



## Booked on Burglary, Assault & Rape in Washington



Dianne McCants of Benton County WA received a crime bulletin and sketch from Richland police on a burglary/sexual assault case. Wanting to see what OffenderWatch® would return, she entered the physical description of the suspect and searched within a one mile radius of the location the offense occurred. "OffenderWatch® returned a list of about 25 registered sex offenders. I then went into each offender's page and looked at the photos, comparing them to the sketch. One of our level 1 offenders registered in Kennewick closely matched the description and lived within walking distance of the crime address." said Dianne.

Dianne contacted detective Shepherd at Richland PD to see if this particular offender was on the list of suspects. At this time he was not as they had first begun focusing on offenders that were registered within their jurisdiction. Because Benton County is linked with their PD's through OffenderWatch®, Detective Shepherd was able to pull up this particular offender's information on the spot and upon reviewing the file, Detective Shepherd added this offender to his list of suspects.

The rest of the story in Dianne's words: Richland Police contacted that offender and also showed a photo line up to the victim. She picked that offender out of the photos, identifying him

as her assailant. RPD obtained search warrants for the offender and also for his residence. When RPD searched his home they found narcotics, along with some potential physical evidence for the assault. The offender was booked on PC for the narcotics, while the investigation into the Burglary/Assault case continued. Later, an in person line-up was done and the victim once again picked this offender out as her assailant.

As of 12/14/09, in addition to the drug charges, this offender is now booked on charges for Burglary 1<sup>st</sup>, Assault 1<sup>st</sup> & Rape 1<sup>st</sup>.

This offender's original conviction was as a juvenile in Washington (1988 Child Molestation 1<sup>st</sup>) and although he has no other sex related convictions, he has had numerous incidents of negative law enforcement contact including a number of failure to register in Washington and also in Idaho. He has a current Fail to Register pending in Benton County Superior Court.

"I am so excited about this. This program worked like it's intended to and although I'm sure the detectives would have probably come across him at some point, I don't think he would have been in jail within 10 days of the offense without OffenderWatch®...The one thing I want to stress to all of the users is that the program is only as effective as the information that's put into it. It's so important to put as much in as possible." said Dianne.

*"Investigation tools within OffenderWatch® helped create a short list of suspects and ultimately an arrest."*

## DuPage County Illinois Takes Time for Citizen Safety

Sheriff John Zaruba of Dupage County Illinois uses his community safety day to convey to citizens the proximity of their counties' 588 sex offenders, as well as the need and benefit of registering for alerts. **To get your map, contact Joel Shultz at Watch Systems, 985-871-8110 ext. 1017.**



## 165 Arrested in Jefferson County Alabama

Congratulations to Sheriff Mike Hale and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Sex Offender Unit for their creative and successful effort in reducing the number of non-compliant offenders in their community. Beginning in August of 2006, Jefferson County, in conjunction with their local news affiliate NBC 13, has featured 165 convicted sex offenders for Violation of the Sex Offender Act entitled "To Catch A Predator". Of the 165 sex offenders featured as wanted, they have arrested 158, which is a **96% success rate.**



Sheriff Mike Hale

Stats are from August of 2006

- 2006 - 21 Offenders Featured - 21 Arrested
- 2007 - 49 Offenders Featured - 47 Arrested
- 2008 - 48 Offenders Featured - 48 Arrested
- 2009 - 47 Offenders Featured - 42 Arrested

For information on how you can do this for your agency, contact JJ Reach of Jefferson County AL - 205.325.5740

## Jasper County Missouri



In October of '09, Robin Jennings took over sex offender management for Jasper County MO. Seeing that OffenderWatch® was in place, she immediately signed up for online training and began putting the system to use. Robin's diligent efforts to utilize the program to its fullest capabilities are paying off in numerous ways.

Time spent registering and verifying offenders has been drastically reduced. "It used to take me 40-45 minutes to do a verification, I now have it down to about 15 minutes. OffenderWatch® has definitely sped things up for us; new registrations are much easier as well, down from 60-70 minutes to 30-40 minutes." says Robin.

**"65% reduction in time spent verifying an offender by using OffenderWatch®."**

Compliance sweeps are also quicker and easier for the deputies as Robin can select offenders living within close proximity, which saves deputies from driving all over town. She also prints reports that provide deputies everything they need including pictures, notes, addresses, physical descriptions, etc.

Another benefit has been the automatic warning of residency restriction violations. Just by keying an offender's address, OffenderWatch® notifies Robin immediately if that offender's location falls within a safety buffer zone.

The community notification side has also been invaluable in keeping offenders compliant through the help of citizens. Robin says, "I get calls all the time telling me an offender is not actually living at the address they have registered online. I may get a call from a neighbor or from the residents of the home the offender moved out of. I am then able to have a deputy follow up immediately, ensuring that we are doing everything possible to keep these offenders compliant."

Kudos to Robin and the deputies at Jasper County for taking such a proactive approach to sex offender management.

## 2009 Advisory Board

Watch Systems would like to thank our 2009 Advisory Board for their participation and support. The Board spent a day in Covington, LA at the Watch Systems headquarters to review and recommend changes and enhancements to the OffenderWatch® program. If you have any ideas or processes that we can incorporate, please contact: Detective Jeff Shimkus of Allen County Indiana, [jeff.shimkus@co.allen.in.us](mailto:jeff.shimkus@co.allen.in.us).

Pictured clockwise from top left: Det. Jeff Shimkus of Allen County IN, Sgt. Mike Jones of Sacramento County CA, Inv. Lillian Efird of Volusia County FL, Det. Kristen Zidzik of Las Vegas Metro PD, Dawn Larsen of WA Assc of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, Dep. Joseph Flagler of Niagara County NY, Sgt. Jacob Reach of Jefferson County AL, Det. Dave Sand of DuPage County IL, Jennifer Weindorf of Utah Dept. of Corrections, Major Jim Stewart of Richland County SC, Major Mike Oliver of Sedgwick County KS, and Lt. Luis Munquia of Jefferson Parish LA.



*Did you know that OffenderWatch® is now in 39 states including 13 statewide customers. Our newest states are: Connecticut, Nevada & South Carolina*

## Palm Beach County Florida Raises the Bar



Since obtaining OffenderWatch® in March of 2009, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office has been instrumental with the implementation of numerous upgrades to OffenderWatch®. These upgrades enable the system to capture more usable data, thus increasing its manageability of sexual predators and offenders.

SPOT Coordinator Carla Grosso has begun to scan and download various documents, such as initial police reports, convictions, and sexual predator court orders, into OffenderWatch®. Carla says, "The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office is attempting to capture all pertinent information within the OffenderWatch® system, which will not only assist the detectives, but will provide valuable resources in case

of an Amber Alert. Detectives can view documents from their vehicle's mobile digital laptops, which reduces the time and resources it would take for them to acquire it from files back at the office. Detectives are taking pictures of the offender's vehicle(s), home, and visible tattoos as well. A current photograph of the offender is taken if there are any obvious changes in their physical appearance such as shaving off a beard, dying their hair, etc.

**"Information is great, but without being able to access it quickly or search through it easily, it becomes a lot less valuable."**

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office SPOT Unit is a prime example of how to get the most from the OffenderWatch® program. Carla says, "Information is great, but without being able to access it quickly or search through it easily, it becomes a lot less valuable." Additionally, when an offender moves, the Sheriff's Office SPOT Unit is able to transfer the documents to another county, ensuring all relevant information is communicated to other law enforcement agencies in a timely manner.

# Inspired Collaboration in Jefferson Parish Louisiana

Astounding results occur from cooperation in Jefferson Parish Louisiana from the Sheriff's Office to the District Attorney's Office to the US Marshall Service and even other state agencies. This is the ultimate example of how true collaboration benefits everyone.

Lt. Luis Mungia, Sandra Muller, Jennifer Propps and the team at the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office have streamlined their sex offender database using OffenderWatch®. For over 790 offenders, they now upload every document related to each offender into OffenderWatch®. The benefits have been enormous as Lt. Mungia and his team are contacted daily by other agencies and offices needing files on an offender.

***"We can now account for every piece of information we have ever acquired at the click of a button. In the past it could take several hours to search through files, ensure we had everything, make copies, and disburse the information appropriately. Now we simply export the offenders' information with the click of a button and send it electronically, it is virtually instantaneous."*** says Mungia.

Lt. Mungia has also found ways to share information with the local District Attorney by providing them with their own access to offender records through OffenderWatch®. This speeds up their job since they are not waiting on anyone to collect the completed offender file. The District Attorney's Office has also provided benefits back to the sheriff's office and US Marshal Service. Susan Church who handles OffenderWatch® on the DA's side now regularly goes in and accesses the current warrants list.

Through search engines that local law enforcement do not have access to, she searches the absconded offenders and many times is able to locate an offender that has otherwise fallen off the radar. Just recently Susan discovered an offender wanted in LA by finding that he just signed up for cable tv in Texas using his name and SS#. This information was then turned over to the US Marshal Service along with the complete offender file. Both Susan and Lt. Mungia are adamant about how much this cooperation and sharing of information has helped them reduce non compliance rates. These agencies are truly leaders that are setting the standards for collaboration. We at Watch Systems are excited to hear about their proactive efforts and definitely want to commend everyone involved in this monumental success story.

Pictured is the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office Fingerprint Identification Team responsible for all sex offender registration.



## 15 Less in Boone County Indiana

A recent search of the Boone County sex offender registry which utilizes OffenderWatch®, revealed 103 sex offenders residing in their county, 15 fewer than the state site had listed. Asked why there is a discrepancy, Sheriff's Office spokesman Chris Burcham said the reason is actually one of OffenderWatch's strengths.

"It's more up to date" than the state site, Burcham said. "When we find out an offender moves out of state (or the area), he's removed from our local page listing immediately." Updates are handled in the county, instead of through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, which updates the current state site. This local process using OffenderWatch® allows the county to provide more reliable and timely information to their citizens.

## Broome County New York 100%

Broome County and all of their PD's are the 1<sup>st</sup> complete countywide OffenderWatch® im-



plementation in New York. Broome now offers a seamless solution and is leading the way for better sex offender management & collaboration in NY. Because the sheriff is the point of notification for citizens, the public has shown a noted preference to this local site over the state site which is updated the moment a change is made.

## Featuring a Feature

### Enter multiple verification entries at once

by using the QUICK VERIFICATION ENTRY Tool- Select multiple offenders in the "Manage Verifications" list. While holding down the "Ctrl" key on your keyboard, right-click on any selected offender and choose "Quick Verification Entry". This gives you a pop up with the ability to input your verification criteria (Dates, Cycle, Verified By, etc.) to all of the selected offenders at the same time. Please remember that this only allows for verification entries that are identical. This will save countless hours, as you can now edit groups of offender verifications at one time!

## OHIO is the Very First

Ohio, the very first to become fully **Adam Walsh Compliant!**

"Ohio's county sheriffs have seen first-hand the benefits of a common approach to sex offender registration," said Buckeye State Sheriff's Association Executive Director Robert Cornwell. "It has taken careful work and dedication to get Ohio's system to where it is today, and the families in each of our counties benefit from having that information available to them in a format that's consistent from one end of the state to the other."

Ohio Sheriffs and the Attorney General work cooperatively at registering offenders and providing community notification. Ohio now has over **400,000 citizens enrolled in the community email notification program** with each alert going out personally branded to the sheriff.

# Dona Ana County New Mexico Probation

Dona Ana County New Mexico State probation officers and the sheriff's office are now collaboratively using OffenderWatch® to provide a more thorough offender record. Probation officers gather additional offender information as they often see offenders on a more frequent basis. In the past, each agency kept their own records and intelligence on offenders, but it was not readily available to one another. Now

*Issues can occur more frequently when one agency doesn't have the latest information a partner agency may have recently collected.*

Carla Slevins and her probation team simply update their intelligence information into OffenderWatch® as well as have the ability to access any data that the sheriff's

office has. This collaborative effort offers a solid, regularly updated and complete offender file available to all participating agencies the moment the information is entered. Cooperation such as this is effectively eliminating numerous issues that can occur when agencies aren't readily aware of each others offender responsibilities and management results.

## Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Where</u>
Every Tuesday	Free & Unlimited Weekly OffenderWatch® Online Training	www.watchsystems.com
4-20-10	Georgia Command Staff Meeting	Macon, GA
4-28-10	Albany Task Force Committee	Albany, NY
4-30-10	Alabama Task Force/ User Group Committee	Shelby County AL
5-7-10	Florida User Group Meeting	Daytona Beach FL
6-2-10	OffenderWatch® Live Quarterly Training	WatchSystems - Covington, LA
9-17-10	OffenderWatch® Live Quarterly Training	WatchSystems - Covington, LA



***Thanks to all who contributed and for your great work out there!***

***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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*"OffenderWatch® has been an instrumental tool in tracking sex offenders in Marshall County, Alabama. In the past year alone, without the utilization of this technology, our office would not have been able to apprehend several missing sex offenders. Without hesitation, the top notch support provided by the staff of OffenderWatch® is to be commended."*

*Tina Brown,  
Sex Offender Compliance Officer*

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