



NNOAC *Insight*

The Official Position of the National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition

February 2023

REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEMS (RISS) PROGRAM

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) is proud to serve our nation's narcotic officers. The NNOAC consists of 40 individual state narcotic associations and represents more than 55,000 officers across the country. NNOAC supports criminal justice organizations that provide critical services and resources directly to officers in the field. One of those programs is the **Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program**. The RISS Program turns 50 in 2023. Since its inception, RISS has served our criminal justice community through its trusted, proven, innovative, and results-driven approach.



A primary goal of the NNOAC is to act as a conduit for the exchange of information, intelligence, and training guidelines affecting narcotic enforcement. Because of this goal and many others, the proliferation of drugs in our communities strikes at our hearts and our efforts. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 2.7 million individuals in the United States suffer from opioid use disorder. In 2020, the CDC estimated approximately 56,000 deaths involving synthetic opioids (other than methadone) occurred in the United States, which is more deaths than from any other type of opioid. Synthetic opioid-involved deaths accounted for more than 82% of all opioid-involved deaths in 2020. In addition, in 2020, an average of 44 people died each day from overdoses involving prescription opioids. With the assistance of RISS services and resources, member agencies seized more than **\$140 million in narcotics** in Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The NNOAC strongly supports RISS and believes it is one of our nation's most important law enforcement programs for narcotic officers and all officers across the country. The NNOAC membership urges congressional leaders to continue support for RISS by funding it at **\$55 million** in FY2024.

RISS is a nationwide program comprising six regional centers and the RISS Technology Support Center (RTSC). RISS supports officers and public safety professionals every day. RISS serves more than **9,800** local, state, federal, and tribal criminal justice agencies and other partners by providing adaptive solutions and services that facilitate information sharing, support criminal investigations, and promote officer safety. RISS also partners with numerous federal and nationwide entities to advance the nation's criminal justice strategy and information sharing initiatives. RISS focuses on three priorities: **Investigative Case Support, Secure Information and Intelligence Sharing, and Officer Safety and Deconfliction.**

Investigative Case Support

The RISS Centers across the nation offer law enforcement agencies and personnel a full range of diverse and far-reaching services and programs to assist agencies from the beginning of an investigation through the prosecution and conviction of criminals. Officers can borrow specialized equipment, obtain training, access critical publications, request analytical products, leverage intelligence research staff, consult with law enforcement coordinators, and much more.

Secure Information and Intelligence Sharing

RISS shares critical information and intelligence data with the criminal justice community by providing access to numerous data sets and resources, producing informative products, researching investigative leads, and protecting officers. The information sharing resources and capabilities help streamline this process and enable officers to search for data quickly and efficiently. **The RISS Secure Cloud (RISSNET)** connects disparate networks and databases, enables bidirectional sharing, and offers a single simultaneous search of resources.

More than **240 RISS and partner resources** as well as more than **72.2 million intelligence and investigative records** are accessible via RISSNET. In addition, RISS has developed several resources accessible via RISSNET that assist narcotic officers with their efforts, including:

- RISS Criminal Intelligence Database (RISSIntel).
- RISS Property and Recovery Tracking System (RISSProp).
- RISS Money Counter Network (RISS MCN).
- RISSLeads Investigative Website.
- RISS Master Telephone Index (RISS MTI).
- RISS Drug Pricing Reference Guide.
- RISS Collaboration Websites.

Officer Safety and Deconfliction

Officer safety is a top priority of the RISS Program. Blue-on-blue incidents can occur daily when an officer or investigator inadvertently hurts or kills another officer. The **RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe)** supports law enforcement personnel who are conducting events near one another at the same time. Events include undercover operations, surveillance, executing search warrants, or other law enforcement actions. RISSafe is accessible on a 24/7/365 basis and is available at **no cost** to all law enforcement agencies. Currently, **30 RISSafe Watch Centers** are operational throughout the country, 24 of which are operated by organizations other than RISS, such as fusion centers, state agencies, and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). Since RISSafe's inception, more than **2.7 million operations** have been entered into RISSafe, resulting in more than **558,300 identified conflicts**. RISSafe is integrated with HIDTA's Case Explorer and SAFETNet and collaborates with its partners to advance nationwide deconfliction efforts. The RISS Officer Safety Website provides secure access to vetted, trusted information and materials on topics including armed and dangerous individuals and situations and other officer safety-related concealments.

RISS Makes a Difference

Each year, agencies and officers report that they were able to seize millions of dollars and remove dangerous contraband and offenders from the streets using RISS services and resources. In FY2022, law enforcement agencies reported that by using RISS services, their officers arrested more than **2,095 offenders** and seized **more than \$163 million** in narcotics, property, and currency. Agencies using RISS services also reported that they were able to **locate 1,662 individuals, prosecute 398 cases, and resolve 1,526 cases**. In addition, there were more than **4.8 million inquiries to RISS resources**, with more than **1.4 million hits**.

In addition to direct law enforcement results, the RISS Centers developed **21,511 analytical products**, loaned **2,826 pieces of specialized investigative equipment**, responded to **63,177 requests for intelligence research**, helped **train 72,084 individuals**, and provided other investigative services to officers and analysts investigating crimes in FY2022. RISS receives hundreds of shared success stories from officers across the country on how RISS services and resources were used to solve crimes and keep communities safe. To view real-life narcotic-related success stories and other shared successes, **visit www.riss.net/Impact**.

Continued Support for RISS

RISS helps keep officers and citizens safe while ensuring that privacy and civil liberties are protected. RISS is a leader in secure information sharing and investigative case support and has enabled an unprecedented level of collaboration among law enforcement and the criminal justice community. Each day, narcotic officers across the country put their lives on the line to protect individuals. **These officers utilize RISS services daily to take dangerous drugs off the streets and protect communities**. In the past year, overdose deaths have topped 109,000 in the United States. The services provided by RISS aid law enforcement professionals in combating drug problems and reducing the number of deaths and crimes caused using narcotics. **The NNOAC respectfully asks Congress to fund RISS at \$55 million for FY2024. For more information about the RISS Program and its services and resources, visit www.riss.net**.