



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice

Law Enforcement Officer Safety Initiative

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) manages several national programs that focus on improving officer safety and are intended to shield officers from injury, help officers prevent and survive violent encounters, share critical information, enable reports of suspicious activities, and reduce violence in our communities.

Bulletproof Vest Partnership

www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/ or vests@usdoj.gov



The **Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program** provides sworn officers with bullet- and stab-resistant body armor. Since the program was established in 1999, BJA has distributed more than \$277 million to help provide lifesaving vests to 800,000 law enforcement and corrections officers in more than 13,000 jurisdictions nationwide.

- ✓ Efforts continue to create protective body armor that provides maximum protection and increased coverage with more comfort.
- ✓ A “mandatory wear” policy requirement is in effect for uniformed officers as a condition for receipt of BVP-specific funds beginning fiscal year 2011.
- ✓ BVP-purchased body armor must comply with National Institute of Justice (NIJ) standards.
- ✓ Officers involved in a shooting, a stabbing, or other incidents should check and replace their vests as needed.
- ✓ **2011 BVP grant awards are scheduled for announcement on April 20, 2011.**

Body armor saves lives—On January 3, 2010, a Mount Orab, Ohio, officer survived a gunshot in the back by a recently arrested drunk driver outside the police department. On May 24, 2010, a San Angelo, Texas, police officer lived after being shot by a person operating a motor vehicle with expired registration plates. These are two examples of the 15 officers whose lives were saved by body armor in 2010.

Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative (NSI)

www.nsi.ncirc.gov



The **Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative (NSI)** is a BJA-led multiagency endeavor to create a framework for sharing critical information across all levels of government and disciplines. Local law enforcement personnel are recognized as the nation’s first preventers in protecting the homeland. The NSI focuses on sharing observations of suspicious activity that may threaten public safety.

- ✓ The NSI was created to implement a standard process and technology solution for identifying, analyzing, and reporting suspicious behaviors proven indicative of possible terrorist or criminal behavior.
- ✓ The NSI is building critical relationships with industries that manage the nation’s critical infrastructure or offer key resources to promote a shared interest in improving public safety.

Success stories are abundant—Sharing of information has led to the discovery of bomb-making recipes during searches; the detection of suspicious behaviors during traffic stops and at self-storage sites, leading to investigations and arrests; and the detection of purchases of materials intended for illicit purposes.

Our law enforcement officers put themselves in harm's way every day to ensure the safety and security of the American people in cities and communities across the country, and we need to do everything we can to protect them. Although overall crime in the United States was down in 2010, deadly assaults against law enforcement officers rose by more than 20 percent. 2010 was one of the deadliest years on record for law enforcement in nearly two decades, and unfortunately, we're on track to exceed last year's tragic number.

—Honorable Eric Holder, Attorney General

VALOR www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bja/valor



VALOR is a national law enforcement training and technical assistance program that focuses on establishing a culture of attentive vigilance. Preventing officer injuries and deaths requires adoption of techniques that help officers identify, prevent, and survive violent encounters.

- ✓ On average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 53 hours.
- ✓ Firearm fatalities increased 24 percent from 2009 to 2010.
- ✓ VALOR offers instruction for state, local, and tribal line officers, trainers, supervisors/managers, and CEOs through on-site regional training and will soon include secure Internet-based training modules.
- ✓ VALOR conducts after-action reviews of violent encounters and partners with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) to analyze personnel injury data to improve training and help agencies address specific vulnerabilities.
- ✓ An Officer Safety Toolkit will be released by October 2011 that will provide officers and their agencies with resources to help officers avoid and survive violent encounters.
- ✓ During the first two pilot sessions, more than 400 line officers were trained to handle high-risk situations that may involve active shooters and hostages, identify concealed weapons, and confront threat groups safely.
- ✓ The program emphasizes the use of contemporary tools, techniques, and experiences, including training based on “The Deadly Mix” framework (officers, offenders, and circumstances).

Pilot training participants cite techniques—Valuable survival techniques are learned and new observation skills developed to detect concealed weapons and potentially violent situations.

RISSafe™ www.riss.net



The Regional Information Sharing Systems® (RISS) Officer Safety Event Deconfliction System (RISSafe) stores and maintains data on planned law enforcement events, with the goal of identifying and alerting affected officers of potential conflicts. Investigative efforts often create the potential for conflict between officers who are unknowingly working in close proximity to each other or who may be coordinating an event on the same subject at the same time. In either case, officers may interfere with each other's cases, causing investigative efforts to be disrupted or, worse, officers to be unintentionally hurt or killed. RISSafe enables users to submit event information 24/7 and receive immediate feedback regarding possible conflicts.

- ✓ RISSafe is available to all law enforcement agencies regardless of RISS membership. There is no cost to use RISSafe. RISSafe is accessible via the RISS Secure Intranet (RISSNET™) or by contacting staff assigned to a RISSafe Watch Center. Currently, there are 18 RISSafe Watch Centers.
- ✓ More than 300,000 operations have been entered into RISSafe, resulting in more than 100,000 identified conflicts.
- ✓ In addition to RISSafe, the RISS Officer Safety Website is dedicated to providing law enforcement and criminal justice users with timely officer safety information and a secure means to exchange and share officer safety-related information among agencies.

RISSafe immediately protects officers—Soon after initial RISSafe deployment, two task forces in Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, discovered they had scheduled drug buys in the same apartment at approximately the same time.