



# Department of Justice

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STATEMENT

OF

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DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES

BEFORE THE

House Appropriations Committee

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESENTED ON

MARCH 18, 2004

**Statement by Carl Peed  
Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services  
Before the House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary**

**March 18, 2004**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Seranno and members of the subcommittee:

I am very pleased to appear before you today on behalf of the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. As a twenty-five year veteran in law enforcement, I am proud to lead an organization whose mission is to support local efforts to reduce crime through community policing.

As you know, state and local law enforcement agencies use COPS resources to better protect and serve their communities. The committee has included funding in the Department's FY 2004 Appropriations Act that allows COPS to continue supporting the crime-fighting and homeland security needs of America's law enforcement agencies.

In 2004:

- COPS will dedicate \$113.8 million to hire community policing and school resource officers;
- COPS Interoperable Communications Program will provide \$84 million to support the purchase and upgrading of voice and data communications equipment and systems. The focus of this program is to enable neighboring law enforcement agencies and other first-responders that operate in the same area to communicate directly and share vital information during emergency response operations. These funds will be available to both small and large communities;
- In Indian Country, we will make \$24.7 million available to help federally recognized tribes improve their law enforcement infrastructure;
- COPS will provide \$4.9 million in grants to further community policing training and technical assistance resources available to the law enforcement field;

- Through \$9.9 million in Police Integrity program grants, COPS will continue to support initiatives that build greater trust and respect between law enforcement and communities;
- We will enhance school safety by investing \$4.6 million in our Safe Schools initiative;
- COPS will also continue to support local law enforcement's efforts to fight methamphetamine by investing \$53.5 million to combat this harmful drug; and
- We will award funding under the COPS Law Enforcement Technology grant program to improve the information technology available to state and local law enforcement agencies.

As you know from your constituents, for ten years, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies have successfully used COPS funds and community policing strategies to achieve positive and tangible results in the fight against crime. By collaborating with their communities, law enforcement agencies gain an in-depth understanding of the crimes that affect that community, the causes of these crimes, and their community's unique vulnerabilities. Since September 11th, police and sheriff's departments have relied on these same community policing principles in response to the ongoing threat of terrorism.

The President's 2005 budget seeks \$97 million for COPS. Highlights of this request include;

- \$17.6 million for community policing development initiatives that result in easy to replicate model programs and timely technical assistance resources;
- \$20 million for Indian Country. This will help us continue and expand on efforts to support federally recognized tribal law enforcement agencies.
- The budget request also includes \$1.6 million for the Interoperable Communications Program; and
- \$20 million in funding for the COPS Methamphetamine program.

In short, the proposed 2005 budget would allow COPS to continue supporting the development of innovative community policing initiatives and resources.

An example of COPS support for such resources can be found in our national network of Regional Community Policing Institutes, or RCPIs.

RCPIs are strategically located throughout the country to serve the region-specific training needs of law enforcement agencies and citizens in their geographic area. Together with our other training resource, the Community Policing Consortium, which is comprised of the nations leading law enforcement support organizations, they have trained over 280,000 people.

The training that they offer covers both traditional community policing issues and subjects such as homeland security. In fact, Each of the RCPIs in our national network have added an enhanced version of State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training, or SLATT Training that incorporates community policing principles into instruction regarding homeland security.

For example, in Kentucky, that RCPI has developed a "Terrorism Awareness for Communities" training class that is being offered throughout the state. Based on the homeland security components of SLATT training, this new class engages the public through customized discussion sessions. Local restaurants host sessions on terrorism and food safety. Public Works departments discuss water supply safety issues. Trucking and cargo companies focus on hazardous materials issues, and bank personnel focus on financial industry vulnerabilities.

In addition to the national network of RCPIs, COPS supports other innovations in policing.

For example, we know that the relationship between an officer who has just completed academy training and the officer who supervises the recruit's initial 'on the street training' sets the tone for the new officer's future approach to his or her responsibilities. This critical juncture in the professional development of new officers has a far-reaching impact on the culture of law enforcement.

Therefore, COPS recently funded the development of the first significant changes to post-academy field training in more than 30 years. The Police Training Officer program incorporates community policing and problem solving principles that help officers develop the knowledge, skills and attributes needed to be successful in today's demanding law enforcement environment.

We also know that the relationship a law enforcement agency has with its community is directly related to the agency's crime-fighting success. This fiscal year, COPS will dedicate resources and support model programs that promote police integrity and build greater trust and mutual respect between police and the public. This will include resources to improve use of force policies, strengthen citizen complaint processes, improve ethical standards, and address issues of police accountability.

Challenges that confront tribal law enforcement agencies offer another example. Many tribal agencies confront unique crime and social issues and patrol expansive jurisdictions with relatively few resources. In response to these challenges, COPS tribal grants have traditionally been more flexible in the activities they support, and allow grantees to use COPS funds for everything from equipment and training to problem solving and technology. To date, COPS has awarded more than \$235 million to 296 federally recognized tribes.

Over the past few years, we have seen an explosion in methamphetamine production, distribution, and abuse in rural and non-urban areas. Meth is dangerous to users and their families, the byproducts of meth production are toxic, it is cheap, highly addictive, and relatively easy to produce. Additionally, it is not typically a 'street corner' drug, and is often produced and distributed within difficult to penetrate social groups. In response to this challenge, COPS has dedicated more than \$234 million to methamphetamine eradication, and under the 2005 request, \$20 million will be dedicated to this problem next year.

The President's budget seeks funding in 2005 to continue these types of innovative efforts. The proposed budget ensures that COPS will continue to assist law enforcement agencies in their efforts to fight traditional crime and respond to the ongoing threat of terrorism.

Community policing strategies have helped American law enforcement agencies by engaging their communities and building partnerships to meet new and existing challenges. This approach has proven successful, it has been well received by the law enforcement community, and it responds to public demand for a more collaborative relationship with law enforcement.

COPS looks forward to continuing to support my former colleagues by advancing community policing.

I am happy to answer any questions you may have.