LAW ENFORCEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

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UPCOMING EVENTS

National Summit on Gang Violence
May 31-June 2, 2006 | Arlington , VA

Southeastern Regional Homeland Security Summit
June 1-2, 2006 | Miami , FL

The 2006 Summit on the Use of Force in Law Enforcement
July 6-7 , 2006 | Arlington , VA

2006 National Summit on Performance Management for Fire Department
July 10-11, 2006 | Arlington , VA



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Homeland Security Update

Bush Nominates Paulison as FEMA Head

A fter serving nearly six months as acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, R. David Paulison has been nominated by President George W. Bush to permanently head the agency. Paulison was head of the U.S. Fire Administration when he was chosen last September to replace then-FEMA director Michael Brown in the aftermath of the gulf hurricane disasters. To read more visit: http://firechief.com/news/paulison_nomination04062006/

Governors Mobilize Fusion Centers For Better Security

At least 28 states and U.S. territories are making it a top priority to open intelligence fusion centers, according to a survey of homeland security directors compiled by the National Governors Association. Forty directors from states and territories responded to the survey.
Fusion centers are places where personnel and IT networks from state, local and federal agencies are combined into a single facility to develop joint intelligence. Several states, including Maryland , Missouri and Texas , have set up such centers, and many more are interested in doing so, according to the survey. To read more visit: http://www.washingtontechnology.com/news/1_1/daily_news/28333-1.html

Homeland Security Managers

The Southeast's public safety agencies face unique challenges in their efforts to ensure the safety of the populace. The area encompasses most of the Gulf Coast , much of the Atlantic seaboard and is home to the nation's most quickly growing population. Recent hurricanes, tornados, floods and homeland security threats reinforce the need for effective emergency planning and incident management. However, shifting mandates and funding streams coupled with the growth and maturity of NIMS and the National Response Plan certainly complicate your efforts. How can you adequately prepare in this environment? To acquire strategies to improve your emergency planning, preparedness, management and recovery efforts, we encourage you to attend the 2006 Southeastern Regional Homeland Security Summit, being held at the Doubletree Grand Hotel in Miami , June 1–2, 2006. Attendees will emerge with knowledge specific to handling threats facing the Southern United States . To learn more, visit http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L207/L207.htm

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DHS, USFA Announce Outstanding Research Award Recipients

In a joint statement, George Foresman, under secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Preparedness Directorate, and Charlie Dickinson, acting U.S. fire administrator, have announced that four fire service executives will be recipients of the National Fire Academy's 2005 Annual Outstanding Research Awards. The awards will go to District Chief Marcus G. Lusk, Amarillo (Texas) Fire Department; Chief Ray A. Webber, The Procter & Gamble Co., Cincinnati ; Div. Chief Kevin O. Milan, Golden (Colo.) Fire Department; and Superintendent Mark Brown, New South Wales Fire Brigades, Sydney , Australia . The awards recognize excellent applied research projects completed by Executive Fire Officer Program students. The four research efforts judged to be outstanding by those students' faculty and peers were selected from the more than 600 papers completed during 2005 and submitted for review. The award-winning papers will be presented at the 18th Executive Fire Officer Symposium, to be held April 21-23 at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg , Md. To read more visit: http://firechief.com/news/NFA_awards040406/

Are We Ready For Possible Pandemic?

Not yet, but here's how schools, hospitals, businesses are bracing for bird flu. If a bird flu pandemic erupts among humans, it won't be just a health problem. It could interrupt business, schools and life as we know it. Are we prepared? Not yet, based on interviews with Carolinas health officials and area schools and businesses. "The health sector is coming along," said Dr. Jeffrey Engel, N.C. state epidemiologist. "Large businesses have good plans. But I don't think small and middle-size businesses have taken this on as a priority. We've got a ways to go with school planning ... and with families." For several years, federal, state and local public health agencies have been planning for an eventual flu pandemic. It's not a matter of *if* , they say, but *when* . To read more visit: http://www.charlotte.com/mld/charlotte/living/health/14300632.htm

Recruiting and Personnel Management

Detroit Plan To Use Retired Police for School Security Hits Snag

A plan to use laid-off Detroit police officers to protect the city's schools has stalled, Scripps Howard Broadcasting Company reports. In an effort to increase school security, about 50 laid-off officers were hired by Detroit Public Schools (DPS). "We had lots of incidents with employees being robbed in parking lots," says DPS spokesperson Lekan Oguntoyinbo. "We had one instance in which an employee was shot." To read more visit: http://securitysolutions.com/news/DetroitSchoolPlan/

Police Agencies Investigate Ways to Fill Uniforms

Police departments around the country are contending with a shortage of officers and trying to lure new applicants with signing bonuses, eased standards, house down payments and extra vacation time. From this seaside Southern California city to the Washington , D.C. , suburbs, more than 80 percent of the nation's 17,000 law-enforcement agencies have vacancies. "I was just at a conference of police chiefs," said William Bratton, the chief of police in Los Angeles , which has 720 openings. "It was all everybody was talking about." Police officials and researchers say a confluence of demographic changes and social trends have caused the shortage. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have siphoned off public-service-minded people to the military. Hundreds of law-enforcement officers have handed in their badges to take higher-paying positions in the booming homeland-security industry. To read more visit: http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/nationworld/2002894013_police28.html

The Use of Force in Law Enforcement

The Performance Institute and a coalition of law enforcement associations is proud to announce **The 2006 National Summit on The Use of Force in Law Enforcement** , the most comprehensive defensive tactics and use of force event being offered to law enforcement agencies this year. The future of force and defensive tactics policy should be crafted today, by you and your colleagues. With the changes you implement in regards to training and policy formulation, you have the unique opportunity to impact generations of officers and the public citizens at large.

To help your agency align its policies with the legal and liability landscape and develop a comprehensive, sensible force policy — **The 2006 National Summit on The Use of Force in Law Enforcement** will explore several key topics in use of force- the legal landscape, use of force reporting, reducing liability and risk, training models and implementation, and the future of less-than-lethal weaponry. We hope you'll join us in Arlington , VA from July 6 - 7, 2006 for the most comprehensive use of force summit of the year. To learn more, go to http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L179/L179.htm

Best Practices and Innovations

Gang Parolees to Be Tracked

San Bernardino is the first city in California to employ GPS technology to monitor paroled gang members. Seven have already been outfitted with anklets that can be used to pinpoint wearers to within 15 feet anywhere in the world. The state's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation will foot the approximately $64,000 annual bill. Another 13 gang members are scheduled for outfitting this week. The state already tracks 263 paroled sex offenders deemed likely to re-offend using the technology. The San Bernardino County probation department contracts with a private firm to track roughly 25 sex offenders, gang members, and other violent offenders considered likely to re-offend. To read more visit: http://www.pe.com/localnews/sanbernardino/stories/PE_News_Local_D_parole15.13116f5d.html

Gang Violence

Gang violence is on the rise and probably already present in your community. Gang-related homicides in the United States are up 50 percent from 1999. While the problem of gangs once only occupied major metropolitan areas, today gang violence does not make distinctions along socio-economic lines. Gangs have increasingly spread throughout communities nationwide, drawing members from all walks of life. Solutions and promising practices to the gang pandemic will be presented at the *2006 National Summit on Gang Violence* , May 31-June 2, 2006 in Arlington , VA. This summit will provide you with valuable information to effectively utilize your entire community to implement a strategic anti-gang plan to intervene, prevent and suppress gang violence and activity in your community. To learn more, go to http://www.gangsummit.org/

Drug Czar Says Iowa Meth Law a Model for the Nation

Iowa 's new methamphetamine law requires that any medicine containing the key meth ingredient, pseudoephedrine, be sold by a pharmacist and that patients who purchase it must sign a log book. Since going into effect the law has reduced meth labs in Iowa by 76 percent. The University of Iowa Hospitals says it has saved $2.5 million by not having to treat as many people burned or injured in meth lab explosions. To read more visit: http://www.kcci.com/news/7780751/detail.html

Methamphetamine Epidemic

Our nation faces a staggering new drug epidemic in the rise in popularity of methamphetamine. From rural towns to big cities, meth labs are popping up in all 50 states. More than 12 million Americans have tried meth, and 1.5 million are regular users, according to federal estimates.

In order to address the meth epidemic, The Performance Institute is hosting **The 2006 National Summit on the Methamphetamine Epidemic** . This conference integrates the concerns of law enforcement and social services in tackling this dangerous drug problem. To learn more, go to http://www.performanceweb.org/MethAbuse/index.html

Idaho Gov. Kempthorne Signs Sex Offender and Criminal Gang Legislation

Governor Dirk Kempthorne today signed legislation that strengthens the tools law enforcement officials employ to fight the criminal activities of gangs and violent sexual predators. Senate Bill 1336, the Idaho Criminal Gang Enforcement Act, extends sentences for gang members who commit certain crimes, criminalizes recruitment of criminal gang members, and makes supplying firearms to a criminal gang member a felony. “As our communities grow, we must not allow gang activity to gain a stronghold,” Kempthorne said. “We will work closely with communities all across the state as they face this growing threat. Together we can keep this social epidemic at bay.”

To read more: http://www.allamericanpatriots.com/m-news+article+storyid-14459.html

More Checks May Be the Answer to Reducing Jail Release Mistakes

Most longtime jail administrators have a tale or two about the prisoner who got away. But even veterans of the field are a little shocked by Nueces County 's recent spate of mistaken releases: six in the past three months. "It's highly irregular," said Terry Julian, who has overseen the Texas Commission in Jail Standards for the past 17 years. The agency implements rules for management of jails, but has no enforcement powers. Nueces County Sheriff Rebecca Stutts has begun a criminal investigation into the problem, which she too calls extreme. To read more visit: http://www.caller.com/ccct/local_news/article/0,1641,CCCT_811_4583392,00.html

Ways GPS Technology Can Aid Police Officers

GPS devices, which comprise an ankle bracelet and a pager-style tracking device worn on the waist, will be used by Suffolk County , N.Y. , law enforcement officials to track numerous kinds of offenders. For sex offenders, probation officers can establish a curfew, designating the precise time an offender can leave his house and when he should come back. Any violation will cause a probation officer to be informed instantly by way of pager or email. GPS can keep an eye on repeated DWI offenders in that probation officers can establish schedules monitored by a response team to make certain offenders go right to work or to drug treatment programs in accordance with probation stipulations. The GPS devices can show how quickly an offender is driving; a reading of 70 mph, for instance, could mean that the offender is in a speeding car, initiating an instant phone call from probation officer. If an abusive spouse offender infiltrates the safety zone between himself and his victim, an alert will go off, informing the officers on a computer screen. If drug dealer offenders stray from their schedules, probation officers can immediately visit them and conduct urine tests that would produce on-site results. To read more visit: http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/nyliside314682641mar31,0,2342111.story?coll=ny-linews-headlines

Tracking of Sex Criminals Planned

Cayuga County , N.Y. , residents will soon be able to discover on the Internet whether any serious sex offenders are residing in their neighborhoods. In late March, the county Legislature signed off on retaining Watch Systems to provide a computer database of any Level 2 or Level 3 sex offenders who reside in the county or have moved into the county. The one-year deal is for $7,000. Sheriff Rob Outhouse pursued the sex-offender notification service, which he claimed will help county residents and law enforcement officers. Level 3 sex offenders, individuals most likely to perform another sex crime, will have names, photos, and addresses on the Web site. Level 2 sex offenders, individuals less likely to do another sex crime, will have names, photos, and their place of residence listed only by ZIP code. Anybody will be able to register on an email hot list so that they will be automatically notified if a Level 3 or Level 2 sex offender moves into their neighborhood. The data will be accessible on Cayuga County 's Web page. To read more visit: http://www.syracuse.com/search/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1143713183127980.xml?syrnecay

Survey Shows Sheriffs, Legislature Agree On How to Monitor Sex Offenders

Trying to stop sex offenders from reoffending is like trying to stop your unfaithful spouse from cheating. That's how Saunders County Sheriff Chuck Lacey described it one brisk, late-winter morning outside the courthouse in Wahoo. You can sit outside the house all day or stop by, he said. But even that may not make a difference. Besides, he said, who has that kind of time, especially when you're investigating crimes and responding to accidents around the county? “If we go out and check every sex offender,” Lacey said, “it doesn't mean they're not going to reoffend.” To read more visit: http://www.journalstar.com/articles/2006/04/11/local/doc443b03009ab12056295086.txt

Performance Management for Fire Departments

When it comes to the safety of your community, being good is never enough. During these uncertain times, the need for maximum performance in the fire and emergency medical response sectors has never been greater. As the federal government increases the nation's level of preparedness, fire rescue personnel must continuously strive to meet and maintain higher standards as they fulfill their critical role as national defenders. Join your colleagues at the 2006 National Summit of Performance Management for Fire Departments this July 10-11, 2006 in Arlington , VA to explore best practices, lessons learned and cutting edge ideas for measuring and improving fire and emergency medical capability. This is an exciting opportunity that you don't want to miss. To read more, go to http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L178/index.html

Law Enforcement Diversity Recruitment

The role of diversity management in law enforcement is more important today than ever. You are responsible for recruiting and selecting the best and brightest for your agencies, retaining a varied and specialized workforce and molding diverse members of your agency into a cohesive unit who are all committed to the pursuit of public safety. Failure to develop and implement an effective diversity recruiting program can result in the loss of qualified candidates, inadequate staffing and legal liability.

To ensure that you are up-to-date on the latest information and methods of selection, recruitment, innovative staff development and training, I invite you to attend our 2006 National Summit on Law Enforcement Diversity Recruiting, August 28-29 in San Diego , CA . To learn more, go to http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L215/L215.htm

Sex Offender Registration and Management

As a first responder or social servant, you are faced with the constant challenges of managing and registering sex offenders and deterring them from future crimes. At the same time, you are tasked with protecting the community from existing and emerging threats. Situations involving sex crimes can pose a number of problems for law enforcement and social service agencies. The appropriate response from your agency is essential to maintaining the security of your community. Within this ever-changing environment, it is critical that your agency effectively manages sex off ender registries and response procedures and takes the steps necessary to minimize the occurrence of sexual offenses. To assist you in meeting these challenges, I invite you to attend the 2006 National Conference on Sex Off ender Management & Registration, being hosted in Arlington , VA , on June 19-20, 2006. This conference offers two days of interactive speaker presentations and a workshop designed to equip you and your agency with innovative strategies and mechanisms to keep the community safe and informed and to improve the agency's sex crimes and management response. To learn more, go to http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L206/L206.htm

Grants and Funding

Guv Vows Resources for Crime Checks

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson is requiring probation/parole officers to conduct searches of parolees using a national crime database. Richardson ordered that the searches become mandatory on March 27 following the killing of Bernalillo County sheriff's Deputy James McGrane. Michael Paul Astorga--the chief suspect in the case--met with his probation/parole office just two days after the murder. However, the probation/parole officer was not aware that Astorga had an arrest warrant for the murder because the officer did not check the National Crime Information Center database. Officials noted that probation/parole officers only conduct infrequent searches of the database. In addition, only a small number of parole officers in the state have the certification required to use the database. American Probation and Parole Officer Association President Mark Carey believes the problem could be resolved by requiring routine checks of the database or by using technology that would send alerts to probation/parole officers when parolees are stopped by officers. However, officials said implementing the latter approach suggested by Carey would costs millions of dollars. The order issued by Richardson makes checks of the database a routine part of probation/parole officers' responsibilities during meetings with parolees. To read more visit: h ttp://www1.abqtrib.com/albq/nw_local_state_government/article/0,2564, ALBQ_19859_4576431,00.html

NCH Spending Homeland Security Grant

NORTH COLLEGE HILL -- The city's fire department will be getting a variety of new equipment thanks to a federal grant. The city's application for a $198,000 Homeland Security grant was approved and council has taken the initial steps toward spending part of it. Jerry Thamann, safety/service director, said a dozen self-contained breathing apparatus will be the first purchase. The grant stipulates the city must pay 5 percent of any project costs. In this case, the equipment is estimated at $25,000, making the city's share $1,250, he said. To read more visit: http://news.communitypress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060426/NEWS01/604260397/1074/Local

Pitt Groups Get Grants for Gang Prevention

More than $370,000 in grants awarded to Pitt County recently is expected to aid five agencies in efforts to prevent and reduce gang violence in the area. The N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awarded money to the Pitt County Sheriff's Office, Building Hope Community Life Center, LIFE STRIVE, the Greenville Police Department and Citizens United Against Violence. The state set aside $2 million for use in combating youth street gang activity. "Studies have shown that gang violence can be curbed if officials, law enforcement, educators and community leaders work together to combat this growing problem," Gov. Mike Easley stated in a news release. "These funds will help communities provide targeted outreach, mentoring, parent support, law enforcement training, after school programming, and educational assistance to help make our streets and neighborhoods safer places for our children to grow up." To read more visit: http://www.reflector.com/local/content/news/stories/2006/04/27/20060427GDRgrants.html

FEMA Awards $11.26M in Grants

FEMA announced Wednesday it has awarded $11.26 million in grants to rebuild public infrastructure in South Mississippi . The largest grant, more than $6 million, will help replace the natural gas distribution system in Bay St. Louis. What little of the natural gas system Katrina left intact has since been corroded by saltwater. Buz Olsen, the city's community and economic development director, said the Bay is grateful for the money, which would cover the entire cost of replacing the distribution system, but that's it. For months, Coast leaders have been singing a familiar song of asking the federal government for funds to help keep city services operating, which Olsen and many South Mississippi officials say is the most critical need. During a town meeting last week, Bay Mayor Eddie Favre said the city is projecting nearly a $20 million deficit over the next three years. Katrina washed away more than 85 percent of the city's taxable income, the money used to operate city services. To read more visit: http://www.sunherald.com/mld/thesunherald/news/special_packages/renewal/long_beach/14438932.htm

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