Top Tech Innovations for Patrol

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Force-Options Simulators
Arizona agency signs contract with HTE
LAKE MARY, Fla. — The Sierra Vista Police Department in Arizona signed a contract valued at more than $490,000 to license HTE’s integrated public safety and justice software and services.

The contract will provide the Sierra Vista Police Department with HTE’s CAD V™, Alarm Billing, CRIMES® Records Management System, Field Incident Reporting software and a mugshot interface to the CRIMES Records Management System. The mobile piece of this project will include providing wireless access from field units to the THE CAD V System as well as adding the ability for Automatic Vehicle Location.

Sierra Vista PD’s Captain Tom Ailen said of HTE’s software solution, “Our main concern was to find a system that would integrate with our mobile data computers, provide mapping, AVL and NCIC access. It was clear that HTE’s combination of integration, functionality, professionalism and product knowledge would be able to accommodate all of our needs.”

NIJ’s COPLINK sifts and shares information — fast
TUCSON, Ariz. — The federally funded software solution called COPLINK offers police a fast means to collect and analyze crime-related data from widely differing sources, including stand-alone databases and information banks in other government offices and jurisdictions.

This consolidation engine was developed through a multi-million dollar grant from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Interoperability Program, a federal program established to overcome obstacles to information sharing in law enforcement. Tucson PD and the University of Arizona worked together on the federal project.

“Criminals don’t stay in one place and the need to trade information within and between agencies is recognized as one of the biggest issues facing us,” said Sgt. Jennifer Schroeder, COPLINK project coordinator for TPD.

“The challenge posed by the Tucson police was intriguing because it had nationwide implications and fit perfectly with our strongest research focus,” said Hsinchun Chen, Ph.D., director of the University of Arizona Artificial Intelligence Lab.

Officers using a PC or laptop can perform highly targeted searches of the collected data, producing investigative leads in a fraction of the time it would take a person. In one instance, COPLINK enabled Tucson police to identify a shooting suspect when the only hard information available was the name of his sister’s former boyfriend. According to police, COPLINK sliced through the search in about five minutes, eliminating hours of manual labor and investigative dead ends.

COPLINK is now available for deployment by police agencies nationwide. To see a demonstration or to learn more about COPLINK, contact John Boone at 520-574-0861 or visit www.coplinkconnect.com.

LaserMax announces new price and warranty
ROCHESTER, N.Y. — LaserMax has unveiled a uniform pricing policy and a new warranty. All LaserMax gun sights now have a suggested retail price of $389. President Susan Houde-Walter says that in most cases, the repricing has resulted in lower prices. She notes also that cost savings in raw material acquisition and manufacturing efficiencies allowed the company to adjust prices downward.

The new warranty covers all permanent parts for three years. Only expendable components like batteries, recoil spring and shock buffer are excluded, since these parts are designed to be replaced at certain intervals.

For more information contact LaserMax at 800-Laser03 or visit them on the Web at www.lasermax-inc.com

APB

Smith & Wesson was awarded a $1.7 million grant to develop so-called smart guns that can be fired only by authorized users. Researchers are experimenting with various ways of making the handguns work; through fingerprint identification or a code punched into a pad mounted on the weapon. Company spokesman Ken Jorgensen said the grant will be used to research fingerprint technology. The company has developed several prototype weapons but hasn’t set a date to put the firearms on the market, he said.

The Evidence Photographers International Council (EPIC) will hold its School of Evidence Photography & Digital Imaging Nov. 16-18, 2001 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Atlanta, Ga. Professional evidence photographers teach the three-day course, which provides information on the latest equipment and techniques used in the forensic science field today. For additional information contact EPIC at 800-356-3742 or www.epic-photo.org.

Armor Holdings bought the O’Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt subsidiary of the Kroll-O’Gara Company. The purchase price will be up to $56.5 million, of which $53 million will be paid at closing. Tracing its roots back to 1876, O’Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt Arming Company is a large, experienced passenger vehicle armoring manufacturer.