



**BUSINESS  
WATCH  
INTERNATIONAL**



# 2012 - Year In Review

Regional Automated Property Information Database

JANUARY 31, 2013

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **RAPID tops \$13 million in recoveries**
- **Cooperation with industry brings success**
- **Breaking new ground, first arrest and conviction for operating without an ADR license**
- **Delaware is a RAPID success**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What is RAPID?	2
RAPID Growth	3
RAPID Stats	3
RAPID by Industry	4-5
Cross Border Cooperation	6-7
RAPID Successes	7-9
BWI—Acknowledgement	10

## RAPID—Over 13 Million in Recoveries

"The database is fantastic" explained Peter McDonald, a pawn shop owner in Frederick in an interview he did with the Frederick News Post in September, 2012. "It helps the police and it helps us. Pawn shops in the past have had the reputation of being seedy places. To be a legitimate pawnbroker, you want that relationship with the police." In Montgomery County, the regional manager for a chain of secondhand shops wrote, "thanks for the emails alerting us to the individuals who were selling/pawning fake gold. We got burned early on but the notifications from your department saved us a ton more. Hope we helped as well with some information we provided." This in response to a number of bulletins sent out by RAPID alerting Maryland's pawn and precious metal licensees of a

group of individuals operating in the area selling fake gold and designer jewelry who made off with between \$600 and \$1,100



**Working Together—Law Enforcement and Dealers**

per transaction. For 2012, Maryland's Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID) led to the recovery of \$4,867,732.63 in stolen property. This number is associated with the arrest of 1,321 criminal suspects and the successful closing of 2,191 criminal investigations.

These statistics only scratch the surface of the true success of Maryland's amazing crime fighting tool as these numbers represent only those instances where law enforcement officers wrote into the RAPID helpdesk reporting the successful closing of active investigations.

Since Maryland's first electronic reporting law was enacted in October, 2009, law enforcement have reported that RAPID has led to the recovery of \$13,160,593.68 in recovered stolen property, the arrest of 2,453 criminals and closed 3,588 criminal investigations.

## Regional Crime Analysis System-RCAS

In 1994, in response to a series of crimes crossing the jurisdictional boundaries of Baltimore, affected police organizations decided to share crime data in hopes of quicker response times to future cross-jurisdictional serial crimes. This collaboration led to the creation of the Regional Crime Analysis System (RCAS). The RCAS group decided to make use of software developed in-house by the Baltimore County Police Department. Meetings were held to decide how best to adapt the existing Baltimore County database and software for the consor-

tium.

Server space to hold the software was provided by the Washington Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA). Since 1994 RCAS has continued to develop its system. In 1999 with support from the Department of Justice, RCAS enhanced the database by developing a crime mapping functionality.

Once again in 2009, when the State of Maryland enacted the first of three laws that would require secondhand businesses

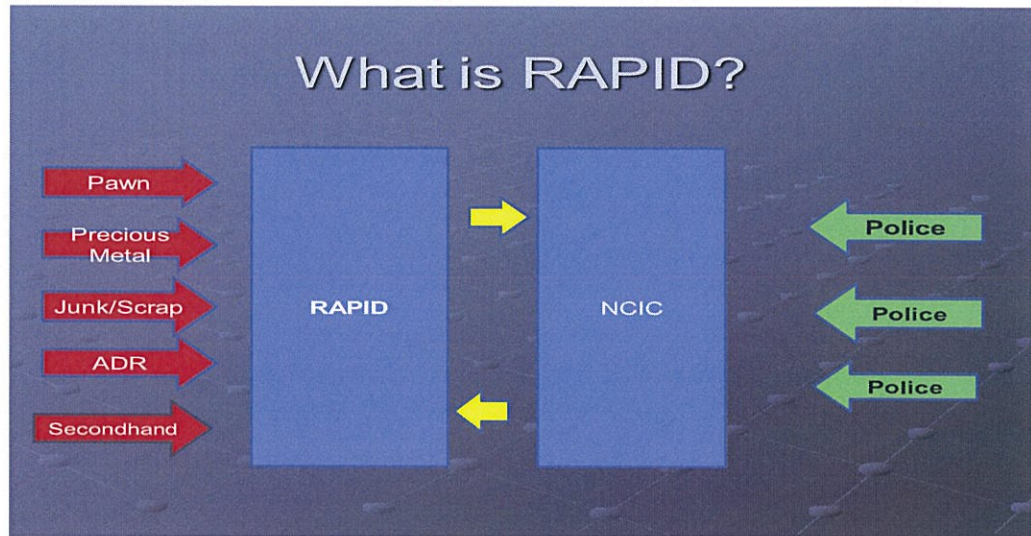
to electronically report sales transactions to law enforcement, RCAS accepted the responsibility of collecting this data. With that, Maryland's Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID) found its home. Today, every primary law enforcement agency in Maryland and Delaware use RAPID to collect, house and manage its secondhand transaction data.



*"The proven efficiency of RAPID is recognized by the millions of dollars in personal belongings that have been returned to the victims of property crimes since the inception of the database in 2009."*

*"As one of the newest law enforcement tools in the industry, we remind all police agencies and state businesses of it's importance to fighting crime ."*

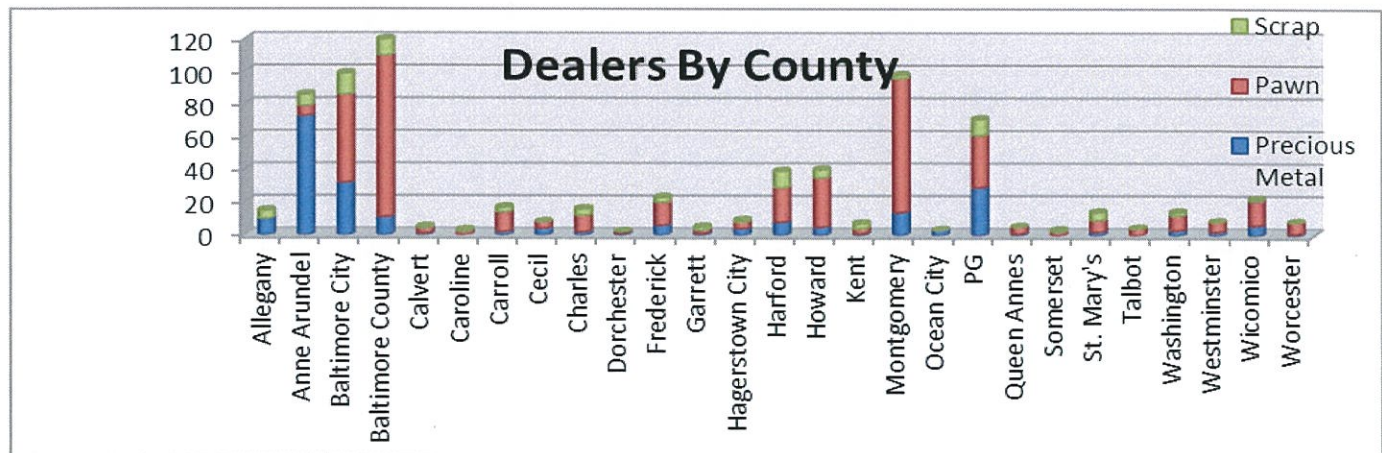
Colonel Marcus L. Brown  
 Superintendent  
 Maryland State Police



Maryland is lucky enough to have statewide electronic reporting laws for businesses who buy secondhand property. These laws require that stores provide certain information to police everyday about their purchases. It is well know that thieves often take stolen property to pawn shops, secondhand stores, jewelers, scrap processors and junks yards to offer them for sale and make a fast buck. When they do, Maryland stores electronically tell police who came to them with goods for sale and further describe what they purchased. In the not so old

days, businesses did this by sending paper forms to police who in turn filed that information away in a filing cabinet. But today, Maryland law enforcement share one electronic filing cabinet. We call that filing cabinet, RAPID. The diagram above demonstrates how the information flow works. Licensed businesses in Maryland feed RAPID with transaction data. That data is then checked against the National Crime Information Database (NCIC). RAPID searches NCIC for matches and when one is found notifies police so that further investigation and

recovery may be accomplished. While this technology allows police to search millions of records in an instant, it is essential that the data in both databases be as accurate as possible. Item descriptions, seller information, dates and times are key to solving crime. This is the very reason why enforcement of record keeping requirements is so important to maintaining a successful State property database. Helping good business be successful in reporting compliance and ensuring not so good businesses are no longer licensed is at the heart of our 13 million dollars in recoveries and more than 2,000 arrests.



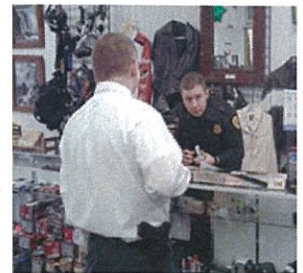


# MARYLAND STATE POLICE: RAPID GROWTH

In 2009 RAPID was designated as the State's secondhand property transaction database. It consists of records owned by every primary law enforcement jurisdiction in Maryland. While the Maryland State Police was designated as the agency responsible for the management and administrative oversight of RAPID it is often overlooked that the Maryland State Police is also a RAPID member agency. That means that the Maryland State Police is a primary law enforcement agency responsible for ensuring that in 9 Maryland counties more than 170 State licensed businesses required to report transactions electronically do so in compliance

with Maryland laws. In late 2012, the Maryland State Police added two new RAPID Team members, Sgt. Scott Lantz (top right) and First Sergeant Brian Gill (bottom right behind the counter). Sgt. Lantz has been assigned as the RAPID Compliance Officer for the Eastern Region and is responsible for ensuring that businesses and law enforcement are properly trained, informed and utilizing the database as intended. First Sergeant Brian Gill joins the Team as the State's Program Administrator and supervisor for all Maryland State Police System

Administrators and Compliance Officers. He will be managing the day to day operations of the statewide program. We expect to be very active in 2013, working on training, compliance, investigations and system stabilization. The Maryland State Police is committed to ensuring that RAPID continues to be the premier program and "gold standard" of secondhand property databases.



## 2012—RAPID STATS

	2010	2011	2012	
Number of Users	1559	2062	2541	
Number of Dealers	756	1047	1189	
Number of Queries	113,670	578,578	881,246	
<hr/>				
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	
Scrap Transactions	100,000	758,414	725,518	
Vehicle Transactions	n/a	119,737	139,531	
<hr/>				
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>TOTAL**</u>
Cases Closed	515	882	2191	3588
Arrests	490	642	1321	2453
Value Recovered	5,197,168.50	3,095,692.55	4,867,732.63	13,160,593.68
	\$2,196,218.05*			

Note: Totals are updated daily and represent a snapshot at the time the database was queried

\* \$2,196,218.05 represents a one time recovery amount seized by Baltimore City during a scrap metal theft case

\*\* Totals include supplemental information from old cases +334 Cases Closed, +299 Arrests, +\$302,373.00 Recoveries

Note: All case statistics are self-reported by agency and users

**"RAPID is a valuable tool to all officers handling criminal investigations in Calvert County."**

**Deputy—Calvert County Sheriff's Office**

*"Property exceeding \$20,000 in value was directly linked to the suspects as a result of the RAPID database". (This was the result of a serial burglary investigation that resulted in 2 arrests and the recovery of stolen property.)*





"It (RAPID) helps the police and it helps us. Pawn shops in the past have had the reputation of being seedy places. To be a legitimate pawnbroker, you want that regulation. You want that relationship with the police."

Pawn Shop Owner, Frederick, Md.

"We find the State's database a useful tool in spotting stolen merchandise. We applaud the Maryland State Police and have supported the effort from the conception."

Hon. Jeffrie Zellmar  
Vice President Government Affairs Maryland Retailers Assoc.

## Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Precious metal object dealers are RAPID's oldest data contributors. During the period 2008 through 2010, there was an explosion in the number of licenses issued by the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR). Prior to 2008, the total number of licenses issued by the Department averaged 254. By January 2009, the DLLR active license total was 348, a 37% increase. By January 1, 2011, the number of active precious metal licensees had climbed to 591 nearly double the pre-2008 and 70% higher than in January 2009.

As of January 2, 2013, the Department has 643 active licensees.

2009 legislation requiring dealers to report electronically and 2010 legislation requiring precious metal transactions be conducted at the fixed business address indicated on the license have certainly helped law enforcement recover more than \$1,767,366 in stolen jewelry over the past three years.

The price of gold in 2009 was \$972.35 an ounce. Today, in 2013 it is averaging \$1677.40 an ounce. The value and ease of transport makes precious metal objects a primary target of thieves, robbers and burglars.

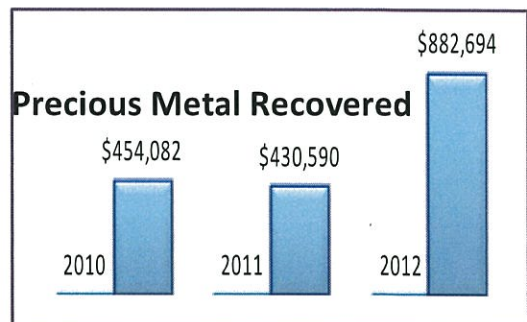
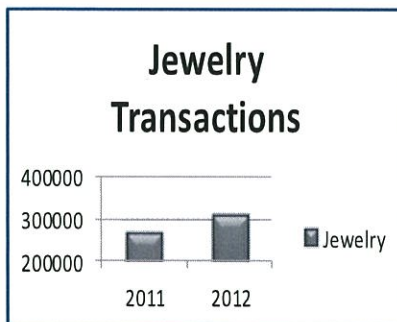
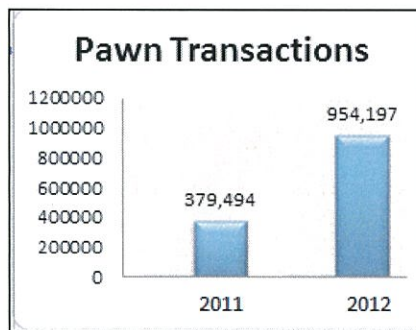
By working with DLLR to train, educate and inspect licensed dealers, law enforcement is helping ensure the protection of property for our citizens.

In 2012, law enforcement filed 55 complaints with DLLR. 69 complaints were closed, 21 licensees were disciplined and 21 disciplinary orders involving 23 formal complaints were issued. DLLR collected \$58,700 in fines. Since the inception of this collaboration DLLR has collected over \$150,000 in fines.

### Precious Metal & Pawn Statistics

Licenses	Calendar Year	Increase
254	Prior to 2008	
348	2009	94
591	2011	243
643	2013	52

Complaints	Disciplinary Orders	Fines	Year
140	138	\$55,615	Oct. 2009-Oct. 2010
57	53	\$42,300	2011
55	69	\$58,700	2012





# Maryland Comptrollers



“The relatively new reporting requirements and the creation of the RAPID system have increased our ability to identify businesses that are required to be licensed and ensure the appropriate and fair administration of the income reporting and tax collection system. Finally, and perhaps most important, the current scrap metal licensing and reporting process greatly enhances the ability to maintain a level playing field for all Maryland businesses.” This quote from Jeffery A. Kelly, Director of the Field Enforcement

Division for the Office of the Comptroller expresses yet another collateral benefit of the State’s secondhand property database. In 2012, the Comptroller’s investigation unit in Baltimore received 3 referrals from law enforcement for possible unreported income derived from illegal scrap metal sales. Sufficient information was recovered that resulted in a total of \$3,380 in income tax and \$301.00 in interest being collected. These successes when combined with the more than \$ 2,764,385.00 go far in assuring Maryland’s law makers that when they passed

electronic reporting in 2009 they gave state enforcement officers a tool that would continue to benefit Marylanders for years to come.



**“The current scrap metal licensing and reporting process greatly enhances the ability to maintain a level playing field for all Maryland businesses.”**

*Jeffery Kelly, Director of Field Enforcement Division- Comptrollers Office*

# Motor Vehicle Administration



Since assuming responsibility in 2011 for ensuring that Maryland’s licensed Automotive Dismantlers, Recyclers, and Scrap Processors (ADRS) comply with the State’s electronic reporting mandate, the RAPID Team has developed a productive working relationship with the Motor Vehicle Administration’s Office of Investigations and Internal Affairs. This office is responsible for conducting inspections of businesses that are licensed and regulated by the MVA as well as investigating complaints filed against these businesses.

During 2012, RAPID and MVA investigators conducted both educational site visits and business/reporting compliance inspections of ADRS who demonstrated or articulated difficulties complying with Maryland’s laws. Hundreds of violations were noted in 2012, many being reconciled by written warnings and additional education and training sessions. Others

however represented repeat violations, were cited under the Transportation Article.

There are 193 licensed Automotive Dismantlers, Recycler, & Scrap Processors in Maryland. When the RAPID ADRS program began, 49% of all licensed dealers were failing to report as required. Today, that percentage is less than 20%. This successful reporting program is the direct result of the Maryland State Police working with the Motor Vehicle Administration’s Investigative Division to create and implement a standardized inspection, compliance and training program for licensed dismantlers and scrap processors. This partnership helps to ensure legal compliance with the Transportation Article’s electronic reporting laws and associated business regulations.

For Maryland the MSP/MVA relationship not only benefits crime victims, it goes far in ensuring that legitimate businesses who

work hard to abide by Maryland’s laws are not placed at a disadvantage by illegitimate, unlicensed persons coming to their areas and taking away business. On April 30, 2012, TFC Jean Davenport, MSP Easton, charged a Talbot County man with operating without a license when he was found posting signs to buy/sell or remove junk cars and generally operating as an ADRS without a license. Further investigation revealed that in less than 2 years, the suspect had scrapped over 100 cars and earned more than \$45,000.00 from area salvage yards. The defendant pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail with all but four days suspended. He was also fined \$500.00. For his crime of operating without an Automotive Dismantlers License. The defendant served two weekends in the Talbot County Detention Center.

**“The MVA believes that the joint inspections [with MSP] protect the consumer by ensuring that vehicles are disposed of in a legal and proper manner and that the MVA licensed businesses are operating and reporting in accordance to current laws and regulations. The inspections also provide beneficial feedback to the business owner. “**

*Michael Birmingham  
Chief, Special Operations  
Division of Investigations  
and Internal Affairs.*



# Cross Border Cooperation

*"I have had two recent investigations in locating stolen property that ended up in the Baltimore area. I feel this is a very valuable tool for Law Enforcement"*  
 Detective— Hanover PA

*"By using RAPID, in a 2 minute search we were able to identify a retail theft suspect what would have taken a week and a half of old fashioned police work". In this case arrests were made of the driver and seller and a heroin ring was identified in PA and MD."*  
 Detective—New Freedom PA

*"In February 2012, 2 suspects stole diamond rings from a jeweler. RAPID provided information on the seller and arrests were made. Thank you MD RAPID for making this possible the Arlington Co P.D. and Jewelry Store are grateful!"*  
 Detective  
 Arlington Co. PD

We have already reported that since Maryland's first electronic reporting law was enacted in October, 2009 RAPID has been credited with the recovery of \$13,181,823.54 in stolen property. While this recovery figure includes some out of state recoveries there are hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars recovered by our neighboring states using Maryland RAPID that goes unreported. In the past 3 years the Maryland State Police RAPID Team has responded to calls from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey and the District of Columbia each asking for guidance in developing a program similar to RAPID. The chart shows the number of active law enforcement officials using RAPID on a daily basis. Everyday

RAPID receives requests for training and system access from our brothers and sisters in blue so they too may use RAPID to solve crime and recover stolen property .

During 2012, the RAPID Team responded to an invitation from the Regional Information Sharing Systems Program (RISS). RISS is a nationwide information sharing and investigative support program that serves thousands of local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement and public safety agencies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. RISS has asked MD RAPID to provide input and expertise as they move forward with attempting to build a national secondhand database. A single place where law enforcement can go to find secondhand transactions across the country . One

RISS member, Deputy Chief John A. Livingood, Abington Township Police Department said about MD RAPID, "Whenever I talk to anyone about pawn shop databases they always point to yours as the "gold standard". What you have achieved in Maryland is light-years ahead of most of the rest of the World but by working through RISS we hope that Pennsylvania can achieve some of the same success".

State	Users	Agencies
PA	87	36
NJ	25	2
DE	543	45
VA/DC	197	30
WVA	26	12



## National Capital Region RAPID



Today law enforcement officials in both the District of Columbia and 9 Northern Virginia jurisdictions maintain the National Capital Region, Regional Pawn Data Sharing System. This system is a near replica of the Maryland RAPID program yet it operates at a consistent deficiency since neither Virginia nor the District of Columbia have mandatory state/district wide electronic reporting laws. Both jurisdictions have a mix of statewide recording keep-

ing requirements and /or local electronic reporting laws. While this system serves law enforcement well, with comprehensive legislative efforts it has real potential to be enhanced and used as the State's/ District's secondhand property database. During 2012, MSP RAPID responded to invitations from both the Virginia

State Police and the Metropolitan Police Department. These meetings were centered on the requirements and impacts of statewide/district wide mandatory electronic reporting legislation. We look forward to monitoring the progress of our neighbors during CY 2013.



# Delaware RAPID



In June of 2012, the State of Delaware officially began its RAPID program. In its first 6 months, RAPID has been credited with recovering over \$229, 970.29 in stolen property. More than 56 arrests have been made and over 151 criminal cases have been closed. RAPID is a bona fide law enforcement program in Delaware. The Delaware State Police is responsible for the management of the system and has placed the system organizationally under the Professional Licensing umbrella of the State's Bureau of Identification. DE RAPID is staffed by a Sergeant in Charge, a full time civilian employee and a casual seasonal employee. The mission of Delaware's RAPID Unit is to license businesses that act as pawn brokers, second hand dealers and scrap metal processors and ensure their compliance with the electronic reporting and licensing laws of the State. The Unit is also responsible for statewide user management, training, statistical analysis and case support for criminal inves-

tigators.

To date, approximately 600 DE law enforcement officials have been trained and are actively using the system. Within weeks of the initial implementation of RAPID a Trooper in lower Delaware learned that his parent's home was burglarized. One of the items stolen was a Masonic Ring. Using RAPID troopers located the item at a pawn/jewelry store in Ocean City, MD. Detectives responded to Maryland, recovered the item and immediately obtained arrest warrants for the thieves. In yet another case, while DE RAPID Trainers were instructing new users, a series of curious transactions were observed where numerous pieces of lawn equipment had been sold to a second hand dealer in Wilmington, DE. Investigators conducted an on-site inspection of the store and Troopers observed 15 brand new weed trimmers, chain saws and hedge clippers. Further investigation revealed that the items were sold

exclusively by Home Depot. A call to several area Home Depot locations revealed that the items were stolen and the store from where the thefts had occurred had not yet reported the theft. In the end, RAPID was instrumental in identifying the stolen property before the owner was aware of the theft. Arrest warrants were obtained and served and the case is pending in Superior Court in Delaware.

Questions concerning DE RAPID may be directed to Sgt. Jeff Whitmarsh, Delaware State Police 302-672-5357 .

## REPORTING

16 Pawn

18 Scrap

156 Secondhand

## USERS

New Castle 297

Kent 118

Sussex 128

## RECOVERIES

\$ 229,970.29

## ARRESTS

56

## CASES CLOSED

151

## Collateral Successes — Scrap



**Charles County**— From Dec. 2011 to Feb. 2012, Charles County Sheriff's Office were investigating thefts of HVAC units from local businesses. RAPID helped to identify a suspect. Further investigation led to the arrest of two suspects and authorities were able to link numerous cases thanks to one businesses' security video.

**Prince George's County**— Through RAPID investigators were able to identify 2 criminal groups stealing from construction sites. Six arrests were made and over \$10,000 in property was recovered.

**US Air Force**—Through RAPID, Air Force investigators were able to identify a military employee who was selling scrap metal in Maryland. The suspect is suspected of stealing over \$100,000 in equipment and materials from the US Government.

**MSP-College Park-Baltimore City** In September, MSP investigated the theft of \$14,000 worth of storm grates stolen from MD highways. RAPID disseminated a bulletin to MD licensed businesses. A couple days later, a business in Baltimore City notified RAPID. The grates were recovered and arrests have been made.

**Baltimore City**—In December, Baltimore City P.D. worked with the FBI investigating a scrap metal theft. Information from RAPID provided seller information with 385 transactions in less than 3 months. The investigation is continuing.

**Westminster City**— While investigating a theft, Westminster City P.D. worked with RAPID and the Carroll County Sheriff's Office to solve a theft of stolen tools. Over \$17,000 worth of stolen property and 2 stolen vehicles were recovered.

*"I took the RAPID class on 5-15-2012 and was asked for a suspect name. His name came up as selling scrap. I was able to get his vehicle information which allowed me to locate the suspect. Without access to the RAPID database, this case would not have been solved so quickly. Thank you for the training which greatly assisted in the apprehension."*

**Trooper, Maryland State Police**



*"Thank you for the wonderful training—this is a tool that every officer should have"*  
 Police Officer Montgomery  
 County

*"A RAPID investigation has caused major changes on how inventory is handled. All this would not have occurred if it was not for the RAPID system" (This in relation to an arrest and conviction of a university employee, who although having sold a lot of property could only be prosecuted on one case.*

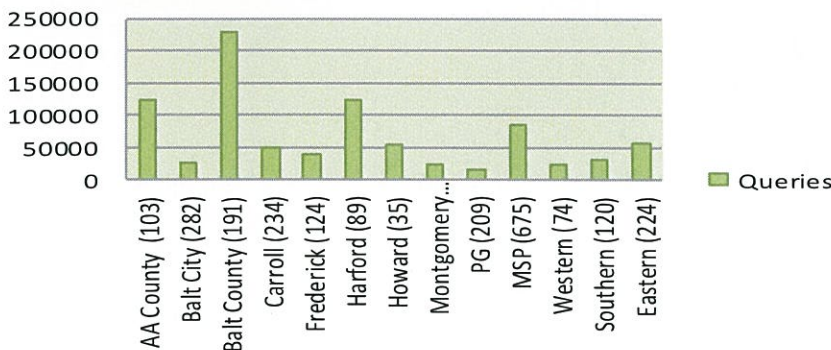
Police Officer— Baltimore  
 University Police

## AGENCY REPORTED RAPID Stats

Agency	Arrests	Cases	Recoveries
Allegheny	1	1	\$2,000
Anne Arundel	213	360	\$725,702
Baltimore City		260	\$504,404
Baltimore County	205	597	\$1,799,677
Calvert	18	22	\$12,000
Caroline	-	-	-
Carroll	4	3	\$18,175
Cecil	-	-	-
Charles	46	81	\$3,750
Dorchester*	-	-	-
Frederick	23	92	\$96,000
Garrett	5	7	\$17,500
Hagerstown City	8	16	\$15,000
Harford	16	77	\$177,629
Howard	68	69	\$148,563
Kent	1	1	\$500
Montgomery		35	\$13,823
PG	94	264	\$670,744
Queen Anne's	-	-	-
Somerset	-	-	-
St. Mary's	14	12	\$98,000
Talbot	7	39	\$47,850
Washington	21	26	\$20,964
Westminster	49	52	\$55,141
Wicomico	9	5	\$40,000
Worcester	1	1	\$5,000

\* Dorchester & Talbot are combined

### Queries By Agency - (Users)



NOTE: Number of users are in ( ) next to the name

Agency	Users	Queries
Anne Arundel	103	123,865
Baltimore City	282	26,329
Baltimore Co	191	228,496
Carroll	234	50,086
Frederick	124	37,938
Harford	89	123,726
Howard	35	54,072
Montgomery	181	22,878
PG	209	16,205
MSP	675	84,901
Western	74	22,620
Southern	120	32,278
Eastern	224	57,852



# Collateral Successes - "WE BUY JUNK CARS"

A collateral success of RAPID may best be described by retelling the history of "We Buy Junk". In the summer of 2010, the MSP RAPID Team was busy traveling the state of Maryland educating Junk/Scrap Dealers and law enforcement alike about the passage of emergency legislation that required the electronic reporting of junk/scrap metal sales. During this time, junk metal dealers who were also licensed as automotive dismantlers, recyclers and scrap metal

processors began to complain about unlicensed persons thumbing their noses at the state and openly advertising that they were operating illegally and at the same time taking business away from legitimate businesses. It was at that time the "WE BUY JUNK" racket was uncovered and law enforcement across the state immediately became educated to the applicable Maryland laws that stipulate who could advertise to buy/sell junk automobiles and how

that advertisement could be conducted. As noted earlier in this newsletter, a Talbot County man was arrested and served 4 days in county jail for operating without a license.



*"Thanks so much— couldn't have done it without you (RAPID)" From a detective who was able to recover scrap metal by working with the RAPID Team, RAPID administrators and dealers.*

*Trooper, Maryland State Police*

## Collateral Successes—Pawn & Precious Metals

**Southern MD-** St. Mary's Co SO investigated numerous daytime burglaries taking place in St. Mary's, Charles and Calvert Counties. RAPID provided suspect information and police made 2 arrests and recovered over \$10,000 in stolen property. Subsequent investigation provided information on a fencing operation, closed a number of drug cases, recovered a large cache of regulated firearms and recovered other stolen property.

**Harford County-** A RAPID Business was concerned about a male selling ladies jewelry. He notified the Sheriff's Office and the seller was identified as a person of interest in an open theft. An arrest was made and over \$12,000 in property was recovered.

**Ocean City P.D.-** A hotel employee was a suspected of stealing jewelry from guests. RAPID linked the suspect

with a stolen necklace. An arrest was made and the property was recovered.

**MSP Hagerstown-** In August, MSP was investigating a burglary where guns and electronics had been stolen. RAPID found the property, namely a high power rifle. The suspect was prohibited from possessing any firearm and in addition to being arrested for the burglary, was charged federally for the weapons violations.

**Prince William VA—** Located stolen tools in RAPID. When the tools were stolen, the victim lost his ability to make a living. Over 85% of the stolen tools were recovered. This recovery allowed the victim and his employees to work again.

**Garrett County-** RAPID was used to investigate a credit card theft. The system identified purchases made on

the stolen cards. Property was recovered and arrests were made for theft and fraud.

**Fairfax VA—** In Dec. Fairfax Co. P.D. used RAPID to investigate a burglary. Stolen property was located in Baltimore County. The suspect was arrested in West Virginia.

**Frederick County-** In Oct., FCSO worked with WV State Police and recovered over \$6000 in jewelry stolen from WV.

**Carroll County—**In June, Carroll Co SO checked RAPID for jewelry stolen in a burglary. The jewelry was recovered in Worcester County. An arrest was made.

**Anne Arundel County-** In Sept. AA County investigated a burglary where over \$200,000 worth of jewelry was stolen. RAPID located the jewelry. Search Warrants found the stolen property and closed a number of other open cases.

*"This system is very useful in tracking the sale of items and scrap. During the training one of the detectives found a stolen Xbox which was sold in MD."*

*Detective Henrico VA*

*"Positive stats for RAPID...and only 2 days after the training we had!"*

*Patrol Officer Anne Arundel Co.*





**BUSINESS WATCH**  
INTERNATIONAL

**RAPID Contacts-MSP**

**F/Sgt. Brian Gill—Program Administrator**  
443-687-0480  
Brian.Gill@maryland.gov

**Sgt. Scott Lantz—Eastern Region Compliance Officer**  
443-387-3364  
Scott.Lantz@maryland.gov

**Maureen Walter—Global Administrator**  
443-986-1455  
Maureen.Walter@maryland.gov

**Captain Dalaine Brady**  
443-629-3737  
Dalaine.brady@maryland.gov

2012 saw a real growth in the Maryland RAPID system; more stores reporting,, more officers using the system and expansion into surrounding states. This has resulted in some more amazing statistics this year and is exactly why BWI was started. We want to see more criminals going to jail and crimes being solved.

The collaboration between Maryland and the surrounding jurisdictions has been the key to many criminals learning that crime doesn't pay; especially in the Maryland region. Maryland's desire to help other law enforcement target these property crime criminals has helped many jurisdictions form more organized and effective pawn and scrap units. This sharing of knowledge has had amazing results so far. In the first few months of operation, Delaware recovered a large amount of property and arrested a lot of criminals.

RAPID has also been growing outside the Maryland region. We have been implementing jurisdictions from coast to coast. To help keep developments focused on what law enforcement needs, BWI has facilitated two NPAG (National Police Advisory Group) meetings with key RAPID administrators from across the United States. New developments like the automated Lojack for Laptops interface were discussed and reviewed. We also heard feedback from our different jurisdictions on some new developments that they are wanting or needing to do their jobs better. These were very exciting meetings because we got to hear so many success stories and why users love using RAPID so much. There were a few things that need to be addressed and we are glad to work on these as well.

We at BWI look forward to another amazing year in 2013 and look forward to more collaboration with law enforcement partners. RAPID is a program created by law enforcement for law enforcement.



# RAPID Acknowledgements



Who knew that when the electronic reporting bill was first signed in 2009, it would have these results.

RAPID went from a stand-alone database for pawn and precious metal transactions into a multi-industry transaction database and then into a whole complete package with programs in place to cover all aspects of both the program and the laws.

The theme for this newsletter is how much better we are for the collaboration with all industries involved, from the legislative, to

the regulatory bodies, to law enforcement, to our dealers, our administrators and with our vendor, Business Watch International.

Our self reported successes so often show that identifying one piece of property leads to other crimes. Although RAPID is a property database, we have reported successes involving homicides, robberies, burglaries, thefts, fraud and identity thefts.

There are so many people to thank for this great year. None of this could have happened without

RAPID's supporters and without our administrators who often wear many different hats while performing their jobs. We also thank the personnel who work behind the scenes in support of RAPID.

We look forward to another successful year in 2013!

*Due to the assistance of RAPID identifying a suspect through Pawn data in Elkton MD and New Castle DE, the suspect was arrested and confessed to a large number of Burglaries in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania.*

*Delaware State Police Trooper*





**REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"**



**Executive Summary:** 2013 was another successful year for RAPID and turned out to be a year full of changes, new activities, new features and new RAPID users. Each year RAPID has been in use has resulted in even more property recovery, arrests and cases. During 2013, over 791,000 records were uploaded into RAPID, more than 2.4 million transactions took place, and 1.1 million queries were conducted by over 3,000 users. In addition, more than 2,300 criminal cases were closed due to RAPID, 1,471 arrests were made and \$5.1 million in property was recovered. Since 2010, RAPID has enabled over \$18 million in property to be recovered, more than 5,900 criminal cases closed and over 3,900 criminal arrests.

**RAPID Team Performance:** During 2013, the RAPID Team conducted 17 training sessions throughout the state of Maryland. In addition, training was provided for Washington DC and Northern Virginia. Additionally, the RAPID Team has conducted numerous business inspections for all three industries (Pawn/Precious Metal, Scrap, and ADR&SP) and initiated a program to ensure that all ADR&SP dealers were reporting as required by law. Annual audits were completed at all primary law enforcement agencies.

**NEW in RAPID:** 2013 brought changes to RAPID that helped investigators solve crime. Administrators are now able to organize and sort by store type, transaction count or transaction detail, such as zip code, city, property type.

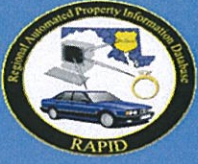
- **eBay:** Investigators are now able to search eBay from RAPID. Investigators can query RAPID, enable email notifications, and search eBay.
- **Lojack for Computers:** Lojack checks serial numbers of computers registered and reported stolen to Lojack against RAPID records. Recently, a computer stolen in D.C. was located in a Maryland store. Despite the computer not being in NCIC, it was recovered.

**Delaware** has initiated a program partnering with local agencies in reporting compliance efforts. As a result, numerous shops were charged with both administrative and criminal charges, including drug and weapons charges. Shops which refused unlawful or suspicious transactions and/or complied with reporting requirements were favorably commended by Delaware State Police. In addition all partners worked cooperatively with legislators to strengthen their scrap reporting laws.

**New Secondhand Industry** – Maryland has seen a big increase of unmanned kiosks that purchase cell phones, ipods, and tablet computers (smart devices). A RAPID Task Force has met with both business representatives and legislators to create regulations that will hold this industry accountable. According to Internet sources, there are now new kiosks that will accept gift cards and pay 60% of their value. As a result of the tremendous work by the RAPID task force, we are hopeful that this type of business, regardless of what type of property is involved, will be effectively regulated and provide our crime victims a higher chance of recovering their stolen property and law enforcement investigators another tool in solving crime.

**RAPID For Investigators** – The RAPID Team is developing advanced training. The training will integrate RAPID functionality with various Maryland law enforcement databases while enhancing investigators knowledge about property characteristics and RAPID's investigative tools.





**REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"**

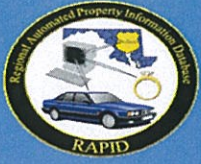


**RAPID by Region – 2013**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Users</u>	<u>Queries</u>	<u>Transactions</u>	<u>Dealers</u>
ADRS (automotive dismantler recyclers)			442,215	185
Anne Arundel	121	29,383	189,287	98
Baltimore	316	15,506	287,546	100
Baltimore County	201	56,558	236,835	108
Carroll	236	59,736	24,973	23
Eastern (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, Worcester)	296	25,975	91,674	66
Frederick	141	14,566	127,859	24
Harford	114	48,507	61,752	46
Howard	37	12,574	60,115	31
Montgomery	201	21,845	131,883	147
MSP	823	46,831		
Prince George's	321	17,035	236,403	98
Southern (Calvert, Charles, St Mary's)	136	18,052	117,089	38
Western (Allegany, Garrett, Washington)	81	8,484	73,567	46
Delaware	1,249	72,725	341,686	207
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4,273</b>	<b>447,777</b>	<b>2,422,884</b>	<b>1,217</b>

\*Individual Query Count was impacted by a development project and reflects the minimum number of agency queries.





**REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)**  
**2013 ANNUAL REPORT**  
*"A Year of Continued Successes"*

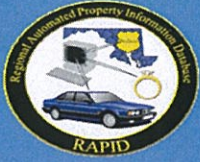


**RAPID Transaction Records Uploaded – 2013**

Agency	Jewelry	Vehicles	Scrap	Other
ADRS*		101,933	301,268	
Anne Arundel	25,154	12	63,750	67,721
Baltimore City	22,816	94	39,018	84,383
Baltimore County	69,253	202	89,090	64,461
Carroll	2,844	10	12,483	2,249
Eastern MD	22,459	1,531	25,362	42,780
Frederick	6,753	569	77,952	23,351
Harford	16,321	139	24,963	15,177
Howard	13,557	12	31,845	15,203
Montgomery	34,976	435	53,984	94,946
Prince George's	49,627	263	107,400	178,980
Southern	18,416	65	31,651	12,669
Western	12,067	403	18,885	25,846
Delaware	52,625	2,313	122,898	163,843
Total Items Entered	346,868	107,981	1,000,549	791,609

\*Automotive Dismantlers & Recyclers





**REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"**



**RAPID Recoveries During 2013**

Jewelry Pieces	Scrap Items	Vehicles	Guns
\$518,444	\$65,164	\$36,000	\$46,860

\*self-reported by partnering agencies

**RAPID Evolution 2010 - 2013**

Category	2010	2011	2012	2013	Totals
Users	1,559	2,062	2,541	3,024	9,186
Dealers	756	1,047	1,189	1,217	4,209
Queries	113,670	578,578	881,246	1,161,699	2,735,193

**RAPID Investigative Successes – Oct. 2009 – Dec. 2013**

Year	Closed Cases	Arrests	Recovered
2010	515	490	\$5,197,168
2011	882	642	\$3,095,693
2012	2191	1321	\$4,867,733
2013	2392	1471	\$5,121,061
<b>Total**</b>	<b>5,980</b>	<b>3,924</b>	<b>\$18,281,655</b>

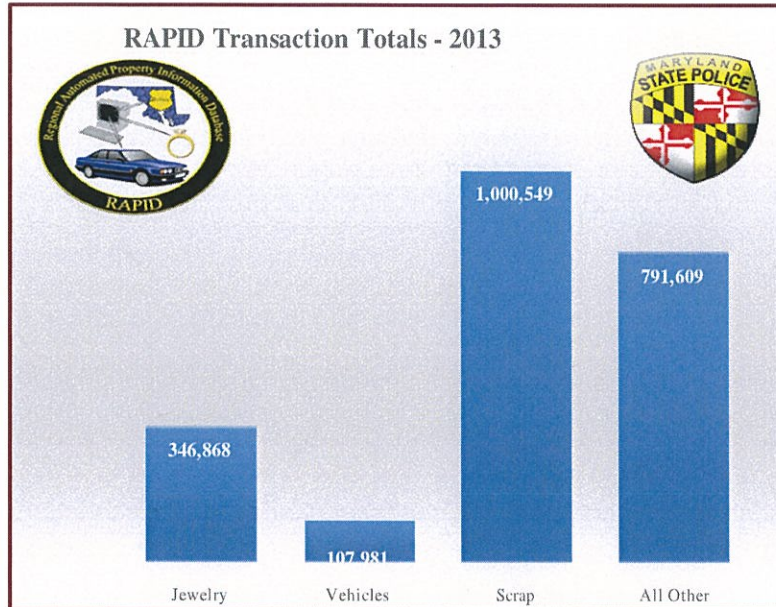
\*\$2,196,218.05 came from one case

\*\* Successes are self-reported and reflects the minimum number of agency queries.





REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"



**RAPID INVESTIGATIVE SUCCESSES**

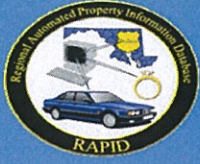
The following RAPID success stories show that our users are taking advantage of the many features of RAPID. Cases have been closed using specialized alerts: top pawner report, NCIC report, saved searches, relationships, tag numbers, and etc. **MSP RAPID wants to acknowledge all of our partnering agencies, both in and out-of state. We wish we could cover all of the success stories!**

**THREE ARRESTED FOR MULTIPLE AGENCY BURGLARIES:** In September, 3 suspects were indicted for 8 counts each of burglary, theft, and conspiracy to Commit Burglary and Theft over \$10,000. One suspect had pawned 12 pieces of jewelry in January in *Baltimore City*. Investigation resulted in locating a storage unit where 14 items were recovered. In addition, *Baltimore County* identified a fence who was buying jewelry and not reporting through RAPID. The three subjects were arrested in *Anne Arundel County*. Burglary cases were identified in *Talbot, Queen Anne and Caroline Counties*.

**HOMICIDE:** In July, RAPID was checked for a phone number in reference to a homicide investigation. RAPID provided information on the phone number and the subsequent investigation resulted in the arrest of the homicide suspect in Prince George's County. *MSP Wicomico*

**PRESCRIPTION DRUG/THEFT ARREST:** In February, *MSP Garrett County* was attempting to locate a suspect in prescription drug cases. RAPID provided data related to one transaction of an expensive diamond ring sold in *Frederick*. The RAPID administrator photographed the





REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"



property and sent the information to western Maryland law enforcement agencies. A victim was located in Garrett County. The property was recovered and an arrest was made. Property value was appraised in 1990 at \$25,500.

**MILITARY THEFT CASE CLOSED 2 ARRESTS:** In November, RAPID was queried by a military base agent for stolen electronics. RAPID provided information on the item and seller. Also, other property sold by the suspect was found to be stolen. An arrest was made, two cases were closed and \$800 in property recovery was made. *Bolling AFB*

**SHOPLIFTING ARRESTS:** *Harford County Sheriff's Office* investigators were able to close 3 unrelated shoplifting cases by arrests and recovered over \$58,000 in stolen property utilizing RAPID.

**FIREARMS RECOVERY:** In November, a residential burglary was reported to the *Allegany County Sheriff's Office*. The suspect was queried in RAPID and his girlfriend was located in the system via a **relationship match**. It was discovered that she had pawned some of the stolen jewelry. A search warrant executed on the suspect's residence resulted in recovery of stolen **firearms**. Over \$1000 in stolen property was recovered with 3 arrests.

**JEWELRY STORE ARMED ROBBERIES:** In September, the *MSP RAPID Team* was requested to assist in a jewelry store armed robbery which occurred in Henrico, Va. RAPID was checked for certain brand name watches in addition to suspects with specific physical descriptors. Several suspects were identified and the subsequent investigation by law enforcement from *Henrico VA* resulted in closing 3 armed robberies (2 in Virginia & 1 in Baltimore County). 3 arrests were made. Additional arrests are expected.

**MULTIPLE BURGLARY ARRESTS:** In October, investigators worked a series of eight commercial burglaries, and in a second case ten residential burglaries. RAPID provided information which resulted in closing all 18 cases with thousands of dollars recovered and arrests. *Howard County PD*

**THEFT FROM FEDERAL PROPERTY:** While investigating thefts from the *Aberdeen Proving Ground* military base, RAPID was checked and it was learned that an employee pawned numerous tools and generators at three different shops in Harford County. Subject was arrested, pled guilty and received a year in jail. All of the stolen property was recovered.

**BURGLARY ARREST – SUSPECT SELLING IN DELAWARE:** In August, the Sheriff's Office investigated a burglary where firearms, lawn equipment, silverware, swords and other items were taken. A query of RAPID resulted in identifying a former employee who had sold all the items in Chestertown, Salisbury and Dover Delaware. An arrest was made and over \$9,000 in stolen property was recovered, including the firearms. *Kent County Sheriff's Office*





REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"



**TOP PAWNER RESULTS IN ARREST:** In July, RAPID provided details of a *top pawner* of tools. An investigation determined the seller was an employee of a government facility and had stolen almost \$75,000 worth of tools and scrap metal. In July, the subject was found guilty in U.S. District Court and sentenced to a year in jail, ordered to pay restitution to the shops and the government. \$29,736 was recovered. *Anne Arundel & Caroline Counties*

**CAMERA THEFT:** As a result of RAPID, military investigators were able to recover over \$10,000 worth of cameras stolen from their facility and sold in three different jurisdictions. *Fort Meade*

**FIREARMS RECOVERED:** In May, the Maryland State Police took a report of a burglary where 18-20 **firearms** were stolen. A query through RAPID revealed that most of the firearms had been sold to a local shop. All of the firearms were recovered and an arrest made. *MSP Allegany*

**DAYTIME BURGLARY – 4 ARRESTS:** In January, 2013 *Westminster PD* investigated a series of daytime burglaries. With RAPID, investigators were able to close five cases with four arrests and recovered \$2,230 worth of stolen property.

**RAPID PROVIDES CLUES:** *Perryville PD* officers linked several instances of pawn transactions that resulted in arrests for burglaries and thefts. In one case, an officer, during a query, found a known subject selling a class ring. Investigation showed that the victim was not aware of the theft. This case was initiated and closed by arrest and recovery of stolen property.

**GAME SALE LEADS TO ARRESTS:** In 2013, *Brunswick PD* investigators were able to close several burglary and theft cases with arrests and property recoveries. In one case, games stolen from a burglary were found with RAPID and resulted in two arrests and property recovery.

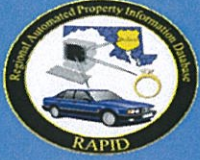
**VIRGINIA BURGLARY CLOSED:** Using RAPID, investigators were able to find camera equipment stolen from a burglary. Subsequent investigation resulted in two cases closed by arrest and the recovery of \$2,700 worth of stolen property. The Investigation is still ongoing. *Arlington County VA PD*

**FELONY BURGLARY ARREST:** *Elkton PD* located a subject wanted for felony burglary in RAPID and found that he had sold a shotgun. The investigation is ongoing.

**PENNSYLVANIA CASE CLOSED:** In May, West Manheim TWP investigator checked RAPID for a suspect name, which showed transactions in Carroll County. Property was recovered and an arrest was made. Property value recovered \$5,895 – *Carroll County- West Manheim PA*

**MORE PENNSYLVANIA BURGLARIES CLOSED BY ARRESTS:** In November, a Pennsylvania State Police investigator reported that he used RAPID to close two burglaries and





REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"



a theft with RAPID. He was able to make three arrests and recovered \$1,200 in stolen property.  
*PA State Police*

**THEFT FROM DEALER CLOSED BY ARREST:** In September, the *Charles County Sheriff's Office* investigated the theft of jewelry from a licensed dealer. Property was located in RAPID, which was sold by an employee. Over \$2,500 in stolen property was recovered and the suspect arrested.

**BURGLARY OF JEWELRY SOLVED WITH RAPID:** In April, troopers investigated the theft of jewelry. RAPID was checked and two suspects identified. More property than initially reported was located a RAPID query. Two arrests were made and \$900 in property was recovered.  
*MSP Hagerstown*

**"WE BUY YOUR JUNK CAR" DEALER CHARGED:** In November an, *MSP RAPID Team* member located a sign advertising "we buy your junk cars." A Homeowner was contacted and related that their grandson had placed the sign. The subject was contacted and advised that he was placing the signs for a licensed dealer. Investigation showed that this was not true and also numerous vehicles had been sold by the subject. Further contact with the subject was unsuccessful. The subject was charged with two violations of the transportation article.

**STOLEN CAR ARREST:** In July, a stolen vehicle hit was obtained from RAPID. The vehicle was reported stolen to the Perryville Police Department. Although the car was crushed, charges were obtained for the seller. *MSP Cecil*

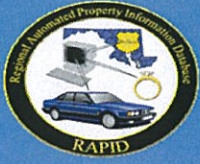
**MULTIPLE AUTO THEFT ARREST:** In June 2013, an Automotive Dismantler Recycler Salvage Processor (ADRSP) stolen vehicle hit was found in RAPID. A female subject had sold two stolen vehicles in October and was awaiting trial. The seller was charged with three counts of motor vehicle theft, theft and unauthorized removal of property. *RATT Team*

**IMPERSONATION OF D.C. OFFICIAL CASE CLOSED:** In July, a subject was convicted in U.S. District Court for auto theft and sentenced to 8 years in prison. *RAPID Team* sent an ADRSP NCIC stolen vehicle hit to *DC Auto Theft* and a subsequent investigation revealed that the seller had been impersonating a police officer in DC and told the victim he had orders to take her vehicle. The victim is 87 yoa and the seller stole the victim's keys and sold the vehicle a Maryland ADRSP dealer. The vehicle was then crushed.

**MD ADRSP DEALER CHARGED:** As a result of several RAPID VIN hits, investigators were able to recover the stolen vehicles and find numerous violations. A joint inspection was performed by *St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office, MSP and MVA*. The dealer was charged with violations of the Transportation Article.

**SCRAP VEHICLE INFORMATION CLOSED 18 CASES:** In July and August there was a rash of heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) thefts from businesses. RAPID identified two





**REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"**



**SCRAP VEHICLE INFORMATION CLOSED 18 CASES cont:** suspect names as well as vehicle information. An investigation resulted in 18 cases closed, and the suspect vehicle was found to have stolen registration plates which were also recovered. *Wicomico County*

**33 POWER COMPANY THEFTS IN MD & DE SOLVED BY RAPID:** Starting in January, there was a rash of scrap thefts at power stations. By the end of the investigation, 33 separate burglaries were found in Maryland and Delaware. RAPID identified 3 suspects who have pled guilty in three Maryland jurisdictions. In addition to the thefts, the victim company costs to repair the sites was more than \$130,000. The victim company also reported that due to the timely reporting of the crimes, they were spared hundreds of thousands of dollars in further damage which would have impacted power customers. *Ocean City PD*

**RAPID CATALYTIC RECORDS RESULTS IN NEW DEALER:** In October, the RAPID administrator checked RAPID for catalytic converters stolen from the metro transit area. Property was located and recovered. In addition, suspects related that they sold the property to another person. This person was checked and determined to have numerous transactions. Contact was made and the seller was informed of the scrap law and the need to be licensed and report. Within the week, the new dealer was reporting to RAPID. *Prince George's County PD*

**12 RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES CLOSED:** Beginning in December 2012 through mid-2013 there was a series of residential burglaries where the homes were vacant and scrap metals were being stolen. A neighbor of a burglarized home retrieved the registration plate number which was run through RAPID. This query provided multiple suspect names. Investigation resulted in closing 12 cases with several arrests. *Montgomery County*

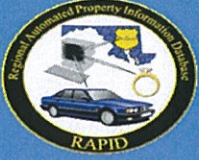
**RAPID CLOSES 6 THEFT CASES:** Approximately 180 used batteries (6,800 lbs) were stolen from a retailer in Laurel. The batteries were taken from six different theft cases. RAPID provided information on the suspects and their vehicle which resulted in the arrest of three suspects. *Anne Arundel & Baltimore Counties*

**MORE CASES CLOSED WITH RAPID:** In January, with RAPID, Calvert County investigators were able to close three cases with arrests for scrap metal thefts. *Calvert County*

**MD & PA SCRAP METAL THEFTS CLOSED:** In November, SWRPD related that with the use of RAPID, they were able to close scrap metal cases with an arrest, and that Maryland agencies also obtained charges for their suspect. *SWRPD Belle Vernon VA*

**Multi State, Multi Agency Scrap Cases Closed:** In March, an investigation began related to thefts from a telecommunications company. There were ten cases in *Baltimore County*, but it was learned that there were more cases in *Cecil County, Harford County, Baltimore City, Carroll County* and *Anne Arundel County*. RAPID provided suspect information with multiple





REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE (RAPID)  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT  
"A Year of Continued Successes"



**Multi State, Multi Agency Scrap Cases Closed cont:** transactions in *Delaware*. Suspects are currently incarcerated in DE and MD prosecution is pending.

**REPEAT SELLER CLOSES SCRAP THEFTS:** In July, investigators noted that a seller had numerous transactions at three different scrap yards. They matched the transactions to thefts of scrap from another licensed dealer. Over \$6,000 in property was recovered and suspect was arrested. *Baltimore City*

**2 ARRESTS IN SCRAP METAL CASE:** In November, troopers reported that because of RAPID they were able to close a scrap metal theft case with 2 arrests. *MSP- Bel Air, Bel Air PD*

**BOMB THREAT SUSPECT ID'D IN MD RAPID:** In April, the Department of General Services (DGS) contacted the RAPID Team with the name of a suspect in several bomb threats to State Offices. RAPID provided a different address and phone number which was used to locate the suspect. Suspect charged with 15 charges of threats to government buildings.





REGIONAL AUTOMATED PROPERTY INFORMATION DATABASE  
Maryland State Police  
1201 Reisterstown Road, Pikesville, Maryland 21208

April 27, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the Global Administrator of the RAPID database in Maryland. Additionally, in 2003, I was fortunate enough to have been involved in the creation of the RPDSS (Regional Pawn Data Sharing System) which has now become the NCR-RAPID.

This development was complicated because it involved technical personnel as well as Law Enforcement investigators and members of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. There were many different programs used by both Law Enforcement and the dealers. Despite this, the program was created, developed and in place within the allotted time, and with no additional costs.

The program was so successful, that we allowed our next metropolitan area, Baltimore, read access to the data. In 2007, the Baltimore region obtained the same BWI program, which was called the Baltimore Regional Pawn Data Sharing System (BRPDSS).

In 2009, Maryland passed mandated electronic reporting for all pawn and precious metal dealers. Responsibility was given to Maryland State Police to develop the program, which included development, testing, training of dealers and law enforcement statewide, implementation and continuing administrative support. During the same time period, Maryland also passed electronic reporting for auto dismantler recyclers and scrap processors, and it was decided that the RPDSS name would be changed to RAPID, since it included property from different industries. Within 6 months, RAPID was not only up and running in the entire state, but successes were reported statewide.

In 2010, Maryland passed mandated electronic reporting of scrap metal transactions. Again Maryland State Police was tasked with the implementation. As stores were brought on line, successes were reported statewide. In addition to scrap cases being closed and property being recovered, RAPID created a rolling training team for scrap dealer inspections/enforcement.

Dion McArthur, along with the entire BWI team has been an integral part of RAPID's growing success. Mr. McArthur has kept on top of legislation nationwide, and of all matters involving the recovery of stolen property. BWI has worked with law enforcement to make changes to the program as implementation progressed and different fields or data types were identified which would enhance recovery possibilities.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need more information. We are very proud of RAPID and grateful to Mr. McArthur and his team for their partnership in this ever growing and successful program.

Sincerely,

Maureen Walter  
RAPID Global Administrator  
Maryland State Police  
443-986-1455





# NCR-RAPID

A system of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

---

April 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern;

I have had the pleasure of working with Business Watch International (BWI) and their CEO, Dion McArthur for many years. I first met Mr. McArthur in 2003 during the selection process on an RFP to develop a custom Regional Pawn Data Sharing System for the metropolitan Washington DC area. The BWI proposal was deemed by the selection committees to have been the best proposal from both technical and financial aspects from among the ten proposals received.

BWI performed better than expected during development and delivered the project on time and within the budget. Over the years BWI has provided continuous maintenance support and frequent enhancements to an already superb application.

From day one Mr. McArthur has been more of a partner than a business acquaintance. He is proficient in all matters related to pawn, pawn data tracking systems, pawn regulation and law enforcement property crime investigations throughout the United States.

I highly recommend Business Watch International to any jurisdiction that may be seeking to establish a regional law enforcement property tracking system. Without a doubt their property tracking system is the best available.

Thank you for taking the time to read my endorsement of this great product. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Moseley,  
NCR-RAPID Central Administrator  
(240) 498-2291





## CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON



### Bureau of Police

Sam Adams, Mayor  
Michael Reese, Chief of Police

1111 S.W. 2nd Avenue • Portland, OR 97204 • Phone: 503-823-0000 • Fax: 503-823-0342

Integrity • Compassion • Accountability • Respect • Excellence • Service

April 29, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to offer my highest recommendation to all readers concerning Business Watch International (BWI) and their CEO Dion McArthur. It has been my pleasure to work with Dion and BWI to modify the original BWI software to become the Regional Automated Property Information Database (RAPID).

BWI was one of only two businesses that responded to my request for proposals for the RAPID system that was to handle all pawn, secondhand and metal recycling dealer transactions in Oregon and Washington. BWI was the only business that offered software capable of functioning as requested in the RFP. Features not already developed in their current software at the time of the bidding were offered at very reasonable rates for development.

BWI spent countless hours of development time providing features in RAPID that were not specifically detailed in the subsequent contract; without compensation. At every point in the development of RAPID, Dion has given our inquiries and suggestions personal consideration and has approached our contract with a very hands-on attitude.

One of the outstanding features of the BWI business plan is their intent to share all new software developments resulting from new contracts with all users of the BWI software. This feature alone has spurred some very great advancement in the RAPID system capabilities.

Again, I offer my highest recommendation to anyone who is considering BWI and assure you that you will be well pleased by the commitment and expertise of the BWI staff and Dion McArthur.

Brent Bates  
RAPID Program Coordinator  
Portland Police Bureau  
737 SE 106<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97216  
503-823-2935  
[brent.bates@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:brent.bates@portlandoregon.gov)

**Community Policing: Making the Difference Together**  
**An Equal Opportunity Employer**

City Information Line: 503-823-4000, TTY (for hearing and speech impaired): 503-823-6868 Website: [www.portlandpolice.com](http://www.portlandpolice.com)





**Broward Sheriff's Office**  
2601 West Broward Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312  
954.831.8900 [www.sheriff.org](http://www.sheriff.org)

*Pride in Service with Integrity*

7 Aug 2012

Dion McArthur, CEO  
Business Watch International  
Suite 200 - 1445 Park Street  
Regina, SK Canada S4N 4C5

Re: New Broward County R.A.P.I.D. System

Greetings Dion,

As you know, the Broward County Sheriff's Office had recently contracted with Business Watch International (BWI) for software that enables us to capture and use pawn, secondhand dealer and scrap metal dealer data more efficiently. It is with great personal pleasure that I am able to report the remarkable benefits our agency has realized in the first six months of implementation.

If you recall I had mentioned to you that it took me quite some time to convince our command staff to purchase RAPID instead of re-building our old internally developed system. Our agency of over 5,500 personnel was considering several options, but only your product met each of our essential criteria, perhaps most importantly that the data is held by law enforcement rather than the vendor.

From an efficiency standpoint, the RAPID system has saved our investigators and analysts valuable time through a variety of its internal features, specifically the 'save search'; 'top pawner' and NCIC interface. Because of RAPID's regional platform linking multiple jurisdictions with ease we are now able to track those 'cross jurisdiction thieves' that we have never been able to track before. Additionally, our technology personnel are no longer beholden to an antiquated, maintenance intensive system.

If the incredible results we have seen from these beginning stages with only 139 shops are any indication of things to come, I can only hope our investigators will be able to keep up with the hits that will be forthcoming when we add our 50+ scrap dealers and 500+ additional secondhand merchants.

Not to get too much into detail, but we have recovered hundreds of stolen items and returned thousands of dollars in property back to our victims; recovered a multitude of stolen firearms and arrested several convicted felons pawning guns; assisted Probation and Parole with hundred of cases involving persons on community control/house arrest that have illegally visited pawnshops and shared our data with regional law enforcement partners to help clear their cases...all because of your incredible system. It is no wonder the State of Maryland mandated RAPID throughout the state. I am pleased to offer my recommendation of RAPID to every law enforcement agency and thank you and your team for a fantastic product.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Edward T. Sileo  
Criminal Investigations  
Broward County Sheriff's Office  
(561) 723-3955  
[edward\\_sileo@sheriff.org](mailto:edward_sileo@sheriff.org)