



Pegasus Report

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Lee Colwell, President
Pegasus Research Foundation
1501 Macon Dr, Ste 100
Little Rock, AR 72211
icolwell@pegasusresearch.org
Pegasus Advisory Board
Sheriff Tommy Ferrell (Ret.),
Chairman
1 Pecanway
Natchez, MS 39120
601-442-0134
tferrell@telepax.net
Pegasus Support Center
1230 Support Center
Jackson, MS 39204
800-392-4312
information@pegasusresearch.org

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Senator Shelby Objects to \$1.6BB in Cuts to State & Local Law Enforcement in Proposed FY07 Crime Budget

At the April 5, 2006 hearing of the Commerce, Justice & Science (C-J-S) Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, **Senator Richard Shelby** (R-AL) expressed serious concerns about the Department of Justice’s proposed FY2007 Budget, and especially its **“\$1.6 Billion decrease for State and Local Law Enforcement Programs.”**

Responding to Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and the FY2007 DOJ budget proposal, Sen. Shelby noted: **“State and local law enforcement agencies are the foundation of our Nation’s law enforcement community. ... These proposed cuts have the potential to significantly weaken the ability of these agencies to protect our communities from traditional crimes, to maintain vigilance on the war on terror, and to prepare for catastrophic disasters. Continually proposing major reductions for local law enforcement assistance programs will cripple the Police and Sheriff’s Departments which are fixtures in our communities nationwide.”**

Senator Mikulski Urges “Robust Funding” of Local Law Enforcement in FY07 Budget

At the same C-J-S Subcommittee hearing, **Senator Barbara A. Mikulski** (D-MD), Ranking Member of the C-J-S Subcommittee, criticized vital cuts to the DOJ budget in the FY 2007 budget proposal. **Senator Mikulski asked how the Department plans to carry out its responsibilities in light of massive cuts to local law enforcement.**

Directing her comments to Attorney General Gonzales, Sen. Mikulski stated: “The Justice Department plays a key role in the American dream because you keep America safe. I think there is a lot of agreement on priorities for the department,” said Senator Mikulski. **“Where we disagree is on the investment it takes to get us to where we want to be—a safer, stronger America.”**

“The President’s budget shortchanges local law enforcement. **We must protect our protectors and communities through robust funding of local law enforcement,**” said Senator Mikulski. **“Local law enforcement is a partner in all of your**

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initiatives, missions and operations. How would the \$1.2 billion in proposed cuts to local law enforcement affect your operations?"

Senator Mikulski also commended Attorney General Gonzales for his **emphasis on gang prevention and intervention programs**, such as a recently announced program supporting the creation of a statewide anti-gang initiative in Maryland.

MS DOC & Pegasus: "Unparalleled Collaboration"

On April 13, **Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) Commissioner Christopher B. Epps** announced an unprecedented level of collaboration with Mississippi law enforcement via the Pegasus Program. Commissioner Epps announced that MDOC has joined with other law enforcement agencies by providing access to records and photographs of more than 22,000 MDOC inmates and more than 26,000 offenders serving under MDOC community supervision.

Mississippi law enforcement is taking a key leadership role in Pegasus, with more than 30 participating agencies.

"Pegasus will enable law enforcement officers to have each piece of information needed to make informed decisions so they no longer have to place dozens of calls to check on suspects or inmate records in surrounding counties. Each agency sharing information only makes the entire system work more efficiently, thus serving public safety. This seamless information exchange will provide for timely, critical information," Commissioner Epps said.

MDOC is the first department of corrections participating in the Nationwide Pegasus Program to include offenders incarcerated as well as those serving their time in the community—the types of offenders most likely to be encountered by law enforcement personnel when performing their daily duties. By making offender data available through Pegasus, MDOC electronically shares information with multiple law enforcement agencies without time delays.

Brown County Sheriff Wenninger Activating Pegasus Media Alerts

Sheriff Dwayne Wenninger, Sheriff of Brown County, OH, recently announced that his office is activating the Pegasus Media Alerts for electronic public notices to the media.

Pegasus Authorized Users may create and electronically send press releases and other notices for public distribution through the Pegasus Media Alerts service. Many local law enforcement agencies do not have the capability to send public notices to the media electronically, and are looking for a way to send media notices without the delay of mail or the staff time and effort involved in sending faxes or hand-deliveries.

Pegasus Media Alerts are available to all Pegasus Participating Agencies, and may be activated by contacting the Pegasus Support Center at 800-392-4312.

