



November 2009

## In the Spotlight

### New Publication Offers Guidance to Employing Returning Veterans as Law Enforcement Officers

When combat veterans return from deployment to new positions or previously-held positions as law enforcement officers, there exist potential challenges, such as the screening for and treatment of PTSD and adjusting from hostile to local community environments. A [new report](#) from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in partnership with BJA, presents research findings on transition issues that veteran officers and agencies face.



Using a variety of research methods, the study's findings include: depression, anger, withdrawal, and family issues create a low tolerance for citizen complaints and heightens the reintegration process; veterans worry about confidentiality, with a deep-seated concern over a lack of empathy and stigmatization by departments; disappointment with chain-of-command for not displaying leadership in creating a well-rounded transition path for veterans; and a desire among veterans for a comprehensive retraining program that utilizes their skill sets. The publication offers time-phased recommendations to address these and other concerns. In addition, two guidebooks are under development, based on the study's research: one for veteran officers and one for law enforcement leaders.

## News You Can Use

### APPA To Hold Winter Training Institute in Austin, TX

The American Probation and Parole Association (APPA) will hold its [2010 Winter Training](#) Institute from January 31-February 3 in Austin, Texas. This is an excellent opportunity for corrections professionals to enhance their abilities, discover "what works" from practitioners in the field, participate in stimulating discussion with their peers, and increase their current programs' effectiveness.



### Critical Training on Information Sharing Now Available Online

The National Information Exchange Model (NIEM)—a standards-based information sharing model—greatly enhances agencies' abilities to share data and improve operations, while saving integration and implementation costs. A partnership of DOJ, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative, NIEM is quickly becoming the de facto standard for information sharing across the justice and homeland security domains. NIEM training, primarily funded by BJA, is now available online, enabling students to take the course anywhere and at their own pace. Enrollment is always open and is free of charge. [Learn more.](#)

### BJA Offers Training Sessions for FY 2009 JAG and Recovery Act JAG Grantees

BJA encourages FY 2009 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and Recovery Act JAG grantees to attend one of six training sessions, offered free of charge. These 1-day, in-person trainings will inform grantees of JAG and Recovery Act reporting requirements and offer live training on using the required Performance Measurement Tool. Attendees will learn how to use their performance measure data to improve program outcomes, while the Office of the Inspector General will offer valuable tips on protecting grants from waste, fraud, and abuse. [Learn more.](#)

### BJA Publishes New Fact Sheets

BJA has released new fact sheets on methamphetamine abuse, the Smart Policing Initiative, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program, and a California problem-solving reentry court. Download them now from BJA's [New Releases page.](#)

## Grants & Funding

In preparation for FY 2010 solicitations, read BJA's new [Grant Writing Manual.](#)

BJA is developing our FY 2010 grant solicitations, which we plan to start releasing later this month. If you have any comments or suggestions on how to improve our solicitations, please [Contact Us.](#)

## Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program

Enacted in 1976, the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death, disability, and education benefits to those eligible for the program. For details regarding these federal benefits for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and first responders killed or catastrophically disabled in the line of duty, call the PSOB Office toll-free at 888-744-6513 or 202-307-0635, or visit [www.psob.gov](http://www.psob.gov).

## DID YOU KNOW?

BJA, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and the Council of State Governments' Justice Center partnered with leading national justice organizations to launch the [National Reentry Resource Center](#) to advance the successful return of individuals from incarceration to their communities. Established by the Second Chance Act of 2007, the resource center provides education, training, and technical assistance to states, tribes, territories, local governments, nonprofits, and corrections agencies working on prisoner reentry. The center provides valuable insight and analysis of complex reentry issues, training and technical assistance to Second Chance Act grant recipients and others, as well as research, publications, and tools that are continually updated.

## FEATURED PROGRAM

### Veterans' Treatment Courts Planning Initiative

In FY 2010, BJA, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), is launching the [Pilot Veterans Court Planning Initiative](#). Veterans' treatment courts promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug and mental health courts, but with the addition of the VA's health care networks, the Veterans' Benefits Administration, volunteer veteran mentors, and veterans' family support organizations. BJA will develop a curriculum for drug courts seeking to add a veterans' court component, which will then be piloted with 10 drug court teams and will include issues unique to veterans' experiences. To further these efforts, NADCP has launched a new [Veterans' Treatment Court Clearinghouse.](#)

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