



Profiles of Technology
IN TENNESSEE

Broadband Technology Takes a Bite Out of Crime in Memphis

Name: Memphis Police
Department Real-Crime Center

Location:
Memphis/Shelby County

Products/Services:
High-tech crime fighting
services

Leadership: Larry Godwin,
Police Directors

Founded:
2008

Innovative Insight: *“This is a major accomplishment in the city that will make a big difference in how police fight crime. Its powerful technology...will make Memphis a safer city.”*

Powerful Results:
Serious crimes in Memphis are down 10% from last year, and Director Godwin credits the RTCC for much of that drop.

Memphis, TN – It might look like something from one of your favorite TV shows, but the new ultra modern Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) in Memphis is very much a reality and working 24/7 to make Memphis a safer city.

The \$3.5 million high-tech facility opened its doors in May and will be used to identify crime patterns in real time and provide valuable information to police on the scene of an incident. The plans for opening a real-time crime center in Memphis were launched after a visit to the New York Police Department’s ultra-modern crime center by Memphis Police Director Larry Godwin in December 2006.

“This is a major accomplishment in the city that will make a big difference in how police fight crime,” says Director Godwin. “Its powerful technology...will make Memphis a safer city.”

RTCC is equipped with forty-two rear-projection display screens and twenty computer work stations. The video wall can process multiple video signals to include broadcast and cable channels, live real-time CCTV video and computer displays. The computerized crime center will allow RTCC staff members to search several databases to obtain information on a particular location, person or vehicle within minutes instead of several hours or days. Linked to the RTCC will be “Fixed and Mobile License Plate Recognition” cameras with capabilities of reading and detecting license plates of vehicles that are stolen, associated with a felony crime or wanted party, or connected to a broadcast such as an Amber Alert. Disparate video surveillances at city and county schools, college campuses and parking garages can be monitored at the RTCC. Citizens and businesses will be able to register their web cameras with the RTCC, so the Memphis Police Department (MPD) can access and view them if necessary. The RTCC will also run automated, computerized searches, which will pre-package research information relative to people, places and things that are the focus of criminal investigations. That package will then be forwarded to an analyst for further research.

Another important component of the RTCC will be CyberWatch, which was developed by the Memphis Police Department to provide useful information to the citizens to make our neighborhoods safer. Citizens who register with MPD’s CyberWatch program can receive daily email reports about reported crimes, sex offenders, and fugitives in a designated reporting radius based on an address or intersection. An individual can email the investigator about a particular case and send a tip to Crime Stoppers.

The RTCC’s technical consultant, John Harvey says, “To those who want to be a criminal, you’ve been given fair warning.”

About TN 95:

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