

MEDIA RELEASE



Monday 2 April, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERPOL TOOLS TO BENEFIT LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

LYON, France – Interpol’s international databases could soon be available at the touch of a button to local law enforcement in California, enhancing the security of millions of citizens and visitors.

Sheriff Michael Carona from Orange County, California met with Secretary General Ronald K. Noble at the Interpol headquarters in Lyon to identify ways in which vital international police information could be accessed by officers on the street.

“With thousands of overseas visitors each year, it is clear that the best way to keep the people and businesses of Orange County safe from international criminals is the creation of links with international agencies such as Interpol,” said Secretary General Noble.

“Sheriff Carona’s recognition of this fact is something I hope that other police chiefs, both throughout America and the rest of the world will also come to realise, and his foresight should be applauded.

“Creating a link between Interpol and national police to make sure that the right information reaches the right people as quickly and efficiently as possible should be the goal of all law enforcement.”

The world’s largest police organization, each of Interpol’s 186 member countries has an Interpol National Central Bureau (NCB) which is controlled and staffed by the national authorities of that country.

Located in Washington DC, the US NCB includes police representatives from a number of federal and state law enforcement agencies, and has been working with the General Secretariat to extend Interpol services to officers in the field.

“If Orange County Sheriff’s Deputies were given direct access to Interpol’s tools such as the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents database, this would have a major impact on our ability to carry out our job of protecting all residents and visitors,” said Sheriff Carona.

“I have committed my department to working with the US NCB and Interpol to see how fast we can get these tools into the hands of my deputies in the field. Those of us in law enforcement have a duty to explore every avenue and opportunity which can help us carry out our jobs to the best of our abilities.”

Since January 2007, Orange County Sheriff’s Department Jail Deputies have had official designation from the US’s Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency to interview foreign nationals taken into custody. Enabling access to Interpol’s international databases would further assist local law enforcement to identify international wanted persons arrested in California.

Interpol has made it one of its highest priorities to ensure that member countries possess the most effective tools available to combat international crime and terrorism.

Via I-24/7, Interpol’s secure global police communications system, information about terrorism and major crime can be shared more efficiently, and nominal data, fingerprints and identity documents can be verified in seconds.