Improving Relationships

The FBI places great importance on constantly striving to improve relationships with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies in the joint fight against crime.

Cooperation has never been more essential. The FBI works with individual agencies and national organizations-including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association, and the Major City Chiefs.

This cooperative approach magnifies the impact of law enforcement against crime and enhances the level of public safety. Many major cases handled by the FBI include other agencies, and the examples range from the bombing of the Oklahoma City Federal Building, to street gangs, to the search for the UNABOMBER.

One special effort is the close cooperation with the Drug Enforcement Administration, targeting large drug trafficking organizations and drugs at the street gang level. The FBI also works closely with other federal agencies.

The FBI provides training to a broad range of law enforcement agencies--both domestic and foreign. For example, in the five-year period from 1994 to 1998, the FBI trained nearly 700,000 law enforcement officers in a variety of courses.

Within the Justice Department, the FBI has played a key role in the Office of Investigative Agencies Policies, created by the Attorney General to improve coordination among Justice agencies. Overseas, a proposal by the FBI led to the development of the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest, Hungary, a major center of training for Eastern Europe. It is a joint effort by the State Department and federal agencies.

Support for Employees

The FBI places great stress on the safety and security of its employees. They are the Bureau's most important resource.

FBI Special Agents are given the best training possible and equipped with advanced firearms and state-of-the-art safety equipment. At the same time, the FBI gives a high priority to safety precautions at its facilities--both at FBI Headquarters in Washington and in its Field Offices.

Major attention is given to fairness in hiring and promotion, and the FBI has made significant strides during the past five years in increasing the number of minorities and women who serve as Special Agents.

Fairness in dealings with employees is also paramount. The FBI has expanded its program to uncover and correct instances of bias. Six special employee advisory committees meet semi-annually with Director Freeh to discuss issues of concern to their constituents.



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