Oregon State Police SOR Mobile

AWARD CATEGORY:
Information Communications Technology Innovations

STATE:
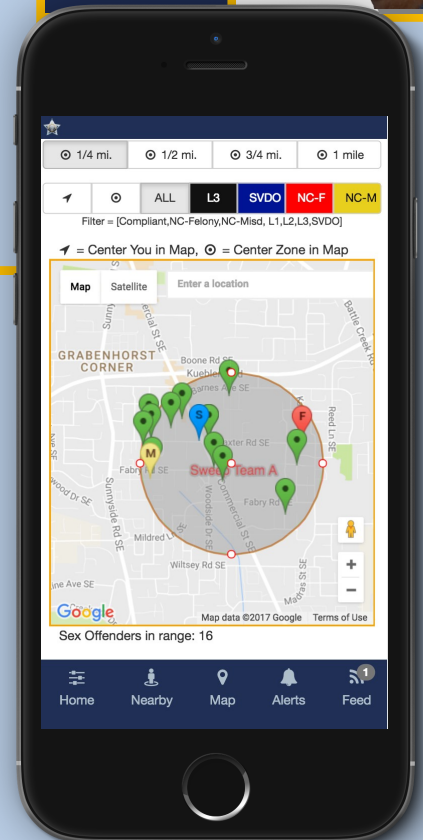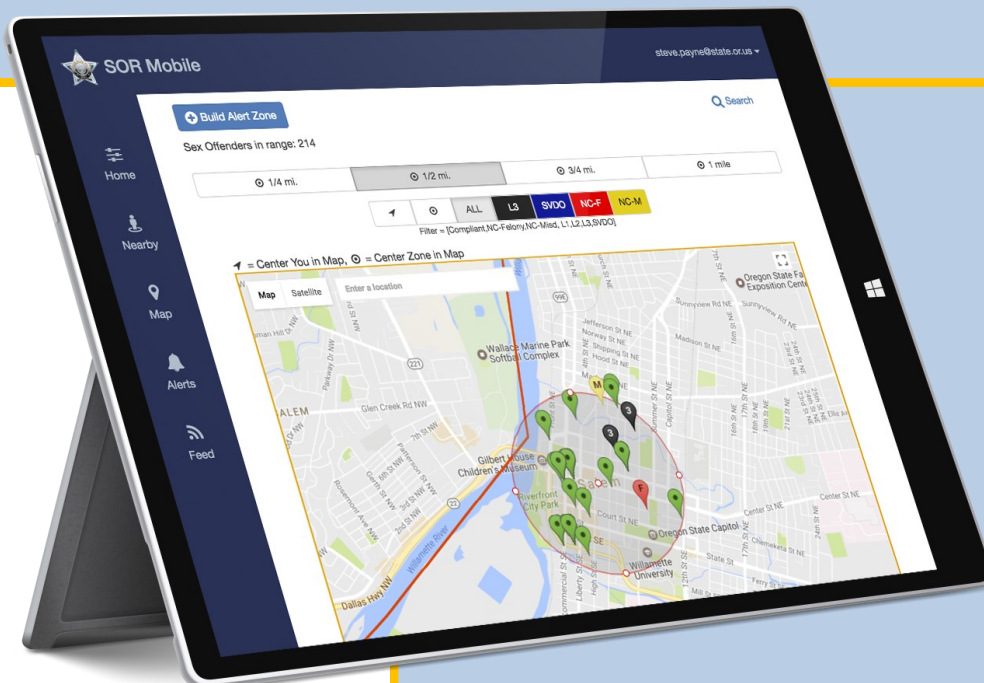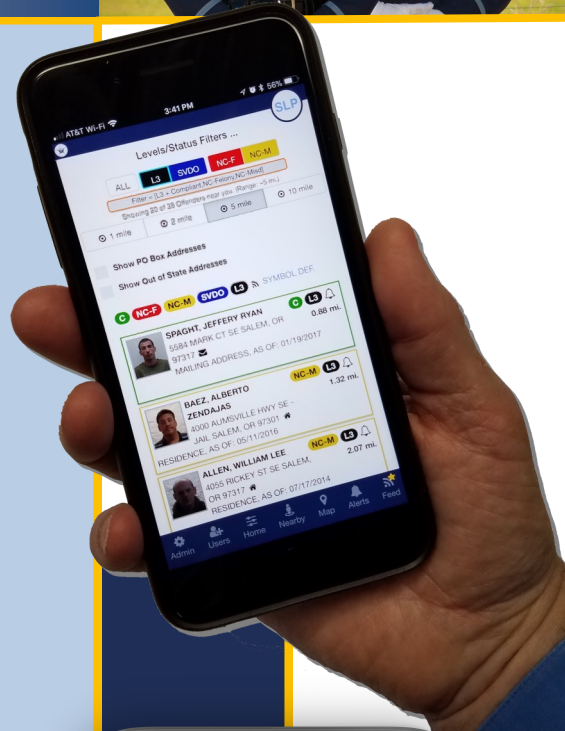Oregon

AGENCY:
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INITIATION DATE:
June 2015

COMPLETION DATE:
April 1, 2019

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Oregon State Police (OSP) Sex Offender Registration Section (SOR) is mandated by (ORS 163A.035) to maintain records for persons required to register as a sex offender. SOR has been in place since the first sex offender reporting obligation laws were enacted in 1989. The purpose of the legislation was to assist law enforcement agencies in preventing future sex offenses. SOR has worked towards accomplishing this through the adoption of administrative rules and by moving towards the digitization of offender records and information. Oregon has the largest per-capita population of registered sex offenders in the United States; resulting in nearly 29,000 offender records in the SOR database. Access to registry information occurs through a public facing web portal that provides access to information contained in the SOR database, for the public and law enforcement partners.

SOR's objective for this project was to create a mobile application, SOR Mobile (SORM) that would provide several new and innovative mechanisms through which SOR could distribute and receive offender information. It would also offer a new tool for law enforcement to utilize while on patrol and/or while engaged in targeted non-compliant offender operations, such as statewide sex offender sweeps and sex offender, in-field registrations. This project has improved law enforcement partner information sharing abilities, facilitated offender address verification, and expanded collaboration on investigations; assisting SOR in its implementation of the Sex Offender Registration Notification Act (SORNA) requirements.

The SOR Mobile (SORM) application improves search functionality, making more pertinent offender information easier to find and access, and makes it immediately available in the field. It reduces the number of inquiries SOR staff receive by phone and email in regards to law enforcement partners trying to access offender records, ultimately making government operations more efficient. Electronically capturing law enforcement's "actions taken" against non-compliant offenders alleviates the manual dissemination of information previously required of SOR staff, and in-turn makes the information readily available to law enforcement.

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

The purpose of Oregon Revised Statues 163A.005 to 163A.235 is to assist law enforcement agencies in preventing future sex offenses. In part, these statutes outline the obligation of sex offenders to report for registration, as well as the duties of the Oregon State Police (OSP) in relation to the registrations themselves, and information provided through the registration process. The Sex Offender Registration (SOR) Section of OSP is the repository for these forms and information; thus, SOR needed a way to quickly distribute this offender data and information in pursuit of fulfilling its statutory responsibilities. Additionally, offender compliance operations are carried out around the state by various law enforcement partners, including the US Marshals Service. To make efficient decisions, these enforcement activities require access to the SOR database.

Historically, sex offender paper registration, obligation forms, and sweep packet results have always been mailed to SOR via the United States Postal Service. These forms were then scanned into a document management system, where an electronic image of the documents was retained and the paper copy was subsequently shredded. SOR staff then reviewed, verified, and entered the information into: the SOR database; Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS); and the National Criminal Information Center (NCIC). Access to the SOR database was available to law enforcement via a secure web portal. This web portal had limited functionality, required training by SOR staff to be used effectively, and was not mobile device friendly.

Any feedback SOR received from our law enforcement partners engaging in offender compliance operations was mailed to SOR on handwritten sweep documents. Enforcement actions recorded on these forms were not readily available to other law enforcement partners, and were only retrievable by manual inquiry; posing a labor intensive burden on SOR staff.

Title I of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-248) established the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA). SORNA provides a comprehensive set of minimum standards for sex offender registration and notification in the United States. Oregon is one of 34 states who have not substantially implemented SORNA requirements.

The process and technology through which SOR was collecting and disseminating offender information was outdated and inefficient. It was not effective in meeting the above mentioned legislative intent, or the section's mission of providing the tools necessary for law enforcement partners to easily access the information they needed, when they needed it, to be successful in their compliance operations.

Research conducted while developing the SOR Mobile (SORM) application showed that 75.5% of partners sampled, would be more likely to take enforcement action on an out-of-compliance felony or predatory sex offender, with a mobile application alert.

Additionally, 85.7% of sampled users would provide feedback data using a mobile app, such as "action taken" when using the app to make contact with sex offenders.

The current system did not facilitate mobile-friendly access to offender information, nor did it provide any sort of alerts or notifications to law enforcement partners in the field of non-compliant offenders. It also didn't allow for electronic submission of offender contact or "action taken" data, requiring paper forms to be physically mailed to SOR.

Providing a mobile application (SORM) to our law enforcement partners allows SOR to push out the most recent, relevant information to our partners and stakeholders. This type of cutting edge tool increases operational efficiency for our partners and ultimately facilitates increased enforcement actions against non-compliant sex offenders. It also improves the compliance rates in the State of Oregon, simply by crowdsourcing our efforts toward sex offender compliance enforcement.

CONCEPT

Detailed business requirements for SOR Mobile (SORM) were documented as a result of this analysis of business needs and survey input from stakeholders, including a stringent critiquing of a proof-of-concept web application.

PLATFORM

- A <u>real-time data submission solution</u> that provides agency partners with an efficient method of reporting: action taken, location of contact, and specific comments during sex offender sweeps.
- <u>Supports</u> multiple platforms such as Android, iOS and Windows.
- <u>Designed</u> using proven web technologies that can be maintained by OSP IT programmers without the need for unique and expert training.

USER FUNCTIONS

- A <u>visual</u> indication of sex offenders near the user, and the sex offender's compliance status.
- <u>Ease of use</u> reporting actions taken upon contact with sex offender, or if contact could not be made, includes comments by users.
- All sex offenders in the database are <u>easily searchable</u>.
- View specific actions taken, history, and alerts set by the individual user.
- <u>Creation of alerts</u> through the creation of geographical zones, and other search criteria allowing the tagging of hundreds of sex offenders at one time.
- <u>Alerts displayed</u> in the form of a <u>live feed</u>, tailored to the end users configured alerts, search criteria, and zones.
- Users can create <u>activity reports</u> based on their contact or attempted contact with sex offenders.

- Provide ability to conduct <u>in-field sex offender registrations</u> allowing law enforcement to take immediate corrective measures in the field. This features

targets non-ambulatory, out of compliance sex offenders found during sweep events.

REPORTS

- <u>User management console</u> for SOR to manage users of the application.
- Detail pages of sex offenders in zones, alerts applied to sex offenders and action taken history on a sex offender.
- <u>Mapping addresses</u> of sex offender including primary and secondary residences, place of employment and higher-education facilities.
- Organized <u>photo gallery</u> of historical sex offender registration pictures.
- <u>Data exported</u> for program activities. Formats include CSV or Microsoft Excel formats for use in public information requests.

SECURITY

- Advanced, <u>multi-factor authentication</u> (2FA), requiring users to prove their identity, as defined by CJIS Security Policy v5.4, section 5.6.2.2.
- <u>Initial account setup</u> using email address for login plus complex password.
- Account activation controlled by OSP SOR Staff
- <u>Disabling/Deactivation</u> of accounts by one-touch event available in the User management page.
- Security measures meet OSP guidelines.

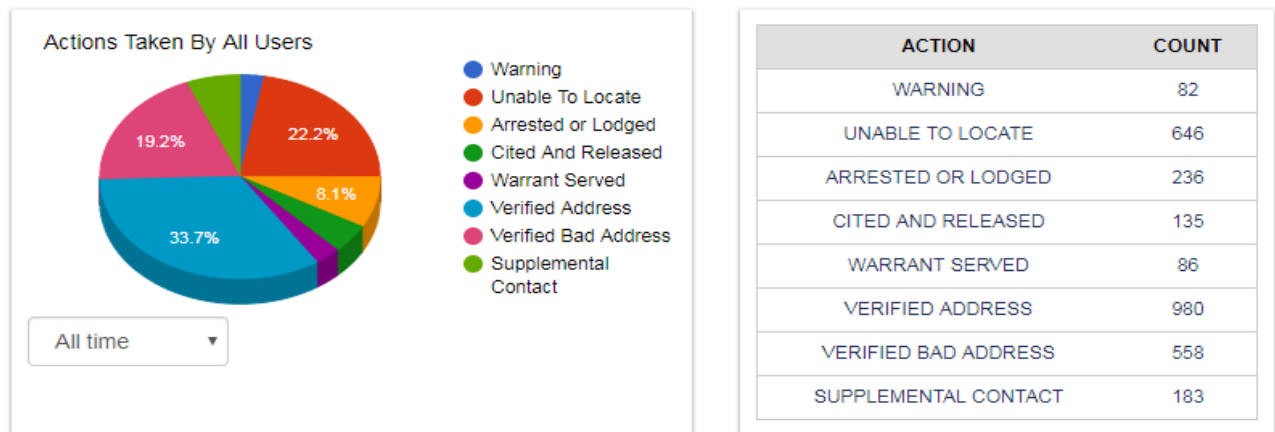**TRAINING AND COMMUNICATION PLAN**

- The SOR Mobile application (SORM) has a web link within the application that provides users with use-case examples when using the SOR Mobile application.
- The lead developer and project manager/subject matter expert attended sex offender sweeps across the state, hosted by agency partners. This opportunity was used to promote SORM and present the benefits of this mobile web application.
- A dedicated Sex Offender Registry Research Analyst assigned to manager the 525+ users of SOR Mobile.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT

With the release of SORM in June 2017, all law enforcement that have access to a mobile device, tablet, or laptop can now see all registered sex offenders near them, with just a few clicks, using the SOR Mobile web app. Information provided through the application includes: current registration status, residence, photo, color coded compliance legend, registration history, location of employment, associated vehicles, and reported contacts by other members of law enforcement. Users can also subscribe and receive record updates for specific offenders, or in mass for geographical areas.

This project incorporates the *NASCIO Top Ten Priorities for 2019* of: Digital Government; Data Management & Analytics; and Consolidation/Optimization, and is a great example of innovation that directly benefits all citizens.

ACTIONS REPORTED SINCE PROJECT LAUNCH

Actions Taken By All Users	ACTION	COUNT

Actions Taken By All Users (pie chart)
- Warning
- Unable To Locate — 22.2%
- Arrested or Lodged — 8.1%
- Cited And Released
- Warrant Served
- Verified Address — 33.7%
- Verified Bad Address — 19.2%
- Supplemental Contact

All time ▼

ACTION	COUNT
WARNING	82
UNABLE TO LOCATE	646
ARRESTED OR LODGED	236
CITED AND RELEASED	135
WARRANT SERVED	86
VERIFIED ADDRESS	980
VERIFIED BAD ADDRESS	558
SUPPLEMENTAL CONTACT	183

IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

From June 2017 to April 1, 2019 there were 2,906 contacts reported through SORM. These contacts are listed as "Actions Taken" and are defined and displayed in the table and chart below. These metrics would not have been consistently captured using previous tools.

The SORM project leveraged the strength of crowdsourcing by putting a list of all Oregon sex offenders directly in the hands of every law enforcement officer in the state of Oregon. In addition, the need for costly preplanned, large scale, sex offender sweeps was reduced by delivering a daily list of non-compliant sex offenders, to every Oregon law enforcement officer who needed one.

Smart features built into the application provide an easy way for Oregon's law enforcement personnel to quickly engage in sex offender enforcement. One of the application features is called Alert Zones. This feature allows the SORM user to create a geographical area such as a 1 mile radius around a school perimeter, targeting all sex offender record updates associated with that location, and sex offenders within that radius. This information could not be obtained using the previous web portal tools.

The types of agencies involved in this information communications technology innovations project included: Cities, Corrections, County, Federal, Higher-Ed, and State.

Examples include: Police Departments, School District Police Agencies; County Community Corrections, County Sheriff's Offices, County Departments of Community Justice, County Parole and Probation, Oregon State Police, and the United States Marshals Service.

USE CASE

During the early morning hours of October 2, 2017, Trooper Mike Benson of the Klamath Falls Area Command overheard a morning broadcast from the Klamath 911 call center. The broadcast described an attempted child abduction of a seven year old female, at the bus stop near the corner of Hill Rd and California Ave. in Klamath Falls. Hearing the dispatch, Trooper Benson contacted Sergeant Trippett, Sergeant Barden, and Recruit Dorn for assistance in searching the area, as the Klamath Falls Police Department began their investigation. The victim stated that she was able to fight off her attacker and then hide in the bushes until she could run home. Arriving on the scene, Trooper Benson activated the use of SOR Mobile (SORM) and was quickly able to filter and identify all male registered sex offenders within a mile of his location, and assigned other members of OSP to begin making contact with these offenders as investigative leads. This is a good example of how the SOR Mobile web application proved to be a very useful and significant resource, providing law enforcement with the ability to quickly rule out sex offenders in the area of the alleged abduction.

"I am a big fan of the OSP SOR Mobile AP and have made several cases against unregistered sex offenders in our patrol area. Recently I learned that Wasco County was at 100% compliance for the first time in a long time. One of my favorite OSP SOR Mobile AP stories however, was when I was patrolling in the Arlington area. I randomly decided to check the OSP SOR Mobile AP for out of compliance Sex Offenders. Thankfully there were not any close by, but I noticed a few registered Sex Offenders that were in compliance very near my location. I decided to just do a knock and talk and check up on the residence to which they were registered. Once inside the home I spoke with two very nice people who showed me photos of their son and proceeded to tell me everything about him, including where he was living and working, which of course was not with them. They told me that they do still get his mail and that he comes to visit once in a while, every couple months or so to get his mail. I was able to use the OSP SOR Mobile AP to document this information and wrote up a report for the District Attorney's Office. The OSP SOR Mobile AP is a great tool not only to be notified when an offender is out of compliance in your area, but also for checking up on registered Offenders, just to let them know we are watching." Oregon State Police, Senior Trooper Holloran.

"I personally like the ability to pull up a photo of the offender on my phone. Prior to this, a photo had to be taken of a computer screen image of the offender, and SOR Mobile makes it more convenient. I also like the work-up that comes from the Request Further Research feature. The Nearby landing page is a great feature that's always right there when you login." Detective Matthew Harris, Washington County Sheriff's Office - Criminal Apprehension Team.