



u p d a t e

VCPI

The Virginia Community Policing Institute
...providing training and technical assistance for Virginia's
law enforcement officials and communities...

From the VCPI Executive Director

Lynda S. O'Connell, Executive Director

"Thank you for one of the best training experiences that I have had in my 16-year police career."

"Overall, this was one of the better conferences I have attended."

"The quality of the speakers was outstanding. My preference is quality vs. quantity. VCPI staff: well-done conference. I look forward to the 4th annual event. Thanks for your hard work!"

"Well planned. Enjoyed it immensely. Gained new insight into community policing."

This is just a sampling of the evaluation comments from VCPI's 3rd Annual Leadership conference, held May 22-23, 2001, in Harrisonburg, VA. The responses from over 100 participants were overwhelmingly positive. Once again, VCPI offered a forum for law enforcement officials, community leaders and others to share their knowledge and experiences in community policing.

The institute arranged for an exceptional line-up of speakers, many of whom are nationally recognized. VCPI is grateful to each of its speakers for participating in this event. As is evident in the evaluation comments, each of them made an impression on the VCPI audience. Several chiefs of police spoke to VCPI's audience and were praised in the evaluations for their contributions. "The following speakers were outstanding – Chief Ramsey, Chief Oliver, and Chief Dolan." "Chiefs Oliver and Dolan were excellent. Both were very impressive." "Ramsey and Dolan were both outstanding." Virginia's own national law enforcement figure, Chief Jerry Oliver of the Richmond Police Department delivered the welcome speech and participated in an informal discussion of law enforcement partnerships in the areas



surrounding the state's capitol. One very astute conference participant pointed out something to consider for our next opportunity to involve Colonel Oliver: "He is too outstanding to use him just for a welcome speech." Colonel Oliver – when you read this – take warning, we'll be asking for a longer presentation next time!

"The Politics in Policing topic was done well." Chief Harry Dolan from the Grand Rapids, MI Police Department is always a treat for conference participants. Chief Dolan's presentation was entitled "Politics in Policing" and he covered his experiences with the city government and citizens while encouraging the growth of community policing in Grand Rapids. Chief Dolan also presented at the institute's First Annual Leadership Conference in 1999.

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VCPI Partners:



Director

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“Chief Ramsey – Wonderful!” Another nationally known chief of police spoke to Virginia’s community policing advocates in Harrisonburg this spring. Chief Charles Ramsey of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department offered insight and guidance for Virginia’s law enforcement in agency-wide organization that is required for effective community policing.

Federal Bureau of Investigations Agent Jim Kavina presented a workshop on the demographic changes in Virginia and how law enforcement can prepare now for the imminent change in our population. He focused on cultural diversity and understanding as a basis for this preparation. Law enforcement officials have also been pressed to address the increasing presence of computer-based crimes. “Lt. Bob Tavenner is an authority in his area.” Lt. Robert Tavenner from the Virginia State Police department provided participants with an overview on this nationwide epidemic and how some agencies are dealing with the issue.

The institute successfully experimented this year with providing two full-day workshops on the last day of the conference. Conference participants chose between “Rural Community Policing Training” taught by the Kentucky Regional Community Policing Institute and “Community Policing Through Environmental Design: The Next Generation” instructed by Greg Saville from the Center for Advanced Public Safety in West Haven, CT. Evaluations from both were very positive: “Wednesday: good job!” “The Rural Community Policing Workshop – very good for small/average size departments.” “The CPTED material was good – very good.” “(Saville) was very informative.”

The institute’s annual conference is an opportunity to address the critical issues facing law enforcement and community groups in Virginia, and VCPI is always excited to provide such a venue. However, what makes it so rewarding and worthwhile is the level of participation, commitment and dedication exhibited by conference participants. The institute extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to all of the participants at the 2001 conference for making it such a success.

VCPI is already planning for its 4th Annual Leadership Conference in Community Policing. The event will be held in the spring of 2002. Please forward any suggestions for topics, speakers, or general conference ideas to VCPI’s Special Projects Manager, Julie Gigante. She may be reached at (804) 644-0380 or via e-mail at jgigante@vcpionline.org. ■

VCPI 2001 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 3 HARRISONBURG . MAY 22-23



Above: Participants took advantage of their early arrival to workshops by introducing themselves to new colleagues and community organization representatives.



Left: Chief Harry Dolan (Grand Rapids, MI Police Department) and VCPI Executive Director Lynda O'Connell briefly review Dolan's presentation.

Right: Chief Charles Ramsey (D.C. Metropolitan Police Department) begins his presentation on organizing a police department for community policing. Attendees particularly enjoyed his remarks.



Left: Deputy Sheriff Allen Slagle (Bristol, VA) and CPTED expert Greg Saville discuss the application of CPTED principles in smaller communities.

Relationship-building: Langston-Brown Neighborhood

Sergeant William Gary Griffith

In June 1988, the Arlington County Police Department divided the county into four police districts. Corporal Steven Meincke was assigned to the first district and was later given the responsibility of acting as liaison between the police department and the Langston-Brown Civic Association. Through Meincke's dedication to duty and his outstanding community-policing efforts, he has created positive interactions between the Langston-Brown community and the police department.

Halls Hill is a neighborhood of approximately six blocks within the Langston-Brown Civic Association. This area is comprised of low-income apartments, middle-income homes, and High View Park. Unfortunately, there are numerous quality-of-life issues that occur in and around the park, such as public alcohol consumption, urinating in public, littering, and loud-noise violations. There are also more serious violations, such as illegal drug sales, firearm possession and assaults. Many participants involved in these illegal activities are the neighborhood youth.

In an effort to strengthen the relationship between the police department and the neighborhood youth, Meincke coordinated with Mr. Ike Sneed, Department of Parks and Recreation, to organize a basketball game to be played on September 8, 1999. On that date, a team of police officers played against a team of neighborhood youth. Mr. Charlie Neal, an ACPD auxiliary officer and sportscaster for Black Entertainment Television, was the game's guest referee. The community response to this basketball game was tremendous, and this success served as the first of many steps toward building a community partnership.

Building upon the success of the first game a year before, on September 28, 2000, Sneed and Meincke organized the second annual basketball game in High View Park. The relationships between the neighborhood youth and the police department continued to improve and

strengthen.

High View Park was littered with beer bottles, narcotic paraphernalia and trash. Not only was this an unsightly view, it was unsafe for neighborhood children to play in. In a first district roll call, Meincke learned about the Washington Redskins All-Stars program. This program solicits ideas from area communities for projects that would improve community appearances. Working in conjunction

with the All-Stars program, Meincke organized a Neighborhood Clean-Up Day in High View Park on October 25, 2000. Police officers, youths, and members of the community met to clean up the park. Trash was collected, the wall around the basketball court was painted, fresh mulch was put down, and the area was raked. Personnel from the Washington Redskins administrative office gave Redskins t-shirts to all participants and the police department provided refreshments. A film crew from the National Football League was on hand to record the activities.

On the following day, the first Langston-Brown "Punt, Pass, and Kick" competition was held in the same park that was cleaned up the day before. Youth from the community were each partnered with a police officer for the competition. Following the competition, the first annual flag football game was played. The two teams consisted

of a blend of neighborhood youths and officers playing together on the same teams. The youth requested a date for another football game. The neighborhood clean-up and community flag football game continued to foster a positive relationship between the police department and youth of Halls Hill.

Meincke's endeavors have helped to improve the relationship between the citizens of the Langston-Brown community and the Arlington County Police Department. In



recognition of Meincke's coordination of the Neighborhood Clean Up and Community Flag Football game, the Washington Redskins All-Stars program announced that they had selected the Langston-Brown community to receive a \$2,500 cash award to be used for further community activities.

Above: October 25, 2000 – Sergeant Gary Griffith, Captain Rebecca Hackney, Deputy Chief John Haas, and Lieutenant Mary Gavin help to clean up the High View Park in the Langston-Brown community.

Left: October 25, 2000 – Award presentation by Washington Redskins All-Stars Program to the Langston-Brown community. (Pictured: Chief Edward Flynn at podium; at left on photo (l-r) Lieutenant Gay Hayslett, Lieutenant Karen Herchenroder, Deputy Chief John Haas; at right on photo, (l-r) Corporal Steve Meincke, Mr. Ike Sneed, Officer Steve Missouri, Lieutenant Mary Gavin, Captain Rebecca Hackney, Sergeant Dean Mathews, and Sergeant William Gary Griffith.



by Anne Grundon

Bristol Herald Courier, June 7, 2001

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Bristol, Virginia is vying to become the state's third Certified Crime Prevention Community. The program was developed last year as part of Gov. Jim Gilmore's New Partnership Commission for Community Safety, but only Virginia Beach and Roanoke have received the designation to date, said Deputy Allen Slagle of the Bristol, Virginia, Sheriff's Office.

Bristol recently filed the final application and, if designation is granted, the city will receive lower insurance premiums and preferential treatment when applying for state grants aimed at making the community safer, Slagle said.

"You're never going to totally eliminate crime from your community," he said. "You can't take away a criminal's desire to commit a crime, but we can reduce his opportunities."

To qualify, cities must have a certified crime prevention specialist, neighborhood watch programs, a crime prevention council, an organized distribution of community safety information, crime analysis capabilities, victim/witness services, a delinquency prevention program for at-risk youth, community policing, an employee to conduct safety assessments, a school safety audit process, a business watch program and accreditation for its local law enforcement agency.

Bristol meets each of the 12 core requirements and 17 optional community safety elements, Slagle said.

To gain certification, a community needs to meet at least seven of the optional elements, he said.

Now that the application has been sent to the (Virginia) Department of Criminal Justice Services in Richmond, Slagle is waiting for state officials to schedule an on-site visit.

Following that visit, an official recommendation will be made to the Criminal Justice Services Board, he said.

Doug Smith of the state department said the application was being reviewed and that a site visit would be made by mid-July.

In addition to Bristol, Fairfax County, Hanover County, Prince William County, and the cities of Newport News and Lynchburg have filed applications, Smith said.

One tool that could help Bristol to qualify for CCPC designation is the CPTED program – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design – which recently was endorsed by the Planning Commission. City Council approval is pending and expected later this month.



Through the program, homeowners and developers would be taught to design residential communities to deter crime, said Community Development and Planning Director Shari Brown.

A handbook has been developed by the city's Community Development and Planning Department that lists simple guidelines to follow. By simply trimming shrubbery that could provide a hiding place for a thief and maintaining well-lighted sidewalks, homeowners can reduce their chances of becoming crime victims, Brown said.

If City Council endorses the plan, the handbook will be available to all residents interested in reviewing the suggestions, Brown said.

Bristol, Tennessee leaders are interested in implementing the CPTED program and have trained city police Officer Preston Bowers as a crime prevention specialist, said police Major Mike Yaniero. Bowers has been reviewing site plans submitted to the city's Planning Department in recent months and making suggestions that could make developments safer.

Yaniero said he hopes to develop a handbook similar to the one drafted by Bristol, Virginia leaders and get it endorsed by the Bristol, Tennessee City Council.

While the CPTED program is being reviewed by both communities, Slagle said, Bristol, Virginia will continue razing abandoned structures and surveying neighborhoods for environments that foster crime.

Being successful requires cooperation from the city's Sheriff's Office, the community development and planning department, the police department, and the fire department, Slagle said.

"This is a community program," he said. "We all have to work together to make our community safer."

Those interested in receiving more information about Bristol, Virginia's crime prevention programs may contact Deputy Slagle at (540) 642-2300. ■



Pictured above is Jail Bird, known as J.B., who was at the VCPI second annual conference in October 1999. J.B. is the brainchild of Deputy Allen Slagle (pictured below). J.B. is an icon of ongoing crime prevention efforts in Bristol, Virginia. J.B. accompanied Slagle to the conference and appeared at the What Works Display. Slagle is a long-time advocate of community policing and instrumental to CP efforts in Bristol.



Preview: Upcoming VCPI Courses

Based on student evaluations and instructor feedback, existing VCPI courses are always being reviewed and revised. New courses are constantly being constructed at the institute in response to specific requests for training from law enforcement agencies statewide. Ten new courses have been developed in the last year, and several new courses are under development in direct response to specific requests. By encouraging the use of this service, VCPI can ensure that its training is current and applicable to today's law enforcement concerns.

Courses under development include:

Community Policing to Reduce Domestic Violence. Tackling the community-wide problem of domestic violence, VCPI will introduce Community Policing to Reduce Domestic Violence. This course will integrate the SARA problem-solving model into

the domestic violence response. Blocks of instruction include the dynamics of domestic violence, community policing and problem solving, evidence gathering, risk assessment and safety planning, determining predominant aggressor, accessing and sharing information, protection orders, and full faith and credit. VCPI anticipates this will be a 20 credit-hour course for police officers and domestic violence advocates.

Multicultural Community Policing Series. VCPI will offer a series of eight-hour courses targeted toward specific cultures and marketed to areas experiencing problems due to the growth of that particular population. The series will include community policing in the Asian community, Hispanic community, African-American community, and youth as a community. This series would provide information on victims and offenders by race, the culture defined and other key definitions relating to that culture, historical information, the culture's community in Virginia, labels and terms, myths and stereotypes, cultural influences of communication, and key issues in law enforcement. ■

VCPI Courses Calendar

The courses listed in the table below are as scheduled at press time. Please refer to our web site at www.vcpionline.org for the most accurate and up-to-the-minute schedule details.

October 2001

2-3	Problem Solving	Rappahannock	Open
9	Constitutional Law for Law Enforcement	Richmond	Closed
9-12	Introduction to Community Policing	Bristol	Closed
11	Constitutional Law for Law Enforcement	Charlottesville	Closed
15-17	Introduction to Community Policing	Rappahannock	Open
19	Leading Organizational Change	Fairfax County	Closed
23-24	Problem Solving	Fairfax County CRJU Academy	Closed
25	Constitutional Law for Law Enforcement	Bristol	Closed
25-26	CP in Public and Assisted Housing	Northern Virginia CRJU Academy	Open
29-1	Introduction to Community Policing	Ft. Belvoir	Closed

November 2001

5	Constitutional Law for Law Enforcement	Rapp. - Front Royal Sat. Campus	Open
13-16	Introduction to Community Policing	Ft. Belvoir	Closed
13-14	Problem Solving	Fairfax County CRJU Academy	Closed
15-16	Tactical Community Policing	Fairfax County CRJU Academy	Closed
19-20	Supvsg. Crime Prevention and CP Svcs.	Northern Virginia CRJU Academy	Open
27-30	Introduction to Community Policing	Ft. Belvoir	Closed

December 2001

10-12	Management Issues in CP	Northern Virginia CRJU Academy	Open
12-14	CP to Reduce Domestic Violence	Richmond Police Academy	Open

VCPI New Staff

Though small in number, VCPI staff members have always conducted business in such a way as to convey a large staff presence. In so doing, VCPI routinely completes an enormous number of training and technical assistance endeavors. Through teamwork and communication, we provide personal service to law enforcement offices throughout the commonwealth. With integrity, we work with police departments, sheriffs' offices, state and local agencies, community policing professionals, and private citizens to enhance community policing efforts in Virginia.

With the additions of Adam Bracey, Crystal McMichael, and John Messina, the institute is fully staffed at the start of fiscal year 2001-02, and we are ready to further our efforts to provide law enforcement with the finest community policing training in the state. In addition to new staff, Laurel Heydenberk was awarded a promotion as the institute's manager of operations.

Adam Bracey



M. Adam Bracey
Lead Instructor
804-644-0898
abracey@vcpionline.org

Adam Bracey joined VCPI as a lead instructor in July of 2001. As an instructor, Adam handles requests for training from law enforcement agencies from across the state. He prepares and presents training, conducts instructor evaluations, and recruits institute instructors. Adam is retired from the Virginia Beach Police Department. His experiences there included uniformed patrol, media relations, the Police Athletic League, and investigative positions in burglary, vice, narcotics, and serving as a task force agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Additionally, he was a field training officer and general instructor. Prior to joining the Virginia Beach Police Department, Adam was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Military Police Corps, completing tours of duty in Berchtesgaden, Germany and Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. ■

Crystal McMichael



Crystal McMichael
Administrative Assistant
804-644-0899
cmmichael@vcpionline.org

Crystal McMichael brings seven years of administrative and secretarial experience to the institute. Prior to joining VCPI, she worked at the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Board in the Law Enforcement Division. Her primary responsibilities with the institute include organizing and tracking student registrations, travel and lodging arrangements for VCPI staff and instructors, database maintenance, mass mailings, purchase requests, and other essential duties. Crystal has attended several computer classes through J. Sergeant Reynolds Community College as well as computer courses through in-house training from the Department of ABC, and has also attended various workshops and seminars at numerous training facilities. ■

John Messina



John Messina
Lead Instructor
804- 644-0617
jmessina@vcpionline.org

After 14 years in law enforcement, John Messina joined the VCPI staff as a lead instructor in the summer of 2001. Prior to joining VCPI, John was a training coordinator and instructor at the Crater Criminal Justice Academy in Petersburg, VA. As a lead instructor, he prepares and delivers training, conducts instructor evaluations, and recruits institute instructors. He also constructs, reviews, and revises lesson plans and instructional aids, working closely with the VCPI staff to create new curricula. During his law enforcement career, John attained the rank of sergeant with the Prince George County Police Department. He served in the vice/narcotics unit and as a patrol supervisor. While assigned to the patrol division, he helped develop, implement, and instruct the current Field Training Officer, Officer Survival, and Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) training lesson plans now utilized at Crater Criminal Justice Academy. ■

VCPI Incorporates

Due to the growth and rapid increase in demand for services, VCPI has once again had to adapt to its changing environment. On March 2, 2001, VCPI became incorporated. On July 1, VCPI absorbed the administrative duties and services so generously provided by its partners during the past several years. The institute is now its own separate entity. In June of 2001, VCPI applied to the IRS for non-profit status, and in August the institute became a 501 (c) 3 organization. Having this status will allow VCPI to seek additional service opportunities and funding options.

Although VCPI is now an independent agency, it still maintains a partnership coalition, and a board of directors governs its operations. Each of the institute's six partner organizations is represented on VCPI's board.

VCPI Board of Directors, Officers and Executive Committee Members

Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police
Executive Director
Dana G. Schrad

Virginia Sheriffs' Association
Executive Director
John W. Jones

Virginia Union University
Chairman, Dept. of Criminal Justice
Jay W. Malcan, Ph.D.

Richmond Police Department
Chief of Police
Jerry A. Oliver

Virginia Crime Prevention Association
Executive Director
Patrick D. Harris

Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services
Director
Joseph B. Benedetti

Virginia Dept. of Criminal Justice Services
Section Chief, Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement Services
Tim Paul

New Kent Sheriff's Office
Sheriff
F. W. Howard

Newport News Police Department
Chief of Police
Dennis Mook

■

4th Anniversary

In September VCPI celebrated its fourth anniversary. In so doing, VCPI recognizes how the support of its partners and constituents has contributed to the success of the institute, and the development of the community policing philosophy around the commonwealth.

VCPI extends its gratitude to those who made the past four years both rewarding and encouraging. ■

VCPI Staff Person Moves to Head Police Corps

Retired U.S. Army Colonel Lamar Tooke, VCPI's lead instructor, left the institute in July to head up Virginia's new Police Corps program as its director. Before joining VCPI, Lamar was a training coordinator and instructor at the Rappahannock Criminal Justice Academy in Fredericksburg. He retired from the U.S. Army as a colonel, after a distinguished 30-year career. Over his career, he has trained audiences of up to 500 on a range of subjects. As lead instructor for VCPI, he prepared and delivered training, conducted instructor evaluations, and recruited institute instructors. He also constructed, reviewed, and revised lesson plans and instructional aids.



"My tenure with the Virginia Community Policing Institute was a great experience with wonderful people and excellent students from across the state," Lamar said from his new Police Corps offices in downtown Richmond. "Working with VCPI better prepared me for my duties as the director of the Virginia Police Corps."

The Police Corps is a federal program designed to address violent crime by increasing the number of officers with advanced education and training

who serve on community patrol. Typically, they serve in low-income, high-crime urban areas, or isolated rural areas.

The program has three central components. First, the Police Corps provides scholarships on a competitive basis to students who agree to earn their bachelor's degrees complete approved Police Corps training, and then serve for four years on patrol, as assigned, with law enforcement agencies in areas of great need. Undergraduates must attend college full time and may receive up to \$7,500 per academic year. Second, the Police Corps provides funds to states to develop and provide 16 to 24 weeks of rigorous residential Police Corps training. Third, the federal government provides local and state agencies that hire Police Corps officers \$10,000 per year for each of an officer's first four years of service. Police Corps officers have all of the rights and responsibilities of other members of their law enforcement agencies.

To receive more information, contact Lamar at the Virginia Police Corps office by telephone at (804) 786-4005, fax (804) 225-2000, or email at ltooke@dcjs.state.va.us. ■



The Virginia Community Policing Institute

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 1407

Richmond, VA 23219

Telephone 804.644.0899

Fax 804.644.0309

Executive Director Lynda S. O'Connell

loconnell@vcpionline.org

644.0601

Curriculum Specialist David K. Maddox

dmaddox@vcpionline.org

644.0383

Training Coordinator Laurel A. Heydenberk

lheydenberk@vcpionline.org

644.0616

Lead Instructor John Messina

jmessina@vcpionline.org

pager 804-759-0293

644.0617

Training Instructor Col. R.G. 'Dick' Engels

rengels@vcpionline.org

644.0385

Instructor Adam Bracey

abracey@vcpionline.org

pager 804-759-4968

644.0898

Special Projects Mgr. Julie Gigante

jjigante@vcpionline.org

644.0380

Media Specialist Margaret A. Epps

mepps@vcpionline.org

644.0619

Admin. Assistant Crystal McMichael

cmc michael@vcpionline.org

644.0899

*Our fourth annual conference planning is underway...
look for developing details on our web site!*

Managing Editor Margaret Epps: 804.644.0619

E-mail: mepps@vcpionline.org

Assistant Editor Julia Gigante: 804.644.0380

E-mail: jjigante@vcpionline.org

We welcome contributions to the newsletter. To submit articles, photographs, or other items for publication, please contact Margaret Epps.

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