



## St. Lucie County Sheriff

The St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office (SLSO) serves a population of 260,000 citizens along South Florida's Treasure Coast. The department currently has more than 600 employees.

### OBJECTIVE

SLSO was in need of a comprehensive, real-time identity verification solution to use as part of its daily law enforcement regimen. During traffic stops, for example, if people don't have any identification they may make up stories to convince the officer who they are. In the past, the officer had no way of verifying the person's true identity and sometimes fell prey to a good tale.

Sheriffs also needed a better way to verify the identities of paroled sex offenders to comply with the Jessica Lunsford law. These parolees must re-register at the sheriff's office every six months — sometimes every quarter — and submit to a follow-up visit at their home within 48 hours. Deploying mobile identification verification equipment became a priority.

### SOLUTION DESCRIPTION

SLSO evaluated biometric devices and in January 2007 began using Cross Match Technologies Pristrak identification solution at its jail facilities. Soon after, the department sought a wireless version that it could use in the field. They chose the Cross Match MV 100™ Pristrak fingerprint workstation — which offered forensic-quality scanning, a digital camera, a magnetic stripe card reader and an integrated PDA — because it had broad wireless functionality. However, there was a connectivity issue to solve.

Officers already had laptops with wireless cards in their cars, working across the AT&T 3G BroadbandConnect network. The challenge was finding a way for the laptops and the MV 100s to share the same connectivity. The answer was the Top Global MB8000 MobileBridge router. SLSO was able to install its existing wireless cards to power the new routers. The HSDPA routers were then able to wirelessly connect with both the laptops and the new fingerprint devices via their LAN ports and WLAN signals.

Currently, 26 routers and fingerprint scanners have been deployed in the vehicles of supervisors and other specialized units. The scanners paid instant dividends for both traffic stop ID and predator verification. Fingerprint scans are transmitted wirelessly through the gateway to headquarters, where they can be checked against a local database of over 100,000 sets of prints. If the database match is not who the



[www.stluciesheriff.com](http://www.stluciesheriff.com)

### COMPANY

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### OBJECTIVE

- Enable mobile identification verification of traffic stop suspects and sexual predator parolees
- Achieve wireless connectivity for the device without incurring significant recurring expenses

### SOLUTION

- AT&T 3G BroadbandConnect
- Top Global MB8000 HSDPA MobileBridge router
- Cross Match MV 100 Pristrak fingerprint workstation

### RESULTS

- Anticipate achieving return on investment within 14 months
- Optimized the value of its 3G solution
- Improved operation efficiency
- Reduced the risk of lawsuits and legal fees that can arise through misidentification

perpetrator is claiming to be, the officer has cause for an arrest. Using a variety of reports generated from stored fingerprint and personal data, SLSO can also audit the frequency of home-based visits in the case of sex offender parolees.

"We are currently expanding the deployment of the MV 100 workstations to many of our road patrol supervisors, technical services managers, detectives, court security personnel and even some of the local police departments," projects John Hammond, IT manager for the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

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The 3G link has given law enforcement a mobile tool to positively identify suspects that don't show ID. It's a great way to keep the community safer.

*Ken Mascara, Sheriff, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office*

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## RESULTS

SLSO estimates that it will reach its return on investment in just 14 months. The ability to use a single card to feed multiple devices provided major cost efficiency. "Not only did the MobileBridge solution eliminate card duplication, but it also improved the connection quality of the scanners," notes Hammond. "We're getting more value out of our 3G solution because we can share it between the laptop and the handheld device."

Having scanners in the cars helps SLSO avoid mistakes and rapidly identify criminals from anywhere at any time. It also improves operational efficiency and minimizes the financial risks of lawsuits and legal fees. "The 3G link has given law enforcement a mobile tool to positively identify suspects that don't show ID," acknowledges Ken Mascara, Sheriff for the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office. "It's a great way to keep the community safer."

It can sometimes aid in forensics too, according to Hammond. "Recently, we had an interesting case where they were able to identify a body in the field using the fingerprint scanner."

The guys on the front line have nothing but good things to say about the capabilities of the 3G system. "The biometric match takes a lot of the guesswork out of their jobs," Hammond admits. "Even the toughest ones. We have a set of twins around here that like to swap names depending on who's in trouble. They're no match for us now."



## 3G A-List Awards



The St. Lucie County Sheriff is a 2007 winner of the 3G A-List Award in the Law Enforcement category.

The 3G A-List Awards recognize the leading builders of successful wireless data solutions based on 3G CDMA (CDMA2000 1X, EV-DO, and UMTS/HSPA) technology. **To learn more about the A-List, please visit [www.3galist.com](http://www.3galist.com)**

## SUPPORTING PARTNERS

The A-List also recognizes supporting partners for their enabling role in assisting with these wireless data deployments.

