

Donald Rice
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Good afternoon,

I am Officer Donald Rice of the Eastport Police Department.

I have been a Police Officer since 1979.

We have a major problem facing Law Enforcement, especially in rural Maine. Lack of qualified Law Enforcement personnel. This has led to several small-town Police Departments to Close their doors. Some other examples are Calais Police Department, they use to have over 12 Officers on their roster, now down to 3, our own department is struggling to keep its doors open. The Sheriff's Department is struggling also and find it hard to cover everywhere, and to fill in for the understaffed departments.

We have an untapped source of experienced and qualified law enforcement, which would go a long way of filling in the gaps. That source is federal law enforcement, especially Border Patrol along with other qualified and experienced Federal and out of state Law Enforcement.

Thank you for your time.