

RESEARCH

IACP'S NATIONAL CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE POLICE



To respond to the need for critical information on the emerging trends involving felonious assaults directed at law enforcement, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance, has established the National Center for the Prevention of Violence Against the Police. **The mission of the National Center is to learn, through analysis of data, forensic interviews, and post-incident investigations, how felonious assaults against police officers can be prevented.**

The National Center will examine data from federal, state, local, campus, and tribal law enforcement agencies, as well as from existing data sources, including SACOP's SafeShield Project, on line-of-duty deaths and felonious

assaults committed against law enforcement.

The National Center's focus on felonious assaults is complimentary to, and will fill information gaps relative to, both the BJA/IACP Officer Injury Project and BJA's VALOR Project, which focuses on surviving violent encounters and ambush-style assaults.

The National Center will work collaboratively with IACP leadership, in particular the State Association of Chiefs of Police (SACOP) and the SafeShield Project. An expert advisory group, including data providers and researchers, will guide the center team's efforts to achieve the mission. National

Center staff will study available data and information to develop protocol and strategies across the criminal justice system that can prevent violent assaults against law enforcement officers.

Part of the National Center's work will be to integrate these findings into the broader body of knowledge SafeShield has produced on duty-related injuries, disabilities, and deaths in order to enhance overall community and officer safety efforts.

The National Center's initial effort will focus on conducting research and analysis, translating the findings into actionable information, and disseminating recommendations to the field.



IACP'S OFFICER INJURY STUDY

In an effort to address a current void within the law enforcement community, the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) have partnered to examine the state of officer injuries within the United States.

Through this partnership with the IACP, a pilot study is being conducted to examine and document how officers are getting injured and develop a comprehensive policy response. The project has three goals: (1) To identify and document the cause and magnitude of officer injuries; (2) To develop practical resources to assist law enforcement agencies to identify officer injury vulnerabilities; and, (3) To disseminate resources widely to the law enforcement community. Upon completion, this project will provide an analysis of officer injuries, a compendium of best practices and policy recommendations, and training modules to address the more common and correctable situations causing officer injuries.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE (NIJ)

The National Institute of Justice is the research, development, and evaluation agency of the U.S. Department of Justice that provides objective and independent knowledge and tools to reduce crime and promote justice. NIJ's research agenda includes development and evaluation of new and innovative policies, practices, tools, and technologies, and development of performance standards to ensure that equipment is safe and effective.

Roadside Safety—Traffic fatalities have been the largest cause of officer line-of-duty deaths. NIJ works in partnership with various agencies and sponsors innovative research aimed toward the shared goal of increasing safety for law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders as they perform their duties on the road.

Body Armor—Soft body armor is critical for officer safety. Since its introduction, more than 3,000 officers' lives have been saved because they were wearing body armor. NIJ develops standards of performance and tests body armor models against those standards to make sure they meet minimum performance requirements.

Standards and Compliance—NIJ develops standards against which equipment is tested for compliance for officer safety. Additional tests and standards are developed for body armor, such as retention holsters—to keep officers from losing their handguns during a physical struggle—and ensembles to protect them against chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and explosives hazards.

Police Use of Force—Police officers sometimes need to control violent, combative people. NIJ-sponsored research on use of force is targeted at providing options to reduce the likelihood of injury to the officers and subjects involved, including improved practices and policies as well as less-lethal devices. The technologies currently in use include stun guns, beanbag rounds, pepper spray, and stun grenades. These technologies are especially valuable when lethal force:

- Is not necessary.
- Is justified and available for backup, but lesser force may resolve the situation.
- Is justified, but its use could cause serious injury to bystanders or other unacceptable collateral effects.

For more information, please visit <http://nij.gov/>.