



MCSD to implement innovative technology to keep children safer

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Frequent flyers traveling through the Orlando International Airport don't have to wait in lines.

By having some information on file and looking into a camera, busy travelers can get through check points much quicker than the average flyer.

Iris recognition biometric technology makes this possible.

A positive identification more accurate than a fingerprint can be attained by simply scanning one's eyes.

This is handy for travelers, but the technology is being used for more important issues.

The Miami County Sheriff's Office is the second department in the state to obtain a new system to identify and locate missing children and adults through the use of iris recognition biometric technology.

Joining LaPorte County, the Miami County Sheriff's Department officially launched the Children's Identification and Location Database (CHILD) Project.

The CHILD Project is a nationwide network and registry that enables law enforcement to locate and identify missing persons by comparing unique features contained in the iris.

"There are 235 unique identifiers in the iris and 70 in a fingerprint,"

Kevin O'Reilly, vice president of Bi2Technologies, explained.

The two iris scanning cameras and accompanying computer system were obtained by the MCSD through a congressional earmark submitted by U.S. Representative Dan Burton.

Much as the equipment did not cost the department anything, neither will maintaining it.

"There are no fees," O'Reilly said, noting that the database is maintained by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, a non-profit organization.

The next step for the MCSD will be taking it to schools and possibly nursing homes to gather information and iris scans on a voluntary basis, of course.

"We'll be talking to the schools and the parents will have a form to fill out first," Sheriff Ken Roland said.

Children who enroll in the system will be taken out at the age of 18, adults the unlikely age of 125.

Roland added that he will likely be offering use of the equipment to surrounding counties for their use as well.

"The key to this whole thing is to get these cameras out to as many departments as possible," O'Reilly said.

The CHILD Project began in 2004, and so far departments in 25 states are on board.

Bi2Technologies is continuing to identify other sheriff's offices that want to participate in the program and work with them to secure funding for the \$25,000 systems.

State funding has been cut, but there are other foundations to look into.

Roland said he's just happy to be ahead of the curve.

"It's another tool in the 21st century and we're fortunate to get in on the ground floor," Roland said. "It doesn't replace anything, it's just another tool."



Susan Carpenter, development officer for Biometric Intelligence and Identification Technologies, watches as Stacie Braden, 12, gets an iris scan on Monday at the Miami County Sheriff's Department. For more feature photos, log on to www.perutribune.com/photo_gallery (Tribune photo by Rob Edwards)