



# The Washington Report

**The Newsletter of the National Association of Police Organizations**  
*Representing America's Finest*

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**April 11, 2012**

## **NAPO MEETS WITH VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN**



*NAPO Sergeant-at-Arms Keith Dunn, NAPO Executive Secretary John Flynn, New York City PBA President Patrick Lynch, NAPO Treasurer Sean Smoot, NAPO Recording Secretary Chris Collins, Florida PBA President John Rivera, NAPO Vice President Mick McHale and NAPO Parliamentarian Lee Jackson at the Vice President's residence.*

On Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> NAPO officers attended the Vice President's official residence on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington. Vice President Biden recognized the hard work of state and local law enforcement officers and first responders. Earlier that day, NAPO President Tom Nee and Executive Director Bill Johnson met with Vice President Biden in the Vice President's office in the West Wing of the White House.

The Vice President reiterated his commitment to public safety by announcing the Administration's proposal to include \$4 billion for COPS Hiring. The White House first proposed \$4 billion for funding in the American Jobs Bill in September of 2011. This February, NAPO participated in an event along with President Obama during which the President stressed the importance of hiring Veterans and providing \$4 billion to the COPS Hiring Grant program. The President's budget request also included \$4 billion in immediate assistance for COPS Hiring while creating Veterans Jobs Initiatives.

NAPO is appreciative for the Administration's commitment to state and local law enforcement. We are especially grateful to the Vice President for his longstanding and positive relationship with NAPO and its members.

## **NAPO SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIES TO INCREASE CONGRESSIONAL SIGNATURES ON LETTERS SUPPORTING FUNDING PRIORTIES**

Each year members of Congress circulate “Dear Colleague Letters” asking members to financially support specific programs. NAPO served as the law enforcement leader in efforts to work in a bipartisan fashion in both chambers to advance key funding priorities for rank-and-file.

As strong advocates for the COPS Hiring Program, and the Byrne JAG competitive grant program NAPO worked with Representatives Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) in circulating a Dear Colleague Letter that supports both programs. This letter exceeded last year’s level of support by increasing signatures from 26 members to a total of 143 Representatives in support of funding for COPS Hiring and Byrne JAG.

In the Senate NAPO worked with staff to circulate three funding letters in support of the COPS Hiring and Byrne JAG programs.

The first, by Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ), advocates for both the COPS Hiring Program and the Byrne JAG program to be funded at the level specified in the President’s Budget request. Senator Menendez’s letter also calls for support of President Obama’s legislative proposal to create a COPS stabilization fund to rehire or prevent the lay-offs of public safety officers. This was the first year for a Dear Colleague Letter to strongly support all three priorities. As a result 28 Senators signed in support.

The second, a letter by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), specifically focuses on funding for the COPS Hiring Program, also at the President’s request level, (\$257 million). This letter specifically mentions NAPO’s commitment to the COPS Hiring Program, and garnered the bipartisan support of 23 Senators, an increase of 5 signatures.

The third, a bipartisan letter by Senators Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) addresses Byrne JAG only. This letter requests that funding not be reduced for the Byrne JAG program again this year and had the support of 42 signatures, an increase of 3 Senators.

NAPO’s efforts, in combination with our memberships outreach resulted in a stronger position for key funding programs to receive appropriations. Congress is expected to mark-up CJS appropriations within the next few weeks. NAPO will continue to provide updates throughout this process.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

### **NAPO SUPPORTS THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY POLICE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION**

On March 29, 2012, the Port Authority Board of Commissioners meeting took the extraordinary step of amending the Port Authority’s labor law to preclude negotiations concerning the provision of and payment for all manner of medical insurance benefits. This amendment to the Port Authority’s labor law threatens to remove their ability to negotiate health care benefits and jeopardizes the scope of collective bargaining.

The action of excluding healthcare from collective bargaining negotiations is without precedent and is at odds with the long history of public sector bargaining in New York. If the Port Authority is permitted to place negotiations over health care off limits, there will be far reaching effects that could fundamentally change the rights of every member of a union in New York.

NAPO sent a letter to Governor Cuomo of New York requesting a veto to the amendment by the Port Authority Board of Commissioners. A [copy](#) of this letter can be found on NAPO's website.

### **NAPO SUPPORTS FEDERAL CONSENT DECREE LEGISLATION**

Legislation addressing Federal consent decree fairness has periodically been reintroduced throughout different years of Congress. NAPO has been, and continues to be an advocate for the Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act, (H.R. 3041) introduced by Representative Jim Cooper (D-TN). The Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act would allow any state or local government or related official to file a motion to modify or terminate a federal consent decree.

Consent decrees can be a remedy for the violation of rights and a tool for protecting a party who faces injury. They should not be used to further any policy that is extraneous to the protection of those rights or expanded to apply to parties not involved in the litigation. State and local governments have found their interests and judgment in managing their own affairs trampled on by the federal courts in the structuring of consent decrees.

There is a tendency for consent decrees to take on a life of their own and to last longer than the period of time necessary. These impose heavy costs on the agencies involved and affect the services they provide to the public.

NAPO supports efforts to limit the length of consent decrees and to protect the interests of state and local governments in managing their own affairs.

### **NAPO WORKS TO ADVANCE EFFORTS FOR MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUCTION**

In 2004, President Bush signed into law the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act (MIOTCRA). Congress reauthorized MIOTCRA in 2008 for an additional five years and also expanded training for law enforcement to identify and respond appropriately to individuals with mental illness as well as support the development of law enforcement receiving centers to assess individuals in custody for mental health and substance abuse treatment needs.

Rank-and-file officers are often the first point of contact within the communities; therefore they have first-hand experience on the impact of mentally ill offenders to society. Law enforcement officers can be left with difficult choices that can sometimes lead to avoidable injuries to either party.

Grants provided through MIOTCRA increase training of local law enforcement on how to identify and address encounters for individuals with mental illness. In FY 10 26% of grantees received funds for a law enforcement focus. Currently there are six law enforcement/mental health learning sites that collectively reflect the ranges of strategies a law enforcement agency might consider when developing a collaborative initiative to address mental illness within committees. The selected sites include; Houston Police Department, Los Angeles Police Department, Madison Police Department, Portland Police Department, Salt Lake City Police Department and the University of Florida Police Department.

In March, NAPO attended a briefing on “Improving Law Enforcement Response to People with Mental Illness” and has continued to work with our colleagues within the justice community to raise awareness in support of this program. If you would like additional information please contact NAPO’s Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge.

## **Save the Dates!**

*Please Make Note of NAPO’s 2012 Events*

**Annual Law  
Enforcement Rights &  
Legislative Seminar**  
Friday, May 11, 2012  
The Mayflower Hotel --  
Washington, District of  
Columbia

**19<sup>th</sup> Annual TOP  
COPS Awards**  
Saturday, May 12, 2012  
The Mayflower Hotel --  
Washington, District of  
Columbia

**NAPO’s 34<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Convention**  
Saturday, July 21 –  
Wednesday, July 25, 2012  
Palm Beach County, Florida

Please visit [www.napo.org](http://www.napo.org) for detailed event information and exhibiting/sponsorship opportunities.  
Contact us at (800) 322-6276 or via e-mail: [info@napo.org](mailto:info@napo.org) with any questions.



# National Association of Police Organizations Law Enforcement & Legislative Seminar

The Mayflower Hotel  
Washington, D.C.  
May 10 - 12, 2012

We all know that police work is dangerous. Much of the training that officers receive both in police academy and in-service, emphasizes firearms use, driving skills, and self-defense. All of these are essential for survival on the street. While departments strongly focus on this type of training, is there another side to making it through a police career unharmed? Yes there is -psychological survival. We know from research that 15-18% of police officers will eventually suffer from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) because of the horrible things they see during their career—the dead bodies, homicide victims, abused children, human misery. We know that many police officers will turn to alcohol as an “anesthetic” to help them deal with the stress of the job. Finally, we know that according to national data, police officers kill themselves more often than they are killed by criminals. Police suicide is an increasing world wide problem and the most preventable type of

law enforcement officer death. This seminar will address this “other” side of policing—the psychological survival side. Presenters will discuss police suicide, PTSD and related problems in the hope that we can prevent some of the tragic consequences of this difficult job.

NAPO’s Law Enforcement Rights & Legislative Seminar offers the perfect opportunity to learn from some of the top experts in the country on these issues. Please see the attachment for a detailed list of topics and the speakers presenting the information. It also provides you the occasion to lobby Congressional Representatives and Senators on behalf of your members concerning the issues which affect the law enforcement community.

**Registration & Payment Deadline is  
Friday, April 20, 2012**

**Caring for Those Who have Borne the Burden: Mental Health, Privacy, Stress & Law Enforcement Suicide**

## **Agenda**

### **Thursday, May 10, 2012**

Arrival Day and Opportunity for Congressional Office Visits  
Please contact Rachel Hedge, Director of Government Affairs, at the NAPO office, (800)322-6276 for assistance in coordinating your congressional meetings

### **Friday, May 11, 2012**

8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast and Seminar Registration
9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Morning Session See Attached list of Topics
12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided by NAPO
1:15 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	Afternoon Session See Attached list of Topics

### **Saturday, May 12, 2012**

2:00 p.m.-2:30 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.	NAPO Executive Board Meeting ( Time Tentative )
7:00 p.m.-Midnight	19th Annual TOP COP Awards Dinner & Reception, Mayflower Hotel

\*\* Separate tickets are required to attend the TOP COPS Awards Dinner & Reception.

Please contact the NAPO office at ( 800 ) 322-6275 for information on purchasing tickets.

# Seminar Information & Registration Form

**Registration Fees**    NAPO Member \$299.00                      Non-Member \$350.00

Complete the registration form and forward it with payment to NAPO.  
Registration fees include the cost of seminar material, continental breakfast,  
Breaks and lunch. Please register by April 20, on site registration is available  
for an additional \$50.00 per attendee.

**Return completed form to:**  
**Elizabeth Loranger**  
**NAPO Director of Events**  
**317 South Patrick Street**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22314**  
**Tel. 703-549-0775**  
**Fax 703-684-0515**  
**Email: [eloranger@napo.org](mailto:eloranger@napo.org)**

**Hotel** The Mayflower Hotel will serve as our host hotel. Guest rooms have been reserved for registered Seminar and TOP COP attendees only. Room rates are \$219 per night. To make reservations, call (800)266-9432 and tell them you are with TOP COPS Awards. Reservations must be made by April 20, 2012.

We regret that we are unable to provide rooms for people who are not attending either the TOP COPS Awards or the NAPO Seminar. We ask that you honor our policy to ensure enough rooms for our registered attendees.

**Airline.** Discounted airfare is available through American Airlines. To check fares visit [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com). After typing in your parameters (departure city, dates, etc.) include the NAPO code 6652DE in the "promotional code" box.

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Organization:**

**Address:**

**City, State, Zip Code:**

**Phone:**                       **Fax:**

**Email:**

**Product/Service:**

**Please provide names for individuals as they should appear on name badge:**

**Attendee 1:**

**Attendee 2:**

## Payment Information

I will be sending a check made payable to NAPO.

Please mail to 317 South Patrick Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Please bill my credit card

If you wish to pay by credit card please complete the following and fax to **703-684-0515**

**Card information:**

Amount: \$

Card type:     Visa     MC     Amex     Discover

Card Number:     Expiration Date:     CID Number:

Name on card:

                     Signature:



# Law Enforcement & Legislative Seminar

## Caring for Those Who Have Borne the Burden: Mental Health, Privacy, Stress & Law Enforcement Suicide

### Detailed Agenda and Topics

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.  | Continental Breakfast and Seminar Registration  |
| 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon | <b>Morning Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* The “Hidden Epidemic”</li><li>* Unique Stressors in Law Enforcement</li><li>* Human Misery &amp; the Cost Paid by Police in Dealing with</li><li>* Trying to Track &amp; Study the Problem</li><li>* The US Department of Justice’s Initiative</li><li>* Precipitating Factors</li><li>* Suicide by Suspect</li><li>* Possible Early Predictors of Officer Suicide</li><li>* The Trauma for Survivors of Officer Suicide</li><li>* The U.S. Armed Forces Response to Suicide</li></ul> |
| 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch provided by NAPO  |
| 1:15 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  | <b>Afternoon Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Providing Assistance to Officers in Distress</li><li>* Officer Suicide and the Reluctance to Seek Help</li><li>* The Union/Police Associations’s Role</li><li>* The Medical Professional’s Role</li><li>* The Police Chaplain’s Role</li><li>* The Union/Police Association Attorney’s Role</li><li>* Privacy and Legal Issues in the Mental Health Context</li><li>* Agency Disciplinary Issues</li></ul>   |
| 4:30 p.m.              | Wrap –up and Adjournment of Seminar   |