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the SOURCE

Drug Database to Educate Law Enforcement

By Heather Schafstall/OSBI Drug Chemist

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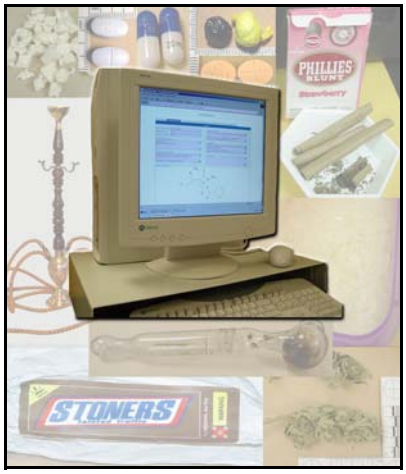
A major challenge facing law enforcement is the lack of a consolidated and easily accessible source of drug-related information. There is no one source that continually evolves and updates the changes in drugs, drug abuse and illegal drug manufacturing processes. The OSBI Drug Unit, in collaboration with C. Eugene Bennett Department of Chemistry, West Virginia University, and the Oklahoma Poison Control Center, have taken on this challenge and are in the process of developing a unique and innovative online drug information resource. The OSBI is going to provide an easily accessible centralized source of information to all law enforcement agencies, district attorney offices, and forensic crime and research laboratories via the Internet.



The Law Enforcement Drug Information Resource (LEDIR) is a collection of information pertaining to controlled substances, manufacturing of controlled substances including chemicals used in the process, precursors to controlled substances, prescription drugs, over the counter medications, and plants of abuse. Information such as alternative names, slang terms, registered trade names, manufacturing processes, precursor chemicals, chemical hazards, photos of drugs, scheduling categories, prescription or over-the-counter, physiological effects, specific chemical information and analytical data will all be available 24 hours/day, seven days a week, with proper password. The centralized location of information in an easy to read and search format, will be accessible by all levels of law enforcement at no cost.

LEDIR is a tool for officers to use in the field and during investigations. As new tablets are added to the database, officers will be able to search based on the logo imprinted on the tablet, giving them a preliminary visual identification needed for probable cause. If an officer or task force member happens upon a clandestine laboratory that contains chemicals they are unfamiliar with, a search can be performed on the chemicals found at the scene.

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Sheriff's Now Responsible for DNA Collection

By Erin Henry/CODIS Supervisor

The OSBI CODIS and Forensic Biology Units have created a video regarding the proper collection of DNA samples from convicted offenders for the Probation and Parole division of the Department of Corrections. This video is a step-by-step tutorial on how to take a sample from the individual and how to fill out the paperwork to be submitted with the sample. The OSBI is currently in the process of updating this video to include the new style of buccal swab collection kit that will be in use. The video will be an informative tool to sheriff's deputies since new legislation now allows them to collect the samples. The video will be on either CD-ROM or DVD and should be available for distribution within the next 1-2 months. In addition, the components for collecting these DNA samples include a written set of instructions.

"...OSBI plans to create a website to check whether a DNA sample has been received..."

Collection of DNA samples for inclusion into the database consists of taking a sterile swab from a collection kit and rubbing it along the inside of the individual's cheeks and gums to obtain saliva and skin cells. The swab is then pressed on the collection paper in the circle to transfer the sample. The circle is fully saturated with sample when the color changes from pink to white. Each collection card and envelope must be filled out completely and include the collecting agency name below the name of the individual collecting the sample. An inked thumb print of the offender must also be included in the appropriate space. If possible, please call, fax, or e-mail the OSBI CODIS Unit before collecting a sample to see if a sample has previously been collected from the individual. This will assist the OSBI in preventing duplicate samples from the same individual. If an offender claims to have already submitted a DNA sample, this information MUST be verified with the OSBI. If the OSBI does not have a sample from the individual, the individual MUST provide a DNA sample. This is vital to ensure that a DNA sample is received from each qualifying offender.

In the future, the OSBI plans to create a secure access website that law enforcement officers can check to determine whether or not a DNA sample has been received from a particular individual. At this point the software and hardware necessary to create this website has not been purchased, so it hasn't been determined when this website will be available.

The OSBI will notify the original collecting agency to collect a second sample from the individual if the first sample does not yield a suitable DNA profile for inclusion into the database.

For the first year, each sheriff's department participating in DNA collection will be responsible for obtaining the collection kits from DOC Probation and Parole. In following years, each participating sheriff's department will need to contact the OSBI CODIS Unit with a request for a specific number of kits by April 1 of each year. The number of kits requested should be based on the number of new offenders that will need to submit a DNA sample

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DNA Collection Continued

for the next year. A method for distributing these kits will be developed. This method might include distributing the kits through DOC Probation and Parole or arranging for pickup at the nearest OSBI Regional Laboratory. More information will be released regarding pickup of kits once a distribution method is determined.

Any further questions may be directed to the OSBI CODIS Unit by calling the OSBI Central Laboratory (405-427-5421).

Drug Database Continued

If the chemical is involved in the manufacture of an illegal substance, that information could be found. Photos of tablets, capsules, plants, drugs and paraphernalia are also available. Information such as the state drug scheduling categories, if a substance is prescription or over the counter, trafficking levels, and physiological effects can be helpful to the district attorney. Information such as chemical structures, mass and infrared spectrographs can be very useful to the forensic analyst.

Administration of the website, including usernames and passwords, will be controlled by the OSBI Drug Unit. Usernames and passwords for LEDIR will be available starting around February 1st, 2005. To obtain a username and password, contact Heather Schafstall or Kevin Kramer at the Central Laboratory, (405) 427-5421.

"LEDIR is a tool for officers to use in the field and during investigations."

SIBRS Growing In State

The State Incident Based Reporting System (SIBRS) is in high gear and growing rapidly. Currently, there are 107 agencies submitting incident information from their jurisdictions to the SIBRS database. Since June of 2004, agencies have submitted over 14,400 incident reports and the numbers are increasing daily.

So far, 15 agencies have requested to share their incident data with all agencies participating in SIBRS. If you are interested in sharing your data with other law enforcement agencies, please provide a request to Rodney Eaton. The request needs to be on agency letterhead and signed by the agency head. Please mail the request to:

Rodney Eaton, Field Services Supervisor
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
6600 North Harvey
Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Oklahoma City Police Department, Tulsa Police Department, Norman

SIBRS Continued

Police Department and Stillwater Police Department are close to completion of their efforts to interface with SIBRS. The interface will allow these agencies to upload data to SIBRS from their existing Records Management Systems (RMS).

f your agency is currently working to interface with SIBRS, please review the latest Interface Control Document (ICD) that is available at http://www.osbi.state.ok.us/LawEnforcement/SIBRS. If you have any questions, contact Rodney Eaton at 1 – (800) 522-8017 at extension 2533.

OSBI Employees of the Year

Each year, the OSBI awards committee designates three employees of the year, one criminalist, one agent and one non-commissioned person.

This year Criminalist Jim Stokes was awarded this high honor for his work in the latent print unit of OSBI. He identified several victims and a suspect for other law enforcement agencies through both fingerprints and footprints. Stokes helped to solve an 18-year-old homicide in Edmond from a bloody footprint left at the scene.

Agent of the year went to Special Agent Bob Almon who works in the Criminal Intelligence Unit of OSBI. He won the award for his work in breaking up a drug ring that spanned several states.

Terri Turner, a criminal analyst for the Criminal Intelligence Unit, won the Non-Commissioned Employee of the Year. Turner has worked as the coordinator of thousands of pieces of information on the Interstate 40 Truck Stop Prostitute Murder cases which has spanned more than a half dozens states.

OSBI Commission Chairman Ted Farris (left), Terri Turner (middle), Director DeWade Langley (right).

These and many more employees were honored at the 13th Annual OSBI Awards Banquet at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Several Director's Awards were also awarded to law enforcement outside the agency. Director DeWade Langley gave Oklahoma City Police Inspector Jerry Flowers an award for his tireless work on the Interstate 40 prostitute murder cases. OCPD Sgt. Phil Williams was awarded for his assistance on an unsolved homicide in Bethany. District Attorney's Investigator Mike Shea was given a Director's Award for his work on the murder of Pawnee County Sheriff Dwight Woodrell.

A civilian also made the list for the Director's Award. Scott Eggleston of Edmond captured a peeping tom outside his home. That man turned out to be a suspect in Edmond's only unsolved homicide.