

Crime Commission Update

September - October 2008



<http://www.ncc.ne.gov>

Dave Heineman, Governor

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

October is Crime Prevention Month

The month of October launches the beginning of Crime Prevention Month. National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) President and CEO Alfonso Lenhardt writes, "Crime Prevention Month highlights the importance of taking individual and collective action to remain safe. It reminds citizens to protect themselves, their families and their communities from Crime. It also highlights the actions people should be taking to protect what's important to them."

In 1984, the National Crime Prevention Council designated October as Crime Prevention Month. The Nebraska Crime Commission joins the National Crime Prevention Council and members of Nebraska law enforcement to encourage partnerships that build stronger communities in which crime cannot survive.

The Nebraska Crime Commission also sends our sincere condolences to Mr. William White of Grand Island, whose wife Jean passed away August 15th. Bill serves as an appointed member of the Nebraska Crime Commission and also serves on the Police Standards Advisory Council.

~ Michael E. Behm, Executive Director

NEW SECURITY AT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

The Training Center has gradually been moving towards being a more secure facility. Students and visitors alike will begin to notice that more layers of security are being added.

We started about a year ago by locking most exterior doors and doing more to enforce the existing dress code so that we could tell students apart from drop-in curious citizens. Only the front doors are open during business hours and access to the dorms from the outside requires a room key. Smoking areas are restricted to two areas, the inside courtyard for persons attending classes or meetings and not having a room key, and an area between the old and new dorms for those students staying in the dorms with room keys to let them back inside. Outdoor furniture is being moved to actual student gathering areas and away from doorways.

At the start of classes, there is a rules/security briefing advising that doors of the facility are to be locked and closed and to report suspicious activity or persons to the front office. Students are advised that building security is everyone's responsibility. Staff and students have permission to close any door that has been propped open.

This week, we are finalizing a policy that will add a photo ID or uniform requirement for persons attending classes or meetings at the Training Center. Law Enforcement, Firefighters, Corrections and Military *in uniform* that identifies who they are by name and agency are exempt from wearing a photo ID. Persons not in uniform will need to display their agency-issued photo ID card. Those without a photo ID will need to check in

with the office and be issued an ID card or a visitor sticker.

Students staying at the center will have the option of having their student photo ID embossed on their dorm room key or wearing their agency photo ID card and getting a regular room key.

The policy will require students to be in uniform or to display their photo ID card when moving about the facility. A visitor pass policy is being implemented at the same time.

Cameras for the facility are being ordered. The purpose of the cameras is to enhance student, staff and facility security. The parking lots, exterior doors, outbuildings and some hallways will be covered by the cameras.

Our overall goal is increased safety and security for our students, staff, facility and vehicles parked in our parking lots. Training Center Staff, the Nebraska State Patrol, as well as our students should have an expectation that at any given time, they can identify who is walking about in the Training Center property or know that a potential problem exists and how to take action.

Information will be sent with class acceptance letters, and we will take some time to explain procedures. Questions about the application of the policy can be directed to the Director of the Training Center.

~ William Muldoon, Director

5% DECREASE IN CRIMES REPORTED IN NEBRASKA

LINCOLN - Mike Behm, Executive Director of the Nebraska Crime Commission, announced that Nebraska experienced a 5% decrease in the number of crimes reported to law enforcement agencies during 2007 compared to 2006. Behm indicated there were 59,958 crimes reported during 2007 compared to 63,099 reported in 2006. These numbers include only the offenses of Murder-Manslaughter, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson which serve as the basis for the Crime Index used to measure crime statewide.

In the violent crime category, Nebraska experienced a 6% increase with 5,264 violent crimes reported during 2007 compared to 4,979 reported in 2006. Murder, Manslaughter increased 25% (from 53 to 66 offenses). Forcible Rape decreased 10% (from 567 to 513). Robbery decreased 2% (from 1,128 to 1,102) and Aggravated Assault increased 11% (from 3,231 reported in 2006 to 3,583 reported in 2007).

“The trend in violent crimes in Nebraska differs significantly from the nationwide trend. The FBI recently reported that violent crimes nationwide decreased 1.4% with all of the violent crime categories showing decreases. The only violent crime to show a decrease in Nebraska was Robbery” said Behm.

In terms of property crime, a 6% decrease occurred with 54,694 offenses reported in 2007 compared to 58,120 reported in 2006. Burglary decreased 4% (from 9,135 reported in 2006 to 8,815 in 2007). Larceny-Theft decreased 7% (from 43,786 to 40,628). Motor Vehicle Theft increased 1% (from 5,039 to 5,093) and Arson decreased 1% (from 160 in 2006 to 158 in 2007).

“The decrease in property crimes mirrored the nationwide decrease with the only exception being Motor Vehicle Theft which had a slight increase in Nebraska” said Behm.

Crime in Omaha decreased 4% (from 24,292

offenses reported in 2006 to 23,235 offenses in 2007). Lincoln experienced a 3% decrease (from 13,512 to 13,082). Cities of 5,000 to 99,999 in population saw a 6% decrease (from 16,074 to 15,036). Cities under 5,000 population had a 10% decrease (from 1,469 to 1,329 in 2007). County areas reported a 6% decrease (from 7,286 to 6,862). Crime occurring on State Property decreased 11% (from 466 to 414).

The number of persons arrested in Nebraska during 2007 decreased 3% from 2006. In 2007, there were 90,484 arrests compared to 92,851 in 2006, a decrease of 2,367 arrests.

The top five categories in terms of number of arrests made during 2007 include: Driving under the Influence (13,280 arrests); Liquor Law Violations (12,135 arrests); Drug Abuse Violations (10,295 arrests); Simple Assault (9,128 arrests), and Larceny-Theft (8,242 arrests).

Adult arrests (involving persons age 18 and over) decreased 3%, from 76,973 arrests in 2006 to 74,984 arrests in 2007. Adult arrests accounted for 83% of the total arrests made statewide.

Juvenile arrests decreased 2%, from 15,883 in 2006 to 15,500 in 2007. Decreases were seen in Burglary (from 383 to 291), Arson (from 74 to 57), Driving Under the Influence (from 336 to 282), Liquor Law Violations (from 2,705 to 2,485) and Simple Assault (from 2,007 to 1,928).

Behm said "It was encouraging to see the total number of juvenile arrests decrease especially for alcohol related arrests but it was disturbing to see the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes increase 32% from 191 in 2006 to 250 in 2007."

Hate crime statistics were also released. During 2007 there were 86 incidents reported involving crimes motivated by hate. This is a 76% increase from the 49 reported in 2006. Racial bias accounted for 61% of the total hate crimes while Sexual bias accounted for 16%. Religious and ethnic bias both accounted for 12%. Of the hate crimes reported, 36% involved destruction of property and 33% involved simple assault.

The complete 2007 Preliminary Report is available at the Crime Commission's Internet site at www.ncc.state.ne.us

NEBRASKA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEM

NCJIS training will be available for the following dates:

- October 29th, 2008 in Lincoln
- November 20th, 2008 in Grand Island
- December 3rd, 2008 in Ogallala

NCJIS is a secure web site that allows Nebraska criminal justice professionals to access a variety of data in a cost effective and direct method. NCJIS currently has over 400 agencies actively using this tool to search for individuals or to confirm information. Using your own Internet connection, NCJIS can provide access to the Nebraska State Patrol Criminal Histories (PCH – Nebraska records as maintained by NSP), probationers, detention holds (jail bookings and Nebraska Department of Correctional Services holds), parolees, Nebraska Sex Offender Registry, local incident information, Nebraska court case information, Nebraska protection orders, Nebraska warrants, Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) driver history, vehicle history, driver's license photos, Nebraska Health and Human Services Ward information, and Nebraska Department of Labor information. NCJIS has been made possible by the participating agencies providing access to their data. We continue to work to add more data sources and more functionality, including recently adding new features.

The NCJIS agency administration module was updated in 2006 with significant changes to how user accounts are created and how you obtain certificates for existing users. If you are an NCJIS Administrator for your agency and have not seen this since December, 2006 we recommend you attend refresher training.

Criminal justice agencies are invited to participate by attending a training session. The morning session is for general users while administrator training is in the afternoon (required for new agencies).

If you are interested in attending please contact Michael Overton (Michael.Overton@nebraska.gov) or Matthew Dicke (Matthew.Dicke@nebraska.gov) to receive a registration form. These training sessions are open to all current and new NCJIS agencies.

PPCT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

PPCT Management Systems has changed their name. PPCT is now known as Human Factors Systems (HFS). HFS is a division of the Warrior Science Group (WSG), a Grossman, Siddle, Stahle company. The company addresses topics including Homeland Security, school and church safety, combat casualty care, defensive tactics and other topics.

From a systems viewpoint, HFS has not changed the program from PPCT. The Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center will continue to use this system in its basic curriculum.

All current PPCT instructors have been grandfathered into HFS. The HFS will continue to provide support from the tactical, legal and medical aspects long associated with PPCT. The only major change that an agency will note is a different logo and a new business address.

HFS address is 609 S. Breese Street, Millstadt, IL 62260, Phone Number is (618) 476-3200.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE VIDEO LIBRARY

The following videos have been added to the library and are available for loan:

TEXTBOOK TRAFFIC STOPS (DVD)

30 Minutes In the Line of Duty: 2008 AD

This program discusses the basic components of a good traffic stop. It includes police videos of actual traffic stops. The basics include notifying the dispatcher, approaching the vehicle, being inquisitive, using verbal judo, calling for backup when necessary and watching the driver leave. Also covered are extraordinary circumstances, i.e. handling passengers, searching the driver and proper handcuffing.

STAY SAFE AT THE WHEEL (DVD)

18 Minutes Liberty Mutual: 2005 SH, AD

This program, aimed at teenage drivers, contains a group discussion among teens about their driving habits, including speeding, drinking, seat belt use, drug use and distractions. A second segment includes excerpts from the HBO documentary "Smashed: Toxic Tales of Teens and Alcohol". The HBO segment includes footage of teenage accident victims, and interviews with the teens and their parents. This is a useful program for both teens and adults.

SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAMS: PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS (DVD)

8 Minutes Office for Victims of Crime: 2007 AD

This training video features interviews with survivors, victim advocates, forensic medical staff, law enforcement officers and prosecutors to acquaint viewers with the benefits of the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) approach to victim services. This program is designed as a resource for professionals who work with victims of sexual violence and want to improve their understanding of the SART process.

RESPONDING TO PRISONER RAPE, PART 2 (DVD)

4 DVDs Ntl. Institute of Corrections: 2005 AD

In September 2003, the Prison Rape Elimination Act was signed into law. All confinement institutions – public and private – community corrections, jails, prisons, police lockups – housing adult and juvenile offenders are accountable to this new federal law. The law covers both staff sexual misconduct and inmate on inmate assault.

This program is designed to train all levels of staff on the implications of the Prison Rape Elimination Act. The four DVDs included are:

- (1) Responding to Prisoner Rape -- Resource Disk,
- (2) Responding to Prisoner Rape -- Part 2,
- (3) Assessing Your Agency's Response to Prison Sexual Assault -- Disk 1, and
- (4) Assessing Your Agency's Response to Sexual Assault -- Disk 2.

CRIME COMMISSION RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS TO AID VON MAUR VICTIMS

The Crime Commission has received a grant from the Antiterrorism and Emergency Assistance Program to assist those persons affected by the December 5, 2007 mass shooting in the Westroads Mall in Omaha.

These funds are available to reimburse those persons who were in the Von Maur department store or Westroads Mall and required counseling or group therapy services because of their exposure to the crime scene.

For more information, contact either Bruce Ayers (402-471-0359) or Diane Wotipka (402-471-2828).

POLICE CHIEF ASSOCIATION CHOOSES NEBRASKA'S EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR FOR 2008

Congratulations to Mr. Dave Harnly, the Police Chief Association of Nebraska's Educator of the Year for 2008. Mr. Harnly was honored on October 14, 2008 at the NSA/POAN Awards dinner at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska. Mr. Harnly is an instructor at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.

THOUGHT(S) FOR THE DAY

On Brevity:

“The most valuable of all talents is that of never using two words when one will do.”

~ Thomas Jefferson

On Value:

“Try not to become a success, but rather try to become a man of value.”

~Albert Einstein

NATIONAL WEBSITES

The following are web addresses for some of the most prominent government agencies and non-profit organizations.

National Institute of Corrections

<http://www.nicic.org>

National Drug Intelligence Center

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ndic/>

Bureau of Justice Statistics

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs>

Drug Courts Program Office

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/>

Drug Enforcement Administration

<http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/>

Federal Bureau of Investigation

<http://www.fbi.gov/>

Federal Bureau of Prisons

<http://www.bop.gov/>

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children

<http://www.missingkids.com>

National Institute of Justice

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/nij/>

Tax Division

<http://www.usdoj.gov/tax/>

United States Attorneys

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/>

Project Extra Mile

<http://www.projectextramile.org>

National Organization of Parents of Murdered Children

<http://www.pomc.com>

National Sex Offender Public Registry

<http://www.nsopr.gov/>

Office of Attorney General

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/>