

# Good news Idents!

## Fingerprint experts get a buzz when they achieve an identification on IDENT1 against a scene of crime mark.

As a rule they don't tend to publicise their achievements outside their own bureau or force – they feel it's all part of the job.

However, below are three 'good news' stories sent in by Sussex and Thames Valley bureaux. We would welcome more from readers!

### Fast Idents with Live ID

**Steve Mewett** at Sussex bureau reports a fast ident made in October. A suspect was arrested by way of a DNA sample for a historic rape series (stranger rapes). He had never come to notice before.

He was fingerprinted on Livescan and a Print to Mark search and Live ID were both launched from Custody. Within a few minutes the suspect was identified to scene of crime finger-marks from a serious sexual assault two years previously. This was a significant lead for the Officer in the Case, as this offence had a different modus operandi. The suspect was charged with the series

of rapes and the additional serious sexual assault.

**Thames Valley** bureau reports that a live ID ten-print to mark search initiated by Staines custody in September resulted in an identification of the suspect to an armed robbery that took place at West Byfleet in 2001. The identified mark was from the magazine of a blank firing hand gun found in a Tesco bag with items of clothing. All items of clothing, the gun and the bag match the description given by witnesses of what the offender was wearing/carrying during the offence. The bag was found shortly after the offence under some bins – in the area where the offender was last seen. Action was taken immediately on the identification and enquiries proceeded. The identified subject and partner were previously unknown to CIS and it would appear PNC also.

### ANPR stop-checks produce results

Using ANPR stop-checks as an indication of which criminals are active, searching the IDENT1 unidentified marks database is a simple process to set up, doesn't take up too much resource, and is yielding good idents in Sussex.

Each day, Sussex bureau receives a list from the ANPR team at HQ of names that have come up in relation to vehicles associated with criminal activity. Searching these people's IDENT1 ten-print records against the Unidentified Marks database yielded three idents in a single week, solving three past crimes.

The crimes involved were a deception in Thames Valley area 2002, a vehicle theft in Greater Manchester, and a more recent wages snatch robbery.

Please keep your good news stories coming – send them to your Chairperson for Regional meetings, and copy to: [ident1@pito.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ident1@pito.pnn.police.uk).

We will publish and pass to the NFB any suitable stories of interest to the forensic and fingerprint communities.

## IDENT1 Latest Statistics

The IDENT1 ten-print database now has 7 million individual records and is growing at around 4,000 records a month!

Average monthly idents from March 2006 to February 2007 was 6,342 per month, compared with 5,761 averaged over the previous 12 months.

Palms idents since Feb 2006 have exceeded 10,200.

## Lantern pilot now running

**The final objective of the Lantern project is to deliver live mobile identification to all police forces throughout England, Wales and possibly Scotland.**

Currently 10 forces are involved in a pilot due to last until December 2007. They are Bedfordshire Police, British Transport Police, Essex Police, Hertfordshire Constabulary, Lancashire Constabulary, Metropolitan Police Service, North Wales Police, Northamptonshire Police, West Midlands Police and West Yorkshire Police.

The roll-out phase of the pilot was completed in January 2007 and all 10 forces are now operational with 100 Lantern units deployed.

The pilot, scheduled for completion

next December, will allow Lantern to build on the experiences gained from the technical demonstrator and to find out how it can be used in an operational environment. Analysis of the pilot results will ratify a national roll-out.

### Current identification hit rate

At the time of going to press, a total of 3,000 operational Lantern searches have been submitted between all 10 forces. Currently these checks have an average transaction time of two minutes, which is well below the five minute

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target time. They have a hit rate of approximately 40 per cent, ie, 40 per cent of people checked are on the national fingerprint collection.

A number of good arrests have been made since the deployment began, particularly of disqualified drivers presenting false ID.

## Measuring the benefits to policing

The project team has now begun to undertake the task of identifying and measuring the business benefits associated with the use of the device.

A workshop was recently held with the pilot forces to identify and agree the

most effective and practical methods of collecting the data required, without compromising the quality of the service that they provide.

An agreement was reached and forces will begin to return the agreed statistical data on a monthly basis. There are six key benefits that are being measured during the pilot.

- ▮ **Roadside and in-street identifications increased**
- ▮ **Roadside and in-street identification of prolific and priority offenders increased**
- ▮ **Unnecessary arrests reduced**
- ▮ **Redeployment of saved time**

▮ **False details at time of arrest decreased**

▮ **Increased confidence in handling situations where false details are suspected.**

All data captured will be used to provide evidence that the capability does work and ultimately saves the police a great deal of time which inevitably means that they are out patrolling the streets for longer and reducing crime.

More information can be found at: <http://www.pito.org.uk/products/lantern.php>.

**Another series of IDENT1 user meetings – ACPO Regional Fingerprint Bureaux, National Regional Representatives and the IDENT1 User Board – took place during November and December 2006. Below are two examples of how issues raised at these user meetings are followed up and resolved by the IDENT1 team.**

## Back records conversion (Minor Offenders) project

At an ACPO 2 Regional meeting, South Yorkshire Police raised a concern that potential scenes of crime identifications were being missed because certain force-held ten-print records were not currently transferred to NAFIS (now IDENT1). These records included persons dealt with for minor offences as well as persons arrested and charged with drink-driving offences.

As a result, a paper was presented to the User Board by Doug Wynn and Trevor Beck of South Yorkshire Police. This proposed an exercise to transfer around 140,000 back records held by forces to NAFIS, and estimated that as a result, around 365,000 extra fingerprints would be confirmed for identity on PNC.

The paper set out the potential benefits to policing, including among

## Acting on your advice

others the need to comply with data quality standards on NAFIS and PNC, and to open up the prospect of identifications that might hitherto have not come to light.

The NAFIS User Board gave its agreement for this project to be undertaken by a project team comprising staff from PITO and South Yorkshire Police.

At the completion of this BRC Minor Offenders Project by force fingerprint bureaux, over 300,000 ten-print records had been confirmed. The IDENT1 database was increased by over 100,000 records. This has since resulted in many scenes of crime mark identifications being made against the additional records.

▮ A paper was submitted to the NFB in summer 2006 for final sign-off of this project.

## Missing ten-prints error corrected promptly

In February 2006 an ACPO Region 5 force raised an issue at the regional meeting via their regional representative. A certain search that they always undertook for demonstration purposes had failed to hit against a known corresponding ten-print record.

The matter was investigated by Northrop Grumman engineers, who uncovered a software defect that was not readily visible and that had occurred as a result of software release 17. A number of ten-print records were not available on the Fingerprint Matcher Accelerators (FMA).

PITO was grateful for prompt action by the bureau in reporting this issue. Subsequent work undertaken by PITO and NG enabled the error to be quickly identified and resolved. A remedial software 'patch' was developed and deployed to prevent the problem from recurring and the ten-print forms in question were re-loaded.

▮ This was followed up by a sub-project to re-launch the affected ten-prints against scene of crime marks that had not been identified since Release 17 was deployed. This resulted in a number of marks being identified by fingerprint bureaux.

Visit the Identification micro-site [www.pito.pnn.police.uk/microsite/identification](http://www.pito.pnn.police.uk/microsite/identification)

## Contact the project team

Send us your feedback on this IDENT1 Technical bulletin, including subjects you would like us to cover in the future. To receive the IDENT1 Technical bulletin regularly, either by e-mail or post, send your address to [ident1@pito.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ident1@pito.pnn.police.uk) or IDENT1 News, 8th floor, New King's Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9QY.

