

National Sheriffs' Association Newsletter: Capitol Watch

June 1, 2011
Vol. 7, Issue 5

On Capitol Hill

The House will take up legislation pertaining veterans' benefits; raising the debt limit; and FY12 appropriations bills on Military Construction-Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security. The House will then recess for the week of June 6th.

The Senate is currently in recess and will resume legislative business the week of June 6th.

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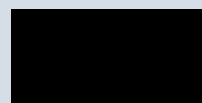
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Congress Begins FY12 Appropriations Process

Congress has begun the FY12 Appropriations Process. During the week of May 30, the House will consider on the Floor Appropriations bills concerning Military Construction-Veterans

News & Updates



Save the Date!

NSA 2011 Annual
Conference
June 18-22, 2011

America's Center
St. Louis, MO

For more information,
go to www.sheriffs.org

If you have any
questions, please
contact Stephanie
Garlock at
sgarlock@sheriffs.org
or (703) 838-5316.

Affairs and Homeland Security.

In regards to the FY12 Homeland Security funding, the House has proposed, and is likely to pass, an FY12 bill that will significantly cut the amount of state and local homeland security funding. While approximately \$55M will be allocated to Operation Stonegarden and \$193M for state/local training and exercises, only \$750M total is proposed to cover UASI, SHSGP, MMRS, Citizen Corps, Public Transportation Security Assistance, Bus Security, Port Security Grants, Driver's License Security Grants, and Interoperable Emergency Communications Grants – with actual funding amounts to be determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

Unfortunately, the House Homeland Security Appropriations bill is likely to pass the House. However, NSA along with our public safety and intergovernmental partners will be turning our attention to increasing Homeland Security funding in the Senate and will be meeting to discuss strategy the week of June 6th. At this point, the Senate has not yet released its FY12 Homeland Security funding bill draft.

Subcommittee and Full Committee mark-ups on the House FY12 CJS Appropriations bill is expected in the coming weeks.

NSA has sent a letter to the Chair and Ranking Member of the CJS Subcommittee encouraging significant funding for Byrne-JAG; COPS Hiring; and SCAAP, as well as \$25M for the COPS Meth Program (State and Local Meth Lab Clean-Up Funding for FY12). Additionally, 115 bi-partisan Members of Congress signed onto a letter to the CJS Subcommittee Chair and Ranking Member encouraging sufficient funding for Byrne-JAG and COPS Hiring in FY12.

NSA is continuing to monitor the FY12 Appropriations process and work with our law enforcement and intergovernmental partners to do all that we can to ensure sufficient funding for critical state and local law enforcement programs in FY12.

**NSA Supports Legislation Aimed at
Protecting Children**

The National Sheriffs' Association has expressed our support for legislation that would help law enforcement in the investigation of missing and exploited children.

The Recovering Missing Children Act (H.R. 1978), introduced by Congressman Stark (D-CA) and Congressman Paulsen (R-MN) would permit the IRS to disclose the tax returns and return information to state and local law enforcement officers who are directly partnering with federal agencies in the investigation of a missing or exploited child.

The Protecting Children From Internet Pornographers Act of 2011 (H.R. 1981), introduced by Congressman Smith (R-TX) and Congresswoman Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), would require an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to retain the addresses assigned to customers for 18 months; provide legal protections for ISP to further facilitate cooperation with law enforcement; create a new federal offense for individuals who profit from child pornography; significantly enhance penalties for possession of child pornography; provide administrative subpoena authority to the U.S. Marshals to access critical travel information and records on fugitive sex offenders; and strengthen the protections for child witnesses and victims.

NSA strongly supports both measures and looks forward to working with the bills' sponsors to enact the legislation during the 112th Congress.

LEGISLATIVE PUSH: Cosponsors Needed for D Block Legislation

NSA continues to strongly encourage sheriffs to reach out to their Members of Congress, both in the House and Senate, and urge them to become cosponsors to **S. 28-the Public Safety Spectrum and Wireless Innovation Act of 2011 (introduced by Sen. Rockefeller, D-WV)** and **H.R. 607 – the Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011 (introduced by Rep. King, R-NY, and Rep. Thompson, D-MS)**. These bills not only allocate the D Block to public safety, but provide the funding necessary to create and implement the nationwide public safety interoperable mobile broadband network.

The fight is far from over. Until Congress passes legislation to allocate the D Block to public safety, the D Block still has the potential to be auctioned off. We need your help to secure

Congress' support for the allocation of the D Block to public safety.

To obtain sample letters of support on both bills or for talking points on the D Block issue, please click [HERE](#) or contact Stephanie Garlock at sgarlock@sheriffs.org or (703) 838-5316.

LEGISLATIVE PUSH: Cosponsors Still Needed for Hatch Act Reform Bill

Sheriffs: It is imperative that you continue to urge your U.S. House of Representatives to become cosponsors of **HR498 – the State and Local Law Enforcement Hatch Act Reform Act of 2011**. **Please remember:** the stronger the support from Members of Congress, the greater the ability to pass the legislation. **A sample letter of support and fact sheet on the bill can be found [HERE](#).**

Currently, there are 19 cosponsors; however, many more are needed in order to swiftly move the bill through the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee – the Committee of bill jurisdiction.

NSA is working with Rep. Latta to move the legislation forward in the 112th Congress. Your continued support is **VITAL** to our success.

SCAAP Applications Open Until June 27th

The FY11 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) application period opened on May 16th and will remain open **UNTIL** June 27th. As you know, SCAAP is a reimbursement program to state and local governments for the costs incurred by housing criminal aliens.

Sheriffs interested in applying for SCAAP funds should visit the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) website at <http://www.bja.gov/grant/scaap.html> where full instructions will be provided on how to apply. Applicants **MUST** submit the application through the OJP (Office of Justice Programs) online Grants Management System listed within the above link.

For additional questions regarding the SCAAP application process, please contact BJA at scaap@usdoj.gov.

BVP Program Applications Open Until July 7th

Applications are now being accepted for the FY11 Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program funding by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). The application period is open **UNTIL** July 7th.

Through the BVP Program, states, units of local government, and tribal governments are reimbursed up to 50 percent of the cost of each unit of eligible body armor purchased for law enforcement officers. Sheriffs interested in applying for BVP funds should visit the OJP/BVP website at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bvpbasi/> where full instructions will be provided on how to apply. Applications **MUST** be submitted through the electronic BVP system listed within the above link.

PLEASE REMEMBER: In order to apply for FY11 BVP funds, the law enforcement agency **MUST HAVE** a mandatory vest wear policy in place.

For additional questions regarding the BVP application process, please contact BJA at vests@usdoj.gov.

Ohio Sheriff Receives National Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award from DOJ

Sheriff David Barber (Knox County, Ohio) was honored by the

Department of Justice on May 25th during the 2011 National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Sheriff Barber was the 2011 recipient of the Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award. The Award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of a law enforcement officer who made a significant investigative or program contribution to the safety of children.

In 2010, Sheriff Barber coordinated a high-profile investigation of a missing mother, her two children, and a family friend. The Sheriff's leadership on the investigation and coordination with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies led to the safe recovery of the 13-year-old abducted girl; the heartbreaking discovery of the bodies of the mother, the other child, and family friend; and the arrest and subsequent conviction of the perpetrator.

Additional awards/awardees were:

*Attorney General's Special Commendation Award (recognizes extraordinary efforts of an ICAC task force):

- AUSA Maria Medetis, Southern District of FL
- Detective Felix Mendigutia, Hialeah Police Dept. (FL)
- Detective Gary Jackson, Miami Police Dept. (FL)
- Special Agent Tim Aucoin, U.S. Secret Service (FL)

*Missing Children's Citizen Award (honors extraordinary efforts of private citizen to recover missing or abducted child):

- Heather Picklesimer, U.S. Postal Service (TN)

*Missing Children's Child Protection Award (honors extraordinary efforts of a law enforcement officer for protecting children from abuse or victimization):

- Detective Dana Ward, York City Police Dept. (PA)

*Missing Children's Art Contest Award (5th graders nationwide submit drawing which will be used for the following year's National Missing Children's Day poster):

- Julianna Hinton, Oak Grove Elementary School (MS)

THIS MONTH: NSA 2011 Annual Conference June 18-22

The National Sheriffs' Association 2011 Annual Conference will be held from June 18-22 at the America's Center in St.

Louis, MO.

Keynote speakers for Annual are:

Opening General Session (Sunday, June 19)

- **Bob Delaney, NBA Referee and former NJ State Trooper**

General Session II (Monday, June 20)

- **John R. "JV" Venable, commander of the USAF Flight Demonstration Team Thunderbirds 2000-2001.**

Additionally, a variety of important seminars will be held during the conference, ranging from utilizing the media; body armour; first responder family preparedness; immigration; and border security.

Furthermore, NSA's Annual Banquet will take place on Wednesday, June 22. The banquet is the finale to the Annual Conference. Events during the banquet include the swearing in of the newly elected NSA Board Members and NSA President.

For more information on NSA's 2011 Annual Conference including registration, hotels, and full conference agenda, please visit www.sheriffs.org on the Conference page.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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