



News from the Savannah River National Laboratory

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DHS Grants Fund Information Sharing Network in Georgia and South Carolina

AIKEN, S.C. – When two California men recently pulled off a series of robberies in the San Fernando Valley, detectives used new technology to tap into the databases of several police departments, and came up with the clues they needed to make the arrests.

A group of seven law enforcement agencies from Aiken, Burke, Columbia, Edgefield and Richmond counties today announces the formation of a similar information-sharing network, **CSRA IntelliNET**.

Funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the network will employ **COPLINK**, an approximately \$1.4 million database linking the Aiken County Sheriff's Office, Aiken Department of Public Safety, Burke County Sheriff's Office, Columbia County Sheriff's Office, Edgefield County Sheriff's Office, North Augusta Department of Public Safety and Richmond County Sheriff's Office.

After reviewing several commercially available products, the consortium in 2006 visited Alaska, where COPLINK is in use statewide. The member agencies then voted to jointly apply for funding through the DHS Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP). Savannah River National Laboratory assisted in preparing the respective proposals.

In March, DHS awarded the direct assistance grants as part of the fiscal year 2006 CEDAP. The program is an important component of the federal government's larger, coordinated effort to strengthen the nation's overall level of preparedness. CEDAP transfers specialized commercial equipment, such as COPLINK, training and technical assistance directly to smaller jurisdictions and eligible metropolitan areas.

"I applaud the consortium for being awarded these CEDAP direct assistance grants which will fund an approximately \$1.4 million COPLINK database to provide a better means for crime fighting here in our smaller communities by gathering criminal information at a greater velocity," said Congressman Gresham Barrett. "A proven tool for investigating criminals, this COPLINK program will enable these South Carolina and Georgia crime units to pinpoint criminal behavior and suspects through comparative data, which in the past, may have been unrecognizable or overlooked."



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COPLINK enables deputies, officers and investigators to organize and analyze vast amounts of information, allowing them to quickly identify subjects, relationships and patterns in order to solve crimes and thwart terrorism.

“Helping to build collaboration to acquire and deploy new technologies for the public good is part of our role as a national laboratory. SRNL is proud of our association with our region’s outstanding law enforcement agencies. We’re especially proud that we could assist them to obtain the funding that is going to make this network available to assist the fine men and women of these agencies as they do their jobs,” said Dr. Todd Wright, Savannah River National Laboratory Director.



Congressman John Barrow of Georgia (center) participated in the news conference announcing the formation of CSRA IntelliNET, along with SRNL Laboratory Director Dr. Todd Wright (right) and the heads of the seven participating law enforcement agencies.

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