

JSC

THE JUSTICE & SAFETY CENTER

Snapshot 2014



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Overview and Mission

The Justice & Safety Center (JSC) is comprised of a team of faculty and staff professionals at Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) dedicated to strengthening justice and safety at the local, state, national, and international levels. Since 1998, the JSC has achieved recognition as a leading university-based center focused on providing quality research, project management, and expertise in the following areas:

Training & Learning • Technology & Innovation Security & Resilience • Special Studies

Those involved in the implementation of justice and safety programs, especially at the local and state levels, face many challenges, such as:

- Increasing demands for higher quality services, but often with few resources to match those demands
- Evolving threats and hazards complicated by aging infrastructure and changing social conditions
- Innovations in technology that not only provide opportunities for improving services, but also new threats associated with an increasingly mobile and connected society

The JSC remains steadfast in supporting the justice and safety community through these difficult times. For example, programs and projects recently awarded to JSC by the Federal government have advanced training among public safety professionals, resulted in new tools and systems that conform to national standards, and broadened knowledge of equipment used at all levels of practice.

The JSC has a long history of working collaboratively with external organizations and partners to meet programmatic goals and objectives. Since fiscal year 2004, the JSC has been awarded more than \$127 million in grant funding from state and federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Defense (i.e., U.S. Air Force), U.S. Department of Justice, and U.S. Department of State.

Research Approach

As a state-supported institution of higher learning, EKU is committed to independent, nonpartisan research and to maintaining the highest level of integrity in pursuit of all endeavors. The JSC supports this vision by:

- Conducting independent, basic and applied research to benefit state and local institutions and

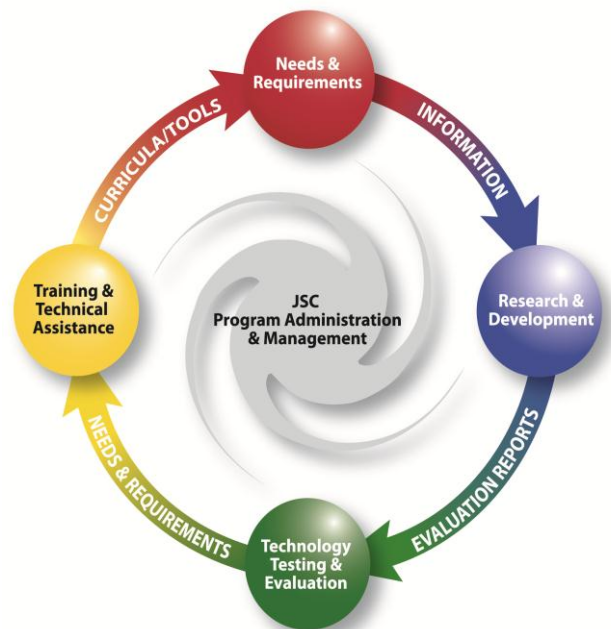


personnel working in the justice and safety disciplines.

- Serving as a liaison between state and local public safety professionals and federal agencies so that state and local needs are understood, and products and training are tailored to meet those needs.
- Working with other strategic partners and subject matter experts for collaborative problem-solving on a range of complex, critical justice and safety topics.
- Being outcome driven, ensuring that state and local institutions and personnel receive the tools they need as rapidly as possible, and that the information is easily accessible.

All sponsored research is reviewed by the EKU Institutional Review Board to ensure the protection of human subjects as well as subject to the EKU's conflict of interest and financial disclosure policy.

JSC research activities are guided by a defined process that is adaptable to any project, whether it has a technology, training, or social science research focus. One of the most important elements of the process is the practitioner-driven aspect. The JSC continuously engages practitioners in project activities to ensure outcomes are relevant, applicable, useful, and timely for the intended audience.



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Recent Programs and Projects

The Rural Domestic Preparedness Consortium



Prepare For The Worst, Train To Be The Best

The RDPC was established by Congress under the DHS 2005 Appropriations Act, Public Law 108-334, to

develop and deliver all-hazards training that supports rural homeland security goals and needs. The RDPC mission of training responders who commonly operate in rural and remote areas, many without access to national training facilities and infrastructure, remains an essential ingredient to the preparedness of rural communities. In response, the RDPC has developed 50 courses with this unique focus and reached more than 50,000 responders in 53 states and U.S. territories.

While working closely with other academic institutions, EKU has served as the lead institution for the consortium providing programmatic and financial oversight since 2006. These responsibilities included oversight of research and needs assessments, curriculum development, course deliveries and evaluations, and management of an advisory board of practitioners. In addition, the JSC developed and delivered the following courses in support of the RDPC:

- AWR 208-Web Crisis Management in a Rural School
- AWR 209 Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders
- AWR 209-Web Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders
- MGT 335 Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals
- MGT 335-Web Event Security Planning for Public Safety Professionals
- MGT 383 Emergency Operations Plans for Rural Jurisdictions
- MGT 415 Disaster Recovery for Rural Communities
- PER 294 Testing an Emergency Operations Plan in a Rural EOC
- Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Communities
- Isolation and Quarantine for Rural Public Safety Personnel

System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

U.S. Department of Homeland Security



Advances in technology provide emergency response agencies with tremendous opportunities to enhance capabilities. Unfortunately, agencies from small communities often have limited resources and staffing, which severely limit their abilities to operate even at a minimal level, notwithstanding the need to stay abreast of technology, assess needs, apply for grants, and select equipment among many vendor options.

The System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program aims to assist responders from all types of agencies with making their next purchase by providing market information and guidance for selecting equipment. A program of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and implemented through a network of technical agents, SAVER involves assessment of equipment prioritized by responders themselves. In addition, SAVER helps responders by assimilating market information from a wide assortment of products and, furthermore, provides objective information from end users regarding the capabilities of equipment.

As a technical agent, the JSC provided a focus on the needs of agencies from small and rural communities when conducting research and assessments. The following completed projects accounted for factors important to agencies of all size:

- Incident Decision Support Software
- Mobile Command Systems
- Mobile Command Vehicles
- Portable Identification Card Systems
- Propagation Modeling Software
- Ruggedized Computers
- Touch Screens for Ruggedized Computers
- Mobile Computing Through the Cloud



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Integrated Public Alert and Warning Systems Conformity Assessment Program



The JSC supported FEMA with implementation of the Integrated Public Alert

and Warning System (IPAWS) Conformity Assessment Program. In response to the need to better integrate the Emergency Alert System (EAS) with state and local systems, and to better leverage all available technologies capable of alerting citizens, the U.S. Government set out to build the IPAWS. This system is the nation's next-generation infrastructure of alert and warning networks expanding upon the traditional audio-only radio and television EAS. In support of this program, the JSC managed assessment activities, including the testing of EAS equipment and other alert and warning devices for conformity to data interoperability standards.

Responder Technologies (R-Tech)/Public Safety & Security Institute for Technology

The primary goal of this project was to establish a technology clearinghouse to encourage and support innovative technical solutions to enhance homeland security and the mission of DHS. As part of the TechSolutions Program, the ECU JSC performed operational test and evaluations on select technologies, as well as feasibility studies of emerging products to aid in decisions regarding programmatic funding for product development.

Rural Law Enforcement Technology Center

The JSC served as the corporate host of the RULETC from 2001 to 2007. RULETC, a specialty center within the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) system, worked in partnership with the nation's small and rural law enforcement and corrections agencies to upgrade their current resources by providing responsive technology assistance and information dissemination.

Other Studies

In addition to research involving technologies, the JSC has experience conducting social science research on a range of justice and safety topics. From 2003 to 2005, for example, the JSC provided support to a National Institute of Justice (NIJ)-sponsored study exploring new law enforcement roles and responsibilities associated with homeland security.

Facilities

Located on the main campus of ECU, the JSC offices are located within the College of Justice and Safety's Stratton Building complex. The current facility consists of staff office space, an advanced conference and presentation center, as well as a public safety and security technology laboratory. The facility contains multiple connectivity options to include phone, local area network, wireless fidelity, and cable. Accessible for supporting programs are the University's facilities and networks that are designed to cater to faculty, staff, and student populations exceeding 16,000. In addition to internal facilities, the JSC commonly partners with state and local public safety agencies for the use of their facilities to support programs and projects, as well as adjoining facilities of the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training. Also noteworthy is access to the University-owned and managed Maywoods Environmental and Educational Laboratory—a 1,700 acre natural area and wildlife refuge—that may be used as a controlled and simulated environment to support research, test, and evaluation activities.

Eastern Kentucky University

A regional comprehensive university that enrolls more than 16,000 undergraduate and graduate students, ECU is located in Richmond, Kentucky. The College of Justice and Safety is ECU's Program of Distinction. The College, one of five within the university, has 50 full-time faculty and approximately 2,600 students enrolled in on-campus and online degree programs. The College consists of two service centers, including the Justice and Safety Center, and the following two academic departments:

- The School of Justice Studies offers degree programs in criminal justice, policing, corrections, law, and juvenile justice.
- The School of Safety, Security, and Emergency Management offers degree programs in fire and safety, occupational safety, homeland security, security management, emergency management, traffic safety, risk management, and emergency medical services.





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