

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET AND THE PSOB DEATH BENEFIT

Here's what's really going on

As you may have read, the president's proposed 2010 federal budget lowers the estimated costs of the federal Public Safety Officers Benefit ("PSOB") program from \$110 million a year to \$60 million a year.

THIS IS ONLY THEIR ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE PROGRAM WILL COST IN 2010. THE FEDERAL DEATH BENEFIT FOR OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY **IS NOT** BEING REDUCED!!

By law, the monetary benefit that the program provides to the survivors of officers killed in the line of duty is \$315,746 (for deaths on or after October 1, 2008). By law, this amount is indexed for inflation, so it is actually expected to **GO UP** later this year, October 1, 2009. This amount is also the benefit for officers who were not killed, but suffered catastrophic injury in the line of duty. Because these amounts are set by pre-existing law passed by Congress, the budget estimate *does not* affect them. These statutory amounts *remain the same*.

Now what happens if the president's budget estimate is wrong, and more families than anticipated are entitled to this benefit? They will still be entitled, and Congress will appropriate additional money beyond the estimate.

NAPO has been one of the strongest supporters of the PSOB program from day one. We led the battle to establish the benefit in the first place, to increase the benefits amount, to make it tax-free, and to index it for inflation. Suffice it to say that we will always remain fully committed to ensuring the protection of the survivors of our fallen brother and sister officers. We will never, ever stand by idly in the face of threats to this or any similar program. Please contact our Washington office with any questions or concerns about this issue.