



BJA Bureau of Justice Assistance Fact Sheet

Nancy E. Gist, Director

Training Local Law Enforcement Officers in Criminal Activities Involving Illegal Aliens

Complex problems are associated with illegal aliens who commit crimes. Criminal aliens tend to be drug-oriented and violent, often preying on members of their own cultures. If deported, they frequently use new names to reenter the United States and establish residence in different cities. Furthermore, aliens do not confine their criminal activities to border cities—communities throughout this country are experiencing increasing alien involvement in drug importation and distribution, weapons smuggling, and violence against persons and property.

The escalation in alien crime has placed added demands on State and local law enforcement personnel. Effective identification of aliens involved in crime requires familiarity with fraudulent documentation. Proper arrest procedures must be carried out, and complex notification and reporting requirements must be satisfied; otherwise, dangerous aliens can escape prosecution and deportation. Handling the myriad problems associated with alien crimes is often beyond the capabilities of local police departments. Accordingly, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) provides vital assistance to State and local law enforcement agencies by answering questions about illegal alien activities; new laws that can expand investigative options; and ways that Federal, State, and local authorities can work together to combat alien crime.

Training Program

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), U.S. Department of Justice, provides funding to the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to conduct a tuition-free training program for law enforcement officers.

This training was developed by the IACP in cooperation with INS' training systems and experts. Participants may be eligible to receive Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) credits; they must contact the POST Council or Commission within their jurisdiction to determine whether the training hours qualify for POST credits.

The training course is taught by INS investigative authorities and police officers who are knowledgeable about the tactics used by alien criminals. Specifically designed to enhance the local police officers' ability to respond to crimes committed by aliens, the course is available to patrol and investigations personnel; transportation police with full police powers, such as railroad, airport, and harbor security police; State attorneys general and county district attorney investigators; campus police; and other agencies directly involved in law enforcement.

The training covers:

- An overview of fraudulent documentation commonly used by illegal aliens.
- When and how to contact INS about a criminal alien arrested by State or local police.
- Tactical considerations and recommendations for responding to criminal aliens.
- Prosecution and deportation as a two-part process.
- An overview of alien criminal gangs and organizations.
- Examples of joint task force investigations.
- INS priorities for investigation, arrest, and deportation of criminal aliens.

The program will provide three 2-day training seminars throughout the United States. For specific dates, locations, and registration information, contact IACP.

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance is available from IACP to agencies unable to send officers to the training seminars.

Program Results

Since its inception in 1990, the Responding to Alien Crimes seminar has been conducted in 15 cities nationwide. As of October 1995, the seminars have been attended by 879 attendees representing 430 agencies. Followup evaluations of the seminars reveal that an overwhelming majority of the attendees believe the information and materials provided in the class enabled their agencies to increase their interaction with INS and broaden their capacity to respond to the criminal alien problem.

For Further Information

For information on training dates, locations, registration, and on technical assistance, contact:

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For other information, contact:

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