LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (LACRIS)

RECORDS AND IDENTIFICATION BUREAU
TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Sheriff is responsible for providing the coordinated fingerprint identification services for the County of Los Angeles as part of the statewide Cal-ID plan. The Los Angeles County Regional Identification System (LACRIS) was established in 1986 as a Unit within the Records and Identification Bureau with the mission to provide consolidated County-wide service. LACRIS oversees the County's criminal identification operations, administration of funds, access to the Cal-ID network, and liaisons with the California Department of Justice's Bureau of Identification.

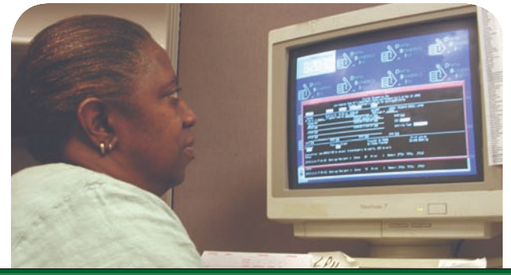
As part of the Cal-ID network, Los Angeles County maintains a Remote Access Network Board, also known as the Cal-ID/RAN Board. Chaired by a member of the Board of Supervisors and composed of law enforcement executives, the RAN Board directs LACRIS activities and provides funding for identification services and staff. The Board provides salary funding for 27 LACRIS staff, including the Manager, two sergeants, administrative support staff, and technicians. Funds are received from criminal penalty assessments and designated Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) funds.

The Technical Subcommittee is open to all criminal justice agencies in the County. The Subcommittee meets bi-monthly to discuss LACRIS business, evaluate technology needs, and recommend purchases of identification related hardware and software. The Sheriff's Cal-ID Lieutenant, who also functions as the LACRIS Manager, chairs the Technical Subcommittee meetings. The Technical Subcommittee is a premier example of the interagency participation of LACRIS member agencies and the participative leadership role demonstrated by the Sheriff.

LACRIS is composed of Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) services, the Livescan Unit, System Support Unit, and the Sheriff's Fingerprint Unit. The evolution of technology in the identification process produces a dynamic and challenging working environment for each component of LACRIS.

AFIS Operations

The Fingerprint Unit, using the AFIS system, completes over 30,000 fingerprint comparisons and identifications each month. Following confirmation of identity, arrest records at the state and local level are automatically updated based on this positive identification. Within the next year, this staff will be operating a new, highly advanced system that will incorporate advanced features to rapidly identify criminals during the booking process. The new AFIS system, which will also incorporate palm print identification and high resolution imaging, will provide latent investigators throughout the County with a



new, powerful tool to identify crime scene prints. Prior to procurement of this $15.4 million system, the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) and the Sheriff's Department operated individual systems with much replicated data. The new AFIS, designed by Cogent Systems of South Pasadena, combines the fingerprint records into a single database that will service all law enforcement agencies in the County.

Livescan Operations

The Livescan Unit is at the leading edge of technology relating to the electronic capture, transmission, and distribution of fingerprint records. Within the past ten years, electronic transmission of fingerprints evolved from simply sending a copy of an inked arrest card to the "livescan" capture of electronic digital fingerprint and mugshot images. There are a total of 160 livescan workstations maintained at every Sheriff's station, police station, court lock-up, and juvenile hall in Los Angeles County, in addition to the District Attorney Investigator's office, Coroner's office, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service's (INS) Los Angeles Detention Facility. The workstations are networked through the high capacity Sheriff's Data Network and integrated with the AJIS County-wide booking system to constitute a complete "booking" station that includes fingerprinting the arrestee, booking slip completion, mugshot capture, and initiation of criminal history reporting at one time.

The digital mugshot has replaced the traditional and cumbersome photographs. Not only is the booking photo printed on the booking slip, but it is forwarded to the LACRIS Crimes Mugshot System. Through the LACRIS Mugshot System, the image is made available to other systems, including the Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System (CCHRS) and California's Cal-Photo System. Tattoo images are also captured within the LACRIS Mugshot System, in addition to the booking photos, and are available to investigators and officers on their desktop workstations, as well as wireless computers. The system includes a suite of investigative tools for completing "six-packs," mug-books, and conducting a facial recognition search.

The Livescan Unit also administers the Cal-Photo and Cal-DMV applications for all agencies in Los Angeles County. Cal-Photo, developed by the Department of Justice with LACRIS assistance, accesses the various mugshot databases statewide. Cal-DMV provides the police officer immediate access to DMV photos, thumbprints, and license information. An innovative adaptation, developed and funded by

LACRIS staff, now permits wireless access by field officers to LACRIS, Cal-Photo, and Cal-DMV.

System Support

Systems Support is funded by LACRIS to provide 24 hour a day/7 day per week service to the client agencies for livescan, mug shot, and AFIS services. The System Support Unit provides liaison services among local agencies, LACRIS contractors, and other County, State, and Federal agencies. In addition to providing on-line "user level" instruction, the staff fields over 1000 monthly calls for service.

The LACRIS staff embodies our motto "protection through technology" and remains alert for developments in the fingerprint and digital imaging technology that will provide quality tools for police officers throughout Los Angeles County. Future initiatives will include upgrading our livescan network to electronically collect palm prints and improving image quality. Initial applications of wireless technology to transmit fingerprint and mugshot images have proven remote access and inquiry by field units is practical.