

NATIONAL VIRTUAL POINTER SYSTEM



WHY NVPS?

A critical need to facilitate information sharing through electronic connectivity and automation continues to exist among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. To meet this challenge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), International Justice and Public Safety Network (Nlets), and Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) managers met to create a virtual nationwide target deconfliction pointer system that would link existing target deconfliction systems. In January 2003, the entities established a Project Steering Committee (PSC) and working groups to manage the design and development of the National Virtual Pointer System (NVPS). The PSC and working groups are comprised of representatives from the DEA, HIDTA, the National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies (NASDEA), Nlets, and RISS.

A pilot program began and after successful testing, the NVPS became operational in June 2004.

WHAT IS NVPS?

The NVPS is an automated system that connects existing target deconfliction pointer databases into one virtual pointer system. The NVPS became operational in June 2004. This allows participating federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies access to all participating agency target deconfliction pointer databases through a single point of entry, e.g., HIDTA, Missouri Statewide Police Intelligence Network (MOSPIN), National Drug Pointer Index (NDPIX), RISS, and other regional, state, and local deconfliction databases. Each system manages and maintains its own data. The transition to NVPS is seamless to users.

HOW DOES NVPS WORK?

- ◆ Each user has a USERID and password from the appropriate participating system.
- ◆ Officer/agent enters investigative target data through HIDTA.net, Nlets, or RISSNET.
- ◆ Originating database verifies entry before submitting it to NVPS.
- ◆ Target data "race" through each participating database searching for a match.
- ◆ Target data is stored in the originating system.
- ◆ If no match is made, NVPS returns a negative response to the originating system.
- ◆ If a positive match is made:
 - NVPS sends originating system match notifications.
 - Notifications contain information indicating in which system a match was found.
 - POC information is returned to the originating and matching system.
 - Officer/agent contact each other to share information.
 - No target specific information is shared.

NVPS OPERATING FEATURES

- ◆ Web-based communications
- ◆ Investigative target deconfliction for all crimes
- ◆ Linkage among HIDTA, NDPIX, Nlets, and RISSNET
- ◆ Single entry to eliminate duplicative data entry
- ◆ Accepts only targets of open investigations
- ◆ Uses mandatory data elements:
 - Agency ORI (Data Owner)
 - Agency case number
 - Point of Contact name
 - Point of Contact organization
 - Point of Contact telephone number
 - Investigative target name
 - Investigative target gender
 - Investigative target DOB
- ◆ Optional data elements, including:
 - FBI number
 - SSN
 - Other personal identifiers

TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION ON NVPS, PLEASE CALL:

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