



Chief,

As the 20th Anniversary of the September 11th attacks nears, many of you will likely participate in community ceremonies to make certain that the world never forgets these events that changed America.

This year and every anniversary of 9/11 may be an important time to ensure that today's law enforcement officers also never forget. It is likely that many law enforcement officers serving now were very young or perhaps not even born prior to September 11, 2001. They may have some knowledge that 72 law enforcement officers lost their lives on 9/11, but they may not be aware that more than 300 officers have succumbed to illnesses related to 9/11 with even more expected to pass in the coming years.

Many of today's law enforcement leaders served in law enforcement in 2001, and they have a story to tell. These stories may often be shared with community members at events, but such stories may also be critical in helping today's less experienced officers understand how the events of 9/11 shocked the nation, transformed the culture of travel, altered our government structure, and dramatically changed policing. Today's officers face significant challenges and struggle to comprehend demands for change, and learning more about 9/11 and the changes that followed may help them cope with these calls for change.

The [9/11 Commission Executive Summary Report](#) may be an informative resource for today's officers who were not yet members of the law enforcement profession protecting their communities on September 11, 2001. This report details how al Qaeda had a personnel process to recruit candidates, a communications structure, an intelligence network, and a supervisory system. The report's findings, coupled with today's leaders' stories of 9/11, can help ensure that all officers never forget and encourage them to embrace any changes that may be needed to face today's threats.

Please know that the J.A. Montgomery Law Enforcement Team joins our law enforcement partners in never forgetting the more than 300 law enforcement officers who lost their lives due to the 9/11 attacks and stands ready to help your officers navigate today's complex law enforcement changes and challenges.