Camden, New Jersey, Real Time Crime Center (RTTC) Visit	√			√			√		√	√
Crime Analysis Training/ Technical Assistance **	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
DEA EPIC Site Visit/Training		√	√	√				√	√	√
Domestic Violence Training/ Assistance/Peer Exchange	√			√	√	√				
FBI DIVRT Training	√	√*	√	√*	√	√	√	√*	√	√*
FBI Media Training		√						√		√
Grant Development Assistance	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Homicide Investigation Assessment/Training	√			√	√				√	√
New York District Attorney's Office Intelligence-Driven Prosecution Symposium				√		√				
New York Police Department Peer Exchange	√	√		√						√
Social Network Analysis	√			√	√			√		√
Technology Assessment	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Witness Protection/ Intimidation Assistance	√									√

\*Delivered prior to launch of VRN.

\*\*Includes Crime Analysis on Demand and Crime Analysis for Executives trainings, Crime Analysis training at Temple University, and general crime analysis technical assistance.



### Camden, New Jersey

At the VRN Summit in September 2015, Camden representatives had the opportunity to meet with homicide investigations experts—Detective John Skaggs, Homicide Investigator/Supervisor with the Los Angeles, California, Police Department, and Assistant Head Deputy District Attorney John Colello of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office—to explore approaches in managing homicide investigations and potential resources available to improve the quality of homicide investigations and prosecutions. Following the summit, Detective Skaggs and Mr. Colello visited Camden County to meet with representatives from the Camden County Police Department (CCPD) and the Camden County Prosecutor's Office (CCPO) to conduct a **homicide investigations assessment**. As a direct result of this assessment and technical assistance, Camden County has already begun enhancements to its current homicide investigations process and looks forward to implementing recommendations for continued success.

Another technical assistance effort that occurred this quarter as follow-up to the VRN Summit is **Social Network Analysis (SNA)** assistance from Dr. Andrew Fox of the University of Missouri – Kansas City. Dr. Fox worked with analysts in Camden to analyze crime data and explore the fundamentals of SNA. Next quarter, Dr. Fox will continue providing technical assistance to analysts in Camden.

### SSL—Terrance Gainer

- Over 35 years of law enforcement experience, including leadership positions in the Chicago Police Department, Illinois State Police, and Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia
- J.D. from DePaul University
- Former U.S. Senate Sergeant at Arms and Chief of U.S. Capitol Police

Camden representatives participated in several trainings this quarter, including **Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault training** from the National District Attorneys Association—provided to prosecutors, advocates, and law enforcement in Camden County and the surrounding area; crime analysis training hosted by Temple University, which provided law enforcement and crime analysts with the introductory fundamentals to crime mapping and analysis; and the **Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Comprehensive Gang Model training** in December 2015 provided by the National Gang Center (NGC). In addition, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) provided active shooter training (basic and train-the-trainer levels) to over 80 individuals in Camden.

Next quarter, Camden VRN plans to focus on the enhancement of community policing and procedural justice strategies in collaboration with the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), victim/witness assistance from the Denver District Attorney's Office, Drug Market Intervention (DMI) training, Blue Courage training, community survey assistance, and improvement to police/corrections information sharing and collaboration in Camden.



### Chicago, Illinois

Peer exchanges are some of the most valuable technical assistance resources provided to VRN sites. Opportunities for peers to share information in one-on-one or small-group environments facilitate a deeper level of knowledge that is critical to successfully enhancing or implementing strategies or programs. During peer exchanges, relationships are built and best practices are transferred that assist sites. This quarter, members of the Chicago Police Department (CPD) traveled to the [New York City Police Department](#) (NYPD) to participate in a [peer exchange](#).

During this peer exchange, CPD representatives met with NYPD staff to discuss police/prosecutor collaborative relationships, investigative stops and policy, enforcement strategies, technology, intelligence,

#### SSL—Paul F. Evans, Jr.

- Over 34 years of law enforcement experience
- Retired Boston Police Commissioner
- Expertise in innovative crime strategies and community policing
- Former Director of Crime and Drug Strategy in the Home Office of the United Kingdom

and legal matters. The team also participated in several meetings on CompStat—including pre-CompStat methods, analyst training, and methodologies used by analysts in CompStat.

Next quarter, VRN looks forward to sharing information about [prosecutorial leadership training](#) delivered to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. In addition, VRN will provide Blue Courage training to CPD in March 2016.

### Detroit, Michigan

VRN in Detroit is concentrating its efforts on crime analysis, addressing cold case homicides, improving the warrant automation process, and increasing collaboration among partners.

Federal law enforcement partners in Detroit have provided significant assistance to local violence reduction strategies. This quarter, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in Detroit trained over 200 agents on the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) technology. In addition, the FBI continues local support through [Digital Billboards](#), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Detroit worked on a [multijurisdictional drug trafficking operation](#), and the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) continues to provide [fugitive apprehension](#) operations.

Earlier this quarter, an official from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office participated in a peer exchange to the New York District Attorney's Office to attend the annual [Intelligence-Driven Prosecution Symposium](#).

The [embedded analyst program](#) developed through VRN has seen continued success during this quarter. Graduate students from Michigan State University's law enforcement intelligence and analysis master's program are embedded in the Detroit Police

#### SSL—Michael Davis

- Director of Public Safety for Northeastern University
- 22 years of law enforcement experience
- Recipient of the Gary Hayes Award from the Police Executive Research Forum
- Nationally known for innovation and effective crime reduction strategies

Department (DPD), the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office (WCPO), the Detroit Public Schools Police Department, the Michigan Department of Corrections, and a Michigan State Police unit within DPD. The analysts now provide weekly crime updates, and VRN looks forward to sharing highlights and accomplishments of this program in future editions of the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter*.

Next quarter, we will provide details and outcomes of the Detroit VRN site visits to DEA's EPIC and NYPD in January 2016. The team also plans to participate in several VRN training events, including Blue Courage, body-worn camera training and technical assistance, Crime Analysis on Demand, and police legitimacy training. The Detroit Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board plans to hold a meeting next quarter, and the Detroit VRN team is also exploring training and technical assistance options available from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC).



### Oakland/Richmond, California

The VRN partners from the Oakland/Richmond site have continued working towards regional collaboration and sharing of best practices and information through numerous joint trainings, technical assistance, and other collaborative efforts. This quarter, the Oakland Police Department (OPD) and the Richmond Police Department (RPD) hosted a peer exchange for Compton, California, a fellow VRN site. They discussed VRN experiences and procedural justice and police legitimacy training and shared their violence reduction strategies on homicide investigation strategies, gangs, guns, human trafficking, mental health, and crime analysis.

To support the concept of regional collaboration for violence reduction, all of the local law enforcement partners are participating in two critical activities through VRN: the **Technology Working Group** and the **Regional Case Review**. In November, BJA technology experts Michael Roosa and Todd Maxwell and members of SEARCH (The National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics) visited the site and met with the working group partners to discuss regional information sharing and governance. In the coming months, SEARCH will conduct a technical inventory review and OPD will host the first Regional Case Review meeting. At the Regional Case Review meetings, the local and federal agency partners will share critical information and enhance collaboration among the neighboring jurisdictions.

### SSL—Louis F. Quijas

- Former Assistant Secretary for the DHS Office for State and Local Law Enforcement and former Assistant Director of the Office of Law Enforcement Coordination for the FBI
- Former Chief of Police for High Point, NC, PD
- Over 36 years of law enforcement experience

In addition to the collaboration activities, Oakland and Richmond continue to **strengthen relationships** with their local federal partners, including the USMS, FBI, DEA, and ATF. ATF is currently working with OPD to review ten years of gun tracing data.

In December, OPD and RPD representatives attended BJA's **VALOR Officer Safety Training** held in San Bruno, California. Participants indicated the training was exceptional and increased their knowledge on officer safety information, including de-escalation strategies, trending threats, indicators of an assault, casualty care and rescue tactics, and enhancing officer resiliency. Yale University's Dr. Andrew Papachristos is continuing work with OPD on **Social Network Analysis**. In addition, RPD is working with the Office of Justice Programs Diagnostic Center on assessing **community engagement strategies**.

Oakland and Richmond leadership will be participating in the Los Angeles Police Department's **Crimefighters Conference** in the next quarter. They also plan to participate in **Blue Courage** and **Applied Evidence-Based Homicide and Violent Crime Reduction** trainings in the next few months.



### Wilmington, Delaware

A highlight from this quarter is the DOJ Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) training on **Supporting Survivors of Homicide** that the Wilmington Police Department (WPD) hosted for nearly 70 law enforcement officers, victim advocates, and community partners from around the state. This two-day training focused on collaborating to provide immediate and long-term support, assistance, and advocacy services to survivors of homicide victims. Participants learned about promoting resiliency and healthy coping in survivors, techniques to provide sensitive death notification, how to explain the rights of crime victims in Delaware, and supporting survivors in cold case investigations. This training was very well-received by the participants, who reported that the practical real-life examples on how to conduct difficult conversations and the realistic group exercises were extremely helpful.

OVC has also provided Wilmington with extensive victim services assistance through a **comprehensive needs assessment** and numerous trainings. WPD's Victim Services Coordinator worked with OVC Training and Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) representatives to identify focus areas in program development, skill building, and training. Once focus areas were identified, a customized training and technical assistance plan was developed and implemented for Wilmington. In October, Wilmington's Victim Services Coordinator, VRN SSL John Skinner, and OVC leadership participated in the **VRN Webinar "Resources for Victim Service Providers Involved in VRN"** to provide other VRN sites with information about the OVC assessment process and victim services assistance available through OVC TTAC.

Another significant accomplishment for Wilmington VRN was the completion of **Blue Courage** training

### SSL—John Skinner

- Former Deputy Police Commissioner for Baltimore PD
- Over 20 years of law enforcement experience
- Experienced in implementing innovative operational crime reduction strategies
- Led Baltimore's Community Safe Zones Project, which resulted in significant violence reduction

for the entire WPD. The impact of this training extends far beyond the classroom—instilling strategies to build trust and strengthen relationships with the community in everyday policing practices. Through this training, WPD personnel of all ranks learned approaches to increase awareness in the communities they serve and skills to de-escalate situations and focus on the overall law enforcement goal of serving the community.

This quarter, Wilmington VRN also participated in crime analysis training, grant technical assistance, and a peer exchange to Camden focused on the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC).

In February 2016, representatives from the Denver District Attorney's Office will work with Wilmington on witness protection strategies.

Wilmington PD is planning ahead for a busy spring, including participation in DMI training in Camden County, VALOR training, continuing GunStat, implementing grant strategies, and improving homicide investigations.



*OVC training participants work on a group exercise focusing on interacting with survivors of homicide.*





### Compton, California

To inaugurate the VRN program in Compton, California, in October, U.S. Attorney Eileen Decker and Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell held a **press conference** announcing VRN. In just three short months, VRN in Compton has hit the ground running, through enhanced relationships with local federal law enforcement, several strategic assessments, a peer exchange to another VRN site, and other trainings and technical assistance.

In October, ATF delivered **NIBIN and ShotSpotter training** in an effort to improve firearm evidence and NIBIN processing. As a result of VRN, ATF is setting up a **gun crime intelligence center** for Compton.

Compton is revising tracing policies and procedures to ensure casings are collected and processed effectively and efficiently. In addition, Compton is also exploring **GunShot** detection systems.

As a result of VRN, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office is working with the Board of Education to support **Project Lead**—a 20-week program focusing on the consequences (legal and social) of juvenile crimes and educating students on techniques for resolving conflict and resisting peer pressure. The District Attorney's Office will embed several Compton assistant district attorneys in elementary schools to support this initiative.

### SSL—William Lansdowne

- Retired Chief of Police for San Diego PD
- Over 40 years of law enforcement experience
- Nationally recognized leader in community policing, violence reduction, and community oversight

In November, BJA's Michael Roosa conducted a **technology assessment** of the Los Angeles County, California, Sheriff's Department, Compton Station, and plans to deliver a report of the findings with

recommendations in early 2016. A Compton law enforcement leader participated in a **peer exchange** with the Oakland/Richmond, California, VRN site—visiting OPD and RPD to discuss VRN experiences, procedural justice and police legitimacy training, and violence reduction strategies related to human trafficking, crime analysis, gangs, guns, and mental health. Other VRN assistance delivered

to Compton this quarter included **community survey assistance**, **FBI Digital Imaging Video Response Team (DIVRT) training** and equipment as well as FBI local operational support, **USMS task force assistance**, and Comprehensive Gang Assessment planning with the National Gang Center and Dr. Katz of Arizona State University. Next quarter, Compton VRN is looking forward to a peer exchange to DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center (EPIC), FBI Cellular Analysis Survey Team (CAST) training, grant strategy assistance, human trafficking assistance, and much more!



U.S. Attorney Eileen Decker and Los Angeles County Sheriff Jim McDonnell hold a press conference announcing VRN in Compton.

Source: Twitter, @CDCANews, October 19, 2015

### Flint, Michigan

One of the first resources delivered to Flint was a **technology review** conducted by BJA's Michael Roosa. Mr. Roosa visited Flint and assessed the police department's current technological capabilities and provided a report with findings and recommendations in November. Another significant and beneficial resource delivered to Flint this quarter was ATF's **eTrace training** and technical assistance. ATF assisted Flint with **firearms backlog clearance** within the police department—clearing nearly 800 firearms—a noteworthy accomplishment. Following the training in October, the Flint Police Department (FPD) instituted policy changes related to firearm DNA tracing and NIBIN submissions.

This past November, VRN provided **grant strategies and development** consultation by Ms. Joan Brody. In December, FPD participated in **FBI DIVRT** training with other VRN sites in Philadelphia and has since successfully utilized DIVRT technology and skills to produce crime commercials that have been shared via traditional and social media with the public. These videos have resulted in thousands of views, shares, and likes, which spreads awareness and ultimately leads to tips from the public. Thus far, tips have led to the identification and arrest of suspects in three cases.

FPD identified a need for assistance related to **evidence storage**, and VRN is exploring options to deliver this request through BJA's National Training and Technical Assistance Center.

### SSL—Jane Castor

- Retired Chief of Police for Tampa, Florida, PD
- Over 27 years of law enforcement experience
- Expertise in community policing, commanding national and international large-scale events, and creating innovative officer training programs
- Member of Harvard University's Executive Session on Policing and Public Safety

In the coming months, Flint VRN will examine opportunities for domestic violence technical assistance, support in expanding analytic capacity within FPD, Blue Courage training, procedural justice training, homicide investigations assistance, COPS Office Applied Evidence-Based Homicide and Violence Reduction training, OVC's Enhancing Law Enforcement's Response to Victims (ELERV) Initiative, and Foundations for Intelligence Analysis Training.



Flint Police Department Facebook page DIVRT crime video posted December 22, 2015.





### Little Rock, Arkansas

The Little Rock VRN site is committed to the important work of building relationships and **increasing collaboration** among its local and federal partners. As a result of VRN, the local United States Attorney's Office, DEA, ATF, USMS, and the United States Secret Service representatives now participate in the Little Rock Police Department (LRPD) weekly CompStat meetings. Along with this expansion of federal law enforcement participation, LRPD Chief Kenton Buckner initiated changes to the CompStat procedures—resulting in broader attendance and reach within the CompStat process.

Following the VRN Summit, LRPD reactivated the use of **ATF NIBIN technology**. ATF has provided extensive support to LRPD to clear the NIBIN backlog this quarter. The FBI provided Little Rock with **DIVRT training** in December. The attendees learned how to better employ traditional and social media to involve the community in assisting with solving violent crimes through crime videos.

A Deputy Prosecutor from the Pulaski County Prosecutor's Office participated in a peer exchange this quarter to the New York District Attorney's Office to attend the **Intelligence-Driven Prosecution Symposium**. The symposium offered the opportunity for district attorneys across the United States to share best practices, insights, and resources with one another.

### SSL—Theron Bowman

- Retired Chief of Police for Arlington, Texas, PD
- Over 30 years of law enforcement experience
- Expertise in procedural justice and leading regional public safety efforts for large-scale events
- Ph.D. in urban and public administration

In addition, LRPD officers participated in training through the **National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (NDVFRI)**. The goal of this initiative is to provide technical assistance for reviewing domestic violence deaths in order to prevent further violence, to provide safety for battered women, and to hold agencies and organizations accountable to help victims. After this training, LRPD assigned an officer to specifically focus on domestic violence cases. Following the VRN Webinar on Resources for Victim Service Providers Involved in VRN, an LRPD Victim Services Coordinator is working with the OVC to explore customized training options for the department.

The Little Rock team is looking forward to a number of training and technical assistance events in 2016, including Crime Analysis Training for Executives, assistance from ATF in gun tracing, procedural justice training, domestic violence training, and more.

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*“Intelligence prosecution can be an effective tool Little Rock can utilize to reduce violence in our jurisdiction. By coordinating efforts between our office, law enforcement, and key stakeholders, we can cooperate and share information that will subsequently benefit our community and keep violent offenders off the streets.”*

*—Melanie Martin, Pulaski County Prosecutor's Office*

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### Newark, New Jersey

Following the official launch of the VRN Phase 2 sites at the fall summit, the Newark VRN partners began developing a strategic plan for TTA and resource deliveries in the next year. In addition to the Newark Police Department (NPD), the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, the New Jersey Transit Police, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and ATF, DEA, FBI, and USMS local districts are vital VRN partners for Newark. This past quarter, Newark VRN has participated in several trainings, peer exchanges, and technical assistance, with additional deliveries in progress for 2016.

In October, several individuals from NPD participated in a **crime analysis** training hosted by the Center for Security and Crime Science at Temple University. This training provided an introduction to the fundamentals of crime mapping and analysis for police and crime analysis professionals.

In November, the Essex County Prosecutor's Office sent a representative to the BJA and Association of Prosecuting Attorneys **National Prosecution Summit** held in Washington, DC.

Technical assistance has also been delivered to Newark this quarter, including **grant strategies and development** consultation from Ms. Joan Brody and a technology assessment conducted by BJA Senior Policy Advisor Michael Roosa.

Newark received training from the **FBI DIVRT** program to aid in recovering and exploiting video evidence through traditional and social media. As a result of this training, NPD has posted multiple crime videos to its Facebook page and one of the videos resulted in the identification of a suspect within an hour of posting.

### SSL—Larry Loesch

- Retired Deputy Chief with the New York City PD
- Over 30 years of law enforcement experience
- J.D. from Saint John's University School of Law
- Experience in corporate security and handling legal and policy issues

Newark participated in a **peer exchange** to the neighboring VRN site in Camden, New Jersey, to discuss ATF NIBIN capabilities, Camden's C4 strategy, and Camden's Real Time Crime Center. This peer exchange also provided an opportunity for leadership in both VRN sites to discuss lessons learned in VRN.

Next quarter, Newark VRN is looking forward to a VRN team site visit along with DMI, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, Crime Analysis for Executives, Blue Courage, and Milwaukee Homicide Review trainings and other technical assistance.



*FBI DIVRT training delivered to Phase 2 VRN sites in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania – November 2015.*



### West Memphis, Arkansas

The West Memphis VRN site launched this quarter with invaluable assistance from ATF. The ATF National Training Center worked with West Memphis Police Department (WMPD) officials to clear a firearm backlog associated with criminal investigations—a positive indicator of the commitment of our federal law enforcement partners to VRN and an immense accomplishment for the city of West Memphis.

WMPD participated in FBI DIVRT training this quarter to examine a new strategy to disseminate crime information to the public. WMPD has since used DIVRT to post several crime commercials on YouTube and share via social media—resulting in hundreds of likes and shares. WMPD officials reported that public citizens have provided numerous tips after every video was posted. Tips received from the public have led to the identification and apprehension of an armed robbery suspect. Chief Donald Oakes told *The Evening Times*, “Often, the police cannot solve these crimes alone; it requires help from the community. And the more information we are able to give to the community, the better chance we have of getting that help.”

WMPD also took advantage of training resources this quarter by participating in **Tactical Crime Analysis training**, which was hosted by the International Association of Crime Analysts (IACA). This five-day training focused on analytical techniques used in crime patterns and series.

### SSL—Larry Larrimore

- Retired Chief of Police for Shawnee, Kansas, PD
- Over 25 years of law enforcement experience
- Background in the traditional policing functions of road patrol, investigations, support services, emergency management, and tactical operations
- Advocate for information-led and targeted policing philosophies

In December, West Memphis participated in a consultation with Ms. Joan Brody regarding **grant strategies and development**. They will also work with local professionals to build strength in this area.

In the coming months, West Memphis will participate in DMI training and visit the Camden County Police Department for a peer exchange and members of the police department will attend the Los Angeles Police Department’s Crimefighters Conference. This site is also scheduled for a technology assessment by BJA and for Blue Courage training in the coming quarter.



West Memphis Police Department Facebook page DIVRT crime video posted December 4, 2015.





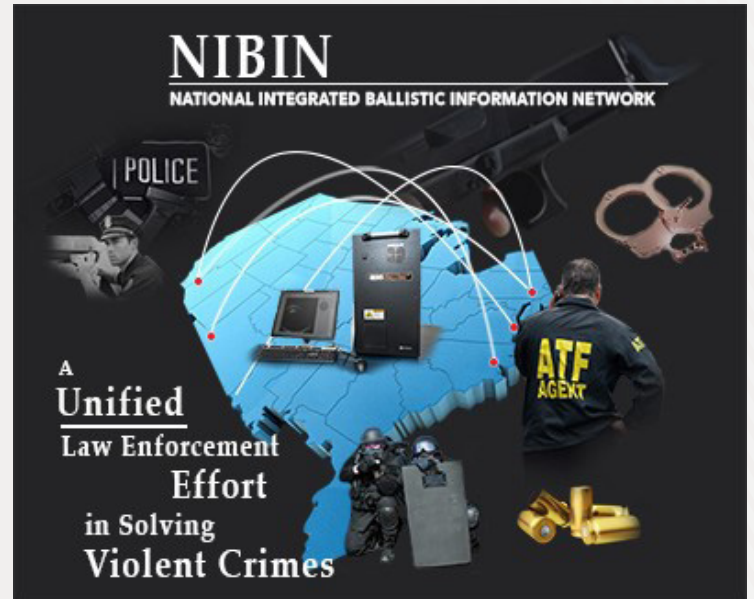
# ATF NIBIN Spotlight

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has been an essential federal law enforcement partner. One of the many invaluable ATF capabilities offered and made available to VRN is the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN).

ATF's NIBIN is an automated ballistic imaging technology that is used as an investigative tool for law enforcement to share intelligence and identify links between firearm evidence—with the goal of solving and preventing violent crimes. Since the establishment of NIBIN in 1999, law enforcement can enter gun cartridge evidence information and images into the NIBIN system to be searched and correlated with other records in the database—resulting in nationwide information sharing on ballistics to provide actionable leads for investigators. Timeliness is a crucial factor for law enforcement when investigating and preventing violent crimes. Through access to NIBIN, law enforcement officers have the opportunity to enter information and receive results within hours, compared to days or months when using other methods.

As a direct result of VRN and the partnerships within the Network, a NIBIN machine was installed in the **Camden** County Police Department (CCPD) in March 2015. ATF personnel trained CCPD representatives and provided assistance to implement NIBIN in Camden. Since the implementation of NIBIN in Camden, nearly 200 entries have been made, resulting in over 75 leads. Through NIBIN, Camden County has also initiated ATF's eTrace, an online firearms tracing and analysis technology.

In **Chicago**, ATF representatives met with Chicago Police Department (CPD) leadership to discuss potential NIBIN and eTrace assistance. CPD began the eTrace process with ATF last quarter. As mentioned in the Compton Site Highlights section,



Source: [www.ATF.gov](http://www.ATF.gov)

ATF provided NIBIN and ShotSpotter training to the **Compton** VRN site this quarter. The local ATF Crime Lab has established a section for Compton evidence, and ATF is working with Compton to improve NIBIN information sharing practices.

For the VRN sites in Arkansas (**Little Rock** and **West Memphis**), ATF is scheduled to provide assistance regarding firearms tracing, eTrace, the exploitation of trace data to identify crime gun sources, and the integration of training data with NIBIN in criminal investigations. ATF's National Tracing Center plans to assist LRPD with its firearms tracing backlog.

The **Flint** Police Department also identified the need for assistance in clearing a firearms backlog. ATF provided the support and resources needed to eliminate this backlog in August 2015.

ATF is a tremendous asset and partner within the Network, and VRN is appreciative of the continued commitment and support to the VRN sites and jurisdictions across the country.



# Federal Funding Spotlight

The U.S. Department of Justice, through various program offices, awarded Phase 1 VRN sites with the following competitive grants in Fiscal Year 2015.

VRN Site	Program Office	Solicitation
Camden	COPS	<b>COPS Hiring Program</b>
	OJJDP	Youth Violence Prevention Expansion and Enhancement Project
Chicago	BJA	Adult Drug Court Discretionary Grant Program Enhancement
	BJA	<b>Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program</b>
	BJA	Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking: Enhancement of Established Human Trafficking Task Forces
	BJA	SMART Policing Initiative: Policing Innovation
	COPS	<b>COPS Hiring Program</b>
	NIJ	Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program
	OVC	Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking
	OVW	<b>Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program</b>
Detroit	BJA	<b>Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program</b>
	BJA	National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)
	BJA	Technology Innovation for Public Safety
	COPS	<b>COPS Hiring Program</b>
	OVC	Enhanced Collaborative Model to Combat Human Trafficking
	OVW	<b>Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program</b>
Oakland/ Richmond	BJA	SMART Defense Initiative: Improving Public Defense Delivery Systems
	COPS	<b>COPS Hiring Program</b>
	NIJ	DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program
	OJJDP	Youth Violence Prevention Expansion and Enhancement Project
	BJA	<b>Body-Worn Camera Policy and Implementation Program</b>
	OVC	Comprehensive Services for Victims of All Forms of Human Trafficking
Wilmington	OVW	<b>Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program</b>
	BJA	National Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI)
	BJA	Violent Gang and Gun Crime Reduction Program (Project Safe Neighborhoods)
	NIJ	Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program
	OJJDP	SMART on Juvenile Justice: Enhancing Youth Access to Justice Initiative

## Body-Worn Camera

\$2,150,000 awarded to Phase 1 VRN sites

## COPS Hiring Program

\$9,902,427 awarded to Phase 1 VRN sites

## Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders Program

\$2,520,000 awarded to Phase 1 VRN sites

VRN offers grant strategy and development training and technical assistance to all VRN sites. Contact your VRN Strategic Site Liaison or VRN Program Office Champion for more information about grant opportunities.

## VRN Web Site

The VRN Web site provides:

- ★ An extensive Resource Library of violence reduction-related materials.
- ★ Items of Interest, including research briefs, previous editions of the *VRN Weekly News* and the *VRN Quarterly Newsletter*, and more.
- ★ Secure access to VRN site technical assistance and resource delivery tracking, site team calendars, contact information, and more.

## VRN Webinars

In addition to training, technical assistance, peer exchanges, and other DOJ resources, VRN strives to provide alternative networking and training mediums through online Webinars as an interactive way for executives from the VRN sites to highlight local efforts and complement the speaker presentations. VRN has delivered 12 Webinars to the Network on the following topics:

- ★ Top Offender Lists
- ★ VALOR Executive Briefing
- ★ Innovative Strategies to Address Youth Violence
- ★ Community Engagement in High-Violence Neighborhoods
- ★ Strategies to Address Witness Intimidation
- ★ VRN Virtual Forum
- ★ Strategies to Improve Homicide Investigations and Increase Clearance Rates
- ★ Utilizing Social Network Analysis to Reduce Violent Crime
- ★ The New Era in Community Policing
- ★ Resources for Victim Service Providers Involved in VRN
- ★ Social Media Analysis
- ★ Prosecution Strategies for Violence Reduction
- ★ Coming Soon: VRN Podcasts!

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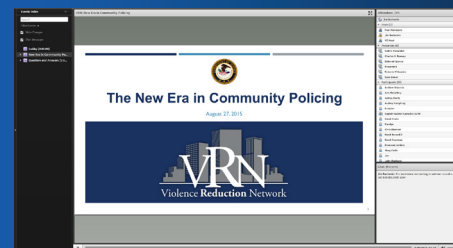
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To access these and other resources, visit [VRNetwork.org](http://VRNetwork.org)



To access all of the VRN Webinars, visit the VRN Web site at

<https://vrnetwork.org/Home/ItemsOfInterest/VRNWebinars>



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