

been a long time since there has been such support for rank and file officers as is promised by the new administration, and noted how important it is to bring these law enforcement and criminal justice organizations together to speak with one voice.

Mr. Holder's confirmation hearing began on January 15, 2009 and he was sworn in as U.S. Attorney General on February 3, 2009. For more information about the press conference and to read Tom Nee's entire statement to the press, please visit NAPO's website, [www.napo.org](http://www.napo.org).

## Senate Judiciary Committee Holds Hearing On The Need To Fund Law Enforcement Assistance Programs

On January 8, 2009, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the need for the federal government to help state and local law enforcement during an economic downturn. NAPO attended the hearing and submitted testimony, which heavily favored Congress including substantial federal funding for the COPS and Byrne-JAG programs in the upcoming economic stimulus. Restoring federal support for state and local law enforcement is an effective way to protect our neighborhoods, create jobs, and begin rebuilding our economy and our communities with confidence. Additionally, providing full funding to the COPS hiring program would not only create jobs, but also greatly assist police departments retain their qualified, active officers who have relationships with the communities. The retention of police officers who know their neighborhoods is an integral part of community policing.

With the support of the COPS and Byrne-JAG programs, community policing has been a dominant force behind the dramatic reduction in crime this nation has witnessed over the past 13 years. In 2000, violent crime rates were at their lowest level in 30 years, particularly in large cities. More police officers patrolling the streets not only provides greater police presence in our communities but also increases police knowledge of crime problems as well. Thus, allowing law enforcement to do its job more efficiently and effectively.

NAPO looks forward to working with the Committee to ensure that in this time of economic downturn, state and local law enforcement are given the resources they need to protect our nation's communities from crime and terrorism.

To read NAPO's submitted testimony, please visit our website, [www.napo.org](http://www.napo.org), or contact NAPO's Director of Governmental Affairs, **Andy Mournighan**, at (703) 549-0775.

## DHS Ultimately Listens To NAPO And Loosens Strings On Homeland Security Grants

On November 5, 2008, in response to pressure from Congress, NAPO and state and local leaders, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced plans to greatly reduce the requirements usually attached to its counterterrorism grants. For fiscal 2009, the department will give out approximately \$3 billion dollars to states and localities to assist them in terrorism prevention.

Among the most significant changes made, DHS loosened rules to allow recipients to spend up to 50 percent of homeland security grants for personnel expenses, up from 25 percent, and removed the 25 percent local-match requirement for rail, transit and port security aid.

NAPO testified twice in front of Congress in the 110th Congress on the issue of federal support for state and local law enforcement and the need to make federal grant funds more user-friendly. NAPO called on the administration to give state and local law enforcement the resources they need to prevent terrorism and fight crime on the streets. For the past several years, the federal government has been focusing on its own agenda and not listening to the needs of its state and local partners. This narrow viewpoint has resulted in drastic cuts in funding to vital state and local law enforcement programs and a shift in focus from fighting drugs, gangs and violent crime to terrorism prevention. NAPO strongly believes that combating crime and preventing terrorism are not mutually exclusive – they are interrelated in the fight to protect the homeland and should not be treated as separate issues.

Only a couple of years following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and the creation of the Department of

Homeland Security in 2002, NAPO witnessed steep declines in the funding levels for critical law enforcement counterterrorism programs. By fiscal 2007, the three primary DHS grant programs – the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and the Urban Area Security Initiative – had been slashed by almost 50 percent from fiscal 2003 levels. Yet law enforcement's role in homeland security has not diminished along with the funding.

Today, local police departments, already undermanned due to a lack of resources to hire new officers, must place officers into Drug, Gang and Terrorism Task Forces, as well as protect critical infrastructure during periods of heightened national threat advisory levels, often at the expense of street patrols. More often than not, the funds most needed by local law enforcement agencies are those that can be used to hire new officers, retain officers, and obtain new equipment.

The change in DHS policy, especially regarding the use of grant funds for personnel use, will help lessen the strain on states and localities. There will be fewer agencies having to choose between keeping police officers on the street or maintaining equipment, systems and supplies intended to respond to a terrorist attack.

This is a positive step toward giving state and local law enforcement the user-friendly tools it needs to protect our communities from crime and terrorism. NAPO continues to work to ensure vital grant programs are fully funded and that America's law enforcement has the full support of its government.

## Unforgiveable

The Coach had put together the perfect team for the Pittsburgh Steelers. The only thing that was missing was a good quarterback. He had scouted all the colleges, and even the high schools, but he couldn't find a ringer quarterback who could ensure a Super Bowl win.

Then one night, while watching CNN, he saw a war-zone scene in Bosnia. In one corner of the background, he spotted a young Bosnian soldier with a truly incredible arm. He threw a hand grenade straight into a 15th-story window 200 yards away – ka-boom! He threw another hand grenade into a group of 10 soldiers 100 yards away – ka-bloooey! Then a car passed, going 90 mph – bulls-eye!

"I've got to get this guy!" Coach said to himself. "He has the perfect arm!" So, he brings him to the States and teaches him the great game of football, and the Steelers go on to win the Super Bowl for another time in history.

The young Bosnian is hailed as the Great Hero of football, and when Coach asks him what he wants, all the young man wants to do is to call his mother. "Mom," he says into the phone, "I just won the Super Bowl!"

"I don't want to talk to you," the old woman says. "You deserted us. You are not my son."

"I don't think you understand, Mother!" the young man pleads. "I just won the greatest sporting event in the world. I'm here among thousands of my adoring fans."

"No, let me tell you," his mother retorts. "At this very moment, there are gunshots all around us. The neighborhood is a pile of rubble. Your two brothers were beaten within an inch of their lives last week, and this week your sister was attacked in broad daylight."

The old lady pauses, and then tearfully says, "I'll never forgive you for making us move to Pittsburgh."

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

#### Overview of NAPO's Key Accomplishments in 100th Congress

In the 110th Congress, NAPO had many successes and took considerable steps forward in moving our top legislative priorities.

NAPO was instrumental in the reauthorization of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant program, which helps law enforcement agencies purchase bulletproof vests. We also were able to pass the reauthorization of the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne-JAG) program, ensuring that state and local law enforcement will continue to receive the support and funding they need for their fight against drug and gang-related crime in our communities. NAPO also secured the reauthorization of the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, which encourages mental health and criminal justice systems to work together in devising new, more effective ways to assist the mentally ill.

In addition to the reauthorizations of these vital state and local grant programs, NAPO achieved a significant

accomplishment in our work to pass the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act. In July of last year, the House passed the legislation for the first time in the thirteen years NAPO has been fighting for its passage. Although we unfortunately were not able to obtain the same success in the Senate, we did prove that the Public Safety Employer-Employee Cooperation Act has widespread, bipartisan support in both Houses of Congress. NAPO is confident that we will be able to pass the Collective Bargaining bill in the 111th Congress.

Furthermore, in the 110th Congress, NAPO was called on to testify four times. Twice NAPO was the sole rank-and-file law enforcement group to testify on the necessity of federal assistance for state and local law enforcement in the nation's fight against crime. NAPO was also called to testify on behalf of the rank-and-file law enforcement community regarding the need for collective bargaining.

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Three-thousand dollars later, it's still the best prank I ever pulled on my twin brother.