



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

March 22, 2011

MEMORANDUM TO ALL UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS

CC: DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, CRIMINAL DIVISION
ADMINISTRATOR, DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DIRECTOR, U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE
ACTING DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS &
EXPLOSIVES

FROM:  The Attorney General

SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Officer Safety Initiative

Too many dedicated law enforcement officers die senselessly each year while bravely confronting violent criminals and gangs. In recent months, we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of officers killed in the line of duty. After a two-year decline in law enforcement fatalities, officer deaths in the line of duty spiked last year, making 2010 one of the deadliest years on record for law enforcement in nearly two decades. Unfortunately, this year we are on track to exceed last year's devastating numbers. Since the beginning of this year, 27 law enforcement officers have been killed either by firearms or felonious assaults, including Deputy U.S. Marshal Derek Hotsinpillar in West Virginia, Deputy U.S. Marshal John Perry in Missouri and ICE Special Agent Jaime Zapata in Mexico. This is an increase of more than 13% in fatalities compared to this same point in time in 2010, when 20 officers were killed by firearms or felonious assaults. These statistics do not reflect the number of federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement officers who have been assaulted and injured during this same time, but survived the attack.

These numbers concern me, as they should all Americans. We rely on our law enforcement officers to protect our lives and property and we must do all that we can to make sure they are protected while on duty.

To that end, today I met with state and local law enforcement officers to discuss ways that we may work together to reverse the troubling trend of increased violence against law enforcement officers. I am also launching a Law Enforcement Officer Safety Initiative.

Every day, your leadership plays a critical role in efforts by Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement to reduce violent crime in your district. That same leadership will be essential to our efforts to improve officer safety. You are in a unique position to ensure that your Federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners are aware of available resources for improving officer safety and that those agencies have taken appropriate measures to ensure that

