Planning and Managing Security for Major Special Events: Guidelines for Law Enforcement
Impetus for Project

- U.S. Congress Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2004,
- COPS Office shall submit a report on best practices developed by various federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to secure special events of national and regional importance.
These events—sporting events, concerts, cultural exhibitions—present unique security concerns for law enforcement because they are attended by large numbers of people.

Congress also directed that COPS develop a training program.
Project Staff

- ILJ (Connors, Webster, Kovener)
- EKU, Dept of Criminal Justice & Police Studies (Cordner, Shain, Brodt, Collins, Mayberry)
- Cunningham, Seamon, Ohlhausen
Project Methodology

- Literature review—journals, reports, agencies’ protocols, handbooks, etc.
- Interviews with experts—NFL, NASCAR, USSS, FBI, DHS, PS, others
- Phone interviews with over 40 agencies about field experiences
- Field observations at over 15 events
- Expert focus group
Some Guiding Principles

- Plan for and manage for worst-case scenarios—but expect to deal with mundane crime
- Anticipate unplanned activities and spur of the moment gatherings
- Law enforcement must be concerned with the safety and security of event but also the economic impact
Some Guiding Principles (cont’d)

- Recognize need for and benefits of leveraging resources and collaborating with others
- Involve citizens and business community in planning
- Ensure safety of event but also Constitutional rights—freedom of speech & assembly
Some Guiding Principles (cont’d)

- Ensure that rest of jurisdiction receives essential services
- Evaluate continuously and review operations and practices to update and improve security (after-action report)
Overall Stages of Process for Planning & Managing Special Event

- Pre-event planning
- Management of the event
- Post-event activities
Pre-event Planning

☐ Mission/charter
☐ Leadership authority and structure
☐ Partnership agreements
☐ Legal authority of assisting agencies
☐ Lead agency organization structure to manage event
Event Security Key Functional Areas

- Personnel resources
- Communications—internal; field
- Intelligence
- Fire/EMS/hospital
- Legal
- Field ops—venue security
- Credentialing
- Transportation/traffic
Event Security Key Functional Areas (cont’d)

- Emergency evacuation
- Hazmat/WMD—consequence mgmt
- Tact support
- Managing disorder
- Media/PR
- Training
- Prisoner processing
- Budget/logistics
- Critique—after action report
We learned many lessons from the Battle, foremost of which are: (1) line up as much help in advance as you possibly can, then find more; (2) plan for "force multipliers" (i.e., volunteers), but don't become overreliant on them; and (3) keep demonstrators at a much greater distance from official venues. No matter how much they bitch about it.