

# TechBeat

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by JTIC

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## About TechBeat



TechBeat is the monthly newsmagazine of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System. Our goal is to keep you up to date on technologies for the public safety community and research efforts in government and private industry.

### **Subscriptions:**

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### **The NLECTC System**

The Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC), a component of the National Institute of Justice's National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, serves as an information resource for technology and equipment related to law enforcement, corrections and courts and as a primary point of contact for administration of a voluntary equipment standards and testing program for public safety equipment.



JTIC is part of the NLECTC System, which includes the Justice Innovation Center for Small, Rural, Tribal, and Border Criminal Justice Agencies, which focuses on the unique law enforcement challenges faced by those types of agencies; the National Criminal Justice Technology Research, Test and Evaluation Center, which provides technology-related research and testing and operational evaluations of technologies; and the Forensic Technology Center of Excellence, which supports technology research, development, testing and evaluation efforts in forensic science. In addition, a Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative exists to assess and prioritize technology needs across the criminal justice community.



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The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance; the Bureau of Justice Statistics; the Office for



Victims of Crime; the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention; and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking.

### **[WWW.JUSTNET.ORG](http://WWW.JUSTNET.ORG)**

**JUSTNET News.** Includes article abstracts on law enforcement, corrections and forensics technologies that have appeared in major newspapers, magazines and periodicals and on national and international wire services and websites.

**Testing Results.** Up-to-date listing of public safety equipment evaluated through NIJ's testing program. Includes ballistic- and stab-resistant armor, patrol vehicles and tires, and more.

**Calendar of Events.** Lists upcoming meetings, seminars and training.

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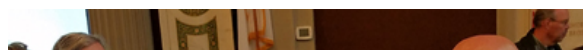
# Law Enforcement, Houses of Worship Come Together to Use SHOW App for Safety and Security Planning

## Law Enforcement, Houses of Worship Come Together to Use SHOW App for Safety and Security Planning

A man fleeing an armed bail bondsman, running into the midst of a worship service. Individuals passed out on church grounds, apparently from opioid overdose. A playground portable toilet catching fire, a supposed act of arson.

Headlines about houses of worship (HOW) from around the country? No, all of those incidents happened at HOW in or near the city of Frederick, Md., where some 70 representatives of local faith communities gathered on a quiet fall morning in 2017 to learn about the Safeguarding Houses of Worship (SHOW) app developed by the Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC). JTIC is a component of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center System (NLECTC), a program of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

SHOW, released in October 2016, helps houses



of worship develop a safety and security plan tailored to their specific needs. Produced with NIJ funding, SHOW is available only to law enforcement agencies, which in turn share download codes with HOW in their jurisdiction.



Agencies that have become involved in spreading the word about SHOW have found training sessions like the one in Frederick to be an extremely effective way of sharing the information. When the overview presentation ended, nearly everyone in the room clustered around Frederick County Deputy Sheriff Hal Jones to view an up-close demonstration of the app's capabilities and get a download code.

“The SHOW app provides something for us to give to the faith-based community to work with in preparing themselves,” says Lt. Mark Landahl, Homeland Security Commander for the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office. “Too often, other processes are law enforcement-centric and do not result in a shared product. With SHOW, the shared nature of the process and the intuitive design of the app allow the faith-based community to work through the processes themselves with law enforcement and other emergency services providers as support resources. It provides ownership and support to organizations seeking to prepare themselves for emergencies ranging from routine medical events to serious active threats.”

Although SHOW provides guidance in planning for active threats, it doesn’t stop there, assisting houses of worship in planning for weather events and what Landahl termed “traditional emergencies,” such as missing children and medical incidents. The app encourages HOW to take inventory of the resources available in the faith-based community; plan what to do before, during and after an event; and to hold drills to practice their plans.

“Houses of worship face a challenge in that they have a mission to be open and welcoming, but they have to balance this with a need for safety and security,” Landahl says. He also encouraged attendees to be aware of other resources such as CPR and first aid training, overdose response training, and training for the general public on dealing with an active threat, which may be available online or through a local law enforcement agency.

Pastor Barbara Kershner Daniel, senior pastor of Frederick United Evangelical Reformed Church of Christ, which hosted the event, says that she thought her congregation was well



prepared, but after seeing the presentation, she realized her congregation of 400 still has some planning to do.

“We do have a plan for health emergencies and one for missing children, but we need to do much more,” she says. “We need to be thoughtful and intentional about our planning and also informing the congregation of our plans in case of an emergency. At the presentation, we also realized being prepared doesn’t mean we have to give up on our faith values and our outreach to the community.”

Jamea Gouker, administrator at MorningStar Family Church in Thurmont, was among the attendees at the event who later expressed interest in using the SHOW app.



“I’ve been telling our pastor we need to be aware and we need to think about situational awareness,” says Gouker, formerly a member of the Army’s Special Forces Command. “I’ve taken several online workshops and trainings, because of all the events happening in churches that you hear about on the news. It’s unfortunate, but in this day and age, you always need to be prepared, and the app will be a good way to tie all the pieces I’ve already created together.”

Although all of the HOW representatives in attendance, like Kershner Daniel and Gouker, were enough aware of the need to attend the event, not one had actually begun to develop a plan. Now, with assistance from SHOW and the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office, most are

already well on their way.

For more information on the Safeguarding Houses of Worship app and how law enforcement agencies can become involved in working with HOW in their jurisdictions to promote safety and security planning, visit JUSTNET, the website of the NLECTC System, at [https://www.justnet.org/resources/Houses\\_of\\_Worship.html](https://www.justnet.org/resources/Houses_of_Worship.html).

*Article photo: Capture Photos*

*Main photo: Henryk Sadura/Shutterstock, Lipsett Photography Group/ Shutterstock, Vladimir Korostyshevskiy/Shutterstock, Fat Jackey/Shutterstock*





## New Guide Offers Assessment Guidance to Small Agencies

### New Guide Offers Assessment Guidance to Small Agencies

Crime prevention. Training. Strategic planning. Community service. Often, especially in smaller law enforcement agencies, the department is so busy performing these tasks there isn't time to stop and assess how well it's doing them.

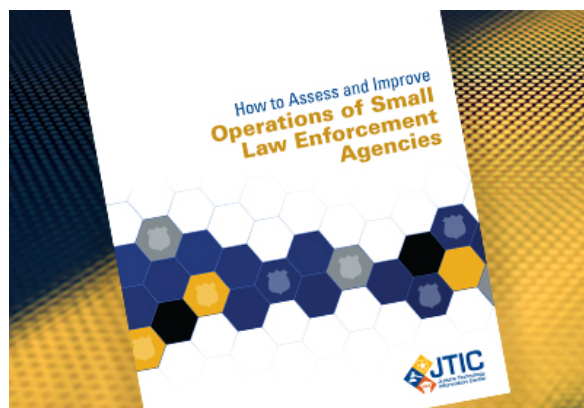
A new publication available through the Justice Technology Information Center (JTIC), *How to Assess and Improve Operations of Small Law Enforcement Agencies*, offers guidance on how to break down and manage that evaluation process. JTIC is a component of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System, a program of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

Written by Paul Schultz, who has more than 44 years of law enforcement experience (22 as a chief), the guide outlines the overall evaluation process and offers helpful "Management Tips," such as, "It is a very effective idea to review at staff meetings events involving other agencies that result in either liability exposure, lawsuits or settlements" and "When comparing management failures, always try to compare your agency with an agency of the

same approximate size.”

The 25-page volume offers guidance to chiefs and administrators on both assessing the agency as a whole and in specific areas to include day-to-day operations, community policing, crime prevention and crime analysis, training, strategic planning and feedback.

Schultz originally presented this material at the 2016 International Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference, and expanded the material into the guidebook at the request of NIJ, which funded the project. (Opinions expressed in the guide are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice, of which NIJ is a part.)



“The guide provides a framework of the areas that an agency needs to review and the indicators to look for that might point out a problem. It also offers practical tips on how to improve each functional area,” Schultz says.

“Leading small law enforcement agencies is challenging, and finding the time and resources needed to assess and improve operations can be difficult, but small agencies in particular need to look for ways to maximize resources and improve efficiency,” Schultz says. “This guide is intended to provide a roadmap that will help.”

Download *How to Assess and Improve Operations of Small Law Enforcement Agencies* from JUSTNET, the website of the NLECTC System, at <https://justnet.org/pdf/How-to-Assess-and-Improve-Operations-of-Small-Law-Enforcement-Agencies.pdf>.

*Article photo: JTIC*

*Main photo: RyanJLane/iStock*



## **New Facility Adds to University's Research Capability on Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

### **New Facility Adds to University's Research Capability on Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

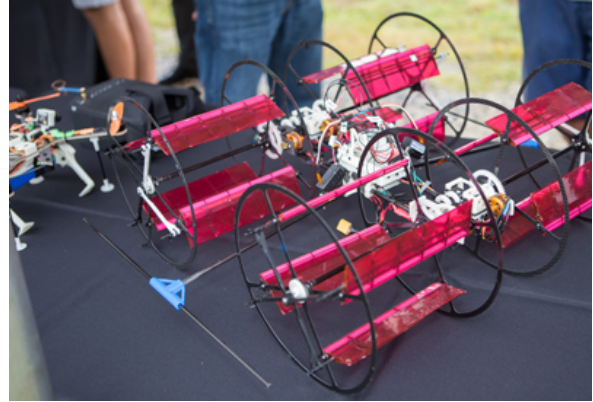
The University of Maryland has added an outdoor, netted facility near its main campus in College Park for researching and testing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS).

The 100-foot wide, 300-foot long, 50-foot high Fearless Flight Facility (F<sup>3</sup>) opened in the fall and is enclosed by durable black netting of the same type of material used on golf driving ranges, which enables the flying of UAS within restricted airspace, according to Don Woodbury, director of innovation partnerships at the university.

The airspace around Washington, D.C., is more restricted than in any other part of the country. The university's A. James Clark School of Engineering is within the flight restriction zone, but because of the netting, the F<sup>3</sup> is considered indoors, and the restrictions do not apply. The university talked to the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure there would not be issues with flying UAS in the netted area.

“The goal of the netted area is to enable researchers and students to fly outdoors in the restricted airspace area for the Washington area. We also wanted to be able to fly safely because when people are experimenting they sometimes might lose control of the aircraft,” Woodbury says.

Prior to F<sup>3</sup>, UAS research was limited to indoor labs on campus, and for outdoor testing, to the university’s UAS Test Site in California, Md., about 70 miles from College Park or at other outdoor sites outside of the restricted flight area. F<sup>3</sup> allows researchers and students to conduct experiments in close proximity to campus in a real-world environment exposed to wind and other weather conditions, without having to travel.



“We wanted to add to capabilities on campus for unmanned aircraft systems. We can fly indoors and have a wind tunnel to test UAS, and now we have this outdoor area adjacent to campus. It allows ready access to fly, convenient to students, faculty and researchers who can walk out of their labs and fly instead of figuring out where to go off campus outside of the restricted flight area,” Woodbury says.

F<sup>3</sup> was built for less than \$300,000 using university funds. The facility will be used by researchers and by students enrolled in courses about unmanned aircraft and by UAS-related clubs on campus for racing and other activities. The university also is planning on offering an engineering camp for high school students to learn how to build an unmanned aircraft from a kit and how to fly it.

“We have a broad set of objectives focused on research, education and recreation,” Woodbury says. Ongoing research projects at the university include an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) designed to track and take down an adversary UAV.

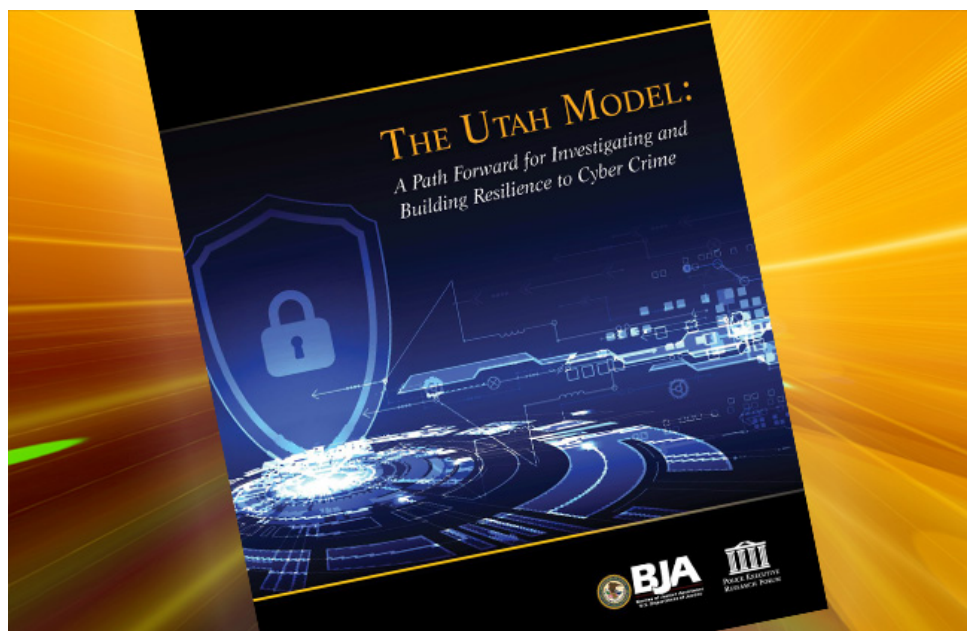
“We have a UAV designed to track an adversary UAV — track, hone in on it, and launch a net to drag it to the ground,” Woodbury says. “Other people are doing similar research, but Maryland is using a biomimetic approach, which is different, designing the device to actually track the adversary the same way as biological systems, in this case like a dragonfly tracks an adversary.”

For more information, contact Anjanette Riley, communication coordinator, University of Maryland A. James Clark School of Engineering, at [ariley12@umd.edu](mailto:ariley12@umd.edu).

*Article photo: University of Maryland*

*Main photo: University of Maryland*





# Report on Building Resistance to Cybercrime

## Report on Building Resistance to Cybercrime

*Bureau of Justice Assistance and Police Executive Research Forum*

This 2017 report highlights the promising practices of the Utah Department of Public Safety in addressing cyber crime. The department's program involves conducting cyber crime investigations, analyzing cyber intelligence, and studying the ramifications of cyber crimes on emergency management and critical infrastructure.

*The Utah Model: A Path Forward for Investigating and Building Resilience to Cyber Crime*, describes the challenges the department faced in creating its program, the promising practices that have emerged and lessons learned, so that other state and local agencies may understand the issues that are involved in building or enhancing their own cyber crime programs. The department's program involves conducting cyber crime investigations, analyzing cyber intelligence, and studying the ramifications of cyber crimes on emergency management and

critical infrastructure.

This case study also provides an overview of the key components of a cyber crime program such as leadership, resources, training and interagency coordination.

To read the report, click [here](#).

*Main photo: Bureau of Justice Assistance*





# Drug Court Online Learning System

## Drug Court Online Learning System

*Center for Court Innovation and Bureau of Justice Assistance*

With funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Center for Court Innovation developed an online platform to share resources with the justice field about treatment courts. The website, Treatment Courts Online: The National Training System for Treatment Court Practitioners, provides access to online courses related to adult drug courts, juvenile drug treatment courts, the Veterans Treatment Court model, and Healing to Wellness Courts in tribal communities.

Drug courts seek to connect offenders that have substance use addictions to drug treatment and judicial monitoring. Juvenile drug treatment courts focus on providing treatment to drug-involved juvenile offenders to reduce substance abuse and recidivism, while the Veterans Treatment Court model adds a structured component related to mandatory court appearances, attendance at treatment sessions and substance use testing. Healing to Wellness Courts adapt the drug court treatment model to the specific needs of a tribal community.

Access the website at <https://treatmentcourts.org/>.

*Main photo: Treatment Courts Online*