The nature of crime and terrorism is changing. As the number of Internet users in the world has quadrupled in a decade - from 500 million in 2001 to over 2 billion in 2010 - society has become more connected. And, with the proliferation of social networking, an entirely new environment for criminal and terrorist activity has emerged.

The challenge facing law enforcement executives include investigating a broad variety of cyber crimes and threats by criminals, hacktivists, terrorists, and state actors.

In addition to dealing with these new threats, law enforcement leaders must also build secure and resilient information systems to support their operations and address the exponential growth in digital evidence and forensic investigations.

What is the IACP Cyber Center?

The IACP, in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), has established the Cyber Center to address emerging challenges associated with cyber threats and cyber crime. The Cyber Center will identify and address the needs of law enforcement; leverage existing resources and create strategic partnerships with relevant stakeholders; and provide law enforcement officials with resources to better equip agencies to mitigate, investigate, and respond to cyber threats and crimes.

The Cyber Center will feature a Web portal that will serve as a clearinghouse of cyber-related information for law enforcement. The portal will allow users to type questions and receive targeted responses, search keywords and phrases, and will facilitate access to relevant information. All of the information on the portal will be vetted, timely, easily accessible, and user-friendly.

The portal will also serve as a forum to identify emerging trends, facilitate technical assistance, and encourage collaborative and innovative solutions.

Through continued leadership, coordination, research, and resource development, the IACP will work to enhance the ability of law enforcement to respond to cyber threats and cyber crime. Leveraging our global membership of police executives, subject matter experts, and industry partners, the IACP will work to increase the capacity of SLTT agencies to respond to emerging threats, enhance and improve the investigation of cyber crimes, and effectively manage and process an expanding array of digital evidence.