

IACP Net a Friend Through Hard Times for Algonquin, Illinois

Deputy Chief Edward Urban of the Algonquin, Illinois, Police Department has never had to justify the cost of IACP Net—but he could. “We’ve gone through hard times several times here. IACP Net’s never been an area that’s been questioned or cut,” said the Deputy Chief, whose department has been a member of IACP Net for the last ten years. “IACP Net helps you keep up with change.”

Two years ago, Algonquin, formerly a bedroom community 35 miles northwest of Chicago, experienced a rapid expansion that occurred almost overnight. Noted Deputy Chief Urban, “we had about 80 stores open up in a ‘lifestyle’ mall, preceded by several big box stores. It’s changed the nature of our community.”

The department’s job has become just as dynamic. Retail thefts during the last two years went up 500%, and theft-related arrests went up 600%. Traffic issues have also increased due to people commuting through the city to get to their jobs in Chicago, forcing the department to focus on red-light video enforcements, residential speeding, and pursuit decisions.

Get Guidance on Tough Issues with IACP Net

Deciding whether to pursue a fleeing suspect has had painful consequences for the Algonquin Police Department. Recently, the department had to defend a policy stating that officers were not to go into water under any circumstances—more than 20 years ago, an officer died trying to rescue someone from the Fox River. But a similar tragic incident brought the issue again into the public light. “We had a person flee our officers in a traffic stop, and he jumped into the river and drowned,” said Deputy Chief Urban. In accordance with department policy, the officers tried several rope rescues—which the man didn’t respond to—and a boat rescue. Unfortunately, the officers’ efforts failed.



“IACP Net helps you keep up with change.”

*—Deputy Chief Edward Urban
Algonquin, Illinois, Police Department*

Despite their efforts, the department was questioned as to why officers did not actually get into the water to save the drowning man. Deputy Chief Urban turned to IACP Net to research policies on officers entering water. “I noticed that in policies out there, officers did not go into the water unless they were part of a dive team,” said the Deputy Chief. “It helped us to stand up and say ‘you know, most policies that are out there don’t allow their officers to go in the river.’ It makes you feel comfortable that you’re on the right road.”

Deputy Chief Urban also secured direction on the issue of electronic weapons deployment, distilling a policy specific to the Algonquin Police Department from a myriad of papers, policies, and responses to Quests. “We were able to find out where people were putting them on the use of force continuum, limitations on their

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Highlight Your Department by Sharing Your Successes

“People often ask where we get our information from. While we can gladly list the various federal agencies, publications, and a host of other providers, we’re most proud to say that much of the information comes directly from our membership,” said Gerad Mead, Information Coordinator for IACP Net. “Many times their next question is, ‘Is it a requirement to send in information?’ Even though it is not an obligation, our members readily see the benefits, both to their own agency and to their peers, of sharing their policies and other materials.”

Mead joined the IACP Net information team two years ago, and was promoted to the position of Information Coordinator last year. Along with the information team, he collects information from IACP Net’s members and other regular contributors and posts them on the site.

You can help highlight your department’s accomplishments by

submitting your best practices, proposals, procedure manuals, forms, ordinances, case studies, or other programs for inclusion in the IACP Net database. We will index your submission and include it in the Core Database or Current Affairs section, depending on the material.

“Many members speak of the great feedback they receive from other agencies on the information they had posted on IACP Net,” said Mead. “Not only is it getting their name out there, the information helps other departments as well!”

Recently, IACP Net has made the process of submitting information even easier. You can submit announcements, events, and your web site directly online. Submission forms are available in the IACP Net News, Calendar and Links sections. For instance, to include your upcoming event, simply go to the Calendar section, click “Suggest an Event” and complete the online form.



*Gerad Mead,
Information Coordinator*

Similar forms are available under the News and Links sections. Our information team will review the information and make it available online, usually within one business day.

Information may also be sent to Gerad Mead at info@login-inc.com or by mail to IACP Net, 7250 Hudson Blvd N, Suite 130, Saint Paul, MN 55128. For further information, please call 800.227.9640.

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use, and where they could be used,” noted Deputy Chief Urban. “IACP Net gives you guidance on what other departments are doing.”

Connect with Grantmakers with IACP Net
IACP Net’s Funding Section has been more than useful to the department. They were able to get a Safe Neighborhoods Grant from Wal-Mart once the big box store moved into the neighborhood—an opportunity originally researched on IACP Net. Also, in pursuit of a regional training grant, they were able to connect with a local college, the sheriff’s department, the fire department and other agencies. “It brought a lot of people to the table

to talk about common issues,” said Deputy Chief Urban.

Maintain Credibility with IACP Net

The depth of IACP Net as a credible resource has impressed Deputy Chief Urban in his research. He’s used IACP Net for an FBI academy paper on racial profiling, looked through old issues of *The Police Chief* and *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, and researched policies. “It’s pretty comprehensive,” stated the Deputy Chief. “If you’re looking for a pursuit policy or a use of force policy, you get up to a hundred of them on IACP Net—in the library I could get one to two at most. Also, I can get the contact

information for the department with the policy, so you can call somebody there and talk to them about it.

“IACP Net is an excellent source of information,” observed Deputy Chief Urban. “It’s more credible than the Internet because it comes from law enforcement people who are actually doing the work. You can use it 24 hours a day, and it keeps you apprised of new issues. It’s an Internet specifically for police, from the chief on down to the patrolman. Any of those levels could use and benefit from it.”

IACP Net in Morgantown, West Virginia: Exacting Solutions for “Growing” Problems

Morgantown, home of West Virginia University, is “busting at the seams.” The fastest-growing city in the state, Morgantown has a permanent population of 28,000 with an additional 25,000 during the school year. Chief Philip Scott of the Morgantown Police Department can sense the city’s stitches ripping as its population swells each year. He uses IACP Net to keep his department flexible and responsive to Morgantown’s escalating needs. “We’ve had to make some internal changes on policies,” said the Chief. “With growth comes traffic issues, and the need for more officers and equipment.”

For example, Chief Scott used the Quest-Response Service of IACP Net to research the implementation of new in-car video systems in his department; they were exploring an upgrade from their old VHS format. “I put out a Quest asking about the upsides and downsides of different systems,” said Chief Scott, further remarking that he received back more than just online postings. “I’ve found that if you post a Quest, sometimes people will just email you directly. So I’d get two to three responses posted on IACP Net, plus a couple of direct responses. I definitely got what I needed.

“With the growth of the city, and the growth of the university, I’ve asked for feedback on tactics for different issues,” said Chief Scott. “I’ve got a whole folder

full of things agencies have sent me.” When he was appointed Chief, Scott was charged with addressing the violence and underage drinking at local bars in Morgantown. Relying on IACP Net and police departments in other college towns, he was able to craft a nuisance ordinance that will help deal with problem bars. “We took different pieces of different ordinances and added some of our own thing,” said the Chief. “Right now our city attorney is working on a couple of these ordinances, and in the next couple of months they will go to the city council to be approved.”

External issues aren’t the only thing that Chief Scott has been able to address using IACP Net. He has also researched law enforcement employment issues, such as performance evaluations, use and abuse of sick leave, and officer “moonlighting”—all issues that might be difficult to locate on the wider Web. “IACP Net is specific,” said Chief Scott. “It’s a one-stop shop that deals only with police departments.

“There are very few days I don’t log in and look around the Quests. It has saved me so much time, because whatever issue comes up, invariably someone else has dealt with it,” said Chief Scott. “I can see a whole host of agencies and issues—it helps us with the decision-making process.”



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— Chief Philip Scott,
Morgantown, West Virginia, Police Department

Refer a Peer

Do you know someone who could benefit from having access to IACP Net? If there is a new chief in your area, or another law enforcement professional looking for information on a particular policy or issue, have them contact Nancy Coughlin at **800.227.9640** or email membership@login-inc.com. She can provide them with information about IACP Net services and schedule a free demonstration.

We appreciate your referrals!

Join the Net!

IACP Net puts the experiences of more than 1,400 law enforcement agencies nationwide at your fingertips. Annual memberships to IACP Net range from \$500 to \$1,600, with special pricing for departments with under 10 sworn.

To join IACP Net or for more information, call

800.227.9640
www.iacpnet.com



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Recent Additions to the IACP Net Database

The IACP Net information team brings you the most innovative and up-to-date information on topics of interest to law enforcement departments. Here are some recent examples from the IACP Net database of more than 40,000 documents. For assistance locating these or other database documents, please call the IACP Net Hotline at **800.227.9640**.

Critical Incident Amnesia: The Physiological Basis and the Implications of Memory Loss

The law enforcement officer is constantly required to move to the most traumatic and stressful situations in our society, to respond instantly and appropriately in these critical incidents, and then to accurately remember and report everything that occurred. Unfortunately, by their very nature, traumatic situations will inevitably result in memory impairment, referred to as “critical incident amnesia.” The greater the stress, the greater the potential will be for these memory problems to occur.

Document No. 586214

Overtime and Holiday Compensation

This policy is taken from the Arlington County, Virginia, Police Department Directives Manual. The directive provides guidance to supervisors regarding the Department’s approval

process for overtime compensation. It also provides guidance and clarification with respect to the overtime eligibility of various employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Document No. 586352

Reporting the Use of Deadly, Potentially Deadly and Physical Force

This policy is taken from the Aurora, Colorado, Police Department Policy Manual. Members must immediately notify a supervisory officer of all incidents in which the member uses deadly, potentially deadly or physical force.

This policy includes the form “Use of Force Report” available in Microsoft Word and Adobe PDF.

Document No. 584951

Impaired Driving Guidebook: Three Keys to Renewed Focus and Success

Impaired driving continues to be one of North America’s greatest and most persistent threats to public safety. Impaired driving leads cancer and all other causes of death for those persons ages 3 to 33 years old, regardless of race, gender, or any other factor. Our society is poised to support the law enforcement community’s need to take a lead role to end this epidemic. Many public and non-profit agencies and entities are focused on the elimination of impaired driving,

but there is often a lack of sustained coordination in their efforts. Research has found that success lies in three key areas: leadership, criminal justice collaboration, and communication.

Document No. 586343

10 Tips for Surviving Controversial, High-Profile Crises

Thumbtack this article to your mental bulletin board. It may help you survive intact the next time you’re involved in a controversial, high-profile situation. These tips are the distilled wisdom of six distinct voices from the trenches of street combat, sounded during a two-hour panel discussion for chief executives at the recent IACP annual conference in Boston on how to balance police-community interests when a crisis erupts.

Document No. 586144

School Security: How Will You Know You Are Ready?

While there are limits to the extent to which first responders and school administrators can go to prevent random school shootings, the way schools and school districts prepare for and react to incidents can go a long way in mitigating the impact an incident has on a school, its students, and the community at large before the situations take place.

Document No. 586297