



Critical Incident Response Teams Implementation Guidance

Description

Trust can play a major role in whether an officer seeks help or not. Sometimes those trust factors can be anything from understanding cop culture to confidentiality. In this podcast, Captain Brandon Post (retired) with the SAFLEO Program talks to Captain Jo-Nathan Nell of the South Carolina Department of Public Safety about the role of critical incident response teams (CIRT) after significant incidents.

Suggested Activities for Executives and Administrative Team Staff

1. Listen to this podcast.
2. Distribute or assign this podcast to all officers, including wellness officers, agency executives, and command staff members.
3. Evaluate the peer support and critical incident response options that are available for your personnel.
4. Review your agency's sources and other methods of supporting personnel.

Takeaways

- Know that an officer in crisis may also have a family in crisis.
- Understand that CIRTs and peer support play a role in an officer's wellness and can also be a source of help for families.
- Recognize that CIRTs can be a vital source of support for your agency after a significant event.
- Consider the importance of providing proper training for CIRTs and peer support team members.
- Ensure that members of your CIRT and peer support programs are also receiving support.

- Utilize resources within your agency, surrounding agencies and in a multistate approach.

Resources

9 Ways to Build Strength In Law Enforcement Family Relationships:
<https://safleo.org/api/ResourceLibrary/Resources/f8abe164-a9fa-423a-9c08-08da39a76081/3295a746-61e7-47ce-3b6c-08da39a76084/9%20Ways%20Infographic%20Digital.pdf>

Developing Peer-to-Peer Support Groups:
<https://www.valorforblue.org/Clearinghouse/1301/Developing-Peer-to-Peer-Support-Groups>

10 Ways to Support an Officer in Crisis: Agency Action Plan for Supporting an Officer in Crisis: <https://safleo.org/ResourceLibrary/Resource/aafeebed-ab23-4330-f023-08da379930bb>

13 Ways to Manage Dark Thoughts: Action Plan for Officers Who Experience Suicidal Thoughts: <https://safleo.org/ResourceLibrary/Resource/1ffd0dcf-c128-4abe-92c8-08da33500451>

Speaker Biographies

Captain Jo-Nathan Nell retired in September 2020 after serving in law enforcement for more than 37 years. He had served as Captain of Troop Five for 11 years. Captain Nell was then rehired in November 2020 as the Peer Support/Wellness Coordinator with the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. He is a Peer Support Liaison and works hand-in-hand with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Assistance Program (SCLEAP), which provides various services for sworn and nonsworn personnel and their families. He also works with other first responders in other states. Captain Nell is a member of the South Carolina Troopers Association; a coach for Carolina Academy in Lake City, South Carolina; and a co-founder of the T-5 Charity Golf Tournament, a fundraiser to assist those in need in the eight counties of Troop Five (Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion, Marlboro, Horry, Georgetown, and Williamsburg). He is a board member with the House of Hope of the Pee Dee, a South Carolina Peer Team member of SCLEAP, and an International Critical Incident Stress Foundation member.

Captain Brandon Post (retired) is a senior research associate with the Institute for Intergovernmental Research. He serves as program lead for the National Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers Program, and he provides instruction on the topics of officer safety and wellness for the VALOR Officer

Safety and Wellness Program. Captain Post retired from the Provo, Utah, Police Department (PPD) in 2021 after 20 years of service. He most recently served as commander of the Patrol Division. Prior to this assignment, he served as the commander of the Special Operations Division, supervising the department's Major Crimes, Special Enforcement, Community-Oriented Policing, and School Resource Officer Teams. Captain Post also served as the commander of both the SWAT Team and the Hostage Negotiations Team as well as serving as the PPD public information officer. He began his law enforcement career in 2000 as a dispatcher in the Emergency Medical and Police Dispatch Unit. As a police officer, he became a firearms and defensive tactics instructor. Captain Post became a member of the SWAT Team in 2005, eventually serving as a squad leader, a marksman/observer, and the team leader. He is fluent in speaking, reading, and writing Spanish. He earned his bachelor of arts degree in political science from Brigham Young University in Provo and his associate's degree in criminal justice from Ricks College in Rexburg, Idaho. Captain Post is a graduate of the 273rd Session of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

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