

# C.O.P. TALK

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Eastern Kentucky University

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## A Message From Our Associate Director...

As the newest member of the RCPI staff at Eastern Kentucky University, I would like to introduce myself to our *C.O.P. Talk* readers. I joined the RCPI as Associate Director on June 1, 1999. After twenty-four years with the Louisville Division of Police, I retired on May 31, 1999 from my position as Deputy Chief of Operations. I am looking forward to the new challenges of my position with the RCPI and am especially interested in meeting law enforcement officials throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

As a former police officer and law enforcement executive responsible for overseeing the community policing efforts of an urban police agency, I have been a proponent of training for all police officers in problem solving and community partnerships. As Associate Director, I am committed to the vision of the RCPI in continuing the improvement in the quality of police services in Kentucky through the development and delivery of quality training of community policing, the assessment of training and its implementation, and by serving as a resource to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Currently, collaborative efforts between the RCPI and the Department of Criminal Justice Training (DOCJT) have resulted in the development of new curricula and training in several courses. Recruit officers are currently receiving training on the problem solving model known as "CAPRA" (Clients-Acquire/Analyze Information-Partnerships-Response-Assessment), which was originally developed as a learning tool for problem solving by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

A 40-hour course entitled "Domestic Violence/Adult Sexual Assault" is currently being taught to police officers in in-service training throughout Kentucky. This training was developed to address the police response to domestic violence and adult sexual assault. Primary emphasis is placed on problem solving and working with domestic violence service providers within the community.

Another course, entitled "Managing Change," has been designed to assist police managers and supervisors in adapting to changes resulting from the adoption of new policing strategies and from the redesign of basic training. This course, consisting of 16 hours of training, has been offered for in-service training since March.

The RCPI, in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice Training, will be sponsoring the Kentucky Crime Summit in October. Topics for this two-day conference will include crime prevention as it relates to school safety, Juvenile Justice and developing guidelines and profiles for identifying potential violent students or groups operating within schools. More information will be forthcoming on the Crime Summit in the next month.

In closing, I would like to thank my predecessor, Mitchell Smith, for his commitment to the RCPI and community policing. Mitchell left March 31st to take a position as Law Enforcement Liaison for the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police. I wish him well in his new endeavors.

Cindy Shain  
Associate Director

## Community-Based Training

Community-based training is well underway. The goal of the RCPI this year has been to involve the police officials, citizens and resource representatives of twenty communities in problem solving using the CAPRA problem solving model. This program, which is coordinated by the Kentucky League of Cities, involves three visits to each community by RCPI training specialists.

Day 1 training provides an historical perspective of policing in America, information on the principles and elements of community policing, and a presentation of the CAPRA problem solving model. Groups are formed and problems are identified. Day 2 is scheduled two weeks later when RCPI staff members return to the training site and the group work continues. Throughout Day 2, members of the groups work together to develop responses to their individual group's problems. Day 3 involves a reconvening of all participants, approximately two months after Day 2. Each group delivers a "report out" on the results of their problem solving efforts.

One problem which has been identified in each community is *underage drinking*. Mini-grants in the amount of \$2500.00 were given to each community through a partnership with the Kentucky State Police Highway Traffic Safety Branch to address this problem.

To date, 17 cities have completed both Day 1 and Day 2 training, and six communities have completed Day 3. Each of these groups have developed innovative and "community-specific" plans to deal with problems prioritized by residents of the community, police and local officials.

Participating Cities to date:

- Nicholasville
- Harrodsburg
- Williamsburg
- Winchester

- Morehead
- Shelbyville
- LaGrange
- University of Louisville
- Owensboro
- Cave City
- Anchorage
- Eddyville
- Paducah
- Benton
- Princeton
- Monticello
- University of Kentucky

Anyone interested in participating in this program may contact the RCPI office at (606) 622-2362 or e-mail us at [kycops@kycops.org](mailto:kycops@kycops.org).

## Status of the Buckhorn Project

The community team building project taking place in Buckhorn, Kentucky at The Presbyterian Child Welfare Agency, or Buckhorn Children's Home, is entering its final stages. The purpose of the collaborative project between the RCPI, The Presbyterian Child Welfare Agency, and the City of Buckhorn is to instill community pride and ownership within the children of the Welfare Agency through community policing principles, and to enhance the relationship between the school and the community including law enforcement agencies.

This project is believed to be beneficial from two vantage points. First, the partnership will serve as an aid in preventing juvenile delinquency involving the children from the home in the outlying community. Second, it will to prevent these children from becoming adult offenders by instilling personal pride and values that will aid in the creation of a more positive bond between the children and the community.

To date, peer mediation training has been completed with the staff of Buckhorn Children's Home and local school representatives. Plans are underway to also conduct similar training with community children.

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## Community Policing and Domestic Violence Planning Sessions

Earlier this year, OCOPS gave several RCPI's awards to conduct conferences which are to support domestic violence test sites doing research related to community oriented policing (COP) and domestic violence.

The responsibility of the RCPI at Eastern Kentucky University was to bring in subject matter experts in domestic violence and COP for brainstorming sessions to discuss the COP response to domestic violence and to develop guidelines for conferences relating to community policing efforts in handling domestic violence.

The first session of the conference, held at EKU in April, attracted individuals from across the state of Kentucky and throughout the U.S. Backgrounds of individuals included current law enforcement professionals, victim advocates, and academicians, as well as Ellen Scrivner and her staff, from the Office of Community Orientated Policing Services.

Gary Cordner, Dean of the College of Law Enforcement, provided background information on COP, and Travis Fritsch, consultant to the RCPI, provided background information on domestic violence. Following the background information, a storyboarding process was used to facilitate the session.

The second planning session, held in Orlando Florida in late May, and facilitated by Travis Fritsch, continued the initial discussion of what a COP response to domestic violence is, and worked to further develop guidelines for conference organizers.

Both sessions were recorded by an historian who will be responsible for the production of reports from the sessions. Following the completion of these documents, the final products will be disseminated to all RCPI's by the Office for Community Oriented Policing Services.

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## Western Kentucky Contrast by Jim McKinney

Across the Commonwealth, seventy-five percent of police agencies have 10 or fewer sworn officers. Police agencies can be compared on size alone but doing so often leaves out important details. In Western Kentucky, two agencies provide basic police services for the citizens of Paducah and Eddyville. These two cities differ in more ways than just size. While both have distinctions which make them unique, and both are served by police departments that have their own unique characteristics, these agencies demonstrate a community policing philosophy with similarities. On the other hand, both agencies approach community policing with distinct variations that are proving successful for the communities they serve.

### Community Policing: Eddyville Style

The police department in Eddyville, Kentucky, is one of the youngest in the Commonwealth. The department was formed in March 1997 after the Lyon County Police Department was dissolved. The Eddyville Police Department has an authorized strength of four officers. The department currently has two officers under the command of *Chief William E. "Bill" Craig*. A third officer will be hired at some point in the future when an academy date becomes available.

Both patrol officers are completing their first year of service and Chief Craig likes the idea of training new officers. According to Chief Craig, "You don't have to try to teach an old dog new tricks." The downside for the chief is the amount of time he spends in supervision of his officers, which along with administrative duties and patrol, often runs into the 60 hour per week range.

When the Eddyville Police Department was formed, the foundation for a strong community policing philosophy was realized in a number of practical ways. The patch worn by the officers of this department contains the slogan "Our Community Your Police." Chief

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Craig saw that slogan, which espouses his philosophy, on the back of a jeep in Keystone, Colorado and included it on the department's uniform patch.

Chief Craig began his career in policing in 1960 with the Air Force and served until 1980 in Special Investigations. Craig's civilian police career began after leaving the Air Force in Corydon, Kentucky where he served as that city's only officer for eighteen months. In 1982 he accepted the chief's position with the Lyon County Police Department where he served until his retirement in 1993. In 1997, Craig returned to policing as the Chief of the newly formed Eddyville Police Department.

The DARE program is currently being presented in all three levels of schools: elementary, junior high and high school. Chief Craig feels that much of the recent criticism of the DARE program is "unfounded" and he goes on to say, "DARE is not a stand alone program, it needs to be used in conjunction with other programs." He believes in "opening doors to communication with youth." This attitude characterizes the positive interaction element of community policing. Good relationships with youth in the community can also provide a crime prevention element.

The officers of the Eddyville Police Department are encouraged to have direct contact with citizens as often as possible. Officers are encouraged to "ride and walk" in two subdivisions. This type of direct contact with citizens is described as "very, very laid back." Officers do not stray too far from their cars when "walking" in these subdivisions in the event of an emergency call.

Last August a bike patrol was started in Eddyville and has been well received by both officers and the community. The only time this method of patrol can be used is when two shifts overlap and a motorized patrol is also available. While it is impossible to provide full time patrol with only four officers, Eddyville requires the officer going off duty to remain "on-call" until a new shift begins.

The Kentucky State Police provides police service for the city of Eddyville when officers are not available and Chief Craig speaks highly of this "really good

relationship with the Kentucky State Police."

Chief Craig would like to see the Eddyville Police Department grow to a strength of seven officers, the minimum necessary to provide police service for the city 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Along with this manpower goal is the desire to see the department paid on a competitive pay scale in order to recruit and retain quality officers.

### **Community Policing: Paducah Style**

The City of Paducah is one of the largest cities in Western Kentucky, with a population in excess of 27,000. Located on the banks of the Ohio River, Paducah is also a regional draw for other Kentucky residents and neighboring states. Paducah is a regional center for commerce, employment and medical care. By virtue of its size, Paducah also has the largest police department in Western Kentucky, currently deploying 68 officers with an authorized strength of 76 officers.

*Kermit Perdew* is an eighteen-year veteran of the Paducah Police Department, with the past two and one half years as Chief of Police. Under Chief Perdew's leadership, a number of community oriented policing initiatives has either been introduced or encouraged to grow. Neighborhood watches have increased from three to twelve. Officers often worked a different zone in the city each day, but now, officers work an assigned zone for two months.

Four officers are currently assigned to a specialized COP unit that includes bike patrol, crime prevention, Triad, and "Safe Night" activities. Chief Perdew is working towards integrating community policing on a department-wide basis. One of the proposed departmental changes will include officers tracking code infractions in their respective zones - a role not always assigned to police.

Absentee landlords own thirty-five percent of the rental property in Paducah. The police department is currently partnering with the city building inspector to address code violations by assigning a Community Liaison Officer to work with the building inspector in the "lower-town" section of Paducah.

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Many of the officers of the Paducah Police Department have demonstrated a desire to be active in their community by participating in Scouting, mentoring at the Boy's Club, and serving as advisors for the Police Explorers which has twelve youth participating at this time. One project that the chief is especially proud of is the "Lunch Buddies" program. During the school year officers are assigned a child that has been identified as having a special need. Officers visit the children at least once per month and eat lunch with them at their schools.

In a typical year, the Paducah Police Department will respond to 4,000 reported felonies, 2,000 traffic accidents and will make 5,000 arrests. The practice of community policing is not intended to give the appearance that the Paducah Police Department is going "soft" on crime. Community policing is, however, a multifaceted response to crime, disorder, and the fear associated with crime that strengthens community ties, solves problems, and gives police another tool with which to work.

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## The RCPIs Involvement In School Safety

The RCPI at Eastern Kentucky University has been working closely with the Commonwealth's Center for School Safety (CSS). There is preliminary involvement with grant work being done to ensure that school safety initiatives continue unhindered within Kentucky's schools and that programs already in place function effectively.

The goal of this project includes the examination of the role of School Resource Officers, the development and completion of a survey of 430 law enforcement agencies regarding their use and experience with school-based law enforcement initiatives, as well as ensuring ongoing communication with local, state, and federal leaders within the area of school safety and the prevention of juvenile crime.

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## National Network of RCPIs Formed

A national network of Regional Community Policing Institutes has been formed to enhance communication and sharing among approximately 30 RCPIs around the country.

Members of the network have met twice, once in Phoenix in February 1999, and again in New Orleans in April 1999. Another meeting will be held in conjunction with the COPS Office's RCPI curriculum conference in San Antonio in July 1999.

The official purpose of the network is to enhance public safety and quality of life in our communities through the development of a national structure and a network of RCPIs to assist in the institutionalization of the philosophy and principles of community policing. "Members of the network will (1) collaborate, (2) share resources on training, technical assistance and research efforts, and (3) serve as a unified voice to address community policing issues at the national level."

The most important objective of this new network is information sharing. Collectively, the RCPIs have developed curricula and training materials on a wide range of community policing issues and topics over the past two to three years.

At this point, the RCPIs need to begin to share their most effective products and avoid "reinventing the wheel." Hopefully, one result of the network will be that the Kentucky RCPI can refine its existing community policing courses and will identify some outstanding new courses to benefit the Commonwealth's police officers.

Gary Cordner, who is Kentucky RCPI Director and Dean of the College of Law Enforcement at Eastern Kentucky University, was selected to serve on the eight member steering committee of the RCPI network.

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All questions, comments or suggestions should be directed to (606) 622-2362, 622-5879 (fax), or e-mail us at [kycops@kycops.org](mailto:kycops@kycops.org).

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