

IACP NetSM Reaches Out in Riverside, Illinois

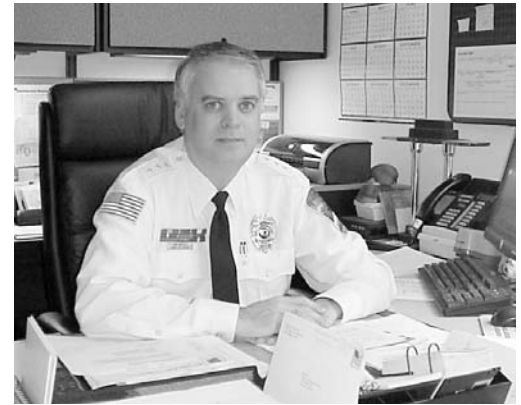
Newly appointed Chief Thomas Weitzel of the Riverside, Illinois, Police Department knows that he can rely on IACP Net to face tough challenges—his relationship with IACP Net helped him achieve the chief position in Riverside (pop. 9,000), a unique residential village outside Chicago.

“When I was deputy chief, I was responsible for development of several new general orders and policies for the department,” said Chief Weitzel. “During my interview for police chief, I was able to show the village board that I had the knowledge to lead the police department during what was going to be a time of change for the agency. IACP Net really helped me prepare to take over as chief of police.”

Share Your Vision With IACP Net

Since his appointment as chief, Weitzel faces a whole new set of challenges. Foremost in his mind is the creation of the Riverside Police Department’s first five-year strategic plan by October 2008. “A strategic plan is a living document that takes into account officer, civilian employee, and community needs,” noted Weitzel, who views input from all levels as essential to the process. To facilitate communication, he surveyed his 17 sworn officers and 26 civilian employees anonymously about the strengths and weaknesses of the department. Also, he will hold public meetings in March 2008 to determine what the community needs from the department. “We have limited resources, and we need to know where to apply those resources.”

IACP Net’s Quest-ResponseSM Service allowed Weitzel to gather input on the strategic planning process from agencies nationwide. “I had some positive responses—one department sent me a template for their strategic plan,” said Weitzel. “I received many examples and tailored all these responses to our strategic plan. IACP Net is an outstanding service.”



“IACP Net is a wealth of law enforcement information available on your desktop 24 hours a day.”

*— Chief Thomas Weitzel
Riverside, Illinois, Police Department*

Standardize With IACP Net

For Chief Weitzel, professional development is an important ingredient for officer morale and retention. “We have highly qualified, well-educated employees, and at times we have a difficult time retaining them,” he explained. “It’s important to give officers opportunities for professional development besides training, so they’re not just sitting in a car on the beat for eight hours a day.”

Using IACP Net, Weitzel developed a systematic approach to nominating officers for continuing education. “Officers are very excited about this, and the investment is returned when officers come back—they can be mentored to take over the next level of employment,” emphasized Weitzel. “I put out a Quest for policies about sending officers to

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IACP Net Conference Update

Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth at the IACP Conference, COPSWest, and the Fall CALEA Conference. It was good to meet with you.

Visit IACP Net representatives at the Florida Police Chiefs Association 2008 Mid-Winter Training Conference & Exposition in Saint Augustine, Florida, booth #65, January 14 – 15; the 2008 California Police Chiefs Association Conference in Fresno, California, booth #517, March 4 – 5; and the CALEA Spring Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, March 12 – 13. If you plan to attend any of these conferences, please stop by and learn how IACP Net can assist you with your responsibilities.

Join the Net!

IACP Net puts the experiences of more than 1,500 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

IACP Net Debuts Redesigned FAST Search

IACP Net proudly announces the redesign of the FAST Search, connecting you even faster to pre-conducted searches on timely topics such as active shooters, community policing, performance evaluations, shift schedules, and more.

The FAST Search is a list of over 80 common searches requested by IACP Net users. Our information team reviewed the list and used their expertise to create search strategies for each topic. Each topical search is pre-run and updated every evening, so it runs more quickly than a normal search.

The new FAST Search can now be accessed on IACP Net under the

Search heading on the gold toolbar. To better understand how to use the FAST Search, take advantage of our free phone training—call the toll-free IACP Net hotline at 800.227.9640.



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elite management programs and received lots of help. You'd be surprised at how many phone calls you get when you post a Quest on IACP Net."

Since he was a lieutenant with the Riverside PD, Chief Weitzel has been using IACP Net's Policies Database to take on community issues. For example, the Chief used IACP Net to construct a policy for cell phone use in squad cars. "We were getting complaints about officers using cell phones inappropriately in squad cars," said Weitzel. "I easily found and adapted a policy for cell phone usage."

Stretch Tight Budgets With IACP Net

Although budgeting is an issue for a small community like Riverside, the Village is convinced that IACP Net is an invaluable resource. "The Village has never attempted to cut IACP Net

out of the budget—not that IACP Net is a great expense," said Weitzel, who has had success applying for grant opportunities that he discovered on IACP Net, adding much-needed funding to the department budget.

"I find grants on IACP Net that I wouldn't have known of otherwise—grants that are specific to our department size and budget," said Weitzel.

Throughout his career, Chief Weitzel has most appreciated IACP Net's support staff and ease of access. "IACP Net is a wealth of law enforcement information available on your desktop 24 hours a day. Besides that, IACP Net staff is very responsive. I don't think any chief should be without it."

IACP Net an Accreditation Aid for College Station, Texas

As research and planning expert for the College Station, Texas, Police Department, Sergeant Lesley Hicks is herself a wealth of law enforcement information. In addition to being the accreditation manager, she is the go-to person for all law enforcement research at College Station (pop. 90,000).

CALEA Accredited? IACP Net Helps You Stay Up-to-date

Like all CALEA accredited agencies, the College Station Police Department faces the challenges of keeping policies timely and in compliance with changing standards. After a recent on-site inspection under CALEA's 4th Edition standards, the department realized that it only had a short time to update to the 5th Edition.

Hicks was able to use IACP Net's Policies Database to find policies from other CALEA accredited agencies and quickly update the College Station policies. "IACP Net makes my job a lot easier. Rather than creating something from scratch, I can search and refine the search until I find what I'm looking for," said Sergeant Hicks. "I can select policies from accredited agencies that are dealing with the same thing I am.

"By spring next year, we need to update our CALEA communications accreditation. Now I'm referring back to IACP Net for that," said Hicks.

IACP Net Provides On-point Resources for Policy Research

Hicks also researches policies for start-up programs in different parts of the agency. For example, officers were spending a great deal of time watching mentally unstable persons at the hospital. Using IACP Net, Hicks researched a crisis intervention team that would ameliorate the problem.

In addition, in conjunction with Texas A&M and the U.S. Navy, the department is participating in a research study on the physical effects of electronic control

devices (such as TASER® devices). In order to do so, Hicks had to come up with an electronic control device policy more quickly than usual.

"I had to start from scratch, and TASERs are something you want a detailed policy on," said Hicks. "I did a search for TASER policies on IACP Net and combined four or five of them—that worked well for us."

Hicks also uses a local PAC group of accredited agencies as a supplement to IACP Net. "I rarely use the broader Internet, because it's not limited to law enforcement services," said Hicks. "IACP Net is all law enforcement-related; materials are from other programs that other departments are using. The Internet has so much junk to filter through."

IACP Net: For the Good of All

When using IACP Net's Quest-Response Service, Sergeant Hicks answers more Quests than she posts. "Whenever I post an answer to somebody's question, I'll get emails asking me if I can send them the same thing," said Hicks. "Whatever I can do to help another agency eventually helps us all."

The cost of IACP Net has never been an issue for Sergeant Hicks, who has been using the site since she took her position five years ago. "I feel it is worth the cost just for the time it saves me. It allows me to do other things," said Hicks. "I do funding searches, and find grants I wouldn't have known about without IACP Net."

Due to Hicks' efforts in the IACP Net grants section, the department has received three grants—one for Internet safety for children and two others for homeland security. "When we get an emergency management grant, we will share the grant," noted Hicks. "So not only are we benefiting our agency but surrounding agencies as well."



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—Sergeant Lesley Hicks
College Station, Texas, Police Department

Hicks was able to get help researching building renovation and relocation from IACP Net staff. "The guys running IACP Net are extremely helpful," she said. "They have everything I need when I put in a request, give suggestions on different ways to search, and go out of their way to help in anything I need."

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!



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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 50,000 documents. For assistance locating these or other database documents, please call the IACP Net Hotline at **800.227.9640**.

Documenting the Use of Force

Incidents requiring the use of force by police are an unfortunate reality for law enforcement agencies. Each occurrence demands accurate documentation that demonstrates in detail the necessity of such a response. On this subject, the U.S. Supreme Court stated “the question is whether the officers’ actions are ‘objectively reasonable’ in light of the facts and circumstances confronting them.” Despite this emphasis by the Court, use of force documentation frequently excludes many of the details that could help explain and justify officers’ decisions.

Document No. 594473

A Fresh Look at 12-Hour Shifts

It should be noted that there have been no insurmountable problems reported in implementing a 12-hour schedule.

While the majority of road personnel questioned favored the 12-hour shifts, a few simple suggestions could make it an even more attractive solution.

Document No. 594450

Framing a Law Enforcement Response: Addressing Community Concerns About Sex Offenders

To better prepare law enforcement officers to respond to questions from the public about sex offenders and their crimes, this pamphlet from the IACP, available in pdf format, provides talking points designed to help officers frame a response to 10 frequently asked questions.

Document No. 594311

Foreign Nationals

This policy is from the Mount Dora, Florida, Police Department Written Directives Manual. It is the purpose of this policy to provide general procedures and guidelines for notifications if a foreign national is deceased, detained, or arrested. The notification shall be completed within the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of State. Failure to make the proper notification is recognized as a violation of the treaty and international law.

Document No. 594371

Behavior Traits that Get Cops Killed—Long Known, Still Ignored

Fifteen years ago, after an exhaustive five-year study of officer murders, a research team from the FBI delivered a simple but compelling message: there are certain behavioral characteristics that tend to get cops killed. All these traits can be overcome or avoided if you approach the street with tactical awareness.

Document No. 594103

Position Description: Chief of Police

This position description is taken from the St. Louis, Missouri, Metropolitan Police Department. The chief of police position performs highly responsible and complex executive management duties for planning, directing, managing and overseeing the activities and operations of the department; including field operations, investigations, support services, and general administration. This position also coordinates activities with other city departments and outside agencies.

Document No. 593568