



## **Community Support Program Overview**

The Community Support Program is a community and law enforcement support program. The program provides a new method of supporting cities utilizing wide area motion imagery analysis. This innovative technology supports investigators and provides information to law enforcement to solve what are often unsolvable crimes.

### **Program Objectives: Reducing crime in communities now and in the future**

- 1) Aid in solving crimes by providing information related to
  - a) Who was at the scene of the crime
  - b) Where they went to
  - c) Where they came from
  
- 2) Reduce future crime by
  - a) Removing repeat offenders earlier in their criminal career
  - b) Through robust public awareness, the program increases crime deterrence by increasing the case closure rate and the likelihood of catching a criminal within our supported areas
  - c) The perceived likelihood of getting caught/convicted is the largest factor in crime deterrence
  - d) Through the combination of removing repeat offenders early, deterring crime, we aim to reduce the crime rate by 20-30% over the course of a year

### **Technology**

The Community Support Program uses technology originally developed to help identify individuals planting improvised explosive devices in Iraq. The Hawkeye II Wide Area Motion Imagery System provides a 192-megapixel orthorectified image of up to a 5.8 x 5.8 mile area or 32 square miles every second. The systems are mounted on small manned Cessna or Cirrus aircraft and typically fly between 6,000 and 10,000 feet. Coverage can be provided for 5 to 10 hours per day. The image is captured, processed and transmitted to the ground every second. This provides "Google Earth" like image only live with a full "DVR" like capability. The second by second imagery of the city allows persons of interest to be tracked from a crime scene both forward and backward in time. This allows ground based analysts to observe reported crime scenes and track persons of interest and vehicles to and from the location of a reported crime. This information allows analysts to build an investigation briefing and provide the information to investigators.

### **Integration and Innovation**

The Community Support Program integrates with Police Computer Aided Dispatch Systems to automatically locate and prioritize reported crimes within the coverage areas and flight times. This simplifies the start of the analysis process. Typically, 250-400 calls for service are recorded within the coverage area and time of a single mission. The program also integrates with ground-based cameras to identify the camera and time that a suspect would have been within the ground cameras coverage area. This significantly enhances the impact of ground based cameras allowing vehicles to be tracked throughout their route past cameras. The Program also integrates GPS tracking, license plate readers, and gunshot detection equipment providing timely cues to events on the ground.

### **Public and Media**

The Community Support Program highly encourages and fully supports full public disclosure of the program and related activities. The program will provide support for a wide range of community meetings, briefing and press availabilities. The Community Support Program believes that full disclosure and public awareness are necessary in order to achieve the goals of solving crime and prevention of crime in the future. Both deterrence and public acceptance depend on people being aware of the program and understanding what it does and does not do.

### **Privacy**

The Community Support Program has developed an extensive privacy policy that details what the information can be used for and what it cannot be used for. These policies have been worked out over many years in coordination with a wide range of groups. The policies are adapted to the location and are placed on contract between CSP and the supported organization. The policies typically limit use to reported crime and ongoing investigations. Use to monitor political protests and other first amendment rights are not allowed. The policy also details who can look at the images, how long they can be kept, how they can be maintained.

### **Legal**

The services and information the program provides are legal and can be used to support investigations and prosecutions. The program has been reviewed by multiple state attorneys. Airborne imagery has been used in law enforcement for more than 50 years. Many cities currently use helicopters to assist officers and detectives solve crimes. The Community Support Program is no different. There are three directly related Supreme Court level decisions that outline the law associated with aerial surveillance. In each case, the use of airborne law enforcement has been upheld to be legal and admissible in court. Program analysts will provide expert testimony as needed. The program provides a memorandum of law that addresses these cases.

### **Costs**

CSP provides a complete service at a lower price than the typical cost of a police helicopter per year. Costs are somewhat dependent on the amount of flying and analysis provided. CSP has worked hard to make our capability affordable to medium sized police departments. CSP has a pre-negotiated Government Services Agency (GSA) support contract that is available to all US based law enforcement organizations and simplifies the contracting process. Discounts are available for long-term operations.

***For more information, please go to [www.communitysupport.info](http://www.communitysupport.info)***