



COPS ★

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Fact Sheet

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COPS and Homeland Security

*"9-11 AND OTHER RECENT
EVENTS HAVE TAUGHT AMERICA
THAT WE CAN BE MORE
EFFECTIVE FIGHTING CRIME AND
PREVENTING TERRORISM WHEN
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER
SECTORS ARE PREPARED TO
WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE
OUR COLLECTIVE SAFETY."*

COPS DIRECTOR

CARL R. PEED

Background

Now more than ever, the security of our nation, our people, and our infrastructures is of the utmost concern and importance. And, more than ever, the responsibility of responding to terrorist threats falls directly on the shoulders of state, local, and tribal law enforcement and their government and community partners.

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) is deeply involved in supporting law enforcement and their partners through partnerships with federal government agencies and other organizations, grants and funding, training, publications, community policing programs, and conferences.

COPS/FBI/BJA Partnership—In March 2003, the COPS Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) of the U.S. Department of Justice discussed ways to enhance counterterrorism training and technical assistance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement. These discussions led to several accomplishments:

The three agencies jointly advertise their resources through a variety of methods, including a web site, www.counterterrorismtraining.gov. It is a single point of access for counterterrorism training opportunities and related materials from the federal government and private and nonprofit organizations. The site provides information on training and technical assistance, funding, research and statistics, equipment, planning and risk assessment, publications, legislation, victim assistance, and community preparedness.

In 2003, a professional development counterterrorism training module for law enforcement executives was piloted at both the COPS annual conference and the National Sheriffs' Association conference.

The FBI and COPS are delivering the BJA-funded State and Local Anti-terrorism Training (SLATT) through the COPS network of local Regional Community Policing Institutes (RCPIs). Details are under "Training".

Partnership with PERF—With funding from the COPS Office, the

Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) conducted a project entitled *Community Policing in a Security Conscious World*. The project included five executive sessions in which law enforcement leaders explored, debated, and exchanged information on providing community policing services in a security conscious world. The five sessions were: Improving Federal-Local Partnerships; Working with Diverse Communities; Bioterrorism; Intelligence; and Homeland Security. So far, white papers have been published on the first two sessions. See "Publications", for details.

Grants and Funding—In fiscal year 2003, the COPS Office awarded \$60 million in Homeland Security Overtime Program (HSOP) grants to 294 agencies in 50 states and the District of Columbia. The HSOP initiative was developed by the COPS Office to supplement officer overtime salaries over the one-year grant period in support of homeland security and community policing efforts. HSOP grants pay for officer overtime during homeland security training and other law enforcement activities designed to help prevent acts of terrorism and other violent or drug-related crimes. The grants also can be used to fund overtime for officers replacing colleagues on military reserve duty and to support the overtime work of nonsupervisory, sworn personnel such as intelligence officers, crime analysts, undercover officers, and others who work on homeland security or terrorism task forces.

In March 2004, the COPS Office announced a second grant program awarding \$27.1 million in grants to local police and sheriffs' offices for hiring additional officers under the COPS Universal Hiring Program (UHP). The goal of this grant program is to make communities safer by helping increase the number of community policing officers on patrol in local jurisdictions. The grants, awarded to 85 law

enforcement agencies in 42 states and Puerto Rico, will fund 370 additional community policing officers. Under UHP, the grants provide 75% of the total salary and benefits for each new officer during a three-year period, up to a maximum of \$75,000 per officer. Since 1994, the COPS Office has funded more than 118,000 officers in 13,000 law enforcement agencies.

One of the major issues facing the emergency services sector is the inability of emergency service workers, including the law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service communities to communicate when the need arises. In 2003, the COPS Office awarded more than \$66 million to agencies to address the growing need for interoperable communications technology. This year, COPS received approximately \$80 million for this effort. The 2004 COPS Interoperable Communications Technology Program will be targeted to invited jurisdictions. The applications will be sent to law enforcement agencies requesting proposals that are multi-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary.

Training—The RCPIs, whose creation was funded by COPS in 1997, provide comprehensive, innovative community policing education, training, and technical assistance to COPS grantees across the country. As a result of the COPS/FBI/BJA partnership, the RCPI training partnerships, serving all 50 states, are certified to teach the FBI/BJA SLATT curriculum. Currently, 12 RCPIs are working in partnership with local FBI field offices to deliver SLATT. In these classes, the FBI and RCPI trainers teach counterterrorism and officer safety strategies to state, local, and tribal law enforcement personnel. In less than a year, COPS and the FBI together have trained more than 5,000 law enforcement officers.

Several RCPIs have also adapted the SLATT curriculum to train citizens in aspects of counterterrorism awareness. The Missouri RCPI has a class entitled "Homeland Security on your Block." The Kentucky RCPI has offered a "Terrorism Awareness" class in diverse settings such as banks, restaurants, and hospitals, focusing on their unique vulnerabilities. The class is scheduled to be taped for local access public television in July 2004.

COPS is expanding its partnership with the FBI and BJA, in continuing to develop counterterrorism roll call training programs for line officers involving short segments of various aspects of the counterterrorism curriculum that would be presented to officers during their roll calls.

Publications—The COPS Office has produced several publications on counterterrorism topics, including the following:

Protecting Your Community from Terrorism: Strategies for Local Law Enforcement, Volume 1 – Improving Local-Federal Partnerships is a white paper resulting from the first forum on Community Policing in a Security Conscious World conducted by PERF with funding from the COPS Office. Sheriffs, police chiefs, FBI special agents, antiterrorist experts, and other experts discussed the practical and real concerns of those who must decide how to use their personnel and other resources to address terrorism and competing demands for service. The participants looked at how local and federal agencies work together and what should be done to improve cooperation.

Protecting Your Community from Terrorism: Strategies for Local Law Enforcement, Volume 2 – Working with Diverse Communities is the white paper resulting from PERF's second forum on Community Policing in a Security Conscious World. In this session, ethnically diverse

community leaders and advocates, sheriffs, police chiefs, and federal law enforcement officials offered practical suggestions for meeting the needs of diverse communities and protecting against future terrorist threats, providing insights on interviewing and interrogation, bias crimes, racial profiling, and immigration enforcement.

Local Law Enforcement Responds to Terrorism – Lessons in Prevention and Preparedness is a COPS Innovations publication that discusses the resources that the police may want to consider when developing their terrorism prevention and response plans.

Connecting the Dots for a Proactive Approach, written by three COPS staffers, explores how to harness the power of community policing to secure the homeland. Originally, it was published in the fourth quarter 2003 issue of Border and Transportation Security magazine.

A Police Response to Terrorism in the Homeland is a CD produced by the COPS-funded RCPI of Wichita State University. It provides resources related to almost every dimension of homeland security, including training curricula on counterterrorism, emergency response, intelligence, preparedness, weapons of mass destruction, and other related topics.

Future Publications

Planned for publication at the end of 2004, the tentatively titled *An Intelligence Guide for State, Local, and Tribal Law Enforcement* is a joint COPS/FBI/BJA publication covering intelligence issues and guidance on information collection and storage that meet federal guidelines and minimize exposure to liability.

The COPS Office is also preparing a guide on the best practices for reducing the fear of

COPS offers a variety of publications, products, and training opportunities to advance community policing and support its grant programs. COPS publications and products offer insights and experiences from others in the field addressing specific problems including:

- ✓ Local Law Enforcement Responds To Terrorism
- ✓ Applying Community Policing Principles Post-911
- ✓ Connecting the Dots
- ✓ Community Policing: Now More Than Ever
- ✓ Protecting Your Community From Terrorism: Strategies for Local Law Enforcement
 - Volume 1: Local-Federal Partnerships
 - Volume 2: Working With Diverse Communities

COPS also sponsors training opportunities and conferences to give law enforcement professionals an opportunity to learn, network, and exchange ideas. All COPS publications and training opportunities are posted at COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

terrorism and a homeland security curriculum for schools.

The "STAR" toolkit, a homeland security/disaster preparedness community resources assessment tool, will be available this fall from the RCPIs and the National Sheriffs' Association.

The COPS Office and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), along with a number of private security associations, sponsored a national policy summit to examine how public law enforcement agencies and private security could better collaborate to make communities safer. A forthcoming COPS/IACP report will synthesize the summit discussions and identify a number of policy recommendations.

Community Policing—The philosophy behind community oriented policing can be directed toward concerns involved with homeland security and of trying to prevent terrorist activities and other crimes before they occur. It requires law enforcement officials to rethink public security procedures and practices to maximize the full potential of their resources. Many local entities are using their COPS grants to strengthen their response to possible terrorism by improving data and intelligence collection and processing; increasing their capacity to address terrorism by capitalizing on technological advancements; maintaining open communications with other public safety agencies; and responding to citizen fears about

terrorism and preparing to assist potential victims.

Conferences—The COPS Office sponsors and participates in a variety of conferences, most of which include sessions on homeland security and counterterrorism issues. The June 2004, COPS conference, Community Policing for America's Future, for example, includes 11 workshops on the various aspect of homeland security and counterterrorism.

Other Sources of Information—The COPS Office maintains a list of guides and reports from various sources, such as PERF and the International Association of Chiefs of Police; training and technical resources from FEMA, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives among others; and links to resources such as the White House Homeland Security page and the U.S. Government Counterterrorism web site. This information is available on the COPS web site under Community Policing Topics/Homeland Security.

Contact COPS

For more information, call the COPS Office Response Center at 800.421.6770, or visit COPS Online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.