LAW ENFORCEMENT DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE: March 2006

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- Homeland Security Update
- Recruiting and Personnel Management
- Best Practices and Innovations
- Grants and Funding

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/



UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2006 Law Enforcement Grants Summit
April 19 - 21, 2006 | Arlington, VA

Performance Measurement and Accountability for Homeland Security
May 1 – 2, 2006 | Arlington, Virginia

2006 Law Enforcement Leadership Summit
May 10-11 , 2006 | Arlington, VA

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

WEBINARS

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

Homeland Security Update

Senate Panel Votes to Double Size of Border Force

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted last week to add more border agents, investigators and fencing to stem rising illegal immigration as it worked its way through a major immigration reform bill. In its third day of marking up the bill, the committee discussed nearly 30 amendments, approving a dozen of them by voice vote and postponing the rest for action. In action during the day, the committee agreed to authorize over five years more than 10,000 new customs and border patrol agents, 1,000 investigators, and 1,250 port of entry inspectors. There was a dispute between Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., principal author of the amendment to boost the number of border agents, and Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., over exactly how many border patrol agents would be added in addition to the 11,300 border agents now. Committee staff said they would have to resolve the exact numbers later. To read more visit:
http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33580&dcn=e_hsw

ICE Arrests 375 Gang Members and Associates in Two-Week Enforcement Action

During a two-week enforcement action that culminated yesterday, federal agents from the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested 375 gang members and associates in 23 states in a joint effort with law enforcement agencies nationwide. The arrests are the latest under the auspices of “Operation Community Shield,” a comprehensive initiative launched by ICE roughly one year ago to disrupt and dismantle transnational, violent street gangs. Operation Community Shield represents the first time the federal government has used immigration and customs authorities in a combined, national campaign against criminal street gangs in the United States . To read more visit: http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=5474

Bird Flu a Bigger Challenge than AIDS, Warns WHO

THE lethal strain of bird flu poses a greater challenge to the world than any infectious disease, including AIDS, and has cost 300 million farmers over $10 billion in its spread through poultry around the world, the World Health Organization said yesterday. Scientists also are increasingly worried that the H5N1 strain could mutate into a form easily passed between humans, triggering a global pandemic. It already is unprecedented as an animal illness in its rapid expansion. Since February, the virus has spread to birds in 17 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, said the WHO's Dr Margaret Chan, citing UN Food and Agriculture Organization estimates of the toll on farmers. To read more visit:

http://www.irishexaminer.com/pport/web/world/Full_Story/did-sgIiF2j7HjvAAsg0aewFBADppk.asp

Homeland Security Spells Out Coming Online Threats

The top Internet threats for 2006 will include more attacks through instant messages and cell phones, as well as a boost in identity hacks against online brokerage accounts, the Department of Homeland Security and the National Cyber Security Alliance predicted Wednesday. By joining forces, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) hope to give consumers time to put additional protection in place on their PCs. To read more visit: http://www.informationweek.com/security/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=180202429

Overhaul of Emergency Management System Urged

Several House lawmakers on Thursday called for a major overhaul of the nation's emergency management system, including removing the Federal Emergency Management Agency from the Homeland Security Department. Today, confidence in FEMA and, by extension, the Department of Homeland Security, is at an all-time low," said Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., ranking member of the House Homeland Security Committee. With the next hurricane season fast approaching, some lawmakers believe Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is taking a huge gamble in the way he has reorganized preparedness and response functions within the department. To read more visit: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33415&dcn=e_hsw

Chertoff Announces Major Changes for FEMA

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff on Monday acknowledged that his department's response to Hurricane Katrina was "unacceptable" and announced measures intended to strengthen the government's emergency response capabilities. The Federal Emergency Management Agency will establish a permanent workforce focused on disasters and will decentralize its disaster relief centers when a significant number of people are displaced, Chertoff said in remarks at the National Emergency Management Association's midyear conference. "I also have the responsibility to fix what went wrong," Chertoff said. "As the president has said, the results of our response to Katrina were unacceptable. Some things worked well, but some things which should have worked well did not." To read more, go to http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33384&dcn=e_hsw

DHS Runs Drill to Test Readiness for Online Attack

The Homeland Security Department last week concluded a weeklong exercise aimed at assessing public- and private-sector responses to cyber attacks on the nation's critical infrastructure. Operation Cyber Storm's mission was to assess interagency coordination, identify policy issues and information-sharing capabilities, and pinpoint the challenges that emergency responders face. The department's cyber-security division spearheaded the exercise, which included 115 federal and state agencies and organizations, the public sector, and foreign governments. The goal of the exercise is to develop a national response system and implement it across all industry and government sectors, Andy Purdy, the department's cyber czar, said at a press conference. The exercise is required by Congress and a presidential directive on national preparedness. An after-action report will be released this summer. To read more, go to http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33380&dcn=e_hsw

DHS Seeks 20 Percent Increase in IT Spending

The Bush administration is seeking a 21.2 percent increase in the Homeland Security Department's information technology spending, according to the president's fiscal 2007 proposed budget. Overall, the budget request calls for $42.7 billion in fiscal 2007, a nearly 6 percent increase collectively for DHS. The IT portion would increase from $3.64 billion this year to a proposed $4.41 billion. In a press conference today, Secretary Michael Chertoff said the budget reflects emphasis on improving preparedness, information sharing, transportation security, border security and the department's organization. To read more visit: http://www.fcw.com/article92225-02-06-06-Web

DHS Budget Emphasizes Immigration Reform, Border Security

The Homeland Security Department would see its funding increase slightly in fiscal 2007 under President Bush's budget, which includes boosts for domestic nuclear detection efforts and for a controversial guest worker program. The budget, unveiled Monday, seeks $35.6 billion for DHS. This represents an increase of $2.3 billion over what was requested for 2006. Significantly, Bush included $536 million for the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and $247 million for a temporary worker program for migrants to legally enter the country and work. To read more visit: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33312&dcn=e_gvet

DoD Uses Katrina Lessons to Improve Response Capability

WASHINGTON , Feb. 6, 2006 – The U.S. military performed admirably as it responded to Hurricane Katrina during the largest, fastest civil support mission in U.S. history - but it needs to do better in the future, according to the Pentagon's chief of homeland security.

Paul McHale, assistant secretary of defense for homeland security, praised the military response to the catastrophic hurricane in an address to civilian leaders who recently visited the Pentagon. The civilians were past participants in the DoD Joint Civilian Orientation Conference that gives business, civic and academic leaders a weeklong immersion into military operations. To read more visit: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2006/20060206_4128.html

Recruiting and Personnel Management

Sheriff's Office Hosts Less-Lethal Weapons Course

Law enforcement officers from several states and the United Nations attended a training course held by the Newton County Sheriff's Office in Georgia . The Less Lethal Instructor Certification Course, which lasted less than one week, includes training videos and hands-on instruction for using pepper-spray, tear gas, and other non-lethal items. Trainees participated in a firing range session that allowed them to handle and shoot non-lethal munitions, including small rubber balls and beanbags. Deputy Randy Downs with the Newton County/Covington SWAT Team reported that the weapons used is the course are designed to keep officers safe while making it less likely for them to kill or seriously injure a suspect in the line of duty. Ward Stanley, a certified weapons instructor employed by Armor Holdings/Defense Technology, conducts similar training sessions across the country. To learn more, visit: http://www.sheriffs.org

Cops Getting Real Results

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has announced plans to expand the NYPD's $11 million Real Time Crime Center, which has collected data that has helped NYPD detectives solve a number of crimes. The NYPD is issuing 175 laptop computers that will allow detectives working in the field to search criminal and arrest complaints, as well as 911 calls going back more than a decade. The computers will also come equipped with software that will allow detectives to create diagrams that link a suspect to all known addresses, similar crimes, and prior accomplices. In addition, the expansion will give detectives even faster access to millions of state criminal, parole, probation, and public records at hand, as well as unique databases listing criminals' tattoos and nicknames. The Real Time Crime Center has already proven its worth in several high-profile cases in the city, including the case of alleged Brooklyn scam artist Cecilio Torres. Torres was undone by a business card he had given to a victim with the handwritten name "June," and the number of a disposable cell phone. The Real Time Crime Center quickly found the phone had been used in an aborted 911 call about shots fired in Brooklyn . There, police found a witness who told them that June was Torres, who now faces burglary and larceny charges. According to Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, the Real Time Crime Center helped connect the dots in this case in the blink of an eye, rather than several weeks. To read more visit: http://www.nydailynews.com/02-07-2006/news/story/389072p-330127c.html

Potential Civil Liability for Coercive Interrogations

AELE has published a new Law Training Bulletin on "Potential Civil Liability for Coercive Interrogations. Keep in mind that U.S. Supreme Court interrogation cases set the federal constitutional minimum standards for law enforcement conduct. The states, through decisions of their highest courts of review, can interpret state constitutional provisions in a manner further restricting law enforcement conduct on the subject. They can do this by ruling that state constitutional provisions give defendants greater rights than those that exist under federal constitutional provisions. Therefore, interrogators, **whether in the public or private sectors,** must always be aware of cases in their state that have this effect. To read more visit: http://www.aele.org/alert-2006-2.html

New Sacramento County Department May Alter Role of Volunteers

Trained civilian volunteers keep Sacramento County Sheriff's Department service centers humming and more sworn peace officers on the streets, but in Citrus Heights , officials are deciding how to retain the benefits of that free service. After years of contracting with the Sheriff's Department for policing services, the city is planning to field its own Police Department by July. The new force will be led by Chief Christopher Boyd. He has hosted a luncheon for several dozen volunteers working in Citrus Heights . They are all part of the organization Volunteers in Partnership. "I don't think the new administration is sure how to use us," said Rob Cox, a 74-year-old retired peace officer. "There is a lot of uncertainty. We are going to lose a lot of our buds." To read more visit: http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=4&id=2906

Looking For A Few (Dozen) Good Men

The Simi Valley Police Department hopes it will open people's minds to law enforcement careers by opening its doors to them. The department offered its first open house Saturday in an effort to attract qualified candidates. It is one of several agencies throughout the state aggressively recruiting people, according to law enforcement officials. "The Police Department is like any business; you're trying to get the best that you have," said Simi Valley Sgt. David Livingstone. "Fifteen or 20 years ago, there was a bigger pool of applicants. There's more of a demand for them, and they have more options." To read more visit: http://www.venturacountystar.com/vcs/sv/article/0,1375,VCS_239_4450148,00.html

Best Practices and Innovations

Sex Offender Alerts to Arrive in Mail

New postcards, e-mails will notify residents, businesses of criminals

MERRITT ISLAND - The Brevard County Sheriff's Office on Monday announced an ambitious postcard and e-mail effort to notify everyone in the county whenever a sexual offender registers to live within a mile of them. Brevard County Sheriff Jack Parker, flanked by several police chiefs from across the county, said mass countywide mailings would begin within the week informing residents and business owners of all sexual predators or offenders in the area. All county residents also can sign up for e-mail notices that would alert them whenever an offender or predator moves within one mile of them. To read more visit: http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060314/NEWS01/603140341

Support for National Sex Offender Registry Urged

Town Council unanimously endorsed a proposed federal bill that strengthens the tracking of sex offenders in each state and provides national standards for notifying the public about them when they move into a community on Monday. Councilor-at-large Patrick O'Connor said national standards to register sex offenders on public registries and notifying communities about their residence is needed because each state has differing notification procedures. "Under the current system of sex offender registration, there is a wide disparity among state sex offender programs in both registration and notification procedures," he said to the council. The bill is being proposed by Sen. Orin Hatch, R-Utah and 23 co-sponsors. O'Connor urged the council to support the legislation by approving a resolution that requests Sen. John Kerry, D-MA and Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-MA to vote for the bill. A Senate study committee is reviewing the bill. To read more visit: http://www2.townonline.com/weymouth/localRegional/view.bg?articleid=444250

Patriot Act Cracks Down on Meth

Provisions in the national legislation appear weaker than Washington state's anti-meth law. B esides terrorism, the USA Patriot Act renewal poised for final congressional passage this week takes aim at the production of methamphetamine by imposing new limits next month for how much cold medication a person can buy over the counter. The legislation appears to allow more flexibility than Washington state's anti-meth law, which took effect Jan. 1. The legislation sponsored by Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. and Jim Talent, R-Mo., would blanket the nation with one policy that would put cold and allergy medicines containing pseudoephedrine behind the counter and out of the reach of meth cooks. "If we leave it up to local jurisdiction, we're simply going to move the problem from one jurisdiction to another without addressing the root cause," said Fresno , Calif. , Police Chief Jerry Dyer. To read more visit: http://www.heraldnet.com/stories/06/03/07/100wir_a3patriot001.cfm

A Taser Shotgun for Long-Range Electrifying

Taser International, working jointly with the Office of Naval Research, has wrapped up testing on the wireless Extended Range Electro-Muscular Projectile that, fired from a shotgun, can disable a suspect from up to 98 feet away with a jolt of electricity. This would greatly expand current Taser guns, which are limited by a wire to a range of some 25 feet. "The effect locked up muscles and totally overwhelmed the senses," said Stephen Kunich of the Air Force Air Combat Command Security Force, one of 35 individuals who volunteered for a five-second test. "I was completely incapacitated. Additionally, I was amazed at the instantaneous physical recovery." The weapon is strong enough for crowd control, insiders report. To read more visit: http://news.com.com/A+Taser+shotgun+for+long-range+electrifying/2100-1008_3-6039508.html

California Sex Offender Management Board Passes Assembly Floor

Sacramento, CA – Assembly Bill 1015, authored by Assembly Member Judy Chu (D – Monterey Park), passed out of the Assembly Floor with overwhelming support on a 71 – 1 vote. AB 1015 would establish the California Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB) which brings together major expert stakeholders in sex offender management to assess their practices system-wide and make recommendations. “The current fragmented structure of how the state manages its sex offenders leaves room for confusion and inconsistencies that compromise the safety of all Californians.” said Assembly Member Judy Chu, “Egregious incidents like the housing of over 20 sex offenders in the Rochester House in Los Angeles can be avoided with better communication between agencies handling sex offenders.” To read more visit: http://www.californiachronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=5342

Supertanker Readied For Wildfire Season

The 747, a former passenger jet, awaits federal OKs at business in Marana

A massive weapon is expected to be unleashed for what could be a horrendous wildfire season. A Boeing 747 parked at Pinal Airpark north of Marana is slated for final flight testing this month. Federal Aviation Administration approval is expected in mid-April, said Jordan Hanson, a spokeswoman for Evergreen International Aviation. Evergreen has spent nearly $35 million converting the 747 into a supertanker capable of carrying 24,000 gallons of fire retardant in one trip, Hanson said. Even with a full load of fire retardant, the 231-foot-long airplane with a 196-foot wingspan flies at more than 150,000 pounds below its maximum takeoff weight. The company expects the supertanker to be the first of a new generation of firefighting equipment for the nation, Hanson said. To read more visit: http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/news/local/030106a1_supertanker

WMD Sniffer Protected the Super Bowl

A National Guard unit specializing in intercepting weapons of mass destruction was among the crowd at the Super Bowl

game in Detroit .
The 51st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team was deployed with a monitoring system developed by MSA, a high-tech security firm based in Pittsburgh, and can detect up to six WMD threats simultaneously, United Press International reports. To read more, go to http://securitysolutions.com/news/Superbowlsniffer/

Use-Of-Force Reports Make Debut On LAPD Web Site

The first three summaries of LAPD use-of-force investigations were posted online Wednesday, detailing officer-involved shootings that occurred a year ago. The online posting of reports was approved by the Police Commission Dec. 13 to help meet a federal consent decree requirement that calls for speedier investigations into use-of-force incidents. "This is a very important step in the right direction," Police Commission President John Mack said Tuesday. "We hope it will be more forthcoming to the public, and that this can be a way ... to hopefully build trust and mutual respect between the police department and the residents of our city." To read more visit: http://www.nbc4.tv/news/6437752/detail.html

Meth Registry Keeps Public in the Loop for Protection

A methamphetamine registry that alerts the public about the presence of a previous offender sounds like a good measure of protection but will require the state to do more than just require registration. House Speaker Todd Hiett and Rep. John Nance have announced plans to seek legislation building the online database. They'll offer up a bill when the legislature opens next month. To some extent, the database already exists in another form. Some of the state's court filings are online but it requires the offender's name before one could call up previous charges and dispositions. Cleveland County 's filings are online and well-maintained. To read more visit:
http://www.normantranscript.com/opinion/local_story_025001754?keyword=secondarystory

Grants and Funding

City Council Ponders Taser Grant

The Norman City Council had lots of questions about the safety of tasers at its Tuesday meeting, only days after a man tasered by Norman Police died hours later. Council had a public hearing on an application for a $18,180 grant from the United States Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance through the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. About 15 tasers would be purchased with the funds. The Norman Police Department has 30 tasers currently, said Norman Police Lt. Mike Praizner. Norman police discharged tasers 15 times in 2005, he said. Most of the people who were tased assaulted officers or were aggressive. Two were armed with knives. To read more visit:
http://www.normantranscript.com/localnews/local_story_074003134?keyword=secondarystory

State Officials Seek Funds for Emergency Communications

State emergency response officials last week urged lawmakers to increase funding and staffing levels at the Homeland Security Department's program for ensuring interoperability in public safety communications. The officials said the department is not providing enough support to its SAFECOM Program, which was created to make sure state and local public-safety personnel can communicate across jurisdictions. "Talk is cheap and if this isn't funded ... the next disaster will come and everybody will be throwing up their hands and pointing," Robert Drake, mayor of Beaverton , Ore. , told the House Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness, Science and Technology Subcommittee during a hearing. Drake testified on behalf of the National League of Cities. To read more visit:
http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33496&dcn=e_hsw

'Most Sophisticated' Police Use Of Tasers Study Backed By Federal Grant

If a law enforcement officer draws his stun gun, will the suspect restrain himself in fear? What if the suspect had been

stunned at an earlier incident? What if he were stunned five seconds ago? Doctors Geoff Alpert and Michael Smith will seek to provide clarity to such questions over the next two years. The University of South Carolina professors were recently awarded a $647,387 grant from the Department of Justice to conduct a multi-method evaluation of police use of force outcomes. They plan on compiling the most nationalized, sophisticated, up-to-date study on the police employment and safety ramifications of taser use in the United States . To read more visit: http://www.officer.com/article/article.jsp?siteSection=11&id=29076

Senator Wants Border Security Funds Added To Supplemental Spending Bill

Senate Budget Chairman Judd Gregg, R-N.H., wants to add $1.1 billion for border security measures to supplemental spending requests for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and hurricane relief. In an interview Tuesday, Gregg told *CongressDaily* that despite his appeals, the White House declined to include border protection funds as part of $92.2 billion in supplemental funding the Bush administration is seeking. "They should have put it in the supplemental, but they didn't," said Gregg, who also is chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. "I've asked aggressively that it be put in on our side, and I hope to be successful at any rate." To read more visit: http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?articleid=33481&dcn=todaysnews

Beefing Up Communications

Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen wants to place $4 million in the 2007 budget to create a plan to improve the state's emergency communications system. Bredesen wants Tennessee 's 95 counties to be able to communicate with TEMA, and to have first respondents in the counties be able to communicate with each other. He added that the technology, which would cost about $25 million, could meet those goals. Bredesen explained that the technology permits "translator equipment" to be transported to the location of an emergency to permit communication between equipment that is incompatible. He noted that the $4 million could be utilized as well for matching funds for federal grants. As emergency officials work out ways for every county to talk to one location in Nashville , Southeast Tennessee officials are starting to use Homeland Security money. In Chattanooga and Athens , two vehicles and trailers outfitted with an innovative computer and radios can be moved to remote sites and permit agencies utilizing different radios and various frequencies to communicate. Dunlap Police Department Lt. Coy Swanger stated that law enforcement officers recently employed the system in Grundy and Sequatchie counties during a manhunt. To read more visit: http://www.timesfreepress.com

President: Carl DeMaio
Director of Law Enforcement Development Center: Ben Brunjes
Newsletter Editor: Nicole Cathcart

The **LEDC Newsletter** is provided as an informational update to law enforcement officials. Should you not wish to continue to receive the free newsletter, please respond to this email address with “unsubscribe” as the subject and your email will immediately taken off the distribution list.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter
please go to: http://www.performanceweb.org/Newsletters/archive_ledc.htm

To comment on this newsletter email:
comments@performanceweb.org