

A Newsletter for Law Enforcement Professionals

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www.iacpnet.com

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IACP NetSM: Helping the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office Be the Best It Can Be

The St. Johns County, Florida, Sheriff's Office has a straightforward vision statement: "Be the best we can be, in all that we do."

David Shoar, Sheriff of St. Johns County since 2004, works hard to live up to this vision. A leader in his department and his community, Shoar has won many awards and letters of recommendation from both colleagues and civilians in his 29-year career.

Add Flexibility During Tough Budget Years

Part of doing what's best for the residents is utilizing the county's monetary resources as efficiently as possible. The most important issues St. Johns County faces today are budgetary—dealing with constraints on resources while still staying on the leading edge of technology and training. "Like everyone else in the



Sheriff David Shoar
St. Johns County, Florida, Sheriff's Office

United States right now, we're trying to do more with less," said Shoar. Fortunately, the sheriff has IACP Net to help overcome these challenges. Helping departments accomplish more with fewer resources is what IACP Net is all about. Sheriff Shoar was originally

introduced to the service at a previous agency, and made sure to take out a membership for St. Johns County upon becoming sheriff. Despite budgetary limitations, he has no problem justifying IACP Net—citing significant cost savings over time.

"IACP Net's annual cost of membership is easily outweighed by the savings realized in time saved by myself and my staff when we have to research

"I recommend IACP Net to all sheriffs and chiefs in the country—it's a wonderful tool."

an issue," noted Sheriff Shoar. "Another cost savings is having subject matter experts just a click away, rather than paying them through costly retainers and hourly billings."

Dynamic Problem-Solving Tools at Your Fingertips

The sheriff has used IACP Net's Quest-ResponseSM service to query other departments on TASER® usage, policy development, and radio systems. "IACP Net is a great place to go," noted Sheriff Shoar. "We've found it to be a great resource; staff can do

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New Additions to the IACP Net Database

Mobile Biometrics: The Potential for Real-Time Identification in the Field

As technology and hardware become smaller and more portable, companies that specialize in biometric identification have brought a powerful breed of tools to the law-enforcement and military markets: mobile multi-modal biometric devices. These gadgets capture ten fingerprints, the face, and the irises of both eyes, and then use that data to confirm an individual's identity. But can that technology be useful to the crime-scene officer or investigator?

Document No. 612890

Counterterrorism: A Local Perspective

September 11, 2001, changed the law enforcement community. Most notable is the cooperation and information sharing among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies regarding security threat groups. Developing a counterterrorism program at your agency is essential to covering your area of responsibility at whatever level you represent. This article lists a few initiatives that are being used by the Linden, New Jersey, Police Department that require little or no cost to implement. **Document No. 612881**

The Returning Military Veteran: Is Your Organization Ready?

Many law enforcement officers nobly serve their country not only at home but

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IACP 2010

October 23-27, 2010 Orlando, Florida

Visit IACP Net in booth 2238 and
**REGISTER to WIN
a netbook computer!**

We'll see you in Orlando,
October 23 – 27.



New Additions to the IACP Net Database...continued from page 1

also abroad. As they come back from combat, their agencies will have challenges to address. These departments must adequately prepare for the eventual return of reservist personnel from deployment and have measures in place that will benefit the employees, their families, fellow officers, and the community.

Document No. 612864

Social Networking Sites and the Public Safety Profession

An officer who has recently graduated from an academy may be very excited to post online pictures in uniform at graduation. That same officer may want to pursue undercover work a few years later. In all likelihood, he has forgotten those pictures he previously posted online. With the face recognition technology currently available, such photos become a liability. Future technological advances will only increase the threats to personal and professional security.

Document No. 612594

Reducing On-Duty Collisions

In 2009, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) experienced 112 fewer preventable, on-duty collisions when compared to 2008. The OPP has made tremendous progress when it comes to reducing serious collisions involv-

ing the public, but its officers did not stop there. The lives of officers are threatened each time they get into their patrol cars, and the OPP is finding new ways to reduce this risk and save lives. As a result of an initial, in-depth study completed in 2004, OPP became acutely aware of several aspects of driver safety that needed improvement.

Document No. 612540

The Public Information Officer and Today's Digital News Environment

Over the past 20 years, the nature of the news media business has changed dramatically. Such innovations as the invention and expansion of 24-hour cable news coverage, camera phones, and Internet applications add to the ever-expanding field of information contributing to news reporting. Consolidation in many markets can also mean journalists must turn around more stories more quickly. For law enforcement and other public agencies, this trend can cause frustration and hardship. Public information officers now must do much more than simply respond to news. **Document No. 612338**

For assistance locating database documents, please call the IACP Net hotline at **800.227.9640**.

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research and query people in the field. It's a great tool—a police library at your fingertips.”

For Shoar, IACP Net is the ultimate tool for researching issues due to its exclusive focus on the law enforcement market. “IACP Net articles focus narrowly on law enforcement issues and are written by law enforcement personnel or those directly connected to the profession—which makes them invaluable,” emphasized the sheriff. “My staff and I are able to find concise information, rather than general articles written for public consumption by those who don't understand the dynamics law enforcement agencies must deal with.”

“It's a great tool—a police library at your fingertips.”

IACP Net is also a dynamic tool for learning and quick online precedent-gathering when departments need extra support for their actions. “A staff member reviews IACP Net several times a week looking for articles in the Core and Policies Databases that support what we are doing and that we can learn from. We forward those articles to the folks doing the hands-on job for review and consideration.”

Shoar is enthusiastic about IACP Net's capabilities. “For anyone considering joining IACP Net, I can confirm that this is ‘the’ online source for law enforcement professionals,” said Shoar. “It gives the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office the ability to directly ask questions of colleagues, as well as providing direct access to a vast number of best practices within the industry.”

For these reasons and more, Sheriff Shoar endorses IACP Net: “I recommend IACP Net to all sheriffs and chiefs in the country—it's a wonderful tool.”

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IACP Net in Focus—Social Networking

Developing a social networking policy for your agency.

As a law enforcement leader, you know what it takes to run a modern police department or sheriff's office. From keeping shifts filled and researching new equipment to staying on top of administrative tasks like updating policies and finding training opportunities, the demands on your time and resources keep growing.

Let's look at a typical task—developing a new policy pertaining to the use of social networking at your agency. You may start by searching for “social network policy” using one of those big search engines. That yields over 125 million results, but which ones are relevant to law enforcement? Changing the search to “social network policy law enforcement” still shows over 22 million results. That's a lot of links to search through to find what you're looking for—if it's even there at all.

IACP Net can help!

With your departmental membership to IACP Net, you have access to a library of over 60,000 documents containing best practices, innovations, and solutions on hot topics in law enforcement, plus a network of over 4,000 law-enforcement leaders to share experiences and knowledge. All of the resources available through the site are relevant to law enforcement and vetted by our team of

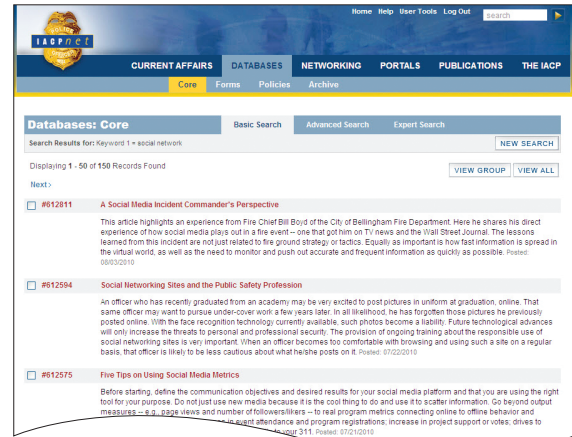
information professionals, so you know that the results you find are reliable and trustworthy.

We'll start our search on IACP Net by entering the keywords “social network” in the Site Search box. This search quickly yields 199 results in nine different sections of IACP Net. Included in the results from the **Core Database** is an article from *Police Chief* magazine discussing the need for such a policy and considerations for employee use while off duty, as well as several documents discussing the use of social media in community policing efforts. If you need to convince others in the department that social media is a valuable and powerful policing tool, IACP Net gives you the resources to make your case.

Now let's turn to the **Policies Database** to see how other departments are addressing this issue. By searching the Policies Database using the keywords “social media,” we find eight policies. If we change our keyword to “Facebook” we increase our results to 12 policies. With these documents as a reference, you now have a great jumping-off point as you develop a policy for your agency.

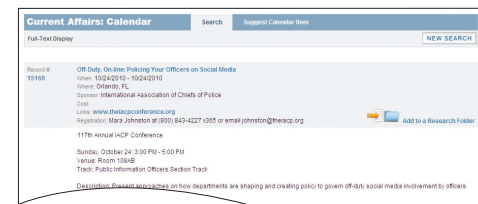
Don't forget the **Forms Database**! There you will find several Internet usage forms that you may want to incorporate into your agency's policy. With IACP Net you don't have to reinvent the wheel. You save time by building off the successes of other departments.

If you're interested in hearing how other agencies are facing this and other hot-button issues, the **Quest-Response**SM service is a great place to turn. By posting a Quest you are reaching out to command-level staff at over 1,700 law enforcement agencies across the country and internationally. It is also a great place to share your knowledge and experience to help other agencies solve their toughest issues.



The Core Database contains over 35,000 innovations and best practices for law enforcement.

A keyword search of the Quest-Response service yields several discussions of social networking issues, including one pertaining to officers' use of social media sites while on the clock and on their own time. Since all Quests and Responses include full contact information, you can quickly find other law enforcement leaders to contact regarding this controversial issue.



IACP Net's Calendar section shows you available training opportunities related to your search criteria.

IACP Net's **Calendar** section at the time of publication of this newsletter includes information on seven social networking-related training opportunities. They focus on a range of issues around this topic, from policing officers' use of social media to utilizing these new tools to engage and inform the public.

This is just one example of how IACP Net can be used to find the information and resources that can help you get things accomplished at your agency. With IACP Net at your disposal, you will reduce the time spent on administrative tasks, and be at the leading edge of law enforcement trends and innovations. For more information, or to request a free demo of the site and 24-hour pass, give us a call at **800.227.9640**, or take the virtual tour at **www.iacpnet.com**.

Join the Net!

IACP Net puts the experiences of more than 1,700 law enforcement agencies at your fingertips. Annual memberships to IACP Net range from \$500 to \$1,600, with special pricing for departments with under 10 sworn. To join IACP Net, or for more information, call

800.227.9640
www.iacpnet.com



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