

P&SN

**Police
and
Security
News**

MAY/JUNE 2019
VOLUME 35 ISSUE 3

Serving Law Enforcement and Security

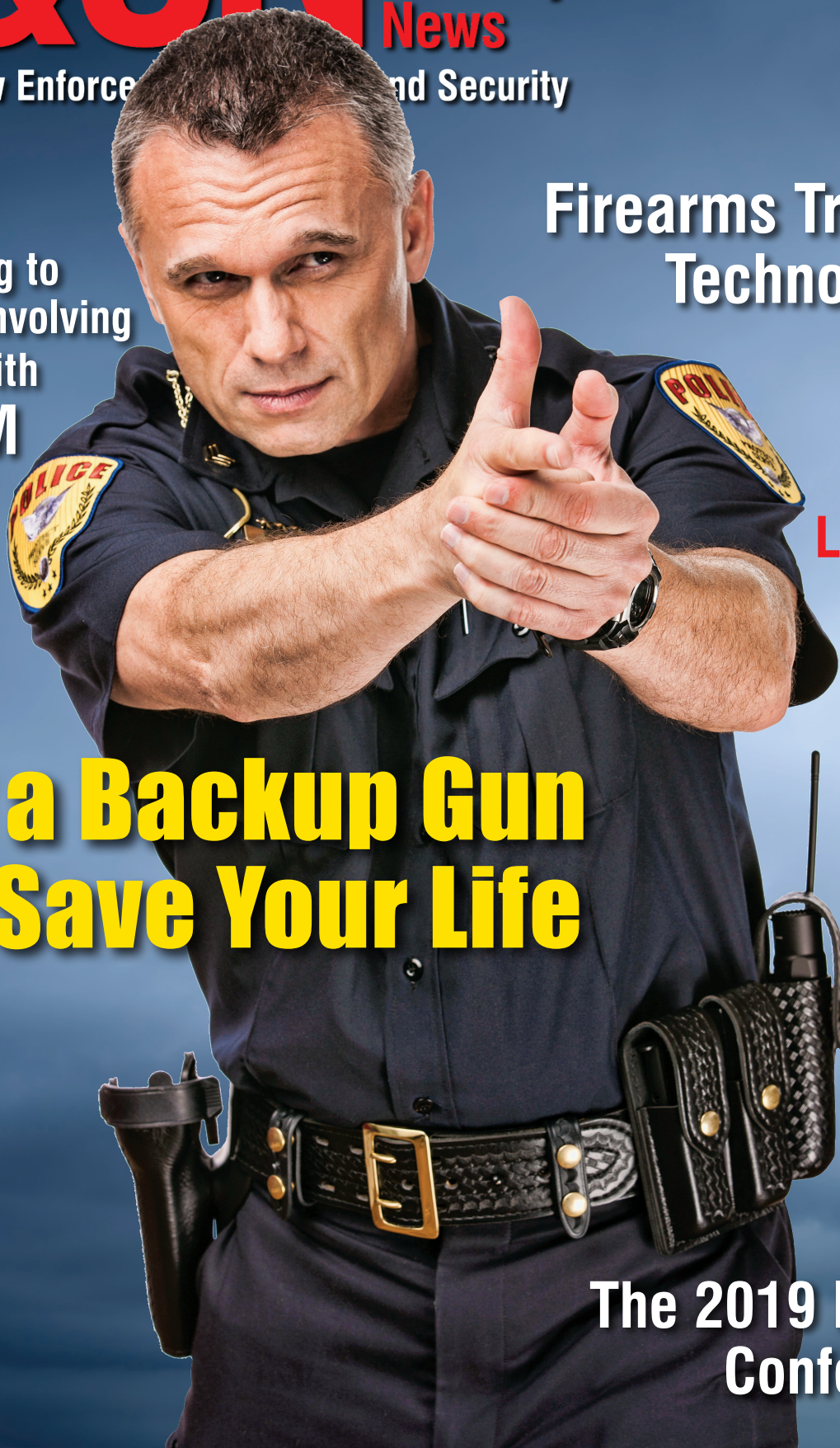
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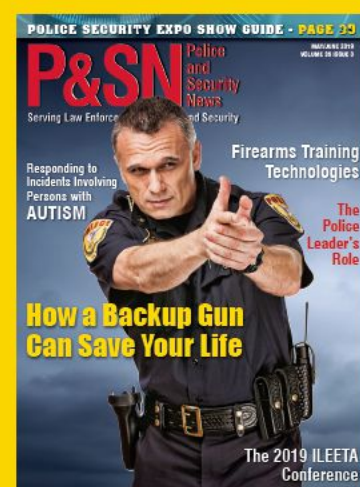
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ON THE COVER

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Old-timers and Old Guy Moments

RAMESH NYBERG

When you retire from law enforcement these days, there is usually some other occupation waiting for you on the other side. If there isn't, there should be. I say this for two reasons: 1) It's damn expensive to live these days and living beats the hell out of the alternative; and 2) it's just good for you to *do* something. Yes, retire from your job; just don't retire from doing things because, well – and we've seen it over and over again – your heart will think it's retirement time, too.

I pulled the pin on November 30, 2006. I was all of 48 years old. I've stayed busy; I got my real estate license; and I enjoy a life which has more hustle in it than sitting and watching TV or playing video games. But, that's me, and some people prefer vegetating. I just never liked the idea of thinking of myself as an "old guy." I don't feel that way (well, on some days, yeah) and I do things which force me to be energetic.

For the past few years, a wonderful guy named Norm, who retired about the same time I came into police work (in 1979), has been hosting a lunch for retired guys and gals from the department. He calls it the gathering of the "Knights of the Brown Gown." You see, our uniforms were a light brown shirt and dark brown trousers which we used to call the "brown gown." Norm sent out these long, funny E-mail invitations and, several times, he called me asking when I was going to attend one. I kept saying I would, and I wanted to, but things (mostly work) kept getting in the way. Finally, just a couple of weeks ago, I made it. It was at an Italian restaurant just west of Fort Lauderdale and there must have been about 25 of us "old-timers" there. Damn, I thought, looking around the room. I'm an old-timer. There were guys there with canes and hearing aids, and I, at 61, was one of the youngest pups in the room.

Norm stood up and said, "People ask me why I put together these lunches. And, the reason is that, one day, we'll be at each other's funerals. The worst thing that can happen is for us to be standing there thinking, 'We should have had lunch.'"

He's right. It was really great being there and seeing probably eight or ten people I hadn't seen in years. Many others, from Norm's generation of cops, I never even knew. There were also retired medical examiners and other nonpolice



people there. Norm introduced several of them and, to my surprise, Dr. Richard Souviron was in attendance. Souviron was the forensic dentist who conducted the bite mark comparisons in the Ted Bundy murder cases from Florida State University in the 1970s. I remembered reading his excellent book, *Dead Men DO Tell Tales*; perhaps, the most well-written book on forensic investigation I have ever read. I decided I had to go over and say something to him. So, in between the salad and the main course, I went over and introduced myself. He smiled and shook my hand.

"Dr. Souviron, I have to tell you, your book, *Dead Men DO Tell Tales*, was really excellent. Best book I've read on forensics."

"Oh!" he said, "Wow...well, thank you." He looked up at me with a strange look. The book had come out in the 1980s. He probably didn't get many people complimenting it anymore.

After I went back over to my seat, I started thinking about other forensic experts who had written books and the name William Maples, a forensic anthropologist from the University of Florida, had written one, too. Then, it hit me: *Maples*, not *Souviron*, had written *Dead Men DO Tell Tales*! Oh, good grief! I sat staring into my iced tea and lamenting. This was an immense *faux pas*. Or was it? I mean, it wasn't a

negative. It was just...embarrassing. I had an "old guy" moment, to be sure. Later, after everyone had just about finished their entrees, I went back over.

"Thank you," I told Souviron, "for being a gentleman. I just realized that Bill Maples wrote that book."

Souviron chuckled, "Yeah, I didn't want you to feel embarrassed."

"If you *had* written a book," I said, "It would have been a dandy." And, all was well.

Being an "old guy" has its perks. You get to go to Knights of the Brown Gown lunches and kibitz with other old-timers and catch up. It's nice. And, so what if you mess up every once in a while? There were several people there who were struggling to remember names, but Norm doesn't like the idea of those "Hello, my name is _____" stickers.

Souviron probably thinks I'm the biggest *Alpha Hotel* on the planet, because – guess what – he *did* write a book. It's called *Dental Autopsy*. "Sometimes," the old saying goes, "it is better to keep one's mouth shut and be thought a fool, than to open it and remove all doubt." Aw, heck, Souviron coauthored the book. So, I'm only half an idiot. It's all good, as the young ones say today.

Before the Knights lunch, I got some really good "old guy" news. My son and his wife, who live in Seattle, sent me a short video on Facebook Messenger (yes, I know how to use it). It was a fuzzy little shape on a screen, accompanied by a noise which sounded like a distant steam locomotive heading down the tracks.

It was an ultrasound image of my grandchild, who had just recently made his presence known to my daughter-in-law. Towards the end of August, he (or she) will make a grand arrival to the outside world.

So, you mess up at a luncheon and can't remember stuff sometimes. So, you can't find your glasses and they are on your head. But, when you get a little video like that from your kids, this "old guy" stuff can be pretty damn wonderful. **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years in police work. He now owns his own private investigation agency, Nyberg Security and Investigations, and can be reached at Ramesh@NybergPi.com. He enjoys getting feedback from readers.

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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY



Power-12 Timed Power Distribution Module

The Power-Series from All Fleet Solutions allows you to easily add or remove aftermarket electrical devices or electronics to your vehicle.

The **Power-12** provides two timers with six individual circuits for a total of 12 outputs, with a total load handling capability of 125 amps. The unit is designed to connect directly to a primary (12V) power source (vehicle battery) and efficiently power, protect and monitor the supply of power to your electrical/electronic devices.

With the **Power-12**, you are able to create your own modified configuration by loading the panel with the fuse selection you need; choose one bank for a timed setting of one hour and the other bank for two hour delay off settings. Two low limit settings let you select when the panel begins its shutdown process.

Circle 3004 for More Information



New Cargo Security Cover

Pro-gard Products' **Cargo Security Cover** safely stows away an assortment of equipment in the SUV's cargo area. This easy to install security solution is securely mounted using existing OEM mounting points. It not only hinders theft by keeping items out of sight; it essentially creates a trunk in the SUV. The **Cargo Security Cover** provides additional mounting surfaces on top and underneath for weapons, accessories and/or electronics.

Circle 3005 for More Information

Police Vehicles and Equipment

Tufloc's X-Lock for Law Enforcement Vehicles

The **X-Lock** gives officers quick, easy, one-handed access to guns – when they are needed fast. The innovative, patent pending design features locking arms which automatically adjust to a tight, more secure fit when the gun is pressed into place. A host of features include: stainless steel, spring-action locking arms which allow for one-handed removal of gun; padding which protects guns and prevents rattling; a lock which can be opened with an electronic timer or with a key; and a quick installation time – the unit can be mounted with little or no drilling.



Circle 3006 for More Information

New LDV-built Mobile Command Center



The Santa Barbara Police Department's new high-tech **mobile command unit** will be dispatched during disasters, large community events and emergency situations.

The 32 foot long, nearly 12 foot tall custom-built vehicle features an onboard generator and water tanks which allow it to operate independently for weeks at a time. It has satellite communication facilities, a radio mast and electronic gear so the vehicle can replace or augment a communication center, such as one which has been disabled during a disaster.

This new **mobile response unit** has command staff meeting areas equipped with whiteboards and video displays for planning and briefing sessions.

Circle 3007 for More Information



ZRT AR Secure Dual Gun Rack

In an age of increased weapon theft, police cars are now a target. Jotto Desk's patented **ZRT AR Secure Gun Rack**, featuring SmartLok Technology, provides weapon security, accessibility, quick installation, and standard features only available from Jotto Desk. The ZRT Lock Heads are constructed of zinc and cannot be defeated with a magnet. The SmartLok Technology eliminates the threat from "hot-wiring" and the rubber dipped AR Secure Housing prevents those looking to utilize the takedown pins to strip the weapon from the rack.

Circle 3008 for More Information



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A superior bracket edge rounding process provides maximum adherence of primer and powder coat finish. All hardware meets or exceeds Automotive PPAP standards and is coated with ASTM-B-117 and salt spray tested for protection against both white and red rust.

Circle 3009 for More Information



Lake Assault Boats Patrol Craft

Lake Assault Boats recently delivered this 26 foot **patrol vessel** to the Town of Essex Resident State Trooper's Office located in Connecticut.

The welded aluminum craft features a progressive "V" hull design with a 16-18 degree dead rise and a full width dive platform at the transom. The boat is equipped with sonar, radar, a VHF radio, and a Forward-Looking InfraRed (FLIR) camera system. The eight foot long pilothouse is fully enclosed with twin sliding and locking doors, air ride shock suspension seating and a 76 inch interior clearance height.

Circle 3010 for More Information



LF Aftershock Siren System

SoundOff Signal has recently introduced **Aftershock**, its first low frequency siren system for emergency vehicles. Its low frequency sound waves produce deep warning tones, proven highly effective in traffic clearing. Low frequency sirens are meant to supplement existing sirens by adding a low end tone for a short burst of time. **Aftershock** is a supplemental (addon) siren system which is ideal for high traffic areas and busy intersections. **Aftershock** is available with one or two speakers to meet specific needs, with universal mounting brackets included.

Circle 3012 for More Information



New Control System Programming

Whelen Command™ brings advanced features to all Whelen control systems. With the Situation Based Integration feature, scene specific functions can be created utilizing various vehicle components. With Events, multiple user-defined rules can be created for specific scenarios – depending on the state of your vehicle. These added features utilize automation, increasing officer and public safety.

Circle 3014 for More Information



Add-on Vehicle Armor

Designed using the same ballistic technology used by the US military, Hardwire **Vehicle Armor** gives officers protection against handguns, shotguns and/or assault rifles. The armor panels are modular, scalable and upgradeable. Its protective skin blends with OEM doors and paint and also accepts decals to match police department markings. The **armor** offers life-saving protection without looking militarized. Installed in under ten minutes per vehicle, Hardwire's armor kit is easy to install or remove at vehicle decommission.

Circle 3011 for More Information



Flip-up Dash Monitor

New from Havis is their **C-DMM-3001 Flip-up Dash Monitor Mount** which is touted as the next generation of dash mounts. Featuring a 30 minute installation time, this new low profile mount requires no drilling and can carry up to 12 pounds of electronics. Built for the Ford Police Interceptor Utility, this new mount allows for easy flip up which provides access to vehicle controls. Also included is a secure dual-action latch for added safety. The C-DMM-3000 Series is also offered for additional vehicles.

Circle 3013 for More Information



New Version of Lund LOFT

Lund Industries has introduced an **Auto Opening** version of the patented LOFT covert headliner gun storage solution. It features dual electric rotary latches with microprocessor controlled mechanisms which securely hold the LOFT door closed, but release at the touch of a button. The new **Auto Opening** LOFTs and other LOFT models are available for the 2020 PIU, FPIU, Tahoe, Durango, and Expedition.

Circle 3015 for More Information

Pathfinder® Siren/Light Controller

Federal Signal's **Pathfinder** is a compact, programmable siren and light controller available with self-contained controls, a remote surface mount control head or a handheld control head. **Pathfinder** includes features such as dual tone and integrated Rumbler intersection clearing capability, along with optional Federal Signal Vehicle Integration/On-Board Diagnostics (OBDII) integration. **Pathfinder** incorporates Convergence Network Configuration Software to provide a high level of customizable control capability.

Circle 3016 for More Information



TECHNOLOGY FROM THE PAST



Photo: Popular Science

TRAFFIC DUTY - 100 YEARS AGO

The performance and morale of the traffic "cop" is bound to be affected if he (or she) is not protected from the elements. With this in mind, the Columbus (Ohio) Automobile Club of Columbus, back in 1919, purchased "Stop-Go" traffic umbrellas – like the one pictured here – for the police personnel of their city.

A sturdy metal stand supported an umbrella of considerable dimensions. The panels of the umbrella were alternately colored red and white. On the two red panels, "Stop" appeared in large white letters; on the white panels at right angles, "Go" was depicted in red.

The traffic policeman revolved the umbrella by means of a small handle. One wonders when he had a chance to sit down. **P&SN**



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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

AMERICAN POLICE CAR HISTORY 101

Sergeant James Post

Early spring is a great time of the year for those of us living in "four seasons" parts of America. Trees and flowers are blooming; birds are singing; and, to replace the boredom of winter, calls for service are increasing. But, spring sucks for Law Enforcement (LE) vehicle writers such as myself because the "Big Three" automakers, the motorcycle builders and the LE equipment manufacturers are either still designing, building or tweaking next year's products or they are keeping their big reveals under wraps until the large expos, such as the Police Security Expo, the Police Fleet Expo and the IACP Conference, and the annual tests conducted by the Michigan State Police and the LA County Sheriff's Office are held. We writers can speculate and guess all we want, but our readers are not interested in fake news; they want and demand, as Sgt. Friday often said, "just the facts."

So, my columns this time of year are usually devoted to our past...the good old (and not so old) days of law enforcement. By design, LE has to be proactive and always planning for the next event – be it a presidential visit, a natural disaster or an active shooter. For these reasons, it is sometimes refreshing to take a few minutes and visit our past. At *P&SN*, we take the past seriously and many of our articles reflect that fact.

I've been writing this column since before most of today's police recruits were even born, so this issue's essay will be a review of past popular articles of mine – this time, in Q&A form to see if you were paying attention. There are no prizes... just, hopefully, the personal satisfaction of recognizing where we all came from. And, think of all the great trivia you'll have when you and your buddies are betting for beers. The correct answers are listed on page 20. Good luck and enjoy!

The Greatest Hits

1. The January/February 2006 column was devoted to preventing police vehicle thefts. Police car thefts pose a significant liability risk to agencies and a threat to the public; they are second

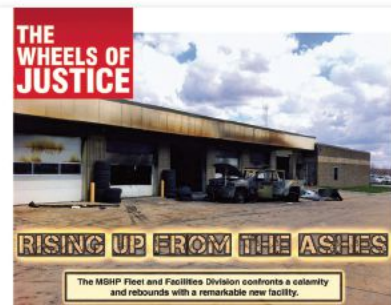


only to pursuits. We quoted a study of the first 11 months of 2005. On average, how many police cars were stolen or damaged by an attempted theft every day?

- In the same study, we reported that, although we feel comfortable with prisoners secured behind partitions, what percentage of all prisoner escapes were from police vehicles with partitions? 15.5%, 59.2% or 83.7%
- In the September/October 2013 issue, we reported that the bankrupt city of Detroit was to be the recipient of free 2014 model police cars, complete with new graphics, donated by the "Big Three." This amounted to 100 cars from each company. True or false?
- "You Ought to Be in Pictures" was the title of my column in our September/October 2003 issue. It dealt with how to respond to film companies wanting to rent police cars or hire off-duty officers as actors. We quoted a policy from the 1995 Film Industry Safety Committee which designated the person on a set who is responsible for ALL weapons, including issuing and securing weapons and blank ammo

and training, plus checking the weapons of off-duty officers hired as extras. What is the title of this person?

- The same article listed several items to be included in any agreement between your department and a movie company about renting police cars. Replacing dead batteries was one. True or false?
- My January/February 2014 column was all about car chases. I quoted an IACP study which dissected 7737 car chases in the US. What percentage of the chases was for nonviolent crimes: 50%, 91% or 27%?
- The same IACP study also listed the reasons given by officers for initiating a pursuit. The number one reason given was because the vehicle was believed to be stolen. True or false?
- The January/February 2001 issue featured my column on the history of police pony cars, such as B4C Camaros and SSP Mustangs. This is a two part question: (A) In 1971 and 1972, which US agency was the first to purchase pony cars (two-door sports cars) for marked enforcement? (B) Name the car.



In 1965, 17 years (2006) since we last featured the Missouri State Highway Patrol's Fleet and Facilities Division, it has grown to be one of the premier state law enforcement agencies in the country. The 10 members who made up the first academy class of the Missouri State Highway Patrol in 1957 are all gone now, but they would be amazed to see the changes in their beloved Patrol. While they drove Model A Roadsters with no top, the 1300th anniversary of today's Patrol (up from 1240 in 2004) now comes and goes in everything from Dodge HEMI Chargers to Volkswagen Beetles, and even to Harley-Davidson motorcycles and SUVs from Chevrolet and Ford's modern fleet.





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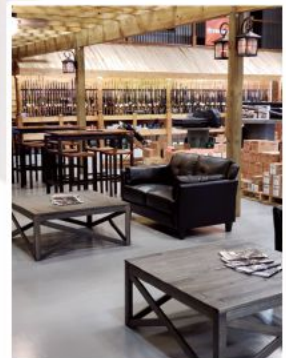
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9. My September/October 2011 column was about the history of sirens, from mechanical to electronic to the ground pounding "rumblers" from Federal Signal. Which siren company is recognized as the pioneer in the development of electronic sirens?
10. The January/February 2017 column



was all about SWAT vehicles. Chief Darryl Gates of the LAPD is often given credit for the first SWAT team; however, the first SWAT team was created in 1964 in which city?

11. The same column also discussed the Department of Defense which, for 20 years, had made military vehicles available to LE agencies. However, all of that ended in 2015 with President Obama's two part Executive Order 13688. Section one was titled, "Prohibited Equipment List." Which of the following did the list not include: tracked armored vehicles, weaponized aircraft, wheeled armored vehicles, or bayonets?
12. The May/June 2007 column was titled, "Cop Cars Are Slow? Apparently, Motor Trend Thinks So," and it was my response to *Motor Trend* magazine's article, "Cop Cars Are Slow. We Prove It," which contained their misleading "tests" of current police cars and may have even prompted more violators to run. But, even more insulting were their statements about the benefits of owning a used police car which likely encouraged even more

impersonators to buy them. Among the many inflammatory statements they made were, "Flashing lights are fun; sirens are even funnier," "Merge onto the freeway and the traffic ahead parts like the Red Sea," and "It was fun parking at the meter all day for free." In short, they did an incredible disservice to every police officer in America. The one accurate statistic they did quote was the number of car chases in California in 2005. Were there 3467, 5662 or 7934 chases?

13. "Your Next JEEP® May Be a Ford" is how my May/June 2001 column began and was prompted by a report that DaimlerChrysler was considering selling off some low producing divisions, including JEEP. The prevailing rumor was that Ford was considering purchasing that line. We followed that report with a review of a previous article about the police package AHB JEEP Cherokees (1997-1999). One of the departments featured was in a suburb of Fort Worth, TX, which replaced their entire marked fleet in 1997 with AHB JEEP Cherokees. What was that department?

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AMERICAN POLICE CAR HISTORY 101

Continued from page 14

14. My May/June 2000 column presented the history of the popular 1991 to 1996 9C1 Chevy Caprices. It included a Caprice Spotters Guide which described mechanical, interior and exterior changes, plus production numbers for each year. This is a two part question: (A) Before moving all Caprice production to one factory in 1993, in which two cities were they first built? (B) Was the year that saw the most 9C1 Caprices built 1991, 1993 or 1996?
15. Referring to the previous question, which popular "civilian version" of the 9C1 Caprice appeared in 1994?
16. In my May/June 2004 column, we featured the Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) Motor Vehicle Division and their very successful vehicle resale program. Their fleet at that time amassed 25 million miles a year and their annual fleet budget was just over ten million dollars. We reported that the MSHP both upfits their vehicles for duty and details them for resale in-house. This is a two part question: (A) Were the MSHP vehicles retired

at 100,000, 75,500 or 49,500 miles? (B) In 2004, their vehicles were sold at fixed prices set by the state at what percentage of the sticker price (MSRP)?

17. In the May/June 2016 issue, we revisited the MSHP, due in part to a 2014 catastrophic fire which destroyed their garage and eight vehicles parked inside. We provided a visual tour of the new facility and also included an update on their vehicle resale program. In 2015, their annual miles driven was 31.7 million, an increase of 30% over 2004, and their budget for vehicle replacement increased to \$13 million, up 27%. The vehicle resale program remained successful, with vehicles being sold to agencies across the US. This is a two part question: (A) The criteria for retirement and resale price had changed slightly in the intervening 12 years between the two articles and the mileage at retirement on sedans increased somewhat to how many miles? (B) Because of the increased miles, the

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE
A CONDENSED HISTORY OF
POLICE CAR ENGINES
(AND A FEW COOL CRUISERS, TOO)
PART ONE

1954 Ford, featuring their first OHV (Overhead Valve) V8, a V8 which produced 138 hp at 4000 rpm

What if you're a history buff? You high school history teacher probably loved history by the date of significant events. But authors, authors on history with building style and sports have been able to inspire their writing to historic years, makes and models. However, performance-minded folks go even further and chart automobile history by engine type and size, aka horsepower. Because I spent the last 20+ years behind the wheel of police cars, I love the Ford 352 further by describing the 352's engine.

Following, you will find the chronological history of significant police car engines and the development of police "pony" cars. This is not official and it is primarily for informational purposes. It's just my humble opinion based on police cars I've owned and driven.

NOTE: Descriptions will alternate between historical and the descriptions depending on what the manufacturers used in the title.

1952
After building nearly five million Model A's, Ford released their new 1952 Model A, aka "The Sedan." The new Ford included their first V8 which had the distinction of being used by both cars and commercial vehicles. After years of the new performance of the Model A four-cylinder, cars took the new V8. Complete the 1952 Dodge and Chrysler were both Dodge and Chrysler. The new Dodge and Chrysler were both Dodge and Chrysler. The new Dodge and Chrysler were both Dodge and Chrysler.

Henry Ford examining the revolutionary V8 engine which produced 80 horsepower. The Ford 352 was a direct result of the development.

16 HENRY FORD NEWS 2016

percentage of the MSRP decreased to what?

18. My columns have frequently mentioned the police department I retired from after 25 years. Was that Kansas City, MO; Quakertown, PA;

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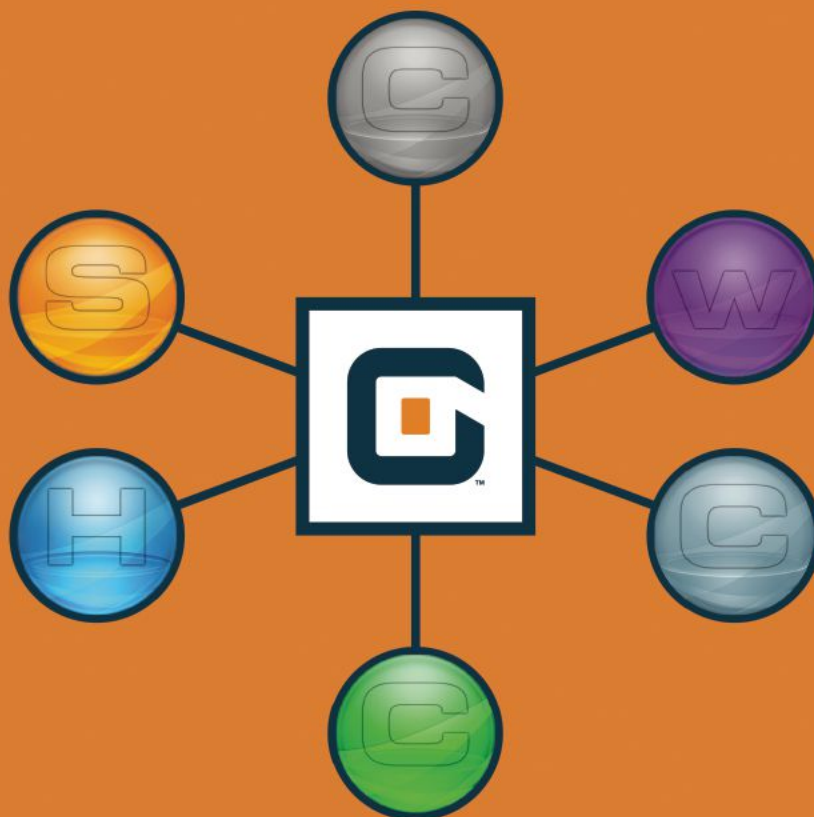
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or Saint Louis, MO?

19. My May/June 2012 column was titled, "The Crown Victoria Police Interceptor Remembrance," and it was our obituary for the Crown Victoria Police Interceptor, arguably the best-selling police car in North America ever. Accompanying Ford's announcement that the CVPI production would end on September 15, 2011, was their announcement that the replacements would be built in Chicago. The assembly plant which had built the Crown Vics and was permanently shuttered was in which city?
20. Which North American police agency requested and received the last CVPI built for their museum? Was it the NYPD, the KSHP or the CHP?
21. The title of my May/June 2011 column was "Police Cars Which Never Were" and we discussed unusual nonpolice package police cars which had been purchased over the years. The CHP had experimented with a number of unusual vehicles over the years, including BMWs,

Volvos and AMC Eagles. On the East Coast, the FLHP had also experimented with alternative brands, such as Datsun 280Zs. In 2003, an unidentified benefactor donated to the FLHP a dozen vehicles in different colors. Which one is correct: Chevrolet Corvette, Ford Mustang or Mercury Marauder?

22. The September/October 2004 column was about new developments. We reported on an unusual vehicle the Northern Illinois University DPS had selected for their campus patrol. Was it a new VW Beetle, Segway or Toyota Prius?
23. In the May/June and September/October issues of 2018, we featured a two part column on the history of police car engines, starting with the 1932 Ford "Deuce" flathead V-8. This is a three part question: (A) Which big block GM V-8 was immortalized in a Beach Boys' song? (B) Which Mopar engine powered the Blues Brothers' Bluesmobile? (C) In 2003, Chrysler debuted the Gen III HEMI® engine in which vehicle?

24. My January/February 2019 column was about car chases and the PIT maneuver. The CHP is usually credited with originating the PIT maneuver which is a variation of the "bump and run" technique used in stock car racing. Which agency actually developed the PIT maneuver over 30 years ago?
25. May/June 2006 brought readers my column on fleet vehicle inspections. I listed several objectives an aggressive vehicle inspection program should achieve besides saving money. Which one is correct: discover mechanical problems early, increase resale value or increase officers' pride and morale?

But, Wait, There's More

If you are interested in past issues of *P&SN*, downloadable PDFs of entire issues are archived back to 2015 at policeandsecuritynews.com. **P&SN**

Sergeant James Post appreciates your comments and suggestions for future articles. He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net.

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1. One a day
2. 83.7%
3. False. It was 100 total cars.
4. Property (or Prop) Master
5. True
6. 91%
7. False. The number one reason given was for traffic violations.
8. (A) Alabama State Patrol (or Alabama DPS) (B) AMC Javelin (SST or AMX)
9. Carson Sirens
10. Philadelphia, PA
11. Wheeled Armored Vehicles were listed under the Controlled Equipment List.
12. 7,934
13. River Oaks, TX, PD
14. (A) Willow Run, MI, and Arlington, TX (B) 1991
15. Impala SS
16. (A) 49,500 miles (B) 75%
17. (A) 54,000 miles (B) 60-70%
18. KCMOPD
19. St. Thomas, Ontario, Canada
20. KSHP
21. Mercury Marauder
22. Toyota Prius
23. (A) Chevy 409 (B) 440 Cop Motor or 440 Magnum (C) RAM pickup
24. Fairfax County, VA
25. All of the above

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Supreme Court Limits Excessive Forfeitures as Criminal Penalties

Larry E. Holtz, Esq.

Recently, in *Timbs v. Indiana*, 586 U.S. ____ (2019), the United States Supreme Court unanimously ruled that states cannot impose excessive fees, fines and forfeitures as criminal penalties. The Court's decision underscores that the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against "excessive fines" applies to states and localities as well as the federal government.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, just back in court after lung cancer surgery, wrote the majority opinion and announced it from the bench. Said Justice Ginsburg, "The protection against excessive fines guards against abuses of government's punitive or criminal law enforcement authority." It is "both 'fundamental to our scheme of ordered liberty' and 'deeply rooted in this nation's history and tradition.'"

The ruling was a victory for Tyson Timbs who was convicted of selling close to \$400 worth of heroin to undercover police officers. In a civil forfeiture proceeding, the State of Indiana seized his Land Rover® which he had purchased for about \$42,000 with the money he received from an insurance policy when his father died. The state sought forfeiture on the ground that Timbs used his Land Rover to transport the heroin.

In the Indiana state court proceedings, it was determined that, even if the requested forfeiture was excessive – constituting more than four times the maximum \$10,000 monetary fine assessable against Timbs for his drug conviction – the matter need not be decided for the Excessive Fines Clause does not apply to the states. *The United States Supreme Court disagreed.*

Here's the question: "Is the Eighth Amendment's Excessive Fines Clause an 'incorporated' protection applicable to the States under the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause?" In this case, the Court unanimously ruled that it is.

In 1791, when the Bill of Rights was ratified, the rights applied only to the Federal Government. "The constitutional amendments adopted in the aftermath of the Civil War," however, "fundamentally altered our country's federal system." Today, with only "a handful" of exceptions, the US Supreme Court has held that "the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause incorporates the protections contained in the Bill of Rights, rendering them applicable to the States. According to the Court, a Bill of Rights protection is incorporated if it is deemed to be "fundamental to our scheme of ordered liberty," or "deeply root-



ed in this nation's history and tradition." Incorporated Bill of Rights guarantees are "enforced against the States under the Fourteenth Amendment according to the same standards that protect those personal rights against federal encroachment." Thus, "if a Bill of Rights protection is incorporated, there is no daylight between the federal and state conduct it prohibits or requires."

Here, in *Timbs*, the Court determined that, like the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishment" and "excessive bail," the protection against excessive fines "guards against abuses of government's punitive or criminal law enforcement authority." This safeguard, held the Court, "is 'fundamental to our scheme of ordered liberty,' with 'deep roots in our history and tradition.'"

Accordingly, the Court held that the Excessive Fines Clause is "incorporated by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment." **P&SN**

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey; and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is the Managing Editor of Blue360° Media, the largest US provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement. Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.



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ABOVE AND BEYOND

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"Above and Beyond..." salutes Sergeant Michael Parsons of the Tulsa, OK, Police Department

Artwork by
Don Lomax

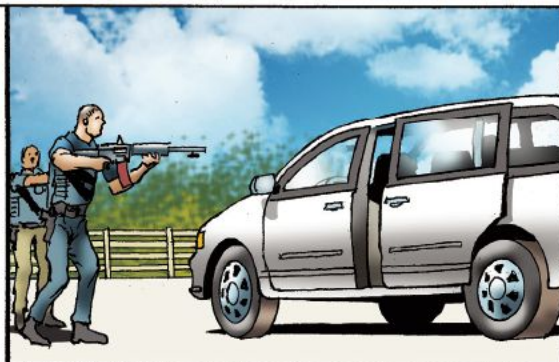
A video of this incident can be viewed here:
<http://tinyurl.com/y6cr973h>

TULSA, OK
JULY 3, 2018
1:23 PM



THE TULSA POLICE DEPARTMENT'S GANGS UNIT INITIATED A TRAFFIC STOP AT A LOCAL CONVENIENCE STORE FOR THE WRONG TAGS BEING DISPLAYED ON A DODGE MINIVAN BEING DRIVEN BY JOHN TERRY CHATMAN, JR. OFFICERS DANIEL BEAN AND MIKE CAWIEZELL CONFRONTED CHATMAN WHO HAD MOVED TO THE SECOND ROW OF SEATS AND REFUSED TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE OFFICERS!

SERGEANT MICHAEL PARSONS, BEAN AND CAWIEZELL'S SUPERVISOR, WAS SUMMONED TO THE SCENE WHEN CHATMAN REFUSED TO EXIT THE VEHICLE. PARSONS WARNED THE INDIVIDUAL THAT HE WAS ARMED WITH PEPPERBALLS AND WOULD BE FORCED TO USE THE LESS-LETHAL DETERRENT IF CHATMAN DID NOT COMPLY!



WHEN THE BELLIGERENT INDIVIDUAL STILL REFUSED, SERGEANT PARSONS FIRED APPROXIMATELY SIX PEPPERBALL ROUNDS THROUGH THE OPEN DOOR, STRIKING CHATMAN! CHATMAN RETURNED FIRE WITH A .32 CALIBER HANDGUN, HITTING THE OFFICER IN THE THIGH!



A SECOND OFFICER STEPPED FORWARD TO RETURN FIRE, STRIKING CHATMAN IN HIS CHEST AND NECK AREA!



THOUGH WOUNDED, SGT. PARSONS MAINTAINED HIS COMPOSURE, CONTINUING TO CONTROL THE CHAOTIC SCENE. HE DIRECTED AND LED THE ARREST TEAM AS THEY ADVANCED ON THE PERP AND SUBDUED CHATMAN, TAKING HIM INTO CUSTODY!



FOR REMAINING IN COMMAND AND DEMONSTRATING SOUND LEADERSHIP THROUGHOUT THE DANGEROUS INCIDENT, EVEN AFTER BEING WOUNDED, SERGEANT MICHAEL PARSONS WAS AWARDED THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION'S 2018 NRA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD AND OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND!



THE END



NRA 2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

On July 3, 2018, at about 1:23 PM, officers of the Gang Unit of the Tulsa, Oklahoma, Police Department initiated a traffic stop for an improper license plate display on a van. The traffic stop took place at a local convenience store with the suspect vehicle parked in the gas pump area. When the officers approached the vehicle they noticed that the driver had moved to the second row of seats in the van he had been driving. The driver was uncooperative with the officers, refusing to provide identification or to follow commands to exit the vehicle. Gang Unit officers negotiated unsuccessfully for several minutes with the suspect before they requested additional officers, as well as an officer with less-lethal munition capabilities.

Shortly after Sergeant Michael Parsons arrived at the scene, the suspect was advised he was under arrest for obstruction and the improper tag display on the vehicle.

The suspect refused to comply with the officers, and he was warned the officers would utilize Pepperball deployment of OC if he did not comply with the orders given.

As Sgt. Parsons began to deliver the Pepperballs, the suspect drew a weapon and fired multiple rounds at Sgt. Parsons and the other officers at the scene.

Sgt. Parsons was struck in his right thigh by one of the suspect's rounds and fell to the ground nearby, while another officer at the scene returned fire, striking the suspect in his chest and neck area. Though he was suffering from a gunshot wound, Sgt. Parsons maintained his composure, continuing to direct officers at the scene and to cover the suspect vehicle with his service pistol. Even while being dragged to safety by fellow officers, Sgt. Parsons maintained coverage on the suspect vehicle, as the suspect was still actively moving inside the vehicle's interior.

Once behind cover, Sgt. Parsons re-assessed his wounds with the assistance of a police medic. He then began forming an arrest team to apprehend the suspect as he was still a threat to anyone in the area. Sgt. Parsons exercised outstanding judgment and determination in leading the arrest team to take the suspect into custody. Only after the suspect was in custody and no longer a threat to the public did Sgt. Parsons allow himself to be medically treated at the scene and transported to the hospital.

Despite being wounded, Sgt. Parsons continued to show leadership by remaining in-command of the incident and ensured the safety of the other officers and citizens on the scene. He demonstrated sound judgment and good tactics throughout the incident. He had the presence of mind to quickly establish specific roles for different officers, and then lead the arrest team until the suspect was in custody and the scene was rendered safe. As such, it is with great honor and pride the National Rifle Association names Sergeant Michael Parsons as the 2018 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.



Sgt. Michael Parsons
Tulsa Oklahoma
Police Department

"I am privileged to join the millions of members of the National Rifle Association in honoring Sergeant Parsons as the NRA's 2018 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year," said NRA President Lt. Col. Oliver North. "Sergeant Parsons' outstanding tactical decisions in the heat of battle, his leadership and bravery in response to a serious threat to his fellow officers and innocent lives are a testament to his valor. Indeed, his heroic actions, in spite of being wounded, epitomize the selfless dedication of our men and women of law enforcement to public safety and to the communities they serve."



Forms for nominating candidates for the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award may be downloaded at <http://le.nra.org/documents/pdf/law/leoy.pdf>.

For more information about NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and its Law Enforcement Division, call (703) 267-1632 or send an e-mail to LE@nrahq.org.

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THE POLICE LEADER'S ROLE

There is nothing the law enforcement leader does which is more important than working to assure the well-being of his (or her) employees. Once they know that they have that backing from leadership, most will be willing to go out and do a job which may be more dangerous today than it has been in years.

GERALD W. GARNER



Policing has never been easy, but today's challenges have further complicated an already convoluted public safety scenario. Leading a law enforcement organization has never been tougher, either. Protecting his (or her) people is only another of the leader's challenges. But, it is one that the leader must do well if his (or her) officers are to do their difficult jobs both safely and effectively. The leader's key tasks are significant.

The Leader as a Role Model

Regardless of his rank, the leader must demonstrate exceptional safety and risk management practices at all times. He scrupulously follows the rules. He wears his body armor on the street. He wears his seat belt and operates his police vehicle in a safe and controlled manner. If he participates in on the street police work, he follows only the best safety tactics on such assignments as traffic stops, pedestrian contacts, build-

ing searches, and physical arrests. He never displays careless or lazy conduct when it comes to officer safety. If he realizes that he has made a safety error, he owns up to it and lets his people know that he realizes what he did wrong. He recognizes that his officers are watching and may emulate what they see. In the process, the safety conscious leader develops a group of safety conscious officers around him.

Training Responsibilities

The law enforcement leader must resist the temptation to cut training, especially officer survival training, when budgets are tight. The leader will assess the safety quotient of his officers by talking with them, listening to them and watching how they function on the street. The leader will assure that, where an individual falls short, he will receive extra instruction or counseling from a more safety-wise colleague.

The leader will look to the safety training needs of all of his employees – not just the most inexperienced. Indeed, real-life experience has shown that, sometimes, it is the senior officer who needs the most refresher schooling in how to stay safe on the street. Many worthwhile officer safety and survival courses are available today. Training needs will change as new threats appear and new equipment and tactics are developed to counter them. The wise leader will re-

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main abreast of both new challenges and appropriate safety training responses.

Policies and Procedures

The responsible law enforcement leader will work to protect his agency and his employees from civil or criminal liability in an increasingly critical and litigious society. The leader will collaborate with his employer's legal and/or risk management specialists in an effort to assure that police practices executed in the name of officer safety pass muster – both constitutionally and in the eyes of an ever attentive body of plaintiffs' attorneys.

Use of force is always a topic for litigation. Of late, revised guidance on the appropriate use of force by law enforcement has been forthcoming from organizations such as the Police Executive Research Forum and the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Every law enforcement CEO should be aware of the findings and recommendations of

such groups. Furthermore, he (or she) should make certain that the information is disseminated throughout the leadership structure of the organization. Where indicated, policy and procedure revisions should be effected to align the organization with recommended practices to the extent that they meet local needs.

A simple example will suffice to demonstrate the value of updated thinking when it comes to safety practices. Generations of police officers have been taught to issue loud, firm commands to gain control of a stressful situation. That advice remains valid in many instances, such as interdicting a robbery in progress. But, when police are dealing with an autistic or emotionally disturbed person, this approach may only aggravate the situation. The de-escalation tactics being taught and implemented by an increasing number of law enforcement agencies today is most often the appropriate response. Policies, procedures and tactics should be modified, where

necessary, to encourage such practices.

Reviewing and revising policy and procedure to emphasize officer safety and risk management must be a continuing function of every law enforcement agency's leadership staff. Doing so will help protect officers and citizens alike from unnecessary risks.

Safety-related Equipment

It is the leader's job to assure that his (or her) officers have the best equipment the department can provide for their difficult and, sometimes, hazardous job. A good leader peruses the professional publications and Web sites to remain abreast of the latest proven equipment designed to improve the safety, effectiveness and efficiency of police officers. He asks his subordinates for their ideas regarding equipment needs. He involves them in fielding and evaluating new equipment for its contributions to officer safety.

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or elected body seeking funding for safety-related equipment, the well-prepared leader is ready to furnish facts beyond emotional arguments. If the equipment will reduce the organizations liability at the same time it increases officer safety and morale, the leader will include that argument in his justification message.

The Leader as a Risk Manager

Every streetwise law enforcement leader knows that his (or her) chosen profession can be a high-risk, high liability one. The responsible leader also knows that he (or she) is ethically obliged to do everything within reason, not only to reduce the physical risk to officers,

but minimize the liability exposure to the greater organization, too. The leader accomplishes this by working closely with other subject matter experts such as human resource specialists and the organization's attorneys. In doing so, the police leader will identify the diverse legal risks which police operations might bring

An Example of Excellence in Officer Safety and Risk Management

What does a highly professional law enforcement agency look like? The department's leadership staff seeks to bolster officer safety and risk management efforts in a number of ways:

1. **Leader as role model** – Each member of the department's leadership team is expected to demonstrate safe practices and exceptional risk management skills. It is recognized that sergeants and Field Training Officers (FTOs) have a particularly strong influence with other officers and are vital to positive role modeling. Leaders are evaluated in their annual performance review for their endeavors as positive safety role models.
2. **Training** – The department emphasizes the importance of officer safety training and provides a steady regimen of officer survival updates. One example would be implementing de-escalation training which could result in "saves" of individuals planning "suicide by cop" via application of de-escalation techniques combined with tactical awareness.
3. **Policies and procedures** – When the *Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing* was published in 2015, the leadership staff in many law enforcement agencies examined their organization's own guidelines as compared to the Report's recommendations and made adjustments, where indicated. The same review took place following the studies and recommendations governing police use of force found in the reports of the Police Executive Research Forum. Presently, some leaders are comparing their agency's existing policies, procedures and orders with the National Consensus Policy on Use of Force from the International Association of Chiefs of Police and other law enforcement professional groups.
4. **Safety-related equipment** – The department involves first-line supervisors and patrol officers in examining requests and recommendations for new or additional safety-related equipment. The agency's practice should be to purchase safety equipment over other demands when sufficient funding does not exist to cover all needs.
5. **Leader as risk manager** – Leaders, including first-line supervisors, are tasked with examining the agency's operational guidelines and actual on the street operations for any practice which increases potential liability for the greater organization. Supervisors are expected to take a leadership role in addressing unacceptable risks by modifying both policies and practices accordingly. Leaders are expected to implement significant corrective action for safety lapses, such as failure to wear seat belts while the police vehicle is in motion.
6. **Responsibility to intervene** – The department attempts to instill a culture of safety and risk management throughout the organization. As an element of that effort, every employee, regardless of rank, is entitled and expected to call a "time out" in training (or on the street, when appropriate) if he (or she) becomes aware of unsafe behavior, whether in progress or anticipated. That expectation is heightened for supervisory personnel.
7. **Officers' emotional health** – In addition to providing peer support and critical incident psychological counseling, the department implements an annual emotional health checkup program for its sworn personnel. Much like annual physical health checkups, the free and voluntary emotional health program is intended to serve as an early warning system for officers experiencing emotional or mental health issues. The meetings with a police psychologist are considered confidential. Leaders are encouraged to sign up for an appointment to serve as examples for other employees to follow.
8. **Explaining officer safety** – The chief of police makes regular appearances on local radio stations or writes a guest column for the local newspaper. Officer safety and why officers do what they do are frequent topics covered. This information is also disseminated at the twice a year Citizens Police Academy and through the leadership's presentations in front of school and civic groups.

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The Police Leader's Role

Continued from page 28

to the local government. The potential threats may range from false arrest to unlawful searches to excessive force or racial discrimination complaints. It is the responsibility of the leadership staff to see that rules, policies and procedures are developed and enforced to minimize the opportunity for malpractice to occur. That, too, is a vital task of ethical and effective leadership.

Responsibility to Intervene

Officer safety, of course, is not just about equipment, policies and procedures. It includes the responsibility to deal effectively with the careless officer or "cowboy cop" who cannot, or will not, grasp the importance of commonsense safety practices. This individual, who is almost certainly endangering peers and citizens (in addition to himself), must be promptly confronted and held accountable for his unsafe behavior. This holds equally true for the novice cop and the

grizzled veteran. A leader at any level of the organization who shields or turns a blind eye to the unsafe actions of such an employee is endangering other officers while, at the same time, he is helping set up the offending employee for personal disaster.

Remedial training and earnest counseling hopefully will successfully address the chronically unsafe officer. That failing, progressive discipline must be applied. In the end, the police employee unwilling or unable to change his unsafe ways must for the good of all be separated from the police service.

Officers' Emotional Health

As important as it is, it is not enough that a police officer remain physically healthy at work. It is not enough that an officer survives the physical trauma of a critical incident only to later fall victim to a career- or life-ending emotional breakdown. Even absent a critical incident, a

law enforcement officer can be seriously harmed by the cumulative and pent-up stresses from an everyday diet of crime and mayhem. Even if they survive, some of these officers will flee law enforcement in search of a less emotionally demanding career. The profession loses when such trained and experienced people leave the field.

Responsible leaders will provide their people with every opportunity to remain mentally and emotionally healthy. This often will include encouraging the funding of peer support groups, easily accessed law enforcement psychologists and other mental health services. More and more law enforcement agencies are offering their employees a free annual mental health checkup with a psychologist, akin to the recommended annual physical health checkup. This voluntary and confidential visit is intended to help the officer identify and treat problems ranging from alcohol de-

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pendency to depression before they become aggravated.

Explaining Officer Safety

The law enforcement leader has yet another responsibility in promoting safety and risk reduction throughout his (or her) organization. If the line level law enforcement officer is to rigorously adhere to safe practices, he has to know that the agency's leadership will back him when his safety appropriate tactics upset a citizen or bring questions from the news media or local officials. He has to know that his boss will support him for "doing it the right way." The courageous and responsible leader is absolutely required to do this, but there is more.

The leader must seek every opportunity to discuss the dangers of the job, as well as reasonable officer safety practices in every public presentation or interaction he conducts. This effort at educating the general public should pay

off in dividends of increased public understanding of the law enforcement officer's difficult job. By spreading the word at every opportunity, the leader will give his (or her) officers the confidence to do what they lawfully and ethically must do to stay safe.

Conclusion

There is not a single task among a law enforcement leader's responsibilities more vital than the duty to assure that his (or her) people are as safe as it is possible for policies, procedures, equipment, and leadership support to make them. The effective leader serves as an exceptional role model for officer safety and risk management. He assures that appropriate and adequate training is made available. He sees that relevant safety and risk management policies and procedures are developed and enforced. He intervenes when unsafe practices are noted. He looks to his officers' emo-

tional health. He ensures that good risk management guidelines are followed. He advocates publicly for reasonable officer survival practices and defends his people as necessary.

The true law enforcement leader's most earnest wish is that his (or her) officers go home safely at the end of each shift. By remaining personally involved in the officer safety and risk management process, the effective leader will help make that happen. **P&SN**

Chief Gerald W. Garner is a veteran of 49 years in law enforcement. Chief Garner holds a Master's Degree in Administration of Justice. His instructional experience includes appearances as a guest speaker for the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the FBI National Academy. He has authored 12 books and over 200 articles on law enforcement leadership and officer safety.



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2019 ILEETA Conference: Enhancing Training and Making Connections

TODD FLETCHER



An Inside Look at This Nation's Premier Law Enforcement Training Event

The 2019 International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association (ILEETA) Conference has wrapped up and instructors from all over the world have returned home to continue their mission of training law enforcement officers. After six solid days of instruction, everyone left exhausted, reinvigorated and ready to share new information and knowledge. The ILEETA Conference includes classes on leadership, supervision, use of force, defensive tactics, live fire firearms courses, wellness, field training, vehicle operations, and much more. If you're a trainer, you should put the ILEETA Conference at the top of your to-do

list.

The ILEETA Conference activities officially start on Monday morning; however, many people show up early to help get things set up. This year, in addition to the ILEETA staff and Board of Advisors, an energetic group of young police officers from the St. Louis Police Academy helped roll out the mats, unload boxes of T-shirts and other giveaways, and generally help get things ready for the onslaught of members who were about to invade the St. Louis Union Station Hotel.

Monday morning began with the opening ceremonies. ILEETA's Executive Director Harvey Hedden welcomed trainers



A few of the firearms instructors enjoying the light show in the St. Louis Union Station Hotel included (l-r) Chris Cerino, Andrew Blubaugh, Brian "Bucky" Buchanan, Todd Fletcher, and Chrystal Fletcher. Photo courtesy of Chris Cerino, Chris Cerino Training Group.

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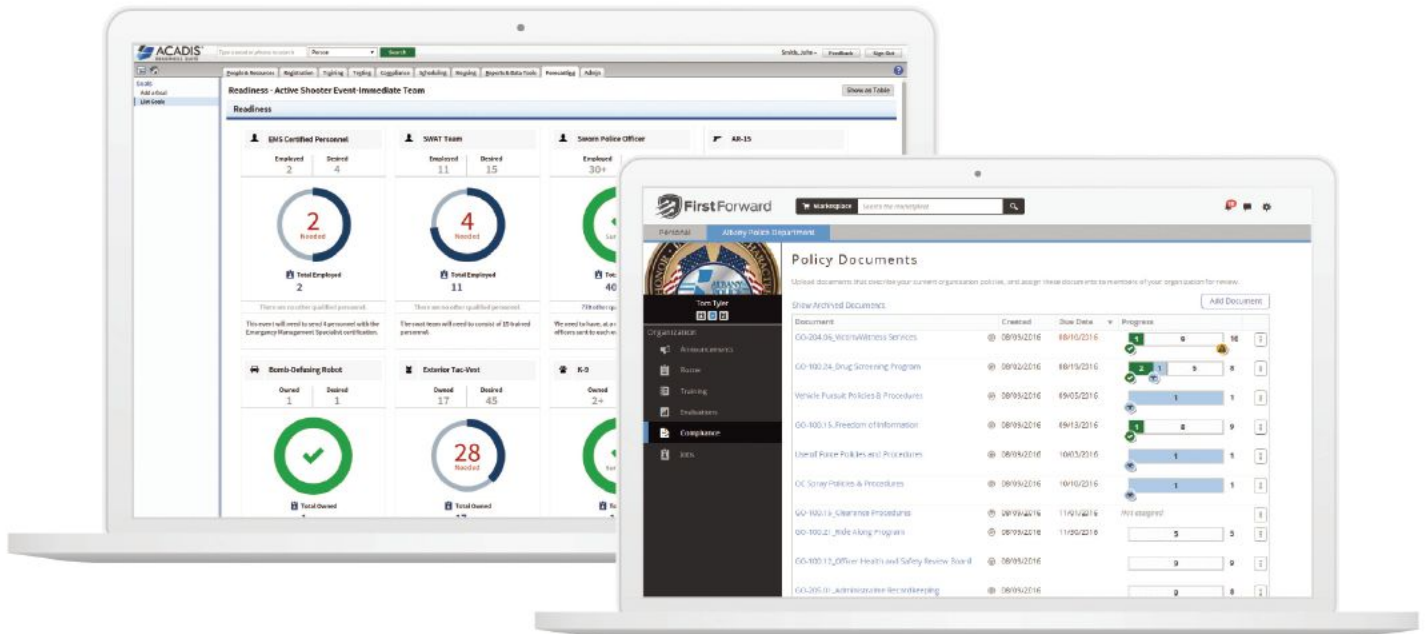
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from all over the United States and Canada and as far away as Ukraine. ILEETA's Deputy Executive Director Brian Willis spoke about how trainers see the ILEETA Conference as an opportunity to network with instructors from all over the world. However, Brian challenged us to expand this opportunity into making actual connections with people instead of simply networking. The opening ceremony was inspiring and helped set the tone for the rest of the week.

During this year's Conference, there were far too many (great) classes to list; however, there were a few sessions which truly stood out. Some of these were noteworthy because they were out of the ordi-

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There were several live fire range classes, including a class by the author of Drag Race or Sunday Drive: What is your speed limit?

nary and some because they were outside my comfort zone. In the “out of the ordinary” category, a presentation by Jeff Hartsoe entitled, “Thinking Outside the Badge – Team Building and Thinking Drills,” challenged instructors to include physical and mental activities to improve officers’ critical thinking skills. We participated in several difficult tasks including a challenge to build a dry spaghetti and marshmallow tower (<https://tinyurl.com/y7gk2crf>) and another group activity required participants to determine the priority of items needed to ensure survival while lost at sea (<https://>

tinyurl.com/y78tqj26). Feel free to download these lesson plans and give them a try with your team, shift or squad.

One of the most notable classes outside the comfort zone was “PowerPoint® Design with Cinematics” by Antonio Zarzoza (aka Instructor Z). I’ll admit that I’m not a computer guy. They’re a necessary evil in my life, but I’d rather roll around on the mats or hit the range for some ballistic therapy. That being said, I know this is an area where I can improve my knowledge and abilities. Instructor Z helped me to improve my classroom presentations by using creative techniques to enhance the adult learning experience. He shared cinematic design ideas and templates to make this as simple as possible. It’s a work in progress, but we’ll see what I can do with this newfound information.

There also were classroom sessions for firearms instructors, as well as several live fire range classes from which to choose. Heather Eckert provided an outstanding presentation entitled, “Why It’s Not Working for Her – Getting Female Officers on Target.” She presented material on a number of learning differences between male

and females, as well as obvious, and not so obvious, differences between men and women and how this could affect firearms training. Even though this is a serious topic, the class was a lot of fun and maybe a little awkward, but definitely eye-opening. Michelle Cerino’s class, “Demystifying Shooting for Females (and Males),” shared some techniques and tactics for instructors to help explain and demonstrate the fundamentals of marksmanship. She focused primarily on grip, sights and trigger control and how to help shooters understand what it takes to make consistently good shots.

There are several sessions I look forward to each year, including the Emerson Hour. This is an evening presentation hosted by Joe Willis which features six speakers who answer Ralph Waldo Emerson’s question, “What has become more clear to you since last we met?” Each speaker has nine minutes to speak without the use of audio or visual props – no PowerPoint, no flipcharts and no music. It’s just nine minutes of speaking from the heart. Many of the speakers bared their souls while discussing life struggles that included alcoholism, job loss and the deaths of

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Heather Eckert's class, "Why It's Not Working for Her – Getting Female Officers on Target," was as entertaining as it was enlightening. As funny as it looks, this simple exercise helped give male firearms instructors some insight into some of the challenges facing our female shooters. Photo courtesy of Heather Eckert, E4Defense.

fellow police officers. Rather than being a pity party, each speaker shared his (or her) story and message in a way which showed how resilient we can be when we surround ourselves with strong networks of friends and family.

Another valuable session which I look

forward to each year is Massod Ayoob's "Deadly Force Panel Discussion." Including myself, the panel was made up of many well-known firearms instructors such as Alex Embry, Mike Boyle, Don Alwes, Heather Eckert, Richard Fairburn, and John Farnam. Other panel members included use-of-force experts John Bostain, Kevin Davis, Ron Borsch, and attorney Laura Scarry. This four hour session divides the topics of conversation between the panel members and the audience. Topics included body-worn cameras, criminal and civil use-of-force litigation, leadership issues, maintaining high standards in hiring and training, and active shooter response. Each year, this panel draws a large audience and the topics of discussion are always current and relevant.

Classes continued through Saturday, but the final social event of the week is Friday night which features the Member Appreciation Banquet. This brings everyone back together to wrap up the Conference. Sharing good food and drink with some of the best law enforcement trainers and instructors in the world is a perfect way to

close out the event.

By the end of the week, everyone is exhausted and many of us are sore and bruised from time spent rolling around on mats. I left St. Louis recharged and excited to return to my role as a trainer, supervisor and mentor. If you're a trainer, then you owe it to yourself and your students to get to the 2020 ILEETA Conference, March 23-28, 2020. Once again, the St. Louis Union Station Hotel will be ground zero for the best educational event of the year. For more information about ILEETA and how you can join, go to www.ileeta.org. I look forward to seeing you next year in St. Louis! **P&SN**

Todd Fletcher is a sergeant in Central Oregon with over 23 years of law enforcement experience. He has presented firearms and instructor development training nationwide and at multiple regional, national and international conferences. He owns Combative Firearms Training, LLC which provides firearms training and instructor development classes to law enforcement, military, private security, and armed citizens. He can be contacted at todd@combativefirearms.com.

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TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019

Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

- Entranceway Complimentary Health Screenings**
Blood Pressure Readings, Pulmonary Function Testing, Body Fat Analysis, and Blood Sugar
Presenter: Deborah Heart and Lung Center
- Ongoing Demos Booth #2223 Test Drive a Bike Fitted with the GeoOrbital Electric Wheel**
Revolutionary, Patented Electric Wheel – Easiest Way to Add Electric Power to Any Bike
- Booth #2319 Take the Inertia Wave™ Challenge – Win Prizes**
High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) Device to Enhance Performance for Those Engaging in Extremely Demanding Physical Activities
- 12:15 p.m. Opening Ceremonies**
Entranceway (New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police)
- 1:00 p.m. Starting Your Police Drone Program**
Room #305 Is your department considering a drone program in your police operations? This seminar will discuss equipment considerations; FAA regulations; developing community support; insurance; policy writing; and more.
Presenter: James Komsa (Advanced Drone Consultants)
- 1:30 p.m. Managed Services for Extra Duty**
Room #305 Introduction/Overview of Jobs4Blue Police Officer Scheduling System Platform
Presenter: Scott Walter (VCS – Visual Computer Solutions)
- 2:00 p.m. Weapon Mounted Cameras for Law Enforcement – Lecture/Case Study/Demonstration**
Room #317 This seminar offers information and potential advantages associated with the devices.
Presenters: Matthew Plowman and Ken Skalicky (Viridian Weapon Technologies)
- 2:00 p.m. Public Safety Communications and In-building Wireless Communications**
Room #306 A proper DAS Network (Distributed Antenna System) could mean the difference between life and death for public safety, first responders and tenants alike. This seminar teaches the basics of DAS Networks.
Presenter: Dominic Villecco (V-COMM, LLC)

Wednesday, JUNE 26, 2019

Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

- Entranceway Complimentary Health Screenings**
Blood Pressure Readings, Pulmonary Function Testing, Body Fat Analysis and Blood Sugar
Presenter: Deborah Heart & Lung Center
- Ongoing Demos Booth #2223 Test Drive a Bike Fitted with the GeoOrbital Electric Wheel**
Revolutionary, Patented Electric Wheel – Easiest Way to Add Electric Power to Any Bike
- Booth #2319 Take the Inertia Wave™ Challenge – Win Prizes**
High Intensity Interval Training (HIIT) Device to Enhance Performance for Those Engaging in Extremely Demanding Physical Activities
- 11:00 a.m. Public Safety Communications and In-building Wireless Communications**
Room #306 A proper DAS Network (Distributed Antenna System) could mean the difference between life and death for public safety, first responders and tenants alike. This seminar teaches the basics of DAS Networks.
Presenter: Dominic Villecco (V-COMM, LLC)
- 12:00 p.m. DoD Excess Property Program Overview**
Room #307 Representatives for the Department of Defense will provide a presentation of the 1033 Excess Property Program for the law enforcement community.
Presenter: Chris Kincaid (DoD Domestic Preparedness Support Initiative)
- 1:00 p.m. Starting Your Police Drone Program**
Room #316 Is your department considering a drone program in your police operations? This seminar will discuss equipment considerations; FAA regulations; developing community support; insurance; policy writing; and more.
Presenter: James Komsa (Advanced Drone Consultants)
- 2:00 p.m. Weapon Mounted Cameras for Law Enforcement – Lecture/Case Study/Demonstration**
Room #317 This seminar offers information and potential advantages associated with the devices.
Presenters: Matthew Plowman and Ken Skalicky (Viridian Weapon Technologies)

Note: Seminars and Product Demos subject to change.



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MAGLITE® and Firearms Training Associates Announce an Alliance to Provide Tactical Training Support

ONTARIO, Calif. (March, 2019) – The Legendary William “Bill” Murphy and Firearms Training Associates (FTA) have formed an alliance with MAGLITE® to offer applicable training programs developed over decades by Murphy and FTA.

“I have great respect for the MAGLITE® brand which is an iconic American brand,” said Bill Murphy, FTA Founder. “The merits of toughness, reliability and overall quality are touchstones of the products MAGLITE® produces and operators need and respect that kind of performance. Furthermore, as a major sponsor of the National Law Enforcement Memorial and Museum in Washington DC, Mag has longstanding roots in the LE community going back 40 years.

William “Bill” Murphy has been a law enforcement officer and deputy for the past four decades, primarily assigned to Patrol, SWAT and Training functions. In 1990, Bill began in the Instructor Provost program at Gunsite Training Center. He continued on as a Rangemaster and was the 44th instructor hired at Gunsite, teaching pistol, shotgun, carbine, SMG, close quarter, and low light tactics.

Murphy spent 30 years working night patrol shifts and approximately 15 years as the owner and operator of a well-known training institute which developed tactics and techniques. During that time, Bill was responsible for the training operations for law enforcement and military special operations units to provide them training at the highest level. The programs Bill created specialize in instructor development, K9 operations, weapons use, flashlight deployment, night vision, lasers, thermal, and other tools to advance operator survival during tactical operations.

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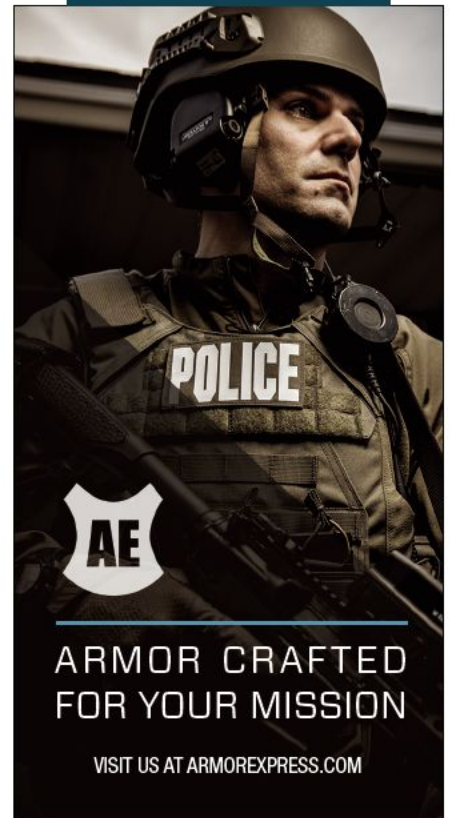
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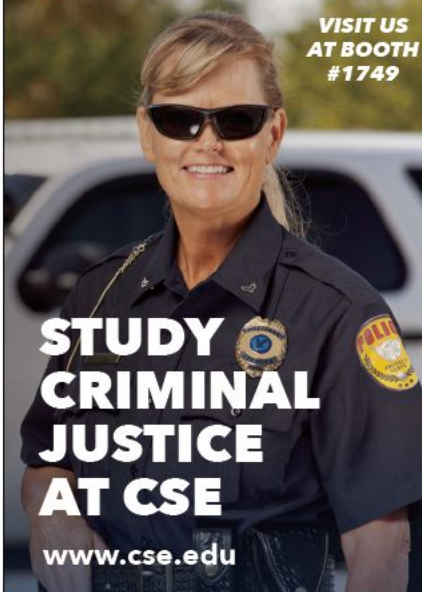
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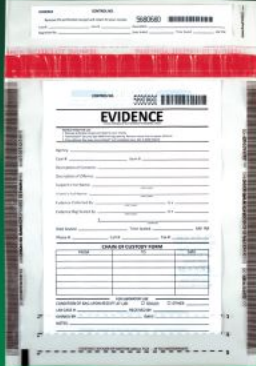
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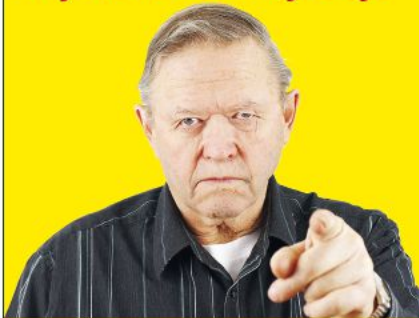


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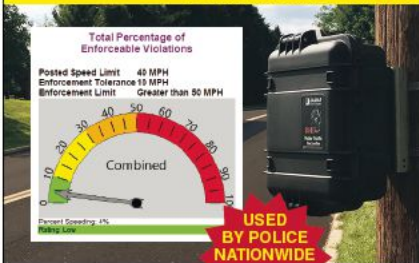
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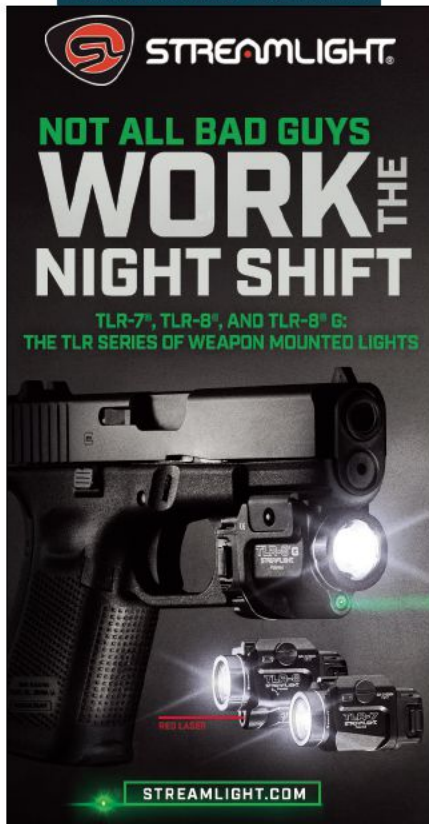
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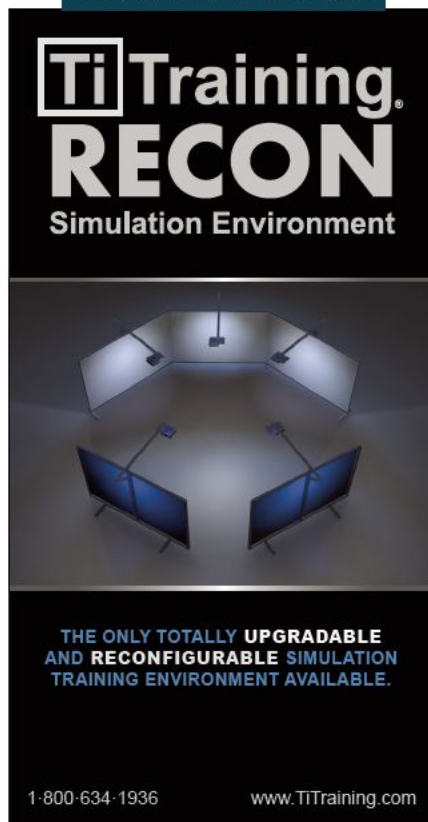
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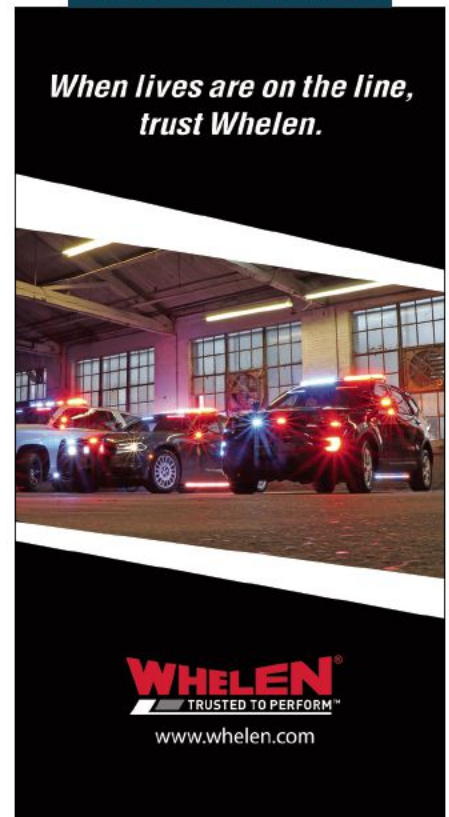


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Law enforcement training simulators continue to evolve and can now offer several advantages over traditional training in classrooms, shooting ranges and live training scenarios. Training simulators can mimic the experience of responding to real-life incidents with full-size projections on one screen or multiple screens; sound systems providing realistic sound stimuli; and, sometimes, other atmospheric effects including smoke, smell, fog, and scent. The officers use laser-equipped duty weapons or other tools which are capable of operating much like the real thing, including recoil. Furthermore, current training scenarios offer a variety of outcomes, depending on the officer's choices and approach to the scenario.

Modern simulators go far beyond a simple video game-style system, or even simple marksmanship training programs, providing immersive and realistic training

scenarios which can elicit real reactions from the trainee.

"These systems are no longer used solely for firearms training, but used for all kinds of different force options situations, where the firearms are simply another tool that officers have at their disposal," says Robert McCue, General Manager of MILO Range Training Systems. "Modern simulators train the officer for a wide range of encounters, and many of those will be handling domestic disputes; intoxicated and emotionally disturbed persons; subjects with mental issues; fights and crowd disturbances; crisis management; and dozens of other real-world encounters. Most officers want to have safe, mindful, respectful encounters with the public and simulators which equip them with a wide range of tools to rehearse that have come a long way from the days of simple shoot/no-shoot firearms training systems."



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Why Choose Simulated Training?

Officer training performed using a simulator has various advantages over traditional training methods. First, the training can take place at any time and in any weather. Many departments have found that having a simulator at the station allows officers to train during duty hours, in their uniforms while wearing their full duty gear. This improves the realism of the scenario, eliminates the need for overtime and keeps the personnel available to respond to real incidents should they occur. Compared to firearms training on a range, simulators allow for more dynamic and unpredictable targets and eliminate the cost of ammunition and range time.

Training with a simulator also provides the advantage of reproducibility. An officer can repeat the same scenario as many times as necessary to correct mistakes and train his (or her) instincts. Furthermore, every officer can be trained or tested on the same scenario, permitting each participant to be evaluated under

the same criteria. In live training scenarios, it is difficult to ensure that actors will respond the same way every time and there is a limit to the number of times an officer can repeat the training exercise. On a simulator, a good instructor can run an officer through a dozen scenarios in an hour, building muscle memory and reinforcing skillful decision-making.

What to Look For

Before purchasing a simulation training system, departments should consider their needs. "Some departments will emphasize portability for resource sharing, while others will have the space and budget to invest in a fixed, fully immersive experience," says Matt Cunningham, Director of Virtual Systems Sales for Meggitt Training Systems. "Other criteria to consider include the number and quality of weapons which can be used, the variety of video scenarios offered, and even the ability to create one's own content to enhance realism which includes local landmarks and situations. This training

fidelity provides the requisite realism to handle real-world conflicts."

"Hardware technology is generally universal between different systems now, changes often, and is usually quite good," McCue adds. "Buyers should look for systems which have a large amount of contemporary and useful default scenario content on their systems; are ready to go right out of the box; and systems which also offer onboard, self-creation tools for local scenario content creation which can be mission specific, agency specific, terrain and weather specific, or designed to address a specific training need."

Lon Bartel, Training and Content Director for VirTra, recommends systems with multiple screens – and interactions across all screens – for maximum immersion. He also emphasizes the value of systems compatible with real weapons which have been retrofitted with CO₂ for realistic recoil; scenarios produced with live actors; and a physical threat simulation device which creates a physiological change in trainees.

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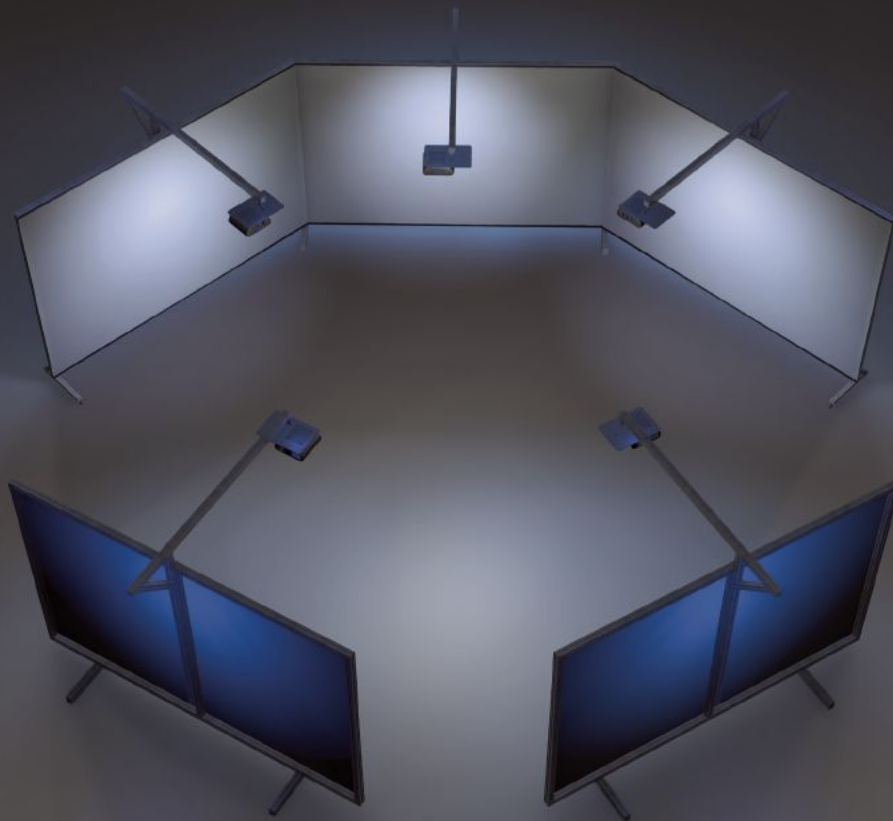
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The wide-open footprint allows full tactical movement within the training environment. This addresses a common complaint among agencies that have purchased other multi-screen simulation systems.

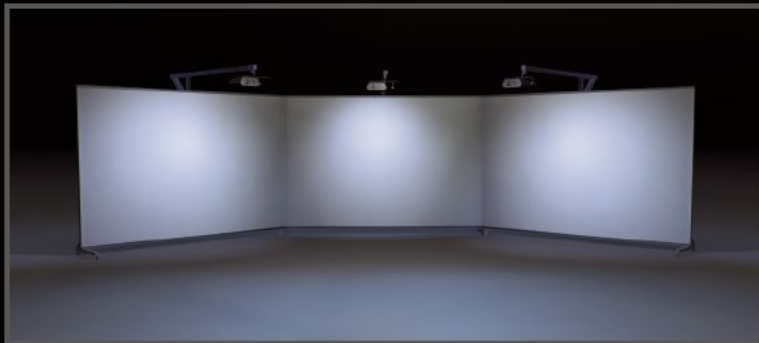


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Modern simulators are no longer used solely for firearms training, but used for all kinds of different force options situations.

Marksmanship Training

Safety requirements require shooters in a shooting range to stand behind a certain line in an individual shooting stall. Targets are run in a linear fashion from the trainee down a rail and usual-

ly stop at known distances and exhibit known behaviors (turn, face, etc.). This lacks the randomness and variability of real-life encounters. Simulators, on the other hand, provide interactivity, sounds, sights, and behaviors experienced in the

real world and create stress similar to street encounters in a way which paper targets in a shooting range never can, McCue says. Further, because simulators are often fitted with harmless lasers in the weapons to simulate projectiles, officers and teams can practice movement and tactics in a dynamic way which would be prohibitive on most live ranges.

"Shooting in a simulator environment is completely safe and costs fractions of pennies per shot versus the dollars spent on live ammo," Bartel says. "The simulated environment can also teach things like judgmental use of force and situational awareness which is key for law enforcement to hone their skills beyond weapon training."

"Shooting on a simulator and on a range complement each other and one should never be viewed as a perfect substitute for the other," Cunningham says. "Officers often start on a simulator to acquire solid marksmanship skills, then move to the range to complete their training. The advantages of a simulator include extremely detailed feedback which

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can help a trainer coach an officer on his (or her) marksmanship skills down to the smallest of modifications. Moreover, a simulator provides the opportunity to repeat the same exercise as frequently as needed or introduce subtle changes to push an officer's skills to the next level."

"Newer technology in simulation systems allows officers to take out the lasers and kits and fire live rounds with their own duty weapons on special rubber screens mounted into a shooting range with projected images and achieve the same effect they would have with laser-fitted weapons," McCue adds.

Judgmental Training

Professional law enforcement simulators go beyond marksmanship training to train officers to make the correct decisions in a variety of scenarios. They can be used to teach an officer how to respond to specific scenarios like an armed shooter or to learn local law and department rules and regulations. "Well-designed contemporary training scenarios, developed by subject matter experts and industry professionals,



The FATS® 180LE supports up to 20 simulated weapons.

are designed to elicit certain responses to specific stimuli, all aimed at achieving a particular training outcome (threat recognition, verbal commands, crisis management, recognizing mental illness, etc.). These will likely involve the use of many

dynamic pathways, or scenario branches, which allow the situation to unfold according to decisions the trainee has made by what he has observed happening around him – like the real world does," McCue says.

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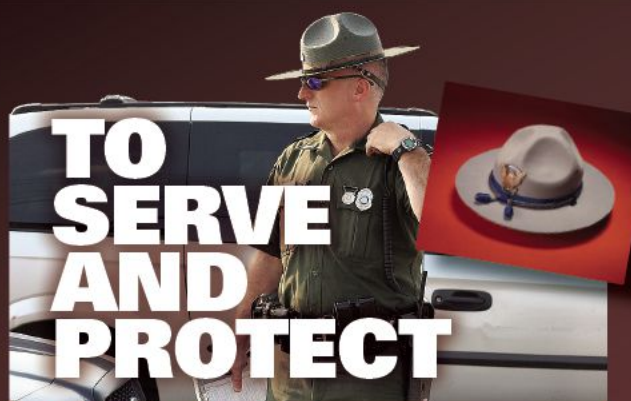
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Instruction

Key to making the most of a training simulator is having an experienced and prepared instructor who can choose the appropriate scenarios; seamlessly navigate the scenario branches in response to the trainee's choices; and, most importantly, properly debrief the officer after the training. It is important to know why an officer made the choices he (or she) did to differentiate those who were right from those who were lucky. Talking through the scenarios helps to reinforce the lessons learned.

Product Roundup: Simulators

Meggitt Training Systems
meggitttrainingsystems.com

The FATS® 180LE provides 180 degree high-definition projection on three borderless 150" X 84" screens with a 16:9 aspect ratio. A 5.1 surround sound audio system with directional sound effects allows instructors to incorporate unsettling noise from any direction to elevate situational awareness. The



The MILO Range PRO system includes hundreds of ready to train scenarios.

FATS 180LE supports up to 20 simulated weapons, including wireless Blue-Fire® ones. Up to four simulated weapons can be assigned to a single user. These include rifles, pistols, shotguns, and less-lethal OC spray and TASER®s. Current FATS 100 systems can be up-

graded to the FATS 180LE. The system comes with both marksmanship and judgmental training programs.

MILO Range
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The new RECON family of systems allows for expansion, as well as full tactical movement inside the training area.

advanced features in a portable, use-of-force and tactic judgment training system. Based on the same software and technology as the full-featured MILO Range PRO system, the M-SATS provides fully interactive video scenarios, graphics-based firearms drills in a compact, all-inclusive design which is easy to transport and set up in less than ten minutes. It is a turnkey, self-calibrating solution which is deployment ready: easy to transport, set up and use.

The MILO Range PRO is an advanced interactive use-of-force and tactical judgment training system which provides a realistic, adaptable training environment. In addition to hundreds of ready to train scenarios, an extensive library of interactive graphics-based firearm drills and exercises are included, ranging from simple plates and poppers to user-defined course of fire and marksmanship drills. The included MILO Course Designer software empowers instructors to create new, fully interactive video scenarios and graphics firearm drills in minutes.

Ti Training titraining.com

The TLEX 180 Interactive Use of Force Training Simulation System allows the customer to customize its footprint to meet the specific needs of the training syllabus. With the movable three screen design, the angle of the "wings" or side screens can be moved to create a 180 degree training environment or move to any angle, ultimately allowing for a 33



VirTra's STEP program is the only subscription-based law enforcement training program of its kind.

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foot wide projected surface which can be utilized for marksmanship or other lane-based skill builders.

The TLEX 180's Pin Point® Sound System is a dynamic, amplified, surround sound program which directs precise sound to the trainee. Additional sound cues have been added to the scenarios to create a more immersive experience, so that officers can be better trained to understand and react to their surroundings.

The TLEX 180 also accommodates a full line of recoil weapons kits, TASER, OC, baton, and less-lethal options.

A new multiscreen capable training solution from Ti Training is the Ti RECON Simulation Environment. Starting with the RECON CORE, up to ten additional screens can be added to create a training environment which takes the trainee from first contact to resolution. The RECON CORE includes all force options, editing software, low light training, over 800 branching scenarios, and over 200 shooting drills.

The RECON-EX features three screens which can be moved in or out to allow for different training objectives. The screens can create a 33 foot wall of projected image or brought in for a wrap-around style.

VirTra
virtra.com

V-VICTA™, which stands for VirTra-Virtual Interactive Coursework Training Academy™, enables law enforcement agencies to effectively teach, train, test, and sustain departmental training requirements through the use of simulators. The newly developed and nationally accredited coursework, when combined with the new VirTra Virtual Instructor™ (V-VI) and training scenarios, bolsters trainers with immediate training program improvements. V-VICTA provides law enforcement instructors with complementary accredited training components, including a master manual, student handouts, pretesting material, and final exams.

V-VICTA offers a unique alternative for a higher level of in-depth review at each training point. Additionally, throughout the simulation training, a Virtual Instructor is available with the relevant curriculum included within VirTra systems.

VirTra has also recently launched its Subscription Training & Equipment Partnership™ (STEP) program which allows agencies to utilize VirTra's certified simulation training on a subscription basis. STEP provides a comprehensive and customizable training solution to departments of all sizes and is the only subscription-based law enforcement training program of its kind. STEP allows an agency to select a combination of equipment, software training solutions and tools which best fit its training needs and budget.

The V-300® LE is VirTra's top of the line decision-making simulation and tactical firearms training system. It features five screens and a 300 degree immersive training environment. The judgmental use-of-force training mode supplies a

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library of realistic scenario training taken from after action reports in a challenging 300 degree training platform. The optional stage and audio system provide over 2,000 watts of audio, creating sounds which feel real. Full Force Options Training includes support for officer presence, verbal commands, OC, TASER ECD, beanbag shotgun, pistol, shotgun, and rifle. Firearms training mode supports up to 15 individual firing lanes at one time with special installation requirements and fully configurable firearms training courseware.

Product Roundup: Shooting Range Technologies

Action Target
actiontarget.com

Action Target's Genesis™ target retriever was developed to streamline system control and reduce maintenance. Genesis utilizes Action Target's Strike Watch™ software to detect bullet strikes



The Genesis target retriever system utilizes Strike Watch™ monitoring software which detects bullet strikes to the target carrier.

to the target carrier. Genesis also integrates with the new SmartRange Axis™ range control system. This allows ranges to apply unique permissions to each lane, create and store shooting programs, manage lane time, and run synchronized trainings across multiple lanes. Other features include the ability to turn targets 360 degrees which allows for dynamic target presentations, including teasing, spinning and timed exposures. An integrated camera displays the

target on the control screen, eliminating the need to bring the target up range for assessment.

Action Target's redesigned Rubber Berm Trap can be free-standing or wall mounted. It facilitates simple maintenance and servicing and the rubber can also be treated with a Class A fire retardant which is free of harsh chemicals, curing agents and pungent odors. This fast drying fire retardant may be easily applied with a standard paint sprayer.

Meggitt Training Systems
meggitttrainingsystems.com

The XWT Prolmage™ projected target system is a compact video projector and camera which attaches to Meggitt's XWT target carrier. Wirelessly connected to a ten inch lane control unit mounted behind the firing line, the XWT Prolmage projects user uploaded digital videos and images onto white paper or cardboard targets. The onboard camera provides a constant close-up view of the target for

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instantaneous feedback.

The XWT GEN4 wireless target carrier is a 360° turning system. The XWT GEN4 uses a lithium ion battery which provides a 50% increase in battery watt hours. Programmable distraction lighting now integrates red, blue and white LEDs with four times the brightness of previous models. The chassis features a side cover design for wheel overhead protection and prevention of brass drivetrain damage. Antistatic wheels eliminate grounding tinsel and reduce electrostatic discharge.

Range Systems range-systems.com

Range Systems has partnered with Ti Outdoors to release the PerfectFit™ Range, an all-in-one range designed specifically for smaller spaces. With ten lanes of live fire range fitting into a 35' x 39' space, it is the ideal space saver. PerfectFit pairs Ti Outdoors' V23 technology with Range Systems' ballistic rubber, shooting stalls and baffles to help

those who operate firearms ranges get the most out of their space.

Troy Acoustics troyacoustics.com



The Troy System was installed at this Dulles International Airport baffled shooting range.

One important range safety feature to consider is effective sound abatement which is ideally addressed in the range design stage.

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ods, such as earmuffs, only protect the outer ear, but the repeated loud noise from gunfire can be a full body problem. Gunfire reverberation affects the brain, inner ear, heart, and other internal organs. The result can be added stress, fatigue and potential disability.

Aside from noise concerns for LEOs, environmental noise into adjacent spaces and neighborhoods is another important area of concern. Again, addressing noise control at the design stage is the most effective solution.

Ranges which include a Portland Cement-based wood-wool wall, ceiling and acoustic baffle design are cutting edge for noise reduction. Products such as those provided by Troy Acoustics Corp. offer a system which meets the US Army Corps of Engineers' design guideline of a Reverberation Time (RT60) of 1.5 seconds at all firing points in a range. **P&SN**

Formerly the Editor-in-Chief for Forensic Magazine, Rebecca Waters is a freelance writer and editor.



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LAW ENFORCEMENT BACKUP WEAPONS

Mike Boyle

Should an officer find himself in a worst-case scenario and the primary weapon is not available, a hidden backup could indeed save the day.

A backup weapon might be best described as an ancillary weapon used for a secondary or auxiliary purpose. Attitudes toward backup weapons by law enforcement agencies and individual officers span the entire spectrum. Despite the obvious advantage, the concept of backup weapons for police is far from universal.

I'm familiar with departments which provide officers with a BackUp Gun (BUG) and mandate that it be carried while on duty to supplement the service weapon. On the other hand, there are outfits which

prohibit the carrying of anything other than the service handgun. This often stems from a misplaced concern that officers might use the backup as a "drop gun" to cover a questionable shooting. Of course, that argument goes right out the window when the officer registers the serial number with the department.

Many departments authorize the use of backup weapons and leave it up to the individual officer. However, many cops don't carry a backup because they consider it to be inconvenient. Granted, 21st century warriors carry more gear on their belt

than Batman; however, with a little bit of effort, you can find a way to carry a backup weapon in complete comfort.

Prepared or Paranoid?

In recent years, attacks on law enforcement officers have been creeping up. Make no mistake about it: These are dangerous times and the stakes are higher than ever. The fact that you work in a quiet, suburban or rural area really doesn't make you any safer than the cops who work in the big city. No matter where you work or what your job title is, danger can visit at any moment and, ultimately, you are responsible for your personal safety.


Once you get that "it will never happen to me" attitude out of your head, consider the following reasons to carry a backup weapon:

- Your primary weapon is out of ammunition or otherwise disabled;
- A subject has removed or has attempted to remove your primary weapon from the holster;
- While struggling with a subject, you are not able to draw your primary weapon from the holster; and
- An injury or compromised position prevents you from drawing your primary weapon from the holster.

Do these things really happen? I'm aware of multiple instances where law enforcement officers did, in fact, resort to a backup weapon to save their bacon. Should your ship go up on the rocks and you find yourself without your primary weapon, a backup is the only viable option



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Law Enforcement Backup Weapons

Continued from page 68



Although pistols dominate for duty use, small-frame revolvers like the S&W Centennials pictured here are still often used as backups.

and provides you with a fighting chance.

Back when the Earth was flat and I attended the police academy, Joseph Wambaugh's classic, *The Onion Field*, was on our mandatory reading list. *The Onion Field* tells the story of two Los Angeles plainclothes officers, Ian Campbell

and Karl Hettinger, who are disarmed and kidnapped by a pair of career criminals. Ultimately, they are driven to a remote area near Bakersfield, where Campbell is executed. Hettinger escapes, but lives with the demons the rest of his life. There was a great deal of speculation on how this might have played out if one, or both, officers had a hidden backup.

BUG Choices

When shopping for a BUG, the Goldilocks principle comes into play. A handgun which is too big or heavy will prove to be a burden and will not be utilized. Those little downsized, flyweight handguns are indeed handy, but are difficult to shoot to a high standard and are often chambered for less effective cartridges. Fortunately, there is an abundance of small, yet reasonably powerful, handguns from reputable manufacturers which are perfect in a backup role.

For years, my "go-to" backup of choice was a Smith & Wesson® J-frame revolver in .38 Special. It remains a solid choice for

officers who are comfortable with a snub revolver. Smith & Wesson crafts small-frame revolvers from steel, aluminum and scandium alloy. My current BUG is a Model 638 BODYGUARD® Airweight® which is built on an aluminum frame. I find it to be light enough for pocket carry, yet it doesn't beat you up in practice sessions as long as you stick to a reasonable round count. Unlike old school .38 Special ammo, modern loads are especially formidable and Speer® Gold Dot® 135-grain +P JHP is one offering which boasts a very good track record.



In a pinch, subcompact pistols such as the GLOCK® 26 can utilize the same magazine as a like caliber service weapon.

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Law Enforcement Backup Weapons

Continued from page 70

Another favorite small-frame revolver is the Ruger® LCR® which is rendered from a unique combination of steel, aluminum and polymer. The LCR boasts a very nice trigger action and a decent set of sights. It can also be had in chamberings such as .357 Magnum and 9mm, but the .38 Special remains the best bet.

A few years ago, I would not have considered a small autopistol as a backup, but that has all changed. Manufacturers such as GLOCK®, Kahr, Smith & Wesson, SIG SAUER®, and Walther are turning out some excellent downsized pistols, per-



Single stack micro pistols such as the Kahr PM9 are no larger than many .380s and provide you with a more effective 9mm round.

fect for backup applications. These pistols are infinitely more reliable than the pocket pistols of old and are both convenient and comfortable to carry.

Should you go with a small pistol for backup, there are a couple of concerns which should be addressed. Backups are often carried in less hospitable locations on the body, such as in a pocket or on the ankle, where they can be exposed to sand, lint or other detritus. Just make sure you go the extra yard and regularly inspect your pistol and make sure it's well lubricated. Most of the little mini blasters used as BUGs are striker fired designs with a short, light, trigger action, so be sure to select a quality holster.

The .380ACP is generally considered to be right on that ragged line of efficiency as a personal defense cartridge. There are indeed some very small .380 pistols out there for the taking, but they would not be my first choice. Certainly, a pistol in .380ACP beats a stern word or a stick, but, for a small penalty in size and weight, you can upgrade to the more decisive 9mm.



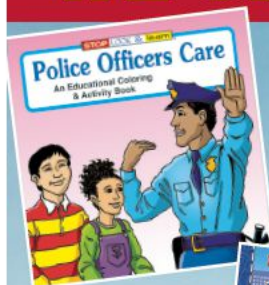
The BUG Pocket features a pouch which positions a second gun on the officer's soft body armor.

BUG Carry

Over the years, I've carried a backup gun in just about every conceivable type of holster. Like many things in life, there is no perfect solution for every possible application. The clothing you wear, your mission, the type of gun, and even your gender will come into play.

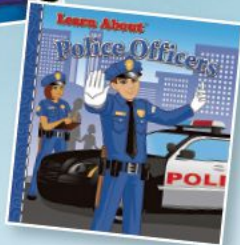
Much of the time, I carried my backup revolver on the ankle. There are, of course, limitations with ankle carry, including quick access and winter weather when there is snow on the ground. However, there are

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some surprising advantages. Drawing from a seated position can be very efficient.

Some years ago, I attended a program taught by Joe Maffei, a world-class personal defense instructor. One of the highlights was how to draw from an ankle holster should you find yourself on the ground in a compromised position. Even small stature individuals were able to turn the tables on larger, stronger opponents and use the deadly force option, if justified.

Another option is pocket carry. To make this work, the gun is placed in a pocket holster and the entire unit is inserted in the hip or rear pocket. Over time, classic police-style trousers gave way to BDUs for everyday wear and I was able to park my BUG in my support side hip pocket. I had to make sure the pocket was not obstructed by an accessory pouch on the duty belt and, while draw times were not especially fast, I could get my BUG into action in a reasonable amount of time. There were no such obstacles carrying a BUG in the support side pocket when dressed in plainclothes.

An excellent option is to carry your backup weapon concealed under the uniform shirt. I've tried vest holsters which are affixed to straps of the soft body armor, but there is an even better way. A few years ago, I became acquainted with the BUG Pocket, a carry option conceived by retired LAPD Sergeant Randy Garcia. The BUG Pocket is a vest holster which is affixed to the carrier of the officer's soft body armor carrier. A very big advantage of this system is the fact that the weapon is now on the officer's centerline and it can be efficiently



A backup can be carried on the ankle or in a pocket.



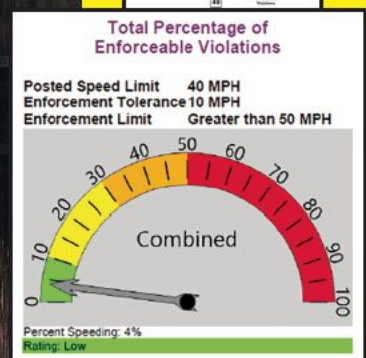
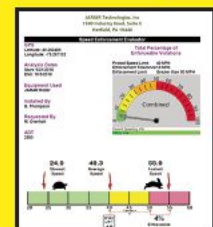
The P'Kal™ and Karahawk™, both from Spyderco®, lock open as they are drawn from the pocket.

drawn with either hand.

Despite my initial misgivings, the BUG Pocket is very low profile and comfortable. The fastest possible access can be achieved by sewing buttons to the outside of the uniform shirt and adding VELCRO® to secure the front of the garment. One simply performs a "Superman" draw to access the gun. I've also enjoyed similar success with a uniform shirt which had a zipper instead of a button closure. If you dismissed carrying a backup weapon in the past, the BUG Pocket could be the solution to your concerns.

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Law Enforcement Backup Weapons

Continued from page 73



The NCO™ LowVz from ColonelBlades™ is the perfect close quarters fixed blade.

Sharp and Pointy Things

I daresay most cops carry some sort of knife when on duty. Knives are used to perform all sorts of utility tasks, but I'm sure most officers have at least considered its use in a worst-case emergency situation.

Defensive knives fall into one of two categories – folders or fixed blades. Folders are discreet and less likely to send up red flags with the command staff and the public. On the downside, folders are slower into action and have moving parts which can break. Fixed blades are faster into the fight and have no moving parts which can break, but are tougher to hide from view. The use of knives by law enforcement per-

sonnel can be a hard sell and, while the American public accepts the fact that we have holstered, very visible guns, cutting instruments in plain view are likely to raise eyebrows. My agency recently authorized the carrying of fixed blade knives, provided they are concealed from view.

If you go the folder route, make sure you select something you open very quickly. A few personal favorites include the P'Kal™ and Karahawk™, both from Spyderco®. These designs are as different as night and day, but both incorporate the Emerson Opener feature which locks the blade open as it's drawn from the pocket.

A few months back, I picked up an innovative knife called the NCO™ LowVz from ColonelBlades™. The NCO is a rugged fixed blade with an integral finger hole for security which might best be categorized as a knife for gun people. Use of the NCO is extremely intuitive and, if you can throw a punch, you can make it work. It would make an excellent close quarters backup weapon.

For those skeptical about the effectiveness of a knife as a backup weapon, there are a few events in the recent past where officers used such a tool to turn the tables. In one instance, an officer was attacked from



Although access to the belt is blocked in this ground fighting simulation, the officer can still draw his backup gun from an ankle holster and prevail.

behind while in a public restroom. On another occasion, an assailant was holding an officer's head under water while attempting to drown him. Both officers were able to draw a knife and terminate the threat.

Additional BUG Considerations

Strapping on a BUG is a big first step, but we have to consider how it might be used in the unforgiving real world. So, team, some practice is in order. By all means, go out and shoot that thing and be sure to include both strong hand and support hand only firing into the mix. Shooting smaller guns to a high standard requires

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more effort than a service-size pistol, but reasonably good results can be realized at typical combat distance.

Next, consider the "what-ifs." Is your primary gun down, but not really out? If so, reloading or clearing a simple stoppage is faster than drawing the BUG. But, if your primary is really out of the fight, the only logical choice is take the fight back to the bad guy with the BUG. But, are we drawing the backup with the strong hand or support hand? What do I do with my nonfunctioning primary handgun? These are just a few things you need to come to terms with.

Consider getting an inert facsimile of both your duty gun and your BUG. Ring's Manufacturing makes dimensionally correct trainers for just about all popular handguns which allow you to train in complete safety. I find Ring's "BLUEGUNS®" to be a great training aid when bridging that gap between hands-on and handguns.

I've long been a subscriber to Murphy's Law and, on the job, I carried a spare key for the car, a spare light, spare ammunition, as well as a spare gun. Things tend to break when you need them the most. Should your primary handgun go belly-up or be otherwise unavailable, a backup gives you a chance. It's not being paranoid; it's being totally prepared. **P&SN**

Captain Mike Boyle served with the New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been an active firearms instructor for more than 30 years. He has been an assistant police academy director and remains active as an academy rangemaster and instructor. Mike has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) since 1996. He is the architect and coordinator of IALEFI's Master Instructor Development Program.



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Responding to Incidents Involving Persons with Autism

BARBARA J. MORVAY



A first responder who is able to identify a person with autism can then respond in a way which best supports the individual.

You are dispatched to a scene with gunshots fired. Upon arrival, you observe three men fleeing from the scene. You and your partner are able to apprehend two of the individuals. Another squad car has arrived on the scene and the officers are providing support to secure the scene and the situation starts calming down. At that point, you observe another individual huddled on the ground. The individual is exhibiting unusual behavior. He is rocking back and forth and appears to be singing to himself. As you approach to determine his condition,

the rocking behavior increases. You ask, "Are you hurt?" The individual does not respond to your question. You ask again, "Are you hurt?" As you get closer, the individual's behavior intensifies; he begins to hit himself in the chest with his hand. What do you do? How do you handle the situation? The best advice in this circumstance is to step back and observe. Does the intensity of the behavior lessen? If it does, you established a comfortable space for the individual and you may deal with him without harm.

Advising you to step back may go

against your instinct to approach and intervene. Do not try to stop the behavior; this may escalate the individual's self-stimulating behavior. For certain individuals who are disabled or who have special needs, behavior such as this may be a self-soothing and calming mechanism. At this point, responding officers should limit physical contact because some disabled individuals cannot cope with touching. This individual has already demonstrated increased agitation when you got too close. Speak to him in a calm voice; don't talk loud or yell. At this point, the crime scene is under control. Explain that you are there to help.

Understanding that a person with special needs may not be able to respond appropriately is essential. In an intense law enforcement incident, such an individual may not understand what is happening. They may not be able to effectively communicate and may appear to be more of a threat because of their noncompliance which may be "non-willful." As "suspects," such individuals may not understand commands or instructions. They may be overwhelmed, confused or fearful. They may nod their head in a yes or no manner; however, this may not indicate a consistent yes or no response. They may have difficulty describing facts or details and will often demonstrate confusion. The individual could have a cognitive or verbal impairment. Here, it is important to remember that noncompliance is not the basis for violence.

Autism Spectrum Disorder

Autism, also called Autism Spectrum

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Disorder (ASD), is a developmental disability significantly affecting verbal and nonverbal communication and social interaction, generally evident before age three, which adversely affects a child's educational performance. The areas that may be affected are: behavior; communication; cognition; and social skills.

Autism may also be called Autistic Disorder; Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD); Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD); Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDDNOS); and Asperger's Disorder.

There are a multitude of behavioral characteristics an autistic person may develop. Some individuals demonstrate many of the characteristics and some may have just a few. There are varying degrees of autism. People with autism may be high functioning and be intellectually gifted in specific areas or they may have mild, moderate or severe cognitive impairment.

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report of April 26, 2018,

states that one out of 59 children (one in 37 boys and one in 151 girls) have been identified as having an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Autism is four times more common in boys than girls. These statistics have been increasing over the past 20 years. Since autism is a lifelong disability, children with autism grow up and face significant challenges as adults. Law enforcement officials and other first responders will encounter persons with autism frequently. Why? Due to their unusual behavior, people with autism may not be immediately recognizable as such and persons encountering them may be frightened or concerned by their behavior. Frequently, someone calls 911 because they see a person who looks disoriented or unusual wandering in the community; the call was not placed because of a crime being committed. Wandering is a significant problem since the person with autism does not understand danger. This factor places the individual in situations which puts them at greater risk.

Autistic individuals are not all alike. There are variations in understanding, cognition, functional level, and individual response which could be either mild, mod-

erate or severe. Yet, they do have two important characteristics in common – their difficulty with socialization and with communication. Even if the individual is nonverbal, do not assume that he cannot understand basic language. One of the most obvious signs of autism is stimming which is self-stimulatory behaviors and unusual repetitive behaviors.

Persons with autism might demonstrate certain behaviors and characteristics. For example, they may be unable to understand a dangerous situation; wander in a neighborhood or be drawn to bodies of water, traffic or other dangers; be overwhelmed by flashing lights, certain sounds, loud noises, sirens, or fire; be afraid of a person in uniform or a firefighter in turnout gear; demonstrate curiosity and reach for objects or equipment such as a shiny badge or handcuffs or even your gun; react in an inappropriate manner; react by trying to run away or try to hide; not respond or understand commands such as "stop" or "put your hands up"; have difficulty with speech or language or be nonverbal; not respond to his (or her) name; appear to be deaf; not make eye contact;



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Responding to Incidents Involving Persons with Autism

Continued from page 77

act out by biting or hit themselves or others; display repetitive behaviors (known as stimming) by rocking back and forth, hand flapping, hitting, head rolling, spinning, or other similar behaviors; have auditory, sensory or visual perception issues; have other medical issues such as a seizure disorder; not respond to pain in a typical way and may not be able to explain their pain; act very nervous, cry out or vocalize loudly, using unfamiliar sounds; not understand consequences or right from wrong; and not have a sense of modesty, therefore, undressing or inappropriate touching may be observed.

If a first responder is able to identify that a child or adult may have autism, he (or she) can then respond in a way which best supports the individual.

How to Interact with a Person Who Has Autism

First and foremost, assess the situation to determine if any reasonable threat exists. Remember that an autistic individual may demonstrate atypical behaviors de-

scribed earlier. If there are people around who know the person, listen to what they have to say. They may have important information about this individual, such as if he can speak, or is deaf, or has a cognitive impairment or a seizure disorder. This information is essential to the task at hand. Their information can help de-escalate a situation.

If the autistic person has a caregiver who is present, work with him (or her) to establish a sense of safety and cooperation.

Do not get too close to the person; give the person space. Getting too close may agitate the individual causing them to act out. Determine who will be the lead professional interacting with the person and stick with it. Ask your partner or others at the scene to step back. This is important, since the individual is already in distress and having difficulty. Having the person focus only on one person is essential.

Limit noise and distractions. In this regard, try to limit the amount of unnecessary chatter around the person. Less

talking and distractions around the person translates to faster control of the situation.

Take your time with the individual. Initial contact is the point where things could go wrong. People may be watching and they all have smartphones which could video the event as it develops. Spend the necessary time now rather than having the event portrayed in a negative way on the evening news.

Tell them your name and what you are doing. Be specific – people who are autistic do not understand things which may be obvious to other people. This process takes some time.

For example:

"My name is John. I am here to help you." Tell them who you are. Assume they do not understand what the uniform represents.

"I am a _____." (fill in the blank with a police officer, sheriff's officer, etc.)

Now, wait ...

Say, "You don't have to talk to me." Repeat, "I am here to help you."

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"You can shake your head or move your hand if you hear me." This takes the pressure off the need for verbal communication which may be difficult. Remember, the autistic individual may be in panic mode, frightened and disoriented.

If the person responds, consistently offer praise and say thank you. "Thank you for letting me know you understand."

Tell them what will happen and what you will be doing before you do it. This is very important. For example, "I am going to walk around you to make sure you are okay."

Recognize that, even if the person appears to be hurt, they may not be able to understand. They may be confused and disoriented. They may not react the same way others would.

They may have low muscle tone (known as hypotonia) which can affect the brain, the central nervous system or the muscles. Therefore, they may appear limp which could mask serious injuries. The individual may also have a coordination disorder which makes it difficult to access a person's physical status.

Attention to detail is of the utmost importance. Just because the individual does not seem to be aware of the injury does not mean they are not experiencing pain. When dealing with a person with autism who has an injury, the best course of action would be to call for an ambulance. At this point, you would not want to transport an individual with autism in a squad car. The injuries could be more serious than they appear and there may be underlying medical conditions which are not visible. Therefore, it is always best to get professional medical help. An abundance of caution is best in these circumstances.

It would be best for you to say, "I see you are hurt. I am going to help you."

Use simple sentences and speak slowly. Do not yell. You may have to repeat your statement.

Give the person time to process and respond. Tell the person, "I am calling some of my friends to help. They will come in an ambulance."

If possible, ask the ambulance and first responders to shut off the flashing lights and the siren as they approach the scene.

It is essential for you to stay with the autistic person.

At this point, you have established a rapport with the person. You are now their caretaker. Your interactions and demeanor have provided a level of safety and the individual knows you will not hurt him. Therefore, your continued presence is necessary for a successful outcome.

Be alert to the signs of increased frustration (rocking, vocalizing, self-stimming) and try to eliminate the source, if possible, thereby reducing the possibility of negative behavior.

Do not try to stop the person from their self-stimulating behavior; this may cause physical acting out and more self-injurious behavior. If you have a blanket or a towel available, offer it to the individual or

place it near the person. It may provide a sense of comfort and they may reach for it and hold on to it. If they are sitting on the ground, bend down to their level. Don't stand above them – this may be perceived as aggressive behavior.

Sometimes, the autistic person may demonstrate negative behavior as an indication of a need. They may need to go to the bathroom, or they may be in pain, or

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Responding to Incidents Involving Persons with Autism

Continued from page 79

cold, and hungry or afraid and may not be able to communicate that need. Try to take care of a few of their basic needs, this can change everything for the better. It would be good practice to always have a blanket or towel in your vehicle. If you do, place it near the person. It provides a sense of comfort and security, as well as warmth which is important in establishing a sense of trust.

Do not rush the process and do not allow anyone else to rush you. This could be a career defining moment. Give the situation the time and attention it deserves. This is not a typical encounter; it requires your utmost patience, humanity and compassion.

The following example of an encounter gone viral effectively demonstrates a situation which went wrong. It can be used as a learning tool.

Buckeye, Arizona – September 2017

While on patrol near a park, a police officer approaches a 14-year-old autistic boy. The boy is standing on the sidewalk playing with a string – manipulating the string from side to side, up and down, backwards and forwards. The officer asks the boy

what he is doing; the boy responds, “I am stimming.” The officer asks again and the boy says, “A string.” The officer then asks, “Do you have any ID on ya?” The boy says “No.” Things escalate from there. The officer tackles the boy, mistaking his mannerisms for signs of drug use or perhaps a reaction to an inhalant. The boy can be heard repeating, “I’m okay! I’m okay!” – a self-soothing mechanism – as the officer spins the boy around to attempt to handcuff him. All the while, the boy is saying, “I’m okay!” I’m okay!” When the officer forces the boy onto the ground, the boy is heard saying, “I need help.”

The boy explained to the officer he was “stimming.” Stimming is a shorthand expression for self-stimulatory behavior which can be any type of repetitive movements of body parts, objects, words, phrases, or sounds. It is a common characteristic in people with autism. The officer said that the boy was displaying signs of being under the influence of an inhalant. The officer’s 21 minute body cam footage shows a boy who tried to explain what he was doing. That video has gone viral. It was posted on YouTube and scenes were played on the CBS morning and evening

news. As a result of the encounter with the officer, the boy sustained multiple cuts and bruises. The boy and his mother were later interviewed by a reporter.

The video can be seen at <https://tinyurl.com/y4ckkov2>.

After the incident, the boy’s family sent a letter to the police department asking for a few things: (1) an apology from the officer; (2) that the officer participate in an autism-related community service project; (3) more training for all the officers in the department; and (4) for the police department to pay the boy’s medical bills, particularly for the surgery needed to repair the boy’s foot. When the department failed to respond to the family, they filed a \$5 million lawsuit. **P&SN**

Editor’s Note: This article has been excerpted from a well-written and authoritative book by Barbara J. Morvay, entitled *Responding to Incidents Involving Persons with Special Needs: A Manual for First Responders*. Copies of this book can be obtained from Looseleaf Law Publications, Inc., 43-08 162nd St., Flushing, NY 11358; phone (800)647-5547; or by visiting their Web site at www.looseleaflaw.com. The price of the book is \$29.95.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY



Stealth360 Covert Earpiece

The **Stealth 260** and **360 Pro** from N-ear Pro are covert earpieces which feature a patented design which bends the wire close to the head to give a discreet, comfortable and secure fit.

The Stealth Pro Series is available as a receive-only earpiece with a 3.5mm connector or in the Snap-Lock Earpiece System™ which allows for numerous users to share a limited number of available radios through the use of an interchangeable earpiece. The **Stealth 260** and **360 Pro** connects and disconnects from the PTT/mic system which stays with the radio, while the earpiece is swapped out at shift change, providing a hygienic and personalized solution.

The **Stealth360** is available for both the left and right ear and provides comfort with zero ear fatigue. Its discreet design makes it virtually invisible. The open patented ear tips allow for complete situational awareness, with a reinforced cable strain relief which is 1.5 times stronger than Kevlar®.

The SnapLock PTT/mic system is available in one or two wire configurations for all radios including international models.

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New Lightweight .308

Weighing in at only 7.8 lbs., the new **SAINT™ VICTOR .308** from Springfield has been purpose-built to offer serious power in a quick handling configuration. The **SAINT VICTOR in .308** features a 16" lightweight CMV barrel which is Melonite® coated inside and out to provide maximum corrosion resistance, partnered with an M-Lok® free-float hand guard and included high quality spring-loaded flip-up sights. It features an enhanced nickel boron coated, single-stage flat trigger which ensures a grit-free pull for consistent accuracy. Its SA muzzle brake effectively distributes pressure upward and outward to counter muzzle rise for faster and more accurate follow-up shots.

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Point Blank Plate Rack

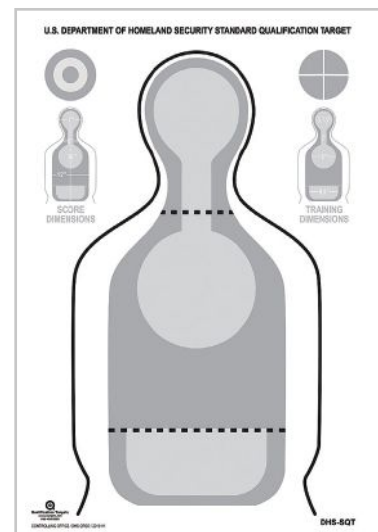
When a threat situation escalates, law enforcement professionals can don the Point Blank **Plate Rack** and immediately upgrade their protection. This new plate carrier features a reverse bellowed pocket design which easily accommodates a variety of hard armor plates of various thickness. The **Plate Rack** can fit an ultrathin Omega, Steel Plate and a standard Level III or IV shooter's cut plate. Available in a variety of colors, the new **Plate Rack** is constructed of 500 denier 100% nylon. It features a maximum MOLLE compatible webbing system (front and back) and the front and back hard armor plate pockets are both bottom loading.

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Homeland Security Target

New for 2019 is the **DHS-SQT U.S. Department of Homeland Security Standard Qualification Target** from Qualification Targets, Inc. QT, Inc. develops products specifically designed to enhance and improve firearms training and safety, and is a leading manufacturer of firearms training and qualification targets to the US military, US government agencies, state and local law enforcement, gun ranges, and training facilities throughout the United States.

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VirTra Introduces STEP Program

VirTra, Inc. has recently announced its **Subscription Training & Equipment Partnership™ (STEP)** program. **STEP** enables agencies to benefit from VirTra's systems, software, interactive coursework, training academy, and accessories in a more cost-effective manner than previously offered. **STEP** provides a customizable training solution to law enforcement departments of all sizes and is the only subscription-based law enforcement training program of its kind. The **STEP** program enables more departments to sustain a long-term training program by offering VirTra's training solutions on a monthly, quarterly or annual subscription basis.

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BUSTED!

James L. McClinton, Ph.D

Relationships can be soooo complicated... A 38-year-old man in Richland, Washington, engaged in an amusing dialogue with police after the local department posted a wanted photo of him on its Facebook page. Five hours after the posting, he responded with, "Calm down, I'm going to turn myself in." When he was a no-show, the department messaged him the next day, "Hey, Anthony! We haven't seen you yet." Officers even offered him a ride, but he couldn't be bothered. "Thank you, I'm tying up a couple of loose ends since I will probably be in there for a month." He promised to surrender within 48 hours. When the weekend passed without any sign of him, officers wrote, "Is it us? We waited, but you didn't show." To which he replied, "Dear RPD, it's not you, it's me. I obviously have commitment issues.... P.S. You're beautiful." Finally, days later, he arrived at the Richland police station, posting a selfie with the caption, "Thank you, RPD, for letting me do this on my own." (*Love means never having to say "you're under arrest."*)

Thanks to this guy, we now have a new definition of "high" tech... Police in California made a surprising discovery when they pulled over a Tesla Model 3. Inside, they found a DUI driver...asleep. Suspecting the car was on autopilot, and with the driver not responding to lights and sirens, they managed to stop the vehicle by surrounding it and gradually slowing it down. The autopilot feature responded to the close proximity by reducing its speed and eventually coming to a complete stop. It took nearly ten minutes stretching seven miles before the vehicle was halted. The car was also in driver-assist mode and using Traffic-Aware Cruise Control. (*This sounds like an advertisement for Tesla vehicles.*)

This banana bread is amazing!... Nearly \$18 million worth of cocaine was found in boxes of bananas which were donated to a prison in Texas. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice said 45 boxes of bananas from Ports of America in Freeport, Texas, were donated to the Wayne Scott Unit, a prison about 32 miles north, because the fruit was already ripe. But, when corrections officers were unloading the boxes, one of them "discovered some-

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



I wonder if "foreign passports" are also required for residents of New England?...

A District of Columbia Marriage Bureau clerk and her supervisor refused to accept a New Mexico man's state driver's license when he tried to obtain a marriage license because they both believed that New Mexico is a foreign country. After approaching the clerk for a license and showing his New Mexico ID, the clerk told him he needed an international passport to get the marriage license. He protested to a supervisor, who also told him that he needed a foreign passport. The clerk finally concluded New Mexico was a state after the man objected three times. He told reporters, "All the couples behind us waiting in line were laughing." New Mexico became a US state in 1912. (*If that weren't funny enough, please note that there's a town in New Mexico named "Cuba."*)

thing not quite right." "One of the boxes felt different than the others," officials said. "They snipped the straps, pulled the box free and opened it up. Inside, under a bundle of bananas, he found another bundle containing a white powdery substance." US Customs and Border Protection officials tested the substance and found that it was cocaine. In all, 540 packages of cocaine were in the banana boxes, with an estimated street value of \$17,820,000. Prison officials and Drug Enforcement Administration are now investigating. (*Life is like a box of bananas – you never know what you are gonna get.*)

"Sure, we can have a date – A DATE IN COURT!"... An Oklahoma woman looking for love got more than she bargained for when she unwittingly bragged about illegally shooting a "big ol' buck" on a dating app. It turned out that her potential match was a state game warden. The Oklahoma game warden says he uncovered the poaching in a conversation on Bumble with a McIntosh County wom-

an. She talked about using a spotlight to shoot the deer at night. The woman only harvested the head and backstrap meat and sent the game warden pictures as proof. She has pleaded guilty to charges of improper possession of an illegally taken animal and taking game out of season. (*What a sad story – this officer blew his chance to marry the perfect woman!*)

Thumpetty thump thump... A heavy snowfall in Petersburg, Kentucky, inspired a family to build a very large snowman which was over nine feet tall. That attracted a lot of attention amongst a lot of different people, including those who saw it as a target. These individuals drove their vehicle up into the yard and headed straight for our frosty friend. Unfortunately, the snowman's inner base wasn't made of snow – it was a tree stump. Frosty won the match and the vehicle sustained damage the driver hadn't counted on. Police have clear tire tracks leading to the snowman, but no leads on Frosty's assailants just yet. (*Well, that's "car-ma" for you.*) **P&SN**

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