

# SUBJECT TO DEBATE

A NEWSLETTER OF THE POLICE EXECUTIVE RESEARCH FORUM



**Obama Budget Devotes  
10 Percent of DOJ Funding to  
State and Local Agencies**

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## DEA, ATF, ICE, and Mexican and U.S. Chiefs Discuss the Mexican Drug Cartel Violence

THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE IN MEXICO STEMMING from President Felipe Calderón's decision to crack down on drug cartels was the subject of a 90-minute session at PERF's Annual Meeting on March 26 in Washington, D.C.

PERF members heard a wide range of perspectives on the violence in Mexico, and how it is beginning to spread to U.S. cities. The panelists were:

- **Luis Carlos Nájera Gutiérrez De Velasco**, who heads the police force in the Mexican state of Jalisco;
- **Nelson Vargas**, resident agent in charge of the DEA in Guadelajara, Mexico;
- **Zoran Yankovich**, special agent in charge of the DEA in Houston;
- Chief **Jack Harris**, Phoenix Police Department;
- Deputy Chief **Charlie Beck**, Los Angeles Police Department;
- **William McMahon**, deputy assistant director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; and
- **John Woods**, deputy assistant director, Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

(From left) Charlie Beck, Luis Carlos Nájera, John Woods, Jack Harris, William McMahon, Nelson Vargas, and Zoran Yankovich



PERF Executive Director Chuck Wexler moderated the session. Following are excerpts of the discussion:

**JACK HARRIS:** Phoenix is one of the key distribution points in the United States for illegal narcotics—as well as one of the key locations for bringing illegal immigrants into the country and moving them throughout the United States to different workplaces.

Last year, we had 368 kidnappings and 337 home invasions. The kidnappings are almost entirely related to narcotics and human smuggling. It's bad-guy-on-bad-guy, disputes among drug dealers in which they take a hostage and torture him in order to get money from the victim's family. A call comes in to the Police Department from the victim's family, and while we are on the phone, the victim is being tortured by his captors, and the family is being told to bring up to a half-million dollars immediately or they will kill the family's loved one.

We also have a problem with smuggling of people into the country by these people known as "coyotes." Mexicans hire a smuggler to bring them into the country, and pay maybe \$1,500 a head to come into the country illegally. And then after they've crossed the border, they're taken to a drop house. We've had 50 to 100 illegal immigrants crammed into a house in July, when it's 110 degrees in Phoenix. There's no air conditioning in the house, no food, no water, no facilities of any type. And sometimes these illegal immigrants are held hostage and tortured while the coyotes call their family members and demand that they bring >> continued on page 4

# Ending the “War on Drugs”: This Will Not Be a Walk in the Park

MY COLLEAGUE GIL KERLIKOWSKE, WHO IS NOW President Obama’s drug czar, got some attention lately when he said we should stop talking about the “war on drugs” because people in a lot of communities across the country interpret that term as a war on *them*.

No matter how you try to explain that the war is against a harmful product, “people see it as a war on them,” Gil said. “We’re not at war with people in this country.”

In other words, Gil is explaining that the Obama Administration wants to promote drug treatment, as opposed to sending drug users to jail. At the same time, he has made clear that the Administration has no interest in legalizing drugs. “Legalization isn’t in the President’s vocabulary, and it certainly isn’t in mine,” Gil said to a meeting of policing officials in Nashville.

I agree with Chief Kerlikowske, and wish him success in making this change in policy. I also think he’s got a tough job ahead of him, because these drug issues get very complicated. It’s a hell of a lot easier said than done.

Clearly, for people who are addicted to drugs or who use them recreationally, the criminal justice system is not the best way of handling the problem. We’d be better off giving these people treatment. But having said that, my experience is that treatment isn’t all it’s made out to be. Just like treatment for alcohol abuse, drug treatment comes with some pretty high failure rates.

Back when I was commissioner in Philadelphia, we would conduct big drug operations where we would lock a lot of people up. The people selling drugs, the ones making a profit from the drug trade, we would arrest. As for the users, we got permission from the district attorney to have drug treatment people at the scene, and we would tell the users, “You can either come to jail with us, or you can go over there and sign up for a treatment program.” A lot of them signed up, and we had some success. We never really followed through to see how successful we were, but it was a step in the right direction.

So we were using the lever of the criminal justice system to push into treatment these people who, when you come right down to it, are sick. And I think that’s a worthy use of the criminal justice system.

The other day I was reading a new study from the Cato Institute about the situation in Portugal, where they decriminalized all drugs in 2001—not just marijuana, but cocaine and heroin too. And according to the study, the results over the last eight years have been quite impressive. Rates of drug use in Portugal now compare favorably to other counties in the European Union, especially those with tough drug criminalization laws, the study says. And the drug-related pathologies, like sexually transmitted diseases and deaths caused by drug abuse—have declined dramatically in Portugal, according to this study.

This is not exactly new; for a long time, many of the advocates of drug decriminalization have come from the libertarian wing of the right, people like William F. Buckley and Milton

Friedman. They say, Why are you wasting government resources? If people decide they want to be alcoholics or drug users, it’s their business, and so on.

But I don’t see legalization gaining traction in this country. For one thing, if you legalize drugs, there goes the whole notion of using the criminal justice system as a lever to encourage people to go to a treatment program.

And another thing to consider is that if anyone in the United States wants to talk about legalization, they’d better make sure it’s not just five white guys sitting around a table pushing it. They’d better involve some mothers and fathers from the minority communities that are hardest hit by drugs, or else they’ll find they’re being accused of genocide. There’s a certain amount of suspicion within minority communities about this. I’ve been to meetings all the time where people say, “Look, this cocaine, this heroin is not being grown here in Miami. It’s coming in from Latin America, from Afghanistan, and it’s the federal government that is letting it into the United States, because you want to kill us.” I have heard that from very rational people at community meetings. At least one member of Congress I know of has expressed those sentiments.

For those of us in policing, for the average cop, when we end up taking actions against drug dealers and users, it’s not because John Timoney woke up one morning and said, “Starting today, let’s go hit such-and-such a location.” It’s usually the result of a community meeting where a mother stands up and says, “My daughter can’t walk to school or go to the store without passing these crackheads or stepping over used needles and condoms.” You have all this assorted ugliness that goes along with drug use, and they are legitimate concerns.

So the question becomes, who would you have address those concerns except the police? Even though police are sympathetic to the idea of drug treatment, we still have to respond to community pressure. If I go into a meeting tonight or tomorrow night in Little Havana or Liberty City, if open-air drug dealing is not the very first topic of conversation, it’ll be number two. So it’s police officials who often find themselves caught in the middle. We’re sympathetic, and we understand that some of these people on drugs are just unfortunates. But at the end of the day, it’s illegal, and people have a right to demand, and they do demand, that police do something about it. Decent people shouldn’t have to live in the awful conditions caused by drug abuse.

So as an academic exercise, drug policies are interesting to talk about. And when that academic exercise runs head-on into the realities of the street, it gets more interesting. I’m very sympathetic to where Gil Kerlikowske is coming from. And I think there’s a huge need for community involvement in helping the Obama Administration to articulate what our new policies will be.



Chief John F. Timoney, PERF President

# Obama Budget Devotes 10 Percent of DOJ Funding To State and Local Agencies

PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS SINGALED AN INTENTION to reinvigorate the federal government's commitment to state and local police and other criminal justice agencies with his first budget proposal, which he released on May 7. The budget, for the 2010 fiscal year, which begins October 1 of this year, includes a \$510.6-million increase in aid to state and local law enforcement.

In fact, the Administration's budget proposal for the U.S. Justice Department calls for a total of \$2.6 billion for state and local assistance—approximately 10 percent of the department's entire budget.

"The President's budget request demonstrates both a dedication to protecting our national security and a renewed commitment to the Justice Department's traditional missions," Attorney General Eric Holder said in releasing the budget plan. "In these tough economic times, it's more important than ever that we remain vigilant in the fight against crime while never relaxing our guard in the battle against global terrorism."

The President's budget proposal is only the first step in the process of funding the federal government; Congress spends the spring and summer revising the proposal, aiming to complete action by October 1. In some cases, Congress approves the exact dollar amount the President requests for a given program; but often a President's proposals are modified or entirely ignored by Congress. In the case of funding for state and local police, Congress largely honored President Obama's requests earlier this year during consideration of the special economic stimulus bill.

## BJA TO RAMP UP FUNDING FOR PRISONER REENTRY

The Justice Department said that one new priority for the Obama Administration in 2010 will be helping prison inmates and other criminal offenders make a successful reentry to society following their release.

"The most recent national-level recidivism study shows that two-thirds of ex-offenders released in 1994 came back into contact with the criminal justice system within three years of their release," the Justice Department said in a fact sheet on its budget proposal. "Increased funding will be used to provide drug treatment, mentoring, and other transitional services to help ex-offenders successfully integrate into society and lead productive lives."

Specifically, the budget includes \$100 million in funding to implement the Second Chance Act, a law that Congress approved last year aimed at reducing recidivism rates and helping offenders establish themselves in productive lives.

The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), which already began implementing the Second Chance Act with \$25 million in Fiscal Year 2009 funding, will manage the \$100-million program in 2010.

Other BJA programs in the President's Budget include:

- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants**—Byrne/JAG grants would receive \$519 million in 2010 under the President's budget. This is a \$27-million decrease from the \$546 million provided in 2009; however, this program recently received an additional \$2 billion under the stimulus bill.

- **Coverdell Grants**—The Administration's budget calls for \$35 million in 2010 for the Coverdell program, which awards grants to state and local governments to improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. That is a \$10-million increase over the funding level in 2009.

- **Special Courts**—Funding for drug courts, mental health courts, and problem-solving courts would be increased from \$50 million in 2009 to \$59 million in 2010. The Justice Department noted that this funding will help state, local, and tribal governments develop systemwide responses to offenders with underlying social and psychological issues that the traditional justice system is not designed to address effectively.

## \$298 MILLION FOR COPS HIRING

The President's budget calls for \$298 million for the COPS hiring program, which received no funding in the regular 2009 appropriation bill. However, COPS received \$1 billion to fund the hiring of local and state police in the stimulus bill. If Congress approves the \$298 million for 2010, the Justice Department expects that the stimulus bill and 2010 funding combined will fund more than 7,000 officers. In announcing the President's budget plan, the Justice Department again noted that the Administration is committed to eventually providing funding to communities across the country to begin hiring 50,000 police officers.

## CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY SLATED FOR MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

Other programs and agencies affected by the budget plan include the following:

- **Bureau of Justice Statistics**—BJS would receive \$60 million in 2010, an increase of \$15 million over 2009. The increase would go toward modernization of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). The survey is one of the nation's two major methods of measuring crime; the other is the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. While the UCR tallies reports of crime that are made to local police departments, the crime victimization survey is designed to measure victimizations whether or not they are reported to police. However, "NCVS does not produce statistically reliable yearly data on victimizations at the state and local level necessary to inform policy decisions," the Justice Department said. "This funding [increase] will provide BJS with the ability to identify and test various methodological improvements to redesign the program to provide better sub-national data, [and] more current information on emerging trends and issues."

- **National Institute of Justice**—NIJ would receive \$48 million in 2010 under the President's plan, the same as in 2009.

- **Regional Information Sharing System**—RISS would receive \$45 million in 2010, the same as in 2009.

- **State Criminal Alien Assistance Program**—The Obama Administration asked Congress to zero out the SCAAP program, which received \$400 million in 2009. SCAAP partially reimburses certain state prisons and county jails for the costs of incarcerating illegal aliens who have committed crimes in the United States. The Justice Department said that the program "does not help states and communities combat crime."

However, Congress may reject this proposal; Sen. Dianne Feinstein, for example, who serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee as well as the Appropriations

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another \$1,000 or \$2,000 or whatever they can, before they will release the immigrant. We have had shootouts on our streets during the middle of rush-hour traffic between coyotes, with their vans full of people and other coyotes trying to steal the “load.”

The people in this room may not understand the depth of the violence and the inhumanity that is being inflicted on these people who are coming here to try to work. We’re having women raped, men sodomized, car batteries with water and electrical torture, barbed wire wrapped around victims. It’s absolutely unbelievable what these people are going through.

We created a task force to deal just with the kidnappings, because they are extremely manpower-intensive. Because the victim is being tortured and sometimes killed as the family members listen on the phone, we’ll have 40 to 60 officers working one kidnapping, desperately trying to locate the victim. We created a Home Invasion and Kidnapping Enforcement Task Force (HIKE), and one of the reasons I’m in Washington now is to go to Capitol Hill and ask for support from COPS and the various grant programs, to increase the number of people working the HIKE unit by another 25 percent.

**CHARLIE BECK:** Jack’s scenario is exactly what we are trying to avoid in Los Angeles. We’ve had coyote kidnappings for many years, but we really haven’t had the cartel-type kidnappings until this year when we did have our first one. This prompted us to reach out to Jack’s department and the rest of Southwestern law enforcement and put together a conference on the specialized units. We’re all worried that this is going to become a very viable avenue for criminals as money starts to run out in Mexico or as things destabilize there.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** So when the President of Mexico announces that he’s going to take on the cartels, does that make it better in the United States or worse?

**ZORAN YANKOVICH:** There are some very positive things happening in the United States. For the first time in decades, we’re seeing a sustained increase in price and decrease in purity of drugs. Less drugs are available, which drives the price up and the purity down. If they have only half the drugs, they cut it down with another chemical and can still sell it at twice the price, because the demand is still there but the supply is not available.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** Nelson, you worked in Colombia for a time. People are saying that Mexico is going where Colombia used to be. Is that right?

**NELSON VARGAS:** That’s absolutely correct. It has that same feeling. When President [Alvaro] Uribe in Colombia put his foot down and said, “There’s going to be change in this country,” it brought fights and blood and tons of chaos. And this is what’s happening in Mexico. Calderón took this position that he no longer wanted to be part of the old agreement between the government and cartels. He’s putting his foot down.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** But not as many people in Mexico were getting killed before, so the people of Mexico are asking whether this is a good thing or a bad thing.

**NELSON VARGAS:** The cartels don’t want change, they want the old arrangements. But that involved a lot of corruption. That is changing now in Mexico.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** So it’s a matter of things having to get worse before they get better?

**NELSON VARGAS:** That’s correct.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** Bill McMahon, the other side of the Mexican drug cartel story is the guns being taken from the United States into Mexico.

**WILLIAM MCMAHON:** It’s supply and demand. The Mexican cartels have a demand for firearms, and the United States is the supplier. The weapons of choice of the cartels are the high-caliber, high-capacity handguns and rifles. The AK-47 variants, the AR-15 variants, the 5.7-mm pistols and rifles, the .40- and .45-caliber handguns.

ATF is stepping up action on the border through our Project Gunrunner initiative, our intelligence-led policing, our inspections of licensed gun dealers in the United States. There are almost 60,000 licensed gun dealers, including 6,700 along the Mexican border. Through our inspections process, we get in there, look at their records, see who’s buying weapons, and do some proactive intelligence work that we call forward tracing. We try to find out who is buying large quantities of those weapons of choice.

We also do reactive intelligence work with the guns that are recovered in Mexico in connection with crimes. We trace and determine where they came from. We estimate from the successful traces that over 90 percent of the firearms are coming from the United States, and we develop tracking patterns of exactly where they are coming from. Obviously the source states along the border—Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California—are the largest suppliers. But the tentacles of this are all over the country, and we’re finding large pockets of firearms coming from Washington State, Illinois, Georgia, and Florida.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** Why do the Mexican cartels need to buy smuggled U.S. guns?

**WILLIAM MCMAHON:** There are no legal firearms in Mexico. The only people who can possess firearms over .38 caliber are military or police. Mexico’s gun laws are stricter than any state in the United States. They pay five to six times the value here in the United States. So a smuggled AK-47 goes for \$5,000 in Mexico. It starts with a straw purchaser in the United States who has a clean record, who buys it from a U.S. dealer and makes maybe \$50 or \$100 for that one gun. They supply it to a trafficker who gets it across the border and makes a few hundred dollars per gun. And they get it to a distributor of firearms in Mexico, who gets the rest of the profits.

Another big aspect of this is that if you have firearms, you need ammunition. Obviously the United States is the big source of ammunition. And ammunition is not regulated; it doesn’t have serial numbers on it. So we see cases all the time at gun shows or border dealers where a person will come across the border, walk into a store, and buy 25,000 rounds of 7.62-mm ammo and then return across the border into Mexico with it.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** John, I read in the paper that DHS Secretary Napolitano announced that ICE is now checking cars going south into Mexico, and that this is something new.

**JOHN WOODS:** We’ve been stepping up our outbound inspections as part of Secretary Napolitano’s new Southwest Border Initiative. Typically, you get freedom of movement to leave the United States. There is no uniform exit control, because that could be exploited by



(From left) Chief Luis Carlos Nájera Gutiérrez de Velasco, William McMahon of ATF, and Phoenix Chief Jack Harris

criminal organizations. But we've been stepping up coordinated inspections with Customs and Border Protection, searching for bulk cash or weapons because as the panelists have said, they're part of the continuing crime cycle of drug smuggling on the Southwest Border. With the pressures that are being put on Mexican drug smugglers, it has become much more risky and expensive to smuggle drugs. So they're raising the prices of drugs, cutting the quality, and using extortion and hostage-taking to squeeze more money out of loads. They're also going to LA and preying on communities with large numbers of illegal aliens to get them to join gangs and sell the drugs. At ICE we try to see these not as individual crimes, but as part of a continuing crime; we look at the whole pipeline.

As part of ICE's effort to thwart arms smuggling southbound, ICE has investigative operations such as Armas Cruzadas and Operation Firewall and leads the Border Enforcement Security Taskforce (BEST) to investigate and stop smuggling southbound. As part of these efforts ICE works with CBP by providing intelligence on persons and vehicles that may be carrying contraband across the border southbound.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** Chief Najera, how long have you been in law enforcement in Mexico?

**LUIS CARLOS NÁJERA:** 21 years in law enforcement, beginning as a police officer and eight years as chief—first in the capital city of Guadalajara, and now for the state of Jalisco.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** When your President changes policy and announces he is going after the cartels, how does that impact what you do?

**LUIS CARLOS NÁJERA:** All has changed. Years ago, they had a pact. The different cartels had their own territory and would sell and work in their own areas. But the last two, three years, the cartels have been fighting for all the territory.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** With an AK-47 selling for \$5,000 and a kilo of cocaine for as much as \$50,000, there must be a tremendous temptation for the Mexican police.

**LUIS CARLOS NÁJERA:** We need to pay our police officers better. Street-level police in some states make \$200 a month. We are working for pay increases, like \$800 a month. We are working with polygraph tests of officers. We know we have many police officers who are working for different cartels. Many people have fear. The cartels use not only AK-47s; they have hand grenades, grenade launchers, .50-calibers. We have 15 police officers dead in Jalisco because they are pushing the police to make an arrangement.

But we need to do what we are doing now to make a better future for our people. We have the problem in Mexico with more and more people going to the drugs, more young people. This is a huge problem now in Mexico. We are losing the values of family, respect.

Twenty years ago, when you asked the kids what they wanted to be when they grow older, they would say, fireman, police officer. Many kids now want to be drug dealers. They see the money, they see the big cars, the beautiful ladies.

Many people in Mexico are afraid now. They don't want to see the problem. We need to fight against that. We are asking for anonymous calls about crime, and we see the change, because the people more than ever are calling and saying, "I see something wrong. I see people with guns."

We are trying to make a better future for Mexico. We can't turn our head to the other side. We need to make a challenge, face to face to the drug cartels.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** Nelson, what's it like to be a police chief in Mexico today?

**NELSON VARGAS:** It's a tough job. [Chief Nájera] has already received two offers from the cartels. They want protection. If there's going to be any action against the cartels, they want to know ahead of time. Or if they need to go through a certain town, they need to know they won't be stopped or arrested. Twice they've approached him and said, "You can only say no a few times before we will take action against you." They've told him they know where he lives, they know about his family, they know everything about him, they even know the names of his trusted bodyguards. When we talk on the phone, we talk in code, and we try not to talk at all. We don't mention names, or if we do, we don't use the real names of persons. We have intelligence that the cartels have purchased what they call wolf packs, which are listening devices to capture conversations. They do their own intel on us, and we have to be very careful.

**CHUCK WEXLER:** You must have concerns for your own safety.

**NELSON VARGAS:** It's a hairy situation. I was in New York City in the early 80s; I worked with Bill McMahon on the firearms task force, I went to Bogota and saw the changes there, but I've never seen as many guns in my life as I've seen in Mexico. They're definitely into the weapons. We had a seizure recently where we recovered rockets, grenades, .50-caliber sniper rifles. These guys are not playing.

And yet, it was an amazing change in Colombia, with excellent cooperation between us and the government. And this is what's happening in Mexico. It's an amazing thing when you're there, and you see that the people want the change, they want to move forward, they want to get rid of this problem, even though they know that more people will die before it's over.

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# “NamUs” Database Combines Information About Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains

BY ERIN C. JONES

THE FBI'S NATIONAL CRIME INFORMATION CENTER (NCIC) has more than 100,000 active entries in its Missing Persons (MP) file, and more than 40,000 sets of unidentified human remains are held in the evidence rooms of medical examiners throughout the country, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

However, of these 40,000 remains, currently only about 6,900 are listed in NCIC's Unidentified Persons (UP) File. The fact that such a large number of people are considered missing at any given time and that only 17 percent of unidentified remains are documented in NCIC creates a major challenge for law enforcement investigating these cases. This problem has been described as the “Silent Mass Disaster” by Nancy Ritter, a writer at the National Institute of Justice.

To combat this problem, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, also known as NamUs, was established in 2007. This system was developed to provide cutting-edge search capabilities, information exchange between agencies, matching capability between unidentified remains records and missing persons records, and ultimately to permit the public and professionals to work together.

In its current set-up, NamUs provides two databases: one for Missing Persons reports and the other for Unidentified Remains reports. The NamUs system allows law enforcement officials, family members of missing persons, and medical examiners/coroners to provide case information. All information regarding Unidentified Remains becomes “owned” and managed by the medical examiners/coroners of record. Missing person cases may be created by anyone but will become owned by the case manager, which is most commonly law enforcement. This feature is extremely helpful since it saves law enforcement time entering cases but provides them with the ability to manage and update the case as needed. It also allows the public to be involved with finding their missing loved ones. Allowing the public and police and other professionals to work together is an entirely new concept being used for the first time in NamUs.

There are many safeguards present in the system to make sure that all the cases entered are in fact legitimate. People can register, using an online application, to become a NamUs user in the categories of Law Enforcement, Public, Medical Examiners/Coroners, Odontologist, or Anthropologist users. These registrations will then be reviewed, and the user status will either be activated or denied by a Regional System Administrator (RSA). The RSA's job is to contact the applicant's listed agency and make sure that applicants are who they say they are. Upon acceptance into the NamUs system, users are given specific access to different features of the system depending on their user status and geographic jurisdiction. The RSAs are also in charge of ensuring that the cases entered into NamUs by public users are actual cases confirmed with the local police department. Law enforcement and medical examiner/coroner users are able to add cases to the system without verification.

Another advantage of NamUs is that it is funded through the U.S. Department of Justice. This funding allows for free services to the user, such as DNA testing at the University of North Texas and free examinations by forensic odontologists and forensic anthropologists.

DNA testing, which can cost \$1,295 for skeletal samples, \$995 for regular swab samples, \$1,495 for mtDNA family reference swab samples, and \$50 for DNA test kits, are provided free to the NamUs users. The system also provides free system training to larger agencies if needed.

The NamUs system provides a wealth of resources to users. This system is being continuously updated with enhancements, and this year it is



Erin Jones


on track to provide users with automatic cross-searching between the two databases present in the system. The future plans of the system also include having the ability to exchange data between several justice systems at the state and local levels.

For further information, please check out [namus.gov](http://namus.gov). 

Erin C. Jones is a forensic science analyst with System Planning Corporation. She earned a master of science degree in forensic science at Stevenson University. She uses NamUs to help match missing persons and unidentified remains.

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Committee, immediately issued a statement criticizing this provision of the Obama budget. California is home to approximately 32 percent of the nation's illegal immigrants, Senator Feinstein said, and the state spent over \$960 million in 2008 to house criminal aliens. The state received approximately \$118 million in SCAAP funding that year.

“Immigration is a total federal responsibility,” Feinstein said. “By failing to reimburse states and local governments for the cost of incarcerating criminal aliens, the federal government deprives communities of critical funding for public safety services. We cannot afford to let our public safety services crumble under the weight of our immigration policies, especially during this time of economic uncertainty. I am committed to restoring the funding for this essential program.” 




**CHUCK WEXLER:** Jack, if you could have anything to deal with this situation, what would you want most?

**JACK HARRIS:** The first thing would be a comprehensive immigration policy, so we can separate out the issues of day laborers as opposed to the human smugglers and narcotics people. And the other thing I would want is doing away with the demand for drugs. Because we in the United States are creating this problem ourselves by buying drugs from Mexico.

*During the Q-and-A following the panelists' presentations, Savannah, Ga. Chief Michael Berkow offered another perspective:*

**MIKE BERKOW:** I have the best DEA person in Savannah that I've worked with in years, but the problem is that even when his team makes great arrests and they raise the price—a kilo of cocaine in Savannah has gone from around \$20,000 over the last eight months to \$30,000—that does not translate to an addict not being able to go to the corner of Drayton and 37th Street and buying a \$20 bag of cocaine.

What it does bring is a whole series of crimes around that increase in price and decrease in quality. It brings dealer-on-dealer violence—"You sold me bad dope" or "I'm ripping you off for your stash." It's a series of consequences that I think every local cop recognizes; I see some chiefs nodding their heads. That's the world we live in.

So I think one of the challenges for us in the United States is this disconnect between our federal agencies and the local police and how we measure success. When my local DEA SAC gets evaluated, it's on how many keys did they seize, and what's the price of cocaine, and how many arrests they made, but he's not evaluated by my crime rate. And my violent crime rate is absolutely affected. I've got the same kind of violence going on as Jack Harris does in Phoenix. Out of my couple hundred home invasions last year, 98 percent of them were drug-related. The more effective DEA is at raising the price and seizing the product, it still doesn't translate to people not being able to buy coke on the street level, and it absolutely translates into crime realities for me. I think there's got to be a better connection between how the federal agencies measure success, coupled with the realities of us at the local level, where we're looking at crime rates and the impacts of violent crime. 

## Toronto Chief William Blair Joins PERF Board of Directors



**PERF is pleased to announce that Toronto Chief of Police William Blair has agreed to serve as an at-large member of the PERF board of directors.** This position is appointed by the other members of the board.

Chief Blair was appointed to the top position in the Toronto Police Service in April 2005. The department employs more than 5,500 officers and 2,000 civilians, and is the largest municipal police service in Canada, serving a city with a population of 2.6 million.

Blair started his 30 year policing career as a beat officer in downtown Toronto, and continued with assignments in drug enforcement, organized crime units, and major criminal investigations. As chief of police, he oversaw the development of the Toronto Anti-Violence Intervention Strategy (TAVIS) to combat violent crime; rapid-response teams are deployed to at-risk neighborhoods to increase enforcement and support local policing initiatives.

Blair holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Toronto with dual disciplines of economics and criminology, and a certificate in law enforcement administration from the University of Toronto. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Police Leadership Program of the University of Toronto, the Rotman School of Business Management, and National Executive Institute.

## SAVE THE DATE (July 22): National Summit on Local Immigration Policies

**PERF, with support from the Carnegie Corporation, will convene a national summit on law enforcement and immigration in Phoenix on Wednesday, July 22, 2009.** This meeting will allow federal government officials and national policy makers to engage police chiefs and local political leaders in a discussion of the effects of immigration on local law enforcement agencies. This summit is being convened to ensure that the expertise and knowledge of police leaders are used to shape responsible policy in local communities as well as at the national level. More information will be posted on the PERF website in the near future.



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