



NNOAC *Insight*

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

February 2024

REGIONAL INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEMS (RISS) PROGRAM

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) is proud to serve our nation's narcotic officers. 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**. For more than 50 years, RISS has served our criminal justice community through its trusted, proven, innovative, and results-driven approach.



An important goal of the NNOAC is to act as a conduit for the exchange of information, intelligence, and training guidelines affecting narcotic enforcement. This goal goes hand in hand with one of the main priorities of the RISS Program: secure information and intelligence sharing. The NNOAC plays a critical role in impacting the landscape of the proliferation of narcotics in our nation. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2021 more than 106,000 individuals in the United States died from a drug-involved overdose with nearly 70% of those deaths being attributed to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration reported more than 10,000 pounds of fentanyl powder and 50.6 million fentanyl-laced prescription pills were seized in 2022. The amount of fentanyl seized could represent nearly 379 million deadly doses of fentanyl. With the assistance of RISS services and resources, member agencies seized more than **\$44 million in narcotics** in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023. 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 FY2025**.

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 **10,200** 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 and wellness. RISS also partners with numerous federal and nationwide entities to advance the nation's criminal justice strategy and information sharing initiatives. RISS focuses its efforts on three priorities: **Investigative Case Support; Secure Information and Intelligence Sharing; and Officer Safety, Deconfliction, and Law Enforcement Wellness**.

Investigative Case Support

RISS delivers critical investigative support services and field-based solutions that directly impact law enforcement's ability to deter, identify, apprehend, arrest, and prosecute offenders. 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 helps connect officers across jurisdictions to identify new investigative leads and links, solve crimes, promote officer safety, and aid in successful case resolution. RISS resources create efficiency in the investigative process enabling officers to search for data quickly and efficiently. **The RISS Secure Cloud (RISSNET)** provides a secure infrastructure for hundreds of intelligence and investigative resources enabling bidirectional sharing. More than **315 RISS and partner resources** and more than **78.3 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 the:

- 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

Officer Safety, Deconfliction, and Law Enforcement Wellness

RISS recognizes the dangerous nature of everyday law enforcement activities. Officers must have the necessary information, resources, and tools to identify, deter, and respond to criminal activities while maintaining their own safety. The **RISS Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe)** supports law enforcement personnel who are conducting events near one another at the same time. RISSafe is accessible on a 24/7/365 basis and is available at **no cost** to all law enforcement agencies. Currently, **29 RISSafe Watch Centers** are operational throughout the country, 23 of which are operated by organizations other than RISS, such as fusion centers, state agencies, and High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA). Since the inception of RISSafe, more than **2.9 million operations** have been entered into RISSafe, resulting in more than **581,550 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 and Wellness Website** provides secure access to vetted, reliable, and trusted information and materials on various officer safety and wellness-related topics.

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 FY2023, law enforcement agencies reported that by using RISS services, their officers arrested at least **2,300 offenders** and seized more than **\$59 million in narcotics, property, and currency**. In addition, there were more than **4.5 million inquiries to RISS resources**, with more than **861,300 hits**.

In addition to direct law enforcement results, the RISS Centers developed **30,961 analytical products**, loaned **2,713 pieces of specialized investigative equipment**, responded to **61,205 requests for research and technical assistance**, helped **train 65,640 individuals**, and provided other investigative services to officers and analysts investigating crimes in FY2023. 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

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. RISS helps keep officers and citizens safe while ensuring that privacy and civil liberties are protected. Each day, narcotics officers across the country put their lives on the line to protect individuals. **Officers across the country utilize RISS services daily to help remove dangerous drugs from the streets and protect citizens**. The services provided by RISS aid law enforcement professionals in combating drug problems and reducing the number of deaths and crimes caused by using narcotics. **NNOAC respectfully asks Congress to fund RISS at \$55 million for FY2025. For more information about the RISS Program and its services and resources, visit www.riss.net.**