

# NAPO Executive Director's Report

## COPS IMPROVEMENTS BILL MOVES FORWARD IN HOUSE

In May 2, 2007, the House followed the Senate in taking a step forward in giving local law enforcement the critical funding it needs most when the House Judiciary Committee approved the "COPS Improvements Act of 2007," H.R. 1700. **Congressman Anthony Weiner** (D-NY) introduced the legislation, the companion measure to **Senator Biden's** S. 368, on March 26. The bill would enhance the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant program and authorize it at \$1.15 billion annually for five years, beginning in fiscal year 2008. This funding level includes no less than \$600 million annually to hire more community-oriented law enforcement, including officers to perform counterterrorism duties and to serve as school resource officers.

On March 15, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved

S. 368, and on March 23, the Senate adopted the \$1.15 billion funding level to its fiscal 2008 budget resolution.

This legislation is particularly important in the face of the sharp decline in federal funding local law enforcement agencies have experienced over the past several years to assist them in hiring and retaining officers. As officers undertake more duties and training in response to increased crime and terrorist threats, departments across the nation are finding it difficult to recruit new officers or even pay their current officers with adequate compensation packages for the additional responsibilities they have assumed. Ensuring that local law enforcement agencies are given the funding they need is a top legislative priority for NAPO and we are actively fighting for full federal support of critical grant programs such as COPS. ●

## Wrong Number Game To Play

*Some night when you're bored, and want to spread some confusion around, keep this story in mind...*

It was last Wednesday night, and I was sitting in my room watching television when the phone rang.

"Hello?"

A girl's voice came over the line. "Can I speak to Ben, please?"

I live by myself, and my name is definitely not Ben. It was probably a wrong number and I was bored.

"I'm sorry, he's not in right now. Can I take a message?"

"Do you know what time he'll be back?" she responded.

"I think he said he'd be home around 10:00."

Silence on the other end... a confused silence.

"Is this Steve?"

My name isn't Steve, either. This was definitely a wrong number.

"Yes, it is. Do you want to leave a message for Ben?"

"Well... he said he would be home tonight and asked me to call him..." she said in a slightly irritated voice.

I replied, "Well, he went out with Karen about an hour ago, and said that he would be back at 10:00."

A shocked voice now: "Who's Karen?!"

"The girl he went out with."

"I know that! I mean... who is she?"

"I don't know her last name. Look, do you want me to leave a message for Ben?"

"Yes... please do. Tell him to call me when he gets home."

She was sounding pretty irate at this point, and I could hear her temper flaring. "I sure will. Is this Jennifer?"

She exploded this time. "Who's Jennifer?"

Apparently she wasn't.

"Well... he's going out with Jennifer at 10:00. I thought you were her. Sorry... it was an honest mistake."

"Ben's the one that's made the mistake! Tell him that Alice called him and that I'm very upset and that I would like him to call me as soon as he gets home."

I smiled and said, "Okay, I will... but Becky isn't going to like this..."

**\*Click\***

## Federal Resources To Assist State and Local Law Enforcement

### DOJ Introduces New National Security Resource Website for Law Enforcement

The Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs just announced a new website, [www.nationalsecurityresources.gov](http://www.nationalsecurityresources.gov), for the justice community for the purpose of sharing critical counterterrorism, intelligence, and related policy and training resources with federal, state and local law enforcement, corrections, courts, and other justice professionals.

The website links users to sites such as the Counterterrorism-Terrorist Screening Center, the Security Clearance Process for State and Local Law Enforcement, the FBI's Most Wanted Terrorists, the ATF's Most Wanted, the Specially Designated Nationals List (SDN), and Terrorist Designation Lists. Furthermore, the site contains a specific Law Enforcement page which offers educational materials, funding information, and technical tools to assist law enforcement, investigators, intelligence analysts, police executives, and trainers in preventing and responding to terrorist activity at all stages of deployment.

### ICE Law Enforcement Support Center

The Department of Homeland Security asked NAPO to reach out to its members to advise them that the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Law Enforcement Support Center is at their disposal as a tool to be used 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Established in 1994, the Law Enforcement Support Center is located in Williston, Vermont, and its mission is to provide timely and accurate information to law enforcement officers on the immigration status and identities of individuals who have been arrested or are under investigation for criminal activity. The primary users of the Support Center are state and local law enforcement officers in the field who need information about foreign nationals they encounter in the course of their daily duties.

Technicians at the Support Center have ready access to a wide range of databases and intelligence resources, including: ICE Immigration databases; the National Crime Information Center (NCIC); the Interstate Identification Index (III); the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS); the U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology (US-VISIT) system; and the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS). Additionally, the Center analyzes and disseminates information received from the public about suspicious or criminal activity.

More information on the Law Enforcement Support Center can be found at [www.ice.gov/partners/lesc/index.htm](http://www.ice.gov/partners/lesc/index.htm) ●

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## Clean Hands: A Simple Way to Prevent Infection

By Mark Mahoney, Ph.D., Research and Training Specialist, Staff Development, Mayo Clinic Staff

It's a simple habit—one that requires minimal training and no special equipment. Yet it's one of the best ways to avoid becoming ill with an infectious disease, such as a cold, the flu or infectious diarrhea. This simple habit is cleaning your hands (practicing hand hygiene), and it calls only for soap and warm water or use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers (cleansers that don't require water). Do you know the benefits of good hand hygiene and when and how to clean your hands properly?

#### A simple way to stay healthy

Good hand hygiene doesn't take much time or effort. But it offers great rewards in terms of preventing illness. Resolve today to adopt this simple habit as a way to help protect your health, that of your co-workers, your family, your children and the community at-large.

#### The dangers of poor hand hygiene

Despite the proven health benefits of good hand hygiene, many people just don't practice this habit as often as they should. You can probably confirm this by simply observing how many people leave public restrooms without washing their hands.

But the problem goes beyond the restroom. Throughout the day, you accumulate germs on your hands from a variety of sources—direct contact with people, contaminated surfaces, foods, even animals and animal waste. If you don't clean your hands frequently enough, you can infect yourself with these germs by touching your eyes, nose or mouth. And you can spread these germs to others by touching them or by touching surfaces that they also touch, such as doorknobs.

#### Proper hand-cleaning techniques

Good hand hygiene techniques include washing your hands with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

#### Proper hand washing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Society for Microbiology offer these instructions for proper hand washing:

- Wet your hands with warm, running water and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Lather well.
  - Rub your hands vigorously together for at least 10 to 15 seconds
  - Scrub all surfaces. Including the back of your hands, wrists, between your fingers and under your fingernails
  - Rinse well
  - Dry your hands with a clean or disposable towel
- If you're in a public restroom, leave the water running when you're finished. After your hands are dry, use a paper towel to turn off the faucet.

#### Proper use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers—which don't require use of water—are an excellent alternative to hand washing, particularly when soap and water aren't available. They're actually more effective than hand washing in killing bacteria and viruses that cause disease. Commercially prepared hand sanitizers contain ingredients that help prevent skin dryness. In fact, use of these products can result in less skin dryness and irritation than hand washing.

Not all hand sanitizers are created equal, however. Some "waterless" hand sanitizers don't contain alcohol. Use only the alcohol-based products. To use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer:

- Apply it to the palm of your hand. Read the label for dosing instructions.
- Rub your hands together, covering all surfaces of your hands, until they're dry.
- If your hands are visibly dirty, however, wash with soap and water rather than a sanitizer.

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