This month's newsletter features a story on Strategies for Improving Local Incident Preparedness & Response, check it out in the Best Practices and Innovations section.

Enjoy!

-Carl DeMaio

LAW ENFORCEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2006 *** If you find this newsletter useful and informative please forward it to your friends and colleagues! ***

UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2006 National Summit on the Advancement of Women in Law Enforcement
July 24-25, 2006 | Arlington, VA

The 2006 National Summit on Pandemic Disease & Avian Influenza
July 31 - August 2, 2006 | Arlington, VA

The National Summit for Law Enforcement Diversity Recruiting
August 28-29, 2006 | Arlington, VA

The Homeland Security Summit 2006
September 27-29, 2006 | Arlington, VA



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Homeland Security Update

DHS Implements Immediate Measures to Secure Access to Ports

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Michael Chertoff announced today that the department is taking significant steps to enhance security by checking the backgrounds of port workers. The department will begin conducting name-based background checks on nearly 400,000 port workers within the United States. These checks will be an initial measure as the department expedites the rollout of a comprehensive nationwide biometric-based Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) in 2006. "It is fundamental that individuals who pose a security threat do not gain access to our nation's ports," said Secretary Chertoff. "The name-based checks will provide an immediate security boost while we simultaneously complete the work to implement a secure national transportation worker credential." To read more visit: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0893.xml

Homeland Security

Homeland Security is a concerted national effort to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks and natural disasters within the United States. The goal is to reduce America's vulnerability to devastating incidents and minimize the damage and recovery time from attacks and incidents that do occur. Recent disasters have demonstrated that all levels of government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations are required to work together to prepare for, respond to and recover from any incident, major or minor. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has established national initiatives to develop a common strategy for domestic incident management, including the National Response Plan (NRP), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and the National Preparedness Goals (NPG). The Performance Institute's Homeland Security Summit 2006 will assist you with the implementation of all these initiatives in your state or community. To learn more, go to http://www.homelandsecurityweb.org/

DHS Drills for 2006 Hurricane Season

WEBINARS

Drive Performance with HR Dashboards and Scorecards
July 20, 2006 | 2:00 pm- 3:30 pm EST

IT Project Management for State and Local Government
July 26, 2006

Performance Management Systems: Best Practices for Managing Organization Performance
July 26, 2006

Nonprofit Performance Management
August 1, 2006 | 2:00 pm- 3:30 pm EDT

Introduction to Earned Value Management
August 16, 2006

To see more webinar events please click here www.PerformanceWeb.org/Webcast

How Does your Organization Measure Up?

The Performance Institute is helping government manage for RESULTS! See how well your organization measures up. Take our free Performance Measurement Assessment: www.PerformanceWeb.org/Survey

The Department of Homeland Security has kicked-off the first of five regional hurricane preparedness exercises to test improvements made since last year's hurricane season and to identify areas that require additional coordination before the start of this hurricane season, which officially begins June 1. The table-top exercises will focus on several key preparedness and disaster response functions, including evacuations, sheltering, National Response Plan implementation, and National Incident Management System activation. "Hurricane preparation is a shared responsibility among local, state and federal agencies and our non-governmental partners," said George Foresman, Under Secretary for Preparedness. "By training together now, we better integrate planning and response capabilities and make certain that roles and responsibilities are understood at all levels of government." To read more visit: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0904.xml

Reichert Works to Expand FEMA Scope, Resources

More than four years before Hurricane Katrina slammed into the Gulf Coast, Jim Mullen said he knew there were problems when the Federal Emergency Management Agency fumbled its response to the magnitude 6.8 Nisqually earthquake. Mullen, who now heads Washington state's emergency services division, said FEMA's reactions were "chaotic" in the hours following the February 2001 earthquake. For state and local officials, the earthquake served as a wake-up call. But FEMA's problems deepened, Mullen said, especially when it was folded into the Department of Homeland Security following the 9/11 terrorist attack. To read more visit: http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/government/story/5723474p-5124118c.html

DHS Wants Emergency Com Standards

The DHS is setting up a task force to standardize emergency communications equipment across the United States. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Monday said the department plans to assemble a task force focused on performance standards for achieving emergency communications equipment that can work across jurisdictions, National Journal's Technology Daily reported. Speaking at the Tactical Interoperable Communications Conference in Washington, Chertoff said over the next two months that the Department of Homeland Security will invite "first responders" to participate on the task force, which will help guide purchasing decisions for equipment to aid communications among local, state and federal responders. To read more visit: http://www.upi.com/SecurityTerrorism/view.php?StoryID=20060510-110547-7272r

Pandemic Disease & Avian Influenza

With the rapid spread of the avian flu across Asia, Europe and Africa, it has become evident that warnings of a pandemic disease must be taken seriously. First responders, public health and the private sector must develop well defined, targeted strategies to identify responsibilities and develop comprehensive preparedness plans. Recent events have shown that simply reacting to emergencies is ineffective and often disastrous. Effective response is predicated on precise and meticulous planning. In order to assist the public and private sectors prepare for a potential pandemic, The Performance Institute is hosting **The 2006 National Summit on Pandemic Disease & Avian Influenza.** This conference integrates the concerns of first responders and public health with the difficulties faced by governmental and private agencies to tackle this potentially devastating problem. To learn more, go to http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L217/L217.htm

TSA-Certified Canine Teams Begin Patrolling Baltimore Mass Transit System

Baltimore among first to have full compliment of three canines as part of national program

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA), Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) and Maryland Transportation Authority (MdTA) announced (May 5) that three explosives detection canine teams are now providing security for MARC, MTA buses and light rail. The teams are part of a joint effort between the federal TSA and local MTA and MdTA to provide authorities with a reliable, efficient and mobile tool to enhance security. The new teams are Sergeant Louis Jones, and his dog, Brix; Officer Donald Page and

his dog, Rolf; and Officer Nicholas Frazier, and his dog, Balu. All three dogs are German Shepards and were trained through the TSA National Explosives Detection Canine Handler Course in San Antonio, Texas. “These highly trained officers and canines are one of the most sophisticated tools we have for detecting explosives and are an integral part of our layered approach to transportation security,” says Dave Kontny, TSA’s Director of the National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program. “These animals also have the advantage that they can go almost anywhere in the rail and mass transit environment so we can significantly increase security across a very diverse system.” To read more visit: http://hospitality-1st.com/PressNews/TSA-051006.html

Recruiting and Personnel Management

NYC Fire Department to Step up Efforts to Diversify

In an effort to bring greater diversity to the ranks of the Fire Department of New York, department officials said today that they were preparing a blitz of advertisements and outreach efforts to promote the open firefighter examination scheduled for later this year: the first in four years. The department is the subject of a federal civil-rights investigation into its hiring practices and has faced particular scrutiny for hiring only a minuscule number of women and blacks. Officials disclosed today that of 11,491 firefighters, 590 were Hispanic, 327 were black, 66 were Asian-American and 5 were Native American, for a total minority representation of 8.6 percent. Only 33 are women. The city's population has been less than 50 percent non-Hispanic white since sometime before the 1990 census. The department is scheduled to hold a competitive firefighter examination, open to the general public, in December or January. Douglas H. White, the deputy commissioner for administration, said a vigorous effort had begun to urge women and members of minority groups to file to take the test. The filing period is from Aug. 2 to Oct. 13. To read more visit: http://www.nytimes.com/2006/05/08/nyregion/08cnd-fire.html?_r=1

Advancement of Women in Law Enforcement

Despite recent strides in advancement and opportunities for women in the workplace, we still face the challenges of fairness and equality. In 2004, women accounted for only 12.7% of all sworn law. While women have made strides in advancing their careers in law enforcement, not enough is being done to help promote them into leadership positions. In order for a representative amount of women in law enforcement to successfully transition into leadership and advanced positions, agencies must develop programs that promote training, leadership and mentoring for female officers. http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/Events/L211/L211.htm

Patrolling For Police

In police recruiting, it doesn't get much better than Derek Bostic. Star quarterback at Southern Guilford. College graduate. Fluent in Spanish. African American. Bostic is the kind of young officer all area police departments want but too seldom find. High Point got him, thanks to an inside track: His father, Lee, was a career cop there until retiring last year. There are two categories of police applicants, local departments say: white men, and everyone else. "All we have to do to recruit Caucasians is open the door," High Point Chief Jim Fealy said. "We're really, really focusing on African American recruitment." To read more visit: http://www.news-record.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060510/NEWSREC010201/605100301/1014

Hattiesburg Police to Begin Aggressive Recruitment

Chief David Wynn plans to aggressively recruit experienced officers to fill holes in the ranks of the Hattiesburg Police Department. Recruiting will begin in 60 to 90 days, Wynn told the Hattiesburg Civil Service Commission Monday during its monthly meeting. “We’re putting together a strategy as we speak,” Wynn said after the meeting. “We’re going to do some (television) advertising around the state.” Top officers also will make trips to other towns to take applications, he said. As of today, the department has 110 officers on the roster with 17 of those on military leave. The city budget authorizes the department to have 128 officers. To read more visit: http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060508/NEWS01/60508011

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

Fort Lauderdale Recruits Minority Officers to Connect With Immigrant Communities

At a town hall meeting between Fort Lauderdale officials and some 300 Haitian residents in March, Police Chief Bruce Roberts introduced the Haitian staffers hired since he last met with the community in 2003. Minutes later, one resident stood up and showed why those staffers are important. Germilus Nonord, who came to Fort Lauderdale from Haiti in 1980, complained about receiving a traffic citation for a hit-and-run accident he said was not his fault. "If it had been an officer who spoke Creole, I could have explained what happened," said Nonord, 62, who was in shock at the time. "I just couldn't speak."
To read more visit: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/broward/sfl-cp05hiringmay05,0,4653426.story?coll=sfl-news-browardcomm

Department Finds Recruits In Community

Last year at this time, Ronald Vinson was taking out the trash at the Richmond Police Department. The 24-year-old custodian had started working for the city as a Kennedy High School student, painting over graffiti in the summer and doing other painting work. He later signed on with Richmond full time and settled into a comfortable job in the department. It just wasn't the job he always wanted. "I had always wanted to be a cop. I mean, there was a bit of wanting to be a firefighter mixed in, but I mainly wanted to be a police officer," said Vinson, who recently began the final leg of his training to become a sworn member of the Richmond Police Department. Police Chief Chris Magnus points to Vinson as an example of the kind of recruit in his department: Local people, and not necessarily those who come to the profession by traditional paths. To read more visit: http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/news/local/crime_courts/14355611.htm

Best Practices and Innovations

Local First Responders: America's First Line of Defense
Strategies for Improving Local Incident Preparedness & Response

Over the past months responders and academics have trumpeted multiple emergencies as the next big threat to American security. These new threats include a deadly pandemic influenza sweeping through Southeast Asia, Hurricanes reaching the Mid-Atlantic and New England, massive earthquakes in the West and Midwest, and many more. Media around the globe produce hundreds of stories weekly that call attention to these looming disasters. However, it is important, despite the clamor that surrounds this media frenzy, that first responders and citizens nationwide step back and assess their local preparedness. Largely forgotten is the reality that the majority of the burden of preparation and response will fall to the local level. To read more, go to http://www.performanceweb.org/CENTERS/LE/media/LocalPrep.pdf

Justice and Law Enforcement Information Exchange Clearinghouse Goes Live

Yesterday, the IJIS Institute announced that the Bureau of Justice Assistance in the Office of Justice Programs of the U.S. Department of Justice has added an information exchange clearinghouse to its web site to allow government and industry developers to post information exchange package descriptions (IEPD's) about information exchanges that have been documented in law enforcement and justice. The site is at http://it.ojp.gov/iepd/. The purpose of the clearinghouse is to provide a single source of information on IEPD's that have been developed or are being developed so that others can find models to follow or collaborate on the development of documentation packages for specific exchanges. The IEPD is a well-defined set of artifacts about an information exchange, including XML schema that conforms to the Global Justice XML Data Model (GMXDM). The concept behind the definition of the IEPD and the process which has been developed for creating them is to promote component reuse in the development of information sharing activities in the law enforcement and justice world. To read more visit: http://www.govtech.net/localgovt/story.php?id=99306

Law Enforcement Turning To Job Placement for Released Prisoners

Lamar Brooks has spent the past two weeks looking for a job - and explaining to potential employers why he didn't need one for the past five years.Brooks, 30, of Kansas City, was in federal prison on drug charges. He said that's been a tough obstacle as he's looked through newspaper and online classifieds and even had some interviews. "Most people, when they hear you're a felon, they don't give you a chance," he said. Federal probation officials said employment is a common problem for ex-offenders trying to reinsert themselves into society after prison and can become a reason they return to crime. To read more visit: http://www.kansas.com/mld/kansas/news/state/14546231.htm

Police Offer Tips to School Officials On Gangs

Local law enforcement updated school district officials recently with tips to protect students from recruitment by gangs that have infiltrated Northern Nevada. At an attendance and discipline committee meeting last week, Churchill County Sheriff Richard Ingram and Fallon police officer Kris Alexander said Neo-Nazi and skinhead groups often try to recruit new members through the schools. Ingram said racist propaganda that was tossed in yards in Churchill County in February was also distributed in Reno earlier this month. The National Socialist Movement is based primarily in the Northeast and Midwestern parts of the country, but there is also a chapter in Reno, Ingram said. To read more visit: http://www.lahontanvalleynews.com/article/20060510/News/105100016

U.S. Senate Passes Tougher Sex Offender Law

The full U.S. Senate has approved a new law requiring tougher tracking and monitoring of convicted sex offenders. The bill includes a provision by Sen. Bill Nelson (DFlorida) to provide federal grants for states and local communities that start their own programs to track and monitor sex-offenders. The bill was named after Jessica Lunsford of Homosassa and Sarah Lunde of Ruskin, who were murdered last year, allegedly by sex offenrers after they got out of prison. To read more visit: http://www.tampabays10.com/news/national/article.aspx?storyid=30502

Court Affirms Use of TASER Device over Other Force - Update

Scottsdale-based TASER International Inc. announced that in a ruling in the case of Wylie v. Overby, Slip Copy, the court dismissed as a matter of law an excessive use of force lawsuit against two deputy sheriffs and held that the use of a TASER device was reasonably needed to subdue a person who had assaulted the deputy sheriffs and resisted their efforts to arrest him. The court performed a risk management analysis in reaching its decision and compared the benefits and risks of other uses of force: "Within the circumstances of this Fourth Amendment case, Wylie having twice broken from the officer's grasp and continuing his attempt to escape, a reasonable officer could well have chosen to use escalated, non-lethal force. To read more visit: http://www.tradingmarkets.com/tm.site/news/BREAKING%20NEWS/246649/

Grants and Funding

House OKs Far-reaching $5 billion Port, Cargo Security Bill

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that authorizes $5 billion to be spent over six years to be spent on beefing-up cargo security measures at US ports. The legislation - HR 4954, or the SAFE Port Act - passed the House by a vote of 421-2 and would require equipment at 22 major US ports to detect nuclear and radiological weapons, but would not require inspection of all US-bound cargo at foreign ports - a provision proposed by some Democrat House members, but opposed by a number of US business groups. Among the many provisions in the bill, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is required to implement an automated container tracking system by April 2007 and complete a timeline for deployment of nuclear and radiological detection systems at all US ports. To read more visit: http://www.caltradereport.com/eWebPages/front-page-1147096504.html

HHS Awards for $1 Billion Flu Vaccine R&D

The Department of Health and Human Services awarded a total of $1 billion in research contracts to drugmakers on Thursday as part of the government's effort to encourage development of quicker and more efficient modes of vaccine production in case of an avian flu pandemic. According to the agency, the funds are targeted at encouraging cell-based vaccine culturing technologies. Currently, flu vaccines are created from cells cultured in chicken eggs, a process ranges from six to nine months, a painfully long time to wait in the face of an international pandemic. Health experts have also pointed out that an avian flu pandemic could also result in the decimation of the very birds needed to produce those vaccines. We have the opportunity to be the first generation that prepares for pandemic," said HHS Sec. Michael Leavitt, in a statement. "Our current capacity of egg-based influenza vaccine production is not sufficient to meet increased demands during an emergency," Leavitt added. "Accelerating the development of this vaccine technology and creating domestic capacity are critical to our preparedness efforts." To read more visit: http://www.marketwatch.com/News/Story/Story.aspx?guid=%7B2149D99B-78B1-4B76-B196-97B2C13E6DE7%7D&siteid=google

Easley Wants Funding For Law Enforcement

For the third time in four days, Gov. Mike Easley gave a big hint how he would like to spend some of the $2 billion surplus that state officials expect to have when the fiscal year ends this summer. Easley is expected to lay out his entire budget today. He used a news conference Monday to talk up $47.7 million in funding for law enforcement agencies and courts. "What we are seeing now is law enforcement backed up by the bottleneck in the court system," Easley said, with a phalanx of state and county law officers standing around him. In addition to adding 12 State Bureau of Investigation officers, 90 assistant district attorneys and 75 new deputy clerks, Easley proposes technology upgrades such as expanding the capacity of the state's fingerprint identification system. To read more visit: http://www.news-record.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060509/NEWSREC0101/605090306

Chambliss Urges Restoration Of Byrne/Jag Grant Funding For Crucial Law Enforcement Resources

“I have heard first-hand from Georgia’s law enforcement community that this funding is critical to their efforts in fighting crime and drugs and keeping our citizens in both rural and urban communities safe.”
-- U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss

U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss is urging the Senate Appropriations Committee to include $900 million in federal funding for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program when it crafts the Fiscal Year 2007 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations Bill. Chambliss has been a strong advocate of the program, which is designed to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and improve the criminal justice system. As part of the Senate-passed budget earlier this year, Chambliss successfully offered an amendment to restore the $900 million in funding to the program. “I have heard first-hand from Georgia’s law enforcement community that this funding is critical to their efforts in fighting crime and drugs and keeping our citizens in both rural and urban communities safe,” said Chambliss. “In many areas, increased crime and the scourge of methamphetamine drug trafficking have placed severe pressures on local law enforcement capabilities.” To read more visit: http://www.theweekly.com/news/2006/April/21/Byrne_Jag_Grant.html

$287,519 Federal Grant for Police in Buffalo, Erie County, Cheektowaga and West Seneca

Congressman Brian Higgins (NY-27), Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, Cheektowaga Supervisor Dennis Gabryszak and West Seneca Supervisor Paul Clark announced that $287,519 has been awarded to the City of Buffalo, Erie County and the Towns of Cheektowaga and West Seneca.

The funding comes from the Department of Justice's Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG) which allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions.

The City of Buffalo will be the lead agency for the administration of $287,519 in JAG funding on behalf of the City, Erie County and the Towns of Cheektowaga and West Seneca. Buffalo will use $228,507 in funding for approximately 800 hours of police officer overtime for increased patrols and community policing throughout the City; for crime data sharing technology; for drug court services; for partially staffing the Save Our Streets Task Force; and for youth crime education and prevention efforts. To read more visit: http://www.amhersttimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1456&Itemid=27

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