



COPS

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Fall 2001, No. 17

ON THE BEAT

www.cops.usdoj.gov

Legislative Update **Pg. 3**

Reports From the Field **Pg. 4/5**

National Indian Youth Academy **Pg. 6**

TOP SRO TEAM HONORED

VALUES TRANSLATE INTO ACTION

It takes time, talent, and funding to build a great school resource officer program. According to Sgt. Bob "Doc" Holliday from the Tucson AZ Police Department, it also takes a good deal of research and development.

And he should know – his SRO program was recently named Model SRO Program at the 11th Annual National Association of School Resource Officers Conference held in Miami, Florida.

The Model SRO Program award is given annually to a law enforcement agency that has shown excellence in several areas while implementing or maintaining a school resource officer program. Recipients are proactive in their training, comprehensive in their policies, demonstrate excellence in their daily operation, and bring recognition to their SRO program.

Sgt. Holliday has 15 years experience as a SRO and has been a supervisor of officers assigned to Tucson school districts since 1997. He attributes the success of the Tucson district's SRO program to the utilization of the latest research-based strategies known to foster resiliency in youth.

"We have worked very hard to be innovative and progressive in our prevention programs and try to use researched-based strategies that work," said Sgt. Holliday. "Students



SROs took first place in nationwide competition.

who sign on for our 'Challenge By Choice' program are encouraged to participate in partner activities like obstacle climbing or riding a 300 foot zip line. This course, as well as other SRO programs throughout the Tucson schools have proven to be great tools to tap the leadership potential in students, especially those in need of positive, significant relationships with adults outside of their families."

"We drew from more than 30-years of research in the field of youth development to design program to provide students with the encouragement, motivation, and support they need to live happy, well-adjusted lives."

It's a Fact...

Since 1995, the COPS has invested \$29.9 million in Tucson to advance community policing by:

- ★ Adding community policing officers to the nation's streets and schools;
- ★ Enhancing crime fighting technology;
- ★ Supporting crime prevention initiatives;
- ★ Boosting departments' crime solving ability; and
- ★ Providing training and technical assistance to officers.

Director's Notes

Ralph Justus, COPS Acting Director

Since October 1994, the COPS Office has been earnestly working to meet the needs of law enforcement nationwide. We have made note of your accomplishments during this time period and are proud that our office has been able to assist. As we begin another school year, I thought this would be an appropriate time to reflect on the effects of community policing on schools and opportunities for future collaborations.

The COPS in Schools program was developed to help law enforcement agencies and communities bring community policing into our schools. This very popular grant program provides funds to state and local agencies. To date, COPS has invested more than \$420 million in making our schools safer. That translates into 3,800 school resource officers (SROs) walking their beats in the schools of 1,800 jurisdictions. The COPS Office, in collaboration with more than thirty local and national leaders in law

enforcement, education, child development, school safety and public health, developed an innovative and interactive model for community policing SRO training. More than 2,200 officers and school officials have completed this three-day workshop. The training teaches SROs that they have three primary responsibilities: 1) to act as a liaison between the school, community, and police; 2) teach classes and counsel students; and 3) perform their law enforcement duties.



Your accomplishments are laudable. We know:

- ★ **at least one** life was saved because a SRO was on duty,
- ★ **a volatile situation** was expertly managed in accordance with an emergency plan developed in training,
- ★ **a dangerous confrontation** was cut short because the SRO had a relationship with the student,
- ★ **innovative programs** are being implemented nationwide, and
- ★ **scores of kids** now have someone they can count on, confide in, talk to, learn from and depend on when there is no one else.

COPS will continue working in partnership with you towards the reduction of bullying and fear of violence in the classroom. Truly safe schools require a strong collaborative effort between school administrators and police. We are pleased to play a small but vital part in protecting our children's future.

Who is the SRO?

Submitted By: Robert Holliday

- ★ **The SRO** is the one assigned to a school, not for his abilities with his service weapon, but for his ability to compassionately interact with adults and kids as a teacher, liaison and police officer.
- ★ **The SRO** is the one who answers to the needs of his or her police supervisor and the school principal, even when they may be at odds with each other.
- ★ **The SRO** is the only "traffic cop" that knows buses, teachers, parents, and students get priority above all others when entering the school parking lot.
- ★ **The SRO** is sometimes a "police Taxi" that provides a ride to the student who will be late again, if not for his shuttle service.
- ★ **The SRO** is the one who seeks out those kids in school, who are the most picked on and overlooked, so he or she can be the first to greet them, talk to them, and become their friend. In some cases, the SRO may even be the only adult who is a positive influence in their life.
- ★ **The SRO** is the daily presence of a uniform, badge, and gun, who will confront and deter any who dare interrupt the safety and security of the school and makes community oriented policing a way of life every day.
- ★ **The SRO** is quick to back up patrol at an accident, or other incident especially when he or she fears one of their students may be injured.
- ★ **The SRO** is a buffer or mediator to the assistant principal who has tried everything to console that irate parent.
- ★ **The SRO** is the ever-present narcotics detective, abuse counselor, and criminal enforcer.
- ★ **The SRO** is the one who is rarely in his office to answer phone calls because he's in the school doing things that are not necessarily in his job description but make him more effective in his role.
- ★ **The SRO** is tough enough to shout the words a kid needs to hear when they are slipping away into drugs, and soft enough to shed a tear when the same kid walks across a stage at graduation.
- ★ **The SRO** is the one who is often looked at as not being a "real cop" by his fellow officers and not a "real instructor" by some teachers, but knows he must try to be both.
- ★ **The SRO** is the one who takes the call from the single parent who has tried desperately to get her son up for school, he assures her he will be there to remind him why, and then takes him to school.
- ★ **The SRO** is the one in the station explaining the process to parents when their child has been arrested; because he is their child's SRO and they trust him.
- ★ Who is an SRO? **The SRO** is the "Blue Knight" standing for the rights of students, teachers and staff.
- ★ **The SRO** is the one who would give his life to protect the safety of those in his "castle" and does all this because of his commitment to his community and his love of kids.

SRO Classroom Aids Available Now

'MUST HAVE' ITEMS POPULAR WITH STUDENTS

Working to bolster teens' problem-solving abilities, the latest offerings from the Florida Regional Community Policing Institute (RCPI) provide a new approach to crime prevention in American schools.

Two programs, AfterMath (an interactive CD-Rom) and RetroGrade (a video), utilize the latest in electronically enhanced, streaming video. As seen through the eyes of a teen, the crime prevention package is designed to transmit an edgy message in a youth-oriented format.

Florida RCPI Director Eileen LaHaie reported that they have already distributed more than 5,000 of these programs to school resource officers and community centers.

Both programs are distributed at no charge to Florida citizens and organizations. The projects are supported by cooperative agreements awarded by COPS to the Florida RCPI and St. Petersburg College.



To receive a copy of RetroGrade or AfterMath, contact the RCPI at (727) 341-4546.

Visit the Florida RCPI on the web at <http://cop.spjc.cc.fl.us/cop/>

Legislative Update

In July, the House Appropriations Committee passed by voice vote a FY 2002 appropriations bill for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State (CJS) which includes funding for the COPS Office. The total amount included in that bill is \$1.013 billion, nearly \$160 million more than the amount requested by the President.

The Senate's response to the proposed CJS appropriations bill is anticipated later this month.

Earlier this year Senator Joseph Biden (D-DE) introduced S. 924, a bill

providing for the reauthorization of the COPS Office. On May 24, 2001, Congressman Anthony Weiner (D-NY) introduced a companion bill in the House, H.R. 2009. Both bills are titled "Providing Reliable Officers, Technology, Education, Community Prosecutors, and Training in Our Neighborhoods (Protection Act of 2001)" and seek to reauthorize the COPS Office for \$1.15 billion each year through 2007.

More information on the status of FY 2002 appropriations and the Protection Act of 2001 may be found at www.congress.gov

Essay About a SRO

Submitted By: Erika Lontz, Wheeling, West Virginia



Erika Lontz and Deputy Ron Meyer

Every day he rides off to the battlefield on his stallion of black, his armor glinting in the early morning sunlight. Ready to protect and defend. Ready for whatever may come his way.

Okay, so maybe his stallion is really a beat up old truck. And maybe his armor is really a uniform with a badge. So what if the battlefield is really this

place known as Wheeling Park High School. So he's not fighting knights. Maybe worse, he's dealing with high school kids.

As a freshman the idea of attending Park was, to say the least, scary. You hear a lot of stories. Some you find out to be just rumors and others that, well, just aren't. While it's not as bad as I'd thought, mother was very pleased to hear that there would be a police officer on duty at all times. No one, and I repeat no one, could have been more perfect for this job.

Deputy Meyer is easy to respect. He respects us, too. It didn't take long to realize it. He does his job, and how thoroughly he does it, I can't express how much better I feel going to school every day.

Just seeing him in the halls makes me feel a lot safer. Now that I see how much pride he takes in his job, and how thoroughly he does it, I can't express how much better I feel going to school every day.

So, if I were to choose who I would award the person of the year award to, it would undoubtedly be Deputy Meyer. Maybe we don't all show it, but we really appreciate him being there. Thanks Deputy Meyer!



Reports From The Field

COPS at Work in America's Schools

Fontana, CA **A**

Since getting hired last year through the COPS in Schools program, two new SROs have forwarded Fontana Unified School District's resolve to provide a safe learning environment for students enrolled there.

Most recently, the SROs have been credited with rolling out a program to assist school staff with identifying problematic "red flag" student behavior. By knowing exactly what to look for, SROs and staff have a better chance to work with children before their problems get out of hand.

They are also working proactively with educators towards the common goal of creating a safe learning environment for children through the addition of several innovative violence prevention programs. These include anti-violence, anti-bullying, anger management, and self-esteem building strategies.

Cache County, UT **H**

Deputy Sheriff Troy Liquin and Assistant Principal Teri Cutler were able to put to use some of the skills that they learned while attending COPS in Schools (CIS) training. On November 2, 2000 an explosion rocked an 8th grade science classroom. Fortunately, students and school staff knew how to react.

Through Cache County School District's emergency response plan – 31 students and their instructor received prompt medical attention at the local trauma center. The SRO and administrator set up the district's emergency response plan through information that they received at a recent COPS in Schools workshop.

Rio Rancho, NM **B**

The 2001-2002 academic year will be the Scholastic Academy's inaugural year in Rio Rancho. Designed to bolster officer and student relationships, it is hoped that participants will develop a respect for the law enforcement career field.

With the school year just getting underway, the academy, a partnership between nine law enforcement agencies that comprise the Sandoval County Community Oriented Policing Effort (SCCOPE), has already attained full enrollment. Participation in the Scholastic Academy's service learning component includes field trips to a Fire Arms Training Simulator and 911 communications center, as well as introductions to drug court, and teen court.

Objectives of the Scholastic Academy include increasing the caliber and diversity of the city's pool of future recruits and to build trusting relationships between youth and officers.

Wheeling, WV **G**

Deputy Ron Meyer is a SRO at the Wheeling Park High School. He has established such a rapport with the students at the high school that one of 10th grade students wrote an English paper about him. The Title of the essay was "Person of the Year Award".

Minneapolis, MN **C**

In the Twin Cities, dedicated East Asian Hmong and Hispanic officers are making a positive impact through a unique program. Through the infusion of COPS Justice Based After-School (JBAS) program funding into a proven performer – the Minneapolis Police Department expects gang violence in Hmong and Hispanic communities to continue to drop.



Wichita, KS **F**

As a sworn law enforcement officer, SRO Mitch Gordon knows exactly what to do in the event of a medical crisis. So, when he heard that a student was in trouble, Officer Gordon leapt into action. He performed CPR, saving the life of a 14-year-old student.

As a result of his heroic deed during the Jan. 8 emergency, Officer Gordon received the Department's Bronze Wreath of Merit and Life Saving Award.

Minneapolis, MN (cont'd)

The Department's ASCOOL (After School Cops Out On Location) program places dedicated Hmong and Hispanic officers where they can interact with youth, and make the most difference. ASCOOL officers have formed lasting mentor relationships with Hmong and Hispanic youth. Such interaction is helping to further the agency's mission of building cohesion and cooperation among the city's newest residents.

Malden, MO **D**

School officials were doubly concerned – for students and parents alike – that the future held little in the way of academic achievement for a handful of students who refused to play by the rules. Now, with the addition of a new city law and a School Resource Officer, truancy at Malden school is becoming a thing of the past.

Sgt. Robert Wilson works with Pre-K through grade 12 students. Hired to serve as the district's SRO through the COPS in Schools program, the sergeant spearheaded the effort to make the school's truancy rules become law in the City of Malden. Sgt. Wilson worked in collaboration with city officials and the court system to enact a compulsory school attendance law holding parents accountable for truancy.

With the new law on the book, parents can now be arrested for allowing their children to skip school. Since the introduction of the Malden law, truancy has dropped dramatically.

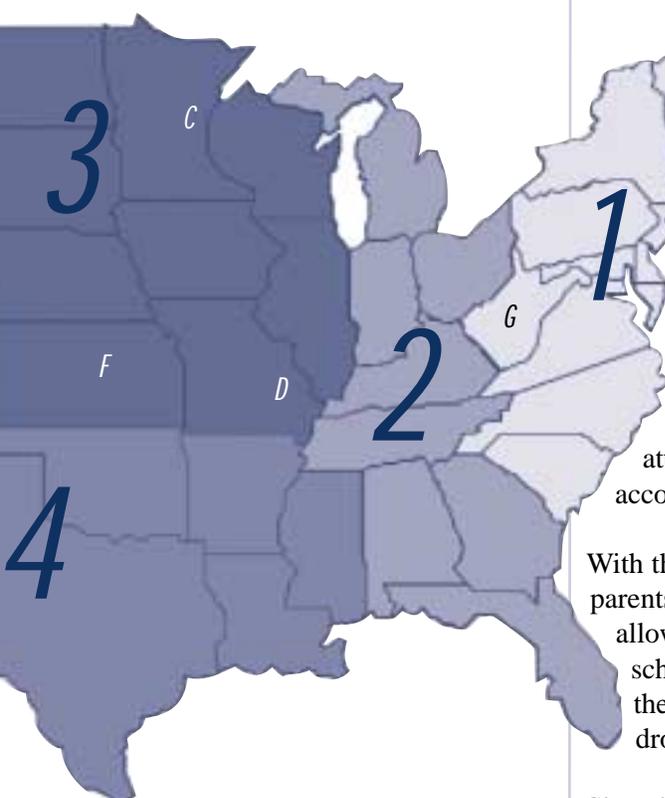
Since becoming a SRO in 1999, Sgt. Wilson has also taught safety programs to the district's elementary students and has conducted alcohol and drug prevention programs administered throughout Malden middle and secondary schools.

Lawrence, MA **E**

With funding provided through COPS Justice Based After-School (JBAS) program, Project Hope has delivered a wide array of programming for youth in some of Lawrence's most distressed neighborhoods. Now everything from baseball and basketball leagues and tournaments, to classes in hip hop and folk dancing are available free of charge. Project Hope has even worked with local schools to provide computer instruction and training in new technologies such as video development.

These programs have been implemented in partnership with the Lawrence Police Department, which has given its youth-participants opportunities to see police officers in a whole new light. Youth have been able to work cooperatively with police officers and interact with them in a positive setting, building bonds of mutual trust and respect.

The dedication and commitment of the Project Hope staff and the officers of the Lawrence Police Department has not gone unnoticed. According to Steve Lambert, managing editor of the Lawrence Eagle Tribune "Seeing what can happen has made us believers." Jim Arnold, Executive Director of the project, reported; "In the city of Lawrence federal funds have helped build relationships that have blossomed into this. Partnering with the police department has been phenomenal and now this partnership is really a dream come true."





Tribal Youth Recognized

GRADUATES SCORE LAW ENFORCEMENT CREDENTIALS

At the first-ever law enforcement training of its kind, youth learned recently that when the badge is tribal, they have an open invitation to serve with pride.

Last month sixty tribal youth, ages 13 -16, participated in the law enforcement National Youth Indian Academy. Representing tribes from the whole country, participants converged at the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, California for the two week Academy.

The program was designed to offer native youth the opportunity to

gain realistic experience and a firm working knowledge of major areas of police work as well as other justice areas.

According to Dan Rogers, Academy program director, it is anticipated that "graduates of the National Indian Youth Academy gained a level of respect and enthusiasm for law enforcement that one day may result in a career in tribal law enforcement."

Funding for the National Indian Youth Academy was provided through COPS Circle Project and the Tribal Resources Program at the Western Community Policing Center in Salem, Oregon. The

center is one of the 28 Regional Community Policing Institutes in a national network also sponsored by COPS.

Highlights included hands-on instruction in firearms handling and emergency vehicle operations. Tribal youth also secured law enforcement familiarization flights aboard Department aircraft. Instructors also lead discussions of issues faced by tribal communities, tribal law, character development and problem solving.

For more information about the next National Indian Youth Academy, visit www.tribaltraining.com

" My name is Ken Gardipee of the Chippewa Cree Tribe in Montana. I am the Juvenile Judge for the Tribe. Today I just received information about your project concerning young adults. It sounds like this is one of the best projects I have heard about in my 9 years on the bench. "

BY THE NUMBERS

While school shootings receive the most press, a recent poll released by Youth Crime Watch of America and the Broward FL Sheriff's Office show that many parents are most concerned about bullying and drug related incidents.

Among the major findings:

38% feared their child would be bullied

23% feared their child would be victimized due to drug related incidents

22% feared their child would be stabbed or shot

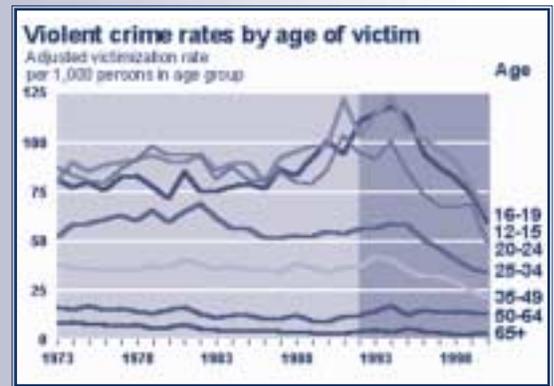
19% feared their child would be involved in a physical fight at school

These fears are not unfounded.

24% said their child had witnessed an incident of school violence

18% said their child had been threatened or attacked by a bully at school

*Nationally, crime rates
have fallen.
But are America's
children
really safe?*



Preventing Violence Against Youth

REPORTING SYSTEMS SHOW OFFICERS WHERE PROBLEMS EXIST

Sometimes young people wind up in the wrong place at the wrong time. All too often, these are the ones who fall prey to violence.

Violent offenders are known to target young people. According to a recent study by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in the U.S. Department of Justice, the greatest chance for victimization exists between ages 12 to 24.

According to Dr. Matthew Scheider, a social science analyst at the COPS Office, two Department of Justice crime reporting systems, the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program and the Bureau of Justice Statistic's National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), can be extremely useful to community policing officers

"UCR and NCVS data can assist officers in understanding the nature of crime problems," said Scheider. "This knowledge can assist them in developing more effective solutions."

"Over the past decade, both sources of data have reported a national decrease in most areas, including violent crime," he acknowledged. "And while nationwide decreases are encouraging, as in the past, the latest UCR and NCVS figures place issues of youth violence front and center."

Crimes that are focused on young persons include theft, assault, robbery, murder, and rape.

UCR is the official data collected from police departments nationwide concerning the number of arrests and crimes known to law enforcement. Intended to complement the UCR, NCVS findings are based on the analysis of interviews conducted with 49,000 households across the United States.

Both reporting systems punctuate conclusions from previous years – that violent offenders tend to target youth.

Young Citizens Face Adult Problems

Through direct contact with the residents they serve, officers see the high price, in human terms, young Americans pay each day.

One way for law enforcement agencies to increase their knowledge of local crime patterns is through the use of victimization surveys. Knowledge gained through the analysis of citizen survey information equips officers and communities with tools they can use to solve problems and prevent crime at the local level.

"Just as youth violence issues and crime rates vary from community to community, so too must prevention efforts," said Ralph Justus, COPS acting director. "In order to impact crime at the local level, officers need to keep abreast of crimes occurring within their jurisdictions."

BJS and COPS developed a software program to assist localities in conducting their own surveys to collect information on crime victimization, attitudes toward policing, and other community-related issues. These surveys can capture information similar to the data produced through the NCVS and can be customized to fit local needs.

The Crime Victimization Survey Software and accompanying Software User's Manual, "Conducting Community Surveys: A Practical Guide for Law Enforcement Agencies" can be obtained free of charge through the BJS web site. Software downloading instructions, and instructions for ordering the CD-ROM version are available at www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/cvs.htm

Calendar

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| September 9 - 12 | Maryland Chiefs of Police Association
Ocean City, Maryland | September 23 - 26 | International City/County
Management Association Salt Lake
City, Utah |
| September 12 - 15 | County Sheriffs of Colorado
Trinidad, Colorado | October 3 - 5 | The Oklahoma Association of Chiefs
of Police Annual Conference
Ardmore, OK |
| September 13 | SafeCities Town Hall on Youth
Violence Prevention | October 5 - 9 | National Crime Prevention Council
2001 National Conference on
Preventing Crime
Washington, DC |
| September 13 - 14 | 2001 League of California Cities
Conference
Sacramento, California | October 27 - 29 | 108th Annual IACP Conference
Toronto, Canada |
| September 18 - 20 | Arkansas Association of Chiefs of
Police
Hot Springs, Arkansas | | |
| September 22 - 27 | 2001 International Association of
Women Police Conference
Edmonton, Alberta | | |



ON THE BEAT
FALL 2001 No. 17

For more information or to receive a free copy of this newsletter, write to the COPS Office, Attn: On the Beat, 1100 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530, or visit our Website at www.cops.usdoj.gov

You may also call the US Department of Justice Response Center at 1.800.421.6770
Within the Washington area, call 202.307.1480

U.S. Department of Justice
COPS Office
1100 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C 20530

Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
DOJ
Permit No. G-71

