



Fact Sheet

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2017 COPS Office Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Training Program

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) presents the FY 2017 COPS Office Preparing for Active Shooter Situations (PASS) Training Program, a competitive grant program designed to increase law enforcement and public safety by providing funds for scenario-based training that prepares officers and other first responders to safely and effectively handle active-shooter and other violent threats.

Background

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), there were more than 125 active shooting incidents between 2000 and June 2016—when the shooters who attacked the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, killed 49 people and wounded 53 others. Moreover, such attacks continue to occur. And because they are unpredictable and evolve quickly, it is vital that law enforcement and other first responders be well prepared with tactical training on responding to and managing a potential mass casualty event.

Past events have demonstrated that a key to effective preparation is local coordination across the professional disciplines that have responsibilities in the event of an active shooter, including law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services (EMS), and emergency departments. Also important is widespread exposure of officers to scenario-based, simulation training exercises and continued refresher training on knowledge and skills. The 2016 Protecting Our Lives by Initiating COPS Expansion (POLICE) Act, enacted just one month after the Orlando shooting, is an important step in ensuring all officers receive training on these critical skills that protect both themselves and the public.

Contact the COPS Office

For more information about the COPS Office Preparing for Active Shooter Situations Program, please call the COPS Office Response Center at 800-421-6770 or visit the COPS Office online at www.cops.usdoj.gov.

Funding Provisions

Provisions include the following:

- PASS provides funds to training providers who can offer integrated, scenario-based response courses as described in the 2016 POLICE Act.
- PASS-funded providers need to have substantial experience with providing and tailoring cross-disciplinary active shooter training to law enforcement and other first responders nationally.
- PASS funding may be used to provide supplemental resources to help officers maintain these vital but perishable skills—including scenario libraries and e-learning modules—and to enhance agency skills in tactical medicine and managing exposure to trauma.

How to Apply

Applicants are first required to register via www.grants.gov and complete an SF-424. After submitting the SF-424, applicants will receive an e-mail with instructions on completing the second part via the CPD application through the COPS Office Online Application System. To complete the CPD application, please visit the COPS Office website at www.cops.usdoj.gov and click on the “Account Access” link in the upper right-hand corner. Applicants should then enter their username and password and select “Applications” from the Agency Portal Menu.

Complete application packages for the FY 2017 PASS program are due by June 23, 2017, at 7:59 p.m. EDT. Hard copies or electronic copies sent via e-mail will not be accepted.

Resources

The following resources offer practical guidance to law enforcement, EMS, fire departments, and other first responders for safe and effective response to active shooter and mass casualty events.

Preparing for the Unimaginable: How Chiefs Can Safeguard Officer Mental Health Before and After Mass Casualty Events

Though most agencies have trained and equipped their officers for immediate response to mass casualties, few have prepared their personnel for the psychological fallout. Tragic events can have a profound effect on first responders, who may suffer emotional distress that lingers long afterward. To help the Newtown (Connecticut) Police Department cope with the murder of 26 people, including 20 children, at Sandy Hook Elementary School, the COPS Office reached out to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to provide guidance. *Preparing for the Unimaginable* is the result of NAMI's work with Newtown's police chief, Michael Kehoe. This unique publication offers expert advice and practical tips for helping officers to heal emotionally, managing the public, dealing with the media, building relationships with other first responder agencies, and much more. But what makes this handbook especially helpful are the personal contributions of four police chiefs and numerous officers who have lived through incidents such as these and shared their experiences.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P347>

Strategic Approaches to Preventing Multiple Casualty Violence: A Report on the National Summit on Multiple Casualty Shootings

The American public has expressed increasing alarm over incidents of multiple casualty violence. While the law enforcement community has progressed in advancing training in the tactical response to incidents, there are significant gaps in strategies aimed at preventing multiple casualty violence. To address this need, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Law Enforcement Training Center collaborated with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services and the Johns Hopkins University's School of Education, Division of Public Safety Leadership, to facilitate the National Summit

on Multiple Casualty Shootings. The summit planners invited subject-matter experts from a wide range of disciplines such as law enforcement, health care, law, social sciences, education, and academia to help improve the nation's ability to prevent multiple casualty violence. The participants developed eight recommendations, all centered on the need to create a strategic approach to information sharing in the prevention of multiple casualty violence.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P269>

Strategic Approaches to Information Sharing: A Report on the 2013 National Summit on Preventing Multiple Casualty Violence

The second summit on multiple casualty violence occurred in April 2013, bringing together subject matter experts from a wide range of disciplines positioned to help prevent multiple casualty violence such as law enforcement, health care, law, social sciences, education, and academia. Participants explored strategic approaches to information sharing in multiple casualty violence prevention, centering their dialogue on the necessary involvement of local communities in prevention strategies.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P285>

Community-Based Approaches to Prevention: A Report on the 2014 National Summit on Preventing Multiple Casualty Violence

The third and final summit on multiple casualty violence occurred in February 2014, bringing together subject matter experts from a wide range of disciplines positioned to help prevent multiple casualty violence such as law enforcement, health care, law, social sciences, education, and academia. Over the course of the three-day summit, participants outlined the elements of a prevention toolkit adaptable to the needs of individual communities.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P312>

Resources

Las Vegas After-Action Assessment: Lessons Learned from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Ambush Incident

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department experienced a tragic loss on June 8, 2014, when two officers were ambushed and killed by two assailants. This report, published by the COPS Office, summarizes key findings from an after-action analysis of the ambush and subsequent police engagement with the assailants. The assessment team analyzed the event precursors, response, and aftermath to document lessons learned. Their findings can be used by the larger law enforcement community to conduct self-evaluation and better prepare for similar incidents. This after-action report builds upon other analysis on violence against police, including the 2015 COPS Office publication *Ambushes of Police: Environment, Incident Dynamics, and the Aftermath of Surprise Attacks Against Law Enforcement*.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-W0798>

Bringing Calm to Chaos: A Critical Incident Review of the San Bernardino Public Safety Response to the December 2, 2015, Terrorist Shooting Incident at the Inland Regional Center

In December 2015, two terrorists attacked a training session and holiday party for San Bernardino County, California, employees, killing 14 and wounding 24—including two police officers. But additional losses were averted by the response of the police department, sheriff's office, emergency services, and FBI, who came together to prevent additional deaths and injuries. With a grant from the COPS Office, the Police Foundation critically, objectively, and thoroughly examined all aspects of the public safety response—including preparation and aftermath—and prepared this critical incident review of the events surrounding the shooting. This review provides a detailed overview of the incident response; lessons learned to improve responding agencies' policies, procedures, tactics, systems, culture, and relationships; and guidance to other agencies and first responders as they prepare for responses to terrorist, active shooter or other hostile events, and mass casualty incidents. A visual representation of the events that took place that day is available at

<http://incidentreview.wpengine.com/san-bernardino/>

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-W0808>

Ambushes of Police: Environment, Incident Dynamics, and the Aftermath of Surprise Attacks Against Law Enforcement

Ambush attacks against law enforcement officers remain a threat to officer safety with the annual number of attacks holding steady since a decline in the 1990s and the proportion of fatal attacks on officers attributable to ambushes increasing. Concerns about targeted violence against police are rising in an era of strained community relations, struggles with police legitimacy, and anti-government extremism. Yet little research has examined ambush attacks as a specific and directed form of violence against police. This study addresses that gap in the literature through a mixed-methods examination of ambush attacks against law enforcement. Its four major lines of inquiry are (1) qualitative analysis of police perspectives on ambushes, (2) analysis of ambush attack incidents and survivability, (3) investigation of the community and departmental characteristics associated with ambush attacks, and (4) a survey of organizational learning practices in the aftermath of ambushes. This represents the first substantive research in 30 years focused on civilian ambush attacks on police and presents recommendations for next steps and additional research.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P340>

Officer-Involved Shootings: A Guide for Law Enforcement Leaders

As the authors of this guide note, an officer-involved shooting (OIS) is probably the most traumatic event a police officer will ever experience in his or her career. If the reaction to such an event is not handled properly, it can not only take an emotional toll on the individuals involved but also spark anger in the community and create negative fallout for the rest of the department. To provide practical guidance for handling the wide range of challenges that follow an OIS, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the COPS Office collaborated to produce this detailed report. A must-read for all law enforcement agencies, it provides incident command and investigation procedures, guidance for selecting mental health professionals for post-shooting debriefings, suggestions for familiarizing officers with their rights, recommendations for working with the media, and expert advice in many other areas.

<https://ric-zai-inc.com/ric.php?page=detail&id=COPS-P350>