

- **Grants to local jurisdictions.** The Department of Justice has awarded \$3 million in grants to counties in 13 states to intensify their enforcement and surveillance efforts around vulnerable houses of worship. The states were: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia. In addition, FEMA released \$774,000 in training grants to enhance state and local arson investigations and prevention capabilities. These grants have been used to deliver National Fire Academy courses by the state fire training organizations and also to support the training of state and regional arson task forces.
- **Community outreach efforts.** Forty-four VISTA and AmeriCorps volunteers have been assigned to 18 rural communities in which church arsons have occurred and to 73 other communities in Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. In these communities, volunteers conducted community and church threat assessments, organized arson watch groups and town hall meetings on arson prevention and engaged in community relations projects.
- **Community healing efforts.** CRS plays an integral part in the Administration's response in local towns and cities, working with over 100 local communities in reducing racial polarization, bridging law enforcement and minority communities, facilitating a biracial rebuilding effort, and training law enforcement on cultural diversity and race relations.
- **Training programs.** The NCATF is working closely with FEMA, the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Sheriffs' Association and southern governors to develop a series of interdisciplinary training conferences and workshops on arson prevention that will be conducted in thirteen targeted southern states in 1997. An additional four regional conferences outside the southern region are also planned.
- **Community-based coalitions.** FEMA has developed a pilot community action program for arson prevention in three communities: Nashville, Tennessee, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Macon, Georgia. A coalition of fire prevention personnel, law enforcement, community, school and business leaders will be recruited to develop local arson prevention programs. These can include workshops on juvenile firesetters, an arson risk assessment survey, an arson hot-line, improved building and fire code enforcement and neighborhood watch programs.