

Our mission is working together as ONE DPS to provide a safe and secure Utah.

Keith D. Squires  
Commissioner



# Utah

## Department of Public Safety

### DPS in the News



Commissioner Squires was featured in a story about the enormous number of cyber attacks that Utah's computer systems face every day. "In 2010, my IT director was letting me know that the number of attacks we were averaging a day was between 25,000 to 80,000," said Commissioner Squires. "We had peaks in the past year or so that were over 300,000,000 a day. Although other states were seeing increases, most were not seeing anything like we were," Squires said. "We didn't realize it at first, but my opinion is in that same time, Utah was getting a lot of notoriety for the NSA facility that was being built here."

[Click here to watch the KUTV story](#)

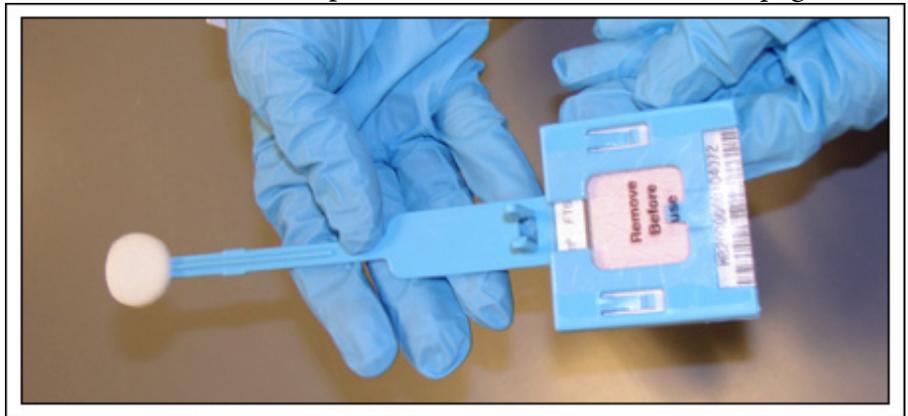
### New Software Streamlines DNA Entry

In February, the Bureau of Forensic Services launched the Offender DNA (ODNA) program, which is a web-based data entry portal. The roll out was the culmination of a four-year effort between the Bureau and the Department of Technology Services to help increase efficiency in DNA sample collection and recording.

Prior to the launch of ODNA, personnel would have to fill out a form with offender and offense information, take a DNA sample and then submit it to the crime lab. Staff at the crime lab would then enter the information into their secure, private DNA database. Inefficiencies were created when a DNA sample

would be taken at the jail, and then, if the offender was transferred to the prison, another DNA sample would be taken. This added time to inmate processing and expense, both for the justice system and the offenders, who are charged every time a DNA sample is taken and processed. This resulted in extra work at the crime lab, too: before staff at the crime lab realized they were dealing with a duplicate submission, they would have spent a lot of time performing quality control steps.

Now, when an offender is transferred, staff at the prison can log into ODNA and the system will show whether or not *(continued on next page)*



Federal DNA database unit DNA collection kit component fbi.gov



## New Software Continued

(continued from previous page) a sample has already been collected and indicate the status of the sample. Users now know instantly if they don't need to collect a sample. The ODNA system does not allow duplicate entries by users.

The system was created for use by any entity who by statute can collect DNA samples, which is primarily county jails, sheriffs' offices and some police departments that collect DNA samples for sex offender

registrations.

Beginning in October, crime lab staff members traveled throughout the state to train agencies on the use of the system and ultimately trained more than 500 individuals. They trained at least a few people from each agency, who could then train others in their agency. Working with DTS, they were able get the system online in February.

## Refugee Outreach Program

One of Commissioner Squires' recommendations to assist in the assimilation process for new refugees in Utah was to reassign agents from DPS' State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to work with refugee relocation teams. The agents would provide refugees with information about Utah's laws and interact in a proactive and positive way with the new Utahns. Agents assigned to perform these duties in the new Refugee Outreach Program participated in several activities during the month of February.

The agents traveled to Boise, Idaho, to meet with the



Representatives from DPS, Utah Department of Workforce Services and law enforcement agencies met with refugee community leaders.

Boise Police Department to learn more about that agency's refugee program. Through this visit, the SBI agents gathered valuable information that will be helpful as Utah develops its program.

SBI agents instructed in several cultural orientation classes for new refugees with both IRC and Catholic

Community Services. SBI administration also participated in several meetings with the various stakeholders in the resettlement community and DPS participation has been very well received.

## New Form of Meth Submitted to Crime Lab

The Bureau of Forensic Services laboratory received a sample of methamphetamine that had a different appearance than most meth submissions it receives: it looked like rock candy. This form of the drug was first mentioned in an intelligence bulletin from New Mexico and this is the first appearance of meth in this form in Utah.

Meth presents a significant public safety threat because it is a highly addictive drug. SBI has noticed a large spike over the last two years in interdiction

cases involving meth. Utah is a huge corridor for drug trafficking, as most meth is now manufactured in super labs in Mexico, and then brought north and east, meaning much of it travels on I-70 and I-80. The Utah Highway Patrol has an aggressive interdiction program and works to stop drugs from flowing both to and through Utah.

The street cost of this form of meth is unknown at this time and the manufacturing methods are yet to be determined.