

Satellite Tracking of Probationers and Parolees: Eye in the Sky or Pie in the Sky

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Residents of our nation have a reasonable expectation that criminals who are under court-ordered probation will in fact be under control and not out in neighborhoods leaving a trail of victims. Crime committed by the growing number of offenders on probation is well documented through a series of studies sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice. A critical challenge facing criminal justice practitioners and criminologists is how to improve accountability of offenders sentenced to probation. One promising solution underway in Florida is using advanced Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology to track probationers and match their movements with crime scene locations.