



It is an unfortunate reality that officers are killed in the line of duty.

MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Some agencies have the resources to handle these untimely deaths....

..most do not

MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008



Nationwide Line of Duty Deaths
have averaged well over a 100
officers a year for decade.



In 2009 there were 138 Line of
Duty Deaths.



In 2010 there were 160 Line of
Duty Deaths.



The loss of an officer is both traumatic and taxing on an agency, its personnel, and the survivors of the fallen hero.



Such a death often requires that an agency engage in an extensive investigation, carry out an honorable memorial for the fallen officer, and work to get that officer's survivors the benefits they are entitled to as a result of the death.



There are a number of available resources to assist an agency.



Concerns of Police Survivors

- An organization with over a 25 year history of helping survivors
- Numerous resources available via their website
- Offer outstanding Traumas of Law Enforcement courses across the county each year



National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund

Offer numerous resources via website as well as the many partnerships they have formed over the years with associations, companies and organizations nationwide



Officer Down Memorial Page

- Offers a unique website to honor fallen officers
- Also has numerous resources available through its website



Department of Justice

Not only does the DOJ administer PSOB funds, it does offer some guidance for dealing with officer deaths.



Funeral Assistance Teams

Statewide Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Teams are now operational in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Washington, and Wisconsin



The state of Missouri has experienced 643 line of duty deaths.
Since 2001, alone there have been 51 LODDs.



MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

These are only a few of the dozens of officers killed in our state in the past ten years.





MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

The Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team is a resource to assist and support agencies when they lose one of their own.



MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

The team was developed in March, 2008 after several officers were killed in the line of duty in Missouri the previous month. It became obvious that agencies often need help when such tragic events occur.



The Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team concept mirrors the Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team. The fire service team was developed in 2005. The teams assist each other as necessary.



Purpose

The Missouri Law Enforcement Funeral Assistance Team is a resource that makes itself available to departments who have been stricken with a loss. Team members are trained in many aspects. One of the main focuses of the group is in relationship to a Line of Duty loss.





Mission

The primary mission of the team is to provide assistance and comfort to the family and department and help with filing DOJ-PSOB and other benefits. All other aspects of the team's functionality are secondary, but made available because of the possible needs of the families and law enforcement agencies throughout the state during a difficult time.



The team will assist with funerals for:

- Line of duty deaths
- Retired officers
- Active duty officers who pass away as a result of an off-duty/non-duty related injury or illness

The team will assist with military funerals if requested (primarily coordinating motorcade escorts)



Team Structure

The team is managed by a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

The team is formally incorporated in the state of Missouri.

The team's 501 c 3 status was granted in November, 2009.



Team Committees

Several working committees were established to assist in the operation and sustainment of the team. These committees include:

- Benefits (Coordinate with Backstoppers, 10-33 Fund, etc)
- Recruitment (Recruit persons to assist with memorial services)
- Resources (Develop resources to carrying out memorials)
- Training (Coordinate bringing training to the area)
- Marketing (Build awareness about the team)
- Revenue/Fundraising (Handle fundraising, premiums, etc.)
- Standard Operating Procedures(develop SOGs for memorials)



Response Teams

- Currently there are two response teams. One in the St. Louis area and one in the Kansas City metro area. The St. Louis team now also serves as the St. Louis Metropolitan Area LODD Response Team – serving communities in Missouri and Illinois. The Kansas City team serves as the Kansas City Metropolitan Area LODD Response Team – serving communities in Missouri and Kansas.
- Efforts are underway to establish additional response teams in southwest Missouri (Springfield), southeast Missouri (Perryville) and Jefferson City/Columbia. We hope to have a team in northern Missouri at some point.



Response Teams

- No matter where a death occurs, personnel respond to assist.
- Often local officers from agencies not affected by the loss step up and assist.



The team is currently endorsed by:

- Missouri Sheriffs' Association
- Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association
- Missouri Peace Officers' Association
- Missouri Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors (COPS)
- Missouri State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police
- Missouri-Illinois Railroad Police Association
- Gateway Chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
- National Reserve Law Officers Association
- Missouri Conservation Agents Association
- Missouri Police Chiefs Association
- Emerald Society of Missouri
- International Police Association Region 8
- St. Louis Law Enforcement Exploring Association
- Missouri Police Juvenile Officers Association



Training

- Officers have attended the National Office of COPS "Traumas in Law Enforcement" course
- Officers have attended the Missouri Fire Service Funeral Assistance Team/National Fallen Firefighters Foundation "Taking Care of Our Own" course
- Officers have attended MADD's Death Notification and Victim Services classes
- We are working to bring honor guard training programs to the state
- We have the opportunity to bring a police suicide prevention program to the state.



The team is focused on bringing together and utilizing existing resources. The team has not created, for example, its own Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Teams. Rather the team has developed resource lists, and calls upon established professionals to assist as needed. The list of resources continues to grow.



Assistance Provided by the Team

- Available to answer questions or assist in funeral matters
- Team members bring necessary supplies and knowledge to assist
- Team members provide guidance to non-line of duty death incidents
- The team is there to support the fallen officer's family and agency



Assistance Rendered

The team has assisted with the following funerals:

- 8 line of duty deaths
- Over 50 memorials for retired or active duty officers who have passed away from non-duty related injury/illness
- Assisted with 3 funerals in Illinois and 3 in Kansas
- Assisted with the funeral of a retired Milwaukee police officer who was laid to rest in central Missouri
- Assisted the Missouri Fire Service team with at least 5 funerals
- Assisted with nearly a dozen funerals for fallen soldiers



What the Team Can Provide

- Honor Guard and ceremonial support
- Chaplain services
- Assistance in planning memorial services
- Garner immediate assistance from Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS)
- Referrals to critical stress debriefing teams
- Benefits expertise
- Other information and resources to assist the family and the department



What the Team Does

- Respond only when requested
- Ensure family and the department are the priority at all times
- Ask first before taking any action
- Maintain transparency and work behind the scenes
- Provide timely and accurate information
- Practice personal and team integrity
- Ensure quality over expediency
- Show empathy at all times
- Always think in terms of honor, dignity, and respect
- Have an exit strategy after the first day of the incident



What the Team Won't Do

- Self respond!
- Take over!
- Do anything without the consulting the Chief or designate and/or the family!
- Give inaccurate information!



Rules of Engagement for the Team

- Follow the mission of providing assistance and support to families and police department of fallen officers, as requested
- Provide the families and police department of fallen officers the support mechanism needed before, during and after the funeral.
- Bring expertise to the surviving family in filing for the DOJ-PSOB
- Act as a resource for the family and police department



The team has undertaken significant efforts to publicize its service and availability to agencies in the state.

A mailing was made in March, to all 650 plus law enforcement agencies in the state. This mailing, funded by EdExperts, contained a letter of introduction, brochure and poster.

This mailing also contained information on other sources of support for survivors including COPS and the Barwick-Newton Fund.



Costs associated with the team's founding and initial operations have been carried by its founding members.

An \$18,000 donation for the first response trailer was received

A First Giving page has been established.

There is NEVER a cost for such assistance for the family or agency.



The team will begin a fundraising campaign in 2012. This campaign will involve a nationwide mailing to all police manufacturers and suppliers.

- The campaign will involved levels of giving (i.e., \$10,000 or more Chief level, etc.)

This mailing will contain information on other organizations that assist survivors.

This funding will be used to fuel equipment acquisition.



The team has a three-phase development plan.

Phase 1 is the development of the team and the purchase of the response trailers.

Phase 2 is the development of additional resources (i.e., Pipe and Drum Corps).

Phase 3 is the development of resources to prevent line of duty deaths.





- Various levels of service are available
- The levels of service follow accepted protocols nationwide
- The focus of the team is on Line-of-Duty Deaths



Level One

The is the HIGHEST level of ceremony. It is reserved for officers who die as a result of line of duty incident or direct job related event. This may include members whose death has stemmed from injuries or illness directly sustained during active duty.





Level Two

This level of service is available to officers who die while an active member, but the death was not job or duty related.



Level Three

This level of service is available to inactive members that is not job or duty related or for the death of an affiliate member. For example, such services are available for retirees.



Though not part of the original intent of the team, assistance has been rendered for fallen soldiers. This involves arranging for motor/police escort of the procession, and arranging for police vehicles on top of overpasses and along roadways.



The team has also been requested to develop procedures/protocols for carrying out funeral/memorial services for police volunteers (i.e., VIPS members), as well as police service animals (i.e., canines).



- The team can assist in facilitating officer's funeral/memorial service
- Protocols can be provided to use if desired
- Incident command system is utilized. Thanks to a generous donation we now use the E-Sponder ICS Software System.
- Necessary items for the service are provided



Missouri Specific Police Funeral Guidebook

- Extensive document has been developed as a guide for conducting police funerals in the State of Missouri
- Contains resource information, contact information, and benefit information
- Will soon include information on various ethnic and culture mourning practices
- Is available free of charge to all law enforcement agencies statewide



Resources

The team hopes to have six fully stocked response trailers positioned across the state. The trailers will be stocked with most items a department would need to assist with the funeral ceremonies. All items would be available for use for any law enforcement officer's funeral, with priority given to LODD ceremonies. Each trailer, fully stocked, is estimated to cost \$25,000. There is currently one trailer in service, a second trailer has just been acquired, and the acquisition of a third trailer is pending.



Resource Trailer





Resource Trailer Contents

- 1 full set of Funeral Bunting
- Casket sized American Flag (for LODD use)
- 2 Flag cords to hold flag to casket
- 10 Detail Officer Arm ID bands
- Portable public address system
- American and Missouri 4x6 Parade flags with bases and carriers
- COPS and National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund Flag
- Military branch flags (for Veterans/Active Service personnel)
- 30 sets pallbearer gloves
- 30 dozen disposable white gloves
- Mourning band badge covers
- Ceremonial weapons for honor guard use
- Other items as well


MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Once all 6 trailers are in place, they will be made available to surrounding states for Line of Duty Deaths. This includes:

- Arkansas
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Nebraska
- Oklahoma
- Tennessee


MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Benefits Assistance

If requested, assistance can be provided with completing necessary paperwork for benefits for the fallen officer's family. Such services are provided by members of the Missouri Chapter of Concerns of Police Survivors, as well as team members.




MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Additional Services

In planning the development of the team, it was found that there is a significant need to organize resources that are needed to support carrying out a law enforcement funeral in the state.




MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Missouri Police Pipe and Drum Corps



- Organize police bagpipe and drum players across the state
- Assist with training as necessary
- Develop a resource list of existing police pipe, drum and bugle players
- Develop a unified pipe and drum corps to represent all Missouri law enforcement officers at national events
- Purchase supplies/trailers for the state's pipe and drum team
- Compensate pipe and drum players as needed
- www.mopolicypipeanddrum.org


MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Missouri Police Honor Guard Corps

- Develop honor guard resource list
- Assist with training as necessary
- Purchase and equip a trailer to support honor guard resources.
- Establish contacts to provide honor guard for agencies without such
- Develop a team of officers to represent all Missouri officers at national events
- Develop a mounted honor guard to represent officers statewide




MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Missouri Police Chaplains Corps



- Develop resource list
- Provide contacts for families and departments as needed



Missouri Police Motorcade Group

- Develop resource list
- Establish contacts to provide motorcade for agencies without such
- Purchase a trailer for motor officer use.
- Continue to provide motor officers with American and National Law Enforcement Officer Memorial Fund flags for display during escorts and other details.





Police Funeral Team Website



- www.mopolicefuneral.org
- We are working to further develop the website to be a resource for families and agencies for police funerals
- Funeral planning document templates, sample funeral plans, and resource lists will soon be available on-line
- The team also maintains other social media sites, including a Facebook page to build awareness and support for its operations
- The team now utilizes Constant Contact to send out information.



National Police Funeral Team Alliance

- We are currently assisting other regions and states in establishing teams (Arizona, Massachusetts, USFS Law Enforcement Branch, US Air Marshals)
- The leadership of the Missouri team is working to create a national network of teams to ensure all officers receive appropriate funeral/memorial services



Phase 3

During Phase 3 of the team's development we will seek to develop resources/programs to prevent officer injuries and death.



- The team has received significant recognition nationwide.
- The team has been featured in American Police Beat, on the IACP.net, PERF Newsletter and in numerous other publications.



This includes the development of:

- Roadway safety trailer/program
- Ballistic vest use trailer/program
- Officer health awareness trailer/program (Fit for Duty)
- Police suicide awareness and prevention trailer/program (officerinneedofaid.org)

The trailers will be available to all surrounding states.



The team will also seek to develop a trailer/
exhibit entitled "Ultimate Sacrifice."
This trailer will be available to travel across
the state to community events and the like,
and will show citizens the sacrifices officers
of this state have made.



A Chief's Perspective

Comments from
Chief Rich Schardan
Maryville (IL) Police Department



How Can You Start a Team:

- Network with existing teams
- Ask for help
- Work with members of Concerns of Police Survivors
- Align with other agencies in your region/state



MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Questions/Comments



MISSOURI LAW ENFORCEMENT
FUNERAL ASSISTANCE TEAM
ESTABLISHED 2008

Contact Information:

Sgt. Scott Barthelmass
Founder/President
(314) 565-2480
scott@mopicefuneral.org
