

RELATED TERMS

- Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Department of Homeland Security



Lessons Learned Information Sharing

www.LLIS.gov

PRIMARY DISCIPLINES

- Law Enforcement
- Search and Rescue

PRACTICE NOTE

Facial Recognition Tools: Arizona Counter-Terrorism Information Center's Facial Recognition Database

PRACTICE

The Arizona Counter-Terrorism Information Center (ACTIC) has partnered with the Maricopa County Sheriff Office's Facial Recognition Unit to build a facial recognition database. The database allows ACTIC personnel to match images of unknown suspects with a constantly updated catalog of over 10 million photographs.

DESCRIPTION

The ACTIC has partnered with the Maricopa County Sheriff Office's Facial Recognition Unit to compile a database of more than 10 million photographs. As of June 2007, the database consists of 7.5 million Arizona driver's license photos and 2.7 million Arizona county and city jail booking photographs. Each new driver's license issued in Arizona is added to the database. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the US Marshals Service, and several other federal agencies contributed photographs from the various criminal most wanted lists that they maintain.

The database is built with facial recognition technology that can match different pictures of the same person in a matter of seconds. ACTIC personnel use the database to identify unknown suspects from photographs, surveillance stills and videos, suspect sketches, and even forensic clay busts. The unit's technology allows ACTIC personnel to set search parameters for how exact they wish the photographic match to be. For example, a search for all photographs in the database that match 70 percent of the characteristics of an unknown suspect's image will yield more potential matches than a search for all photographs that match 90 percent of the characteristics of an unknown suspect's image. If a match is found in the ACTIC Facial Recognition Unit, authorities can see the suspect's real identity and any other aliases used.

The ACTIC uses the facial recognition technology primarily to identify suspects in criminal and intelligence gathering matters. The technology also would permit identification of victims recovered without any identification. Authorities can send a photograph to the ACTIC to see if it yields any matches.

CITATIONS

Arizona Counter Terrorism Center. *Fusion Center Case Study*. Jan 2007.

Arizona Counter Terrorism Center. *The National Facial Recognition Network Briefing Paper*. Jan. 2007.

Churay, Ray. Chairman, Arizona Counter Terrorism Intelligence Center Executive Board. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 21 Jun 2007.

Salyers, Rick. Captain, Director, Terrorism Liaison Officer Program, Arizona Counter Terrorism Intelligence Center. Interview with *Lessons Learned Information Sharing*, 04 Jun 2007.

DISCLAIMER

Lessons Learned Information Sharing (LLIS.gov) is the US Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency's national online network of lessons learned, best practices, and innovative ideas for the emergency response and homeland security communities. The Web site and its contents are provided for informational purposes only, without warranty or guarantee of any kind, and do not represent the official positions of the US Department of Homeland Security. For more information on *LLIS.gov*, please email Feedback@llis.dhs.gov or visit www.llis.gov.