

NEW JERSEY STATE PAROLE BOARD AND NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE

**“Real-Time Automated Parole Data Replication to
FBI NCIC Supervised Release File”**

Category: Improving State Operations

Project Initiation Date: 01/12/2015

Project Completion Date: 09/17/2015

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Executive Summary

In 2005, Police Chief Magazine wrote, “The constellation of clues and evidence related to criminal activity is often spread across disconnected databases and paper files in thousands of local, state, and federal agencies. In many cases criminals who have been stopped by the police are freed when local law enforcement data searches are unable to access information that is stored outside their own systems. Whether a person is arrested or is released for a crime that occurred in another jurisdiction is frequently based on the ability of the police to confirm the subject's identity that links the person to an arrest warrant. Warrants are stored in various databases at the local, state, and federal level. In addition, terrorist watch lists and investigative alerts are also computerized and stored in still yet different databases. Most of these databases are not integrated and therefore the information is not shared.

If this disparate data was fully integrated and subjected to state-of-the-art analysis tools creating a seamless data grid that could be queried in real time, law enforcement agencies would be much more effective in both preventing crime and solving open cases. In this article, a number of current initiatives focusing on the integration of criminal justice data are examined.”

The “Real-Time Automated Parole Data Replication to FBI NCIC Supervised Release File” is a cross-agency collaboration project between the New Jersey State Parole Board (NJSPB) and the New Jersey State Police (NJSP). The NJSPB is not aware of any other State that electronically enters all of their parolees’ identifying information into the FBI’s National Crime Information Center’s (NCIC) Supervised Release file or that operates a system that automatically updates information sent to this FBI system in real-time as a parolee’s information changes.

The goal of the project was to automatically populate, in real-time, the FBI’s National Crime Information Center’s (NCIC) Supervised Release File with the current supervision status and pertinent history of more than 15,000 parolees who have been released under the supervision of the State’s Parole Board, and whose data is maintained within the agency’s PBIS (Parole Board Information System) case management system.

The IT project improves the processes and governance of the NJSP’s Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) through statewide public safety information sharing capability. It also provides secure and timely access to accurate and complete information throughout the justice enterprise, improves the efficiency of operations, and ensures informed decision-making. Additionally, the initiative expands the range of effectiveness of information systems and sharing capabilities, and provides the seamless interoperability, effectiveness, timeliness, accuracy, and completeness of public safety information.

Through the collaborative efforts of NJSPB and NJSP, the project establishes and promotes information sharing partnerships among the key stakeholders in the justice, public safety, and homeland security community.

Concept

Prior to the project implementation in 2015, there was no data in the NCIC Supervised Release File for the more than 15,000 parolees under supervision in New Jersey. If a law enforcement officer interacted with a NJ parolee during a motor vehicle stop and performed an NCIC inquiry on the individual, NCIC would return no matches and the law enforcement officer would not be aware that they had encountered a NJ parolee, unless the parolee volunteered the information.

The IT solution allows the parolee's supervising Parole Officer to be aware that a parolee on their caseload has had an interaction with law enforcement, without the parolee volunteering this information or the interaction resulting in an arrest.

Successful parolee supervision is based on numerous factors and not just the absence or existence of an arrest. Every parolee is required to agree and adhere to multiple conditions of parole supervision. These conditions may require offenders to: abide by a set curfew; not travel out-of-State; or have no contact with victims and/or co-defendants.

Violations of these conditions can result in the revocation of parole and could result in reincarceration. Although all parolees are required to notify their Parole Officer of any criminal justice interaction -- including instances as minor as a traffic stop -- offenders are not always forthcoming with this information. A routine traffic stop of one parolee that occurred in the early morning hours in a neighboring State could violate parole conditions such as curfew and outofstate travel prohibition. Serious or persistent violations often indicate an increased risk for recidivism and timely knowledge is essential to successfully managing the supervision of a parolee.

Prior to implementation of the new IT solution, there was no automated mechanism in place for NJ Parole Officers to receive information from Law Enforcement Agencies when a contact/inquiry was made with a parolee. The automated IT initiative eliminates the potential cost of having to manually populate more than 15,000 parolees. With parolees beginning and ending supervision each day, it would be impossible and cost prohibitive to manually populate so many cases and also to populate changes.

The nature of a Law Enforcement Inquiries on NJ Parolees is very important to all NJ Supervising Parole Officers. Some of these inquiries are the result of traffic stops or criminal investigations.

Supervising Parole Officers use this information to take immediate appropriate action on the parolees if technical violations and new arrests or convictions occur. A standard traffic stop of one parolee may not indicate a problem without background details provided by the new automated system. For example, if that same traffic stop occurred outside of NJ or during late

hours, the offender may be in violation of one or more conditions of parole. The violation could lead to the revocation of the parolee's release and result in re-incarceration.

The NJSPB acquired and implemented IBM's IIB and MQ products, which allowed for the integration of the agency's homegrown case management system Parole Board Information System (PBIS) with the FBI's NCIC system via MQ through an MQ gateway to NCIC belonging to NJSP.

The project was funded by NJ State Parole Board and DCJ Edward Byrne Memorial Justice (JAG) grants awarded by the NJ CJIS Policy Advisory Committee.

Significance:

The beneficiaries of the project are the officers of law enforcement agency that perform NCIC inquiries, which includes all such agencies nationwide. Additional beneficiaries are members of the public, whose safety depends on active and timely supervision of parolees. NJ parole officers are also beneficiaries, providing immediate access to information they would not otherwise have and are provided it in a mobile setting.

We are not aware of any other State that has populated the NCIC information exchange system with identifying information for all parolees supervised, nor fully automated the updating of parolee information.

The project included implementation of MQ message queue infrastructure, which is defacto standard among NJ State agencies and the Federal Government. As a result, the agency is now positioned to be able to fully automate, in real-time, all agency warrant issuances and confirmations via the NCIC Wanted Person File, which are currently performed manually.

The infrastructure implementation also sets the stage for replacing legacy systems that currently provide arrest notifications via dedicated printers in specific physical offices. Instead, these can be replaced with real-time mobile notifications.

The "Real-Time Automated Parole Data Replication to FBI NCIC Supervised Release File" won a 2016 Public Technology Institute Solutions award under the Public Safety category.

Impact

The project required the use of new software (IBM's IIB and MQ products) that enables legacy application systems to share data with the newer platforms. The NJ State Parole Board is now in a position to share data with any criminal justice partner who also uses the same data exchange standard.

The NJSPB is not aware of any other State that enters all of their Parolees into the NCIC Supervised Release File or that automatically updates this data in real-time as a Parolee's information changes over time.

The implementation of this project produces an average of 8,000 NCIC Inquiry notifications to our Parole Officer Staff per month, or 96,000 a year. Official NJSPB action resulted in parole revocations (re-incarceration), the impositions of additional conditions of parole, and other diversionary steps for a multitude of parolees. The solution has given the NJSPB the ability to take immediate action on parolees when appropriate, in contrast to relying on parolee disclosure at some point in the future. The end result has been an additional tool for Parole Officers to assist in the management of caseloads and to provide improved safety to officers and the public. Improved effectiveness of case management also has the desired side-effect of assisting parolees in becoming permanent law-abiding members of society.