

CORPORATION FOR
NATIONAL
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

Crime -
Nat Service

November 12, 1993

MEMORANDUM FOR BRUCE REED

FROM: RICK ALLEN

SUBJECT: NATIONAL SERVICE AND CRIME

I understand that you are point-person developing a major crime conference for the post-recess period; we want to offer to assist in any way you would find useful.

As you know, public safety is one of the four areas in which our legislation calls for participants to work. Substantially assisted by Rana Sampson, we have been developing various crime control and violence reduction priority programs; visiting the state-of-the-art sites of community policing and other similar initiatives to determine the best way national service participants can assist in this field; and consulting with a variety of experts to inform our efforts.

National service will be an important element in the fight against crime, and we would hope that it would be showcased in the early administration events. Please call me (606-5294); once I understand you views of the needs and parameters of the December activities, I can get our team here to generate whatever more-detailed information you would find useful.

OPTIONAL FORM 00 (7-89)		# of pages ▶ 1
FAX TRANSMITTAL		
To Bruce Reed	From Rick Allen	
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Fax #	Fax #	
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Thanks again for Saturday!

Date: 11/22/93 Time: 14:17

Summer of Safety' Program to Be Prelude to National Service Plan

WASHINGTON (AP) President Clinton's national service team has visions of a "summer of safety" in which young people combine resources to fight violent crime in America.

The summer program, in which about 3,500 people would participate, would serve as a prelude to the September 1994 launch of AmeriCorps, which in its first year will enable 20,000 students to get financial assistance for college in exchange for public service work.

At briefings Monday, the Corporation for National and Community Service introduced its new management team.

"We view the people here as the energizers, the cheerleaders, the quality control part of the national service movement," said Eli Segal, the corporation's president and chief executive officer.

"Our job is to translate the poetry of national service into the prose," he said.

That includes drafting regulations for programs, initiating a public information campaign and selecting some of the first recipients of government national service grants.

Catherine Milton, vice president and director of National and Community Service Programs, said a summer of service program focusing on violent crime would precede the official launch of AmeriCorps. "We'll be using kids as a resource to get at crime problems," she said.

Among possible projects:

Teaching middle-school children how to handle disputes peacefully.

College students assisting shopkeepers in how protecting against robberies.

Community escort services for the elderly.

The AmeriCorps program fulfills Clinton's campaign promise of creating a domestic version of the Peace Corps. The plan would allow 37,000 participants the second year and 47,000 the third.

Spending would be limited to \$300 million, \$500 million and \$700 million in the three years, respectively. Programs will be funded by the states, and by the corporation itself.

AmeriCorps participants would be required to work 17,000 hours. They would receive a stipend equal to the minimum wage, about \$8,000, plus health care and child care benefits. They also would earn \$4,725 a year toward college tuition or repayment of student loan payments.

Segal said AmeriCorps would give young people at least 17 years old a chance to showcase the message of "rights and responsibilities."

Service would fit in one of four categories: education, human needs, environment and public safety. Segal said projects might include immunization drives, cleaning up parks, tutoring, serving as mentors or teachers' aides, working on crime control or "whatever it is a community feels is necessary."

Officials are working on a set of national priorities for community service work. One possibility might be children during the early childhood years.

"By targeting the work of really a limited number of people you can have a real impact if you narrow the range of what you're trying to achieve," said Shirley Sagawa, the corporation's executive vice president and executive director.

The corporation will look for hands-on projects that will have a direct impact on the community, she said. Young people, for

example, might be asked to clean up a vacant lot and build a playground in an urban neighborhood, or to escort students back and forth to school in high-crime areas.

It also will strive for diversity. "We're looking for programs that define community broadly and bring in people of different backgrounds, different races and different economic statuses," she said.

Officials predict that they will have no difficulty attracting 20,000 people to the program the first year. "The problem may be that there are so many people out there that want to participate in service and making sure that they hook up with good programs," said Jim Scheibel, vice president and director of ACTION.

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Crime -
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To: Bruce Reed
From: Rana Sampson
RE: Community Service Officers and National Service

I just wanted to share with you some things that Community Service Officers could do in the area of public safety as part of their National Service commitment. Community Service Officers (CSO's), depending on the needs and crime problems in a community, could perform any of the following services. In some communities, unions might resist CSO's taking on some assignments, in others as you can see, it is already being done by non-sworn personnel.

Definition: Community Service Officers (CSO's) -- Perform community service by assisting in non-hazardous public safety service such as:

Handle Minor Investigations CSO's can be trained to conduct routine investigations of misdemeanor crimes like larcenies (as in San Diego) and even more serious crimes like burglaries (as in Tucson). They can be trained to look for patterns in crimes as a way to increase solvability factors for these types of crimes.

Staff Telephone Reporting Unit: CSO's can be trained to take reports by phone of past crimes. Some citizens prefer to provide information over the phone to police personnel (if there are no clues to the identity of the offender) rather than wait for an unpredictable amount of time for police to respond to the scene of the crime. In Ft. Pierce (FL), 12% of police calls for service are handled by phone without the need to dispatch an officer. In other jurisdictions, an ever higher percent of calls for service can be handled by phone. Staffing a telephone reporting unit frees up police officers for prevention efforts and allows officers to be more proactive.

Assist in Residential Crime Prevention: CSO's can be trained, as in New York City, to identify environmental weaknesses at residential properties that contribute to crime (i.e. faulty locks, hedges obstructing view from street, open accessible windows, poorly lit stairwells).

Mediate Complaints: CSO's can be trained by local jurisdictions engaged in community-based mediation of complaints to assist in dispute resolution.

Attend Community Meetings: CSO's can attend community and neighborhood watch meetings, as in New York City, to develop an understanding of community concerns in the areas they work. They can then team up with the community to solve neighborhood crime

and disorder problems. CSO's can be the liaison to community groups, providing them with crime data and helping to look for crime patterns that might assist in solving or preventing crimes.

Prepare Reports of Past Crimes: If the offender has left the scene of the crime (so the threat to safety is eliminated), a CSO can take a crime report in the field, not just by phone. In many jurisdictions citizens can wait hours before police officers are available to take reports of past crimes because police time is committed to citizen calls involving more immediate hazards. CSO's can improve a police department's response time to citizen calls by assisting with the preparation of field reports as they do in San Diego.

Analyze Crime Data: Officers engaged in community policing try to gather information from sources inside and outside of their police agencies to help them better understand the crime or disorder problems they are trying to work with the community to solve. Officers need help sifting through the information gathered. For instance, in the case of a robbery, an officer should find out some of the following information: Has there been a pattern of robberies at the bus stop? What does past crime data reveal? Do plans from the City Planning Commission show why the bus stop was located in front of a vacant unfenced city lot? Does the city bus company do studies before they locate bus stops? This information, and a variety of other information, needs to be collected and analyzed before a solution to a crime problem can be crafted. CSO's can help officers gather and analyze information and data to increase the possibility that crime problems will be solved.

Reduce Crime Directed Against the Elderly: In those communities where seniors are routinely victimized, CSO's can tailor assignments to prevent senior victimization. If seniors are frequently robbed while doing their weekly grocery shopping, CSO's might set up a transport system escorting seniors to and from the market to prevent a crime from occurring. If seniors' monthly social security checks are being stolen, CSO's can work with seniors and local banks to set up direct deposit systems.

Latent Print Examination: CSO's can be trained, as in Tucson, to lift and analyze fingerprints from burglarized residential and commercial establishments.

Crime Scene Investigations: CSO's can safeguard and evaluate evidence at the scene of past crimes, as in Kansas City and Tucson.

Handle Minor Traffic Accidents: CSO's can respond to the scene of minor traffic accidents when no enforcement action is needed, as in San Diego, to take reports and see to injured victims.

Provide Information to the Public Concerning Crime Prevention: CSO's can be trained in crime prevention techniques. Once trained, they can work with community groups, as in San Diego, and with school children, as in New York, on neighborhood crime prevention initiatives.

Provide Social Service Referrals: CSO's can be trained to provide social service referrals to citizens, as in San Diego.

Conducting community surveys: CSO's can help community policing officers gather information about crime or other problems by going door to door and completing community surveys, as in New York City. Surveys are a very useful way to learn greater detail about a particular continuing neighborhood problem like daily drug dealing on a specific corner, (time of day, type of drug, witness information, etc.) or multiple robberies from a specific convenience store (items stolen, time of day, crime prevention techniques used, etc.), or the extent of a confidence scheme (who is being conned and how does the con artist gain the trust of the victim). Once information is gathered, CSO's can work with community policing officers to tailor solutions to the problems the surveys outlined.

As I mentioned to you yesterday, Herb Sturz of CVC in New York, also suggested we think of CSO's for placement in other parts of the criminal justice system (i.e. courts and victim assistance offices). He will be preparing some material on this for our review.