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FOP FOUNDATION AWARDED BLUE ALERT GRANT *Partnering with the COPS Office to Collect Data on Officers Shot*

Patrick Yoes, National President of the Fraternal Order of Police, was pleased to announce that the organization's Foundation was awarded a grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and will partner with the National Blue Alert Network to collect and analyze data on reported shootings of law enforcement officers nationwide.

"The FOP began collecting this data in October 2015 because we realized that we had a lot of information about officers who were shot and killed in the line of duty, but almost not information about officers who were shot and survived," Yoes explained. "Using our own limited resources, we were able to compile raw numbers which showed that, even in years when the number of officers killed by gunfire had gone down, the number of officers shot had gone up each year. The stark reality is that advancements in medical science and anti-ballistic technology are making these events more survivable."

The National Blue Alert Network within the COPS Office began tracking this data in 2018 and, with greater resources was able to provide a full report of all officers shot for the 2018 calendar year. Its report contained far more data points and analysis than was possible for the FOP acting alone.

"This grant will enable us to work directly with the Blue Alert program to collect information on these shooting incidents," Yoes said. "Having greater access to resources and analytical tools we will be better able to understand how, when, where and why these shooting occur and use to help develop policing strategies and training to reduce the number of officers who are shot in the line of duty."

The Fraternal Order of Police is the largest law enforcement labor organization in the United States, with more than 349,000 members.