



Police Psychological Services Section

International Association of Chiefs of Police

March 2001

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Michael G. Gelles, Psy.D.
Chief Psychologist
US Naval Criminal Investigative Service

I must first apologize for a delay in the newsletter. Judging by the sparse communication I have received from other members, we all must be busy with our own worlds.

One of the tasks delegated to the chair by IACP is talking to reporters from all over the country about police psychology issues. Topics are typically linked to officer-involved incidents and issues related to police behavior, but the inquiries can be diverse. Given that police psychology has become a specialty with many areas of expertise, no one of us can be an expert in all areas. Therefore, I am requesting e-mails from those of you who would be interested in talking with reporters about your areas of expertise. The issues can range from police suicide, police stress, police domestic violence, and police misconduct to hostage negotiations, cold case homicide, and school violence.

I recommend that when you speak with reporters, you represent the whole issue and not just your opinion. We are educating the media on all sides of the issue. To echo Gary Kaufmann's position last year, "I try to dispel the public concept of 'cookie-cutter' police officers and point to research generalizations that stem from studies conducted in single police departments." A good example is the recent debate on the impact of critical incident stress debriefing on police officers and the ramifications of the Supreme Court ruling in *Jaffe v. Redmond*. Another interesting issue to surface is a recent New Jersey Supreme Court decision that a physician who found evidence of a life threatening condition during an employer-required pre-service physical was under legal obligation to disclose the findings to the applicant in spite of the absence of a patient relationship. The ramifications for psychologists are clearly present. I recommend that we address this issue at our next meeting

I would encourage you to be careful when reporting research information to the media and the public. I know that we can't be responsible for what ends up in the media and that reporters won't often be thrilled with the

facts. However, we can take pride in not having played into the sensationalism.

Recently, I have had some dialogue with the editors of the *Police Chief* who have asked that I, as the chair, serve as a reviewer for articles to be published in the magazine. The articles cover a wide spectrum of issues that reflect different areas of expertise. If you are interested in reviewing articles, send me an e-mail identifying the area in which you would be interested in participating as a reviewer. The areas of interest appear to be in selection, peer counseling, and critical incident debriefing.

2000 San Diego Conference

I apologize for not reporting sooner on the great conference we had in San Diego. We had excellent attendance by members, and the room was filled with chiefs during our Saturday/Sunday in-service training. Thanks to John Nicolletti for coordinating an outstanding program.

Suzanne Best has made available copies of the instruments referenced in her San Diego presentation concerning post-traumatic stress. Please contact Kim Kohlhepp if you would like a copy.

During the business session, a number of items were discussed. First, we again had a significant number of applications for membership. While I don't believe we broke any records this year our membership continues to grow. Second, while Mike Gelles reported on the disappointing outcome of attempts to secure funding for the Police Suicide Project, others sources were explored to include NIOSH, CDC, and NIH. We also considered orienting the study as a "Police Mortality Study." Third, the Racial Profiling Committee continues to work with chiefs by preparing scenarios and conducting evaluation programs. Finally, the Peer Support Guidelines were revised and passed by the membership.

The 2001 Workshop Proposal Form is now available on line at the IACP Web site (<http://www.theiacp.org/conference/annual/2001/workshopinfo.htm>). If you would like the Psychological Services Section to sponsor your presentation, please forward all proposals to Audrey Honig prior to submission. I also encourage members to forward to Audrey any in-service proposals for the section meeting in Toronto.

We would like to thank the following members for their contributions for the hospitality suite and cocktail party in San Diego:

Alexis Artwohl
Al Benner
Steve Curran
Mike Gelles
David Hill

Darlene Hoyt
Ellyn Kirshman
Glen Peterson
Jim Shaw

Please consider sending early donations to Kim Kohlhepp for Toronto to help with planning for an equally successful get-together. Checks should be made payable to IACP.

Board Officers for 2000



Michael Gelles, Psy.D. – Chair

Andrew Ryan, Ph.D. – Vice Chair

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Welcome New Members



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