

CASE STUDY



St. Lucie County Sheriff Protects Citizens Through Innovation

Identity Management Solution

Challenge of Tracking Parolees' Identities

Located in South Florida's Treasure Coast, the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (SLSO) works hard to keep pace with the county's expansion. As one of the fastest growing areas in Florida, a consistent influx of residents creates increased demand for virtually every service the agency provides. Patrol response, producing court documents and law enforcement keep SLSO engaged.

One such statute, the Jessica Lunsford law, is landmark legislation aimed at protecting all Floridians from sexual predators and offenders. The law enhances penalties for sexual crimes against children and increases the registration and reporting requirement for parolees. As part of that process, law enforcement officers are required to conduct home-based interviews with paroled sex offenders within 48 hours of mandatory registration with the statewide database.

To comply with this requirement and enhance standard identity procedures, SLSO needed a comprehensive identity management solution. Familiar with Cross Match Technologies, SLSO turned to it to help accurately identify subjects and create audit trails. John Hammond, IT Manager, SLSO recalls, "We were looking into a

variety of systems to help us rapidly identify people in the field—without tying up a lot of resources and manpower. We wanted to bring automation to our suspect identity process and knew that Cross Match would be the right partner to help us achieve our goals."

Solution to Accurately Identify Subjects

Upon meeting with Cross Match developers, SLSO decided to deploy a Cross Match PrisTrak™ biometric identity management solution. "We had a manual system where it could take hours to verify someone's identity," states Sgt. Bobby Gregg of SLSO. Officers would take a suspect to the booking area of the jail, complete an arrest affidavit, manually fingerprint the subject and then enter the data into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) for cross referencing with the state offender database. According to Gregg, "It could take up to four hours to receive the results and then make any corrections to the demographics on the affidavits. The process was just too slow."

With PrisTrak, SLSO has not only complied with the Jessica Lunsford law, but has enhanced its identity management capabilities overall. A comprehensive hardware and software

St. Lucie County Sheriffs Business Benefits:

- Identity verification during home-based interviews
- Audit trail creation for all in-field interviews
- Rapid verification of prisoners' identities when admitted to or released from jail
- Eliminate identification errors in the field and at the coroner's office

Solution to Accurately Identify Subjects (continued)

solution, PrisTrak instantly captures fingerprints, photographs and demographic data of subjects whose identities must be confirmed at various stages of processing through the legal system.

PrisTrak includes a Logitech camera for digital photo capture by digitally panning, tilting and zooming in on the subject's face. For fingerprinting, the system has a digital fingerprint scanner that automatically captures fingerprints in "real-world" conditions. "Dry, aged, damaged or even missing fingerprints are no problem for PrisTrak," Gregg states. After scanning, fingerprints are stored as templates in the stationary workstation, thereby ensuring accuracy and privacy. The networked system logs all fingerprint entries and enables law enforcement to automatically search and verify personal data and fingerprints in the database against over 100,000 sets of fingerprints comprising 20 years of county arrest records.

"This system will eliminate the guess work on identifying an inmate (and) will become an added asset in law enforcement's fight against crime"

- Major F. Patrick Tighe, Department of Detention, St. Lucie County Sheriff

In the field, SLSO uses the wireless Cross Match MV 100™ mobile fingerprint workstation to capture photos using a built-in camera. The hand-held MV 100 includes a full-featured fingerprint scanner, integrated personal digital assistant and magnetic stripe card reader to capture fingerprints and help verify suspects', inmates' and

parolees' identities when conducting interviews, verifying court appearances, managing work releases and prison releases.

The networked mobile system provides a connection to PrisTrak's database from remote field locations for rapid and accurate identity verification. An activity log records every subject's move and all transaction data is readily available for auditing. "We are currently working to expand the issuance of the MV 100 workstations to many of our road patrol supervisors, technical services managers, detectives, court security personnel and even some of the local police departments," notes Hammond. "The mobile units are very easy to use and will give us the added flexibility we were looking for out in the field."

Benefits of Enhancing County Procedures

Since deploying the system, SLSO is no longer dependent upon unreliable personal data and can quickly verify subjects' identities anywhere in the legal system—including the coroner's office. "Our PrisTrak system eliminates the 'name game' and identification errors because we can now positively identify people in the prison system using biometric data," notes Gregg. "Additionally, we have experienced significant time savings using PrisTrak to initiate our AFIS queries. We can now complete the demographic verification process within minutes instead of hours."

Using PrisTrak, SLSO can monitor the movements of suspects, inmates and parolees throughout the county legal system. Using a variety of reports generated from stored fingerprint and personal data, SLSO can immediately audit the frequency of home-based visits as well as the

whereabouts of inmates being admitted to or released from jail. "With the PrisTrak audit capabilities, we can be proactive with state agencies," Hammond says. "Our system is designed and geared towards criminal identification and population movement. We can quickly verify who we have in custody instead of being reactive to the state's requests for information."

Hammond concludes, "We have come a long way as an agency by stepping into the 21st century with PrisTrak—and its positive impact on the community will be felt for years to come."



The Cross Match MV 100 mobile identity management system helps St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office accurately identify subjects in the field.