

## Seeking Assistance to Resolve Reintegration Issues with Certain Veterans

*Submitted by the State and Provincial Police Directorate*

**WHEREAS**, about 2.4 million Americans have served honorably during deployments of Active, Reserve, and National Guard service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, and more than 6,400 of them have made the supreme sacrifice; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 12,000 law enforcement officers from federal, state, local and tribal agencies have been members of activated National Guard and military reserve units; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 320,000 veterans have experienced traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), the signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; about 150,000 have been diagnosed by the Department of Veterans Affairs with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as the result of deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan; and more than 1,525 troops have lost a limb during these deployments; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recognized the reintegration challenges faced both by returning veterans and by law enforcement agencies; undertook—in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)—the Employing Returning Combat Veterans as Law Enforcement Officers project that produced in 2010 the *Law Enforcement Leader's Guide on Combat Veterans* and *Combat Veterans & Law Enforcement: A Transition Guide for Veterans Beginning or Continuing Careers in Law Enforcement*; and embraced this project and its research by adopting the resolution “Employing Returning Combat Veterans As Police Officers” at the 116<sup>th</sup> Annual IACP Conference in Denver, Colorado, in 2009; and

**WHEREAS**, while law enforcement agencies have adhered to the guidebooks and have exerted their best efforts to successfully reintegrate returning veterans into their workforces, they nevertheless are experiencing serious difficulties in re-acclimating certain veterans who sustained in combat TBIs or PTSD; and

**WHEREAS**, regrettably, a very limited number of veterans suffered extreme combat injuries that are preventing them from resuming *any* duty in the law enforcement agency in which they once served, such as TBIs and PTSD; and, despite agencies’ conscientious efforts to re-employ them, they are unable to function properly; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement agencies’ ability to resolve fittingly these situations is being exacerbated by an apparent disconnect between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED** that the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), duly assembled at its 119th Annual Conference in San Diego, California, calls upon the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to work together with law enforcement agencies to address appropriately the limited situations in which returning veterans, through no fault of their own, are unable to be effectively reintegrated into law enforcement agencies.