



Pegasus Report

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Pegasus Research Foundation

1501 Macon Dr, Ste 100

Little Rock, AR 72211

Lee Colwell, President

501-975-9111

icolwell@pegasusresearch.org

Pegasus Advisory Board

Sheriff Tommy Ferrell (Ret.),
Chairman

1 Pecanway

Natchez, MS 39120

601-442-0134

tferrell@telepax.net

Pegasus Support Center

1230 Raymond Rd

Jackson, MS 39204

800-392-4312

information@pegasusresearch.org

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Sheriff Mike Brown Hosts DOJ/Pegasus

In October, **Sheriff Mike Brown**, Sheriff of Bedford County, VA, hosted a meeting in his office, in which Department of Justice personnel met with **Sheriff Brown**, Campbell County **Sheriff Terry Gaddy** and representatives of Sheriffs' Offices, jails, and police departments from Virginia and Galveston County, TX Sheriff's Office. The purpose of the meeting was to brief the DOJ CIO's Office on the functions and benefits of the Pegasus Program. After the meeting, Sheriff Brown said "Any law enforcement CEO who doesn't get on the bandwagon with this, he's shortchanging his department, and he's shortchanging the citizens of his jurisdiction."

DOJ CIO Report on Information Sharing

Reflecting Congressional concern that law enforcement has access to coordinated, cost efficient, and non-duplicative law enforcement information sharing services, the FY06 DOJ Appropriations act contained a provision requiring that the DOJ CIO report to Congress on the Nationwide Pegasus Program, RISS, the Criminal Information Sharing Alliance Network, Law Enforcement Online (LEO), and the DOJ N-DEX and R-DEX systems, as well as other information technology sharing services available to law enforcement.

Pegasus Program FY06 Funding

Thanks to strong Congressional support from Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), the Pegasus Program was designated to receive continuation funding in the FY06 Department of Justice Appropriations Act. **Sheriff Tommy Ferrell** (Ret.), Pegasus Advisory Board Chairman said, "This continuation funding will enable Pegasus to continue providing information sharing services to those agencies which have been "grandfathered in" by early participation." Pegasus will be pursuing other sources of funding necessary to add additional agencies and expand system functionality.

Pegasus Participating Agency Update

The Pegasus Program has surpassed its' initial goal of connecting 220 agencies to the Pegasus system. We now have 211 Sheriffs' offices and 17 municipal police departments in 31 states on net and using Pegasus. An additional 484 agencies are contributing their jail records with a total of 10,785,000 records now accessible.

Pegasus Advisory Board

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Pegasus Feature: CID Watch List

As part of its continuing effort to be responsive to user needs, Pegasus is continually expanding the data and system functions available to users. Over the past few months, the Pegasus System has continued to expand the data available to users and has introduced several new features which make Pegasus more useful to users.

One of these features, the CID Watch List, is available to authorized Pegasus users to watch for persons of interest to appear in the System. If desired, watches may be set to be “invisible” to others. Once a watch is active, every 15 minutes, the System automatically searches for matches against all databases accessible by the System. Users checking their Watch List will find matches from agencies all across the Nation, or close to home. Like all Pegasus functions, this tool may be used only for authorized law enforcement purposes.

Pegasus Testifies Before House Homeland Security Subcommittee

In July, 2005, the House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment invited Dr. Lee Colwell, representing the Pegasus Program, to appear before the subcommittee.

On July 20, Dr. Colwell testified at the hearing “A Progress Report on Information Sharing for the Homeland Security.” The purpose of the hearing was to examine Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) ability to coordinate intelligence with state, local and tribal governments and identify improvements that DHS can make to expand its national information sharing capabilities.

In addition to **Dr. Colwell**, representatives of State and Tribal law enforcement and DHS representatives testified at the hearing. All generally concurred that the Nation had made significant progress in information sharing since 9/11, but “we are still not where we should be or must be if we are going to be effective in protecting our communities from future attack.”