



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Office of Legislative Affairs

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Michael R. Pence  
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) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

The Report focuses on the work of the COPS Office and the status and updates of the implementation of the National Blue Alert Act. Since 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.

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 cursive script that reads "Prim Escalona".

Prim Escalona  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Enclosure



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
President Pro Tempore  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President:

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Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Leader:

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Leader:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

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

Dear Congressman McCarthy:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
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) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
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) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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**U.S. Department of Justice**

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Jordan:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
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) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable José Serrano  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
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) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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*Office of the Assistant Attorney General*

*Washington, D.C. 20530*

July 8, 2020

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Aderholt:

Enclosed please find the Department of Justice (the Department) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) Annual 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 work to implement Blue Alert.

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**Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu**

**National Blue Alert Act**

**Report to Congress**

**U.S. Department of Justice**

**Office of Community Oriented Policing Services**

**Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act**  
**Report to Congress**  
**U.S. 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 or Act), the United States Department of Justice (Department) provides this annual report to Congress.

**II. Background**

The Blue Alert Act was enacted to "encourage, enhance, and integrate" Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in coordination with states, units of local government, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate entities (34 U.S.C. § 50502).<sup>1</sup> Named for two fallen New York City Police Department (NYPD) officers who were ambushed, the Act is intended to facilitate rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, the media, and the public that will aid in (1) apprehending violent criminals who have killed or seriously injured a law enforcement officer in the line of duty; (2) finding an officer when he or she is missing in connection with his or her official duties; or (3) sharing notice of an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer.

Officer safety and wellness remains a top priority for the Department. The Department is committed to implementing the Blue Alert Act to protect the lives of the men and women who bravely serve in law enforcement. The Attorney General has consistently recognized the uniquely dangerous nature of police work and reiterated the Department's strong support of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement.

The Department assigned the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) with the honor of overseeing implementation of the Blue Alert Act and to create the National Blue Alert Network, based on its extensive work on officer safety and wellness issues.

**III. Coordinator Duties/Activities**

The Blue Alert Act requires an annual report to Congress on the activities of the National Blue Alert Coordinator and the effectiveness and status of Blue Alert plans that are in effect or being developed. The COPS Office dedicated significant time and effort to implement the Blue Alert Act and reports the following activities:

- Designation of National Coordinator and Deputy National Coordinator. The Blue Alert Act requires the Attorney General to assign an existing officer of the Department to act as the National Coordinator of the Blue Alert communications network to serve as

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<sup>1</sup> While the legislation does not specifically mention Tribes, the COPS Office is working with Tribal law enforcement as well.

the nationwide point of contact for the development of a network and regional coordination of Blue Alerts through the network (34 U.S.C. § 50503(a)).

As noted in previous Reports to Congress, the Attorney General designated the Director of the COPS Office as the National Blue Alert Coordinator (Coordinator). In April 2018, the Attorney General appointed Phillip E. Keith as the Director of the COPS Office. Director Keith has more than 50 years of experience in the fields of criminal justice, public safety, and business administration. Thirty-four of those years were spent in active law enforcement service, including 17 years as Chief of Police of the Knoxville, Tennessee, Police Department. In addition to his service as a law enforcement officer, Mr. Keith has significant policy and administrative experience, including working directly with the COPS Office.

The Coordinator designated an existing COPS Office staff member, Vince Davenport, who has significant law enforcement experience as the Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator (Deputy Coordinator) to assist in implementing the Blue Alert Act. The Coordinator also established the COPS Office Blue Alert Team consisting of existing federal staff with a broad range of expertise. This team meets regularly to discuss implementation strategies, timelines, and deliverables. Select members of the team have been trained to provide technical assistance to states and local and tribal law enforcement agencies seeking to establish Blue Alert plans or enhance an existing Blue Alert plan.

- Establishment of Advisory Group and Quarterly Meetings. 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 (34 U.S.C. § 50503(b)(5)). The Act 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.

As previously reported, the Coordinator established an Advisory Group that satisfies each of the statutory requirements. Today, there are sixteen members representing the following organizations:

- Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
- National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
- Blue Alert Foundation, Inc.
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- National Sheriffs' Association (NSA)
- National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF)
- Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials (APCO)
- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives
- National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)

- Concerns of Police Survivors
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation
- National Fusion Center Association (NFCA)

The Advisory Group meets on a quarterly basis. To date, Advisory Group members have provided valuable individual feedback to the COPS Office on our guidance and recommendations to states and local governments in developing or enhancing their Blue Alert plans. The COPS Office will add additional Advisory Group members or amend the frequency of meetings, as appropriate, consistent with the discretion granted to the Coordinator by the Blue Alert Act.

### Development of Voluntary Guidelines and 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 must include a list of resources necessary to establish Blue Alert plans; criteria and guidelines for issuing Blue Alerts; guidelines to protect privacy and civil liberties; and guidelines aligned with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and any other relevant crime information repository (34 U.S.C. § 50503).

The Department has developed voluntary guidelines that address two complementary yet separate components of the Blue Alert Act: public alerts and law enforcement sensitive (LES) alerts. Public alerts directed at media outlets and affected communities provide suspect or missing officer information that is appropriate for public dissemination. LES alerts directed at affected law enforcement agencies provide sensitive information that is accessible only to law enforcement personnel. Public and LES alerts are often sent concurrently.

Unlike public Blue Alerts, LES Blue Alerts are limited to situations when an investigating agency needs to share information with other state or law enforcement agencies but has elected not to make suspect information publicly known. LES alerts are used when the investigating agency believes that making suspect information known publicly could jeopardize the criminal investigation or when the investigating agency believes that public alerting is not prudent given the facts known at the time. LES alerts are also used when there is a known credible threat to law enforcement in a particular jurisdiction and the investigating agency wishes to alert other law enforcement personnel in the affected jurisdictions or geographical area without making the threat known publicly.

To meet its statutory mandate to establish voluntary guidelines, the COPS Office issued Alert Guidelines ([https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/blue-alert/blue\\_alert\\_guidelines.pdf](https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/blue-alert/blue_alert_guidelines.pdf)) to provide general information on when a law enforcement agency should issue Blue Alerts consistent with the statutory criteria as set forth in the Blue Alert Act. Blue Alerts may be issued when one of the following sets of threshold criteria are met:

- (1) Death or serious injury of a law enforcement officer in the line of duty;
- (2) Law enforcement officer missing in connection with official duties; or
- (3) Threat to cause death or serious injury to a law enforcement officer.

To supplement the Alert Guidelines, the COPS Office developed Effective Blue Alert

Plans: Guidance and Recommendations to help states and local agencies through the development process of Blue Alert plans; enhance and standardize existing state and local Blue Alert plans; and promote nationwide compatibility of Blue Alert plans. This comprehensive guidance identifies and addresses eight key elements to consider in developing new or updating existing Blue Alert plans:

- (1) activation criteria for alerts;
- (2) requesting alerts;
- (3) writing effective alerts;
- (4) geographic scope of alerts;
- (5) interstate and intrastate coordination of alerts;
- (6) duration of alerts;
- (7) officer privacy protection; and
- (8) suspect apprehension efforts.

The COPS Office has worked closely with partners at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to establish the most effective way to deliver targeted alerts within the existing alerting infrastructure. We will also continue to work with law enforcement stakeholders and Advisory Group members to increase the effectiveness of our guidance.

#### Information Repositories and Delivery of Technical Assistance

Since October 2016, the COPS Office has maintained a dedicated webpage on our website at <https://cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert> to promote Blue Alerts and provide educational materials. This National Blue Alert Network webpage serves as a centralized resource center to include, but not limited to, the following:

- Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015
- Blue Alert map indicating those states and territories with Blue Alert plans
- Alert Guidelines
- National Blue Alert Network factsheet
- Blue Alert Legislation Compendium
- State Blue Alert Officials Directory (public contact information)
- Information on who is eligible and how to access our secure controlled access
- Annual Report to Congress

Since January 2017, the COPS Office has provided a secure web-based data repository maintained on the FBI Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP) that provides controlled access to states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other qualified stakeholders as determined by the Coordinator. Individuals with existing LEEP or LEO.gov accounts can access the National Blue Alert Network Special Interest Group (SIG) directly through <https://www.cjis.gov/CJISEAI/EAIController>. The National Blue Alert SIG provides curated information that may not be appropriate for public dissemination to include, but not limited to, the following:

- State Blue Alert Officials Directory (24-Hour emergency contact information)

- National Blue Alert Network PowerPoint Presentation
- Effective Blue Alert Plans: Guidance and Recommendations
- Sample Blue Alert Policies

The COPS Office will continue to enhance the National Blue Alert Network webpage and SIG with updated and new information on a regular basis.

Notably, the Blue Alert Act prohibits the Coordinator from lobbying any state officer regarding the funding or implementation of a Blue Alert plan. The COPS Office does offer free informational resources and technical assistance to any state or local agency wishing to establish or modify its Blue Alert plans. Upon request by the state or local agency, trained COPS Office Blue Alert Team members will review Blue Alert plans and provide feedback to ensure compliance with the voluntary guidelines and protocols.

### Engagement with Stakeholders

The COPS Office maintains active partnerships with varied stakeholders representing law enforcement and emergency communications in order to administer and expand the National Blue Alert Network. Stakeholder organizations play a key role in ensuring that the COPS Office is aware of relevant issues affecting officer safety and alerting technologies. The COPS Office will continue to work with stakeholders individually and collectively to develop and enhance our national strategy for the Blue Alert Act. We will also identify additional stakeholders as needed.

### Cooperation with Other Federal Agencies

The Act requires the Coordinator to cooperate with the FCC, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Transportation (DOT), and other Department offices as appropriate (34 U.S.C. § 50503(d)). As previously reported, the COPS Office established a point of contact with each of the identified federal agencies and the FBI. We have since forged strong working relationships with several key federal partners, most notably, the FCC and FEMA.

The FCC oversees the national Emergency Alert System (EAS) used to deliver important emergency information, such as AMBER alerts and weather information targeted to specific areas. The FCC plays a key role in alerting as it establishes the technical standards, activation procedures, and testing protocols. The FCC has sole authority to create fixed three-letter EAS event codes used to define alerts and the corresponding actions by broadcasters, cable system operators, wireless carriers, and other parties responsible for alerting the public.

On December 14, 2017, the FCC voted unanimously to approve the creation of a special three-letter EAS event code to be used by alerting authorities when issuing Blue Alerts – BLU. The new FCC rule constitutes a major advancement in alerting capabilities and will benefit all 50 states and U.S. territories, to include Tribal lands. The rule took effect in two phases. The use of the BLU event code for alerts issued via television and radio went into effect on January 18, 2019. The use of BLU for Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) became effective on November 29, 2019.

In tandem with the FCC's role in alerting, the DHS's FEMA is responsible for maintaining and operating the national Integrated Public Alerts and Warning System (IPAWS). In order to ensure that alerting capabilities keep up with current and emerging technologies, FEMA partners with various stakeholders from the public and private sectors representing broadcasting, mobile device manufacturers, and other interested industries.

States and many jurisdictions rely on IPAWS to utilize EAS and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) to alert the public. IPAWS allows alerting authorities to write their own emergency alerts using commercially available software applications approved by FEMA and compliant with common alerting protocols. Alerts are authenticated and delivered simultaneously through multiple communication pathways to quickly reach the public.

The COPS Office will continue its ongoing coordination efforts with FEMA to advance the integration of Blue Alert Plans into IPAWS. The COPS Office will also continue to seek consultation with, and ongoing advice from, our federal partners. We will also identify new federal partners as needed.

#### 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 (34 U.S.C. § 50503(e)(3)). These restrictions have not prevented the COPS Office from promoting the Blue Alert Act, and we have undertaken a number of measures to raise awareness of the Blue Alert Act.

During this reporting period, the National Blue Alert Coordinator set forth a 'battle plan' to target states that had not yet adopted Blue Alert plans or systems. COPS Office staff partnered with U.S. Attorneys' Offices in the affected states to identify select groups of law enforcement stakeholders who could assist with information sharing regarding the benefits of Blue Alerts and the resources of the National Blue Alert Network. The results led to the creation of 'working coalitions' of concerned stakeholders in the targeted states. Many of these coalitions have gone on to promote Blue Alert legislation and other actions leading to the adoption of Blue Alert plans or systems.

The Department promoted awareness of the Blue Alert Act at various national law enforcement conferences, including those held by the IACP, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, and the NSA. These conferences provide the potential outreach to promote the Blue Alert Act to tens of thousands of law enforcement officers and agencies. The Department also responded to multiple requests from various state law enforcement agencies for additional information about the Blue Alert Network. For instance, the Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, at the request of the Iowa Peace Officers Association to provide information and answer questions from state officials who were considering the adoption of a statewide Blue Alert plan.

#### Coordination with United States Attorneys' Offices

In addition to the 'battle plan' coordination described above, the COPS Office continues to expand its partnerships with U.S. Attorneys' Offices throughout the nation to promote the

National Blue Alert Network. In addition to direct coordination with U.S. Attorneys, COPS Office staff share information with Law Enforcement Coordinators (LECs) about issues affecting officer safety and Blue Alert related news. The Executive Office for United States Attorneys has been instrumental in facilitating coordination between the COPS Office and LECs.

#### **IV. Blue Alerts Issued**

There are ten known instances where Blue Alerts were issued during this reporting period:

1. May 30, 2019 – Auburn, AL: Auburn police responded to a domestic disturbance call in a mobile home park. When officers arrived a suspect opened fire on the officers, striking three of them. One officer was killed and two other officers were injured. The Alabama Law Enforcement Agency’s Alabama Fusion Center issued a Blue Alert for the suspect. The suspect was captured within 24 hours.
2. May 29, 2019 - Cleveland, TX: - A Liberty County Sheriff’s deputy was responding to the scene of a shooting when he encountered the suspect fleeing the scene. After a brief vehicle pursuit, the suspect stopped his vehicle and shot the pursuing deputy before fleeing again. A Blue Alert was issued of the suspect. The suspect was found deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound an hour later. The deputy died 9 months after the shooting.
3. July 24, 2019 – Berryville, TX: A Henderson County Sheriff’s deputy attempted to stop a driver on a motorcycle for a traffic violation. The driver initially fled at a high rate of speed before eventually stopping. The driver shot the approaching deputy and fled. A Blue Alert was issued for the suspect. The suspect was captured within 24 hours. The deputy survived.
4. August 1, 2019 – DeKalb County, GA: DeKalb County officers responded to a domestic disturbance where a woman had been shot. The suspect shot an officer as he approached the house then fled the scene. A Blue Alert was issued for the suspect. The suspect was captured eight days later. The officer survived.
5. August 7, 2019 – Henning, TN: A prisoner of the Tennessee Department of Corrections killed a prison official and escaped custody. The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation issued a Blue Alert for the suspect. The suspect was captured five days later.
6. September 5, 2019 – Dos Palos, CA: Merced County Sheriff’s deputies responded to a domestic disturbance in Dos Palos. Upon arrival, one of the deputies was shot by a suspect who then fled. A Blue Alert was issued for the suspect. The suspect was captured within 24 hours. The deputy survived.
7. November 23, 2019 – Hayneville, AL: Lowndes County Sheriff responded to a disturbance call at a local gas station. The Sheriff was shot while investigating a group of people involved in the disturbance. A Blue Alert was issued for the suspect.

The suspect was captured within 24 hours. The Sheriff died.

8. December 11, 2019 – Nassau Bay, TX: A Nassau Bay police sergeant stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. While the officer and suspect were outside of their vehicles, the suspect jumped into his car and sped off, striking the officer. A Blue Alert was issued for the suspect. The suspect was captured within 48 hours. The officer died.
9. December 18, 2019 – Arvada, CO: An off-duty Denver police detective was at a gas station in Arvada during an armed robbery in progress. The detective intervened and attempted to shoot the robber but his weapon jammed. The robber shot the detective and fled. A Blue Alert was issued for the robbery suspect. The suspect was captured within 24 hours. The detective died.
10. February 5, 2020 – Kimberly, AL: A Kimberly police officer attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation but the suspect fled at a high rate of speed. The suspect shot the pursuing officer and fled. A Blue Alert was issued for the suspect. The suspect was captured within 24 hours. The officer died.

## **V. Effectiveness and Status of Blue Alert Plans**

In addition to reporting on the activities of the Coordinator, the Blue Alert Act also requires the annual report to Congress to include the effectiveness and status of Blue Alert plans (34 U.S.C. § 50503(f)). The effectiveness of existing Blue Alert plans is difficult to gauge at this time due in part to the disconnected nature of plans from state to state. There is no evidence, as of yet, that any of the states with Blue Alert plans have conducted research around this question. The COPS Office has begun collecting data as it becomes available in order to evaluate the effectiveness of Blue Alert plans.

As previously reported, the COPS Office made direct outreach calls to each of the 56 states and territories. This includes 36 states that operate Blue Alert systems as well as those 20 states and territories that currently do not have Blue Alert systems. Since implementation of the National Blue Alert Network, there have been numerous incidents where law enforcement officers were shot and killed, sparking a search for suspects. In response, the Deputy Coordinator contacted the affected state authorities to offer assistance and to ensure that neighboring states or jurisdictions were notified. The COPS Office also verified which states have Blue Alert plans and the extent to which the plans comport with the voluntary guidelines. We secured copies of Blue Alert plans and related materials such as program overviews, activation plans, legislation, and brochures from states that currently have Blue Alert plans.

To further our analysis of existing Blue Alert plans, the COPS Office publishes a legislation compendium containing the specific public laws, statutes, or executive orders that authorized and created Blue Alert systems. The following are highlights of the threshold activation criteria from those states. These highlights illustrate clear and significant differences between states that could limit or complicate coordination efforts when a suspect flees, or is thought to have fled, to another jurisdiction.

- 40% (20 states) of plans contain provisions for officers missing in the line of duty.
- 17% (6 states) of states allow for activation in cases where an officer is threatened with a deadly weapon but not actually injured.
- 69% (25 states) require sufficient descriptive information about a suspect to enlist the public's assistance.
- 58% (21 states) require a suspect vehicle description or license tag for activation.

The following table is a quick reference of threshold activation criteria for the featured states as of April 2020. The wide range of Blue Alert activation criteria among states highlights the need for uniform guidance and consistent protocols to enhance coordination and maximize interoperability from one state to another.

	AI	AZ	CA	CO	CT	DE	FL	GA	ID	IL	IN	KS	KY	MD	ME	MI	MN	MS	MO	MT	NH	NC	ND	NI	OH	OK	RI	SC	SD*	TN	TX	VT*	VVA	WA	WV				
<b>OFFICER STATUS</b>																																							
Killed	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Attempted killing										•																													
Serious bodily Injury	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Life threatening injury				•																																			
Assaulted with deadly weapon		•	•		•		•																•						•										
Injured															•																								
Missing	•				•		•	•	•		•		•		•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Concerning circumstances	•				•		•			•												•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Last location known							•			•		•	•	•	•										•														
<b>SUSPECT</b>																																							
Poses serious threat to public	•					•		•		•								•																	•		•		
Imminent threat to public or LE		•	•		•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		
Sufficient suspect description	•				•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Vehicle description or tag		•	•		•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
<b>OTHER</b>																																							
Alert may avert further harm		•	•		•		•																•							•				•					
Alert may hasten apprehension		•	•		•		•			•														•						•				•					

\*Blue Alert adopted through executive action - no legislation available to include in compendium

The COPS Office continues to examine and document the differences and commonalities between existing Blue Alert processes. The policies compendium includes state Blue Alert policies, forms, brochures, and promotional material from Blue Alert states that will be useful to states and law enforcement agencies in developing or improving their own Blue Alert systems.

## **VI. Officers Shot in the Line of Duty**

After working closely with the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and its continued commitment to officer safety, the COPS Office formalized a practice of monitoring and tracking incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. The COPS Office uses DOJ Libraries-verified news reporting services to monitor and track shootings of law enforcement officers in the United States and its territories – specifically, shootings in which on-duty officers are wounded or killed.

The purpose of this practice is to better understand the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert; these types of felonious attacks account for nearly all situations where a Blue Alert would be issued. Tracking data does not include assaults by means other than firearms, due to inconsistent availability of data. The COPS Office published a report, which documented all known shooting incidents for calendar year 2019. The following are notable statistics from the report:

- 273 law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar year 2019 in 224 separate incidents, including 34 incidents where multiple officers were shot.
- 44 law enforcement officers died from their injuries and 229 survived.
- State law enforcement officers died at a slightly higher rate (22%) as a result of being shot than city and county officers (16%).
- Disturbance calls (68) and traffic stops (40) accounted for nearly half of all shooting incidents and resulted in 20 officer deaths.
- 32 law enforcement officers were shot and 11 died as a result of being ambushed.
- Another 87 officers were shot and 14 died in situations where an offender acted without warning in a premeditated and calculated manner taking an officer by surprise.
- 34% of officers ambushed died of their injuries, compared to 17% of officers attacked by other means, making ambush-style attacks twice as lethal for victim officers than other shooting circumstances.
- 22 officers were protected from gunshots that struck a protective ballistic vest.
- Shootings occurred in 45 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.
- Texas had the highest number of shooting incidents at 29, followed by California at 14.
- The highest number (24) of shooting incidents occurred during the month of August.

## **VII. Summary of Activities and Projected Next Steps**

### Notable Past Developments/Activities

The Department reported the following developments and activities in its previous

reports to Congress:

- Developed a wide variety of Blue Alert informational resources, including:
  - National Blue Alert Network factsheet and PowerPoint presentation;
  - Compendium of state Blue Alert legislation and policies;
  - Directory of state Blue Alert officials;
  - Guidance and recommendations on developing or enhancing Blue Alert plans;
  - Launched the National Blue Alert Network SIG on the FBI LEEP platform;
  - Conducted quarterly Advisory Group meetings;
  - Coordinated with FCC to create a dedicated Blue Alert EAS event code;
  - Identified all 56 state and territorial IPAWS authorizing officials;
  - Coordinated with FEMA to integrate Blue Alert plans into IPAWS;
  - Visited the FEMA IPAWS lab and trained on alerting equipment and software, including conducting test Blue Alerts;
  - Trained selected COPS Office Blue Alert Team members to provide technical assistance to states and local agencies;
  - Performed immediate outreach to states after officers were killed to offer assistance and facilitate interstate coordination;
  - Promoted awareness of the Blue Alert Act at various national law enforcement events, including the annual IACP conference and the National Officer Safety and Wellness Group forum;
  - New FCC rules authorizing the use of "BLU," the Blue Alert EAS event code went into effect on January 18, 2019. The same FCC rule authorizes the issuance of Blue Alerts via Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) beginning on November 29, 2019. The combination of these rules taking effect will make it possible for alerting authorities throughout the nation to quickly issue Blue Alerts using existing alerting software and systems.
  - Members of the COPS Office Blue Alert team and colleagues from the FCC were awarded the Attorney General's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety for their outstanding leadership in implementing Blue Alert plans throughout the U.S. in support of the Blue Alert Act.
  - Members of the COPS Office Blue Alert team monitored media reports and other sources to identify possible Blue Alert situations. When practical, team members contacted the affected law enforcement agency to verify facts and offer assistance if needed.
  - The COPS Office launched a targeted outreach plan to establish working coalitions within each state without Blue Alert laws and policies. The purpose of the outreach was to inform key stakeholders about the benefits of Blue Alerts and about the resources of the National Blue Network. All efforts were coordinated with U.S. Attorneys' Offices in the affected states and districts.
  - The National Blue Alert Coordinator attended dozens of conferences and meetings around the country where he promoted the use of Blue Alerts and resources offered by the COPS Office.
  - The Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator traveled to Des Moines, Iowa, at the request of the Iowa Peace Officers Association to provide information and

answer questions from state officials who were considering the adoption of a statewide Blue Alert plan.

- The Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator presented information about Blue Alerts at the annual training conference for DOJ LECs in Columbia, South Carolina. LECs play a key role in U.S. Attorneys' Offices through their support of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in their districts.
- The COPS Office published a report describing incidents where law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar year 2018. The report was the first of its kind and provided meaningful insights into incidents that could give rise to the issuance of Blue Alerts.

### Notable New Developments/Activities

The Department reports the following new developments and activities in this current report to Congress:

- Members of the COPS Office Blue Alert team monitored media reports and other sources to identify possible Blue Alert situations. When practical, team members contacted the affected law enforcement agency to verify facts and offer assistance if needed.
- The COPS Office continued outreach efforts to establish working coalitions within states without Blue Alert laws and policies. The purpose of the outreach was to inform key stakeholders about the benefits of Blue Alerts and about the resources of the National Blue Network. All efforts were coordinated with U.S. Attorneys' Offices in the affected states and districts.
- The National Blue Alert Coordinator attended dozens of conferences and meetings around the country where he promoted the use of Blue Alerts and resources offered by the COPS Office.
- The COPS Office published a report describing incidents where law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar year 2019.
- The COPS Office created and framed certificates to present to states that have enacted statewide Blue Alert plans for the benefit of all law enforcement agencies within the state. The first presentation of a Blue Alert Certificate was to the state of Rhode Island on January 23, 2020.
- In 2019, the COPS Office awarded a \$100,000 Community Policing Development grant to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) for data collection activities to help identify and document incidents where on-duty law enforcement officers are shot in the line of duty. The FOP has a long history of research and involvement in the study of attacks on law enforcement.

### Upcoming Activities

The Department plans to undertake the following activities in the coming year in

furtherance of its Blue Alert Mission:

- Conduct additional outreach to states and territories to raise awareness about the availability of free educational resources and technical assistance;
- Continue to work with the FCC, FEMA, and other federal partners to ensure effective coordination of Blue Alert rules and infrastructure;
- Continue to work with law enforcement stakeholders and Advisory Group members to increase the effectiveness of our guidance and recommendations;
- Continue to promote the Blue Alert Act to thousands of officers and agencies at upcoming law enforcement events;
- Identify fiscal needs for further implementation of the Blue Alert Act and make appropriate funding requests;
- Promote the Blue Alert Act with all active COPS Office award recipients;
- Continue with COPS Office Blue Alert Team meetings;
- Continue with quarterly Blue Alert Act Advisory Group meetings.

Attachments:

- State Map of Blue Alert plans
- Blue Alert Factsheet
- 2019 Report of Officers Shot in the Line of Duty
- Blue Alert web page screen image
- Rhode Island USAO Press Release
- DOJ Blue Alert Certificate Sample

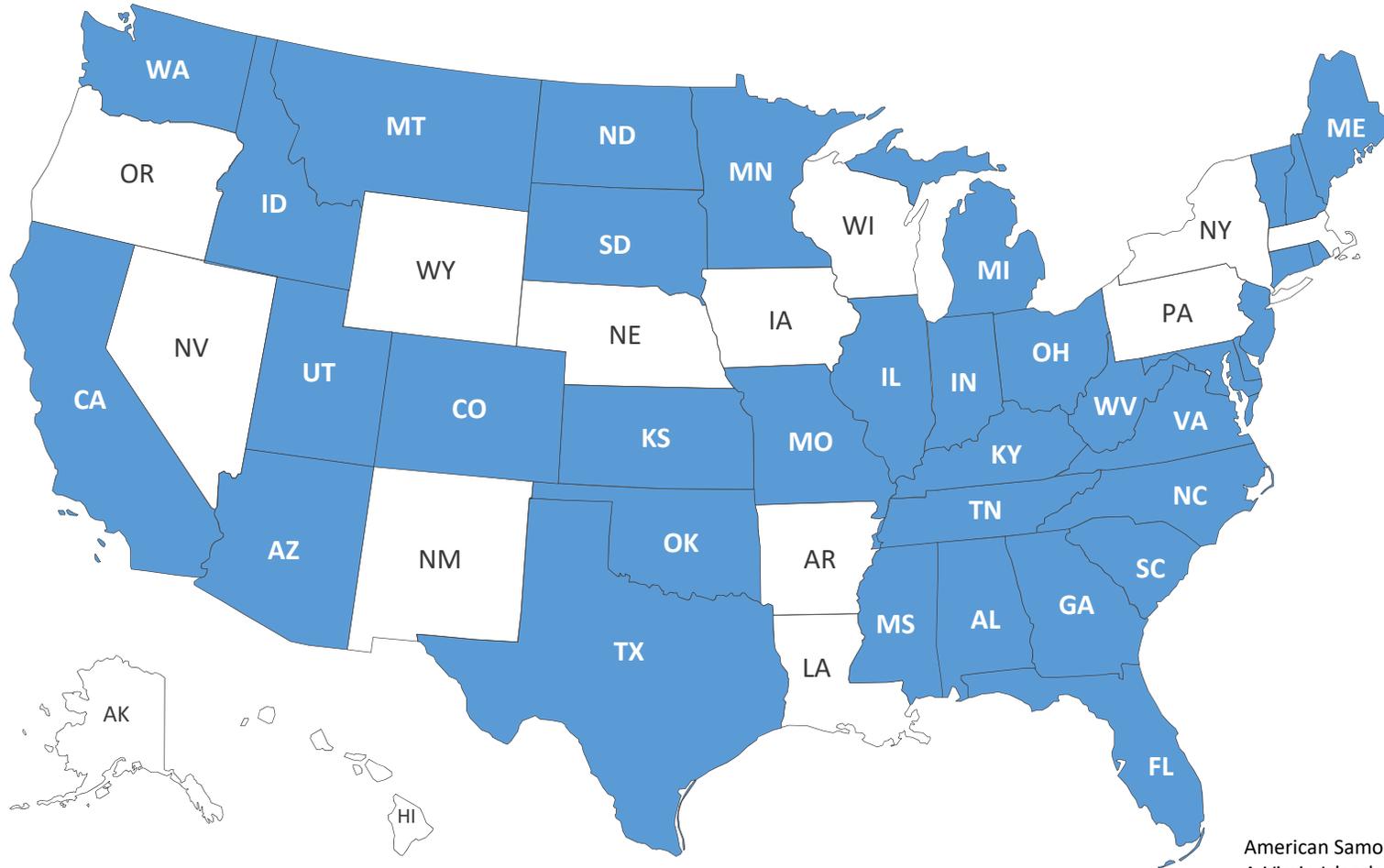


**COPS**  
Community Oriented Policing Services  
U.S. Department of Justice

# NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK

36 States

Formal Statewide Blue Alert Plan



- VT
- NH
- MA
- RI
- CT
- NJ
- DE
- DC
- MD

- American Samoa..... AS
- A-Virgin Islands..... VI
- Guam..... GU
- Mariana Islands..... MI
- Puerto Rico..... PR

April 2020



# Fact Sheet

[www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)



## National Blue Alert Network

### History

In 2015, Congress passed the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, named in honor of two New York City police officers killed in an ambush attack on December 20, 2014. The Act establishes a voluntary nationwide system to give police an early warning of threats against police officers and to aid in the apprehension of suspects who have killed or seriously injured an officer. In 2016, the COPS Office was asked to implement the Blue Alert Act and establish a National Blue Alert Network.

### Blue Alerts

Blue Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public about violent offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement. Blue Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The National Blue Alert Network works to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States.

### Blue Alert Activation Criteria

Blue Alerts may be issued in any of the following circumstances, provided there is actionable information known about a suspect (e.g., name, physical description, or vehicle description):

- When a law enforcement officer is killed or seriously injured in the line of duty
- When an officer is missing in connection with official duties
- When there is an imminent and credible threat to kill or seriously injure a law enforcement officer



### Blue Alert Resources

The COPS Office provides resources and technical assistance to states, law enforcement agencies, and other stakeholders seeking to establish or enhance an existing Blue Alert plan. The National Blue Alert Network also maintains a secure data repository, for law enforcement only, containing many Blue Alert resources collected from around the nation, including examples of legislation, policies, forms, and a directory of state Blue Alert officials.

For more information, visit the COPS Office website at [www.cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/bluealert), email the COPS Office at [BlueAlert@usdoj.gov](mailto:BlueAlert@usdoj.gov), or call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770.

### Other Resources

**Federal Emergency Management Agency Integrated Public Alerting and Warning System (IPAWS)**

<https://www.fema.gov/integrated-public-alert-warning-system>

**Federal Communications Commission Emergency Alert System (EAS)**

<https://www.fcc.gov/general/emergency-alert-system-eas>



# Law Enforcement Officers Shot in the Line of Duty

2019 Year-End Summary



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

March 2020

This report is compiled from publicly available information. It contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and non-fatally, for the express purpose of better understanding the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. Care should be taken to account for differing methodology when comparing these results with those of other entities that collect similar data. The opinions contained herein are those of the author(s) or contributor(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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Published 2020





## NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK

### 2019 - SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

#### NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK

In 2015, Congress passed the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, named in honor of two New York City police officers killed in an ambush attack on December 20, 2014. The Act directs the Department of Justice to establish a voluntary nationwide system to promote the use of early warnings of threats against law enforcement officers and to aid in the apprehension of suspects who have killed or seriously injured an officer. In 2016, the COPS Office was given the honor of implementing the Act and established the National Blue Alert Network.

The National Blue Alert Network seeks to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States. Blue Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public to aid in the apprehension of offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement. Blue Alerts can be transmitted via wireless devices and through the Emergency Alert System (EAS) in the same manner as AMBER Alerts.

#### TRACKING OFFICER SHOOTINGS

The COPS Office utilizes DOJ Libraries—verified news reporting services to monitor and track shootings of law enforcement officers in the United States and its territories—specifically, shootings of *on-duty* officers resulting in an officer being *wounded or killed*. In this way, it hopes to better understand the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert; these types of felonious attacks account for nearly all situations where a Blue Alert would be issued. Tracking data does not include assaults by means other than firearms, due to inconsistent availability of data.

#### 2019 SUMMARY DATA

- **273** law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty during calendar year 2019 in **224** separate incidents, including **34** incidents where multiple officers were shot.
- **44** law enforcement officers died from their injuries and **229** survived.
- State law enforcement officers who were shot died at a slightly higher rate (**22 percent**) than city and county officers (**16 percent**).
- Disturbance calls (**68**) and traffic stops (**40**) accounted for nearly half of all shooting incidents and resulted in **20** officer deaths.
- **32** law enforcement officers were shot and **11** died as a result of being ambushed.<sup>1</sup>
- Another **87** officers were shot and **14** died in situations where an offender acted without warning in a premeditated and calculated manner, taking an officer by surprise.
- **34 percent** of officers ambushed died of their injuries, compared to **17 percent** of officers attacked by other means; making ambush-style attacks twice as lethal for victim officers than other shooting circumstances.
- **22** officers were protected from gunshots that struck a protective ballistic vest.
- Shootings occurred in **45** states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- Texas had the highest number of shooting incidents at **29**, followed by California at **14**.
- The highest number (**24**) of shooting incidents occurred during the month of August.

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<sup>1</sup> In order to identify any emerging patterns, more data was collected about ambush-style and calculated shootings during this reporting period than in 2018.

## 2019 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

### 2019 INCIDENT DATA

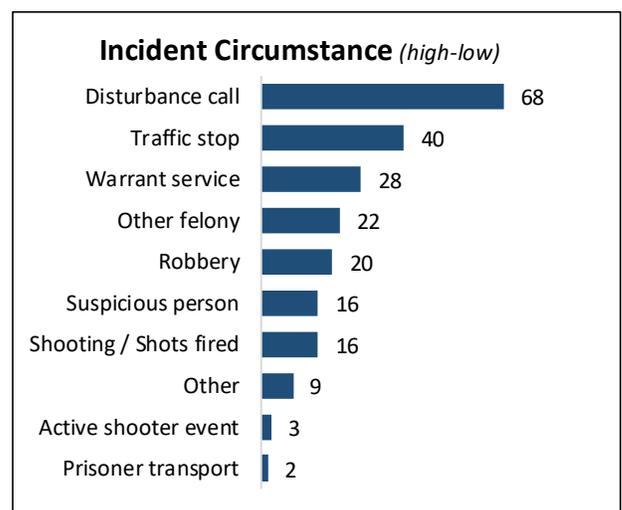
There were **224** incidents in 2019 where law enforcement officers were shot in the line of duty, a **10 percent** increase over the number of incidents in 2018. However, the number of officers who died as a result of being shot decreased by **14 percent** from 2018.

	2019 Totals	2018 Totals	% Change
Total number of shooting incidents	224	204	+ 10%
Total number of officers shot	273	251	+ 9%
Number of officers shot and survived	229	200	+ 15%
Number of officers shot and killed	44	51	- 14%

### INCIDENT DATA BY CIRCUMSTANCE

Disturbance calls and traffic stops accounted for nearly half (**48 percent**) of all shooting incidents. The third most common circumstance involved the serving of warrants, typically performed by tactical teams.

Circumstance at Time of Incident				
Circumstance	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
Active shooter	3	7	7	0
Disturbance call	68	75	63	12
Prisoner transport	2	2	2	0
Robbery	20	24	19	5
Shooting/ Shots fired	16	23	21	2
Other felony	22	29	24	5
Suspicious person	16	15	13	2
Traffic stop	40	45	37	8
Warrant Service	28	44	38	6
Other	9	9	5	4
	<b>224</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>44</b>



### NATURE OF ATTACKS

Every felonious attack on law enforcement officers, especially by gunfire, is disturbing regardless of the circumstances. Officers are always susceptible to life-threatening attacks and must practice the highest levels of officer safety. In most cases, officers are able to quickly assess situations, recognize threats, and take adequate defensive actions. Tragically, not every threat can be seen or mitigated. Perhaps most troubling and worrisome are ambush-style and other calculated attacks on law enforcement.

Premeditated ambush-style attacks are particularly disturbing and pernicious. These types of attack are carried out with an element of surprise and intended to deprive officers of the ability to defend against the attack. Premeditated attacks contribute to a worrisome desensitization of evil acts that were once largely considered taboo except by the most depraved. In 2019, **42 percent** of shooting incidents involved a discernable element of premeditation.

## 2019 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

### AMBUSH-STYLE ATTACKS

There were **27** ambush-style incidents where officers were shot without any warning or opportunity to defend themselves, including several pre-planned assassinations. In many cases, officers were shot before they could exit their vehicles after an initial traffic stop or upon arrival at the scene of an incident. In all, **32** law enforcement officers were shot in ambush-style attacks, of whom **11** died. **Thirty-four percent** of officers ambushed died of their injuries, compared to **17 percent** of officers shot under other circumstances, making ambush-style attacks twice as lethal for victim officers.

Examples of ambush-style attacks include the following:

- An officer was handling a traffic accident when an uninvolved subject rode by on a bicycle and shot the officer numerous times without warning and continued to fire when she fell to the ground. The officer died.
- Officers were dispatched to a domestic disturbance. The suspect hid behind a fence and waited for officers to arrive. As officers approached the house, the suspect shot an officer in the face. The officer survived.
- A sheriff's deputy stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation. After retrieving the driver's identification, the deputy was shot in the back of the head while walking back to his cruiser. The officer died.
- An officer was sitting in his marked police cruiser at a police station when a suspect approached and shot the officer ten times in a planned assassination. The officer died.

### CALCULATED ATTACKS

In addition to ambush-style attacks, there were **68** incidents where offenders acted in a calculated and premeditated manner to shoot officers in the performance of their duties. These attacks differ only slightly from the more brazen ambush-style attacks in that officers may have had some reason to anticipate a threat. In all, **87** officers were shot in calculated attacks, of whom **14** died.

Examples of calculated attacks include the following:

- Officers were serving an arrest warrant at a residence when the suspect emerged from a bedroom and opened fire on officers. One officer died.
- A suspect was being pursued for armed robbery when he stopped his vehicle and fired a shotgun at an approaching officer. The officer survived.
- Deputies responded to reports of a home invasion in progress. The suspect fired a shot at the responding deputies from inside the home, striking a deputy in the chest. The deputy survived.

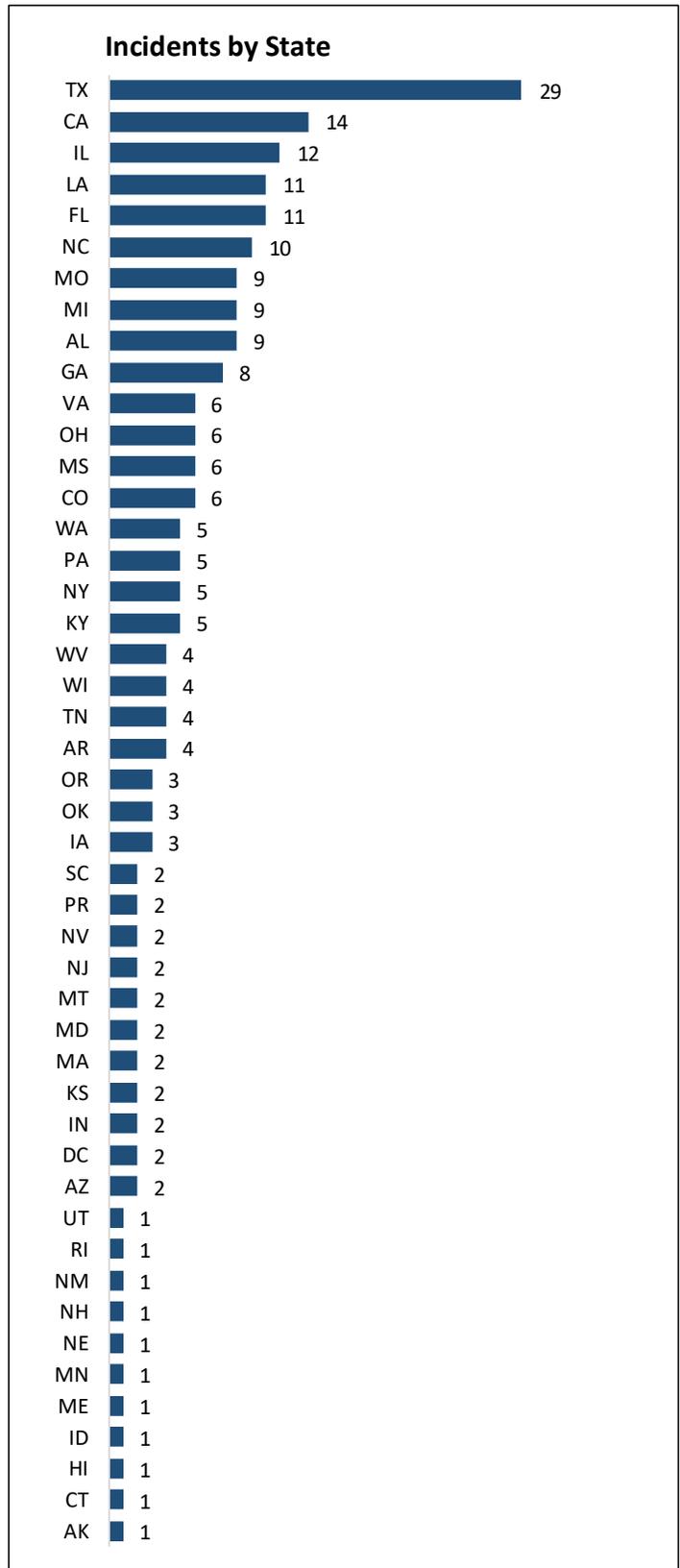
### BULLET-RESISTANT VESTS

At least **22** officers were protected from gunshots that struck a protective ballistic vest. The actual number may be higher, but this element is not consistently apparent from news reporting.

## 2019 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

### INCIDENT DATA BY STATE

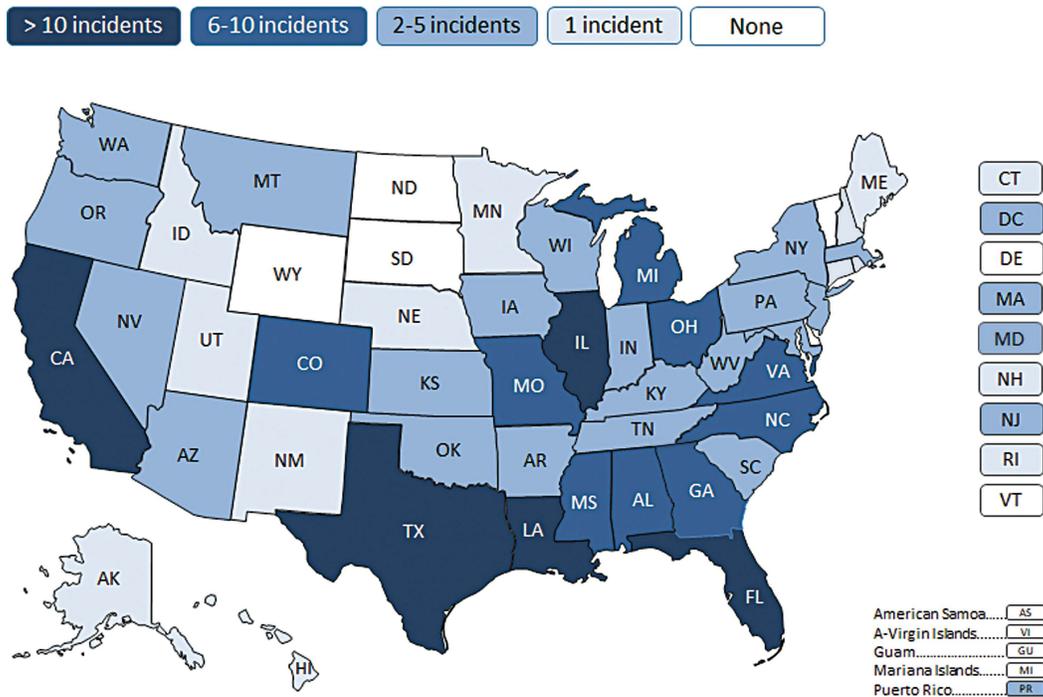
State	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
AK	1	1	1	0
AL	9	12	6	6
AR	4	4	2	2
AZ	2	2	2	0
CA	14	18	12	6
CO	6	7	7	0
CT	1	1	1	0
DC	2	2	2	0
FL	11	12	12	0
GA	8	11	8	3
HI	1	1	1	0
IA	3	4	4	0
ID	1	1	1	0
IL	12	15	12	3
IN	2	2	2	0
KS	2	3	3	0
KY	5	5	5	0
LA	11	12	11	1
MA	2	2	2	0
MD	2	2	2	0
ME	1	1	1	0
MI	9	13	12	1
MN	1	1	1	0
MO	9	9	8	1
MS	6	7	6	1
MT	2	2	2	0
NC	10	11	10	1
NE	1	1	1	0
NH	1	1	1	0
NJ	2	7	6	1
NM	1	1	1	0
NV	2	2	2	0
NY	5	6	6	0
OH	6	7	5	2
OK	3	4	4	0
OR	3	4	4	0
PA	5	10	10	0
PR	2	2	0	2
RI	1	1	1	0
SC	2	2	2	0
TN	4	5	4	1
TX	29	34	27	7
UT	1	1	0	1
VA	6	6	5	1
WA	5	9	7	2
WI	4	4	2	2
WV	4	5	5	0
	<b>224</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>44</b>



## 2019 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

### INCIDENT LOCATION DENSITY MAP

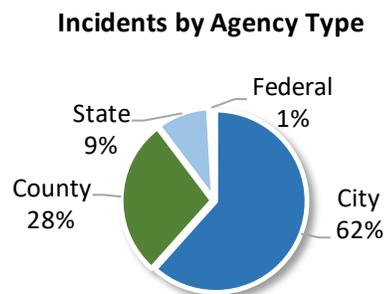
Officer shootings were reported in **45** states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Texas had the highest number of shooting incidents at **29**, followed by California at **14**. The next highest number of incidents in a state was **12** reported in Illinois. No officer shootings were reported in **5** states (DE, ND, SD, VT, WY). The map below depicts shooting incident density across the nation.



### INCIDENT DATA BY AGENCY TYPE

**62 percent** of all shooting incidents involved city or municipal law enforcement agencies. The data and chart below depict incidents based on agency type. State law enforcement officers who were shot died at a slightly higher rate (**22 percent**) than city and county officers (**16 percent**).

Incidents by Agency Type				
Agency type	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
CITY	138	167	142	25
COUNTY	63	81	67	14
STATE	21	23	18	5
FEDERAL	2	2	2	0
	<b>224</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>44</b>

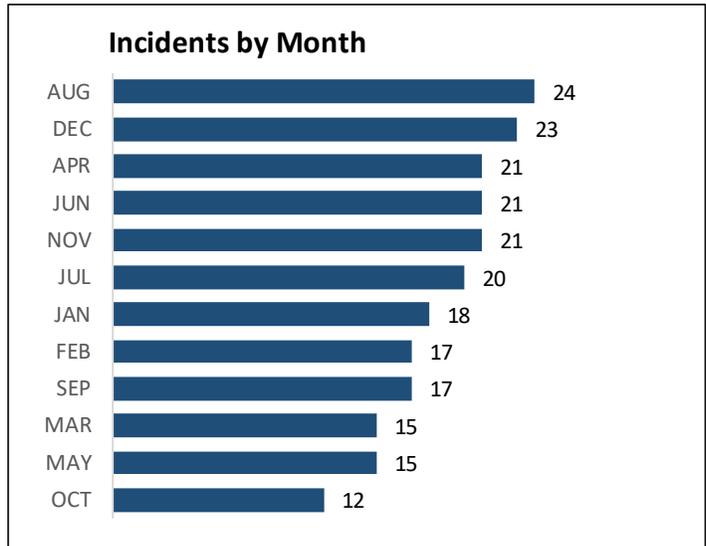


## 2019 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

### INCIDENT DATA BY MONTH

The highest number of shooting incidents (**24**) occurred during the month of August. The deadliest months were February, May, June, November, and December, when **5** law enforcement officers died from shooting injuries.

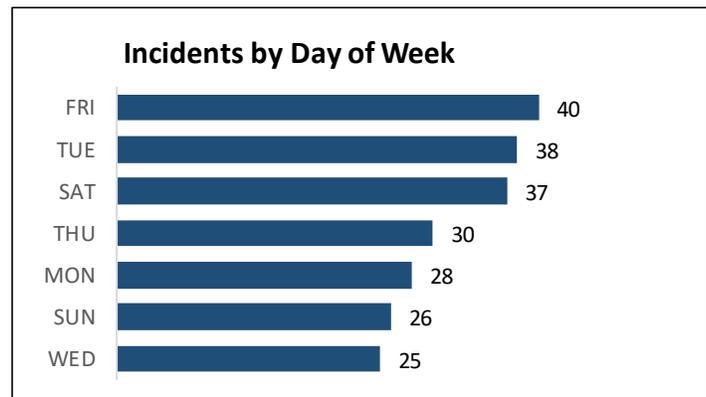
Incident Data by Month				
Month	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
JAN	18	25	21	4
FEB	17	23	18	5
MAR	15	17	13	4
APR	21	23	21	2
MAY	15	19	14	5
JUN	21	22	17	5
JUL	20	20	17	3
AUG	24	36	34	2
SEP	17	17	14	3
OCT	12	16	15	1
NOV	21	26	21	5
DEC	23	29	24	5
	<b>224</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>44</b>



### INCIDENT DATA BY DAY OF WEEK

More shooting incidents occurred on Fridays and Tuesdays than other days of the week.

Incident Data by Day of Week				
Day	Shooting incidents	Officers shot	Number survived	Number killed
SUN	26	30	23	7
MON	28	36	31	5
TUE	38	50	44	6
WED	25	33	29	4
THU	30	36	32	4
FRI	40	49	43	6
SAT	37	39	27	12
	<b>224</b>	<b>273</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>44</b>





# NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK

## 2019 - LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2019	2018	% Change
<b>Total number of shooting incidents</b>	18	17	15	21	15	21	20	24	17	12	21	23	<b>224</b>	204	<b>+ 10%</b>
<b>Total number of officers shot</b>	25	23	17	23	19	22	20	36	17	16	26	29	<b>273</b>	251	<b>+ 9%</b>
<b>Number of officers shot and survived</b>	21	18	13	21	14	17	17	34	14	15	21	24	<b>229</b>	200	<b>+ 15%</b>
<b>Number of officers shot and killed</b>	4	5	4	2	5	5	3	2	3	1	5	5	<b>44</b>	51	<b>- 14%</b>

224 Shooting Incidents / 273 Officers Shot

Officer Shot and Wounded (229)

Officer Shot and Killed (44)



\* Assaults with firearms on on-duty law enforcement officers resulting in an officer being wounded or killed in calendar year 2019. Does not include assaults by means other than firearms due to inconsistent availability of data. Markers represent approximate geographic location.

This report contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and non-fatally, for the purpose of better understanding the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. Blue Alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement agencies, media, and the public to aid in the apprehension of offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement.



**COPS**

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

U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Community Oriented Policing Services  
145 N Street NE  
Washington, DC 20530

To obtain details on COPS Office programs, call  
the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770.

Visit the COPS Office online at [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov).

# NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK

The National Blue Alert Network supports the use and integration of Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to rapidly disseminate information to law enforcement agencies, the media and the public to aid in the apprehension of violent criminals who have killed, or seriously injured an officer in the line of duty. Blue Alerts can also be issued when a suspect poses an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement, or when an officer is missing in the line of duty.



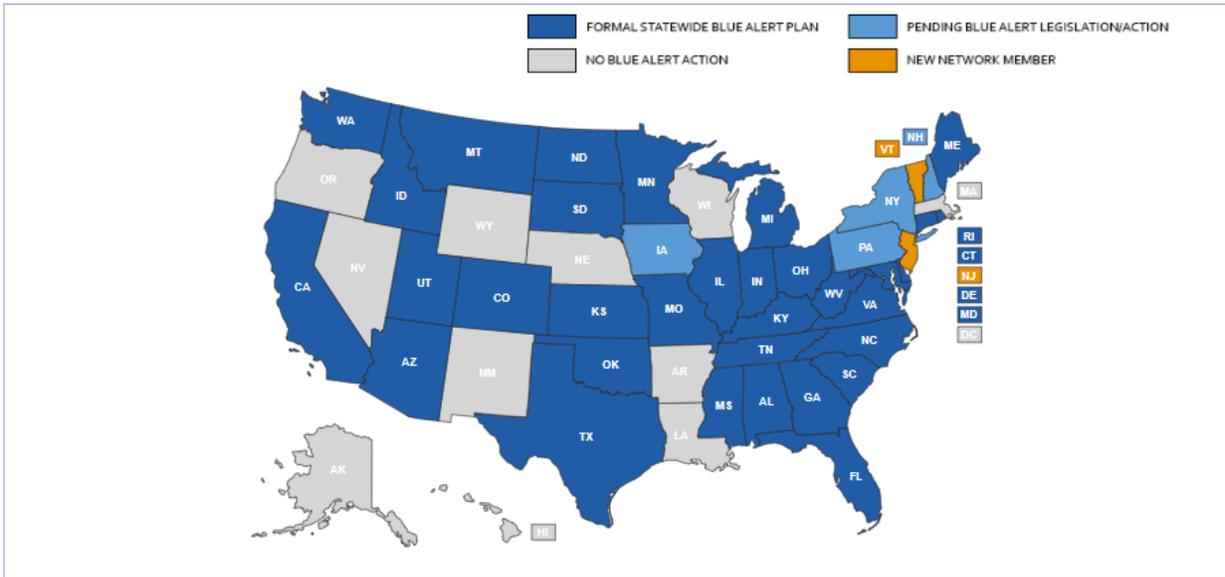
Blue Alerts can be transmitted to television and radio stations; to cellphones and wireless devices, to overhead highway message signs, and other secondary alerting mechanisms – in the same way that AMBER Alerts are commonly issued.

There are currently 35 states with Blue Alert plans. The COPS Office provides resources and technical assistance to states, territories, law enforcement agencies, and tribes seeking to establish or enhance Blue Alert plans; including, voluntary activation guidelines, examples of legislation, policies, and forms gathered from around the nation in a central Blue Alert data repository.

Congress passed the [Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act of 2015](#) in order to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans.

The law is named in honor of New York City Police Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu who were killed in an ambush attack on December 20, 2014.

- Fact Sheet
- Guidance
- Legislation
- Alert Guidelines



## SECURE BLUE ALERT INFORMATION REPOSITORY - LAW ENFORCEMENT ONLY



### Blue Alert Information Repository (Law Enforcement Only)

Secure data repository, for law enforcement only, containing many Blue Alert resources collected from around the nation, including examples of legislation, policies, forms, and a directory of state Blue Alert officials.

## OFFICERS SHOT IN THE LINE OF DUTY



### Law Enforcement Officers Shot in the Line of Duty - 2018 Year-End Summary Report

This report contains data on law enforcement officers shot in the line of duty, both fatally and non-fatally, for the purpose of better understanding the nature and frequency of incidents that could give rise to the issuance of a Blue Alert. The COPS Office uses DOJ Libraries-verified news reporting services to monitor and track shootings of law enforcement officers in the United States and its territories.

## OTHER GOVERNMENT RESOURCES



### White House

White House statement of support for policing – “Standing up for our Law Enforcement Community”.



### Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

IPAWS is a conduit to the national emergency alerting infrastructure including the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA).



### Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

The FCC establishes technical requirements and rules for broadcasters, cable system operators, mobile commercial service providers, and other participants in voluntary mobile alerting programs.



### FirstNet – First Responder Network Authority

The FirstNet mission is to deploy, operate, maintain, and improve the first high-speed, nationwide wireless broadband network dedicated to public safety.

## NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES



### National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund

The mission of the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund is to tell the story of American law enforcement and make it safer for those that serve.

2016  
Report

2017  
Report

2018  
Report

2019  
Report

Blue Alert  
Act



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
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**Department of Justice**

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of Rhode Island

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, January 23, 2020

## **U.S. Attorney, COPS Program Honor Rhode Island Law Enforcement**

PROVIDENCE – More than forty local, state, and federal law enforcement officers and agents were honored today by United States Attorney Aaron L. Weisman and prosecutors from the United States Attorney's Office for their investigative work on several large-scale, highly impactful criminal and civil cases charged and prosecuted in federal court in Providence.

Agents from six federal and thirteen local and state law enforcement agencies were honored for their extraordinary efforts, resulting in successful prosecutions and convictions in virtually every area of federal enforcement, from gang and gun violence, drug trafficking, and those who prey on minors, to white collar financial offenses and health care fraud schemes involving fraudulent billing and accepting kickbacks in exchange for prescribing highly addictive opioid drugs.

In recognizing forty-five law enforcement officers and agents at today's ceremony, United States Attorney Aaron L. Weisman told the honorees, "Our office cannot do its job without the dedication, commitment, energy, and grit that each and every member of law enforcement brings to their profession day in and day out. And for that, we owe each and every member of law enforcement our gratitude and our thanks."

Additionally, at today's United States Attorney's Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony, the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program presented Rhode Island a certificate signifying the law enforcement community's commitment to protecting the safety and lives of all law enforcement across the state, by establishing a Blue Alert Plan.

The certificate, presented to Rhode Island State Police Colonel and Rhode Island Public Safety Commissioner James Manni, acknowledges Rhode Island's participation in the National Blue Alert Network, along with 34 other states.

Blue alerts provide for rapid dissemination of information to law enforcement, the media, and the public about violent offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent threat to law enforcement. Blue Alerts can also be used to help locate a member of law enforcement missing in connection with official duties.

"There could scarcely be a more worthwhile endeavor than protecting Rhode Island law enforcement from violent criminals who have done or would do serious harm to them. In joining 34 other states in providing for

the rapid dissemination of information to law-enforcement agencies, media, and the public about violent offenders who have killed, seriously injured, or pose an imminent and credible threat to law enforcement, Rhode Island continues to demonstrate its commitment to the vital mission served by our law enforcers," said US Attorney Aaron L. Weisman.

"As a law enforcement executive with over 50 years of experience in this noble profession, it's an honor and a privilege to administer the National Blue Alert Network," said COPS Office Director Phil Keith. "Violent attacks on law enforcement officers constitute an assault on the American way of life and erode the actual and perceived safety of affected communities and our nation as a whole. The COPS Office and the entire Department of Justice applaud the state of Rhode Island for their commitment to law enforcement by affording this vital tool to its law enforcement officers and communities they serve."

There are currently 35 states with Blue Alert plans. The COPS Office provides resources and technical assistance to states, territories, law enforcement agencies, and tribes seeking to establish or enhance Blue Alert plans; including, voluntary activation guidelines, examples of legislation, policies, and forms gathered from around the nation in a central Blue Alert data repository.

The COPS Office is a federal agency responsible for advancing community policing nationwide. Since 1994, the COPS Office has invested more than \$14 billion to advance community policing, including grants awarded to more than 13,000 state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of approximately 130,000 officers and provide a variety of knowledge resource products including publications, training and technical assistance. For additional information about the COPS Office, please visit [www.cops.usdoj.gov](http://www.cops.usdoj.gov)

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**Component(s):**

USAO - Rhode Island

**Contact:**

Jim Martin  
(401) 709-5357

**Press Release Number:**

20-10

Updated January 23, 2020



# United States Department of Justice

BE IT HEREBY KNOWN THAT

*State of Rhode Island*

Having demonstrated the highest commitment to protecting the lives of law enforcement officers has established a Blue Alert plan for the protection of all law enforcement officers throughout the State of Rhode Island and is hereby recognized for its support of the

NATIONAL BLUE ALERT NETWORK



*Phil Keith*  
National Blue Alert Coordinator

*Vincent*  
Deputy National Blue Alert Coordinator

