

OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

May 05, 2021

**THE MASHANTUCKET PEQUOT TRIBAL POLICE DEPARTMENT
PROUDLY ANNOUNCES VALOR IMMERSION PROJECT**

The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Police department announces the launch of the VALOR Immersion Project. The VALOR Immersion Project is a project under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and is designed to provide specific agencies from rural or tribal communities with in-depth officer safety and wellness training based on their individual needs. Each agency has been assigned a VALOR Technical Assistant Coordinator (VTAC) focused on working exclusively with their designated agency. Through virtual means, the VTAC spent substantial time with the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation Police Department, homing in on their specific training needs through multi-page assessments and interviews. Moving forward, the results of these assessments will lead to custom virtual trainings covering categories such as tactical safety, wellness, resiliency, suicide prevention, traffic safety, and policy development.

The Project began with an applicant pool of over 100 agencies across the country in rural, tribal, and territorial communities. A network of subject-matter experts, law enforcement association contacts, and organizational relationships were utilized to identify those agencies and delivered outreach messages across the country to ensure equal opportunity, in terms of access, to this program. Five agencies were chosen, each representing different regions of the United States. These agencies expressed great interest in improving their officer safety and wellness culture through assessments, training, and technical assistance delivery. There will be specific, focused, training on the physical well-being, mental wellness, and tactical/complacency for the officers; In addition, specific training in these same areas geared more towards the supervisors.

The VALOR Immersion Project is part of BJA's VALOR Officer Safety and Wellness Program, which was created in response to the startling increase in felonious assaults that have taken the lives of many law enforcement officers. VALOR provides all levels of law enforcement with tools to help prevent violence against law enforcement officers and enhance their safety, wellness, and resiliency. VALOR Training provides critical nationwide, no-cost officer safety training to all levels of law enforcement. Since the inception of the initiative, more than 60,000 law enforcement personnel have received VALOR Training. For more information on BJA and the VALOR Program, please visit bja.ojp.gov or valorforblue.org.

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