

Leveraging the Violent Criminal Apprehension Program

The Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP) was established by the Department of Justice and is supported by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). ViCAP serves U.S. law enforcement agencies by providing a free repository for behavioral and investigative information related to violent crimes to support a methodology of connecting crimes and generating investigative leads. The cases eligible for ViCAP entry are those that involve unusual, random, and/or serial homicides and sexual assaults, as well as missing person and unidentified human remains cases where foul play is suspected.

Using state-of-the-art behavior-based crime analysis, ViCAP enables law enforcement agencies to collect, collate, enter, and analyze their jurisdiction's violent crime information on a local level. This web-based investigative tool also facilitates the identification of similar cases on regional, state, and national bases. Agencies retain ownership of their cases and may search cases directly. Most information captured in ViCAP is recorded on a typical incident report—such as dates, locations, and biographical information on victims and offenders. In addition to this basic information, the database also captures specific behavioral characteristics that are present in a crime—including how an offender approached a victim, the type of trauma inflicted on a victim, whether bindings and/or restraints were used, and details about any unusual or symbolic acts that occurred. These unique behaviors are instrumental in searching for potentially similar cases. Every detail entered into ViCAP is then searchable in the system.

ViCAP crime analysts review individual case submissions at a national level. Once a crime analyst reviews a case, the investigating agency receives the results in a written report known as the ViCAP Crime Analysis Report (CAR). These reports contain a synopsis of the case(s) and a summary of the analysis conducted, highlighting any pertinent or significant information found. The report may include appendixes—such as timelines, offender biographies, and maps.

CAR Contents

- ◆ Case synopsis
- ◆ Summary of analytical findings
- ◆ Recommendation of additional investigative resources
- ◆ Description of resources utilized
- ◆ Appendixes with additional details

ViCAP Services

ViCAP assistance to agencies includes crime analysis; creation of maps, timelines, and matrices; information dissemination; the facilitation and coordination of communication among agencies; and task force assistance. ViCAP services and access are provided at no cost to law enforcement agencies.

ViCAP crime analysts compare information in the victim matrix to suspect timelines; these individuals also assist with investigations by advising agencies that have contributed case information to the victim matrix about the identities of potential suspects. If a suspect is identified or a group of cases is determined to be linked to a common offender, additional behavioral analytical services can be provided to progress the investigation.

ViCAP Access

Law enforcement agencies nationwide may access the system through the secure internet connection of the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). Several established hub agencies are available to assist local agencies with data entry and analysis on state and regional levels. Furthermore, agencies may request specialized ViCAP training by the FBI.

If an agency is new to ViCAP, only a few initial steps are required for registration. A user must obtain LEEP access to use ViCAP.

Access may be obtained in two ways:

1. Through one of the participating Identity Provider agencies to LEEP.
2. By completing the online application (www.cjis.gov) for a LEEP account.

Note: An agency should select a single point of contact as the law enforcement agency manager (LEAM) to serve as the link between ViCAP and the users within the agency.

Review the list of LEAMs posted on the ViCAP Special Interest Group (SIG), located in LEEP, to determine if your agency has a designated LEAM.

If Your Agency...	Then...
Has a designated LEAM	Contact him/her to request access.
Does not have a designated LEAM	1) Download and complete a ViCAP LEAM Designation/ Replacement form. 2) Submit the completed form via fax or email: ◆ Fax: 703.632.4239 ◆ Email: vicap@fbi.gov

The (LEEP) ViCAP page has helpful documents, including how to grant new users ViCAP access.

Contact Information

Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP)

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