



# Bars & Stripes

Vol. 44 No. 9

Official Publication of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association



September 2009

MEMBERS • AT WORK • DPLSA MEMBERS • AT WORK



**Lt. Donna Jarvis** has been a Detroit Police officer since 1993. She became a Sergeant in 1999 and then a Lieutenant in 2002. She has worked at Disciplinary Administration, Labor Relations, the 1st Precinct, the 12 Precinct, the Academy, and Tactical Services. She is currently working on the Chief's Staff, helping take care of business for Chief Warren Evans on the third floor at 1300 Beaubien.

On a daily basis she manages the six sergeants, six police officers and two civilians. "It's usually a Monday through Friday jobs, but at various time when the chief needs something, it's all hands on deck," said Lt. Jarvis. "You never know what's going to come up from day to day."

She said she is "surrounded by capable professionals. We're like a family. We get to provide information and assist people throughout the department."

Some of Lt. Jarvis' other accomplishments include co-writing a Detroit Police history book and organizing the Pink Ball, which has raised \$25,000 for breast cancer research. In September, she is scheduled to start a three-month law enforcement executive training program with the FBI Academy in Virginia.

## FBI notes dip in violent crime for the second straight year

According to figures released Sept. 14 by the FBI, the estimated number of violent crimes in the nation declined for the second year in a row. Property crimes also declined in 2008, marking the sixth straight year the collective estimates for these offenses dropped below the previous year's total.

The statistics show that the estimated volume of violent crimes in the U.S. declined 1.9 percent, and the estimated volume of property crimes decreased 0.8 percent in 2008 when compared with 2007 estimates. The 2008 violent crime rate was 454.5 offenses per 100,000 inhabitants (a 2.7 percent decrease from the 2007 rate), and the property crime rate was 3,212.5 per 100,000 persons (a 1.6 percent decrease from 2007).

The data are presented in the 2008 edition of the FBI's annual publication *Crime in the United States*, a statistical compilation of offense and arrest data as reported by law enforcement agencies voluntarily participating in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

The UCR Program compiles offense and arrest data for violent and property crimes. The program also collects only arrest data for 21 additional offenses that include all other offenses except traffic violations.

A summary of the statistics included in *Crime in the United States*, 2008 follows:

- Nationwide, there were an estimated 1,382,012 violent crimes in 2008.

- For each of the four violent crime offenses, the 2008 estimates declined when compared with estimates for 2007. The murder and nonnegligent manslaughter estimate dropped 3.9 percent; aggravated assault declined 2.5 percent; forcible rape declined 1.6 percent; and robbery was down 0.7 percent in 2008 when compared with data from 2007.

- Motor vehicle theft was the only property crime to decline in 2008 as the estimate for this offense was down 12.7 percent from 2007.

(Continued on Page 9)





## Last patrol for K9 Czar

We are sorry to report the passing, on August 29, of Sgt. Tracy Perry's patrol K9 Czar. K9 Czar suffered from gastric dilation, better known as a flipped stomach. After several months of training with Sgt. Perry, K9 Czar was activated into service in 2003 and over the course of six years was paramount in the apprehension of numerous felons and drug seizures. Condolences to Sgt. Perry, his family, fellow canine handlers, and officers on the street.

## DPLSA membership meeting set for December 16

The next DPLSA General Membership Meeting will take place Wednesday, December 16 at the Ukrainian Cultural Center, 26601 Ryan Rd. in Warren.

Doors open at 4 p.m., the meeting starts at 5 p.m. and dinner is served at 6 p.m.



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—Abraham Lincoln



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Junetta Wynn*

Members: The Department has reorganized the reorganization. The District is now returning to more manageable precincts with still not enough officers. The Department has sent out several teletypes concerning the organizational changes of the Department.

Teletype # 09-3136 addressed the elimination of Investigative Operations effective 12:00 a.m. Monday, September 21, 2009; Teletype # 09-3137 Re-naming of the Northwestern District and Northwestern District I.O.U. to the Sixth and Eighth Precinct; Teletype # 09-3138 requesting transfer request to the Eighth Precinct and Eighth Precinct IOU. The transfer list will be frozen on Friday, September 4, 2009 until September 18, 2009 in order for the reorganization of manpower and transfers to occur.

Leave day posting has been extended until September 16, 2009. Once the leave days are posted these leave days will be carried to the new commands of members as posted.

The Association entered into an agreement to hold the winter furlough draw for LSA members on September 23, 2009, which was due to the re-organization.

The LSA has been notified that the Eighth Precinct will be located on Warwick with the Sixth precinct until further notice.

The association has worked hard at trying to hold the department from involuntary transferring personnel as little as possible. If involuntary transfers occur, they will be done by the contract under Article 23 titled Transfers, Subsection (D) which reads:

A. Involuntary transfers due to reduction in the work force will be made using inverse seniority. When this does occur, the transferred member may indicate his or her desire to return to that command if personnel of the involved rank are to be reassigned. This will be done by submitting a transfer request in the normal manner.

For a period of one year after the involuntary transfer, the affected member shall have priority in being transferred to that command over other members of that rank. If two or more members fit into this category, transfer priority will be determined by seniority in rank, and, if tied, by Departmental seniority. During this one-year period only, an affected member shall not be precluded from having another transfer request on file under paragraph A of this Article.

Members must be aware that the transfer list will expire on September 30, 2009. All members with requested transfers that are not honored this month must re-submit a continuation or new transfer request beginning October 1, 2009.

On September 1, 2009, Judge Wendy Baxter heard a motion not to demote the sixteen sergeants involved in the D.P.O.A. case. The motion to stay was granted which

allows the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association and the City of Detroit to appeal the D.P.O.A.'s decision in front of the Court of Appeals. A date has not been determined as of yet.

As of this date, the Mayor of the City has not asked the LSA directly for any cutbacks, 10%, longevity or other proposals. The Association will notify all members of any proposals submitted by the City of Detroit. Also, the manpower for the Association stands at ninety-eight (98) Lieutenants, five hundred and seven (507) Sergeants, and eighty-eight (88) investigators.

This Association has had many challenging issues arise within the last several months, i.e. withholding on medical increases, attempted language changes in agreed contracts, reduction in membership, elimination and reorganization of units, sections and districts, and an increase in legal representation and demands, yet we are standing not with bended knees but stronger backs.

Members let's continue to move forward united as City of Detroit Police Investigators, Sergeants and Lieutenants. – Strong and Proud.

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## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Mark Young

On Monday, Sept. 21, 2009, the Sixth and Eighth Precincts became operational. Currently both entities are being housed under the same building at the Sixth Precinct until a location is secured for the Eighth Precinct Personnel. Members were voluntarily and involuntarily transferred to make up the composition of the Eighth Precinct. The DPLSA addressed concerns about both entities being housed in the same building as well as other concerns.

I understand that this decision by the department has created some confusion and concern for our membership but we will ensure that the changes made are in accordance with the DPLSA Collective Bargaining Agreement.

### Transfer Continuations.

Transfer requests shall be valid for a period until Oct. 1 of each year. Transfer Continuation requests may be submitted on or after Sept. 1. All members are advised to re-submit their transfer continuations before or shortly after Oct. 1, 2009.

### Medical Issues.

We have resolved numerous medical issues regarding our membership. If any member has questions or concerns regarding the recent changes in their medical coverage, do not hesitate to contact us; your concerns are our concerns. I would like to reiterate one thing, our members have some of the best medical coverage in the world and by no means should a member fail to seek medical treatment because the member is concerned about a co-pay or deductible. Failure to seek treatment for an illness or ailment can exacerbate a condition or even result in death.

It's best to catch these problems early because your health is very important. Also, review your medical coverage contract because most policies will allow you and your covered family members (1) physical per calendar year. I urge all members to take advantage of that benefit.

### DPLSA Awards

Reminder, On Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at the General Membership Meeting the DPLSA will recognize up to (7) members for heroism, dedication to duty, outstanding service or outstanding community service in the community. The criteria will be similar to the same as used for meritorious service. Any DPLSA Member will be able to submit a request for consideration to the DPLSA Office. The request for consideration must contain a brief synopsis of the incident supported by other documentation. The deadline for all requests is Monday, November 16, 2009, 4:00 P.M. More information will follow. This initiative is an effort for the DPLSA to honor the efforts, acknowledge pride and the hard work of our membership.

### A Personal Note.

Since I became a member of the Detroit Police Department (22 years ago) my extended family has increased tremendously! As a police officer, I had the honor and privilege to work alongside many hard-working and dedicated heroes. As an Investigator, I had the honor and privilege to present all of their hard work to the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office. As a Patrol Sergeant, I had the honor and privilege to work alongside of and to supervise some

extraordinary men and women. Last but not least, as an elected official of the DPLSA, I represent "Heroes" and I am extremely blessed, proud and honored to do so! I have only one request, use mentoring, coaching, counseling and training to help other members.

Secondly, members of the Detroit Police Department operate under a tremendous amount of work-related stress and some members may be reluctant to seek help. If you are a member that needs help or know of a member that needs assistance please contact the Detroit Police Departments' Employee Assistance Program at (313) 237-2596, it is important to know that confidentiality applies to all contacts with the EAP. It is also important to know that we all need a little help sometime.

### Condolences.

Our condolences along with our hearts and prayers go out to the families of Officers Edward and Patricia Williams; we all are hurting from this loss as well. Our prayers also go out to the members of the Sixth Precinct (Northwestern District) where Officer Patricia Williams was assigned. Our hearts and prayers also go out to the members of the Homicide Section where Officer Edward Williams II was assigned, we know that you all are hurting and we are here for you!

As always if you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions please forward them to us @ [youngm604@detroitmi.gov](mailto:youngm604@detroitmi.gov).

*"A great leader never sets himself above his followers except in carrying responsibilities."* - Jules Ormont

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## TREASURER'S NET

By Brian Harris

Hello everyone,

**Pension News!** Briefly, I would like to provide you with an update on a matter I discussed in my previous article. You all may recall that in my August article I made mention that the City had failed to make a required \$45 million contribution to the Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS).

I indicated that as a result of their delinquency the PFRS took the appropriate action and filed a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court. Upon following up on this matter, I was informed by a PFRS Board Trustee that shortly after filing the lawsuit, the parties entered into an agreement. In part, the City agreed to make-up the delinquent payment by making installments through a payment plan.

The City made its first installment of \$2.4 million on September 1, 2009 and they are expected to make a second installment of \$2.4 million on October 1, 2009. At this time I do not have the details of the agreement between the PFRS and the City; however, I will make an attempt to gather that information. If there are any questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me at (313) 961-5699 or by email at HarrisB134@detroit.mi.gov.

### **Contract Questions!**

As usual, I would like to take this opportunity to share with the membership some of the contractual questions their fellow members have voiced over the past few weeks.

**Q: Are members on limited duty status entitled to participation in the normal continuous rotation of holiday work opportunities?**

A: Yes. Members on limited duty are entitled to participation in the normal continuous rotation of holiday work opportunities. However, their opportunity to receive an assignment is restricted to those assignments, which can be performed by a member on limited duty. Limited duty positions shall not be created by bumping regularly assigned members from their respective regular job assignment.

**Q: Can members who are assigned out to other commands work the holiday at their parent command?**

A: Yes. Members temporarily assigned out to other commands shall remain on the holiday roster of their parent command and are fully entitled to work a holiday assignment at those commands when their names are reached.

Moreover, assigned out members may also work at the temporarily assigned out unit provided first, they are entitled by virtue of their position on the holiday list and second, that they do not replace permanently assigned personnel at the temporarily assigned out unit.

**Message of Sympathy.** I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the loss of two of the Detroit Police Department's finest members. Earlier this month, many

of our members were taken aback by the death of Police Officer Edward Williams II and Police Officer Patricia Williams. I was one of them. I had the opportunity of knowing and working with both Ed and Patricia so I was deeply saddened upon hearing of their passing. They were two wonderful, kind and respectful human-beings who brought joy to those blessed with having known them. I am sure I speak for many when I say the Detroit Police Department has truly lost two of their best members.

My condolences go out to the families of Officer Ed Williams II and Officer Patricia Williams and to their co-workers and friends who mourn over their passing. I know coping with the loss of a loved one and friend can be very challenging.

That is why it is OK to mourn, for mourning is not the end of the relationship because the love we have for our nearest and dearest never dies. My prayers and wishes for healing are with you and I ask that God bless you and comfort you during your time of bereavement. I respectfully request that everyone keep Ed, Patricia and their families in your prayers.

In closing, please know that I cannot express enough the appreciation and respect I have for the active and retired members of the Detroit Police Lieutenants & Sergeants Association. It is an honor to serve as your Secretary-Treasurer and I hope that I have performed to your expectations. Although it is a challenging task, you can rest assured that I, President Wynn, Vice-President Young and Sergeant-At-Arms Kennedy are committed to ensuring that your rights as bargaining unit members are not only protected but respected by the Administration of this department.

In the labor sector you often hear the term "harmonious relations," which implies equivalency

(Continued on Page 8)

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## HOLDER OF THE MACE

*By John Kennedy  
Sergeant at Arms*

Hello LSA Members,

The department, under the watch of Chief Warren Evans, is currently under restructuring. The department is slowly getting away from the district design and returning back to the precinct concept. A lot of moaning and groaning will occur during this phase. But, I believe that the citizens will benefit from the new-old way.

As a reminder, members who currently have a transfer request in must submit a continuation on or after September 1. All transfer requests shall be valid until October 1st of each year.

With the great assistance of the Grievance Committee, we have been able to resolve many current issues. As of this month we have 13 open 2009 grievances. This time last year, the Association had 23 open 2008 grievances. The committee has been able to also resolve more than half of last year's issues and several older grievances. If you have an old grievance that is still open, please bear with us, we are diligently working through each grievance to try and resolve the matter for you.

This year, at the December meeting, we are planning to honor active LSA members for outstanding performance for the year. We are asking that nominee entries be submitted to our office by November 16th. The nominees will be judged by members of the Detroit Fire Department's honors board and the names will be redacted to ensure that the nominees are judged by their performance and not by their name. This year we are awarding six members from the candidates.

As a suggestion from retired Sergeant Max Bandy, I decided to begin highlighting supervisors who ended their watch in the line of duty. In reviewing the history of the department, there have been 223 officers who gave

## Police Family Association to host another casino trip

The Detroit Police Family Association is planning a second fund-raiser trip to Soaring Eagle Resort and Casino and, along the way, a shopping stop at Birch Run, on Sweetest Day, October 17, 2009.

The cost is \$40 and includes \$20 in playing money and a \$5 food voucher, plus a book of discount coupons for shopping at the outlet mall. En route there will be raffles, refreshments and 50/50 draws.

The plan is to leave the NE District, 5100 Nevada between Mound and Ryan, about 8 a.m. and return about 9 p.m.

If you plan on going, you must complete a casino registration form and send a \$20 non-refundable. Final payment is due Oct. 3.

For particulars, contact President Elaine Wallace at 313-393-1460.

The bus only holds 50 people, so it's first come, first served. Get your deposits in early.

the ultimate sacrifice. Of that number 40 members were supervisors.

The first year that a supervisor was lost in the line of duty was 1917. Lieutenant Samuel Marquardt (May 1917) was conducting a training exercise, when he was hit by a train. Later in the same year (July 1917) Detective Sergeant Emmanuel Roggers was assigned to the Sicilian Squad investigating gang activity, when he was assassinated by members of the Detroit Purple Gang.

Bless you all, Respect Each Other as we Respect Ourselves and "Let's Be Careful Out There."

## Classified Ads

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**FOR SALE.** Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Detroit. 2 plots in Section 74. Premium location near front office and Van Dyke Ave. entrance. \$1,000.00 each. e-mail: kew32@webtv.net or call (616) 994-7066, or (408) 868-1680. (4/09)

**FOR SALE.** Two cemetery lots. One in Oakview, Royal Oak, one in White Chapel, Troy. Both lots \$900 each. Call (989) 821-7156. (3/09)

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# Brian Harris, continued

(Continued from Page 5)

and correspondence among constituents of an entity or between different entities, i.e. administration and workforce. But as a former Labor Specialist I learned firsthand that this term was often used out of context. Far too often, I encountered leadership personnel who expressed very little, if any, respect for the union(s) and its members. This troubled me deeply because my parents taught me to "respect" others and to demand the same in return. To act in the opposite was simply not acceptable.

The key point I am making is that "respect" is a manifestation of a kind of ethic or principle. It is closely associated with the ethical code commonly known as, "The Golden Rule." A key element of the "Golden Rule" is that a person attempting to live by this rule treats all people, not just members of his or her in-group, with respect and consideration. That is what we as human-beings deserve and we should not be subjected to anything less.

So as we move forward with the transition of new leadership within the Detroit Police Department, I hope the powers that be realize and acknowledge the value of the hard-working men and women who serve under them, and in turn, afford them the respect and consideration they deserve.

The aforementioned commentary is an expression of my perspective based on my experiences.

As always, it is a pleasure to receive your calls and respond to your questions and concerns. And although I may not always have the answer up front I assure you I will work diligently to obtain it or at the very least point you in the right direction. So please continue to stay in close contact with us.

Thank you.

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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner <i>Martin Mulocky</i>		Date 9/11/09	
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PS Form 3526, September 2007 (Page 2 of 3)			



## Here are some safety points to ponder

By Sgt Carol Almeranti

*Below are a few things to think to talk to your family members about.*



**GPS.** A couple of weeks ago a friend told me that someone she knew had their car broken into while they were at a football game. Their car was parked on the green which was adjacent to the football stadium and especially allotted to football fans. Things stolen from the car included a garage door remote control, some money and a GPS which had been prominently mounted on the dashboard.

When the victims got home, they found that their house had been ransacked and just about everything worth anything had been stolen. The thieves had used the GPS to guide them to the house. They then used the garage remote control to open the garage door and gain entry to the house.

The thieves knew the owners were at the football game, they knew what time the game was scheduled to finish and so they knew how much time they had to clean out the house. It would appear that they had brought a truck to empty the house of its contents.

Something to consider if you have a GPS – don't put your home address in it. Put a nearby address (like a store or gas station) so you can still find your way home if you need to, but no one else would know where you live if your GPS were stolen.

**CELL PHONES.** I never thought of this... This lady has now changed her habit of how she lists her names on her mobile phone after her handbag was stolen. Her handbag, which contained her cell phone, credit card, wallet, etc., was stolen.

Twenty minutes later when she called her hubby from a pay phone telling him what had happened, hubby says "I received your text asking about our Pin number and I've replied a little while ago."

When they rushed down to the bank, the bank staff told them all the money was already withdrawn. The thief had actually used the stolen cell phone to text "hubby" in the contact list and got hold of the pin number. Within 20 minutes he had withdrawn all the money from their bank account.

Moral of the lesson: Do not disclose the relationship between you and the people in your contact list. Avoid using names like Home, Honey, Hubby, Sweetheart, Dad, Mom, etc.... And very importantly, when sensitive info is being asked through texts, CONFIRM by calling back.

Also, when you're being texted by friends or family to meet them somewhere, be sure to call back to confirm that the message came from them. If you don't reach them, be very careful about going places to meet "family and friends" who text you.

*Have a safe month and if any original thoughts occur send them my way!!!*

The info listed at right was requested at the last LSA meeting by a member. thanks AR!!

## FBI notes dip in violent crime for the second straight year

(Continued from Page 1)

- Motor vehicle theft was the only property crime to decline in 2008 as the estimate for this offense was down 12.7 percent from 2007. Burglaries rose 2.0 percent.

- Collectively, victims of property crime lost an estimated \$17.2 billion.

- According to FBI estimates, law enforcement agencies made 14,005,615 arrests, excluding traffic violations, in 2008.

Detroit had 17,428 violent crimes in 2008, down 11.6 percent from 19,708 in 2007, the FBI said. Property crimes in Detroit fell 8.9 percent, to 53,095 from 58,302 in 2007, the bureau said. The FBI report pegged the number of Detroit murders – a subject of ongoing controversy – at 306 for 2008. If accurate, that would mark a 22 percent decrease from the 394 murders the FBI recorded in 2007.

As the Detroit News reported, the reporting of 306 homicides has already been discredited by the Detroit police, which initially submitted that number to the FBI but adjusted its statistic upward, to 375, after The News reported that Detroit police had systematically underreported homicide numbers for years.

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## DPD contact information

Central District  
7310 Woodward @ E Grand Blvd  
313 596 1300

Eastern District  
11817 Gratiot @ Gunston  
313 596 5900

6th Precinct  
11450 Warwick @ Plymouth  
313 596 5600

8th Precinct  
11450 Warwick @ Plymouth  
313 596 5600

10th Precinct  
12000 Livernois @ Elmhurst  
313 596 1000

12th Precinct  
1441 W. 7 Mile near Woodward  
313 596 1200

Northeastern District  
5100 E Nevada btwn Mound & Ryan  
131 596 1100

Southwestern District; Fort Street Station  
4700 W. Fort between W. Grand Blvd & Junction  
313 596 5300

Southwestern District; Schaefer Station  
13530 Lesure near Grand River & Schaefer  
313 596 5200



## RETIRED DETROIT POLICE & FIRE CLUB OF FLORIDA

By Bill Schmidt

I'm writing this column for Nancy Schmidt while she is still recovering from her surgeries and complications. She is still in the MCICU at Oak Hill Hospital, Spring Hill, Fla., on the road to recovery. Thank you all for the cards and phone calls and mostly the prayers.

Got some calls for rosters from Bob Baumgart (Hi Pepper!). Thanks for the club donation. Roster requests were also received from Robert Evans of Ocala, Fla., Robert D. Campbell of Port Charlotte, Fla., Dorothy Hudson of Tavares, Fla., and Gordon Eminger of Northville, Mich. Looks like I have to notify my daughter, Michelle, to print more rosters.

Heard that Bill Larsen did a fine job representing our club at the funeral of Cpl. Mike Roberts of the Tampa PD. Thanks, Bill.

Keep in mind that dues are coming due in October. They can be sent to the treasurer, Dolores Larsen, 399 Walnut Ct., Palm Harbor, FL 34683 or they can be paid at the October 4th meeting. Dolores's phone number is 727-786-3429.

Don't forget the Annual Dinner will be held on March 1, 2010, at the Clearwater Country Club. More information will come later. Until next time, stay safe and cool.



## "Snowbirds"

By Dan Zemaitis

Well, here it is September already and I don't know where all the seven days of summer have gone. But it stands to reason with a bad winter, a bad summer to follow.

September is the month the Snowbirds elect officers for the coming year. I haven't heard any campaigning lately so I think it's safe to say we'll have the same officers for 2010. I won't be there, so I hope there aren't any surprises. September Birthdays: Joan Buda, Isabella Ninelist, Lorraine Perry, Delphine Raska, Carolyn Wood & Jey Zemaitis.

Get well wishes to Pat Shaheen and to me, who had major back surgery and won't be walking the Mackinac Bridge and will be missing the RDPFFA Vegas trip as well. So I'm stuck at home with no computer. If there's information on someone who is sick or a member who has passed on, please, please call me at 989-735-3450 so I can send cards. I'm saying this because it seems I'm the last one to know and then there's hurt feelings of family members, and I don't want that.

As of now Independent Bank has been kind enough to fax my articles without charge. Nice people. Hope to have more to write about for next month.



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# Only 59 percent of police agencies require officers to wear body armor, surveys shows

**From the Police Executive Research Forum via the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund**

Washington, DC – Nearly all law enforcement agencies report that they provide body armor to their officers, but only 59 percent of the agencies require their officers to wear body armor at least some of the time, according to a new report by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), a Washington, D.C.-based police research and consulting organization.

The report details the findings of a survey that PERF conducted in partnership with the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The survey was sent to a large nationally representative sample of law enforcement agencies. Of all those who received the survey, 80 percent responded, for a total of 782 participating agencies.

Perhaps the research team's most encouraging finding is that almost all agencies responding to the survey – 99 percent – ensure that body armor is made available to their officers.

"Our survey findings suggest an overall move by agencies towards promoting the wearing of body armor and providing the necessary resources to do so," the report states. "As a result of these policies, officers are probably more likely to be wearing body armor while assaulted in the line of duty, and the number of officer deaths is lower than it otherwise would be."

(Previous research indicated that in 1987, only 28 percent of police agencies surveyed provided body armor or a cash allowance to purchase armor for all of their uniformed patrol officers. By 1993, that figure had climbed to about 82 percent, and it rose to more than 90 percent in 2000.)

While the new survey indicates that body armor is now available to almost all officers, the PERF report suggests that police agencies can make further improvements in their policies and practices to help ensure that officers actually use body armor as much as possible, and to provide more thorough controls on fitting of armor to individual officers, maintenance of the armor, and periodic inspections to ensure that officers' armor is in good condition.

The report notes that there have been sharp fluctuations in the numbers of officers killed by firearms in recent years. In 2008, 39 officers died in firearms-related incidents, which was a 43-percent reduction from the 68 officers killed in 2007, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. The 2008 death toll was the lowest since 1956. However, in the first six months of 2009, firearm-related deaths increased 10 percent compared to the same period in 2008, from 20 to 22.

Detailed findings include the following:

- Most departments do not have written policies: Among the 59 percent of agencies that mandate that body armor be worn at least some of the time, fewer than half have a written policy on this issue, making enforcement of the policy more complex.

Most everyday armor does not protect against high-caliber weapons or rifles: Most agencies do not issue for everyday wear body armor that protects against rifle or armor-piercing bullets, but most agencies at a minimum use body armor that protects officers against 9mm and .40 caliber bullets. Overall, these levels of protection offered to officers have been sufficient against most handgun threats, but not against threats from high-caliber weapons or rifles.

- Trauma plates: Only 29 percent of the agencies surveyed issue supplementary trauma plates to officers for added protection for the most vulnerable part of the body – the torso.

- Fit and maintenance: Most agencies do not have stringent fit and maintenance policies. Twelve percent of the departments said their officers are not fitted for body armor, other than receiving a size that approximates their body size. "Given the importance of fit to the proper functioning of body armor, as highlighted in the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) body armor standards, this percentage is of some concern," the report said.

- Inspections: The vast majority of agencies (90 percent) do not conduct inspections to ensure that officers' body armor fits well and/or is maintained properly. Of the few agencies that do conduct these inspections, most frequently, inspections for fit are conducted only once a year or less (57 percent).

- Replacement schedules: A large majority of law enforcement agencies (78 percent) do not have a database or automated record system for a body armor replacement schedule (e.g., replacement of armor every five years). Nearly one-quarter of agencies have no policy concerning replacement of body armor, and it not clear how often they actually replace their armor.

Officers shot in areas not protected by armor: According to FBI data, 306 of 521 officers who were feloniously killed between 1997 and 2006 were wearing body armor. More than half of those 306 officers were shot in the head area, 9 percent in the neck/throat area, and 34 percent in the torso area. Of the 103 shots that hit officers in the torso area, 20 penetrated the vest because the vest was not designed to stop that particular weapon, while the remainder entered the torso through open side or shoulder panels, or above or below the vest. This finding suggests that in addition to body armor, other protection should also be considered, such as enhanced training on using cover/concealment during firearm incidents.

"Given the turbulent nature of the policing environment and dramatic variation over the past couple of years in the number of officers killed in the line of duty, there may soon be a need for a nationwide effort to encourage agencies to revisit their body armor wear policies to increase their comprehensiveness and stringency," the PERF/BJA report concluded.

"We believe improvements can be made in terms of mandatory body armor wear requirements and more stringent fit/maintenance policies."





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