

# Grantees go high-tech.

## Car Thieves Really Take the Bait.

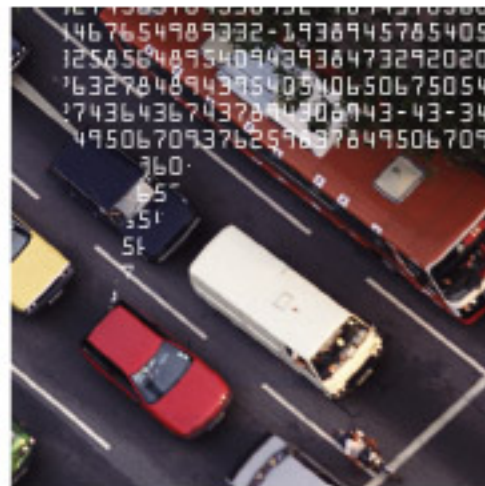
It's a typical day for a car thief. He breaks into a car, hot-wires it and drives off thinking he just had an easy score. Then, the car mysteriously shuts off, the doors lock and police swoop in to take the criminal to jail.

This is a new technique that the ATPA is using to catch more car thieves. They're called "bait cars." Easy to steal cars that police officers can easily track down and control from afar.

Each car is outfitted with satellite tracking devices and some have more sophisticated equipment to allow police to shut down the engine and lock the doors. This year, several of our grantees took steps to make these cars become a part of everyday police work here in Pennsylvania.

Bait cars are cutting down auto theft by more than 25% in some police departments. The program was first used by the Minneapolis Police Department, where auto theft decreased by nearly 37% in the first six months. Today, they're nabbing at least one suspect a week. And because the suspects are caught in the act, conviction rates tend to be near 100%.

This new technology is not only catching thieves but also scaring them. Criminals are having second thoughts about stealing cars because they're too worried about taking the bait.



## "TAG-NABIT" The New Word In Auto-Theft Detection.

Finding a stolen car on a busy street or in a crowded parking lot used to be like finding a needle in a haystack. Now, with TAG-NABIT, that haystack has practically disappeared. TAG-NABIT is an automated vehicle identification system that scans roadways and parking lots for wanted or stolen vehicles in a matter of seconds.

TAG-NABIT uses the technology of infrared cameras to scan through thousands of tags and notify the operating officer when they've come across a stolen vehicle. It takes away the time-consuming task of punching in a license plate number and eases the strain on databases and dispatchers.

TAG-NABIT works kind of like a radar gun, the officer just has to point it in a certain direction and he will be alerted immediately when the system finds a wanted vehicle. The officer can be moving or stationary, alone or with a team, on a street or in a parking lot. The device is mobile so that the officer can change locations during the day as crime patterns change.

TAG-NABIT can also identify dangerous cars to improve the officer's safety. In the future, it will be used in airports and government buildings to prevent terrorist activity. Pennsylvania is currently researching this technology and you will soon be hearing car thieves from all over yelling "Dagnabit" or something a lot worse.