Larger criminal justice agencies (those with 50 or more sworn personnel) can access a full range of relevant scientific and technology-related information, including results from National Institute of Justice (NIJ) research, development, testing and evaluation (RDT&E) activities, through the services of the States, Major Cities and Counties (SMCC) Regional Center. The SMCC Regional Center provides a resource and outreach mechanism for these larger agencies, ensuring unbiased access to information concerning the resources and technology assistance activities of the entire National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) System.

Virtual Conferencing

The SMCC Regional Center introduced the concept of “virtual conferencing” to the NLECTC System by providing web-based content such as videotaped technology demonstrations, presentations and/or keynote addresses from various NIJ-sponsored events, thus allowing those who are unable to attend the event to obtain important information. This information is available for download from JUSTNET, the NLECTC System website (http://www.justnet.org) and may be shown as part of SMCC outreach efforts at other events.

Technology Institutes

NIJ Technology Institutes, where a group of practitioners selected through an application process comes together to network and share technology challenges and solutions, include the institutes for law enforcement and corrections. More information about NIJ Technology Institutes can be found on JUSTNET.

Outreach

Staff from the SMCC Regional Center exhibit at conferences and tech fairs, including those of organizations such as state associations of police chiefs and sheriffs, the National League of Cities, International Association of Women Police, the Major Cities Police Chiefs Association and the International Law Enforcement Trainers Organization. These outreach efforts also enable SMCC staff to obtain valuable input from the field, creating a two-way channel of communication between practitioners and NIJ.

Collaboration With Other Centers

Through collaborative efforts with the other centers in the NLECTC System, the SMCC Regional Center enhances the information exchange services it makes available to practitioners. Working through NLECTC-National, which serves as the hub of the system, the SMCC Regional Center can draw on the expertise and assistance of the other Regional Center and the CoEs, if and as appropriate, to meet the information needs and technology requests of its constituents. The SMCC Regional Center coordinates technology evaluations with the CoEs.

NLECTC System Overview

Through the NLECTC System, NIJ brings technology closer to the frontlines. The NLECTC System plays a critical role in enabling NIJ to carry out its mission to assist state, local, tribal and federal law enforcement, corrections and other criminal justice agencies in addressing their technology needs and challenges.

The NLECTC System aligns its outreach efforts through two centers serving different demographic regions of the public safety community: the States, Major Cities and Counties (SMCC) Regional Center and the Small, Rural, Tribal and Border (SRTB) Regional Center. The SMCC Regional Center offers a resource and outreach mechanism for state, major city and county criminal justice system partners, with a mission of ensuring that larger criminal justice agencies (those having 50 or more sworn personnel) have unbiased access to a full range of relevant scientific and technology-related information. The SRTB Regional Center publicizes its programs and
services to small, rural, tribal and border agencies across the country. The efforts of these centers complement those of NLECTC-National, which coordinates NIJ’s Compliance Testing program and standards development efforts for a variety of equipment used in the public safety arena, and the CoEs, which support NIJ’s RDT&E efforts in specific portfolio areas.