

Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium

The Criminal Justice Testing and Evaluation Consortium (CJTEC) is a program funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) and operated by RTI International. The CJTEC team uses research methodologies to enhance the capabilities of law enforcement, courts, and corrections agencies and acts as an honest broker for the nation's criminal justice practitioners by providing objective and rigorous understanding, testing, and evaluation of existing and emerging technologies, policies, and practices.

CJTEC researches and evaluates technologies affecting the criminal justice community and produces insights to inform NIJ, law enforcement, courts, corrections agencies, and other interested parties to improve technology-centric investment and implementation.

CJTEC PRIORITIES

NIJ Strategic Research Plans

Corrections
Courts
Policing
Safety, Health, and Wellness

Priority Criminal Justice Needs Initiative Topics

Blockchain
COVID-19
Data-Informed Jails
Deaths in Custody
Digital Supervision
Human Trafficking
Interventions for Interpersonal Violence
Law Enforcement Response to Homelessness
Offender Reentry
Online Dispute Resolution
Public Information Officers
Wearables

CJTEC Monitoring Topics

Artificial Intelligence
Autonomous Vehicles
Ballistics
Community Engagement
Contraband Management
Digital Forensics
Drones and Counter-UAS
Evidence Tracking
Officer Wellness
Personal Protective Equipment
Power Transmission
Safety and Health
Substance and Impairment Detection
Wearables and Biosensing
Virtual/Augmented Reality



CJTEC ACTIVITIES

Technology Foraging

includes monitoring trends and developments related to technologies, products, and practices in areas of interest to criminal justice stakeholders. CJTEC researchers use horizon scanning and market research techniques to identify and compare solutions for specific criminal justice needs. Monitoring research is shared with NIJ to inform their research agenda and is translated into public reports to help the criminal justice community understand the opportunities and realities of emerging technologies.

Testing and Evaluation

includes assessments of specific products, technologies, and practices, including those funded under NIJ grant awards. Evaluations may include laboratory testing, testing in real-world environments, evaluations in collaboration with practitioner agency deployments, and verification assessments. Testing and evaluation efforts conclude with reports that inform NIJ and guide technology adoption by the criminal justice community.

NIJ's Compliance Testing Program

tests and evaluates criminal justice equipment (ballistic- or stab-resistant body armor and autoloading pistols) to ensure compliance with NIJ standards. On its website, CJTEC informs criminal justice agencies about products that adhere to NIJ standards and have been tested through NIJ's Compliance Testing Program (NIJ CTP) by publishing a Compliant Product List, which is continuously updated in real time as new products are tested and approved.

Standards Development

supports, validates, and helps maintain NIJ's criminal justice equipment standards and provides expertise on public safety equipment standards to third-party standards development organizations using evidence-based strategies to ensure safer and more efficient technologies are bought and employed by the criminal justice community. The goal is to ensure that equipment is safer and more reliable according to the minimum performance requirements identified by operational end users.

For More
Information

cjtec.org

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A Program of the National Institute of Justice



CJTEC works along the innovation continuum to help NIJ, the criminal justice community, and product developers gain awareness about emerging technologies and solutions and understand the realities associated with criminal justice applications. CJTEC's activities align to support the stages of innovation from understanding **needs to research** through **assessment, testing, and evaluation** into **implementation and practice**.

Technology Foraging

Beyond informing NIJ, CJTEC publishes public-facing reports to advise criminal justice stakeholders on opportunities and realities related to technology-based products and solutions.

Public reports of varying depth:

- ✓ **Landscape Studies** – In-depth information on products and technologies
- ✓ **Briefs** – Quick education on topics with case studies and example products
- ✓ **Capsules** – Two-page fliers providing insights about technologies and timelines



Artificial Intelligence



Chatbots



Contraband Detection and Management



Impairment Detection



Technology-facilitated Abuse



Evidence Management Systems

100s OF EXPERTS, including law enforcement agencies, universities, companies, and research institutes, have informed CJTEC reports

CJTEC'S 1ST LANDSCAPE REPORT was noted in a NIJ report to Congress on drug detection technology

Testing and Evaluation

CJTEC conducts performance testing, field evaluations, and impact assessments to ensure that products perform as intended.

Current testing efforts:

CJTEC is currently testing and evaluating two tools developed from NIJ-funded projects that introduce new methods for collecting and processing digital evidence for targeted data capture from mobile devices and enterprise-scale networks.

Planned testing efforts:

- Detection of cell phone contraband within correctional facilities

Compliance Testing

CJTEC's operation of the NIJ CTP ensures that ballistic- or stab-resistant body armor evaluated by the CTP complies with NIJ standards.

CJTEC supports compliance testing by:

- ✓ Working with recognized accreditation bodies (e.g., NVLAP, ANAB) to ensure that NIJ-approved labs meet operational and technical requirements
- ✓ Ensuring production units of armor continue to be manufactured identically to originally tested items through a Follow-up Inspection and Testing (FIT) program, where armor is randomly sampled and subjected to limited ballistic testing
- ✓ Issuing advisory or safety notices to criminal justice agencies when FIT identifies performance concerns for specific models

>3,000 LAW ENFORCEMENT LIVES SAVED by law enforcement wearing approved body armor (since program inception)

~20,000 VISITORS to approved ballistic body armor list on CJTEC website (2021)

~40% OF PRODUCTS TESTED by CTP have failed, requiring re-engineering for safety

Standards Development

The changing operational landscape requires the constant updating of standards. CJTEC works with special technical committees to consider changes in weapons and ammunition and how they may affect law enforcement equipment needs.

These standards keep officers safe by:

- ✓ Informing product design, development, and manufacturing
- ✓ Considering fit and coverage of armor
- ✓ Ensuring the performance of ballistic-resistant armor
- ✓ Ensuring the performance of stab-resistant armor

Upcoming standards:

- NIJ Standards for Ballistic Body Armor (2022)
- NIJ Standards for Stab-Resistant Body Armor (2022)
- NIJ Standards for Autoloading Pistols (2023)

CJTEC's Activities Mapped to the Stages of Innovation

Needs/Research

Assessment/Testing/Evaluation

Implementation/Practice



Color denotes CJTEC activities; bold line denotes task emphasis along the innovation continuum