

Policies

## Preventing Line of Duty Deaths: A CHIEF'S DUTY

This agency self assessment tool is designed to help law enforcement leaders evaluate their agency's efforts to fully address the safety needs of their officers. Use this tool to proactively examine the range of critical officer safety strategies and determine areas where your agency can take action to improve. When taken together, the infrastructure improvements, systemic policies and strategies covered by this checklist will enhance officer safety and potentially prevent acts of violence against law enforcement.

Use the resources identified for each topic to help you address these issues within your agency and use the checklist on the back page to map your progress.

For more information on these strategies and additional resources, statistics, and facts, visit:

[www.theiacp.org/NCPVAP](http://www.theiacp.org/NCPVAP)

Systemic Strategies

Infrastructure



### Officer Safety: Chief's Checklist

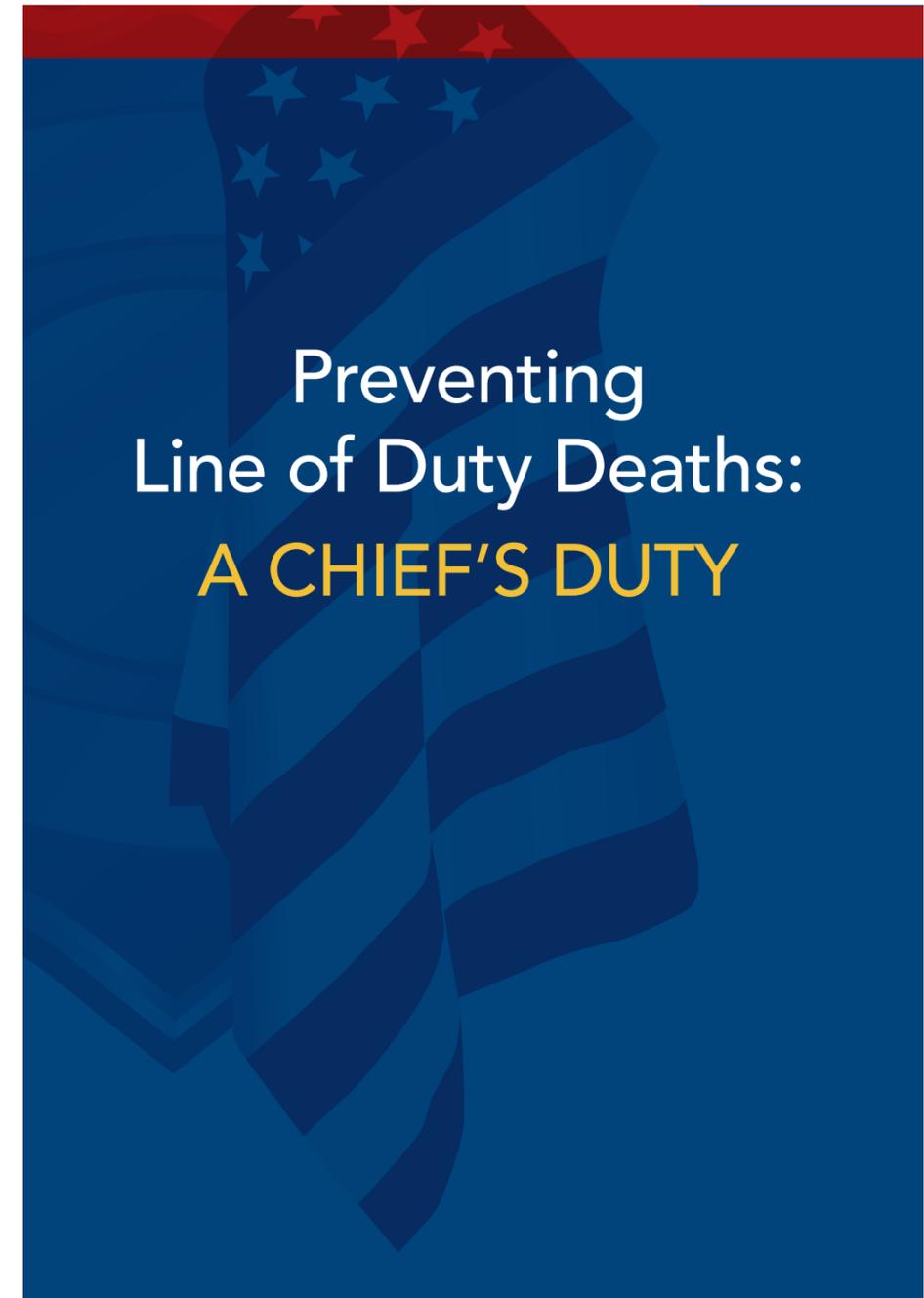
	Have Addressed	Need to Address	Timeframe to Complete
My agency has implemented a mandatory body armor wear policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
My agency has implemented a policy that requires all personnel to wear seat belts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
My agency has implemented a foot pursuit policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
My agency has adopted a mandatory wellness program.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Officers in my agency are provided with tactical firearms training.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
My agency traces all recovered firearms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
My agency has created a free eTrace account with the ATF.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
My agency has instituted a post-shooting incident protocol.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
My agency has established an active probation and/or parole partnership.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
I have briefed my governing body on the safety needs of my officers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

National Center for the Prevention of Violence Against the Police

International Association of Chiefs of Police

515 North Washington Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
1-800-843-4227

[www.theiacp.org/NCPVAP](http://www.theiacp.org/NCPVAP)



## VESTS

### Are your officers mandated to wear a vest?

- How is the mandatory wear policy for body armor enforced?
- Who in the agency is responsible for enforcement?

#### STATS/FACTS

**37** Percent of all law enforcement officers feloniously killed between 2000-2009 who were not wearing body armor (FBI LEOKA)

**2,046** Average number of law enforcement officers assaulted with a firearm each year (FBI LEOKA, 1995-2009)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Resolution on Mandatory Vest Use, 2011

NSA Resolution on Mandatory Vest Wear, 2011

## SEAT BELTS

### Are your officers mandated to wear seat belts?

- How is the mandatory seat belt policy enforced?
- Who in the agency is responsible for enforcement?

#### STATS/FACTS

**42** Percent of all officers killed in traffic crashes who were not wearing seat belts (NHTSA, 1980-2008)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Resolution on Mandatory Seatbelt Use, 2011

## EQUIPMENT

### Does your agency have the necessary resources and equipment to address officer safety needs?

- Have you briefed your governing body on your agency's officer safety needs?

#### STATS/FACTS

**55** Percent of respondents to a 2010 IACP survey who said the new economy presented a serious or severe problem for their agencies (IACP Policing in the 21st Century, 2011)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Policing in the 21st Century, 2011

OJP Bulletproof Vest Partnership

## WELLNESS

### What wellness programs does your agency have in place to maintain and/or improve the health and safety of your officers?

- Does your agency promote or otherwise subsidize physical fitness?
- Does your agency employ an early warning system to identify and provide resources to officers with potential mental health concerns?

#### STATS/FACTS

**2x** The risk of having a heart attack doubles with each decade of law enforcement service (Police Chief, 2008)

#### RESOURCES

Preventing Law Enforcement Officer Suicide: A Compilation of Resources & Best Practices, IACP 2009

## CRIME GUNS

### Do you know where crime guns come from in your community?

- Does your agency have a standard protocol to follow for handling recovered firearms?
- Does your agency trace every recovered firearm?
- Are crime gun suspects debriefed concerning their knowledge and the sources of guns in the community?

#### STATS/FACTS

**97** Percent of firearms used to assault police were obtained illegally (Violent Encounters, FBI 2006)

**0** Cost for a law enforcement agency to open an eTrace account through the ATF

#### RESOURCES

IACP Gun Violence Reduction Guide, 2011

ATF Firearms Trace Data by State, 2006-2009

eTrace

## PRETRIAL

### Does the pretrial release process in your community courts include an assessment of the dangerousness of the arrestee?

- Did you contribute to the design of the pretrial release program?
- What improvements to the pretrial release process could you recommend to your judiciary to improve community safety?

#### STATS/FACTS

**40** Total number of jurisdictions in the U.S. that allow a court to consider the dangerousness of a defendant when determining pretrial release (Law Enforcement's Leadership Role in the Pretrial Release & Detention Process, IACP 2011)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Law Enforcement's Leadership Role in the Pretrial Release and Detention Process, 2011

Pretrial Justice Institute

## OFFENDERS

### Do you have actionable intelligence on the offenders in your community?

- Do you have an active probation and/or parole partnership?
- Do your officers conduct offender visits with local probation officers to monitor offenders in your community?

#### STATS/FACTS

**25** Percent of all offenders on probation or parole when they killed a law enforcement officer (FBI LEOKA, 2000-2009)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Probation & Parole: A Primer for LE Officers, 2010

NIJ: Police-Corrections Partnership

## PURSUIITS

### Does your agency have a policy to address foot pursuits?

- How often does your agency provide training for foot pursuits?

#### STATS/FACTS

**11** Percent of all officer injuries that result from foot pursuits (Toward Understanding of the Physical Hazards of Police Work, Bandl & Strohshine, 2003)

**20** Percent of all officers who receive foot pursuit training in the academy (Violent Encounters, FBI 2006)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Model Policy on Foot Pursuits, 2003

## TRAINING

### Are your officers sufficiently trained to meet violence in the field?

- Do your officers undergo annual, semiannual, or quarterly tactical training?
- Do your officers receive tactical training that involves deployment of both firearms and less-lethal devices?
- Do your officers undergo regular refresher tactical training in arrest and control tactics?

#### STATS/FACTS

**57,268** Number of assaults against law enforcement officers reported by agencies in 2009 (FBI LEOKA)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Model Policy on Electronic Control Weapons, 2010

IACP Tactical Patrol Officer Training

## USE OF FORCE

### Does your agency require officers to document and report all use of force incidents?

- Does your training staff review use of force incident reports for the purpose of enhancing the training of officers in your agency?
- Does your agency have an officer-involved post-shooting incident protocol?

#### STATS/FACTS

**72** Percent of all assaulted officers who failed to use deadly force when justified during violent encounters (Violent Encounters, FBI 2006)

#### RESOURCES

IACP Model Policy on Use of Force, 2006

■ Infrastructure

■ Systemic Strategies

■ Policies