



**VCAN Officers**

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**VCAN Mission Statement**

The purpose of this statewide organization is to promote exchange of crime analysis information and to encourage increased professionalism in the crime analysis field. One of our priorities is to establish a crime analysis certification program to create unified standards for improved education, training and awareness within the crime analysis field.

**Want to Contribute?**

We are always looking for articles, tips and tricks, upcoming events, training information, best practices and success stories. Please submit these to either Allan Ball or Mary Garrand.

Dear VCAN Member,

The VCAN Board is happy to announce the first addition of the VCAN newsletter. The purpose of this newsletter is to publish stories on best practices, success stories, tips and tricks and information about crime analysis in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This publication will help to advance our profession through out the Commonwealth and will give members valuable information on new and emerging trends, technologies and methodologies for finding, analyzing and solving crime problems.

We are pleased to bring you this publication and hope it offers interesting and useful information for you, your unit and your agency. Please feel free to submit articles each quarter for publication. Thank you for your continued support of the crime analysis profession.

The VCAN Board

**Success Story from Virginia Beach  
Submitted by Alan Ball  
Virginia Beach Police Department**

On March 8, 2006 at 01:52 hrs Virginia Beach Detective J.R. Cale emailed a case write-up to detectives, referencing a home invasion robbery that occurred in Virginia Beach overnight. The report stated that the two armed robbers fled the scene and were not apprehended. Information in the email listed addresses for the suspects in Chesapeake, Virginia. A Virginia Beach crime analyst/detective received the case write-up and forwarded the email to crime analyst Mary Sullivan the same day. Mary then sent the email to the patrol officers and received the following comments in return:

*"Thanks to your email, myself Field Training Officer Hutten Brauk and Trainee Officer Blyden arrested the two armed robbers on Harvard Dr and turned them over to Virginia Beach. Good Work!"*

Crime analysts rarely receive any feedback from those who are working the streets. In this case, a patrol officer not only used the information provided to him by Mary, but he also gave her feedback about what patrol had done to apprehend the suspects. Thanks to this distribution of information, two dangerous suspects were taken off the streets.

This story demonstrates when crime analysts communicate, not only with the troops but with each other, success is bound to happen.

**Tips and Tricks!  
FREE Online Vehicle Mugbook  
From www.iaca.net and  
Chief of Police Tom Casady  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

I can spot a '68 Mustang on a foggy night from a block away just by the tail lights. But what the heck is a Scion XB? You can buy a vehicle mugbook for a few grand, or just bookmark the online edition of the Kelly Blue Book, www.kbb.com. You'll have beautiful shots of all late model vehicles by make and model from several sources. Just right click on one of the images, click "Copy" then paste the picture into your crime bulletin--so everyone else knows what a Scion XB looks like, too!

**Tips and Tricks!  
PowerPoint 2003's 'Save Picture As'  
Function  
From www.iaca.net and  
Christopher Bruce, Crime Analyst  
Danvers, Massachusetts**

A long-awaited feature arrived in PowerPoint 2003: the ability to save any image (or even text!) you've created to a file. Simply right-click on the image and choose "Save As Picture". You can save it as a GIF (.gif), TIFF (.tif), JPEG (.jpg), PNG (.png), Bitmap (.bmp), Metafile (.wmf), or Enhanced Metafile (.emf).



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## Networking and Regional Crime Analysis

Submitted by Alan Ball  
Virginia Beach Police Department

Do you know your neighboring crime analysts?

The Tidewater region crime analysts meet once a month at a local restaurant to exchange information. These cities include Virginia Beach, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Hampton and Newport News. We also welcome any other city that would like to attend. This is a very informal but productive gathering.

Keep in mind that there may be some analysts that will not be able to make all of the meetings. Don't forget them! Ask them every month to attend; at least this contact keeps them in the network. We are aware sensitive information is discussed and exchanged at these meetings. Because of this, we choose an area of the restaurant that is somewhat secluded from the rest of the patrons. There are several benefits to these meetings—we get out of the office and we get to eat!

Some others are:

- Provides a forum to meet new analysts
- The ability to talk about work crime analysts are doing for their agency
- To share crime information with the other analysts in an effort to help investigations and link or solve cases.
- Exchange crime bulletins
- Provide help and training tips
- Make special requests

It seems like face to face requests are more successful than other mediums. At the same time, when making or receiving requests over the phone it is easier to accommodate a person who you really know.

In crime analysis, the more data and resources you have, the better your chances are for success. So why not increase resources by utilizing neighboring analysts and what they have to offer?

## Crime Analysis and the Mobile Data Environment

Submitted by Mary Garrand and Sergeant James Craig  
Alexandria Police Department

For years, analysts hung up or distributed maps and bulletins in roll call rooms in the hopes that officers would take the bulletin or map out on the street with them. Officers would quickly look at it and try to retain the information. Once the information had been handed out, equal effort was required to update the maps or recall bulletins in which arrests were made. Although this method of posting information has its merits, technology can lead us to a broader audience. The publication of crime analysis information has progressed from paper copies left in roll call rooms to advanced methods of distribution via list serves, intranet pages and wireless mobile computers. The progression of technology over the last five years has allowed some agencies to leave the 'paper' world behind and bring the information out to the officer in the field.

The Alexandria Police Department's Tactical Computer System is a combination of laptop computers, software, and institutional practices that make it one of the best mobile computer systems in law enforcement today. Officers have access to a wide variety of software tools, such as word processing, spreadsheets, form creation and more, not just traditional "mission" software. The officers are no longer tied to the police station in order to complete their work. Because of this technology, the Crime Analysis Unit has been able to build onto an already well-established system for publishing and updating crime information available to officers.

The Alexandria Police Department's mobile crime analysis page has the capability to publish accurate and timely information in a digital format. From lookouts for wanted persons to a new larceny from auto trend, officers have all this information at their fingertips. This information can be accessed in the police cruiser, at a satellite office or on a foot beat. The possibilities for crime information publication and updates are endless using this type of mobile, wireless system. (continued on next page)



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Beginning in 1999, the Alexandria Police Department implemented the Tactical Computer Section. These ruggedized laptops are distributed to all officers in the field to be used for writing and sending reports, running wanted checks on vehicles and persons and sending messages to officers and headquarters. The computers are also equipped with a wireless intranet, one of the most useful tools to officers in the field. Any type of information (text or photographs) is sent to the entire mobile fleet instantly. This new and advanced technology allows officers to dispose of cumbersome binders full of general orders, lookouts, and state codes. As the technology grew, so did the information available to officers in the field. By 2002, an APD's Most Wanted Page, Daily Incident Report and an online crime search engine were created for the distribution of timely crime-related information.

Starting in 2003, brief crime analysis bulletins were distributed using the mobile data technology. These bulletins were very basic; plain text bulletins with no maps, charts or historical information. This information was placed within the Daily Incident Report page, a logical place to look for crime analysis information. But the Crime Analysis Unit was unsure if the bulletins were read or even seen by officers because they rarely received any feedback from officers on the bulletins and there was no way to track usage. The unit continued to post paper bulletins and maps in roll call with notes regarding the availability of the bulletins electronically on the mobile computers.

In September 2004, the Alexandria Police Department, traditionally housed in one building, was split into three different locations. This separation made it more difficult to disseminate information to patrol officers because the Investigations and Crime Analysis Units were no longer in the same building as the Patrol Division. Because of this, the police department began to rely on the mobile intranet capabilities to exchange and post information. The Crime Analysis Unit used this opportunity to create a centralized page on the mobile computers for maps, crime bulletins and reports. Regardless of an officer's location, he or she could now access all crime analysis products at one click of the mouse. This new page grew to include monthly maps, crime

analysis bulletins, the weekly crime bulletin, registered sex offender information and regional crime bulletins/lookouts. The site contained information on how to contact the unit, frequent types of requests and neighborhood specific information. A page was also dedicated to educating users about the field of crime analysis and work performed by the unit.

Once the site was published, officers immediately noticed the information and began using it. For example, a sergeant on the midnight shift used the sex offender page to target and arrest offenders who had failed to re-register with their probation or parole officer. The sex offender page gave information and maps regarding where the offender lived and worked as well as the previous convictions that landed him on the list. Now, officers 'compete' with each other to see how many drug arrests they can make so that their neighborhoods look 'brighter' each month on the drug arrest hotspot maps published on the monthly crime mapping page.

After its implementation, a survey was performed of all patrol officers regarding their usage of the page. Most of the feedback was positive and the critiques were used to improve the layout and information provided on the site. By August 2005, the site was updated with officer input and is now used by all entities within the police department. Detectives now say, "make sure crime analysis gets a bulletin out on the mobile computers about my cases". Supervisors use the crime bulletins to help direct patrols and officers use the crime maps to see emerging crime problems in their beats.

The data on this site is static, but constantly updated. The key to keeping the officers interested in the crime analysis intranet site is to keep the information fresh and current. The site is often updated one or two times a day with new information on trends and suspects identified in cases. Regional information from neighboring jurisdiction is also posted on this site for officers who work areas that border other counties. Detectives and officers will often comment on how fast information on emerging series is posted to the site. This constant information flow is what keeps the crime analysis page interesting and useful to all ranks and units with the police department.



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## Training Announcements

The James City County Police Department in Williamsburg, VA will be hosting:

### **The Criminal Investigative Analysis Course May 15-19, 2006**

The need for Criminal Investigative Analysis (formerly referred to as Psychological Profiling) training has become increasingly recognized over the past few years as law enforcement agencies across the country encounter an ever increasing number of rapes and homicides committed by unknown offenders.

**This is a one-week (36 hour) "hands-on" program that provides you with techniques you can use immediately to solve the real-world problems.**

Presented in a comfortable, non-threatening environment that permits both individualized and group instruction, the course takes a "**learn-by-doing**" approach that gives students many opportunities to **actually perform the tasks** associated with the criminal profiling process. Participants will be taught how to read a crime scene and how to use crime scene information to develop a "portrait" of the offender's childhood, family background, sexual history, appearance, lifestyle, and other relevant personal information.

#### **You Should Attend If:**

- You are a sex crimes investigator
- You are a homicide investigator
- You are a patrol officer who may be in a position to recognize the characteristics of serial crimes
- You are a crime analyst responsible for assisting sex crimes/homicide investigators

For additional information please see the attached form and visit [www.alphagroupcenter.com](http://www.alphagroupcenter.com).

If you have any questions, contact me at [johnl@james-city.va.us](mailto:johnl@james-city.va.us) or by phone at (757)259-5174.

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### **The Norfolk Police Department will host a Crime Analysis Applications Course from July 17, 2006 to July 21, 2006.**

The course will be presented by Steve Gottlieb, Executive Director of the Alpha Group Center for Crime and Intelligence Analysis Training, and may be used for Certification purposes in the Certificate in Crime and Intelligence Program offered by the California Department of Justice and the California State University system.

This will be a "hands-on" applications course which takes a "learning-by-doing," practical approach to training. Students will actually perform the tasks associated with crime analysis work. Each participant will also receive a copy of Mr. Gottlieb's book, "Crime Analysis: From First Report to Final Arrest," a textbook over 600 pages which explains how to design, implement, and operate a crime analysis program, and how to use a wide variety of analytical techniques to forecast when and where criminals are likely to strike again. Each participant will also receive a copy of Mr. Gottlieb's 150-page step-by-step "Crime Analysis Study Guide and Workbook," which will be used throughout the class.

Tuition is \$525.00 and includes the week of instruction, the text, workbook, and a wealth of handout materials. To obtain a course brochure or to register for the course, please contact Sergeant Frank Allgood by phone at the Norfolk Police Department.

FAX 757-664-6916  
[frank.allgood@norfolk.gov](mailto:frank.allgood@norfolk.gov)