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Stoddard Police Department Joins the WIJIS Justice Gateway

Stoddard police officers and sheriff's deputies can now use the power of the internet to track down criminals and terror suspects after the department officially joined the Wisconsin Justice Information Sharing (WIJIS) Gateway, a statewide network that allows officers to electronically search the databases of other police departments across the state.

"In this time of budget restraints the WIJIS Justice gateway will allow smaller departments such as ours to share and benefit from the resources of other departments in a timely manner. Without the need for conventional telephone inquiries, the officer will have more time to remain on patrol within the community" said Stoddard Police Chief Jim McLain.

The Justice Gateway allows authorized users to electronically search the databases of law enforcement agencies throughout the area and state. With the addition of the Stoddard Police Department over 100 police and sheriff's departments across the state are connected or in the process of connecting with the Gateway.

"Crime and criminals don't stay within jurisdictional boundaries," said OJA Executive Director David Steingraber. "The Justice Gateway ensures that critical justice data flows across these boundaries more quickly than the criminals do."

The Justice Gateway, developed and operated by the state using federal homeland security and justice funding, is a unique tool that allows police, prosecutors, and other justice officials to securely view each other's files and records. The WIJIS Program uses national standards such as the National Information Exchange Model coupled with the most advanced internet technologies to allow those computer systems to "talk" to each other seamlessly.

Currently, the Gateway has over 1,400 authorized users who can search over 2.3 million records. By the end of 2008, nearly 5,000 users will have access to close to 5 million records from 130 police and sheriff's departments. Data from 66 District Attorneys offices will also be available in 2008. For more information on the Gateway, visit oja.wi.gov/wijis or contact WIJIS Director Jim Pingel at wijis@wisconsin.gov.