



## Protecting the Nation: Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, and the U.S. Public Service Academy

The U.S. Public Service Academy will create a corps of well-trained young leaders who will be required to serve for five years in a public service field. **Among the most important fields in which Academy graduates will serve are law enforcement and emergency management**, both of which currently suffer from critical shortages of top-quality recruits:

- More than 80% of the nation's law enforcement agencies report that they cannot fill needed positions due to a lack of qualified candidates. (*Washington Post*, July 2006)
- In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, personnel shortages were "perhaps [the] most difficult challenge" for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, according to a congressional report on the federal government's response to the disaster. (*Washington Post*, February 2006)
- The Border Patrol has struggled to recruit and retain college-educated agents who can speak Spanish and navigate the delicate cross-cultural interactions inherent in the job. (*New York Times*, June 2006)
- Fire and Emergency Medical Services departments around the nation report chronic shortages that imperil public safety. (*Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, November 2006)

"I haven't been to a place in this country where agencies aren't concerned about the number and quality of their officers."

**Elaine Deck**  
**International Association of**  
**Chiefs of Police**

"As with law enforcement, there comes a point at which the EMS problem is no longer just about people on the city payroll, but also about the safety and welfare of the citizens. An understaffed EMS, like an understaffed police department, can mean longer response times in situations that are literally life or death matters. To somebody in urgent need of treatment for injury or acute illness, this isn't a political or budgetary issue."

**Columbus (GA)**  
**Ledger-Enquirer**

**The U.S. Public Service Academy will help to meet these shortages by sending graduates to serve in law enforcement and emergency management positions at the local, state, and federal levels.** These graduates will have the academic background (including foreign language training) and practical experience necessary to become capable public servants.

In addition, all Academy students, including those who will be placed in fields such as education or health care, will be required to undergo emergency response training so that they will be prepared to be "lay" Emergency Medical Technicians in the event of a crisis. Too many college graduates leave campus without the practical skills they need to be capable citizens who can react calmly and intelligently during an emergency. To improve our nation's ability to respond effectively to crises, we need more citizens with the skills needed to respond effectively in emergency situations. Each year, the Academy will graduate more than 1,200 such citizens.

### **U.S. Public Service Academy**

1225 I Street NW, Suite 600 • Washington, DC 20005 • 202-712-9121 • [www.uspublicserviceacademy](http://www.uspublicserviceacademy)