



The Washington Report

The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations
Representing America's Finest

April 25, 2011

RESOLUTION OF FY11 FUNDS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT GRANT NEWS

The President and Congressional leaders have reached a budget deal at 11:59 on the doomsday clock.

Funding for law enforcement survived Congress's desire to dissolve programs and enact unsustainable cutbacks. COPS Hiring received \$298 million in FY10. The next six months the COPS office will open solicitations of the \$246.8 million allocated for FY11. Byrne JAG, a program that works in conjunction with the COPS program. It received \$431 million in funding.

Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012 will need to be addressed by September 30th in order to prevent another Continuing Resolution. Legislators are calling for another round of serious reductions. No program is safe from zero funding.

NAPO'S efforts to provide information to members of Congress, educate new staff and work with established supporters of law enforcement were some of the components that led to the prevention of eliminating funding. Members of the law enforcement community will need to rededicate efforts for FY12.

We encourage all members who wish to receive FY11 funds for their departments to check the COPS website: www.cops.usdoj.gov the first week of May. The application process will be different this year. In order to be competitive to receive grant money for COPS Hiring applicants are encouraged to give specific details of what their needs are for new officers. NAPO is an available resource for your questions or you may contact the COPS Office directly.

OFFICER SAFETY

On March 22, 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder called for the launch of the Law Enforcement Officer Safety Initiative. NAPO's Executive Director, Bill Johnson attended this meeting and provided vital input on behalf of rank-and-file.

In addition to working with the Administration and Congress on this vital topic, NAPO is committed to providing our members with up-to-date status of the proposals affecting officer safety.

Bulletproof Vest Partnership program (BVP) - From the program's inception NAPO has served as a law enforcement leader on implementation and improvements to the body armor program.

In October 2010 and again in March 2011, the Attorney General announced that DOJ's BVP program will include a new application requirement: Agencies receiving funding for reimbursement of body armor purchases need to have a written mandatory wear policy for uniformed patrol officers. This policy must be in place when FY11 BVP applications are submitted.

NAPO believes this is a misguided policy. Specifically, Public Safety Officers Benefits should not be contingent on officers' compliance with departmental body armor wear policies. There are too many unforeseeable circumstances to justify making death benefits contingent on compliance with a blanket policy.

NAPO has already addressed this concern in an open letter to the Judiciary Committee and followed up with a meeting.

Consequently, the BJA issued a FAQ document on mandatory wear requirements that addresses NAPO's statements on PSOB. According to this document "No blanket policy or automatic disqualification shall be implemented regarding this policy and its effects on federal death, disability or education benefits through PSOB."

While this statement does address the surface of potential problems, it's important to note that the PSOB document doesn't rule out disqualification in any individual case. NAPO is still working on a statutory fix that would make clear that the fact of whether an officer was or wasn't wearing his or her vest should *not* be a criterion in deciding if a family receives PSOB benefits.

Another component of the BVP program is being examined by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to study the benefits and effectiveness of body armor on female law enforcement officers. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) is currently working on this effort.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this policy or implementation NAPO is always available to help you navigate this change.

VALOR Program (Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability) - Rank-and-file directly benefits from this program by eligibility for education, training, assistance and resource materials.

For the FY12 budget, President Obama has requested a line item allocation of \$3.5 million for VALOR. This is the first time VALOR has been included in a White House budget. Prior to this request BJA awarded \$800,000 in FY10 for funding the initial development of the nationwide program.

NAPO supports the VALOR program and will provide up-to-date information regarding VALOR to our members.

The VALOR program works with RISS (Regional Information Sharing System). RISS is a national program divided among regional centers that provides assistance in investigation and prosecution efforts. NAPO supports RISSafe Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System; a program that builds on RISS by providing internal methods to share investigative efforts.

Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB) - The program was created in 1976 and since then it has undergone multiple improvements. During the 111th Congress, NAPO provided valuable input to draft improvement to this legislation. Our comments and concerns have been included in the latest draft.

PSOB was designed to offer peace of mind to men and women seeking careers in public safety and to make a strong statement about the value that American society places on the contributions of those who serve their communities in potentially dangerous circumstances. The families of public safety officers who have fallen or have become completely and permanently disabled in the line of duty rely on the benefits promised to them by the PSOB to continue on with their lives.

NAPO supports legislation that makes important changes to the Public Safety Officers Benefits program that will increase or protect benefits, expedite claims and help the program with its education and outreach to the first responder community. NAPO will continue to work to address the latest BVP program component to PSOB. Additionally, NAPO supports the notion that fallen EMS personnel also be included in this legislation.

Law Enforcement officers serve and protect our communities, just as NAPO will continue to work all legislative outlets to protect officer safety.

NAPO SALUTES THE 2011 TOP COPS AWARDS ® RECIPIENTS

Arizona

Chandler Police Department
Detective Brian Arbizu
Detective David Bugallo

California

Los Angeles Police Department
Police Officer II Gilberto Rendon, Jr.
Police Officer II Richard Garcia
Sergeant Greg Garcia
Sergeant John D. Shah

Florida

Polk County Sheriff's Office
Deputy Sheriff Michael L. Braswell

Idaho

Boise Police Department
Officer Adam R. Crist
Corporal Casey Hancuff
Officer Jason E. Rose

Illinois

Chicago Police Department
Police Officer Lynn Casey
Sergeant Jason Kaczynski
Police Officer Kimberly M. Thorp

Maryland

Baltimore County Police Department
Officer First Class Michael B. Forish
Officer First Class Michael Gerard Lynch
Officer First Class Zachary J. Small

New York

New York City Police Department
Police Officer Robert Salerno
Police Officer Sean Fitzpatrick
Police Officer Robert P. Klein
Police Officer Daniel P. Robbins

Oklahoma

Oklahoma City Police Department
Officer Katie Lawson

South Carolina

Berkeley County Sheriff's Office
Lieutenant Mark Mason

Naval Criminal Investigative Service
Special Agent Stanley Garland
Special Agent Kaylyn Dueker

Suffolk County,
Detective Stephen Jacobs

Missoula County, MT Sheriff's Office
Detective Captain Richard J. Maricelli
Detective TJ McDermott

Federal

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Special Agent Brian E. O'Rourke

New York City Police Department
Detective Thomas Reilly
Detective Joseph V. Mazzei

JUSTICE FOR PUBLIC SERVANTS ACT OF 2011

Congressman Jim Gerlach (R-PA) introduced the Justice for Public Servants Act of 2011 (H.R. 815). This legislation amends the federal criminal code to make the killing or attempted killing of law enforcement officers and other first responders an aggravating factor in death penalty determinations.

Over the past decade the average reported assaults on law enforcement officers was almost 60,000 officers a year. Nationally, attacks on rank-and-file have significantly increased. In 2011, deaths of officers have increased twenty percent.

On April 13, 2011, NAPO issued a letter of support for Congressman Gerlach's legislation. H.R. 815 is essential to assist the law enforcement community in the protection of NAPO's members.

NAPO is active on Capitol Hill raising awareness of the challenges of officer safety. We are providing legislators with the necessary tools to mitigate attacks on our rank-and-file members. We are working to enact legislation that will result in more severe consequences for those who harm officers.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NAPO'S 2011 EVENTS

Annual Legal Rights and Legislative Seminar

Wednesday, May 11, 2011 -- Washington, D.C.

The 18th Annual TOP COPS Awards[®] Ceremony

Thursday, May 12, 2011 -- The Warner Theatre -- Washington, D.C.

NAPO's 33rd Annual Convention

Sunday, July 24-- Thursday, July 28, 2011

The Westin Galleria -- Dallas, Texas

Please visit www.napo.org for detailed event information or for information on exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities.

Contact us at (800) 322-6276 or via e-mail: info@napo.org with any questions.