

# Public Safety Case Study:

## Suffolk County Police Department

Responsible for protecting the lives of 1.4 million people who reside in Eastern Long Island, New York, the Suffolk Police Department embarked on an impressive crusade to reduce crime rates during the past decade. TSI has worked with the County to design and implement this strategic system for the Department. Members of the police force have commented on how visualizing location-specific crimes has provided them with the ability to much better understand patterns and trends that were going undetected. This visualization has been a major factor in reducing crime by 46%. In fact, police organizations from as far away as Beijing and Israel have been wowed by the crime-solving capabilities of this particular system.

Dispatchers and supervisors can now pinpoint the location of a single police car or the entire fleet of more than 300 cars using the system's automated vehicle locator (AVL) capabilities. Best of all, an officer in trouble doesn't even have to report his location. Suffolk PD's sophisticated AVL support was made possible because TSI integrated several systems, including a two-way radio communications network, in-car GPS devices and laptops, a database server, and an intranet mapping server.

The Suffolk PD realizes the proactive role that they can play with their systems during times of disaster and threats to homeland security. In 1996, the FBI, Coast Guard, and the NTSB all relied on the PD system to assist with locating, collecting, and evaluating evidence and eyewitness reports from the disastrous crash of TWA

Flight 800. Crash-related data was collected in a database and brought into the system to provide instant map visualizations in testing hypotheses related to the cause of the crash. Even the aircraft's seating chart was mapped to assist in visualizing information about passengers and crash debris.

In 1990, TSI began its relationship with Suffolk PD by providing mapping solutions to enhance the department's existing CAD system, creating an accurate map of the entire county for the first time with clearly defined precinct boundaries. Today, TSI and Suffolk PD are engaged in discussions to bring mapping and location intelligence more directly to the streets by devising a wireless solution that can extend the PD's AVL support to any police officer using a Pocket PC.

### Primary Needs:

- Pinpointing crime locations for real-time investigation
- Location analysis for crime prevention program
- Tracking and management of police vehicles

### Solution:

- Integrated and customized MapInfo products for desktop crime analysis and visualization
- Installed geocoding and mapping products to provide accurate maps and precinct definitions for officer dispatch
- Provided AVL support by integrating numerous technologies
- Enabled data-sharing with other organizations for homeland security purposes
- Future extension of mapping and location intelligence to mobile (wireless) forces in vehicles and on foot

### Benefit Highlights:

- Reduced county crime rates by 46%
- Improved homeland security and integration with other public safety organizations
- Assisted in investigation of TWA Flight 800