

REGIONAL

INFORMATION

SHARING

SYSTEMS

PROGRAM

# The RISS Program:

## 1996-1997

# Progress Through Technology

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February 1998

# BJA

Bureau of  
Justice  
Assistance



REGIONAL  
INFORMATION  
SHARING  
SYSTEMS  
PROGRAM

# The RISS Program: 1996-1997 Progress Through Technology

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February 1998

Institute for  
Intergovernmental  
Research

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# Table of Contents

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Introduction .....	v
Progress Through Technology .....	1
RISS Nationwide Intelligence Network — riss.net .....	2
The RISS Secure Intranet.....	3
Intelligence Database Pointer System (RISSNET) .....	4
RISS National Gang Database (RISSGANG).....	5
RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board (RISSLEADS).....	5
Security .....	6
Looking Ahead to the 21st Century.....	6
The RISS Program: 1996 - 1997 .....	7
Information Sharing.....	9
Database Activity.....	10
Results of Member Agency Investigations Supported by Criminal Information Database Services.....	11
Analytical Services .....	13
Results of Member Agency Investigations Supported by Analytical Services .....	14
Information Sharing and Training Conferences .....	17
RISS National Gang Conference .....	17
Results of Member Agency Investigations Supported by Information Sharing and Training Conferences .....	18
Investigative Equipment .....	19
Results of Member Agency Investigations Supported by Investigative Equipment Loans .....	20

Confidential Funds .....	21
Results of Member Agency Investigations Supported by Confidential Funds Loans .....	21
Other Support Services .....	23
Telecommunications .....	23
Publications .....	23
Technical Assistance .....	23

# Introduction

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program is a federally-funded program to support law enforcement efforts to combat multijurisdictional criminal conspiracies and activities. Six regional intelligence centers provide criminal information exchange and other related operational support services to nearly 5,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies which are members of this highly innovative and effective program. The RISS Program operates in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Canada, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The regional centers are:

## Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLEN)

Newtown, Pennsylvania

### *Serving:*

Delaware, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, as well as Canada

## Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)

Springfield, Missouri

### *Serving:*

Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin, as well as Canada

## New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN)

Franklin, Massachusetts

### *Serving:*

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont, as well as Canada



## Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)

Phoenix, Arizona

### *Serving:*

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming, as well as Canada

## Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC)

Nashville, Tennessee

### *Serving:*

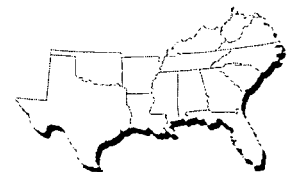
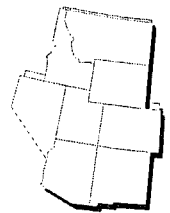
Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as Puerto Rico

## Western States Information Network (WSIN)

Sacramento, California

### *Serving:*

Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington, as well as Canada and Guam



## RISS Services

- Nationwide Intelligence Network (riss.net)
- RISS Intelligence Database (RISSNET)
- RISS National Gang Database (RISSGANG)
- RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board (RISSLEADS)
- Analytical Services
- Telecommunications (WATS/Patch)
- Specialized Investigative Equipment
- Confidential Funds
- Information Sharing/Training Conferences
- Publications

The six RISS Intelligence Centers operate in mutually exclusive regions and provide numerous support services to member law enforcement agencies so that they can more effectively investigate and prosecute a wide spectrum of regional crimes. Examples of crimes for which member agencies receive RISS center resources to investigate are narcotics trafficking, organized crime, criminal gangs, and violent crime. Each center's staff possesses sufficient flexibility to tailor the individual center's priorities and operations to the particular – perhaps unique – needs of the region served. This report presents the new information technology recently implemented by the RISS centers which created a RISS nationwide intelligence network (riss.net) for the rapid exchange and sharing of information on criminals and criminal activity among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. By providing information otherwise unavailable or too time-consuming to obtain, the RISS centers' support to law enforcement agency activities across the country has made a significant difference in the fight against crime.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides funding oversight and program management for the RISS Program. In addition, each RISS center has established an oversight group (policy board or executive committee) composed of representatives from state and local member agencies in the center's multistate region. Each center's oversight group provides policy and direction regarding center operations and administration.

The Institute for Intergovernmental Research (IIR) provides training, research, and analysis activities related to the management performance and information systems of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program, through grant awards received from BJA. IIR's tasks and activities under the grant awards are directed by BJA.

During 1996 and 1997, the RISS centers and BJA worked jointly in implementing new information technology for use by RISS law enforcement member agencies nationwide. This report highlights the technical achievements and progress made by the RISS Program to benefit the investigation and prosecution efforts of RISS member agencies. The report describes RISS service support components and activity, as well as examples of member agency case investigations supported by center services.



<http://rissgang.riss.net>

<http://rissleads.riss.net>

## Progress Through Technology

During the past several years, the directors of the six RISS Intelligence Centers and the Bureau of Justice Assistance adopted strategies to utilize advanced systems technology to improve and enhance the RISS information sharing network for easy and more rapid access to criminal intelligence information. Two primary goals were established: (1) electronic connection of the six RISS computer systems for direct database access and administrative communication, and (2) member agency electronic connection to each RISS center for database access and administrative communication.

In December 1996, the goal of electronically connecting the six RISS intelligence database pointer systems, known as RISSNET, was fully achieved. Within days of establishing the final connections of the six database systems, an electronic query from the WSIN database on the West Coast to the MAGLOCLN database on the East Coast resulted in a hit on a subject under investigation for cocaine trafficking by a state law enforcement agency in Juneau, Alaska. The subject was identified in the MAGLOCLN database as a target of a criminal investigation conducted by a local police department in Reading, Pennsylvania. The WSIN Intelligence Center promptly advised the Alaska agency of the information available and how to contact the Reading police agency for further investigative information, and the MAGLOCLN Intelligence Center advised the Reading agency of the new criminal information and interest by the Alaska agency. This took place while the MAGLOCLN staff were being trained to use the newly installed RISSNET criminal intelligence database.

The above example of sharing criminal intelligence information between state and local law enforcement agencies is the essence of the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program. New information technology implemented by RISS now makes it easier and quicker for RISS membership to obtain information and share investigative leads to achieve positive results in combatting multijurisdictional criminal activity nationwide.

By December 1996,  
all six RISS center  
intelligence  
databases were  
electronically  
connected.

*A single inquiry to one center may generate searches of all six RISS center databases.*

## **RISS NATIONWIDE INTELLIGENCE NETWORK — riss.net**

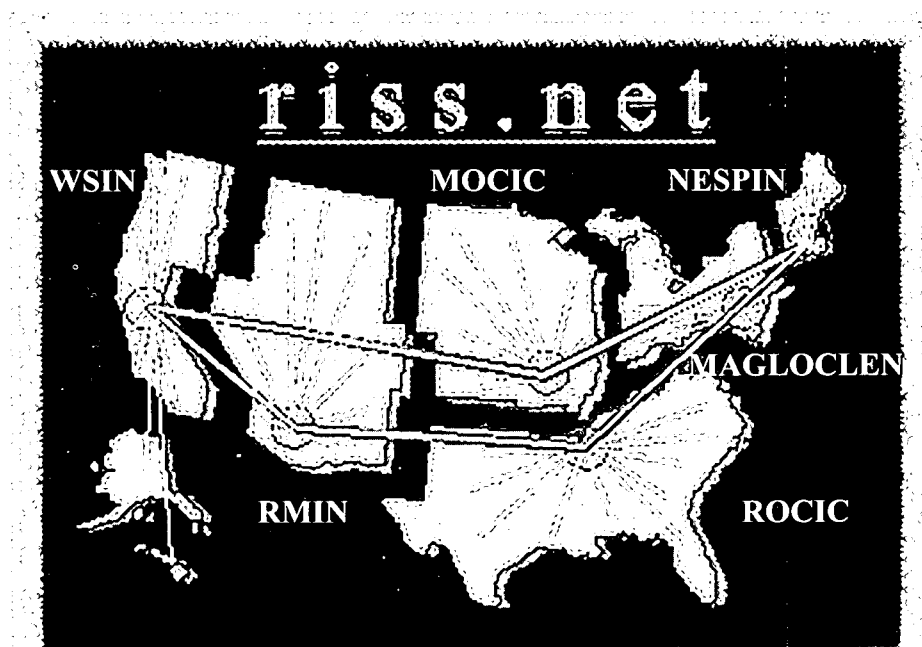
The technology advances which permitted the electronic connection of the six RISS intelligence database pointer systems gave RISS the opportunity to develop the RISS Nationwide Intelligence Network, called riss.net. Beginning in the latter part of 1996 and continuing through 1997, the RISS centers worked toward installing a secure intranet, utilizing Internet technology to accomplish the goal of providing member

agency electronic access to each center. The RISS Nationwide Intelligence Network – riss.net – is comprised of four components:

- RISS Secure Intranet
- Intelligence Database Pointer System (RISSNET)
- RISS National Gang Database (RISSGANG)
- RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board (RISSLEADS)

These components operating together permit local, state, and federal participating agencies easy electronic access to the RISS databases. A single inquiry to one center may generate searches of all six RISS center databases. Both riss.net and the intelligence databases are protected from unauthorized access by the latest in firewall architecture, user passwords, smartcard authentication, and encrypted message transactions.

Security is the highest priority of the riss.net design. Two levels of firewall protection shield RISS center resources from potential



security threats on the Internet. The "gateway" firewall is the first inspection stop for all inbound Internet traffic. This firewall performs a thorough inspection of the type of traffic coming in, where it is coming from, and who it is destined for. These three factors determine if traffic is passed to the second level of firewall protection, called the RISS center firewall. The RISS center firewall authenticates or identifies the user before allowing access to the riss.net features. Each time users access their RISS center through riss.net, the session is authenticated and message transactions are encrypted.

In February 1997, the necessary intranet equipment was installed and configured at all six RISS centers, and riss.net became a reality.


The RISS Program, since inception, has been a consortium of six criminal intelligence database systems covering six geographic regions in the country where intelligence information from the databases is used for criminal investigations and proactive and reactive intelligence analysis pur-

poses. Implementation of riss.net does not change this concept. It simply provides quick and easy access to the intelligence information.

## THE RISS SECURE INTRANET

The RISS secure intranet utilizes Internet technology to provide a secure private "intranet" network that connects the six RISS centers and member agencies. The use of Internet technology ensures inexpensive connection by RISS member agencies. The RISS intranet provides secure electronic mail (e-mail) transmissions for law enforcement member agency personnel to RISS center staff and other participating RISS member agencies. Secure web browser access is also provided to enrolled RISS member agencies for access to all authorized databases located on the secure intranet. The Intelligence Database Pointer System and the RISS National Gang Database, as well as the RISS Investigative Leads Bulletin Board components of riss.net are located on the RISS secure intranet.

**Good News for Members of:**



**MAGLOCLEN  
MOCIC  
NESPIN  
RMIN  
ROCIC  
WSIN**

**riss.net**

**Introducing . . .**  
New technology to make it quicker  
and easier to obtain criminal  
intelligence information from your  
Regional Information Sharing  
Systems (RISS) center

**Plus . . .**  
The RISS National Gang Database  
and the RISS Investigative Leads  
Bulletin Board

## INTELLIGENCE DATABASE POINTER SYSTEM (RISSNET)

Each RISS center maintains a criminal intelligence database which contains information pertaining to suspected criminals or criminal activity. As mentioned earlier in this report, all six RISS center criminal intelligence databases are electronically connected.

The criminal intelligence database pointer system is collectively called RISSNET. The electronic connection allows rapid search and retrieval of information from one or more, or all six, databases by RISS center staff. The implementation of intranet technology also gives RISS member agencies the option to directly access their respective regional RISS center intelligence database via web interface and e-mail capabilities for subject in-

Intelligence Database Pointer System - RISSNET						
Name	Org/Gang	Location	Phone	Vehicle	MNU	Help
Last Name: <input type="text"/>	First Name: <input type="text"/>	Middle Name: <input type="text"/>				
Case Number: <input type="text"/>						
Event Category: <input type="text"/>	Type: <input type="text"/>	MO: <input type="text"/>				
REASON FOR REQUEST <input type="text"/>						
Name Inquiry Information						
Last Name/Moniker: <input type="text"/>	First Name: <input type="text"/>	Middle Name: <input type="text"/>	Title: <input type="text"/>			
DOB: <input type="text"/>	Age: <input type="text"/>	Sex: <input type="text"/>	Race: <input type="text"/>			
Type of Name Search: <input checked="" type="radio"/> SOUNDEX on last name, first/middle name diminutive <input type="radio"/> FLIP-FLOP of last, first and/or middle name (soundex and diminutive) <input type="radio"/> EXACT MATCH on last, first/middle name 1st character <input type="radio"/> EXACT MATCH on last, first/middle name diminutive <input type="radio"/> EXACT MATCH on last, first and/or middle name						
Database to Search						
<input type="checkbox"/> MAGLOCLEN	<input type="checkbox"/> MOCIC	<input type="checkbox"/> NESPIN	<input type="checkbox"/> RMN	<input type="checkbox"/> ROCIC		
<input type="checkbox"/> WSN	<input type="checkbox"/> Arizona DPS	<input type="checkbox"/> New Mexico DPS	<input type="checkbox"/> Texas DPS	<input type="checkbox"/> CA/DOJ B of I		

A web interface is available to RISS member agencies for direct access to their RISS center intelligence database for subject inquiry and entry.

quiry and entry. Member agencies may also continue to contact their RISS center by telephone for database inquiries.

## **RISS NATIONAL GANG DATABASE (RISSGANG)**

RISSGANG, the RISS National Gang Database, is a centralized, crime-specific database which houses information on gang subjects and gang organizations. In addition to identifying information on the subject or gang, images relating to the subject or gang can be stored. The initial web browser version of the database was operational in September 1997. Additional features and capabilities will be available in early 1998. RISSGANG was developed through a series of focus groups held during 1997 in each of the RISS regions. Local, state, and federal law enforcement gang investigators participated in the focus groups and provided input on types of data and features needed in the database to support their investigation and prosecution efforts. Gang investigators attending the focus group meetings related their need for this nationwide capability for sharing intelligence information on criminal gang activity.

RISS member agencies and non-member participating agencies, as well as center staff, will access the database via riss.net web browser and e-mail capabilities for subject inquiry and entry. A non-member participating law enforcement agency must sign a participation agreement and obtain security equipment like that used by a member agency before access is permitted. Non-member agencies may access RISSGANG, but will not have access to the Intelligence Database Pointer System or RISSLEADS.

## **RISS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS BULLETIN BOARD (RISSLEADS)**

RISSLEADS utilizes a collaborative computer file server, often called a bulletin board system (BBS) or a newsgroup. This server is available only to RISS member agencies which have been given access to the RISS secure intranet by obtaining security equipment from their regional intelligence center. The RISSLEADS bulletin board allows agencies an opportunity to post investigative information regarding a particular criminal case or other law enforcement problem

*The RISSGANG database provides identifying information and images on gang subjects and gang organizations.*

Security is the highest priority of the riss.net design.

and receive replies posted by other agencies.

## SECURITY

As discussed earlier in this report, strong security measures have been implemented in the riss.net design. Multiple levels of firewall protection are utilized. One firewall level inspects all inbound Internet traffic and functions to block all unwanted network communications. Other firewall hardware and software authenticates, or identifies, the user before access is allowed and encrypts all transmissions between RISS centers and member agencies. Each member agency user must obtain an

enrollment security package from their regional intelligence center before access to riss.net is permitted.

## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

The RISS directors have established technical, security, and strategic planning committees to plan, develop, and implement operational policies for enhancing RISS systems through use of advanced technology into the 21st century. These committees have been integral to the achievement of RISS technology goals to date and will continue to work toward keeping RISS systems on the leading edge of technology.

The RISS technical committee meets frequently to plan and coordinate implementation of state-of-the-art technology to serve member law enforcement agencies.



# The RISS Program: 1996 - 1997

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Nearly 5,000 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies are members of the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program. The six regional intelligence centers are comprised of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, prosecution agencies, and others such as multijurisdictional task forces and regulatory agencies with law enforcement or criminal investigative authority.

For all six centers combined, local (municipal and county) law enforcement agencies represent 73% of the total membership. There are currently 611 federal agencies which are members in the six RISS regions.

The individuality of the regional centers permits each center to tailor activities and priorities to the types of crime problems in the region served. The focus of each center reflects the overall objective of the RISS Program to support member agencies' efforts to combat criminal conspiracies and activities which span multijurisdictional boundaries.

Each regional intelligence center funded under the RISS Program offers support services to member agencies. Mandatory services are information sharing, analytical services, and telecommunications. Optional services include, but are not limited to, investigative support (confidential funds), loan of specialized investigative equipment, training, and technical assistance.

## Current Membership

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MAGLOCLN	517
MOCIC	905
NESPIN	389
RMIN	703
ROCIC	1,161
WSIN	1,064
Total	4,739
(as of December 31, 1997)	





# Information Sharing

The primary function of the RISS Program is sharing of information about known or suspected criminals and criminal activity. The implementation of the RISS Nationwide Intelligence Network – riss.net – has expanded the information sharing capabilities available to member agencies to include two databases (RISSNET and RISSGANG), Internet web browser access, an investigative leads bulletin board (RISSLEADS), and electronic mail (e-mail). The RISS Intelligence Centers continue to supplement and enhance these information sharing components through membership conferences and formal publications.

Each RISS Intelligence Center maintains a criminal intelligence database pointer system (RISSNET) containing information

on suspects and criminal activity that is multijurisdictional in nature, including narcotics trafficking, organized crime, violent crimes, and firearms trafficking. The RISS National Gang Database (RISSGANG) is a centralized, crime-specific database containing information on suspected gang subjects and gangs. Information is submitted to each database according to established procedures and criteria. RISS member agencies submit data and access the RISSNET database and the RISSGANG database. Non-RISS member agencies may participate in and access only the RISSGANG database.

All RISS Intelligence Centers combined currently maintain information on nearly 600,000 criminal subjects in their RISSNET databases.

Member agencies have five ways to make inquiries and submit data to their RISS center:



by phone



by mail



by fax



by e-mail



by riss.net

riss.net along with  
web technology  
provides the  
capability for fast  
electronic inquiry  
to databases at  
one or more  
regional centers  
simultaneously.

## DATABASE ACTIVITY

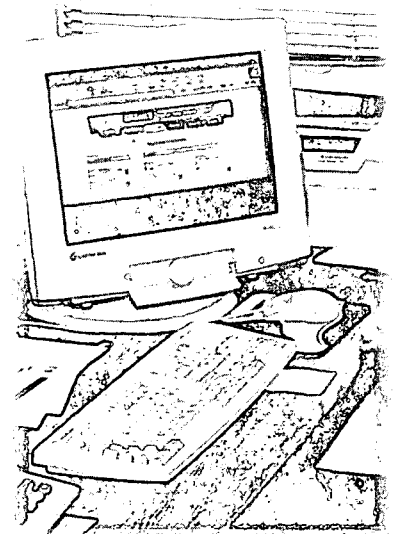
As of December 31, 1997, the number of criminal subjects maintained in the RISSNET intelligence databases for all centers combined was 573,695. For purposes of this report, criminal subjects are defined as individuals, organizations, groups, and associates. The combined databases at all six RISS centers also maintained data on 974,177 locations, vehicles, weapons, and telephone numbers, for a grand total of 1,547,872 data entities.

The crime-specific RISSGANG database became operational in September 1997. Following the initial implementation of the RISSGANG database, nearly 4,500 gang subjects and gang organizations have been entered into the database. This number is expected to increase rapidly after full implementation of the database is completed in early 1998.

RISS database services are designed to encourage exchange of information and coordination among member agencies investigating the same individuals or organizations. Agencies obtaining information on criminal subjects from the databases are referred to other agencies that have information on the subject. The

capability for fast electronic inquiry to one or more regional centers simultaneously is provided by riss.net along with web interface technology. Electronic notification and referral to other agencies is also provided via riss.net, as well as e-mail for quicker contact among agencies.

For the twelve-month period January through December 1997, the total number of inquiries to the RISSNET database for all six regional intelligence centers combined was 680,115. The total number of hits (information found) was 61,875. Due to start-up in September 1997, data on inquiries and hits to the RISSGANG database were not yet available for 1997.



## RESULTS OF MEMBER AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORTED BY CRIMINAL INFORMATION DATABASE SERVICES

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The criminal information database services facilitate information exchange and contact among agencies within the respective RISS regions, as well as throughout the RISS network. This frequently results in solved cases.

Examples of member agency investigations supported by RISS database services are summarized below.

The MOCIC Intelligence Center staff made an electronic inquiry into the WSIN center's regional RISSNET database on behalf of the South Dakota Highway Patrol regarding an organized crime subject. A hit was generated which identified the subject as having previously been investigated for narcotics trafficking by the Portland, Oregon, Police Bureau. The agencies were placed in contact with each other, and the intelligence information resulted in a major multistate investigation worked jointly by multiple law enforcement agencies.

The RMIN Intelligence Center database services were used to identify and locate numerous suspects, investigative leads, and contacts to assist in an investigation worked by the Maricopa County,

Arizona, Sheriff's Department. A suspect who had posed as a Department of Defense investigator was subsequently arrested and charged with fraud, theft, forgery, computer fraud, and sexual abuse. RMIN staff assisted with the verification of documents including school transcripts, employment histories, birth certificates, and marriage licenses. The ROCIC and MOCIC regional centers assisted in the case by locating subjects in Illinois and Georgia who were then interviewed by Maricopa County investigators. The RMIN staff checked alias names provided by the investigators, ordered driver's license photographs, and ran background checks. An additional count to the list of charges was added when RMIN located a fraud warrant issued on one of the alias names used by the subject. The investigation is continuing.

In 1997,  
member agency  
investigations  
supported by the  
RISS centers  
resulted in:

Arrests: 4,969

Narcotics

Seized: \$115,671,224

Currency Seized or

Recovered: \$5,354,420

Property Seized or

Recovered: \$12,824,578



# Analytical Services

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Analytical services provided by the six RISS Intelligence Centers consist of investigative data compilation and analysis to assist members in multijurisdictional investigations and prosecutions.

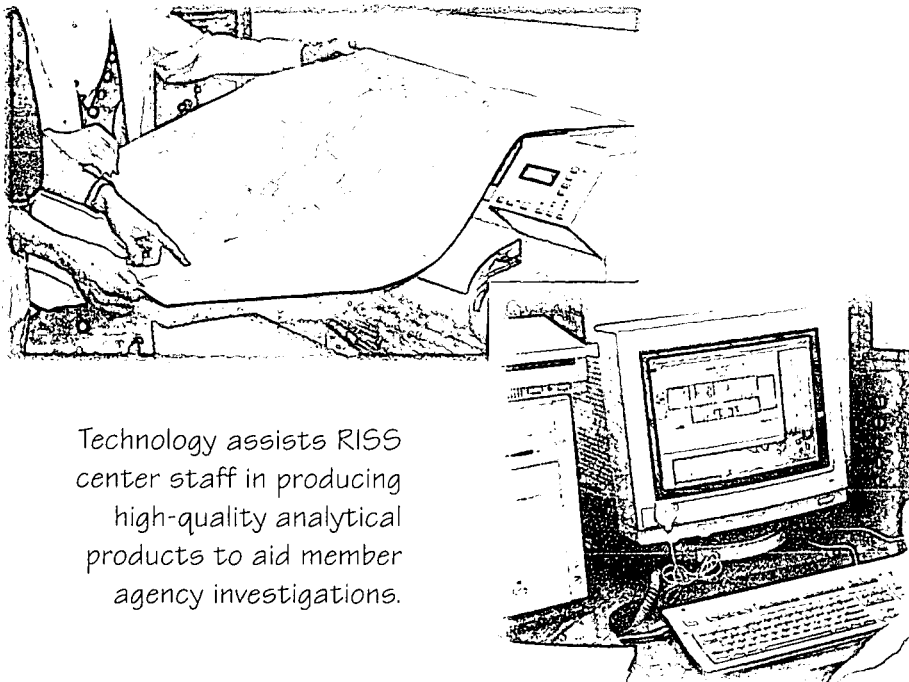
All centers have the capability to provide traditional analytical service activities, such as telephone toll analysis, investigative case analysis, financial analysis, and criminal activity trend analysis to their member agencies. Analytical service activities result in the dissemination of various products to the requesting agency, such as

investigative charts, link diagrams, special criminal activity reports, and automated listings of investigative data and telephone call data.

Individual RISS centers provide specialized analytical services and products tailored to the requesting agency needs, such as computer software for use by the member in entering telephone toll data for analysis and analytical staff trained in retrieval of data from computers seized in member investigations.

In 1997, 20,002 analytical products were delivered to member agencies by all six centers combined.

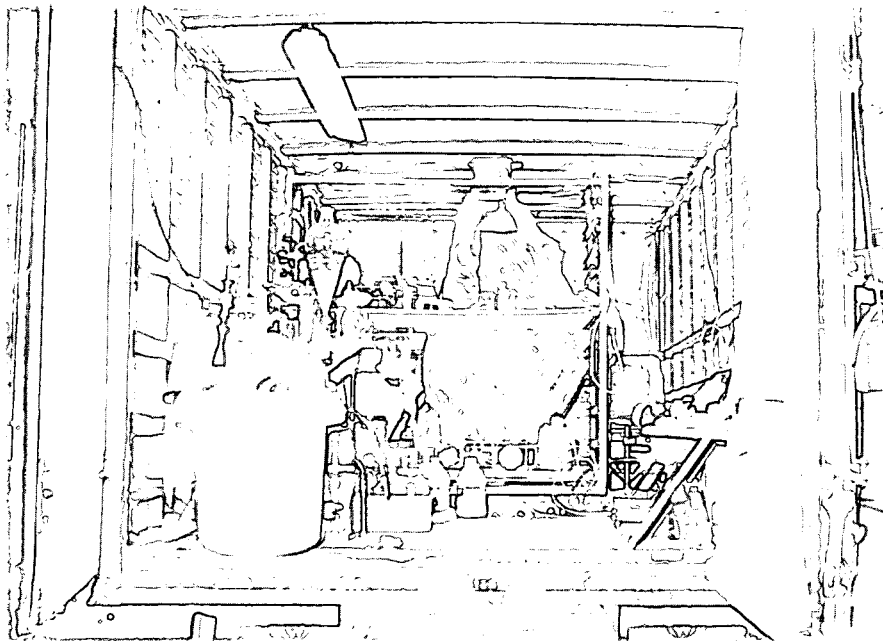
All RISS centers combined deliver over 20,000 analytical products per year to member agencies in support of their investigative and prosecution efforts.



Technology assists RISS center staff in producing high-quality analytical products to aid member agency investigations.

## RESULTS OF MEMBER AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORTED BY ANALYTICAL SERVICES

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In January 1996, a request was made by the California Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) in Orange County for the WSIN center to provide assistance to the Orange County Lab Enforcement Team (OCLET) to an ongoing, multijurisdictional undercover operation. The request was for analytical assistance to chart the developments of the case (including links and timelines). During the six-month operation, OCLET set up a store front which sold chemicals used to make methamphetamine. By investigating the suspects' purchase of the chemical ingredients,

RISS analytical staff supported member investigations that resulted in methamphetamine lab seizures.



"Operation Buyer Beware" resulted in the seizure of 14 methamphetamine labs; 150 pounds of methamphetamine in solution worth \$1,500,000; 113 pounds of finished methamphetamine worth \$1,130,000; 30 weapons, including one machine gun; and \$1.5 million in cash. Twenty-four arrests have taken place in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Fresno, and Stanislaus Counties, and more than 30 additional arrests are pending. During the six-month effort, several agencies throughout California worked together to discover Orange County's manufacturers of methamphetamine. WSIN's analysts provided several extremely complicated and meticulously detailed charts in support of this operation; these were also used by the Orange County District Attorney's Office in filing for arrest warrants, and for court presentation and prosecution.

In September 1996, the Stone County, Missouri, Sheriff's Office and the Stone County Prosecutor requested the MOCIC center's assistance in preparing a homicide case for trial. The accused subject had abducted, raped, and brutally

murdered a 12-year old female from Springfield, Missouri, and dumped her body in a wooded area in Stone County. The prosecution team needed assistance analyzing investigators' information that revealed a "trail" the suspect left. MOCIC analytical staff used analytical mapping techniques to portray the accused subject's known activities and also produced a timeline to show his actions. MOCIC staff also produced detailed crime scene diagrams which were used extensively during the trial. Ultimately, the accused was convicted and sentenced to death.

In January 1996, the ROCIC center was contacted by Kentucky member agencies to assist in an investigation of a motel arson which resulted in the death of four people and injured more than a dozen others. ROCIC analysts assisted the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) and local law enforcement officials with the investigation. While on-site, analysts created a database to organize the voluminous case file consisting of witness, suspect, and law enforcement personnel statements. The analysts also prepared a crime

scene diagram. ROCIC worked closely with the U.S. Attorney's Office and, during the course of the year-long investigation, the center prepared 70 analytical charts. Fourteen of these charts were used in the trial, and according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Lexington, Kentucky, local officers, and ATF agents, the case would have been nearly impossible for the jury to understand without the charts. In

March 1997, the case came to a close with the conviction of both defendants. Both were convicted of conspiracy to destroy a building used in interstate commerce and carrying out the plot; the latter charge carries the death penalty when deaths occur as a result. In addition, one of the defendants, who was the owner of the motel, was convicted of mail fraud.

*RISS analytical services were provided in an investigation of a motel arson which resulted in the death of four people and injuries to more than a dozen others.*





# Information Sharing and Training Conferences

Each of the RISS centers enhances their information sharing services by sponsoring or co-sponsoring conferences and meetings for the purpose of sharing information on specific investigations or emerging criminal groups. Conference formats often provide a mixture of information sharing and training activities. Specialized investigative techniques training programs on various topics are also made available to member agencies.

Types of conferences sponsored by the centers include subject areas related to: specialized investigative equipment; analytical techniques; surveillance techniques; techniques for investigating narcotics trafficking, organized crime, economic crime, and terrorism; and center orientation and overview of services.

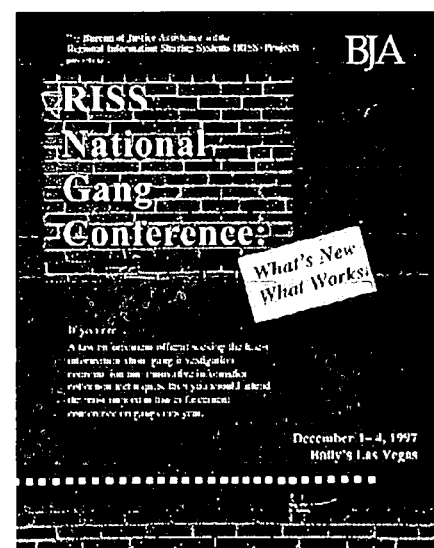
In 1997, 26,464 agency representatives attended RISS center-sponsored information sharing programs.

## RISS NATIONAL GANG CONFERENCE

During 1997, the six RISS centers conducted a RISS National Gang Conference using the theme: What's New—What Works. The conference was held December 1-4, 1997, in Las Vegas, Nevada. This conference was a collaborative effort sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the RISS centers, and was the first such national effort designed to promote gang investigation coordination and information collection. The conference format featured local, state, and federal law enforcement gang specialists discussing gang problems, the latest operational enforcement techniques, program strategies, and legislative tools. The conference was attended by 1,000 law enforcement personnel.

Also in 1997, focus group meetings sponsored by the RISS centers were conducted in each of the six regions to address gang-related issues, needs, requirements, and data collection analysis and exchange. At each of the focus

group meetings, attendees provided presentations on the extent of gang activity in their locales. Additionally, the attendees identified promising prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts. A national report based on the results of the six regional meetings will be published in 1998.



## RESULTS OF MEMBER AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORTED BY INFORMATION SHARING AND TRAINING CONFERENCES

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An officer from the Town of Tonawanda, New York, Police Department attended the MAGLOCLIN center's 3rd Annual Canadian American Organized Crime Conference. He later found that the new interview and interrogation techniques he learned at the conference worked very successfully in his investigations. As a result of using the new techniques, he obtained confessions in six consecutive cases. One confession involved a predatory sex offender who admitted to sexually abusing several children over the period of a decade. The instructor of the interview and interrogation techniques training told the officers they would know the techniques worked if the suspect shook hands at the end of the interview. As the officer was putting the subject into a cell, the suspect shook the detective's hand and said "You are the nicest detective I have ever met."

In November 1996, the RMIN center co-sponsored a four-day Advanced Highway Drug Interdiction course in Grand Junction, Colorado. RMIN's financial support in providing the training facilities, lodging, and travel costs for the class instructors directly assisted 107 local and state officers in receiving the training. RMIN's assistance along with that of DEA and the Colorado State Patrol reduced the normal tuition fee per officer from \$450 to \$75, giving a number of officers from small agencies in western Colorado the opportunity to receive the training. The benefit of the training soon became apparent when officers who had attended the course were involved in three significant seizures of drugs, weapons, and currency on the following weekend.

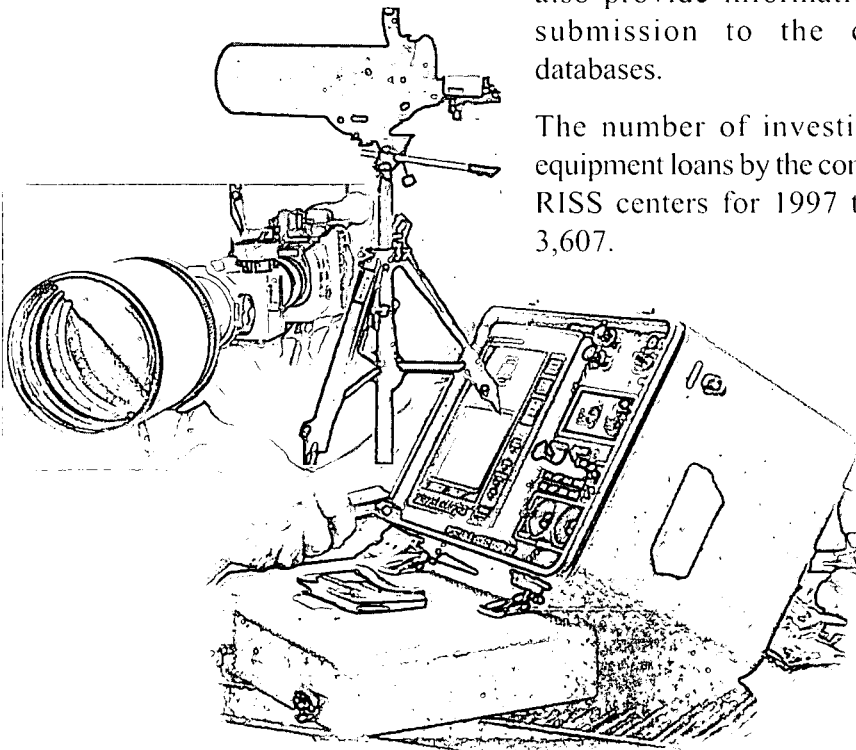
# Investigative Equipment

Currently, five of the six centers maintain pools of specialized investigative equipment for loan to participating member agencies. (The RMIN center does not currently provide this optional service activity). The center equipment pools generally contain similar investigative equipment (photographic, communications, surveillance, etc.), differing primarily in the number of each type of equipment available and the age of the various pieces. Each center has

developed criteria to process requests by member agencies for loan of equipment, and each has implemented inventory controls and procedures for operation of this service activity. The centers require member agencies to provide reports on the use and benefits of the equipment in supporting their investigative activity. As in the use of confidential funds, these reports also provide information for submission to the center databases.

The number of investigative equipment loans by the combined RISS centers for 1997 totaled 3,607.

The combined RISS centers make over 3,500 investigative equipment loans per year to member agency personnel.



## RESULTS OF MEMBER AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORTED BY INVESTIGATIVE EQUIPMENT LOANS

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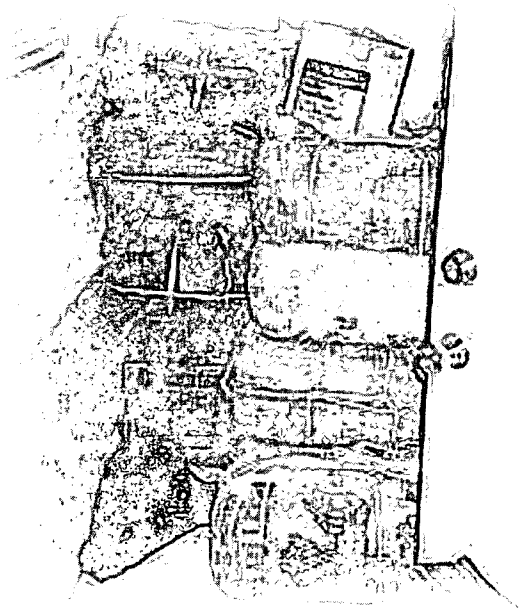
*Marijuana was seized in an investigation supported by the loan of investigative equipment.*

The New York State Police, in conjunction with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Ontario County, New York, Sheriff's Office, requested assistance from the MAGLOCLIN center in the investigation of a marijuana distribution network. With the help of cellular telephone interceptors, dialed number recorders, and computer software from MAGLOCLIN, the agencies were able to make the largest seizure of drugs and currency in the history of Ontario County. As a result of the four-month investigation, four people were arrested and authorities seized 74 pounds of marijuana, over \$200,000 in U.S. currency, and \$5,000 in electronics equipment.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, Northern Connecticut Office, Connecticut State Police, and a number of local law enforcement

agencies in the Hartford area joined together to establish a task force to combat rising gang-related criminal activity. The NESPIN center was requested to provide covert surveillance vans that could be used by the task force officers to gather evidence and identify gang members engaged in street violence. More than 100 gang members were arrested as a result of the evidence obtained with use of the van. More than 50 federal indictments were issued for a broad range of federal crimes, including racketeering, drug trafficking, and homicide.

In June 1996, an ROCIC center member agency from the state of Kentucky requested the use of numerous pieces of investigative equipment. The equipment was used in an undercover sting operation which allowed detectives to purchase stolen property. Transactions were videotaped to ensure the highest quality cases possible. This operation was conducted for six months and netted \$491,946 in property and drugs. To date, there have been 36 individuals arrested on a total of 247 separate charges.



# Confidential Funds

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## RESULTS OF MEMBER AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS SUPPORTED BY CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS LOANS

All six RISS Intelligence Centers have confidential funds available to member agencies for the purchase of investigative information, contraband, stolen property, and other items of an evidentiary nature, or to provide for other investigative expenses. The availability and use of confidential funds are strictly controlled by federal guidelines, and internal policies and procedures are developed by each center. The centers require member agencies to report on the use and benefits of the confidential funds in supporting their investigative activity. These reports also include information for submission to center databases.

The net amount of confidential funds provided (confidential funds lent-less the return of unused funds) by the centers to member agencies totaled \$232,274 for 1997. Provision of confidential fund support services varies depending on individual center management policy and budget constraints.

The Massachusetts State Police Gang Unit, along with other area agencies, requested confidential funds from the NESPIN center for a gang investigation. Officers were investigating street gangs which had or were attempting to gain a foothold in drug trafficking in the central part of Massachusetts. The investigation targeted many street gangs in the area; some were connected with nationwide groups, while others were local gangs. The confidential funds were requested to purchase narcotics and evidence for the duration of the investigation. The investigation resulted in the arrest of 56 gang members and the identification of previously unknown gangs. A NESPIN surveillance van was also utilized during the course of the investigation to photograph gang members for the purpose of later identification.

Investigators of the Tampa, Florida, Police Department and the Pinellas County, Florida, Sheriff's Office

requested assistance from the ROCIC center in a narcotics case involving drug trafficking in methamphetamine between Florida and California. A suspect in Florida was receiving large quantities of methamphetamine from a suspect residing in the San Francisco, California, area. The two Florida agencies and the San Francisco, California, Police Department conducted a joint, one-year investigation. The investigation revealed that the California suspect was part of a national methamphetamine distribution group. ROCIC provided confidential funds to the investigation which allowed the purchase of evidence that otherwise could not have been obtained. The suspect residing in California was arrested and convicted in both Florida and California courts for trafficking in methamphetamine, importation of methamphetamine, and associated crimes.



# Other Support Services

The RISS Intelligence Centers provide many additional support services to their membership other than those already mentioned in this report. Some of the additional services are described below.

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

All six centers operate long distance telecommunication (WATS) systems for the primary purpose of facilitating information sharing and exchange among center member agencies. Telecommunication services include the optional service of call patching capabilities for interstate telephone calls. The telecommunication systems are operated at no cost to member agencies and support the operations

of the information sharing and analytical components of each center, as well as center-supported investigations and activities.

## PUBLICATIONS

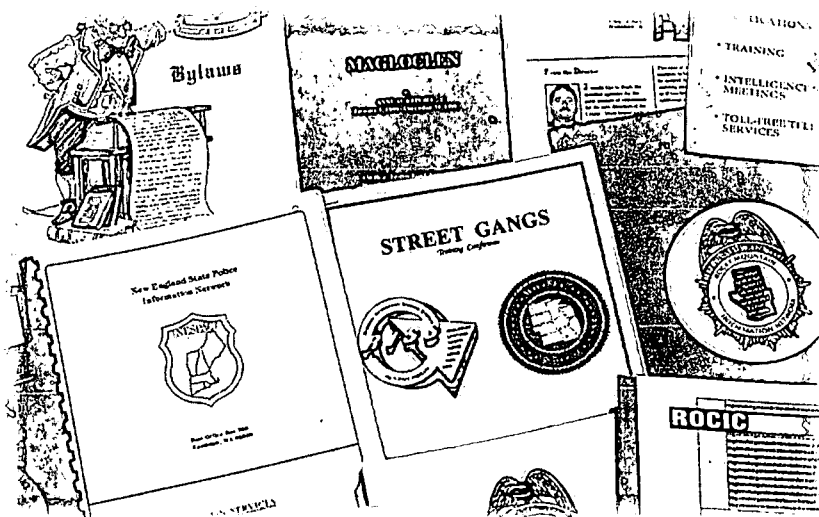
Each RISS Intelligence Center distributes criminal information bulletins and flyers, as well as other intelligence information publications to their member agency personnel. Some publications are distributed on an as-needed basis; others are routinely published monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly. These

publication services enhance the ability of RISS member agencies to share information on criminal activity in their region.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

All six RISS Intelligence Centers have active field staff units to provide technical assistance to their member agencies. Field staff personnel familiarize member agencies with the utilization of center services, such as submission of data to the center database, use of specialized equipment, investigative procedures, confidential funds in support of multijurisdictional investigations, and information analysis capabilities.

Each RISS center publishes criminal activity bulletins and reports which are distributed to their member agencies.



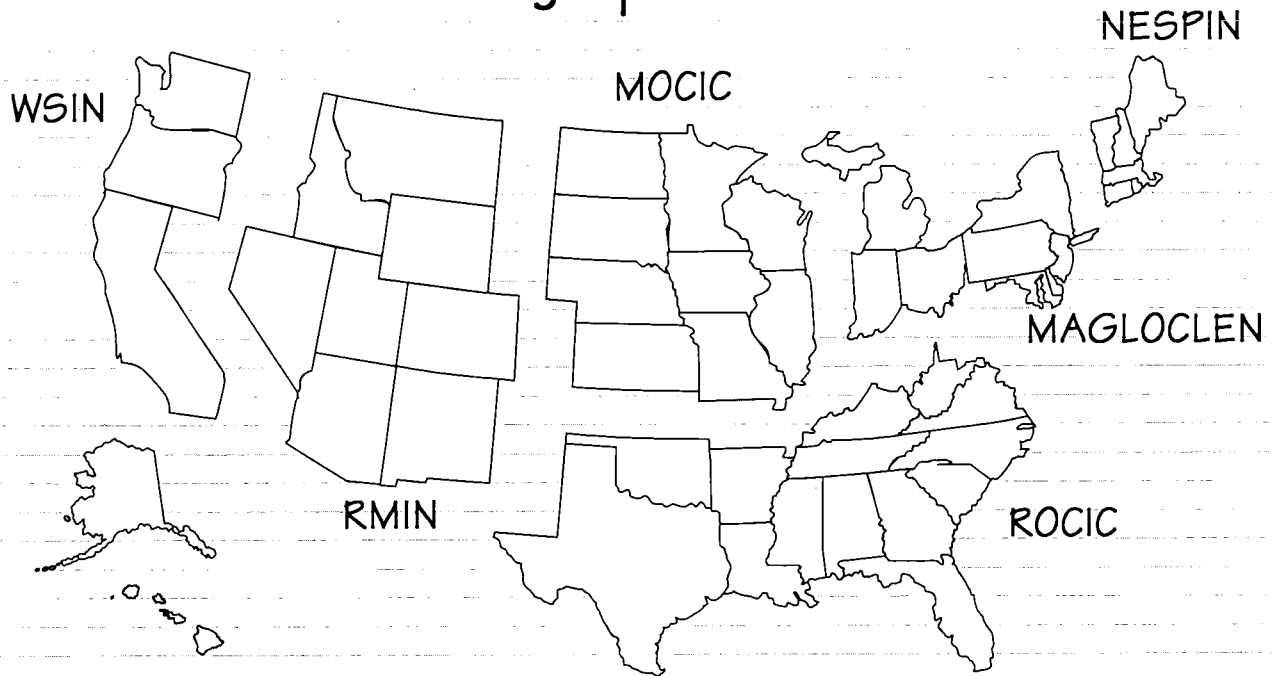








# RISS Geographic Profile



## Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLEN)

140 Terry Drive, Suite 100  
Newtown, PA 18940  
(800) 345-1322  
<http://magloclen.riss.net>

## Mid-States Organized Crime Information Center (MOCIC)

Number Four Corporate Centre, Suite 205  
1949 East Sunshine  
Springfield, MO 65804  
(800) 846-6242  
<http://mocic.riss.net>

## New England State Police Information Network (NESPIN)

124 Grove Street, Suite 305  
Franklin, MA 02038  
(800) 343-5682  
<http://nespin.riss.net>

## Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN)

2828 North Central Avenue, Suite 1000  
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1027  
(800) 821-0640  
<http://rmin.riss.net>

## Regional Organized Crime Information Center (ROCIC)

545 Marriott Drive, Suite 850  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(800) 238-7985  
<http://rocic.riss.net>

## Western States Information Network (WSIN)

Post Office Box 903198  
Sacramento, CA 94203-1980  
(800) 952-5258  
<http://wsin.riss.net>

## Institute for Intergovernmental Research

Post Office Box 12729  
Tallahassee, FL 32317  
(850) 385-0600  
<http://www.iir.com>

A large, stylized graphic of the United States map, filled with a dense, repeating pattern of the text "Progress Through Technology". The map is centered on the page. Below the map, there is a white rectangular box containing the text: "Institute for Intergovernmental Research", "P.O. Box 12729", and "Tallahassee, Florida 32317".