



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE



Leonard C. Boyle  
*Commissioner of Public Safety*

Colonel Edward J. Lynch  
*Deputy Commissioner, Division of State Police*

## Press Release

### *Multistate Anti-Terrorism*

### *Information Exchange™ (MATRIX)*

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, several state law enforcement agencies were presented with the opportunity to help create and utilize an innovative approach to share terrorism and other criminal information. The desire to exchange data coupled with the recognition of this unique and powerful analytical application effected an agreement between these states to seek federal funding for the effort, resulting in grants from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. With this support, the states joined forces and created the Multistate Anti-Terrorism Information Exchange (MATRIX) Pilot Project. The MATRIX Project was specifically initiated in response to the increased need for timely sharing of information and exchange of terrorism-related and other criminal information among members of the law enforcement community. Since its inception, the MATRIX Project has operated as a pilot proof-of-concept program.

During the pilot phase, the MATRIX Project experienced significant operational successes, including the identification and apprehension of

criminal suspects and the location of missing persons and property. In addition, the innovative capabilities and functionality of the system provided considerable milestones in enhancing information sharing among law enforcement agencies. The MATRIX Project uses a system called Factual Analysis Criminal Threat Solution (FACTS) to search available resources. The FACTS application provides a fast, efficient, and effective information-gathering mechanism for law enforcement, saving personnel hundreds of investigative hours. This powerful investigative tool has become an invaluable source for many law enforcement personnel. All of the information available via F.A.C.T. is public information. This data is linked together for one stop shopping and is used many times by person locator companies.

The MATRIX Board of Directors, consisting of law enforcement executives from the participating states, represents the interests of the MATRIX participants by overseeing implementation, policy development, and issues resolution. Over the life of the project, the Board has diligently monitored the use, access, and security



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the needs of law enforcement with the need to safeguard the privacy and civil liberties of individuals.

Although the participating agencies and funding entities continue to support the MATRIX Project, additional federal funding has not been identified to continue the pilot. As a result, on April 15, 2005, the MATRIX Pilot Project will come to a close.

Throughout this pilot project, participants learned important lessons and identified best practices. For example, the development and use of agency and user agreements ensured that processes and procedures were in place to monitor and track system use and administer access. In addition, MATRIX employed the use of security and privacy policies to maintain the integrity of the system and data as well as preserve the privacy of citizen information. Furthermore, the project demonstrated that a secure distributed information system is an ideal mechanism to share information while allowing data owners to retain local control and ownership of their own information. It is anticipated that these findings will assist law enforcement and other entities in developing information sharing systems in the future.

Connecticut participated in the original MATRIX Pilot Project. Connecticut is now exploring the possible use of the FACTS application. As a result,

after April 15, 2005. However, this use will not be associated with the MATRIX Pilot Project.

The MATRIX participants recognized the criticality for law enforcement agencies to respond quickly to terrorist threats and other criminal activities.

Through the MATRIX Pilot Project, law enforcement was able to capitalize on twenty-first century tools to combat twenty-first century threats.