



November 2010

In the Spotlight

During November, BJA joins the nation in honoring our military veterans and supporting Alzheimer's Disease Awareness month. BJA, in partnership with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), has taken steps to expand the connectivity of the law enforcement community to these special groups of citizens.

The [Employing Returning Combat Veterans](#) project has produced a set of guidebooks, designed to aid law enforcement agencies and veterans facilitate the employment and reintegration of veterans into our nation's local, state, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies. IACP has made copies of these materials available to encourage more agencies to be proactive in addressing our military veterans.

Persons living with Alzheimer's disease reside in every community in our country and providing them with public safety services becomes especially challenging when a person with Alzheimer's is missing. The IACP [Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Initiative](#) is focused on providing education and solutions for law enforcement agencies, caregivers, and communities. A [Model Policy for Missing Persons with Alzheimer's Disease](#) provides guidance for law enforcement agencies in understanding why a specialized search is necessary, how the mindset of a missing person with Alzheimer's changes the nature of a search, and successful search strategies. Additional tools and training are also being developed.

News You Can Use

BJA's FY 2009 Annual Report

View BJA's [online FY 2009 Annual Report to Congress](#), which provides a wealth of information in an easily accessible and transparent format to keep our partners and community members informed on how we have used the funds entrusted to us to promote positive changes and advancements in local justice systems.

Save the Date for the 2011 Gang Symposium!

The 2011 National Gang Symposium will take place June 7–10, 2011, in Orlando, Florida. Sponsored by BJA, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, and the National Gang Center, this event will offer information on innovative and successful gang-related programs and strategies and provide current updates on gang activities and trends. For more information, go to www.gangsymposium.org.

Grants & Funding

BJA to Launch Justice Information Center

In early December, BJA will launch the Justice Information Center (JIC). Contact the JIC at 877–927–5657 to ask knowledgeable staff about BJA grant solicitations and information on BJA-supported programs.

FY 2010 Peer Review Comments

As of November 8, all peer reviewer comments for non-successful applicants have been e-mailed to the points of contacts listed on the SF-424 form. If you did not receive your comments, please send an e-mail to AskBJA@usdoj.gov.

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 the PSOB [web site](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

In FY 2010, BJA allocated more than \$10 million to our Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program—allowing for the purchase of more than 25,000 protective vests. To better ensure police safety, starting in FY 2011, BJA will begin requiring agencies that receive this funding to certify that they have a written "mandatory wear" policy in effect for uniformed patrol officers. BJA has confirmed [five cases](#) since January 1, 2010 where BJA-funded vests helped save officer lives. [Read](#) the Attorney General's comments regarding officer safety.

FEATURED PROGRAM

BJA awarded a grant to the Justice Management Institute (JMI) together with The Carey Group (TCG) to provide training and technical assistance (TA) for state and local teams of justice professionals (prosecutors, judges, defenders, and corrections officials) to implement or enhance research-based sentencing practices to improve offender outcomes. To support this effort, JMI has developed a curriculum that incorporates the latest research and findings pertaining to offense types of particular interest to criminal justice stakeholders as well as tools to assist practitioners in implementing the various components of research-based smarter sentencing. As a result of these training efforts, the State of Arkansas applied to BJA for funding to implement a detailed and in-depth smarter sentencing plan and was awarded funding. The goal of this local project is to explore possible changes to current sentencing practices that would result in not only decreased crime and substance abuse, but also improve the capacity of the criminal justice system and appropriate service providers to work in tandem toward this goal. South Arkansas Substance Abuse and the Thirteenth Judicial District of Arkansas will work together to overcome a "one-size-fits-all" approach to instead focus on individual offenders' risks and needs to improve community safety. JMI will continue to provide TA to the State of Arkansas as it continues to move forward with the planning and implementation process.

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