



The Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Program Implementation Guidance

Description

The Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act was signed into law on June 16, 2020. Law enforcement agencies are encouraged to submit information about officers who have died by or attempted suicide for the purpose of compiling national statistics on these tragedies. An understanding of the circumstances surrounding officer suicides and attempted suicides will aid in developing more effective and comprehensive programs and resources to combat it.

Suggested Activities for Executives and Administrative Team Staff

1. Listen to this podcast.
2. Distribute or assign this podcast to agency executives and command staff members.
3. Lead a discussion with your command staff members and executive leadership regarding the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Program (LESDC) and determine who will be responsible for reporting suicides or attempted suicides within the agency.
4. Update agency policies and procedures to include reporting on the LESDC, as needed.
5. The LESDC is located on the Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). Ensure that your agency has access to LEEP.
6. Seek further instruction and training on reporting procedures from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Takeaways

- More officers die by suicide every year than by assaults and on-duty traffic accidents combined.

- To find a solution in the form of resources and prevention programs for law enforcement suicides, we first must gather data to really grasp the full scope and understanding of the circumstances surrounding suicide and attempts.
- The program seeks to gather information on the circumstances and events that occurred before each suicide or attempted suicide, the general location of such events, the demographic information of each law enforcement officer, and then the occupational category.
- An officer's personally identifiable information will not be collected for the LESDC.
- Beginning on January 1, 2022, agencies will be responsible for reporting on the LESDC and will need to have access to LEEP to report suicides or attempted suicides.

Resources

The following link provides access to the LESDC Web page, flyer, frequently asked questions, and other helpful resources:

<https://bja.ojp.gov/news/fbi-launches-law-enforcement-suicide-data-collection>.

Speaker Biographies

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.

Amy C. Blasher is currently the Acting Section Chief of the Global Law Enforcement Support Section (GLESS) within the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Services Division after recently being named the Assistant Section Chief. Previously, Ms. Blasher was the Unit Chief of the Crime and Law Enforcement Statistics Unit within GLESS. She was the program manager for the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program with oversight of the nation's law enforcement and crime statistics, which includes the Hate Crime Collection, National Use-of-Force Data Collection, Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Data Collection, the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection, and the National Incident-Based Reporting System.

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