

Project Description „JET“

The project "JET" was developed in the fall of 2005 and has been utilised since February 2006. The decisive factor was a brutal wave of violence at events, which had reached their peak in the summer of 2005. About two thirds of the offenders as well as the victims were juveniles and adolescents. The Police Headquarters Heilbronn wanted to eliminate the role of just reacting. A project group started their work in July 2005 and at the end of the year they presented their organisational concept. It was their objective to encounter violence in advance. In addition to that, responsibility was placed upon organisers, the regulatory authorities as well as the security and bar personnel to comply with the "Protection of Young Persons Act".

The JET conception intends for the police to consult with the organisers regarding the preparation of a safety concept prior to the respective events. On the actual day of the event the JET-teams observe the course of the festivity with 3 or 4 officers in civilian clothes and intervene once the organisers have exhausted their possibilities and ask for support or if they observe a crime being committed. The consequential criminal prosecution was coordinated with the prosecutor's office in the event that the JET-teams have to intervene in case of criminal offences. The prompt criminal prosecution increases the deterring effect. In case of periodically repeated events the disturbances which had developed are subject to an analysis afterwards with regard to the cause and in order to avoid the possibility of recurrence at the next event. An aggressive press coverage accompanies the police operation in advance, so that visitors to the event are aware of the police presence. The teams are normally headed by the local juvenile officer in charge, who is well known to his clientele – no matter if he wears his uniform or civilian clothes.

Approximately 800 police officers work at the Police Headquarters Heilbronn. 91 officers volunteered for JET operations, which almost always take place on the weekend and signify extra work in almost every case.

The project group compiled one folder each for the organisers, security personnel and parents. The advice is provided at no charge and can also be obtained via the internet on the home page of the Police Headquarters Heilbronn. In cooperation with the "VHS Unterland" and the District Youth Welfare Office the police additionally offers training seminars for security personnel which is composed of 2 modules of three hours each. The demand at the first seminar in May with 30 participants was so great that it was booked up in no time at all and two additional seminars will be held in November, January and March.

The "JET" project has been evaluated and fully implemented at the Police Headquarters Heilbronn.