

**Fresno Police Department  
Homeland Security Bureau / Terrorism Liaison Officer**

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**Note: Although not directly related to terrorism activities, the following information was sent to us from a Homeland Security information sharing partner, and is being forwarded for officer safety / situational awareness.**

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**POLICE SCANNER APPLICATION FOR THE IPHONE:**

A police scanner application has been developed for the iPhone called Police Scanner. The application is used for finding and listening to live streams of local police dispatch frequencies throughout the country and connects to over 500 streams. The Police Scanner application uses location-aware technology to help users locate streams within the area the person is located. It also allows the user to search through a list of all available streams from across the country. The application is available at the Apples iTunes AppStore for \$2.99.

The information is being provided to law enforcement as the police scanner application could be utilized by criminals in determining police activities within their areas.

Source: FBI-St. Louis Field Office Situational Information Report Criminal Tradecraft Alert Police Scanner Application for the iPhone, 7 October 2009

**TLO Assessment:**

There are a number of applications available for the iPhone, Blackberry and other PDA's that allow the user to receive law enforcement, fire and EMS radio broadcasts. A few of these include EmergencyRadio, 5-0 Radio, WunderRadio, Scanner911 and PoliceRadio. We have verified that several of these applications provide a connection to Fresno PD radio broadcasts.

**TRAPSTER.COM:**

R/D responded to the above location for a family trouble report. Upon arrival I was met in the driveway by the complainant. She stated she knew I was on the way to her house and knew when I pulled into the driveway of her house. When asked how she knew this information she stated she was tracking my police vehicle using her cell phone. Complainant stated she was using her Apple iPhone and an application called

**UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION - LAW ENFORCEMENT USE ONLY**

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Trapster.com. As I looked at her phone there was a satellite view of her house and the surrounding neighborhood with a yellow ping marking my police vehicle in her driveway.

According to the complainant, trapster.com has many applications including sending an alarm to the phone whenever police vehicles are within a one mile radius of the phone. It shows current live locations of police vehicles, vehicles running radar, checkpoints and most frequented areas by police vehicles.

I went back to complainant's house with Deputy Unterborn. I left my GPS running and Deputy Unterborn shut his off. Complainant had only one police vehicle located on her iPhone.

According to Trapster.com, Trapster can use Wi-Fi or GPS to pinpoint the user's current location and send them audio alerts or text messages when they are approaching a ticket threat. Users report the existence of a trap by pressing the touch screen or using a key combination on the mobile device. Users can customize the alerts via the Trapster website or the mobile app so that they only receive notifications of conditions they are interested in, such as red light cameras or live police vehicles driving around.

A suspect using this application that maybe involved in car larcenies, barricaded in a house or a drug house for example would know how many police vehicles and from which direction they are approaching once they enter the one mile radius.

Source: Chief Deputy Steven Scott Monroe County Sheriff's Office

### **TLO Assessment:**

Fresno PD TLO's have researched trapster.com and can not verify that the system is capable of identifying the current location of police vehicles utilizing GPS tracking (such as the AVL installed on Fresno PD vehicles). The system appears to rely solely on input from users in the area who identify traffic enforcement cameras, static radar locations, DUI/License checkpoints, and the current location of officers that the user can see (such as traffic officers utilizing radar from the roadside). In this capacity the system does appear to be effective – with more users inputting data the information is more likely to be accurate.

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