



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act to Congress (Pub. L. No. 114-12). Under the National Blue Alert Act, the Department is required to develop the national Blue Alert framework; determine and designate an Advisory Board; create voluntary guidelines for States; and identify and address the challenges facing States as they try to implement Blue Alert.

The Report focuses on the work of the COPS Office in executing the National Blue Alert Act through November 15, 2016. Since the designation of the COPS Office Director as the National Blue Alert Coordinator in June of 2016, the COPS Office has made tremendous progress in implementing the National Blue Alert Act, despite not having any additional appropriated funding for this designation and new public law.

We hope this information is helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact this office if we may provide additional assistance regarding this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. J. Kadzik".

Peter J. Kadzik
Assistant Attorney General



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
President Pro Tempore
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

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November 29, 2016

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

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November 29, 2016

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Leader:

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Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act to Congress (Pub. L. No. 114-12). Under the National Blue Alert Act, the Department is required to develop the national Blue Alert framework; determine and designate an Advisory Board; create voluntary guidelines for States; and identify and address the challenges facing States as they try to implement Blue Alert.

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Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Leader:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act to Congress (Pub. L. No. 114-12). Under the National Blue Alert Act, the Department is required to develop the national Blue Alert framework; determine and designate an Advisory Board; create voluntary guidelines for States; and identify and address the challenges facing States as they try to implement Blue Alert.

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Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act to Congress (Pub. L. No. 114-12). Under the National Blue Alert Act, the Department is required to develop the national Blue Alert framework; determine and designate an Advisory Board; create voluntary guidelines for States; and identify and address the challenges facing States as they try to implement Blue Alert.

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Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act to Congress (Pub. L. No. 114-12). Under the National Blue Alert Act, the Department is required to develop the national Blue Alert framework; determine and designate an Advisory Board; create voluntary guidelines for States; and identify and address the challenges facing States as they try to implement Blue Alert.

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Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act to Congress (Pub. L. No. 114-12). Under the National Blue Alert Act, the Department is required to develop the national Blue Alert framework; determine and designate an Advisory Board; create voluntary guidelines for States; and identify and address the challenges facing States as they try to implement Blue Alert.

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U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

November 29, 2016

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Report on the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act to Congress (Pub. L. No. 114-12). Under the National Blue Alert Act, the Department is required to develop the national Blue Alert framework; determine and designate an Advisory Board; create voluntary guidelines for States; and identify and address the challenges facing States as they try to implement Blue Alert.

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Peter J. Kadzik
Assistant Attorney General



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, DC 20530

September 29, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FOR ADMINISTRATION

FROM:

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

SUBJECT:

Designation of the National Blue Alert Coordinator

Pursuant to the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-12, I am directed to establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the Department of Justice to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans, in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities.

To coordinate the activities required by the Act, I hereby designate the Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services ("COPS Office") as the National Blue Alert Coordinator. As described in the Act, the Coordinator's primary duties include:

1. Providing assistance to States and units of local government that are using Blue Alert plans.
2. Establishing voluntary guidelines for States and units of local government to use in developing Blue Alert plans that will promote compatible and integrated Blue Alert plans throughout the United States.
3. Developing protocols for efforts to apprehend suspects that address activities during the period beginning at the time of the initial notification of a law enforcement agency that a suspect has not been apprehended and ending at the time of apprehension of a suspect or when the law enforcement agency involved determines that the Blue Alert is no longer effective.
4. Working with States to ensure the appropriate regional coordination of various elements of the network.

5. Establishing an advisory group to assist States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other entities involved in the network with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans.
6. Acting as the nationwide point of contact for the development of the network and regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network.
7. Determining what procedures and practices are in use, and which are effective and do not require additional resources to implement, for notifying law enforcement and the public when – (a) an officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty; (b) an officer is missing in connection with his or her official duties; and (c) an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure an officer is received.
8. Submitting an annual report to Congress on the activities of the Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed.

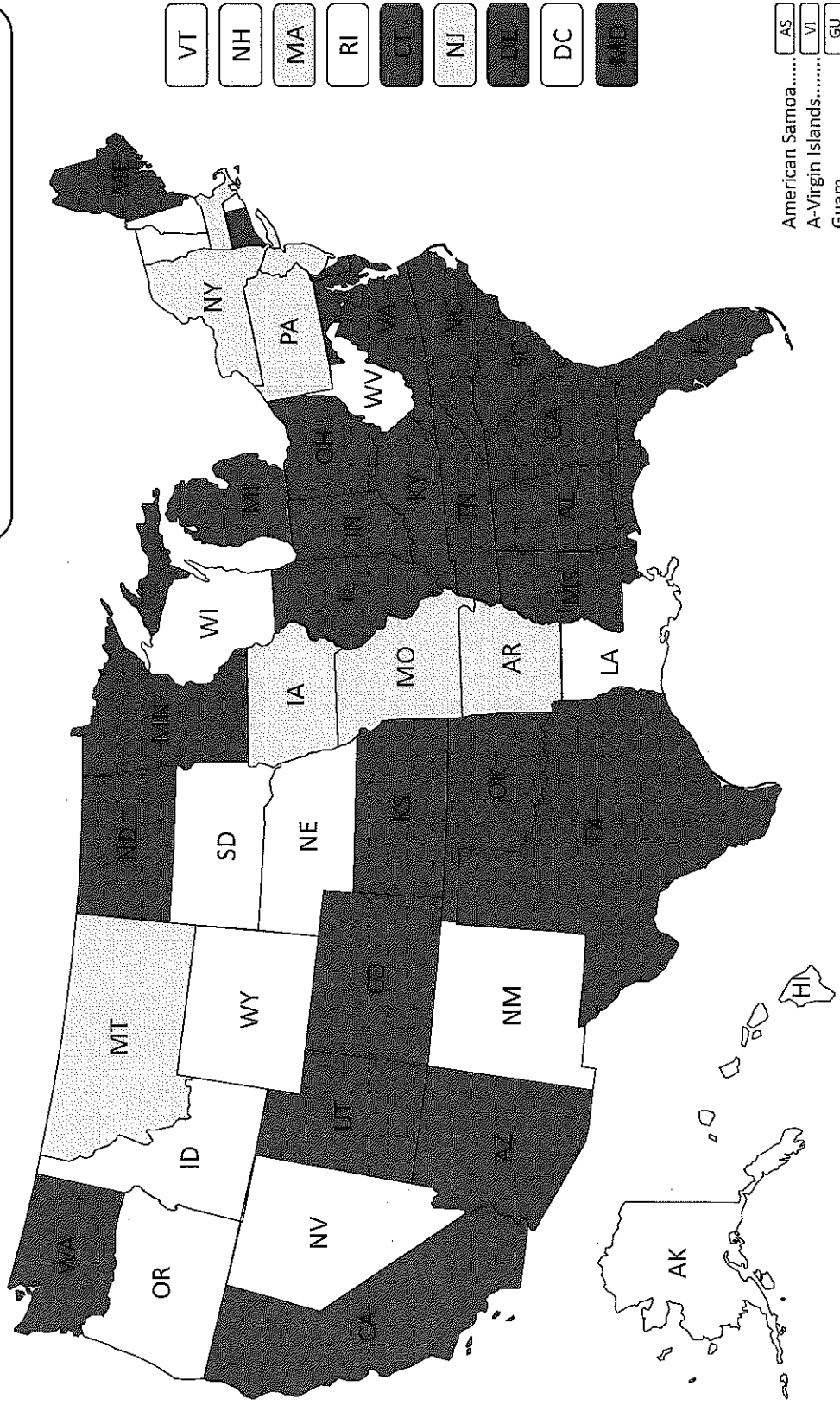
Since the objectives of the national Blue Alert communications network align with the COPS Office's officer safety portfolio, the Director of the COPS Office is the appropriate officer within the Department of Justice to serve as the National Blue Alert Coordinator.

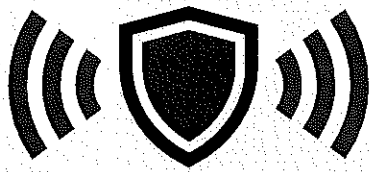
cc: Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General



BLUE ALERT STATE PLANS

- States with Blue Alert Plans
- States Considering Blue Alert Plans





NATIONAL Blue Alert NETWORK

What is a Blue Alert?

Blue Alerts are alerts intended to rapidly disseminate information about violent criminals who pose an **imminent threat to law enforcement** and others. They are issued to law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public.

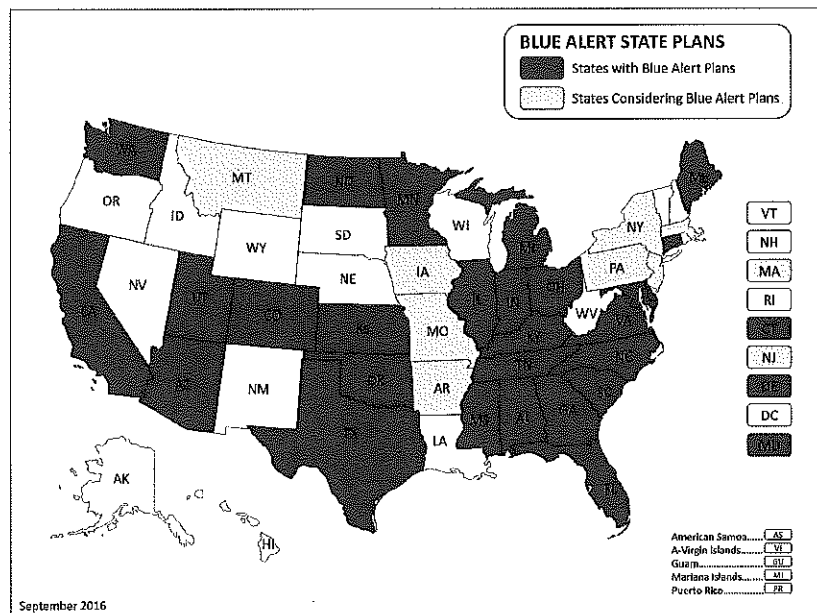
When are Blue Alerts issued?

Blue Alerts can be issued when a law enforcement officer is **killed, seriously injured, or missing** in the line of duty, or when an imminent and credible **threat** to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer is received.

Where are Blue Alert plans in effect?

Twenty-seven states have implemented Blue Alert plans.

Blue Alert Plan Status by State



What is the National Blue Alert Network?

The **National Blue Alert Network** supports the integration of Blue Alert plans throughout the United States into a national system. It promotes compatibility across jurisdictions by establishing voluntary guidelines for states and local governments to use in developing their own Blue Alert plans.

For more information, go to www.cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert
or email BlueAlert@usdoj.gov.



COPS
Community Oriented Policing Services
U.S. Department of Justice

**Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert
Act
REPORT TO CONGRESS**

**United States Department of Justice
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services**

Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act

REPORT TO CONGRESS

United States Department of Justice

Office of Community Oriented Policing Services

I. Purpose

Pursuant to the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015, Pub. L. No. 114-12 (Blue Alert Act), the United States Department of Justice (DOJ or Department) provides this annual report to Congress.

II. Background

The Blue Alert Act was enacted to establish a voluntary nationwide system to give an early warning of threats against law enforcement officers. Named for two fallen New York Police Department (NYPD) officers who were ambushed, the Blue Alert Act is intended to facilitate rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public that will aid in apprehending violent criminals who have killed or seriously injured a law enforcement officer in the line of duty, finding an officer when he or she is missing in connection with his or her official duties, or sharing notice of an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer when it is received.

Officer safety and wellness remains a top priority for the Department, which is committed to implementing the Blue Alert Act aimed to protect the lives of the men and women who bravely serve in law enforcement. Following the passage of the Blue Alert Act, the Department devoted time and consideration to ensure the most appropriate and well-suited DOJ component lead this effort. In June 2016, based on its extensive work and collaborative research on officer safety and wellness, the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) was assigned to implement the program. The COPS Office is honored to oversee implementation of the Blue Alert Act.

III. Coordinator Activities

The Blue Alert Act requires the Attorney General to “establish a national Blue Alert communications network within the [U.S.] Department of Justice to issue Blue Alerts through the initiation, facilitation, and promotion of Blue Alert plans, in coordination with States, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities.”

The COPS Office has been working diligently to implement the Blue Alert Act and reports the following activities:

A. Designation of a Blue Alert Coordinator. The Blue Alert Act requires the Attorney General to assign an existing officer of the Department to act as the National Coordinator. The Coordinator is to serve as the nationwide point of contact for the development of a network and regional coordination of Blue Alerts.

In September 2016, Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch designated the Director of the COPS Office to serve as the National Blue Alert Coordinator.¹ COPS Office Director Ronald L. Davis has now assumed this responsibility. Director Davis has in turn named Vince Davenport of the COPS Office, who has significant prior law enforcement experience, as the Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator.

B. Establish an Advisory Group. Pursuant to the Blue Alert Act, the Coordinator is required to establish an Advisory Group to assist states, local governments, and other involved entities with initiating, facilitating, and promoting Blue Alert plans. The statute requires the group to have geographically diverse representation and include the following representatives:

- A law enforcement organization representing rank-and-file officers
- Other law enforcement agencies and public safety communications
- Broadcasters, first responders, dispatchers, and radio station personnel
- Other individuals and organizations the Coordinator determines are necessary for the success of the network.

The COPS Office has established an Advisory Group that satisfies each of the statutory requirements. The members are as follows:

- James Pasco, Executive Director, Fraternal Order of Police
- Craig Floyd, President and CEO, National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund
- Vince Talucci (or designee), International Association of Chiefs of Police
- John Thompson, Executive Director, National Sheriff's Association
- Tom Berry, Executive Director, Blue Alert Foundation
- TJ Kennedy, President, FirstNet Organization
- Derek Poarch, Executive Director, Association of Public Safety Communications Officials
- Mike Mullen (or designee), National Association of Broadcasters

¹ See attached designation from Attorney General Lynch

The COPS Office has consulted with each of the Advisory Group members individually. Each member has indicated their full support and commitment to serve. The COPS Office will add additional members to the Advisory Group as needed consistent with the discretion granted to the Coordinator by the Blue Alert Act. The Advisory Group will have its inaugural meeting later in November and will meet regularly thereafter.

C. Establish Voluntary Guidelines and Develop Protocols. The Blue Alert Act requires the Coordinator to establish voluntary guidelines for states and local governments to use in developing Blue Alert plans. The guidelines shall include a list of resources necessary to establish Blue Alert plans, criteria, and guidelines for issuing Blue Alerts; guidelines to protect privacy; and guidelines aligned with the National Crime Information Center database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and any other relevant crime information repository.

The Coordinator's voluntary guidelines will effectively address the two complementary yet separate components of the Blue Alert Act: public alerts and law enforcement sensitive (LES) alerts. The public alerts provide suspect or missing officer information to the media and affected public at large and contain information appropriate for public dissemination. By contrast, the LES alerts provide information to the affected law enforcement agencies and contain sensitive information that is accessible only to sworn law enforcement members. Public and LES alerts are typically sent concurrently.

Further, the COPS Office will serve as a resource for promoting and supporting state and local Blue Alert plans to include the following:

- Training and education in support of Blue Alert programs
- Model policies, bulletin templates, promotional items, etc.
- A master list of all state plans and contact information
- A curated Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) Special Interest Group (SIG) for law enforcement community
- A National repository for incident data, statistical analysis, etc.
- Developing strategic partnerships throughout public and private sectors
- Promoting technological compatibility

To ensure the issuance of comprehensive guidelines and resources, the COPS Office is undertaking significant outreach and has met with Executive Director Tom Berry of Blue Alert

Foundation, Inc. With the assistance and leadership of Executive Director Berry, the Department has also met with law enforcement representatives from California, North Carolina, Maine, and Texas, and a representative for COPSync, Inc. (COPSync, Inc. operates as a real-time, law enforcement mobile data information system that provides software that will allow patrol officers to collect, report, and share critical data in real time at the point of incident and obtain instant access to various local, state, and federal law enforcement databases.) These consultations have already provided key information on lessons learned, challenges encountered, and recommended courses of action. In addition, the COPS Office made direct outreach calls to each of the 56 states and territories. This includes the 27 states that reportedly operate Blue Alert systems as well as those 29 states and territories that do not have Blue Alert systems.²

The COPS Office's outreach serves multiple purposes. First, it is enabling the Department to identify and establish points of contact across the country for the Blue Alert Act. These points of contact will be a critical resource for law enforcement and the general public as no such resource currently exists. The lack of such a resource affects jurisdictions' ability to communicate within states and across the country.

This outreach has also enabled the Department to verify which states have Blue Alert plans and the extent to which the plans comply with statutory guidelines. The COPS Office has secured copies of state Blue Alert plans and related materials such as program overviews, activation plans, legislation and brochures from 26 of the 27 states reported to have Blue Alert plans.

Thus far, the Department has identified that a number of state plans contain the following common core activation guidelines consistent with the Blue Alert Act:

- There has been a serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty;
- An officer is missing in connection with the officer's official duties;
- There is an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer;
- There is sufficient description information for dissemination; and
- There is an imminent and credible threat of public harm.

² See attached map of state Blue Alert plans

The COPS Office has also identified a number of plans that differ or are less comprehensive. For example, COPS found that only about half of the plans received included activation guidelines for situations when an officer is missing or kidnapped. The COPS Office will continue to collect and assess information from the various state Blue Alert systems in order to establish comprehensive guidelines and best practices for nationwide dissemination and to inform technical assistance needs.

Notably, because the Blue Alert Act prohibits lobbying for the implementation of Blue Alert, the COPS Office will make technical assistance and guidelines available to those states without Blue Alert plans.

The COPS Office's outreach is also enabling the Department to identify and address challenges states face in establishing and implementing Blue Alert plans, beginning with the lack of a comprehensive contact list for Blue Alert programs across the country. Even in states with established Blue Alert plans, it is often difficult to readily identify important points of contact necessary for alert activation or interstate coordination.

Other challenges identified thus far include the need to promote formal communication mechanisms between law enforcement agencies for Blue Alert information, the need for a dedicated Emergency Alert System (EAS) event code, and the need to increase public and law enforcement awareness of the Blue Alert Act. The COPS Office is working to address these challenges.

In a recent incident where two police officers were shot and wounded, the National Blue Alert Network was activated to assist with coordination efforts between the affected state and two neighboring states with separate and distinct Blue Alert plans and protocols. Prior to the incident, the COPS Office Blue Alert team had already compiled a complete contact list of all state Blue Alert coordinators which facilitated immediate outreach to the affected state and neighboring states with Blue Alert plans.

The outreach efforts by the National Blue Alert Network helped to ensure that there was direct coordination between several existing state Blue Alert plans in order to facilitate rapid dissemination of information about the incident and the wanted suspect. This is but one example of the many outreach protocols that will be employed by the National Blue Alert Network whenever Blue Alerts are issued throughout the United States or Territories.

D. Outreach and Partnership with Key Stakeholders. The COPS Office has reached out to several key stakeholders to assist in developing and implementing a national Blue Alert Act strategy, including the following:

Blue Alert Foundation, Inc. As noted earlier, the COPS Office is working closely with the Blue Alert Foundation, Inc. which was founded in 2008 by Executive Director Tom Berry. The foundation works to promote the creation and establishment of Blue Alert systems throughout the United States. It also provides support to families of fallen officers and facilitates the acquisition of critical safety equipment for law enforcement agencies needing assistance. Executive Director Berry has agreed to serve on the Blue Alert Advisory Group. He is providing significant assistance and consultation to the COPS Office regarding implementation of the Blue Alert Act.

FirstNet. FirstNet is an independent authority within the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunication and Information Administration. FirstNet's mission is to build, operate, and maintain the first high-speed nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety. Once fully operational, FirstNet will provide a single interoperable platform for emergency and daily public safety communications.

The Attorney General is statutorily designated as a board member of FirstNet. In 2013, then-Attorney General Eric H. Holder, consistent with the FirstNet bylaws, delegated his responsibilities, including the authority to participate in and vote at board meetings, to the COPS Office Director. Because the objectives of FirstNet were related to those of the COPS Office program, including the improvement of public safety at the state, local, and tribal levels and the coordination of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement capabilities, the COPS Office Director was the appropriate delegate to serve on the FirstNet board during the inaugural years. Currently, the Executive Assistant Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Science and Technology Branch serves as the Attorney General's delegate on the FirstNet Board.

The COPS Office, in light of the similar equities and resources between FirstNet and the Blue Alert Act, has requested the consultation and assistance of FirstNet. TJ Kennedy, President of FirstNet, has agreed to serve on the Blue Alert Act Advisory Group. This expertise will be invaluable in the development of the COPS Office's national strategy. The COPS Office anticipates that FirstNet, once operational, will be able to streamline and mitigate Blue Alert Act costs for states.

International Justice and Public Safety Network (National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System or NLETS). NLETS is the primary interstate justice and public safety network for the exchange of secure law enforcement and criminal justice information. NLETS is a private not-for-profit corporation owned by the 50 States and managed by a board of regional representatives. NLETS connects all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and Canada along with 24 federal agencies and various associate members for the secure exchange of criminal justice data.

The COPS Office has consulted with NLETS Deputy Executive Director Frank Minice regarding the use of NLETS for Blue Alert purposes and for the creation of a standardized Blue Alert Protocol. The COPS Office believes that NLETS is uniquely positioned to support Blue Alert and has the support of NLETS to continue to work together.

Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). LEEP is operated by the FBI Criminal Justice Information Systems Division. It is an electronic gateway that provides law enforcement agencies, intelligence partners, and criminal justice entities with centralized access to many different resources and services via a single sign-on. The COPS Office would use LEEP to create and curate a controlled access Special Interest Group (SIG) to store and share sensitive information with law enforcement personnel. The COPS Office has consulted with LEEP staff concerning the creation of a Blue Alert SIG and will meet to begin SIG development.

The COPS Office will be working with each of these key stakeholders individually and collectively as we develop our national strategy for the Blue Alert Act.

E. Cooperation with Other Federal Agencies. The Act requires the Coordinator to cooperate with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Communications Commission, and other DOJ offices as appropriate.

The COPS Office has established a point of contact with each of the identified federal agencies and the FBI. This will further facilitate the successful implementation of the Blue Alert Act. For example, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) oversees the national Emergency Alert System (EAS), which is used for AMBER Alerts. They establish the technical standards, activation procedures, and testing protocols as well as approve all the state plans. This system will align with the implementation of the Blue Alert Act. The Department will work with these points of contact for ongoing advice and consultation to the COPS Office and the Advisory Group.

F. Promotion of the Blue Alert Act. Notably, the Blue Alert statute prohibits the Coordinator from conducting any official travel or hosting a conference for the sole purpose of implementing the Blue Alert Act. These restrictions have not, however, prevented the COPS Office from promoting the Blue Alert Act, and the Department has undertaken a number of measures to raise awareness of the Blue Alert Act. Specifically, the COPS Office is building a dedicated web page on the DOJ website that will identify Blue Alert resources and will include points of contact and other resources for states, the community, and law enforcement. The Department will also promote awareness of the Blue Alert Act at national police and law enforcement conferences, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), Major Cities Chiefs, and the National Sheriff's Association. These conferences provide the potential outreach to promote the Blue Alert Act to tens of thousands of law enforcement

officers and agencies.³ The COPS Office will publish a dedicated article in its e-newsletter, the *Community Policing Dispatch*, to describe Blue Alert development plans. The newsletter reaches more than 7,000 law enforcement professionals and stakeholders. In addition, the COPS Office will promote the Blue Alert Act with all of its active COPS Office grant recipients, which consists of approximately 1,000 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

IV. Fiscal Needs

There were no funds appropriated for implementation of the Blue Alert Act. The Congressional Budget Office estimates annual implementation costs to be \$1M once fully operational (Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate, S. 665 Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015 (April 6, 2015)). Preliminary assessments—informed by operational and technical assistance costs of the AMBER Alert system, which is administered by the Department's, Office of Justice Programs (OJP), its partner the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and its grantee Fox Valley Community College—support the Congressional Budget Office's estimation, although OJP estimated that the first two-year implementation costs would be \$3M per year to support policy development and implementation costs, technical assistance, and AMBER Alert technology reconfiguration.

Similar to the AMBER Alert system costs, the COPS Office anticipates funds needed for the Blue Alert Act will support development and assistance to the approximately 30 jurisdictions that do not have Blue Alert plans as well as training, technical assistance, and coordination to the states that do have Blue Alert plans. As detailed earlier, the COPS Office is working diligently to implement the Blue Alert Act and to minimize any costs by aligning with existing resources. The Department will continue to identify the specific needs for the Blue Alert Act and the attenuated projected costs and will submit funding requests as appropriate.

V. Summary of Activities and Projected Next Steps

As detailed previously, the Department has engaged in the following activities:

- Designated the COPS Office Director as the National Blue Alert Act Coordinator
- Established a Blue Alert Act COPS Office Team
 - National Coordinator – Director Ronald L. Davis
 - Deputy National Coordinator – Vince Davenport
 - Senior Counsel – Shanetta Y. Cutlar
 - Legal Advisor – Chau Miles

³ See attached flyer distributed at the 2016 IACP Annual Conference

- Program staff – LaChundra Lindsey, Tracie Johnson-Farrell, Girale Takahashi
- Established a Blue Alert Act Advisory Group
- Conducted direct outreach to all 56 states and territories to secure information regarding any of their existing Blue Alert plans and materials (or lack thereof)
- Collected state Blue Alert plans and/or related materials from the 27 states with Blue Alert plans
- Conducted a review of existing Blue Alert plans to identify shared elements along with opportunities for greater consistency and coordination
- Identified and conducted outreach with key stakeholders including Blue Alert Foundation, Inc., FirstNet, International Justice and Public Safety Network (National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System or NLETS) and Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP)
- Launched a Blue Alert webpage on the COPS Office website at <http://cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert>.⁴

The COPS Office will undertake the following activities:

- Conduct regular meetings with the Blue Alert Act Advisory Group
- Continue outreach to states that do not have Blue Alert plans to encourage implementation and assess and provide technical assistance regarding impediments
- Continue working with various Blue Alert stakeholders and federal partners
- Assess existing state Blue Alert plans to identify best practices
- Develop a Blue Alert Act communications model to capture the need for public alerts and law enforcement sensitive alerts
- Based on working with states, stakeholders, and the Advisory Group, will develop and issue policy guidance, voluntary guidelines, and protocols
- Maintain a web page that identifies resources for states and law enforcement agencies
- Promote the Blue Alert Act to thousands of law enforcement agencies and officers at law enforcement conferences, in the COPS Office newsletter, and to its grantees

⁴ See attached screen images of Blue Alert webpage

- Identify fiscal needs for further implementation of the Blue Alert Act and make appropriate funding requests

Attachments:

- United States Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch's Designation of the National Blue Alert Coordinator
- State Map of Blue Alert plans
- Blue Alert flyer
- Blue Alert web page screen image