

Highlights from STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT FAMILIES

Featuring Ret. Lt. Margene Robinson, DV Consultant/Trainer
Formerly with Dayton Police Department

Law enforcement officers are subject to stresses not encountered in other occupations.

- Witnessing death & other human tragedies
- Daily contact with street criminals & serious felons
- Danger & fear of injury, assault or murder
- Public abuse & resistance while enforcing laws
- Irregular work hours; Working on holidays; Boredom
- Involvement with Courts & the Justice System
- Release of criminals without charges or convictions

These & other stresses take a toll & can lead to alcoholism, drug use, divorce, loss of job, loss of friends, domestic disputes, family problems & suicide.

Officers may experience a sense of failure, anger, guilt, shame, isolation, withdrawal, cynicism & family conflicts.

Conflicts at home follow an officer to the job, just as conflicts on the job impact family relations.

Domestic Violence is all about Power & Control.

Sometimes DV occurs in a cycle of three phases: - Tension Building, Abusive Stage & Remorseful or Honeymoon Stage.

When DV occurs in a law enforcement family, there is greater risk of injury or murder/suicide, because officers have learned how to control others with their tone of voice, stance, physical prowess & their weapons. An officer's body can become a weapon.

During long hours together on the job, officers have the chance to note abusive attitudes & behaviors of colleagues.

Officers who are abusive at home may also be guilty of over-reacting on the job with members of the general public.

Goal: To provide intervention during the Tension Building Phase, before criminal behavior has occurred, & To provide support for officers & their families.

***Victims need & want the violence to stop.
Officers need & want to maintain their careers.
Law enforcement agencies with policies are better able to deal with & resolve the crisis.***