

IACP



NEWS

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**Contact: Gene Voegtlin
703-836-6767 ext. 211**

IACP PRESIDENT PRAISES AG ASHCROFT'S RESPONSE TO SOFT BODY ARMOR CONCERNS

Alexandria, VA: Chief Joseph Polisar, President of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and Chief of the Garden Grove, California Police Department today praised U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft for his timely and comprehensive response to concerns being raised in the law enforcement community over the effectiveness of certain brands of soft body armor.

“The Attorney General’s forceful response to the concerns raised by law enforcement agencies throughout the nation demonstrates both his leadership in the law enforcement community and his concern for the safety of our nation’s law enforcement officers,” stated Chief Polisar. “In my opinion, the steps the Attorney General has outlined will lead to a timely resolution of this issue and help ensure that law enforcement officers can remain confident in the ability of their body armor to protect them” declared Polisar

Polisar concluded, “the IACP looks forward to working with the Attorney General and the Department of Justice on this issue of critical importance to law enforcement agencies and police officers throughout the nation.”

On November 4, 2003, Chief Polisar sent the Attorney General a letter outlining the IACP’s concerns with the effectiveness of ballistic body armor made with Zylon. Specifically, it is possible that these vests lose their ballistic strength in a relatively short period of time when exposed to a combination of heat and humidity, thereby reducing the ability of the vest to protect the wearer from harm. In that letter, Chief Polisar called on the Attorney General to conduct a formal examination of the vests in question and initiate a review of the process by which body armor is certified for law enforcement use.

The International Association of Chiefs of Police is the world’s oldest and largest association of law enforcement executives. Founded in 1893, the IACP has more than 18,000 members in 91 countries around the world.

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