The Division of Parole and Probation will ensure the safety of its employees and enhance public safety by holding supervisees accountable to victims and the community and by helping supervisees through the process of becoming law-abiding and productive.
History of EM in Maryland

• The Central Home Detention Unit (CHDU) was established in 1991 as a unit of the Division of Correction.
  – RF technology combined with case management
    • Provided alternative to incarceration for inmates and pretrial detainees
    • Provided structured sanction instead of revocation to parolees who committed technical violations
  – CHDU monitors 24/7 and responds immediately to unauthorized home exits

• December 2005, CHDU transferred to the Division of Parole and Probation.
Maryland Transitional Offenders Program (MTOP) – 2002-2004

- Division of Parole and Probation received a two-year grant from OJP to develop a comprehensive strategy to manage sex offenders
  - Reentry Services for sexual offenders
  - Training and educational materials
  - Implementation of a Collaborative Team
  - Develop standard operating procedure for specialized supervision
  - Implementation of new surveillance technologies
    - Polygraph
    - GPS
MTOP Experience with GPS

• Passive GPS technology can be used as an effective tool to monitor the movement of this population in the community if the equipment is reliable and adequate vendor support is provided.

• The software worked fine.

• The hardware (equipment) broke down and had to be replaced for about half of the 21 offenders that were placed on GPS. It often took 2-3 days for the vendor to replace the broken equipment.
MTOP Experience with GPS (continued)

• Additional delays in service sometimes occurred when broken equipment was supplied to replace broken equipment. The vendor sometimes replaced the equipment 2-3 times before it worked.

• False readings were recorded when agents could verify that the offenders were in fact somewhere else. Examples of this included offenders that agents knew were in treatment or in the agent’s office when the false readings were recorded.

• Good news is that the technology is improving.
Maryland GPS Task Force

- Created by legislation to examine utility of GPS for broad criminal justice purposes — not just sex offenders
  - Probationers
  - Parolees
  - Registered sex offenders
  - Drug offenders
  - Juvenile Offenders
  - Individuals subject to pretrial supervision; early release and domestic violence restraining orders
Maryland GPS Task Force

• Recognized that GPS should be part of broader, evidence-based strategy to supervise sex offenders including treatment, intensive supervision, and polygraph exams

• Task Force noted:
  – For female victims, 25% of offenders were family members, 60% were acquaintances and 15% were strangers
  – For male victims, 7.3% were strangers
The Challenge

To structure the effective and efficient use of GPS to identify at the earliest possible moment risky behaviors by sex offenders and to craft criminal justice/treatment interventions before new crime/victimization occurs.
# Active vs. Passive

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<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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| **Active GPS Systems** | • Public perceived increase in public safety  
• May ease prison overcrowding  
• Immediate response capability | • High daily cost  
• Reliance on wireless data service coverage  
• Labor intensive  
• Could require immediate agency response  
• Greater agency liability  
• Tracking device size and weight |
| **Passive GPS Systems** | • Small, light weight tracking device  
• Can be independent of wireless data services  
• Lower daily cost  
• Less labor intensive | • After the fact tracking data  
• No immediate notification of zone violations |

**Public Safety Threat Level**

- **HIGH**
  - RECOMMENDED FOR ACTIVE MONITORING:
    - Certain Registered Sex Offenders – Predators
    - Offenders in Violation of Protective Orders
  - Violent Crimes (UCR Classification)
  - Drug Dealers
- **LOW**
  - Other Sex Offenders (e.g., Date Rape)
  - Non-Violent Repeat Offenders (Theft/Property)
  - Burglars (Passive Monitoring)
  - Hate Crimes

Resources

• Task Force to Study Criminal Offender Monitoring by Global Positioning Systems
  www.dpscs.state.md.us/publicinfo/publications

• Tools of the Trade: A Guide to Incorporating Science into Practice

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