



August 11 – 14, 2002

Snapshots

COPS awarded:

- ★ Approximately \$74.5 million to Virginia's police departments.
- ★ Over \$1.5 million to Virginia's law enforcement agencies to combat domestic violence.
- ★ \$90.6 million nationwide for programs to prevent the use and production of methamphetamine.
- ★ \$23.8 million to Virginia's law enforcement agencies to add 86 School Resource Officers.
- ★ \$83 million for training through the COPS national network of Regional Community Policing Institutes.
- ★ Over \$1 billion in total funding for technology.
- ★ Over \$6.4 billion in total funding has been awarded to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

Assessing Responses to Problems: An Introductory Guide for Police Problem-Solvers Now Available!

COPS invites you to take a look at our newest publication *Assessing Responses to Problems* focuses on:

- ✓ Designing effective responses to problems,
- ✓ Implementing the response plan,
- ✓ Evaluating the plan as executed.

Assessing Responses to Problems helps law enforcement officials answer two main questions:

1. Did the problem decline?
2. If so, did the response cause the decline?

Assessing Responses to Problems is currently available at www.cops.usdoj.gov, and through the U.S. Department of Justice Response Center at 1.800.421.6770. Order your copy today.

Letter from Director Carl R. Peed Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

Local law enforcement constantly faces new challenges. When terrorists attacked on the morning of September 11, America's first responders were local law enforcement professionals, many of whom gave their lives for their country on that tragic day. Those brave men and women showed us by their actions the true meaning of the phrase "Protect and Serve." The COPS Office is proud to help local law enforcement meet its commitment to prevent crime and address new public safety challenges by advancing community policing.

An overwhelming majority of American law enforcement agencies have adopted community policing in recent years. These agencies have made their citizens active stakeholders in preserving public safety by constructively engaging their communities.

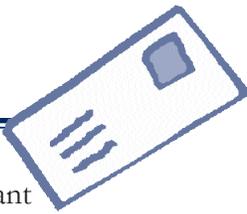
Community policing is not a new idea. It's a proven strategy that meets the many new challenges confronting law enforcement. Community policing has helped to restore crime-ridden neighborhoods, build trust between law enforcement officers and citizens, and solve problems that have eaten away at our quality of life for many years. Now it faces the challenge of securing our homeland against acts of terror.

One of the most disturbing aspects of the September 11 attacks is that the men who carried out these heinous acts lived among us for a long period of time before they struck. They ate in restaurants, shopped in stores, exercised in gyms, attended flight schools, and undoubtedly interacted with dozens of American citizens each day they operated within our borders.

By establishing strong working relationships with citizens and encouraging them to take an active role in their own safety, law enforcement agencies can prevent crime and the fear associated with crime. Likewise, individual citizens can assist law enforcement by learning about how criminal activity occurs, and providing the police with invaluable information about crimes or suspicious activities occurring in their communities. That is community policing in action, and it is now more important than ever. Community policing keeps America safe.

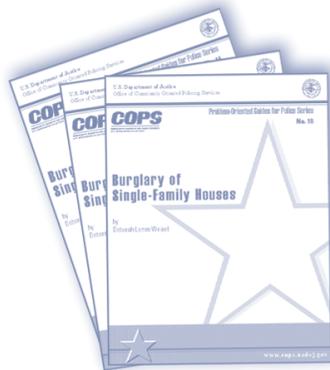
Tell Us about It!

COPS values feedback from law enforcement practitioners, and we want to hear from you! Please send us an email letting us know about your successful community policing efforts to reduce crime. You can send us an email at TellCOPS@usdoj.gov - we look forward to hearing from you.



Come On By

COPS invites you to stop by our booth to pick up some of our recent publications. COPS representatives will be on hand to answer any questions you may have on our publications and programs. COPS publications are also available on our website at www.cops.usdoj.gov.



What's Working for You:

Mobile Data Terminals Clear the Airwaves

A key element of any successful law enforcement agency is communications. While community policing places a great deal of emphasis on communications with those an agency serves, just as important is communications within the agency itself. Traditional radio communications are an excellent communications tool, but they can become a two-edged sword: while radio dispatching is instantaneous, larger departments can run into overcrowded airwaves, which can slow down response times and make law enforcement much less efficient. Virginia's Roanoke County Police Department found a solution: "silent dispatching."

Silent dispatching uses the mobile data terminals (MDTs), funded in part by a COPS grant, that are installed in 40 of Roanoke County's police cruisers. MDTs are powerful laptop computers that dock in custom mounts in the dashboards of patrol cars, and in Roanoke, they connect officers directly to the department's computer system. Dispatchers can send and receive information directly to and from the MDT, resulting in less-urgent calls not cluttering the airwaves. This makes the radios more effective in the event of more serious calls. The Roanoke County Police Department expects to have about 60 cruisers equipped for MDTs by 2003, and it hopes to cut its radio traffic by 40 percent.

Roanoke's MDTs also connect officers to databases and other information sources that help them work more efficiently, like the Department of Motor Vehicles. MDTs not only facilitate communications between dispatchers and officers on patrol without cluttering the radio waves, they also allow officers to directly retrieve a great deal of information. The information an officer needs to complete a routine traffic stop, for instance, can be compiled with a few keystrokes on an MDT, rather than requested from a dispatcher. This makes officers and dispatchers alike more efficient, and saves time for both of them.

MDT's are just one of the technological innovations that America's local law enforcement agencies have embraced to better serve their communities. Technology has become a significant force multiplier for large and small agencies alike, and is one of the ways community policing keeps America safe.

New Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Guides!

COPS presents new POP Guides, reinforcing local law enforcement efforts in the fight to protect citizens from crime. The Guides focus on identifying the underlying factors of specific problems. The newest additions to the POP Guides series are:

- ✓ Bullying in Schools
- ✓ Burglary of Single Family Houses
- ✓ Misuse and Abuse of 911

Call 800.421.6770 for copies of these, and all COPS publications. All COPS publications are available at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

Please keep an eye out for the new COPS website debuting soon.