

Member



PAUL C. HEPPNER

Deputy Director
Georgia Crime Information Center
Georgia Bureau of Information

Mr. Paul C. Heppner has been a SEARCH Member since 1993 and was the 2007 recipient of the *Gary R. Cooper Meritorious Service Award*. He serves on the SEARCH Board of Directors; in the past, he has also served on SEARCH's PROTECT Act Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and various Program Advisory Committees.



Mr. Paul Heppner (center) was presented with SEARCH's 2007 *Gary R. Cooper Meritorious Service Award* by Hawaii Member Liane Moriyama and SEARCH Chairman Francis X. (Paco) Aumand III.

On the national level, Mr. Heppner is Chairman of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Advisory Policy Board (APB), which is responsible for reviewing policy, technical, and operational issues related to CJIS Division programs and for making recommendations to the FBI. The APB is composed of 33 representatives from criminal justice and national security agencies nationwide.



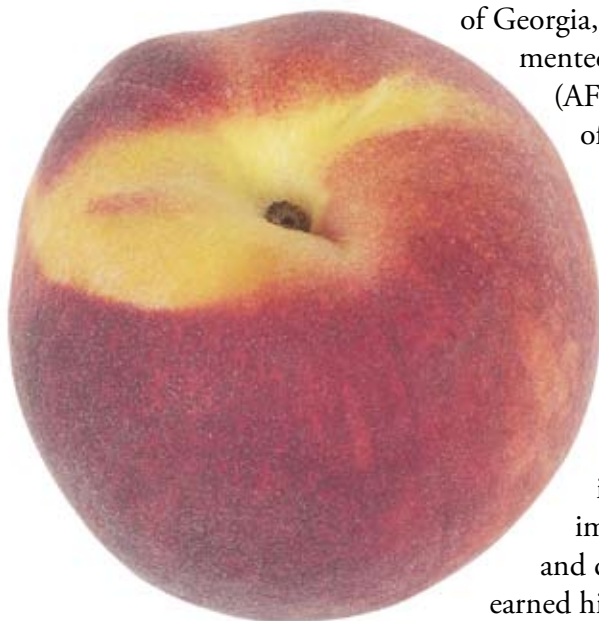
*M*r. Heppner has devoted his professional life to public service. Here are some high points:

- Since 1993, he has been a constant presence and contributor to the FBI's advisory policy process, joining the APB in 2000. He has been recognized by his peers and has risen to leadership roles, serving as Vice Chairman of the APB from 2000-2006, before being selected as Chairman in late 2006. He also chaired the APB's Identification Services Subcommittee from 2000-2006, and has actively participated in the Southern Regional Working Group and subcommittees on Public Safety Strategy, UCR, and Security and Access.

"[Mr. Heppner's] vision has always gone far beyond his state's borders. He brings his experience as a practitioner to bear in deliberations about national policy and programs. He has been a strong advocate for enhancing public safety through effective information sharing. He always acts as a partner to his colleagues across the country. One example is when the state of Florida was cutting over to their new message switch, Mr. Heppner arranged for Georgia to handle Point of Contact calls from Florida firearm dealers so that there would be no disruption to their service."

—SEARCH Member Donna Uzzell (Florida)

- An original member of the National Crime Prevention and Privacy Compact Council since 1999, he has served on the council's Dispute Adjudication and Planning and Policy Committees. He now chairs the Standards Committee, which provides guidance for the sharing of criminal history records for noncriminal justice purposes.
- He was instrumental in many information-sharing successes in the State of Georgia, including working on the team that successfully implemented the first Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) site in the world to integrate the automatic updating of criminal history records with the fingerprint identification process.
 - He helped GBI achieve its initial accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., in 1998 and to GBI's continuing accreditation. Under Mr. Heppner's leadership, the GCIC has improved and expanded service to state and local criminal justice and noncriminal justice users through technology, training, and improved data quality. He implemented a State GCIC Advisory Board to provide for improved customer communications and input. His work and dedication to providing outstanding customer service has earned him the respect of local law enforcement agencies throughout the state.



Member Q & A

Q

How did you get involved in the field of criminal justice information management?

A

I began working for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) right after I graduated from college in 1977. My first assignment was working as an information analyst in the Georgia Crime Information Center division of the GBI. I remained in the GCIC division for my entire career.

"As a national leader, Mr. Heppner is a consensus-builder, willing to listen and entertain new thoughts and ideas. He has the ability to clearly see all sides of an issue, bring the best resources to the table and works to address the needs of all affected parties—at the national level, state level, and most critically at the local agency level. Because of this communication style, just like E.F. Hutton, when Paul C. Heppner speaks, people listen!"

**—SEARCH Board Member
Liane Moriyama (Hawaii)**

Q

What is the professional success you are proudest of?

A


In 1986 the GBI began the process of implementing Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) technology in Georgia. As part of that effort the GBI assigned me to the team to implement AFIS, which included computerized criminal history (CCH) integration. The project took four years and resulted in the successful implementation of the first AFIS in the world to automatically update criminal history records as a byproduct of the AFIS process. I was proud to be part of that team.


Q


What is the personal success you are proudest of?


A

I enjoy coaching youth sports and my best memory of coaching is a ten-year period when I coached a girl's basketball team with my younger sister Carol. The best part of the experience was getting to know the families of the girls we coached and having the parents send the younger siblings through our program when they were old enough. One family had at least one daughter on our team during an eight-year period. We knew we were achieving good customer satisfaction at that point. I continue to coach today and still enjoy it a lot.

 **What changes would you like to see happen regarding information sharing within the justice and public safety community? What is the biggest obstacle?**

 The biggest obstacle to information sharing in today's world is not technology but rather the ability of people to look outside of their own professional interests and understand the magnitude of the potential benefits of working together to achieve common goals that will dramatically affect the quality of life of our families and friends across the nation. We have to improve our ability to positively influence and educate government officials at the state, local and federal level on a common vision of information sharing and the tremendous benefits that we can realize if we work together to achieve the many goals needed to make that vision a reality.

 **What is SEARCH's value as an organization?**


 There are many benefits that can be attributed directly to SEARCH as an organization, but to focus on one that has benefited the states over and over again I point to the work that is done by SEARCH after the Congress passes laws that place tremendous challenges on states to successfully implement them or laws that provide significant funding for the states to take advantage of.


I will briefly highlight an example of each type of value that SEARCH brings to the table. When the Congress passed the Brady law in the 1990s, it fell upon the Georgia Bureau of Investigation to take the lead in informing Georgia's law enforcement community on the significant responsibilities and challenges ahead for the state and initially on the Sheriffs who were the chief law enforcement officers locally responsible for implementing the Brady law in its early stages. In Georgia, it was the Sher-


iffs who had to pick up the slack, while state and national instant check systems were being developed. Thanks to SEARCH, I had the information and preparation I needed to meet with the Sheriffs and get Georgia started on the right track. It was a difficult process, but would have been much more painful without the great work of the SEARCH staff in generating information that explained the new law and provided guidance in implementing it.

When the National Criminal History Improvement Project (NCHIP) was rolled out, there were millions of dollars available to the states to improve criminal history records systems. SEARCH provided invaluable support to the states in getting a head start on putting plans together to apply for and receive federal funding. Thanks in part to this great assistance, Georgia successfully implemented many NCHIP projects, which transformed the state of criminal records in Georgia and the booking processes that interface with the criminal history record system. Today, thanks to NCHIP dollars, Georgia processes 95 percent of arrests in real time through live scan devices throughout the state. In minutes, criminals are identified and criminal history records are updated with arrest information.

 **What is your favorite SEARCH memory?**

 The meeting that was held in Honolulu, Hawaii was my favorite. Liane Moriyama was a great host and we learned a lot about the history of Hawaii and the culture of the people. I think it is time to return there for another meeting.

 **What is your favorite motto?**

 There is no limit to what we can achieve together when we ignore who will get the credit for what we accomplish.