

TACIDS Overview

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This overview provides a brief explanation of the procurement process and the scope of this facial recognition project, along with current status and near-future plans.

The TACIDS project was initially a research and development effort, funded by the National Institute of Justice and is still in pilot stage until the end of 2013. The sole purpose of this project is to assist police officers with identifying individuals lawfully detained who provide false or no form of identification prior to arresting and subjecting the persons through the booking process (always an option).

The vendor (Face First LLC) was selected through a valid RFP process where competition was encouraged. To accomplish this, ARJIS utilized San Diego Data Processing Corporation's contracting department. This contract, including all amendments has since been reassigned to SANDAG.

The initial development period (through the end of 2013) included software enhancements and access through up to 100 devices. A recent informal agreement extended the number of device licenses to 150.

There are currently 336,932 persons enrolled within the TACIDS system (many with multiple images). As of this date, there are approximately 133 TACIDS enabled devices, although not all are active users. The breakdown by agency is as follows:

Agency	Devices w/Software	# Queries since start	Active Users (>=10 queries)
Carlsbad PD	3	28	1
Cal Dept of Corrections	2	35	2
Cal Hwy Patrol	2	6	0
Coronado PD	2	4	0
Chula Vista PD	2	129	4
DEA	1	1	0
Escondido PD	3	30	2
ICE	4	260	3
La Mesa PD	3	11	0
National City PD	19	155	3
Oceanside PD	9	126	4
San Diego Probation	4	74	3
San Diego Harbor Police	1	12	1
San Diego PD	20	647	13
San Diego Sheriff	55	1280	28
San Diego State University PD	1	194	1
SD Unified School Dist. PD	1	50	1
US Border Patrol	1	5	0
US Marshal Service	1	11	1
	133	3058	67

Although ARJIS does not track the agency division assignments it is known that most of the users are either assigned to special fugitive task force operations and/or are Terrorist Liaison Officers.

Of the above number of queries into the TACIDS system, many of them were for training, testing and/or demonstrations and should not be construed to indicate the total number of persons lawfully detained and photographed for ID purposes. Many of the probe images were submitted multiple times. In addition, ARJIS staff used test photos to demonstrate the product and to provide training. A user training guide was prepared and was distributed to all officers.

The only data source being utilized at this point in time is the ARJIS Cal-Photo database, which consists of mugshot images obtained through the booking process at the San Diego County Sheriff's detention facilities. The initial goal was to utilize up to 3 data sources but only the one has been utilized.

ARJIS participated in a national effort (December 2010) to develop a Privacy Impact Assessment and usage policy guidelines related to facial recognition technology. This was done in anticipation of a larger national effort to eventually utilize driver's license photos to assist in identifying persons who are lawfully detained by police. The focus was on using the technology for lawful purposes and under specific circumstances rather than general surveillance. It is the goal of law enforcement to respect the privacy of individuals while using this technology as a valuable tool in the efforts to fight crime throughout the United States.

The TACIDS project is still in pilot stage but ARJIS has utilized the published NLETS policy document as the basis for the TACIDS Draft Policy. The Privacy Impact Assessment document, which describes in detail how the technology works and under what circumstances it is to be utilized, provides the basis for the Policy.

Additionally the ARJIS draft policy addresses the dissemination and retention policies with respect to facial recognition images and identification results. It also addresses audit logs, user training, system security and accountability.

ARJIS plans to make these documents a formal part of the 2014 TACIDS production system. The system is currently hosted within the secure law enforcement NLETS data center in Phoenix, AZ.