

National Cybercrime Training Partnership Identifies Top 10 Police Needs for Combating Electronic Crime

RICHMOND, VA - July 10, 2001 - The National Cybercrime Training Partnership (NCTP) conducted several focus group meetings revealing that electronic crime is having a profound effect on law enforcement and no agency is escaping it. The meetings, a nationwide survey of 31 state and local law enforcement representatives who impact a training base of more than 84,000 persons, concluded that program coordination, fast-track initiatives implementation, and skills training are the keys to fighting this growing concern.

"Already every crime imaginable is being perpetrated on a computer or some other high-tech media, or the evidence of these crimes is being stored on a computer or computer media," said Milton E. Nix, Jr., Director, Georgia Bureau of Investigations, Association of State Investigating Agencies. "This information is important because it offers law enforcement managers and policy makers a tool to gain focus on the cybercrime problem and to make decisions about an issue that is affecting us all."

With a purposeful concentration on the state and local police experience, the following key issues were raised during the sessions as a needs list for combating cybercrime. The list includes:

- Public awareness – to educate the general public, elected officials, and the businesses about the impact of electronic crime.
- Data and reporting – to understand the extent and impact of electronic crime.
- Uniform training and certification courses – to provide specific levels of training and certification so our police can do their jobs.
- On-site management assistance for electronic crime units and task forces – to give help in developing properly equipped computer investigation units.
- Updated laws applied at the Federal and state levels – to keep pace with electronic crime.
- Cooperation with the high-tech industry – to control electronic crime and to protect the nation's critical infrastructure.
- Special research and publications – to give investigators a comprehensive directory of training and expert resources to help them combat electronic crime.
- Management awareness and support – to help senior managers understand the impact of electronic crime and to support the expertise and tools needed to investigate and prosecute electronic crime cases.
- Investigative and forensic tools – to provide our police with up-to-date technology and the tools necessary to conduct electronic crime investigations.

- Structuring of a computer crime unit – to establish best practices on how to create a police unit that can investigate and analyze electronic evidence.

Established in 1996 and previously known as the Infotech Training Working Group, the NCTP is a high-technology training consortium led by the Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. The Bureau of Justice Assistance offers fiscal support and guidance to the NCTP; the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) provides operational support. A progressive organization with a track record of programs and established partner agencies, the NCTP plays a leadership role in cybercrime training. The NCTP works with all levels of law enforcement. Its initiatives are in place and geared to develop long-range strategies, to raise public awareness, and to focus the momentum of combating this crime problem on numerous fronts.

“The technology revolution is here and it is not only assisting law enforcement, it is working for the criminals,” said Richard L. Johnston, Director, NW3C. “There is very little time to accomplish a lot with limited resources. We are at a crossroad. The sense of urgency to focus on program coordination, deploying a plan quickly, and underwriting every initiative with a solid base of training is real because the window of opportunity for law enforcement to keep pace with cybercrime is not only short, it’s closing.”

About the National Cybercrime Training Partnership (NCTP)

Developed by the U.S. Department of Justice and managed by the National White Collar Crime Center (www.nw3c.org), the NCTP provides guidance and assistance to local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in an effort to ensure that the law enforcement community is properly trained to address electronic and high technology crime. More information on the NCTP and its initiatives is available on-line at www.nctp.org