

## IN THE NEWS

### **National Sex Offender Public Registry [www.nsopr.gov](http://www.nsopr.gov)**

Announced on May 20 by U. S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales, the National Sex Offender Registry (NSOPR) provides real-time access to public sex offender data nationwide with a single Internet search. The U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the activation of the national registry Web site on July 20, 2005 and initially linked 22 states to the site. Currently, the registry connects 29 states, the District of Columbia, and Guam to the site. The DOJ-sponsored Web site allows parents and concerned citizens to search existing public state and territory sex offender registries beyond their own states. Via web services and the DOJ's Global Justice XML which allows systems to "speak" to each other, this national web site provides parents and concerned citizens with a free-of-charge, reliable national portal to access already existing public state and territory sex offender registries. NSOPR does not collect or retain any control over sex offender data, and there is no cost to the state or territory to link to the national site. For details on this high value public safety initiative contact David Lewis, BJA Senior Policy Advisor for Justice Information Sharing, at (202) 616-7829.

## RESOURCES

### **Demonstrating the Value of America's Justice Initiatives**

The 2005 U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Regional Conference Series will again bring together practitioners, policy makers, and BJA leadership to explore critical issues in the law enforcement and criminal justice arenas. This year's series will focus on demonstrating and communicating the value of America's justice initiatives. As state and local budgets have become tighter and the search for justice funding has intensified, it is more important than ever to communicate the value of criminal justice initiatives to communities and decision makers. Learn what you can do to better demonstrate--and deliver--a "Return On Investment" from your criminal justice programs. For more information please go to the National Criminal Justice Association's website at: [www.ncja.org/bjaregionalmeeting.html](http://www.ncja.org/bjaregionalmeeting.html).

### **MethResources.gov**

On August 18, John Walters, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); Alberto Gonzales, U.S. Attorney General; and Mike Leavitt, Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), detailed the federal government's comprehensive and balanced approach to the national methamphetamine challenge. This project was established with and is supported by BJA resources and staff. For more information, visit [www.MethResources.gov](http://www.MethResources.gov).

## RECOGNITION

### **9/11 Heroes Medal of Valor Ceremony**

On September 9, President George W. Bush and U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales remembered the heroic first responders who died on 9/11 at a ceremony on the south lawn of the White House. More than 1,000 family members of the 442 firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, Port Authority personnel and other public safety officers gathered to remember their loved ones who performed their jobs with extraordinary distinction in the face of unspeakable terror on that fateful day. Created by an act of Congress, the Medal of Valor is the highest national award for valor by a public safety officer. The Office of Justice Programs and BJA were honored to participate in this event. If you have questions about the 9/11 Medal of Valor Initiative, please e-mail [HeroesMedalofValor@usdoj.gov](mailto:HeroesMedalofValor@usdoj.gov) or call 202-616-6500.

### **FOCUS ON THE FIELD**

The actions of community members are extremely important to preventing crime. Preventing crime involves not only making sure that our houses are secure and that we take precautions to be safe but also working with law enforcement agencies to look out for neighbors and other community members. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina's two initiatives that BJA works with, Volunteers in Police Service and Citizen Corps, have been very active in providing support to the relief efforts. For details about these initiatives and to see how they could work in your communities, email Michelle Shaw, BJA Policy Advisor, at [Michelle.A.Shaw@usdoj.gov](mailto:Michelle.A.Shaw@usdoj.gov).

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*Justice Today* is an e-publication of the Bureau of Justice Assistance. For comments or questions regarding this issue, contact Matthew Hanson at: [Matthew.Hanson@usdoj.gov](mailto:Matthew.Hanson@usdoj.gov).