Auto Theft Today

this issue

As the holidays quickly approach and another year ends it crazy to think we were just in Pittsburgh enjoying each others company floating down the river sharing the past years adventures.

With the many traditions and holidays around the world we wish everyone a safe and reflective time. As we say bye to the year and hello to a new one we must renew out pledge to IAATI and the noble cause that we serve.

We also want to take this time to thank Chris McDonold and all the hard work he has done with IAATI and the ATT. Chris has decided to take some time away. We wish him the best and look forward to having him back with us in the future.

Scotland Golf Outing Update:
The Golf Outing is still looking to reach the 30 Player minimum. Do not miss this chance to play on a world class PGA Golf Course. How often would have a chance like this. Email Todd Blair @ tblair@iaati.org to register. Deadline to register is January 15th, 2019. See the attached Golf Flyer for more information

For conference Information and updates, click here!

This newsletter is designed to provide the reader with links to the related information. Click on pictures or links to see more information. The inclusion of a link does not imply the endorsement of the site.

IAATI's Branch and Chapter Websites

Branches:

Australasian Branch
iaatiaus.org
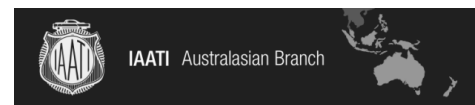
European Branch
eb-iaati.org

Latin American Branch
iaatilatam.org

Southern African Branch
iaatisab.co.za
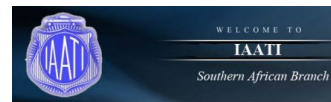
United Kingdom Branch
http://www.iaati.org.uk/

Chapters (North America/Canada)

North Central Regional Chapter
ncrc-iaati.org

North East Regional Chapter
neiaati.org

South Central Regional Chapter
tavti.org

South East Regional Chapter
seiaati.org

Western Regional Chapter
wrciaati.org

MEMBER NEWS

Just a reminder!!!

2019 dues are due

by December 31st, 2018!

WEBSITE UPDATE:

For photos and powerpoint presentations from the IAATI conference in Pittsburgh, please log into www.iaati.org and go to the resources page.

E-NEWSLETTER UPDATES

In order to provide relevant and fresh news related to vehicle theft and related crimes, the focus will be to provide more issues, more often, with the latest stories that you need to see, all at your fingertips. IAATI training seminar information, Branch/Chapter News and updates, and committee reports are all posted on the website. Auto Theft Today will have a section included with links to all of these areas on the website that you can easily access for the latest information. Below is a chart of the menus on the website to provide an overview of the wealth of information available once you log in. Please take a few minutes to visit www.iaati.org and check it out!

ABOUT IAATI	MEMBERSHIP	EVENTS	NEWS	RESOURCES	AWARDS	CERTIFICATIONS
President's Message	Application Form	IAATI Training Events	Submit a News Story	Training Resources		Certification Process
Association History	Renew Online	Non-IAATI Training Events	North & South America	Publications		Basic Certification
Branches and Chapters	Search Members	Past Events	Europe & the UK	Photo Galleries		Advanced Certification
International Board Members	Member List		Asia, Africa, & Australasia	Forum		Master Certification
Committees			Browse by Month			Certification Resources
Documentation						

Networking, sharing information and keeping up to date with the latest trends, contacts and news in the world of vehicle theft are instrumental in the always demanding world that we as investigators live in, so the majority of each issue will contain summaries of the latest incidents, arrests, and related information with links to the full story. The links can also be copied and pasted into an email to share with others.

There will also be a section that links to the "Submit a News Story" function on the website. Collectively, we can all reap greater benefits from every-one sharing just one story, one contact or one idea. Please submit yours either through the website or in an email to enews@iaati.org.

IAATI UPDATES

Chapter / Branch Information - Branch and chapter information is located on the website.

For general information and obtain contact information for a branch or chapter, please click here. Information about IAATI chapters and branches can be found on the website: ABOUT IAATI/BRANCHES AND CHAPTERS. For individual chapter and branch news, please visit that website or go to page 2 and click on a logo to be directed to that branch or chapter website.

Committee Information / News / Reports - Committee information is located on the website.

For general committee information, members and their contact information, please click here or from the website, click ABOUT IAATI. To access periodic committee reports, please click here. Committee reports are located on the website: ABOUT IAATI/DOCUMENTATION.

Training Seminar / Event Information - Training information is always being added to the website.

For information on all IAATI training events as well as training offered by others, please click here. Members are able to view information regarding the various training opportunities available and register online when able.

Board Members / Information - Please click here to view information on the IAATI website regarding current board members.

Auto Theft Today - Publication deadline

The next issue of Auto Theft Today will be released mid-November. If you have any articles, photographs, member news, or anything else to include in the next issue, please click here to submit a story or send an email to enews@iaati.org. In order to have your information included in the next edition, please submit or email everything by the 10th of each month.

Board Members and Committee Members wanted!

Each year during the annual IAATI conference, members elect a new board of directors. New committee members are selected as well. Now is the time to do your part and submit your intent to serve on the IAATI board or one of the committees. It is as simple as sending an email to the chair of the Nominating Committee, Past President JD Hough at jdhough@iaati.org.

    When submitting your email, please including the following information:
- Your name and number of years you have been an IAATI member along with membership number;
- Your profession and current employer;
- Your reasons for wanting to get more involved;
- The number of IAATI seminars you have attended over the past years;
- What ideas you have that might benefit IAATI;
- Your experience/work within your local IAATI chapter/branch.

IACP's Vehicle Crimes Committee has been busy for the last few years!

The committee continually works on multiple issues regarding vehicle related crimes. Currently work groups are focusing on rental vehicle thefts, emerging technology issues and creating a vehicle crimes toolkit for smaller agencies.
Click here to see what resources are available for your agency!

IT ALL STARTS WITH A
STOLEN CAR
The first step of violent crime & hight-impact crime often begins with a stolen vehicle.

ROBBERY

INVASION

SHOOTINGS

HOMICIDE

DRUGS

ARSON

TERRORISM

I.D. THEFT
DANGER
IDENTITY FRAUD

INSURANCE FRAUD

Awards and Recognitions

This section will feature awards and recognitions in the area of Vehicle Crime especially as it relates to our members and partners for things done out side of the organization. If you know of anyone that deserves to recognized please email enews@iaati.org with a write up and a photo for review.

IACP/Leonardo Leadership in the Prevention of Vehicle Crimes Award

The IACP/Leonardo Leadership in the Prevention of Vehicles Crimes Award recognizes outstanding achievement in preventing vehicle theft and crimes. Exemplary programs will showcase the connection between vehicle crime and subsequent violent crime. Nominated agencies will be evaluated on initiative, use of available resources, and overall results allowing agencies to share how they successfully curbed vehicle theft in their jurisdiction.

Coloradans Against Auto Theft

Coloradans Against Auto Theft (CAAT) is a statewide coalition of law enforcement agencies, insurance companies, and community partners dedicated to reducing auto theft through public awareness and prevention education. For nine years, CAAT has led the "Lockdown" campaign, aimed at reducing observable-risk behaviors among Colorado drivers. The campaign has two focal points: a summer campaign around National Auto Theft Prevention month in July and a winter campaign in January around "Puffer Week," an initiative that reminds Coloradans not to leave their cars running while unattended. CAAT has been successful in shifting the tone and core messaging of the campaign to focus on the link between auto theft and other crimes, as well as the effect auto theft can have on a community; curbing vehicle theft; and demonstrating the importance of community collaboration.

(Pictured from left to right: IACP Immediate Past President, Louis M. Dekmar; Vice President of Sales, Julio Valcarcel, Leonardo; Financial Officer, Jurree Scherrer, Coloradans Against Auto Theft; Program Director, Robert Force, Colorado State Patrol; and IACP 2nd Vice President and National Security Policy Council Chair, Cynthia Renaud.)

Article and picture courtesy of theiacp.org (https://www.theiacp.org/news/blog-post/2018-iacp-leadership-awards-blog-series-week-3)

Awards and Recognitions continued...

Congratulations to IAATI and SCRC Past President Tommy Hansen on being appointed to the Chair of the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority. He is set to serve in this passion until February of 2023 and bring his many years of experience to this important group.

Detective Mike Thompson-South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigator of the Year Award.

Detective Mike Thompson of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, Charleston, SC was awarded the 2018 South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators Law Enforcement Investigator of the Year Award at the 2018 South Carolina Insurance Fraud Investigators Conference held in Myrtle Beach in November. This award recognizes Law Enforcement for their outstanding public service in the fight against insurance fraud. Det. Thompson was recognized for initiating numerous vehicle theft investigations associated with questionable insurance claims and coordinating these investigations with SIU Investigators, NICB and State Auto Theft Investigators.

Det. Thompson has been a SEIAATI Member for 5 years and is a State Delegate for South Carolina.

What is NMVTIS you ask?

According to the website, The National Motor Vehicle Title Information System (NMVTIS) is, among other things, a tool that assists local, state, and federal law enforcement in investigating, deterring, and preventing vehicle-related crimes.

Please visit the website to learn more about NMVTIS and its Benefits to Law Enforcement.

IN THE NEWS...

NICB Releases 2018 Annual Holiday Vehicle Theft Report. *October 30, 2018, www.nicb.org, reports that* new data released today by the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) shows a total of 22,770 vehicles were reported stolen on the 11 holidays in 2017 covered in this report.

Where your car is most likely to be stolen in every state. *Nov 6, 2018, www.247wallst.com,,* features an article listing the cities in each U.S. state in which you would most likely have your vehicle stolen.

Surge in keyless crime as thieves take advantage of new technology *November 20, 2018, www.telegraph.co.uk* reports keyless car crime surged last year as industry experts warned that criminals are embracing new technology to break into vehicles.

Auto Theft On Rise In North Texas; 1 Stolen Every 54 Minutes In Dallas. *November 19, 2018, https://dfw.cbslocal.com A vehicle is reported stolen in Dallas on average every 54 minutes and the problem is getting worse. While overall property crime in North Texas is down, auto thefts in Dallas have increased more than 18 percent in the past year.*

Surge of theft from vehicle in Sidney, North Saanich. *October15, 2018, according to wwwpeninsulanewsreview.com, Sidney/North Saanich RCMP want vehicle owners to help stop a recent surge in auto theft and items stolen from vehicles. cifically, high-end/luxury vehicles.*

IAATI is currently working with The International Association of Investigative Locksmiths to create an MOU to partner together and share information with each other. Below is some information on the IAIL:

The International Association of Investigative Locksmiths can be a valuable resource when doing auto theft investigations. Attending their specialized training or utilizing one of their experts could be the "key" to your case. The automotive forensic locksmiths are informed on the most up-to-date tools and equipment for vehicle key production. As a theft deterrent, some OEM manufacturer's tools require 10 to 16 minute wait periods when programming new keys. In addition, factory technicians may be totally unaware of other equipment or techniques available to produce keys. Non-OEM equipment manufacturers have learned ways to bypass some systems reducing the time to less than a minute to make a key. Different systems may be accessed through memory devices on circuit boards inside modules in the car. These memory devices can be read and a key produced even on a high-end vehicles. Learning about these techniques will help your investigations and help you spot signs of bypass either mechanically or electronically. Also key cloning technology has greatly improved in recent years allowing vehicle key IDs to be easily duplicated. The end result is the car may show two keys are programmed when there could be multiple clones out there. It is the goal of the IAIL to work closely with IAATI members to share information to help each other with investigations. IAIL is part of the ALOA Security Professionals Association, Inc. Members of IAIL include retired law enforcement, mechanical engineers, tool mark experts, fire investigators and locksmith industry experts and some IAATI members. Like IAATI the IAIL has members around the world. I am a board member of IAIL and have been a proud member of IAATI for years. More information about joining the IAIL or attending training can be found at www.aloa.org. ~ contributed by IAIL, Brian VanDenburgh CFL, CMAL, CRL, CAI. Brian is a certified, registered automotive and forensic locksmith.

Member Articles

PREAMBLE: Sharpening your data's edge…

From an ATPA chair point of view, the greatest challenge I see is data. Frankly, it is a huge mess with many data gaps, data confusions, and a sea of tools which may or may not provide the specific details needed to solve the problem.

Why is data so important?

1. Without data how does an ATPA show that funding them makes a sound judgment? We know they are bringing great value, but money people need to see a financial return with clear data supporting this conclusion.

2. I believe it is wise to work smarter not harder. I'm not saying I don't get into the dirt… what I am saying is why would I if I can get my results doubled/tripled by first sharpening tools before we start! The application of data analyst that is built on solid data provides the ability to work smarter and reach further.

Thankfully some very smart and motivated people have accepted the challenge to begin the heavy lift that is needed to sort through these data challenges.

Over the next few APB's we will be presenting the results our ATPA Intelligence Analyst Committee workgroup gleaned under the direction of the sub-chair… Lisa Frank.

What's to come? The following article is some of these beginning results and I expect you will see many IA tools/ discussions and articles from her amazing team members. This is the first in a series of article, surveys, and discussions… and we will need your input through some of these steps.

 Reg Phillips

Tools of the Trade:
What is missing in the technology tool shed?

Crime data analysts are investigators at heart. Using data from federal records, private sources and public resources, they seek the answers to questions. Sometimes these questions are specific; relating directly to an active crime case with an urgent deadline. Occasionally, questions are larger and more abstract; seeking to understand an underlying pattern in a wave of criminal incidents or in a particular area of interest.

Regardless of the nature of the question(s), crime data analysts do the work of transforming available information into answers. These answers are used to direct the work of responding to threats and keeping order in society. Across the United States, data analysts use different tools, have access to different resources, and yet face similar questions on a regular basis.

Recognizing the opportunity in the different approaches developed to solve the same type of problems, the ATPA Intelligence Analyst (IA) Working Group was formed to foster communication across state borders and regional boundaries. The ATPA IA Working Group supports a nationwide community of crime analysts who come together to address common problems and generate innovative solutions. The mission of this working group is to examine best practices, trends, data/intelligence gaps, resources, and other topics that relate to motor vehicle crimes.

In an effort to accomplish their mission, the group branched into sub-groups to specialize on focused topics and work within and between teams to foster new approaches to tackling issues. Members volunteered to participate in sub-groups related to motor vehicle crimes and their applications across four topics: technology, products, tools and secondary crimes.

Of interest to the entire group became the work of the tools sub-group. Their topic pursued the answers to the question: What tools are currently in use by crime data analysts to investigate motor vehicle thefts?

They began their investigation by generating a survey for the ATPA IA Working Group as a whole. The best place to start being the community that was of interest, after all.
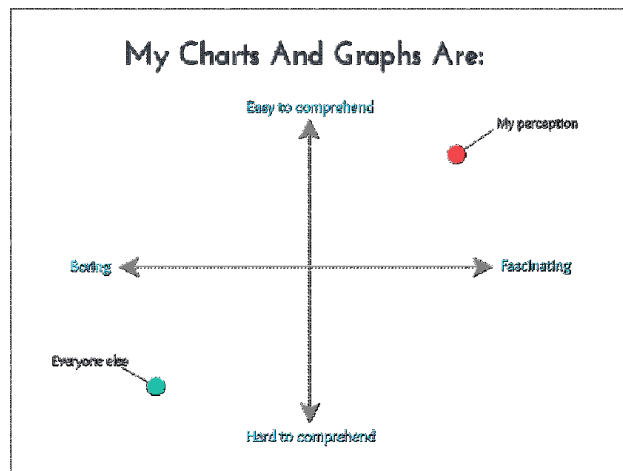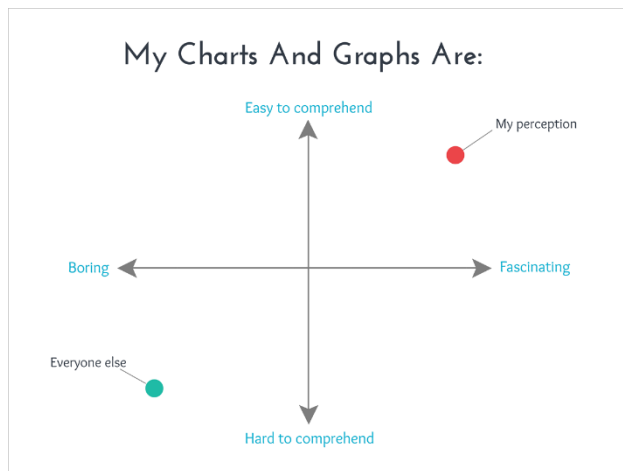
A problem immediately arose in reviewing the first run of responses to the survey; the definition of a "tool" was interpreted so broadly that it included anything from computers to cell phones, servers, and databases as well as websites and software.

In review, it was decided that the definition for the IA Working Group should include any software, database, or digital system used to support law enforcement prosecution and data analysis on motor vehicle crimes. Excluded from the list were hardware including computer systems, server infrastructures, and handheld devices.

The survey also sorted the tools into categories, so each could be classified as an open source tool, a visualization tool or a data tool. Designed to be mutually exclusive, the categories limited each tool so that they were listed according to how they were used. In that way, a social media website might be a data tool or an open source tool, but it could not be both.

The investigation into the questions continued and the survey was eventually taken by 33 members of the ATPA IA Working Group. Sorting through the responses yielded results that seemed to follow national trends for how crime data analysts were leveraging available tools.

Representing nine organizations across six states distributed throughout the country, some highlights from the survey included that:

- **88% of respondents** reported using some kind of open source or free software, websites or technology to help them access data, gather it and analyze it.

- **Over 80% of respondents** identified a social media site(s) as their most widely used open source tool.

- 76% of respondents used some form of **mapping tool** for **data visualization**.

- 58% of respondents claimed there are **tools they would like to have** or be given access to.

With that information in hand, it became easier to address the question and its immediate follow-up question.

It was clear that open source data and technology was, and is, key in crime data analysis. The most frequently used and numerous tools in use proved to be those that are publically available, requiring only an internet connection and the creativity to pursue answers. Visualization tools including spatial mapping software and analytic tools were also regularly used. These tools made it easier to identify information in the context of place, time and in relation to others.

Given just how many tools were named across all the categories, the immediate follow-up question became: How is anyone analyst supposed to know how to use all of them?

And here the task of the investigation was made easier by the community. The tools and the technology sub-groups merged together to create and centralize a list of all the resources the entire group could name, regularly worked with, and found useful.

The list has all the resources known to the ATPA IA Working Group that is currently in use by law enforcement and crime data analysts who support law enforcement efforts. While some of the resources listed are limited to law enforcement personnel and others are strictly for paying account holders, the majority are open source tools that are freely available.

This list is currently available to all members of the ATPA IA Working Group and on request will be made available to any member of the law enforcement community. But that is just the beginning.

It is our hope that this list will grow and become part of an increasing wealth of technology resources suited to the broader law enforcement community. To that end, we are also working to create the content that will populate a secure online training resource where analysts who work with these and other tools can share videos and guides for leveraging the highest possible value out of them.

Author: Luis Machado
Luis D. Machado serves as the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Development Manager at Washington College. The GIS Program is a part of the Center for Environment and Society and exists to foster experiential learning opportunities for undergraduate students in GIS. In his role, he manages a team of three analysts and eight student interns working on grant and contract funded projects supporting crime and traffic safety data analysis, environmental stewardship and conservation and a variety of academic research projects. Luis manages the team at Washington College that is funded by the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council grant to provide on-demand geospatial mapping and spatial analysis support to law enforcement agencies in Maryland. He joined the ATPA IA Intelligence Analyst Working Group in 2017 and is currently the team leader for the Tools and Technology group, investigating ways to integrate the knowledge resources that can help crime data analysts succeed.
This article was submitted by:

Lisa Frank, Chair of ATPA subcommittee Intelligencer Analyst Workgroup