

ROCKY MOUNTAIN INFORMATION NETWORK, INC. 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



RMIN

Rocky Mountain Information Network, Inc. (RMIN), one of the six regional centers composing RISS, is headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona. RMIN's service area includes criminal justice agencies in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and portions of Canada. Thousands of sworn law enforcement officers in more than 1,000 agencies benefit from support services available through RMIN.



RMIN resources include:

- RISSafe™, a 24/7 officer safety event deconfliction system
- RISSIntel™, a 28 CFR Part 23 compliant criminal intelligence database
- Access to other investigative tools and various state, regional and federal databases through RISSNET™
- Criminal and fraud case analysis
- Intelligence Research services
- Audio, Video and Digital Forensic services
- Training to help build expertise and promote officer safety
- RISS Money Counter Network™ (MCN) currency deconfliction

RISS

The Regional Information Sharing Systems® (RISS) program supports law enforcement efforts to combat crimes, apprehend and prosecute offenders, resolve criminal investigations and promote officer safety deconfliction.

RISS has been congressionally funded for over 40 years, through grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. RISS appropriations support six RISS Centers, the RISS Technology Support Center and all RISSNet services. RISS currently serves more than 9,500 local, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories.

RISS provides analytical case support, RISSafe officer safety deconfliction and criminal intelligence research information sharing, linking thousands of criminal justice agencies to combat crime.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Highlights of RMIN services for more than 1,000 law enforcement member agencies in 2021 included the following:

- **Analytical** - Supported 200 criminal investigations involving homicide, fraud/embezzlement and cold cases, resulting in hundreds of arrests, successful criminal prosecutions and plea bargain agreements. Services include digital forensics (computer, cell phone, audio/video enhancements), financial analysis and case analysis. Nearly 23,000 analytical products were produced in support of those criminal investigations.
- **Courtroom Testimony** - RMIN analysts participated in formal interviews or provided courtroom testimony on 28 occasions for agency, prosecutor or defense counsel requests to appear with a majority of trials resulting in guilty convictions or plea bargain agreements.
- **Intel Research** - Completed 7,197 agency requests for criminal intelligence research services.
- **RISSafe** - RMIN member agencies submitted 40,846 events into RISSafe using six Watch Centers in the RMIN region and the WSIN Watch Center. At least 7,022 potential conflicts were safely resolved with a 100% deconfliction success rate; no undercover officers were injured/killed and no criminal investigations were compromised involving agencies using RISSafe.
- **Currency Deconfliction** - Expanded criminal currency investigative capabilities using the RISS Money Counter Network deconfliction database in partnership with HIDTA and DEA offices to assist in tracking the illicit flow of currency, counterfeit bills, and undercover "buy" funds in counter drug investigations and operations.
- **Publications** - Produced 27 original publications, with 486,466 copies circulated, and distributed 146 electronic "blast" alerts for criminal investigations, trainings, and information sharing.
- **RISSIntel** - Added 20,288 new submissions (criminal intelligence) and received 102,909 database inquiries by member agencies in support of ongoing criminal investigations.
- **Oversight** - RISSIntel is a nation-wide criminal intelligence database with built-in 28 CFR Part 23 intelligence oversight. RISSIntel information is based on "criminal predicate" (reasonable suspicion of criminal activity) for submission/retention. While submitting agencies retain ownership of their criminal intelligence within RISSIntel, RMIN assists with active oversight by annually reviewing the database to ensure all criminal intelligence contained within RISSIntel is 28 CFR compliant.
- **Multimedia Unit** - RMIN's Multimedia Unit, provides members with easy to consume educational videos and multimedia products. These products provide audio and visuals to engage members on topics such as crime trends, officer safety, insightful data, training tools, case studies, and more.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Val Biebrich

It is my pleasure to present the Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN) Annual Report for calendar year 2021. This document summarizes the services and support provided to approximately 1,000 law enforcement member agencies within RMIN's eight state region consisting of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, as well as parts of Canada.

Established in 1977, RMIN is one of six regional centers that are part of the RISS (Regional Information Sharing Systems) Program, which is a bi-partisan, congressionally funded grant program managed by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance. The RMIN Executive Policy Board, which consists of two representatives from each of the eight states, is an integral part of RMIN, as they serve as the governing oversight board for management and operations. The success of the RISS Program is rooted in the concept of a national name with a regional focus.

Despite the ongoing challenges that the Coronavirus pandemic presented throughout the year, RMIN remained committed to our mission to assist local, state, federal, and tribal criminal justice partners by providing solutions and services that promote officer safety, facilitate information/intelligence sharing, and support criminal investigations.

During 2021, the six RISSafe Watch Centers within the RMIN region processed a record number of 40,846 deconfliction events and resolved 100% of the 7,015 RISSafe conflicts. RMIN analysts provided casework support to law enforcement investigators and prosecutors in 200 analytical cases and intelligence research staff received 7,197 requests for assistance, nearly double from the prior year.

RMIN remains committed to providing law enforcement investigators with the resources and expertise necessary to successfully assist with criminal investigations and combatting crime while remaining steadfast in our commitment to officer safety. Thank you for all that you do!

2021 RMIN EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Heston Silbert, Director
Department of Public Safety



David Rhodes, Sheriff
Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Stan Hilkey, Executive Director
Department of Public Safety



VICE-CHAIRMAN
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Idaho State Police



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Bingham County Sheriff's Office

CHAIRMAN
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Division of Criminal Investigation



Trenton Harbaugh, Sheriff
Fallon County Sheriff's Office

Ryan Miller, Deputy Chief
Department of Public Safety



James LaRochelle, Deputy Chief
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

Tim Johnson, Chief
New Mexico State Police



Steven Hebbe, Chief
Farmington Police Department

Jess Anderson, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety



Cameron M. Noel, Sheriff
Beaver County Sheriff's Office

Forrest Williams, Interim Director
Division of Criminal Investigation



Roy Eckerdt, Chief
Powell Police Department

A change to the RMIN Executive Policy Board of Directors during 2021 resulted when the following individual stepped down from the Board during the year:

Nevada

Lazaro Chavez, Deputy Chief
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
October 2019 – May 2021

2021 STATISTICAL HIGHLIGHTS | RMIN SERVICES

Headquartered in Phoenix, Arizona, RMIN serves over 19,000 law enforcement officers from more than 1,000 member agencies in its eight-state region (Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming) and three provinces in Canada. For a more detailed statistical breakdown, [CLICK HERE](#).



1,066
MEMBER AGENCIES



200

ANALYTICAL CASES
SUPPORTED

22,876

ANALYTICAL
PRODUCTS

ANALYTICAL SERVICES

- Cell Tower Mapping & Communication Analysis
- 2D & 3D Crime Scene Diagrams
- Link Analysis
- Event & Investigative Timelines
- Courtroom Testimony
- Financial Analysis
- Audio/Video Forensic Analysis
- Computer/Cell Phone/Digital Media Forensics



7,197

RESEARCH
CASES
SUPPORTED

INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH

- Investigative Reports
- Driver's License Photos
- Criminal Background Information
- Phone Provider/Subscriber Information
- Social Media Research
- Fugitive, Wanted, & Missing Person Checks
- FBI's National Data Exchange (N-DEx)
- Network of Law Enforcement Contacts
- Access to Partner Resources



RISSafe
Officer Safety

314

RISSAFE
PARTICIPATING
AGENCIES

40,846

RISSAFE EVENTS

7,022

RISSAFE CONFLICTS

RISSafe / OFFICER SAFETY

- Nationwide Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe)
- RISSafe Mobile
- Videos & Safety Awareness Information
- Officer Safety Website
- BOLOs
- 24/7 RISSafe Watch Center



20,618

RISSNET USERS
(INDIVIDUALS)

RISSNET RESOURCES

- RISS Criminal Intelligence Database (RISSIntel)
- RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe)
- RISSLeads™ Investigative Website
- RISS Money Counter Network
- RISS Master Telephone Index™
- Access to Partner Resources



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LAW ENFORCEMENT
INFORMATION
COORDINATOR
ON-SITE VISITS

INFORMATION SHARING

- Criminal Intelligence
- Target/Subject Deconfliction
- Numerous Databases & Millions of Records
- Law Enforcement Briefings & Publications
- Special Research Reports
- Field Services Support & Technical Assistance



53

RMIN TRAINING
EVENTS

4,035

TRAINING
ATTENDEES

TRAINING

- Investigative Techniques
- Crime Trends
- Narcotics, Criminal Organizations, & Major Crimes
- Cybercrime
- Countering Violent Extremism
- Analytical
- Officer Safety
- Courtroom Testimony
- Criminal Intelligence

PUBLICATIONS

- RMIN Bulletin
- Analytical Eye
- Attempt to Locate
- Annual Report
- Training Opportunities
- Request for Information
- Fugitive at Large
- Wanted Person



486,466

DISTRIBUTED PUBLICATIONS

DRUGS/NARCOTICS

The Scottsdale Police Department (**Arizona**) requested RMIN RISSafe Watch Center assistance with deconflicting addresses associated with a fentanyl distribution ring. Two addresses were submitted to RISSafe for deconfliction. The first submission was for surveillance on the suspected drug trafficker's residence and the second RISSafe submission was for a search warrant of the suspect's storage unit. Undercover agents from Scottsdale Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration spent months identifying and tracking a drug trafficker believed to be connected to the Sinaloa Cartel. The drug trafficker led agents to several residences and storage lockers. Law enforcement obtained search warrants for the locations and seized 1.7 million fentanyl pills, 10 kilos of fentanyl powder (approximately 3.2 pounds per kilo), 1 pound of methamphetamine, and several kilos of cocaine. They also seized one firearm, one vehicle and approximately \$30,000 in cash. Additionally, 40 drug traffickers were arrested during the course of the operation. The bust is considered a record seizure for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Arizona.

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION

The 13th Judicial District Attorney's Office (**New Mexico**) requested RMIN services in a homicide investigation involving two juveniles. The RMIN forensic analyst was asked to enhance portions of an audio recording that were inaudible during transcription. After RMIN's enhancement of the audio file, the recording was able to be re-transcribed. The defendant was tried as an adult and convicted. He faces up to 15 years in prison for second degree murder and up to three years for tampering with evidence. He will receive credit for six years already served.

SEX ASSAULT

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) in **Nevada** requested RMIN Intelligence Research assistance with locating a target with an active warrant for a sex crime. LVMPD contacted RMIN while following up on a fraudulent social security and veteran's benefit case. After running a warrants check, LVMPD discovered that their suspect in the fraud case was also wanted in Nevada for Lewd or Lascivious Acts – Person over 18 with a Minor under 14. RMIN intelligence analysts provided LVMPD with a full workup on the target and assisted LVMPD with finding the target's address and phone number. LVMPD used the intelligence provided by RMIN and sent a request to the United States Marshall's Service (USMS). USMS located the target in Montana and placed him under arrest.

ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE

The Cassia County Sheriff's Department (**Idaho**) requested RMIN assistance with confidential funds to perform testing on the gun shot residue kit taken from a subject suspected to be involved in a gang-related shooting. The shooting took place in a residential area, where the suspects shot approximately 26 rounds through the victim's

vehicle as he attempted to flee. One of the suspects was apprehended and a Cassia County detective completed a gunshot residue kit on him. RMIN then provided Cassia County with the funds to have the suspect's kit tested and it came back positive. The suspect was presented with the incriminating test results and accepted a guilty plea.

HELLS ANGELS RUN

Two RMIN analysts and RMIN's **Montana** Law Enforcement Information Coordinator assisted 19 law enforcement agencies in Montana to provide Intelligence Research services during a week-long operation for the Hells Angels USA Run. It was estimated that between 600 and 700 full patch Hells Angels members or prospects were in attendance with approximately 1,000 attendees altogether. RMIN staff compiled a spreadsheet to capture license plates and other identifying information from law enforcement field interview cards. RMIN Intelligence Unit was supplied over 3,000 photographs during the operation. Multiple crimes were committed by subjects during the Hells Angels USA Run, and a significant amount of intelligence will be populated in RISSIntel, which will be helpful in future investigations.

BURGLARY

The Sidney Police Department (**Colorado**) requested RMIN's assistance in distributing an investigative bulletin of a burglary suspect and vehicle. A detective from the Grand Junction Police Department received the bulletin and recognized its similarity to one of their department's burglary cases. Detectives from Grand Junction PD contacted detectives at Sidney PD to compare cases. By comparing pictures, M.O., and case specific details, they were able to determine it was the same suspect in both burglary investigations. Ultimately, the agencies were able to identify the subject and charges are pending.

FRAUD/THEFT

The Logan City Police Department (**Utah**) requested analytical support in a theft/fraud investigation involving unauthorized purchases made by an employee. The suspect was using his position as an operations manager to order products for his own financial gain in excess of \$100,000. According to the business' invoice inventory, the actual payment for these items was unaccounted for. RMIN was requested to assist with communication analysis. RMIN provided the Logan City investigators with a communication timeline that illustrated communication between people of interest and UPS freight couriers regarding the stolen items.

KIDNAPPING

The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigations, Bureau of Indian Affairs (**Wyoming**) requested RMIN RISSafe Watch Center deconflict an address before conducting a search warrant at a residence in a narcotics investigation. The search warrant led to four arrests and the seizure of a firearm (valued at \$150), one gram of marijuana (valued at \$25), and 32 grams of methamphetamine (valued at \$3,271.39).

"The requests I submit to RMIN are always greeted with a quick turnaround. I have asked them to accomplish many tasks that have made my job much easier . . . RMIN is a great resource for all levels of law enforcement; it brings us together and allows for an unlimited amount of assistance to better our mission."

~ Agent Bobby Becsey,
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of
Inspector General, **Arizona**

"... (The) product assisted with the offender pleading out. I love organized information laid out so anyone and everyone can read and comprehend it... (The) product helped me put together a binder, timeline, and information for successful prosecution. This allowed the attorney to easily review the case and recommend several charges when I arrested the offender... When I interviewed the offender he made the statement, "I didn't think you knew as much as you do" . . . I'm a firm believer that case information being presented in a clear, professional manner will affect the defense attorney and offender's decision to fight the charges or take a plea deal. . . ."

~ Detective Cordell Hoth
Logan City Police Department, **Utah**

"The Bannock Co. Sheriff's Office conducted an intense investigation. After a few days we were able to identify the suspect and make an arrest... The [RMIN]... presentation mapped routes of travel with corresponding traffic camera views of our suspect after the incident, as well as an animation of the incident, based on evidence and reports... The Bannock County Prosecutor's Office was... able to obtain a conviction of our suspect with a sizable mandatory prison sentence. There is no doubt that the Analytical Report created by RMIN was a key part to obtaining this conviction."

~ Detective Justin Cannon
Bannock County Sheriff's Office, **Idaho**

"Had it not been for RISSafe, the two agencies would have been unaware of the others' investigation... Through inter-agency cooperation and communication, DEA agents were able to arrest the subject on their charges while Phoenix continued to work out the details in their investigation... This is a testament of the value of RISSafe in coordinating investigative efforts and providing critical and time sensitive information for all involved agencies to resolve matters leading to an arrest with no risk of blue-on-blue conflict..."

~ Detective Jim Ferree
Phoenix Police Department, **Arizona**



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