



Data Sharing Services Unit (DSSU)



NEWSLETTER

A Powerhouse of Resources.



January 2025



Inside This Issue

Page 2 - LEEP Section

- Includes:
 - LEEP's New Look
 - Virtual Learning Opportunities

Page 4 - N-DEx Section

- Includes:
 - 2024 Success Story of the Year
 - Sharing Data with N-DEx
 - Register, Join, and Learn

Page 7 - VCC Section

- Includes:
 - VCC Support
 - VCC Enhancements
 - VCC Liaison Spotlight

Page 10 - JusticeConnect Section

- Includes:
 - Community of Interest gives law enforcement/military partners access to vital data

DSSU Services

The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division's DSSU provides investigative resources, access solutions, and data-sharing services needed to advance cross-agency collaboration, strengthen partnerships, and reduce crime. DSSU is proud to provide valuable tools and services to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies.



Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP)



National Data Exchange (N-DEx) System



Virtual Command Center (VCC)



JusticeConnect

Found a lead? Solved a crime? Made an arrest?

Tell us how you achieved success using one of these services. Simply click [here](#) to share your story. Upon submission, we will contact you for additional information and work with your agency to draft the story.



Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP)

Secure Access to the Services You Rely On.

LEEP's New Look

LEEP received a new look in the Fall of 2024.

- Users can now save favorites by clicking on the bookmark beside the service. This will display the icon on the home page under “My Services.”
- “Latest News” is located along the top with the “Home” and “Services” links. On this page, you will find the latest training schedules under “Calendar of Events.”
- Look for enhancements to the portal in 2025 based on the portal user feedback.

An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal

Home Services Latest News Member Support Logout Portal Feedback

Home

My Services

@leo.gov Email
 JusticeConnect
 Special Interest Group
 Virtual Command Center
 Add A Service

Services By Type

Operational Tools
 Training Resources
 Data Services
 Information Sharing
 New Services
 All Services

Feature

JusticeConnect

Create. Collaborate. Share.

JusticeConnect is a criminal justice system available on the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), which facilitates information sharing, partner engagement, and partnership development for federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners in a secure environment.

JusticeConnect Communities

[My Communities](#)

[Terrorist Screening Center](#)
Last Updated: 11/1/2024 10:31:45 AM

[National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council](#)
Last Updated: 11/1/2024 6:36:11 AM

[Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal](#)
Last Updated: 10/31/2024 11:06:10 PM

[JusticeConnect](#)
Last Updated: 10/31/2024 7:49:42 PM

[CJIS Advisory Process](#)
Last Updated: 10/31/2024 11:10:01 AM

About Member Support Privacy Notice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

LEEP Help Desk

(888) 334-4536
helpdesk@leo.gov
[LEEP Information at fbi.gov](#)



Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP)

Secure Access to the Services You Rely On.

LEEP Virtual Learning Opportunities

We are excited to offer multiple virtual learning opportunities!

During the **LEEP Featured Services Series**, we will host different services each month, where attendees will spend an hour hearing from the service experts in a live online environment.

NEXT UP...

January's featured services:

January 15th - N-DEx

January 22nd - VCC

February's featured services:

February 19th - VCC

February 26th - N-DEx

March's featured services:

March 19th - N-DEx

March 26th - VCC



LEEP Overview (LEEP 101)

LEEP also presents a monthly virtual **LEEP Overview (LEEP 101)**. The attendees will hear from a LEEP expert about the primary components of LEEP, user tips, and basic service provider information.

Registration is located under Latest News on LEEP. There is a new feature called Calendar of Events.



LEEP Overviews

January 8th

February 5th

March 12th



National Data Exchange (N-DEx)

Information. Connections. Results.

2024 Success Story of the Year

The N-DEx System helps identify thieves, leads to arrests

Colleyville Police Department (Texas)

Detective Samantha King, with the Colleyville Police Department, investigated burglaries from lockers at a local fitness center. The fitness center's members place their wallets into the gym lockers and while the lockers were unattended, two suspects stole wallets out of the lockers. The suspects used the stolen credit and debit cards at two major international electronic stores to fraudulently purchase products worth thousands of dollars. The detective believed the burglary suspects were "professionals" since there was never any sign of forced entries into the lockers.

After reviewing security footage, the detective determined the two subjects had returned to the fitness center on two different occasions and had numerous victims, resulting in six cases. Of the six cases, two had been previously closed by another detective due to a lack of leads. In the security footage, the subjects wore masks, so facial recognition was not an option.



Left to right: FBI CJIS Division Assistant Director Timothy A. Ferguson, FBI Science and Technology Branch Executive Assistant Director Jacqueline Maguire, Colleyville Police Chief Michael Miller, Colleyville Detective Samantha King, FBI CJIS Division DSSU Chief Constantine A. Alex, FBI CJIS Division DSSU Supervisory Management and Program Analyst Amber J. Fazzini, and FBI CJIS Division Law Enforcement Engagement and Data Sharing Section Chief Scott E. Schubert.

The detective's assistant chief told her about "a great tool to use for investigations called N-DEx." The assistant chief assisted the detective in creating an N-DEx account and provided her with a brief training. The detective searched "locker room and thefts" in the N-DEx System, which returned numerous results. The detective located an offense report that involved two subjects, matching her subjects' descriptions, who stole wallets out of lockers at fitness centers then used the stolen credit and debit cards at the electronic stores. The detective searched the two names on social media and found her subjects' profiles. She identified both suspects by comparing the images on their profiles to their tattoos and clothing shown in the security footage. The identification of these suspects assisted three other agencies with the successful apprehension and arrest of these subjects.

This was the detective's first time using the N-DEx System, and it helped solve her first case as a detective. She said, "It helped me reopen/solve these cases that my fellow detectives had to close due to lack of leads/information."

A few months later, the detective received a request from a detective from a neighboring agency asking for her assistance with identifying another suspect involved in a locker room burglary. The detective searched the N-DEx System again and found an offense report matching the suspect's description. The detective identified the suspect by comparing images of the subject found online to the still image provided by the other detective. The other detective asked how she was able to identify the suspect, so she sent him the link to request LEEP and N-DEx accounts.



National Data Exchange (N-DEX)

Information. Connections. Results.

Sharing Data with N-DEX

Join the 8,560+ agencies that contribute data in support of information sharing and enhanced public safety. Technical assistance is available **at no cost** to agencies interested in making their data available via N-DEX.

By integrating relevant data from various law enforcement and criminal justice sources, including criminal investigative records, (e.g., incident and arrest reports, booking and incarceration data, wanted persons, probation and parole data, and so much more) the N-DEX System can help identify potential threats, criminal activities, or individuals of interest, all of which leads to improved public safety.



N-DEX helps bring a top 10 Texas fugitive to justice

Analysts from a Texas agency were in the process of adding an absconder who was convicted of sexual assault on a child, to their Top 10 Wanted list. They were conducting exhaustive searching of various databases, including a search of the FBI's N-DEX System. They found a recent record in N-DEX from a New York agency, which listed the subject as a complainant in a missing person report. In the report, the subject provided a California residence. Using the address in the record, deputies from a California agency conducted a raid at the address and took the subject into federal custody. If not for the N-DEX System record, the subject likely would have remained at large.

Risks of Not Sharing Data

Limited national-level criminal justice sharing hinders modern policing. The criminal justice community sharing their data with each other is the foundation to tackling information sharing silos and addressing potential gaps.

One agency's records/data could house the whereabouts of another agency's prime suspect in a murder investigation. Having access to this information could mean the difference between catching a killer and having a case go cold.

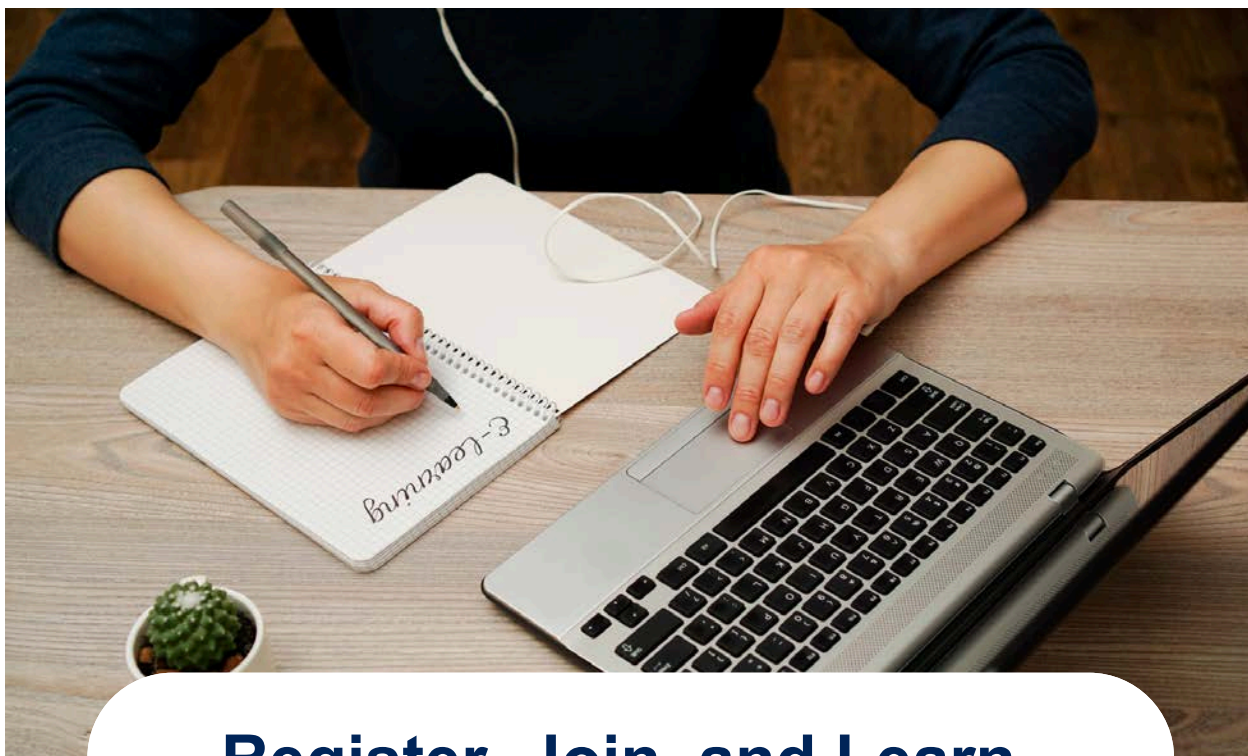




Unclassified

National Data Exchange (N-DEX)

Information. Connections. Results.



Register, Join, and Learn

We are pleased to offer virtual learning opportunities for the N-DEX System. Sessions last approximately 60 minutes and provide a variety of information. These sessions are for new and experienced users. As our systems continually evolve, we invite you to periodically join in to view the latest updates to the N-DEX System.

Use the link below the icon to view and register for the next available sessions. Bookmark the link to check in for new sessions monthly.



[LEARN](#)

Unclassified



Virtual Command Center (VCC)

Secure Real-time Collaboration.

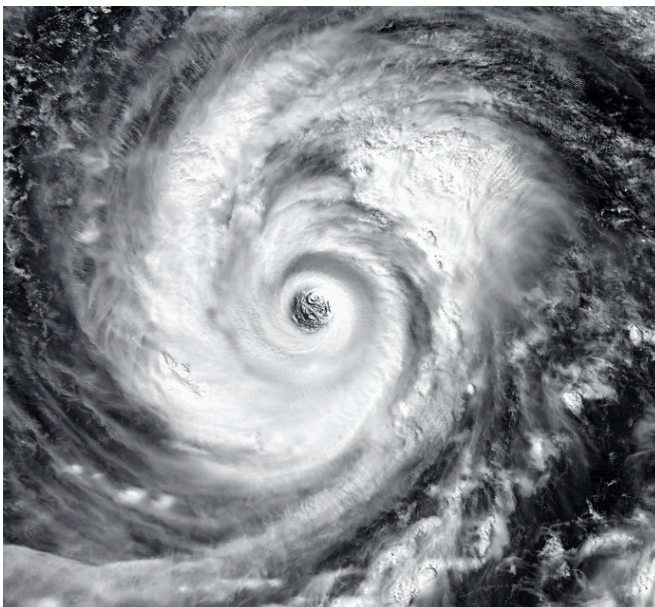
The VCC provides real-time situational awareness for critical and non-critical incident management. The VCC promotes multi-agency collaboration and allows federal, state, local, tribal, military, and territorial users to seamlessly share information. The VCC provides a secure, unclassified platform for immediate and effective dissemination of information.

VCC Support

The VCC Team supported federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies during several events, including July 4th fireworks, marathons, political conventions, collegiate athletics events, swatting incidents, various incident tracking, Megacon, hurricane response, and personnel accountability.



Hurricane Helene



“Thank you to the VCC Team for your support related to Hurricane Helene. Anyone that watched the news saw the devastating effects and the impacts to communities across the eastern United States. VCCs were activated by FBI Tampa, Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and Nashville Office of Emergency Management. The VCC Team and LEEP Support Center provided support throughout the weekend in response to the severe flooding and in support of search and rescue efforts.”

- Unit Chief Constantine A. Alex
FBI CJIS Division



Virtual Command Center (VCC)

Secure Real-time Collaboration.

VCC Enhancements

The following VCC enhancements have been implemented in the last six months:

Ability to select multiple locations for an incident and Trax entries.

- This option allows for up to 10 locations with a primary location selection for Incidents and Trax entries.

Ability for Situational Reports to be automatically generated.

- **Automated Situational Reports:** Multiple Situational Reports can be scheduled with different options and customizations.

Ability to “Clear All Trax Entries” in the Admin Options section.

- **Clear All Trax Entries:** This option allows VCC Administrators to quickly clear all Trax entries from a VCC and can be found on the Settings page. This feature can also be used after a VCC has been closed.

VCC Future Enhancement



New look coming in 2025!

The VCC home page will have a new look in 2025! Stay tuned for more information on the enhancements. Notifications will be sent out on the VCC announcements and LEEP’s Latest News page.

Once deployed, please provide feedback on how to make the home page even better.

Please email us at vccops@leo.gov if you have any questions, need support, or have suggestions to further enhance the VCC.



Virtual Command Center (VCC)

Secure Real-time Collaboration.

VCC Liaison Spotlight

VCC LIAISON

Amber Shearer



Congratulations to Amber Shearer for significant contributions to public safety.

Amber provided on-site support to Brigham Young University as they started using the VCC for incident management during home football games. This was done in collaboration with the FBI Provo resident agency. As a result of Amber's efforts, additional agencies asked about using the VCC for multiple upcoming events in the area. Amber's efforts highlight the value of in-person engagement.

Congratulations to Amber for this recognition of her ability to make effective connections with the Salt Lake City, Utah, Field Office and other law enforcement through her promotion of the VCC.

“I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated the work done last week by CJIS Liaison Specialist Amber Shearer. For the better part of three days, including a Saturday, Amber worked alongside Emergency Management and Police at Brigham Young University (BYU) to assist with their implementation of the Virtual Command Center. Amber's dedicated work representing CJIS, and the FBI in general, only served to strengthen this liaison relationship. I spoke with several people at BYU on Saturday and each of them specifically noted the professionalism and key assistance Amber delivered.”

- Supervisory Senior Resident Agent



JusticeConnect

Create. Collaborate. Share.

FBI Ballistic Research Facility Shares Information and Results with Law Enforcement, Military Partners

Community of Interest in JusticeConnect Gives Agencies Access to Vital Data

Following the 1986 “Miami Shootout,” in which two FBI special agents were killed and five special agents were injured, the FBI made significant changes in the weapons its agents carried and the body armor they wore.

Two years later, the FBI devoted staff to conducting studies to further support its special agents in the field. Since 1988, the FBI Ballistic Research Facility has conducted research involving firearms, ammunition, protective armor, and firearms accessories for FBI special agents, as well as for other federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. Once completed, representatives from the facility mailed the results to the requesters.

Now, through the JusticeConnect service on LEEP, the FBI Ballistic Research Facility shares the results of its studies by posting the information so that law enforcement and military partners across the nation can easily and quickly see the results.

The Community of Interest for the **FBI Ballistic Research Facility** serves as a “storefront” for members. Here, members can learn about the history and mission of the FBI Ballistic Research Facility, now located at the FBI’s Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. To access specific ballistic information, agencies should join the **FBI Ballistic Research Facility–Ballistics Information**, a restricted community. In addition to the valuable data provided, users can also ask questions or share information with one another in forums.

How to find the FBI Ballistic Research Facility Community of Interest in JusticeConnect

- Go to LEEP
- Scroll down and click on “JusticeConnect”
- Click on the “My Communities” tab
- Click “Discover”
- In the search bar, type “Ballistic Research”
- Select the “**FBI Ballistic Research Facility**” icon

Note: To access the **FBI Ballistic Research Facility–Ballistics Information**, a restricted community, potential members must send an email to BRF@fbi.gov requesting access, along with a signed request on the agency’s letterhead that states the agency agrees to the FBI’s restricted use caveats. A sample letter is available on the FBI Ballistic Research Facility “storefront” site. FBI special agents are not required to submit a letter.

Don’t have a LEEP account?

If you don’t have a LEEP account, you can request one at cjis.gov.