

New Publication Reviews Law Enforcement Efforts to Transition Returning Military Veterans to Policing

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services (COPS), has released a new publication describing the efforts of law enforcement commanders, police psychologists, unions, and others involved in the reintegration of returning combat veterans into law enforcement. *Combat Deployment and the Returning Police Officer*, written by Barbara Webster, reviews the psychological effects of combat and the methods used by the Los Angeles Police and Sheriff's Departments, the Kansas City Police Department, and the Richland County (South Carolina) Sheriff's Department to support the successful transition of officers who were deployed as members of the U.S. Army Reserves or National Guard.

An estimated 100,000 Reserve and National Guard Soldiers were on active duty in any given month during 2006, with some serving multiple deployments in Iraq or Afghanistan. Moreover, a report by the International Association of Chiefs of Police found that public safety professionals comprise 10 percent of the Reserve and National Guard forces deployed to Iraq.

According to the COPS Director, Mr. Carl R. Peed, "Law enforcement officers from departments all across the country were deployed to serve in the war as members of the Reserves and National Guard; and when they return to their jobs as police officers, we should honor them by supporting their transition. Whether these military veterans are returning to law enforcement or are new police recruits, departments should put processes in place to make their transition easier."

Combat Deployment and the Returning Police Officer is available free of charge. It can be ordered by contacting the COPS Office Response Center at (800) 421-6770 or downloaded from <http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceDetail.aspx?RID=471>.

COPS is a federal agency responsible for advancing community policing nationwide. Since 1995, COPS has awarded over \$9 billion in grants to more than 13,200 state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies to fund the hiring and redeployment of more than 117,000 officers and provide a variety of knowledge resources including publications, training, technical assistance, conferences, and webcasts.

For more information, contact Mr. Gilbert Moore, telephone: (202) 616-1728.