

## Virtual Learning and Training Opportunities

Virtual training and technical assistance is available through the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP) in the form of trainings, assessments, webinars, virtual peer exchanges, and customized consultations.

### Virtual Training

#### **Navigating the First Sixty Minutes of a Violent Crime Scene: The Essential First Steps to Building a Strong Investigative Foundation**

Numerous assessments have demonstrated that the steps needed to begin a successful violent crime investigation are often overlooked during the initial response to the scene. This overview will provide first responders with the tools they need to consider to successfully manage volatile crime scenes. Topics will include officer demeanor, empathy, properly securing scenes, evidence consideration, notifications, securing witnesses, and dealing with victims. This training platform is being designed in an online, self-paced, tutorial format. This course will be accompanied by an interactive infographic designed to highlight the content and teaching points of the larger course. A visitor card also is being produced to allow field personnel to review guidelines on-site.

- Intended Audience: The intended audience is line-level police officers and first responders.
- Length of Training: Self-paced
- This course will be coming soon and will be accessible to PSP sites upon request.

#### **Leadership Strategies: Building Effective Leaders to Impact Violence Reduction**

This topic will provide law enforcement executives, line-level supervisors, and commanders with tools to develop their leadership mindsets and self-assess their capacities to navigate challenges while implementing the organizational change often associated with violence reduction strategies. Executives often face a politically charged environment and must be prepared to traverse the hurdles they will face, both internally and externally, to motivate and empower their personnel. This training platform is being designed in an online, self-paced, tutorial format. A live peer exchange webinar will be produced for each requesting site as a precursor to completing the training. This will provide an interactive opportunity for senior executives to review the course outline and set objectives for their agencies. Subject-matter experts will be made available to participants during the course delivery period to answer questions and mentor participants as they navigate the course.

- Intended Audience: The intended audience is law enforcement executives.
- Length of Training: Self-paced
- This course will be coming soon and will be accessible to PSP sites upon request. The intended audience is line-level supervisors and commanders.

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### **Crime Guns 101**

The initial recovery and identification of a crime gun is one of the most critical steps in any investigation. Despite the importance of this initial step, few officers receive training on the identification of firearms and, as a result, firearms are frequently misidentified, leading to missed opportunities for lead development, case connection, and successful prosecution. This training is intended for line-level police officers and prosecutors to enhance their capacities to correctly recover and identify crime guns. In addition, participants will receive a high-level overview of the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) and Crime Gun Information Center processes so they may better understand their role in building a strong investigative foundation to combat violent crime. This training platform is being designed in an online, self-paced, tutorial format.

- Intended Audience: The intended audience is line-level police officers and prosecutors.
- Length of Training: Self-paced
- This course will be coming soon and will be accessible to PSP sites upon request.

### **Crime Gun Intelligence Investigations**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance and the PSP program are seeking sites to participate in a virtual training opportunity on crime gun intelligence investigations and the National Integrated Ballistic Identification Network (NIBIN). Jurisdictions across the United States are experiencing a precipitous increase in gun crime. During this virtual training opportunity, attendees will learn how to implement comprehensive and holistic models to reduce violent crime and the illegal use of firearms by applying crime gun intelligence principles to investigations. The training is intended to provide sites with the knowledge and tools to increase successful cases, reduce gun crimes in their communities, and enhance public safety. Topics will include:

- ❖ Overview of NIBIN and the objectives of a Crime Gun Intelligence Center (CGIC).
- ❖ Processing single and multiple NIBIN lead investigations and the role of officers in the successful prosecution of cases.
- ❖ Types of interviews at crime scenes and understanding communication techniques and rapport building.
- ❖ Why some victims and witnesses are uncooperative with law enforcement.
- ❖ Use of technology in law enforcement and the benefits of engaging with crime analysts throughout investigations.
- ❖ Importance of community engagement when investigating the illegal use of firearms.

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- **Intended Audience:** This training is recommended for investigators, crime analysts, and other law enforcement personnel directly involved in performing or overseeing crime gun investigations. Each session will be limited to up to 20 attendees from the requesting site.
- **Length of Training:** Six days in length, two hours per day
- This opportunity is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Submit a training and technical assistance (TTA) request through your PSP site team if you are interested.

### Virtual Assessments

PSP is currently offering a variety of its assessments virtually, including crime analysis, detective function, homicide investigations and prosecution, prosecution, technology, strategic messaging, and violence analysis. Each of these assessments will be conducted by a subject-matter expert(s) through video conferencing interviews and document review and will result in an assessment report with findings and recommendations to enhance capacities in the area of interest. Submit a training and technical assistance (TTA) request through your site team if you are interested in any of these assessments.

#### Crime Analysis Capacity

The goal of the crime analysis capacity assessment is to identify analytical gaps and training and technical assistance (TTA) resources for crime analysts and law enforcement personnel to enhance their capabilities to analyze and use data to make informed decisions, respond effectively, and prevent crime. The assessment includes the following activities:

- Conduct a needs assessment to determine analytical gaps and needs.
- Develop and present recommendations for addressing the identified gaps and needs, including any specific programs or policies that can be targeted for the TTA.
- Document how the recommended TTA would promote organizational change, help reduce crime and enhance public safety, and identify data sources and elements that will be used to support these conclusions.
- Outline technical solutions that enable real-time sharing of crime data and analytical products on a local, regional, and statewide basis, including examples of best practices in collaboration with local, state, and federal law enforcement and stakeholders that involve distance-learning tools and communications to address crime needs.

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### **Detective Function**

The goal of the detective assessment is to review and assess criminal case management and detective functions of local law enforcement. During the assessment, subject-matter experts will:

- Make general observations about the overall detective function and processes, including reviewing and evaluating the effectiveness of the current detective function, operations, case management approach, and leadership structure.
- Collect relevant data and information on the above processes through interviews and obtaining department policies or procedures.
- Identify weaknesses in the criminal case management process.
- Develop recommendations and feedback related to criminal case management processes and procedures.

### **Homicide Investigations and Prosecution**

The goal of the homicide investigations and prosecution assessment is to assist local efforts to reduce violent crime, conduct high-quality investigations, and produce successful prosecutions for homicide cases by identifying strengths, gaps, and areas for growth in the entire homicide investigations process. Subject-matter experts (SMEs) will conduct virtual interviews via videoconference to meet with personnel from appropriate agencies to assess and review existing policies, procedures, and practices. During the assessment, SMEs will:

- Make general observations about the overall homicide investigative process.
- Collect relevant data, such as the homicide clearance rate.
- Identify weaknesses in the homicide investigations and prosecution process.
- Develop recommendations and feedback related to homicide processes and procedures.

### **Prosecution**

The goal of the prosecution assessment is to assess the capacity to prosecute violent crime using federal and state law to identify strengths, gaps, and enhancements needed in violent crime prosecution, as well as identify local and national resources to improve successful prosecution results. Subject-matter experts will gather data, communicate with prosecutors remotely, and conduct a site visit to complete the following activities:

- Review the business processes to address violent crime—includes addressing collaboration and coordination, particularly with other criminal justice components, reviewing policies and procedures, and reviewing past prosecutions of violent crime and gun cases.

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- Review approaches to gun crime—includes current practices and protocols for coordinating with the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the police department, parole, probation, juvenile services, etc.
- Assess and review advanced concepts, as appropriate—includes assessing advanced models or practices in use and those appropriate to implement in the prosecutor’s office.

### Strategic Messaging

The goal of strategic messaging is to assess current communication practices and provide recommendations for strengthening and coordinating internal and external communications. It will identify current agency approaches to strategic messaging and provide recommendations for establishing a consistent agencywide social media team approach. Subject-matter experts will conduct the following activities as part of the strategic messaging assessment:

- Assess current communication practices.
- Review communication policies such as media relations, social media, and any other policy affecting external communication.
- Develop recommendations for strengthening and coordinating external and internal communications to focus on the agency’s overarching key messages.
- Develop recommendations for establishing a consistent agencywide approach to the districts’ digital community engagement efforts.

### Technology

The goal of the technology assessment is to provide the local site with insight in planning and implementing future initiatives focused on the agency’s technical resources and abilities. Recommendations will be provided to further the site’s technology-driven justice initiatives. Subject-matter experts will assess local technology capacities by conducting the following:

- Examine areas such as dispatch software, records management software, the mobile environment, case management, crime analysis, information technology support, and other related technologies.
- Perform an initial assessment to identify gaps and needs.
- Produce a report detailing the department’s technical gaps.
- Provide a recommendation for future training and technical assistance opportunities.

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### **Violence Analysis**

The violence analysis assessment aims to understand the scope and nature of violence in the participating city to inform recommendations for the police department to design a comprehensive response to violence, including prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies. Subject-matter experts will gather data by communicating with department personnel and conducting a site visit to complete the following:

- Assess calls for service and crime statistics related to homicides, robberies, and shootings to identify violent crime patterns and to identify and map hot spots.
- Conduct social network analysis to identify the most central people and groups within the identified networks based on degree, closeness, and betweenness.
- Map of geographic locations related to the most violent networks and the most central people within those networks.

### **Violence Reduction Assessment Tool (VRAT)**

The goal of the VRAT is to assess the local capacity for effective implementation and identify concrete action steps to increase their capacity to adopt evidence-based practices in implementing strategic crime reduction efforts. Multiple representatives of the police department will complete an online assessment of current crime prevention and reduction efforts. The online assessment is a multiple-choice survey that assesses and scores four major categories: governance and project management, partnerships, data and analysis, and feedback and awareness. The results from all survey participants will be collated and compared to produce a final report that will identify strengths and weaknesses across the four major categories. The overall objectives of this assessment are to:

- Assess the local violent crime problem.
- Identify evidence-based and promising strategies for reducing violent crime.
- Assess the department's capacity to effectively implement a violence reduction strategy.
- Connect the department to resources to accomplish the first three objectives.

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### Upcoming Webinars and Virtual Peer Exchanges

Topic	Type	Subject-Matter Expert and/or Delivery Team	Date
Crime Analysis Community of Practice Interactive Exercise Review	Live interactive conference call	Ms. Annie Mitchell	August 13
Trauma: The Unspoken Impact	Webinar (60 minutes)	Dr. Olivia Johnson	August 20
Intelligence 101	Webinar (60 minutes)	Mr. Monte McKee	September 17
Public Information Officer Roundtable	Live interactive conference call	Ms. Laura McElroy	Coming Soon
Prosecutors Roundtable	Live interactive conference call	Mr. Nelson Bunn, NDAA Mr. Jorge Duran Ms. Beth McGarry	Coming Soon
Crime Analysis Community of Practice Needs Assessment	Live interactive conference call	Ms. Annie Mitchell	Coming Soon

### On-Demand Webinars and Virtual Peer Exchanges

For more resources, please visit the National Public Safety Partnership website at:  
<https://www.nationalpublicsafetypartnership.org/#itemsofinterest>.