

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Drew Evans, Superintendent

Background

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) was created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1927 to assist peace officers throughout the state in solving crimes and apprehending criminals. The Division of Statistics was added in 1935, which is now the Minnesota Justice Information Services section (MNJIS). Also at this time, the addition of personnel and full police power for the Bureau's agents made the establishment of field offices throughout Minnesota possible. In 1947, the BCA laboratory became operational and began examining evidence. In 1969, the BCA, along with several other state agencies, became a member of the newly created Department of Public Safety.

One of the first DNA laboratories in the country was established at the BCA in 1990. Shortly thereafter, the BCA laboratory became the first in the country to identify a suspect based solely on DNA using the newly available Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The BCA was also the first state agency in the country to implement an Automated Fingerprint Identification System.

The BCA serves as a national model with its Missing Persons Clearinghouse, the Minnesota Crime Alert Network, the AMBER Alert program, and its efforts to integrate criminal justice information. Today, the Minnesota BCA is headquartered in St. Paul, has a regional office in Bemidji and 12 investigative field offices around the state. Laboratories are located in St. Paul and Bemidji.



Mission Statement

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension protects Minnesotans and all who visit our state by providing services to prevent and solve crimes in partnership with law enforcement, public safety and other criminal justice agencies.

Vision

Delivering exceptional law enforcement services for a safer Minnesota.

Values

Integrity – Excellence – Ingenuity - Partnerships

Budget

With an annual budget of over \$53 million and a staff of 430, the BCA's three major divisions are funded through a mix of General Fund appropriations, Special Revenue Funds and Federal Funds.

Forensic Science Services Division

Forensic Science Service - Laboratory scientists perform scientific examinations of physical evidence recovered from crime scenes, maintain state databases, conduct research and provide expert witness testimony at trial. Many also provide training to law enforcement officers and attorneys.

Drug Laboratory - Scientists analyze and identify controlled substances. These identifications can assist in proving controlled substance crimes.

DNA Laboratory - Scientists examine and identify blood, semen, saliva and other body fluids. Nuclear DNA testing can be a powerful tool to include/exclude individuals as being a source of a body fluid. The BCA also offers mitochondrial DNA testing; one of only a few labs in the country to do so.

Evidence Intake and Processing - The laboratory accepts evidence from law enforcement partners throughout the state of MN. Once evidence is properly submitted to the laboratory, evidence intake specialists catalog the items, begin the tracking procedure, and distribute the evidence to the appropriate sections of the laboratory for testing. Evidence control is just one area strictly monitored under the laboratory's rigorous and comprehensive quality assurance system.

Combined DNA Indexing System (CODIS) - A DNA offender database is used to search DNA profiles obtained from evidence in cases where there are no suspects. A separate database is maintained to help identify missing persons. The state databases are connected to the National DNA Index System.

Firearms Laboratory - Scientists conduct examinations related to firearms, tool mark comparisons and serial number restorations.

National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network (NIBIN) — The laboratory maintains a cartridge case image database through a cooperative agreement with the ATF. The system is used to link firearms related cases.

Fingerprint Laboratory – Scientists develop and compare unknown fingerprints recovered from crime

scenes with elimination and suspect prints for identification.

Midwest Automated Fingerprint Identification Network (MAFIN) - A three-state database of known prints and unidentified prints from crime scenes. Unknown prints are searched against the current database and all new arrestees are searched against the unsolved latent print database.

Breath Alcohol Testing Laboratory - Scientists train and certify law enforcement personnel in breath alcohol testing procedures. The BCA lab owns and provides testing instruments free of charge to law enforcement agencies throughout the state. This program is a key element in the timely detection of DWI offenders.

Toxicology Laboratory – Scientists analyze blood, urine and other biological samples for alcohol and other drugs. This analysis is essential in proving DWI offenses. It can also assist medical examiners and coroners in determining a cause of death in cases where circumstances surrounding the death may be unknown or unclear.

Trace Laboratory - Scientists compare known and unknown samples of glass, paint, fibers, wood, soil and other materials. Other examinations include comparisons of shoe prints and tire tracks, physical matches of separated objects and testing to determine the presence of accelerants in fire debris.

Crime Scene Service - Scientists identify and collect physical evidence from violent crime scenes throughout the state. Teams from both St. Paul and Bemidji are available 24/7.

Accreditation - The BCA Testing Laboratories in St. Paul and Bemidji and the Calibration Laboratory in St. Paul are accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board under the International Program. This distinguished accreditation demonstrates that management, personnel, operational and technical procedures, equipment and physical facilities meet national standards. Accreditation is one part of a robust quality assurance program to ensure that the best services possible are provided.

Investigative Services Division

BCA Special Agents and Analysts - Employees are strategically positioned in eleven field offices and two regional offices around the state. Investigative assistance is provided 24/7 to 87 sheriff's departments and over 400 local police departments. Services include immediate investigative, analytical, crime scene and special operations responses, and longer term assistance with complex investigations. These are

essential services that many law enforcement agencies throughout the state cannot support locally.

Cold Case Assistance - Agents and analysts work with local law enforcement to investigate old homicide cases. New forensic advancements are utilized to solve these cases.

Internet Crimes Against Children – This unit targets offenders who use online technology to sexually exploit children. Investigative assistance and computer forensics are provided. The BCA coordinates and oversees the operations of the statewide ICAC Task Force. In 2015 the task force handled over 1293 child pornography or online sexual solicitation cybertips received from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Minnesota Fusion Center – The Fusion Center, Minnesota's designated fusion center collects, evaluates, analyzes and disseminates information regarding organized criminal, terrorist and all-hazards activity. The Fusion Center provides a state-based point of contact to coordinate information sharing between federal, state and local agencies (www.icefishx.org).

Missing and Unidentified Persons Clearinghouse – This unit works with local law enforcement agencies and medical examiners on missing and unidentified persons cases, to locate and identify individuals. This unit coordinates DNA collection for entry into a national database and maintains a statewide missing and unidentified persons database.

Statewide Duty Officer Program - The statewide Duty Officers are on call 24/7 to assist local, state and federal agencies in cases of emergency disasters or major events.

Operations Center - Provide resources and assistance to agents in the field, monitor and send law enforcement messages, oversee the state's de-confliction program and provide building security.

AMBER Alert – This BCA-run system is instantly available to local law enforcement agencies when a child has been abducted. Once activated, the AMBER network transmits alerts to every media outlet, law enforcement agency, the Department of Transportation, thousands of businesses, cell phones

and secondary distributors to help locate an abducted child in serious danger.

Minnesota Crime Alert Network – Local law enforcement agencies throughout the state use this network to send crime alerts via fax and email to thousands of businesses, media and community members warning them about crimes or criminals and seeking their assistance in solving cases.

Predatory Offender Registration (POR) Program – This unit maintains records on over 17,500 registered predatory offenders. That information is available to law enforcement and corrections agencies via a secure website. Agents assist local law enforcement with tracking and prosecuting non-compliant offenders and with investigating sexual assaults. The POR Unit maintains a website which identifies non-compliant registrants and allows the public to submit tips regarding their possible locations (www.por.state.mn.us).

Technical Support/Special Operations - This unit provides expertise in the use of a wide range of covert investigative techniques, including the use of undercover operatives, a variety of surveillance techniques, and the design and installation of covertly deployed surveillance equipment. In 2015 this unit was responsible for the safe recovery of missing persons as well as the apprehension of violent fugitives and non-compliant sex offenders.

Digital Evidence – This unit provides examination and analysis of digital evidence such as computers and cellular phones seized in a variety of criminal investigations.

Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force – The BCA has agents who work to support this task force working on large scale financial crimes cases with a focus on those cases that involve identity theft related crimes.

Minnesota Justice Information Services (MNJIS) Division

Secure Network – Data is available through the BCA as the state's centralized network of criminal justice information. Access to multiple information systems and services is available through the Criminal Justice Data Communication Network (CJDN) for criminal justice purposes. Data accessible through the CJDN include:

- Data available via a BCA portal: warrants, gang and Orders for Protection files, Minnesota criminal history data, Driver and Vehicle Services files and photos, crime information from other states and the federal government
- Minnesota arrest photos
- Electronic charging, citation, DWI forms
- Information on registered predatory offenders
- Information on Minnesota firearms carry permit holders

- Electronic access to criminal history records for editing and updating
- Data from multiple systems available through a single integrated search

Information Integration - Staff facilitates the integration of Minnesota's criminal justice information systems through agencies sharing critical information at key decision points throughout the criminal justice process. MNJIS fosters collaboration among state and local criminal justice agencies, providing the architecture, systems and services for the statewide aggregation and distribution of criminal justice information, developing technical and business standards for criminal justice agencies to model, and providing financial assistance to local agencies to work with vendors on integration tools.

Criminal History Background Checks and Criminal History Information - Staff performs statutorily required and discretionary criminal history background checks. The Minnesota Criminal History System and, in some cases, the FBI's fingerprint-based records are searched. Staff also maintains and administers three components of Minnesota criminal history information. The first is the Criminal History System – Minnesota's repository of criminal history records including arrests, court dispositions, probation and incarceration data. The second is the Minnesota Repository of Arrest Photos—a centralized database of arrest photos that permits searches by characteristics and can be used for photo lineups. And finally, the Public Access – public criminal history information is available for free at the BCA or via the Internet.

Technical Support - The BCA Service Desk offers support in gaining access, trouble-shooting and other technical assistance to criminal justice practitioners statewide.

Fingerprint Services – Fingerprint technicians fingerprint individuals for background checks, immigration and adoption purposes; maintain fingerprint images stored in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System for future comparisons; process criminal fingerprints; make identifications and forward data to the FBI for maintenance and comparison at the national level.

LiveScan technology allows for fingerprint images to be transmitted electronically to BCA for comparison within minutes of a booking. The mobile Two-Finger Identification System transmits fingerprints electronically to the BCA. Search results are returned to an officer on the street within minutes.

Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program – Data about crimes and arrests, police officers killed in the line of duty, shots fired, pursuits, human trafficking, bias-motivated crimes and gun permits are published annually and reported to the FBI along with the Uniform Crime Report.

BCA Training and Auditing Section

Auditing Criminal Justice Information Systems – Approximately 250 criminal justice agency audits are conducted each year to ensure compliance with state and federal laws and procedures and provide assistance regarding access, use and dissemination of criminal justice information.

Criminal Justice Training - More than 250 courses are provided to educate more than 8,000 criminal justice professionals on advanced investigative techniques; use, access and dissemination of criminal justice information; and physical evidence collection from crime scenes, latent

fingerprinting, arson investigation, forensic DNA analysis and drug investigation. Training and certification on the operation of Minnesota's fleet of breath alcohol testing instruments.

Management Programs - These programs provide challenging and informative courses for criminal justice personnel who hold or aspire to hold management, supervisory or leadership roles in their organizations, and focus on the many strategies and skills needed to handle the challenges of managing their departments and accomplishing their organization's mission.

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