

BEST PRACTICES REVIEW

PARC supports and assists those responsible for the oversight of police departments – law enforcement executives, monitors, civil officials, and government agencies – to advance effective, respectful, and publicly accountable policing.

Table of Contents	
Agencies Under Investigation	1
Civilian Oversight	1
Community Policing/Problem Oriented Policing	3
Consent Decrees/Memoranda of Understanding	4
Litigation	4
Mental Illness	6
Racial Profiling	6
Standards/Training	7
Use of Force	10
Conferences	12

manual and the results of an internal affairs audit conducted in Fall 2001. *Albany Times Union, May 8, 2002.*

The Buffalo Commission on Citizen’s Rights and Community Relations claims that there is evidence of a “pattern” of misconduct in the Buffalo police department, including complaints that some officers have mistreated teenagers and minorities. Police officials have responded by stating that the claims are unsubstantiated and that internal investigators thoroughly investigate all complaints. The Commission is investigating 22 claims involving police officers. The 11-member commission was created by the new City Charter in 1999 to monitor complaints of police misconduct and improve racial relations. *The Buffalo News, May 15, 2002.*

Agencies Under Investigation

On May 7, 2002, Former Schenectady, New York Police Chief, Gregory Kaczmarek met with Department of Justice officials who are investigating civil rights complaints and interviewing city leaders and community activists. Federal officials plan to meet with police department and union officials, the city council president, members of the Public Safety Committee, citizen review board members and NAACP officials. The officials intend to review past and pending lawsuits against the police department, the department's operations

Civilian Oversight

Joel Miller, a research analyst at the Vera Institute of Justice, recently presented his paper, *Civilian Oversight of Policing: Lessons from Literature*, at the Global Meeting on Civilian Oversight of Police in Los Angeles. Miller states that arguments for the creation of civilian oversight have frequently concentrated on the effectiveness of oversight in addressing complaints, misconduct, or broader police policy but failed to address citizen’s perception regarding the complaint handling process and the fairness of that process. Miller

addresses the roles of civilian oversight entities in receiving and investigating complaints, as well as reviewing, monitoring and auditing the investigation. Some oversight agencies assume the role of identifying and evaluating underlying systematic problems within police agencies. Civilians are also involved in oversight by appointing law enforcement directors or chiefs and changing policing priorities through community mobilization. Miller concludes that many factors must be present to create sustainable civilian oversight including political support, police cooperation and public attitudes. Miller's report will be available on the Vera Institute of Justice's website at www.vera.org in July 2002.

John Parker from the San Diego Citizen Law Enforcement Review Board is collecting and organizing information pertaining to early warning systems, case management systems, and databases used by oversight and police agencies to track officers' complaint histories. If you would like information on these subjects, or if you are using an electronic database system, please contact Mr. Parker at John.Parker@sdcounty.ca.gov or at (619) 515-6029. *The NACOLE Review, Spring, 2002.*

It is often recommended that civilian review board members attend citizen police academies as part of their training. The Journal of Criminal Justice has produced a report on the impact of citizen police academies on participants. The authors, Michael J. Palmiotto and N. Prabha Unninthanb, conducted a series of surveys with citizen police academy students regarding the participant's feelings and opinions

about the police in Wichita, Kansas. The report contends that academies attract individuals who are positively disposed towards the police and that participants claim to have gained knowledge regarding police procedures and issues through the training. Most of the participants were white and middle class, leading the authors to question whether the academies would have the same positive impact if more participants had come from lower socioeconomic and minority backgrounds. *The Journal of Criminal Justice, Vol. 20 No. 2, March-April 2002.*

The Government Law Center of Albany Law School and the New York Civil Liberties Union released separate reports analyzing the first year of the Albany, New York's Citizens' Police Review Board. The reports praise the Board's creation but state that it needs more cooperation from the Albany Police Department or new power to independently investigate misconduct. The Board is dependent on the police department for information on how civilian complaints are handled. The Government Law Center of Albany Law School report recommends that police employ an early warning system to identify officers who receive a disproportionate number of complaints and suggests that the Public Safety Commissioner give the panel more timely information on how he implements the board's recommendations. The NYCLU report also calls for independent investigatory power -- a recommendation that the police department, Common Council and Mayor appear reluctant to adopt. *Albany Times Union, May 8, 2002.*

The Pittsburgh city council, Fraternal Order of Police and review board members are discussing whether to dismantle the seven-member Citizen Police Review Board. Critics claim that Mayor Tom Murphy and Police Chief Robert W. McNeilly Jr. have not accepted any recommendations for disciplinary action made by the Board and that officers' lack of participation in the hearings render it ineffective. Critics also claim that the Board has wasted \$1.97 million of taxpayer money because it duplicates the services provided by other agencies that investigate police misconduct. The police chief has stated that he cannot act on the board's disciplinary recommendations because they do not conform to city guidelines and that the police union contract prevents him from compelling officers to testify at Board hearings. The Board received 537 informal complaints in 2001 and is investigating 77 of them. *Pittsburgh Tribune Review*, May 6, 2002.

Community Policing/ Problem Oriented Policing

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) has released their first series of Problem-Oriented Guides for Police. The guides are not manuals for investigating crimes or handling incidents, but contain summaries of relevant research, standards of police practice, and an array of suggested responses that should be implemented within police practice. The first series of guides cover assaults in and around bars, street prostitution, loud car stereos, rave parties, clandestine drug labs, bullying in schools, speeding in residential areas, and graffiti. For more information, visit

the COPS website at http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/cp_resources/pubs_ppse/default.htm#Guide_series.

The Police Foundation is conducting a study that focuses on the displacement and diffusion effects of community policing efforts on crime at specific places or areas. The study is taking place in an experimental framework in Jersey City, New Jersey. For more information, visit the Police Foundation's website at www.policefoundation.org/docs/current_research.html.

Providence Police Chief, Richard Sullivan, has announced that his agency will resume community policing efforts following a brief pause in the program that began last year. Sullivan plans on assigning Summer 2002 recruits to the posts. *Law Enforcement News*, February 2002.

Police representatives from the Houston and Austin police departments have announced that they will not cooperate with Attorney General John Ashcroft's request that local law enforcement agencies assist in tracking illegal immigrants, claiming that doing so would jeopardize community relations and crime solving functions by potentially ostracizing illegal immigrants. *Houston Chronicle*, May 14, 2002.

In January of 2002, the Oakland Police Department implemented a plan to reorganize itself into a community policing model with the goal of reducing crime and fostering better community relations. On May 18, 2002, several hundred community members and city officials met with the police

department to discuss the plan. *Oakland Tribune*, May 17, 2002.

Consent Decrees/Memoranda of Understanding

On April 29, 2002, a federal grand jury began hearing the first of 43 cases in the ACLU's class action "pattern or practice" lawsuit against the Pittsburgh Police Department. The cases were among those included in the 1996 ACLU lawsuit against the police department, which led to the 1997 consent decree, and are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2002. *Associated Press*, April 30, 2002.

The latest report issued by the Los Angeles Police Department's court-appointed monitor states that LAPD officials have failed to make changes mandated by the Federal consent decree and that some officers have belittled and undermined reform efforts. The report states that the LAPD has failed to implement major aspects of the consent decree, including tracking racial data on pedestrian and traffic stops. The report also criticizes the LAPD for its handling of confidential informants and its efforts to track and thwart street gangs. The report concludes that the LAPD has made improvements in some areas, including taking necessary steps to construct a computerized early warning system and the timely investigation of use-of-force incidents involving police. To view the full report, visit the LAPD website at <http://www.lapdonline.org>.

Inspector General Jeff Eglash has released his annual report of the Los Angeles Police Department. The report states that investigations of officers

accused of misconduct take too long and are sometimes flawed, but, overall, internal investigations are balanced and objective. The report further states that LAPD's disciplinary proceedings are slightly more likely to produce findings against officers accused of misconduct than the national average. *Los Angeles Times*, May 7, 2002.

Litigation

The Texas Supreme Court has affirmed an appellate finding that the use-of-force reports currently required by the San Antonio Police Department-which include a description of the incident, the identity of those present, and the occurrence of any injury-are not part of an officer's personnel record and therefore are not confidential. The case arose from a 1998 public information act request by a reporter requesting all use-of-force records for two years prior in which police used pepper spray. The Department refused to provide the information on the grounds that the records were part of the confidential personnel files. *Law Enforcement News*, January 2002.

Lawyers involved in an attempt to end all racial profiling suits in New Jersey through a global settlement of \$10 million to \$12 million claimed that the settlement talks have collapsed, but negotiations are continuing. The State received a proposal to settle with 16 plaintiffs represented by two teams of attorneys. The proposed settlement would have been divided among several hundred claimants, but the State ultimately rejected the global settlement. *New York Law Journal*, April 30, 2002.

In Fairfax, Virginia, a mentally ill suspect brought state court action against an officer, the police chief, and the county police department, alleging excessive force, and failure to provide adequate training and supervision. The action was removed to Federal court. The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia granted summary judgment in favor of defendants on all claims, except the excessive force claim against the officer. The officer appealed the decision and the Court of Appeals held that the officer's use of deadly force against the mentally ill suspect was not justified under the Fourth Amendment, for purposes of the officer's qualified immunity defense, and that the suspect had clearly established a right to be free from the officer's use of deadly force. *Clem v. Corbeau*, 284 F.3d 543.

The ACLU of Maryland has begun an investigation into the Baltimore Police Department's arrest practices. The ACLU filed a Maryland Public Information Act request seeking records and databases of cases in which people were arrested but not charged. In 2001, state prosecutors declined to bring charges in 15,798 arrests, or 26 percent of the 60,412 cases they reviewed. The majority of the cases involved the Baltimore police. In 2002, Baltimore police have a higher arrest rate, and prosecutors are declining to charge in 24 percent of cases. ACLU lawyers are concerned that police are violating people's rights by arresting them even though they know that charges will never be brought. *Maryland Sun Spot*, May 9, 2002.

The city of Miami has proposed a \$925,000 settlement agreement with the

mother of Derrick Wiltshire, who was shot and killed by police in November 1995. Wiltshire and a friend allegedly robbed tourists and were killed by police while attempting to escape. The officers, who fired 37 shots, reported finding two handguns at the scene. Federal prosecutors charge that the guns were planted by the police. The shooting is part of a Federal criminal case that has resulted in the indictments of 13 Miami police officers on charges of planting guns and inventing stories to justify shootings. Two of the five officers in the Wiltshire case have confessed to participating in the cover-up and are cooperating with prosecutors about other wrongdoings in the city's street crimes unit. The proposed settlement for the survivors of Derrick Wiltshire must be approved by the Miami City Commission. If approved, the total payment in the suspected "throwdown" cases to date will be \$4.7 million. *Miami Herald*, May 3, 2002.

On May 8, 2002, two female Santa Barbara Police Department officers won \$3.2 million in damages in their lawsuit alleging harassment and systematic discrimination against female officers. Officials in the department claim to be addressing the issues raised in the case by, among other things, promoting the first female to a supervisory role. *Los Angeles Times*, May 9, 2002.

On May 29, 2002, Suffolk County, Massachusetts officials agreed to pay a \$10 million class action settlement filed on behalf of over 5,000 women who were routinely and illegally strip-searched over a four-year period at Nashua Street Jail. A woman had sued the city of Boston and the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department when she was strip-searched after being charged

with a DWI. The ensuing settlement ruled that the city and county engaged in a strip-search policy that violated the women's constitutional rights. Men arrested in Boston after business hours have been held in lockups at police stations, where strip-searches are not automatic, but the city contracted with the Sheriff's Department to house the women. *Boston Daily Globe*, May 30, 2002.

Mental Illness

The Maine Mental Health Task Force has called for the extension of a pilot mental health program conducted within law enforcement agencies in the state. One aspect of the program includes the state assigning mental health caseworkers to ride along on police calls that involve the mentally ill. *Crime Control Digest* March 15, 2002.

Robert K. Olson, the president of PERF, submitted an article titled, *Law Enforcement Response to People with Mental Illness* to the April 2002 PERF Newsletter. In the article, Olson describes inadequacies that exist within the criminal justice system in housing, aiding, and interacting with the mentally ill. Olson announced that PERF has partnered with the Council of State Governments (CSG) and several other organizations to develop a consensus model and recommendations that could improve the criminal justice system's response to people with mental illness. The project was initiated by CSG in August of 2000 and intends to issue a report that will include 100 recommendations to improve police interactions with the mentally ill and describe innovative programs throughout the country. The project

also plans to establish centralized information clearinghouses and embark on a public education campaign to inform policy makers, the media and the public about the issue. *PERF Newsletter*, April 2002.

Racial Profiling

The Subcommittee on Racial Profiling -- a committee of Oxnard, California police officers and residents -- has been meeting to discuss ways to improve community relations within the city's multi-ethnic communities. Police Chief Art Lopez asked the eight-member subcommittee to design a cultural diversity class that will be required for all department employees. Among other suggestions, the committee has proposed selecting a diversity expert to speak to police officers and is considering involving religious leaders in assessing the current state of police-community relations. The Subcommittee was formed in February 2002 after several residents shared concerns with state and federal officials that officers were singling out possible suspects based on race or ethnicity. A lawsuit is currently pending in federal court over the officer involved shooting of a young black man in August 2001. No profiling claims have been substantiated against the police department to date. The Chief denies that officers practice racial profiling but does believe that Oxnard officers need more training on racial profiling, cultural diversity and sensitivity. The Commission on Police Officer Standards has designed a mandatory four-hour racial training program for all officers. The police department's cultural diversity course will be offered in

conjunction with the profiling class and is also mandatory for all officers. *Los Angeles Times*, May 5, 2002.

The Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC) has released a racial profiling report that discusses varying definitions of the term "racial profiling" used by law enforcement agencies. It also discusses the differences between police practices that may result in disparate impacts on racial and ethnic minorities from those that are illegal discrimination. The report distinguishes between warranted and unwarranted police practices and presents arguments that support the collection of traffic stop data on race and ethnicity to prevent racial profiling. The report can be accessed electronically at www.parc.info.

A San Francisco Police Department civilian analyst analyzed the city's traffic stops from July 2001 through March 2002, finding that: blacks comprise 7.9 percent of San Francisco's population and almost 15 percent of traffic stops; Hispanics comprise 14 percent of San Franciscans and 11.76 percent of stops; whites constitute 44 percent of the population and 47.33 percent of traffic stops; searches are conducted on 13.71 percent of blacks, 11.3 percent of Hispanics, 3.94 percent of whites, and 1.68 percent of Asians; blacks are the least likely of any racial group in the city to be stopped for a moving violation but have the greatest chance of being stopped and cited for mechanical or other nonmoving violations such as failure to have proper car registration tags; and when stopped, 4.52 percent of blacks, 3.93 of Hispanics, 2.62 of whites and 1.97 percent of Asians are arrested. Police Chief Fred Lau stated that the data do not reflect racial

profiling, but rather reveal a number of other sociological factors. The ACLU has publicly expressed concern about the findings. *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 8, 2002.

Authors of the Crime Control Digest suggest that the issue of racial profiling has re-emerged following the September 11th terrorist attacks. According to the article, police in Georgia, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have experienced new challenges in determining whether or not they target African-Americans. According to the article, Pennsylvania State Troopers will begin collecting race and ethnicity data during all traffic stops and Georgia and Ohio have since implemented racial profiling training sessions. In addition, New Jersey black advocacy groups have mobilized to collectively criticize a state study that found that blacks were more likely to speed than drivers of other races and ethnic backgrounds. *Crime Control Digest*, Vol. 36 No. 13, March 29, 2002.

Standards/Training

Washington's Metropolitan Police Department has incorporated a new training discipline into their curricula that includes advanced techniques for controlling multiple civil demonstrations. Officers are subjected to more rigorous training sessions that include bomb and terrorist attack drills. *Crime Control Digest*, April 19, 2002.

The Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military has released a report regarding the integration of gays and lesbian officers in the San Diego Police Department. Their findings are

documented in *Pink and Blue: Outcomes Associated with the Integration of Open Gay and Lesbian Personnel in the San Diego Police Department*. The report has concluded that the integration of openly gay and lesbian officers in the police department has improved the department's organizational effectiveness and that departmental leaders have taken numerous and important steps to ensure that the integration process has proceeded effectively. The report also noted that subtle forms of discrimination continue to persist within the department and that some gay officers face challenges. The 43-page study is available at www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu.

Kearney, Nebraska police and the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department have been employing more Spanish-speaking officers and providing basic language training in order to communicate with growing Spanish-speaking populations. *Law Enforcement News, February 2002*.

The National Center for Women & Policing (NCWP) released a report that detailed the findings from their fifth annual study on women personnel within the largest law enforcement agencies in the United States. The report also includes results from NCWP's second annual survey of small and rural law enforcement agencies. This survey was conducted in conjunction with the Justice and Safety Center at Eastern Kentucky University. According to the report, the two studies show that the number of women in sworn law enforcement remains small, and in large agencies the pace of increases has stalled or even reversed. The report found that women comprise 12.7% of all sworn law enforcement positions among large

municipal, county, and state law enforcement agencies in the United States (with 100 or more sworn officers) and 8.1% of all sworn positions in small and rural police agencies. Over the last ten years, the representation of women in large police agencies has slowly increased from 9% in 1990 to 12.7% in 2001. The report is available online at NCWP's website at <http://www.womenandpolicing.org/>.

NCWP has developed a guide to help local, state, and Federal law enforcement agencies examine their policies and procedures to identify and remove obstacles to hiring and retaining sworn and civilian female employees. A free copy of the guide can be obtained at www.ncjrs.org or by calling 1-800-851-3420 (use code NCJ 185235).

On May 14, 2002, a revised policy on Denver police department's intelligence files underwent a public hearing. Mayor Wellington Webb stated that the police department had previously used an "overly broad interpretation" of rules governing the collection of intelligence information. Webb and Police Chief Gerry Whitman stated that the existence of some of the files violated current department policies. The proposed policy changes include modifying the mission statement to cite federal law, the Organization of Law Enforcement Intelligence Units and other police departments. It will also include new detailed definitions of criminal and noncriminal information, supervisory review and approval prior to input into a file, and a statement forbidding inclusion of personal information regarding a person or group's support of "unpopular causes" or "personal habits." Annual purging of temporary files on less-serious crimes will be

required, in addition to a new rule governing internal and external dissemination of intelligence information. Officers involved in the collection and maintenance of intelligence information will be required to attend new training sessions. *Denver Post*, May 13, 2002.

The Colorado Springs Police Department has developed a performance evaluation system known as the Police Accountability and Services Standards (PASS) Model. The PASS Model system was established to provide a more comprehensive assessment of organizational effectiveness and delivery of police services. It seeks to assess the outcomes of police activity as an alternative to quantifying the amount of activity or the incidence of index crimes. The PASS Model covers the issues of crime prevention, community policing, crime analysis, and social systems integration. The model also attempts to address and integrate citizen needs and values with police needs and values, academic research and an accountability system that provides for community involvement in service delivery issues. The Department is testing the PASS Model in two of its divisions. For more information, contact Mora Fiedler at the Colorado Springs Police Department at (719) 444-7806 or via email at FIEDLEMO@ci.colospgs.co.us.

A report in the *Journal of Criminal Justice and Behavior* examined the relationship of a number of variables in correctional officer stress. The authors, Robert D. Morgan, Richard A. Van Haveren, and Christy A. Pearson, conducted a study of 250 correctional officers and found that older and more

educated officers reported increased levels of personal accomplishment. Less experienced officers and officers with increasing job responsibilities experienced increased levels of depersonalization and emotional exhaustion and decreased levels of personal accomplishment. Gender comparisons indicated that female officers were less likely to respond impersonally to inmates than their male counterparts. *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, Vol. 29 No. 2, April 2002.

A 1999 Department of Justice study of eyewitness identification of criminal suspects suggested that law enforcement agencies change the traditional lineup method. Professor Gary Wells, of Iowa State University, has conducted a research project that concluded that witnesses who are provided with a lineup where the actual criminal is not present will often pick the person who looks most like him/her. Wells claims that when witnesses look at only one picture, they do so more cautiously and make decisions with more certainty. Research has also suggested that detective behavior can impact witnesses' confidence in their identification. In New Jersey law enforcement agencies, witnesses look at a single suspect or mug shot at a time, the lineup is conducted by an officer not involved in the investigation and detectives are taught to avoid giving verbal or eye cues that might lead eyewitnesses. The Dover Township, New Jersey Police Department has additionally purchased software that automatically retrieves from the database photographs of individuals who are similar in appearance to the suspect. This software will allow detectives to avoid having to sift through photographs

manually when they need photographs to use in a lineup. *Christian Science Monitor*, May 30, 2002.

Detroit Police Chief Jerry Oliver has called for improved discipline and scrutiny of his department's officers. Oliver has criticized the lack of accountability of many officers, and the assumption that prosecutors and Internal Affairs will grant officers 'professional courtesy' and dismiss their charges. Oliver referred to the case of an officer who had been found guilty of sexually assaulting a female prisoner four years ago, yet had remained on the force. The officer was fired by Oliver in May 2002. The civil rights community has supported Oliver's stance; however the police union and others claim that Oliver's remarks are extreme. *NCWP Feminist Daily News Wire*, May 29, 2002.

The Indianapolis Police Department has changed its pursuit policy to increase accountability and decrease accidents. Under the new policy, supervisors will become involved soon after the commencement of each chase to balance the public's safety against the need to catch the suspect. Supervisors will be empowered to stop dangerous pursuits. All chases will be reviewed through Department's chain of command, including scrutiny by a deputy chief and a new Vehicle Operations Review Board. The policy gives the Department's street officers more tire-deflating "stop sticks", a new helicopter and more discretion to abandon dangerous chases. The Department will also mark police vehicle roofs with large ID letters to assist the helicopter in directing ground units. Other law enforcement agencies in Marion County are considering whether to modify their

policies as well. In 2001, the Department was involved in 255 vehicle pursuits. On April 27, 2002, a suspect fleeing from police crashed into another car, killing a young boy and his mother. *Indianapolis Star*, May 30, 2002.

Use of Force

The Law Enforcement Bulletin released a report that examines the use of deadly force by peace officers in Minnesota. In *Deadly Force, A 20-Year Study of Fatal Encounters*, Larry C. Brubaker details commonalities among deadly-force incidents based on his examination of 78 scenes. Brubaker provides several recommendations based on personal interviews with officers who were involved in deadly-force situations. He found that officers in large metropolitan areas were involved in approximately 75% of the shooting incidents, that most shooting occurred between the hours of 8 p.m. and 4 a.m. and the type of weapon displayed by officers did not seem to discourage the suspects. Brubaker further found that officers overwhelmingly felt prepared tactically for the shooting, believing that their training with a firearm was adequate. Lastly, the author suggests training methods to better prepare officers for life-threatening situations. The full report can be accessed electronically at www.fbi.gov/publications/leb/2002/a_pr02leb.pdf.

NCWP released a report that compares the use of excessive force by male and female police officers. The report, entitled, *In Men, Women, and Police Excessive Force: A Tale of Two Genders*, details research compiled from seven major U.S. police agencies. The report states that women officers are

considerably less likely to use excessive force than their male counterparts. The study includes statistical comparisons derived from data on citizen complaints, sustained allegations, and civil liability payouts for excessive force. The full report can be accessed electronically at <http://www.womenandpolicing.org/>.

Seattle police department officials announced that they would comply with a Federal inquiry into the fatal shooting of an African-American man who was armed with a sword. The man was allegedly shot four times by police after fleeing through a neighborhood. The police allege that they tried to subdue the man with non-lethal stun guns as he raised the sword and motioned towards them. Some witnesses dispute the account. *Law Enforcement News, February 2002.*

Efforts are underway to reform the use-of-force policies within the Detroit Police Department. Recommendations have been derived from elected officials and the City Council following a public comment process. The mayor and the police chief will review the recommendations and make selections for implementation. In addition to addressing the use-of-force policies, the City Council is recommending that the Department adopt a risk-management assessment system. Detroit police officers have been involved in 47 fatal shooting incidents since 1995. *Crime Control Digest March 15, 2002.*

Denver police are training officers in the use of M26 Tasers and beanbag shotguns. Presently, only a few officers have been trained in how to use the weapons, but officials are working to establish procedures for using them

throughout the department. *Law Enforcement News, February 2002.*

The Boston Police Department has announced the revival of a defunct review board which will investigate officers' intentional use of firearms. The Discharge Review Board consists of superintendents, legal staff, and academy training instructors. The Board will examine shootings for patterns, trends, and possible training issues. The Board was revived in response to public concern arising from 6 officer-involved fatal shootings in the last 18 months. *The Boston Globe, May 10, 2002.*

Police departments across the country, including the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, are testing the accuracy and dangers involved in non-lethal beanbags. Some departments have abandoned the weapon, claiming they are dangerously inaccurate and deadlier than their manufacturers claim. The LAPD conducted extensive tests of the weapon following the death of a mentally ill man hit by a beanbag and concluded that the rounds often failed to work as intended. Huntington Beach, California is suing the largest manufacturer of beanbags, claiming that they failed to adequately warn police about the dangers of the rounds. The largest test of non-lethal weapons was conducted by researchers from Pennsylvania State University, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The study found that nearly a quarter of the rounds did not hit the target when fired from 75 feet and many failed quality control tests. Beanbags and plastic bullets have killed 12 people in the U.S. and Canada over the past 3 decades. However, Los Angeles and other large city police

departments are crediting beanbags with helping reduce officer-involved shootings by 50% in the last five years. Many law enforcement agencies are calling for federal testing and industry standards for all non-lethal weapons. *Los Angeles Times*, June 3, 2002.

Conferences

June 22-26, 2002 -- National Sheriffs Association (NSA) Annual Conference in Tucson, AZ. Topics include: new technology and innovation and new ideas on improving community relations. For more information, visit NSA's Web site at http://www.sheriffs.org/defaults/default_s_annualconference.htm

July 19-25, 2002 -- National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE) Annual Conference in Tampa, FL. For more information, visit NOBLE's Web site at <http://www.noblenatl.org/>

July 24-27, 2002-Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Maximizing Excellence Conference in Cleveland, OH. For more information, go to CALEA's Web site at <http://www.calea.org/newweb/ConferenceInfo/Cleveland/conferenceinfo.htm>

August 7-12, 2002 -- National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) Convention in Sedona, AZ. For more information, visit NAPO's Web site at <http://www.napo.org/napo7htm>

August 8-11, 2002-National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives (NAWLEE) Annual Conference of the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives in Seattle, WA. For more information, visit NAWLEE's

Web site <http://www.nawlee.com/events.html>

August 19-24, 2002 - Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA) Annual Conference in Albuquerque, NM. For more information, visit HAPCOA's Web site at http://www.hapcoa.com/2002_conference.htm

August 19-25, 2002 - National Black Police Association's (NBPA) Annual Education and Training Conference in Los Angeles, CA. For more information, go to NBPA's Web site <http://www.blackpolice.org/LA.html>

October 2-4, 2002 - The Society for Police and Criminal Psychology Annual Conference in Orlando, FL. For more information, visit SPCP's Web site at <http://cep.jmu.edu/spcp/confer.htm>

October 5-9, 2002 -International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Law Enforcement Information Management Conference in Minneapolis, MN. For more information, visit IACP's Web site at <http://www.iacptechnology.org/2002LEIM.htm>

October 20-24, 2002-International Association of Women Police (IAWP) Annual Conference in Canberra, Australia. For more information go to IAWP's Web site at <http://www.iawp.org/conferen.htm>

October 31 - November 3, 2002 - National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement (NACOLE) Annual Conference in Cambridge, MA. For more information, visit NACOLE's website at <http://www.nacole.org>

December 2-4, 2002 - Americans For Effective Law Enforcement (AELE) Conference on Discipline and Internal Investigations in Las Vegas, NV. For

more information, visit AELE's Web site at <http://www.aele.org/Seminars.html>

The Best Practices Newsletter is printed 12 times per year by the Police Assessment Resource Center (PARC), Copyright (c) 2002, all rights reserved. Material in this newsletter may be reproduced and/or circulated without permission when proper acknowledgement is made.

No Copyright is claimed in the text of the statutes, regulations and excerpts from court opinions quoted in this work.

The opinions expressed herein are not those of PARC and their inclusion herein does not constitute an endorsement by PARC.