



## 650 Offenders to only 1 Suspect in **Indiana**

**"Older like Mom or Grandpa, big not fat, not a lot of hair on top."** That was the only description given to the Fort Wayne Police Department by a five year old girl molested in her home around 4:45 in the morning. Not much to go on with such a vague description given by the little girl and 650 active offenders in Allen County alone. The task of narrowing down the list of suspects seemed momentous especially when the Indiana sex offender registry public website revealed 84 offenders within 1 mile of the little girls home and offered no further ability to narrow down these results.

**This led the Fort Wayne PD to retain the help of the Allen County Sex Offender team which recently had began using OffenderWatch®. The detailed and specific search capabilities within OffenderWatch® allowed officers to utilize the little girl's description.** "Older like Mom or Grandpa" became over 40 years of age; "Big not Fat" became over 180 pounds. The new search produced a list of 12 suspects matching that description within 1 mile of the little girl's home. Now imagine that 12 suspects were reduced to only two, "not a lot of hair on top", when S.O.R.N. officers noted that only one of the two suspects was balding and he lived less than 2 blocks from the victim. Officers relayed this information to Fort Wayne detectives who were able to locate the suspect at his home.

*"As a police officer I have heard a lot of vague descriptions, but OffenderWatch allowed us to take the words of a 5 year old, "big not fat..." and turn those words into one suspect. We relayed that information to detectives on the street and they were able to make an arrest less than 10 hours after the assault occurred. We could not have done that without OffenderWatch®.",* said Detective Jeff Shimkus of Allen County Sheriff's Office.

Suspects were narrowed down from 650 active local sex offenders to 1 suspect. This led detectives to investigate registered offender Richard Jessup who confessed to the crime and was taken into custody at 2:30pm, even before the local children were released from school. Jessup is currently serving a 55 year sentence for the crime.

## Getting Started



Robin Smith takes over when a new agency signs up for OffenderWatch® and coordinates the startup services being delivered for as many as 30 to 50 new agencies at a time. It is a BIG JOB! Agencies are first welcomed aboard and management and tracking systems updated with contacts, target dates, and other information. Then over the next several weeks, Robin gathers all agency data and coordinates input; provides agency training including any state specific training all tailored specifically to help you implement OffenderWatch®. Once these steps are complete, Robin reviews with you the completed graphics and webpage design ensuring accuracy and satisfaction.

As these responsibilities are completed, Robin coordinates the activities within several other departments over a 30-45 day process. We then assist the new agency to go live and announce the startup of OffenderWatch® via press releases and a press conference in their county, to assure all citizens are informed that OffenderWatch® is now available! So now you know.

## Joining Forces in **Kansas**

Sheriff Robert Hinshaw and Captain Terry Parham Of Sedgwick County Kansas are taking the initiative to encourage all Kansas agencies to implement OffenderWatch®. This will develop a successful sex offender management and notification solution, and facilitate cooperation and information sharing between agencies. Sheriff Hinshaw and Captain Parham both recognize that when agencies cooperate and share information it saves time and benefits everyone, from deputies to citizens.



As Sheriff Hinshaw wrote to the other Kansas Sheriffs - "Seventeen Kansas sheriffs' offices currently utilize Watch Systems' OffenderWatch® program... The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office selected the OffenderWatch® program in part because it was internet based and did not require the purchase of any computer equipment, only an internet connection, and the annual fee could be paid with offender registration fees. Watch Systems worked with our office to customize the program to meet Kansas offender registration requirements and the program can now printout a completed KBI registration form that may be forwarded directly to the state...The Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office would like to see data linking between users, made possible by implementing OffenderWatch® within the State of Kansas. Since the program uses an internet database server, linking would make it simple to share data between us...A statewide standardized offender registration program would be a tremendous law enforcement tool, and linking would enhance the functionality for all." **Thanks Sheriff for your progressive leadership!!**

## Easy Compliance Sweeps in California

Officer Lisa Frech of the Tehama County Sheriff's Office has found the Verification Request Form in Offender-Watch® to be an extremely useful tool. As Lisa recently said,

"The OffenderWatch® verification request report allows our officers to easily complete compliance sweeps. The form provides us with a current picture of the offender as well as their current and previous address. This is helpful if the offender has absconded, we can then go the older address to see if they might be back there. It also has vehicle information listed as well as many other forms of information and identification. Our officers use the verification request form and make the offender sign and attest that the information that we have on file is correct. These verification requests are also helpful for documenting that we have done compliance checks for reports such as grant reporting."

The verification request documents, along with maps and calendars, can be organized by district, beat, deputy, or risk level. It also offers automatic printing at the start of a period, to organize and streamline the process of performing periodic compliance checks. **OffenderWatch®** - the best tool in America!

"The best way to destroy your enemy is to make him your friend" - Abraham Lincoln

## Niagara County New York Sheriff's Office up 4000%

Niagara County New York Sheriff James Voutour has increased, year by year, the number of emails they have sent out to their citizens by over **4000%**! **OffenderWatch® monitors email registrations and emails sent, for every jurisdiction in America, and we are always standing by ready to help agencies increase the utilization of OffenderWatch® by their citizens.**

How did the Niagara County Sheriff achieve these kinds of results?

Sheriff Voutour and Investigator Leonard Guagliano took advantage of a no charge OffenderWatch® utilization review and assessment offered to all agencies. Just a few things that OffenderWatch® consultants were able to do:

- Repair several hundred offender addresses so their addresses would correctly map.
- Reconfigure the public display filters to comply with current state requirements based on risk level to ensure that notifications are sent with the appropriate data displayed or suppressed.
- Met with the public relations officer and school resource officer to create a strategic plan for networking with all schools and special recipients to assure wide use of Offender-Watch® information.

In addition, Watch Systems helped the sheriff identify several high risk offenders that should be included in additional security sweeps. The Niagara County Sheriff's Office is now a model of proactive and effective sex offender management and community notification, and does so efficiently with fewer resources and man hours.

"The man on top of the mountain didn't fall there" - Vince Lombardi

What is the beginning of eternity. The end of time and space.  
The beginning of every end. And the end of every place?

## Outstanding Georgia Agencies Recognized



Corporal Lee Kahlenbeck of Carroll County Sheriff's Office & Megan Pietro of Cobb County Sheriff's Office were recently recognized at the Georgia Sheriff's Association Sex Offender Management Symposium as the first recipients of the "Best Practice Administrators" award utilizing the **OffenderWatch®** offender management & notification system.

Based on a review of 15 measures of effectiveness, these professionals were recognized in front of their peers and presented certificates for achieving leadership results from among nearly 40 Georgia counties using the **OffenderWatch®** program.

The best management practices program recognizes excellence around three key areas within the sex offender management practice: accuracy of the database, completion of offender verifications and other management activities, and interaction with and dissemination of information to the community. View the Carroll or Cobb sheriff's office OffenderWatch® community web pages at these locations

- [www.sheriffalerts.com/ga/carroll](http://www.sheriffalerts.com/ga/carroll) or [www.sheriffalerts.com/ga/cobb](http://www.sheriffalerts.com/ga/cobb)

Corporal Lee Kahlenbeck said... "My job is to stay on top of all of the sex offenders on the registry, and that job gets harder as the list continues to grow. The OffenderWatch® program has been fantastic. It helps me so much!"

# Louisiana statewide OffenderWatch® program produces outstanding results

After years of 20 individual parishes in Louisiana using OffenderWatch®, the LA State Police, the LA Sheriffs Association and the LA Attorney General jointly cooperated to implement OffenderWatch® statewide in 2008 for all 64 parishes. This implementation also includes the LA Department of Corrections and State Probation and Parole.

In this first full year of operation, Louisiana **reduced non-compliant sex offenders from 3,000 to only 674**. By implementing OffenderWatch® statewide, Louisiana allows all local law enforcement agencies to share information and cooperate in their efforts to register and manage offenders. Before OffenderWatch® statewide, the registry contained information on about 7000 sex offenders, now it has over 9500 offenders. Communication and cooperation is the key - "The problem of tracking and registering sexual offenders is multifaceted and it takes a multi-disciplinary approach to help solve the problem" said Colonel Mike Edmonson, Superintendent of the LA state police. Prior to implementing OffenderWatch® statewide, every agency was only aware of what was going on in their own jurisdiction, thus making it difficult when offenders absconded, were re-arrested or moved. Now that these agencies cooperate and share offender information, keeping track of offenders is a much easier and more thoroughly completed task.

OffenderWatch® has also provided the means for additional precautions to be put into place. The State Department of Corrections now has the capability to pre-register offenders 10 days prior to their release, minimizing the chance of offenders slipping through the cracks. Once an offender is released they have three days to register with the local sheriff's office or they will be listed as non-compliant. This three day window is monitored by Louisiana State Police who notifies the local sheriff's office of non-compliance so that they may take any necessary action.

The State of Louisiana has taken a tough legal stance on sex offenders. Governor Bobby Jindal said, "A critical step toward enforcing these new laws is improving and better managing the sex offender registry program. By having a program (OffenderWatch®) that allows various law enforcement agencies to share, streamline and enforce the sex predator registration and monitoring process, our law enforcement officials are better prepared to track down these predators and protect our children."

## Outstanding New York Partnership

Washington County NY District Attorney Kevin Kortright and Sheriff Roger LeClaire took a leadership role among sheriffs and DA's nationwide when they joined forces to cooperate and share information to better manage and prosecute sex offenders utilizing OffenderWatch® as the web-based technology platform. Partnerships such as this offer both law enforcement and citizens numerous benefits and can reduce non-compliance and increase convictions when non-compliance occurs.



### District Attorney Kevin Kortright of Washington County New York says,

*"We are pleased to be partnered with Washington County Sheriff Roger LeClaire and his staff to provide assistance in the management and prosecution of sex offenders in Washington County through the use of the OffenderWatch® program. OffenderWatch® has allowed us to*

*coordinate with other local agencies to easily share, streamline and enforce the registration and monitoring process. It is nice to have such an effective tool to help the citizens of Washington County protect their children and families, and we have had a tremendous response from both parents and educators. I encourage other District Attorneys to work with their sheriffs to implement OffenderWatch® to move toward effectively closing the gap of non-compliant sex offenders."*

Congratulations to these two progressive leaders and let's hope DA's and Sheriffs all across America see the wisdom in cooperation and information sharing and follow their lead!!

## Florida User Group Meets

Detective Robert Tyrell of Osceola County sheriff's office took the initiative to establish and host the first regional Florida OffenderWatch® user group meeting. This group was composed of representatives from all Florida agencies that currently utilize OffenderWatch®. The purpose of this group is to share tips and techniques, establish best management practices, and foster continuity among OffenderWatch® users for more efficient sex offender management.

The meeting allowed everyone to become acquainted (share some good food!!!) and exchange ideas. It was considered a great success! Mark Wilson, Jonathan Roberts and Joel Shoultz of Watch Systems were enthused to participate, and want to acknowledge Detective Tyrell for his leadership initiative. Watch Systems VP of Operations Jonathan Roberts said, "It was very beneficial to hear, directly and face-to-face, from users about ways to tailor OffenderWatch® to better meet their needs." Watch Systems is actively establishing and co-sponsoring regional user groups all across the nation, to facilitate regional cooperation and information sharing. Call Joel Shoultz for more information about OffenderWatch® user groups!



"To put the world in order, we must first put the nation in order; to put the nation in order, we must put the family in order; to put the family in order; and to cultivate our personal life, we must first set our hearts right."—Confucius

# Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>
Tuesday	Free & Unlimited Weekly OffenderWatch® Online Training	www.watchsystems.com
10-6-09	Regional Sex Offender Best Practices Symposium	Southern California TBD
10-7-09	Regional Sex Offender Best Practices Symposium	Southern California – 2 <sup>nd</sup> location TBD
10-9-09	OffenderWatch® National Advisory Board Meeting	Watch Systems - Covington, LA
12-10-09	OffenderWatch® Live Quarterly Training	WatchSystems - Covington, LA
3-26-10	OffenderWatch® Live Quarterly Training	WatchSystems - Covington, LA
6-2-10	OffenderWatch® Live Quarterly Training	WatchSystems - Covington, LA

Riddle Answer: The letter "e"

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do, and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."—General George S. Patton



**Thank you to all of this issues contributor's and award recipients.**  
**To be featured in our next issue, please contact: Tiffany Hulin**  
**thulin@watchsystems.com or 985-871-8110 ext. 1020 to tell us about:**  
**Your OffenderWatch® success, ideas, growth, citizen feedback, etc.**



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