

>> FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY: BODY-WORN AND IN-CAR VIDEO SYSTEMS

P&SN

Police
and
Security
News

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019
VOLUME 35 ISSUE 5

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security



Threat Concerns to Religious Places of Worship



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**TRAINING WITH STEEL TARGETS:
THE BASICS**



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Officers were getting shot with regularity. In fact, some were being hunted, ambushed and killed without even an interaction with anyone. In my nightmare, law enforcement was synonymous with racism, brutality and corruption, so much so that police became the object of cynical late night jokes. Comedians would get an easy laugh talking about some poor “person of color” being the target of a drooling, bigoted policeman.

This dream saw public perception of police in such a state of disrepair that people would slow down whenever they saw a policeman stopping or encountering someone. They would take out their smartphones, eager to capture a harsh word or, even better, a physical confrontation, so they could add it to the social media bonfire and get “likes” and “follows” for furthering the cause. It became cool to say “f__k the police” and it showed up spray painted on walls everywhere, in every city.

My dream had fractured scenes of Portland, Oregon, where masked hoodlums gathered in droves on city streets, menacing and violently beating anyone who they thought might be conservatives. The police, by order of the mayor, were nowhere to be found – and, oh, the gray

Recently, I had this dream – a bad dream.

RAMESH NYBERG



areas of conservative and liberal, Republican or Democrat had all been chopped off into two groups: You were either *with* the movement to overhaul capitalism or you were a “Nazi.” There was no middle ground. And, if you tried to argue otherwise or tried to use reason, well...don’t do it in Portland, that’s for sure, because you would get a brick in the head and law enforcement was invisible.

Hey, folks, imagine this: People in *my own family* even expressed their hatred for police and posted things on Facebook

about how you have to be a bad person to be a cop. They never talked to me about it; they just...said it. I think I might have cried during the dream.

So bizarre was this dream that police officers in New York City were being doused with water while locals berated them and delighted in their unwillingness to retort in any way. The cops just walked off in shame, dripping and humiliated.

To combat this – and that’s when I *knew* this just had to be a dream and I would wake up soon – law enforcement agencies everywhere initiated brilliant plans to get the public back on their side: We’ll pull people over and give them ice cream on a hot day. Yes! What a great tactic! And, we’ll stop and play basketball with inner city kids. Oh, what awesome and compassionate good guys we are! And, we’ll show videos of us rescuing animals. Yeah, we’ll put tourniquets on injured armadillos and rescue deer from frozen lakes. We’ll inundate LinkedIn and Twitter with these heartwarming images and, oh, people will be sending us flowers and apologizing for casting us all in such a bad light and all will be well.

No, no...I murmured in my sleep, sweating...it can’t be. It’s too nonsensical, too scary, too disturbing....and then I woke up. To my horror, none of this was a dream. It was all real.

I sat on the edge of the bed, letting the images of the dream swirl, hopefully, into the atmosphere and dissipate like steam. But, they didn’t. I checked my LinkedIn account today, Sunday, August 25, 2019. An



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

Illinois Trooper died of gunshot wounds he sustained while trying to serve a warrant. I went on Twitter – there's some guy broadcasting his podcast, encouraging listeners to go out and kill capitalists (in an office full of high-tech equipment he most likely "bought" somewhere). Everywhere, there was hatred, cynicism and hypocrisy. In post after post, story after story, on CNN, Fox and every social media platform you can think of, the same people who are telling you to not trust the police are calling for "investigations." They call the police liars and racists, but are riveted to every word Robert Mueller – former law enforcement – writes in his report.

I'm not here to profess anything political. I'm here to despair with you the death of reason, discourse, patience, and respect. We've descended from a nation

which used to enjoy "debating" ideas into a maelstrom of name-calling, demonization, lies, and ugly accusations. So, for a moment, let's forget all that because we can only change what we do. How does law enforcement combat the insanely vicious lies and misperceptions people are hurling at us? How do we shift public perception and get that prophetic "pendulum" to swing back the other way?

I submit to you that we do not accomplish anything by backing off. We don't soften our stances and start micromanaging every patrol officer's every move. We don't march and dance in special interest groups' parades, as the British police recently did in London. We don't make videos of officers giving people ice cream and break-dancing on the street corner with kids. You only gain respect by *doing your job effectively, professionally*

and fairly. Throughout my bad dream, I'm still convinced that, across this land, the majority of citizens (though some won't come out and admit it) want us to protect them and serve their needs. They want us to take action when action is needed. And, when one of us f's up (and it will happen from time to time), admit the mistake and keep moving forward. But, when something is justified, be proactive and tell the public, "This is justified." If they want to learn more, offer them town hall meetings and observer ride-alongs, so they can learn the realities of our job. Don't start backpedaling and don't start getting soft. Get *more* police officers back into troubled neighborhoods and start making more arrests for drugs and illegal gun possession. Go back to community policing. It *works*. We did it in 1981 in one of the worst neighborhoods you've ever seen and the vast majority of the locals loved us for it.

One hundred fifty-five years ago at the Battle of Gettysburg, on Little Round Top, Colonel Joshua Chamberlain commanded the 20th Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Little Round Top was critical to the Northern defensive line. They repelled Rebel advances on his defensive position again and again, but the Confederates were getting closer each time and the Union soldiers were running out of ammo. Finally, Chamberlain realized that they didn't have enough ammunition to withstand another Rebel advance which was certain to come. So, as the Confederates came back up the hill again, he ordered his men to fix bayonets, jump over the breastwork walls they had hidden behind and charge downhill at the Southerners. The Confederates were stunned and quickly defeated. Many instantly surrendered.

In dealing with the continuous onslaught on our principles and on our profession, we should take a page out of Chamberlain's book – be proactive and be more vigilant in carrying out our duties. Had Chamberlain retreated, the Union would have been lost. If we retreat, the very same thing could occur.

Fix bayonets and charge. Take back the streets. That's how you get respect. That's how you shake the cobwebs from a bad dream. **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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A man with a beard and a bun hairstyle is shown in profile, facing left. He is wearing a green and black tactical vest with "SHERIFF BOMB SQUAD" patches on the chest and shoulder. He is also wearing a black Motorola radio on his belt and a black wristwatch. A thin, clear earpiece is visible in his ear, connected to a coiled cable. The background shows a street with trees and buildings.

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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY



Kustom Signals' Cloud Storage

Kustom Signals, Inc. has recently announced their new cloud storage model for Law Enforcement (LE). **Hybrid KLOUD Storage** allows LE to only store those evidentiary files they need in the cloud, with nonevidentiary files stored on-site. Kustom Signals' hybrid approach has all of the primary benefits of unlimited cloud storage at a reduced price. It also eases the stress to those agencies which may be limited by Internet bandwidth or budget, but who also require higher resolution files, considerable usage requirements (such as 24x7 record), or extensive retention policies. This combination cloud/on-site storage model has easy access to evidentiary files and easy file sharing while helping to offset bandwidth concerns and allowing agencies to grow their cloud storage at their own pace.

Circle 5008 for More Information



Body Camera from Safety Vision

The **SV-BODYCAM** effectively supplies video evidence of every police interaction from the officer's point of view. Including touch and go recording; Super HD resolution; up to 9.5 hours of continuous HD recording; infrared night vision with an effective distance up to 15 meters; it is rainproof and dustproof. Convenient one key operation ensures quick access to record video, to audio-only files, to capture snapshots, and to play back files on the built-in two inch color LCD screen.

Circle 5009 for More Information

Body-worn and In-car Video Systems

FOCUS Mobile App



With the **FOCUS Mobile App**, from Safe Fleet Law Enforcement, you can easily play back and tag videos from your FOCUS X1 Body-Worn Camera on your mobile device. The **FOCUS Mobile App** is paired with your FOCUS X1 Body-Worn Camera and only accessible with the officer's login, ensuring videos remain securely stored on FOCUS X1 and not on your mobile device. Other features of the **app** include a live view of the camera feed from the FOCUS X1; recording activation; instant playback; and the ability to add and edit metadata. The **FOCUS Mobile App** is available for both iOS and Android devices.

Circle 5010 for More Information

BWX-100 Body-Worn Camera

The new **BWX-100 Body-Worn Camera**, from Safe Fleet Law Enforcement, allows for in-car video system activation from the body-worn camera. In addition, the TB-100 module can also activate the body-worn camera to record and document critical moments in the event the lightbar, siren, or other emergency devices have been triggered. With an easy to read, easy to use LCD panel, operation is a breeze. The officer facing LCD screen displays battery life, Wi-Fi and Bluetooth® connectivity, mute status, and recording status or mode. With this screen, officers can also tag videos in the field and check upload status. The **BWX-100** also features a 140° FOV lens and a high dynamic range sensor.

Circle 5011 for More Information



Body Camera-as-a-Service

WatchGuard, Inc. recently announced its **Body Camera-as-a-Service program**, providing a pay-as-you-go option for agencies looking to bypass the upfront camera costs of starting a body-worn program. In WatchGuard's program, there's no need for agencies to raise funds or secure grants to purchase cameras, evidence management software, data storage, or ongoing maintenance. Officers simply put the cameras on and pay as they go. The program makes use of WatchGuard's VISTA® body-worn cameras; cloud-based EvidenceLibrary.com evidence management platform with unlimited HD video storage; unlimited users and unlimited video sharing; No-Fault Hardware Warranty; and 24/7 Support Service.

Circle 5012 for More Information

Upgrades to Protector II

Sentinel Camera Systems has introduced upgraded features to their live streaming 4G LTE **Protector II** body-worn camera including automatic streaming of the video upon camera activation in standby mode. The streaming video can now be automatically saved and stored in the appropriate evidence management system without the need for additional recording in the camera and downloading the data. Audio communication between the central command center and the camera wearer can be initiated from the observer and heard through the speaker within the camera; and the audio being recorded on the video can be muted with a control button on the camera and then reactivated by pressing the control button.

Circle 5013 for More Information





New Enhanced BODYCAM® Docking Station

PRO-VISION® Video Systems has recently announced the release of its new **Single-Camera Docking Station** for its BODYCAM BC-300 body-worn camera. The new **Single-Camera Docking Station** features specially designed pogo pin connectors which are more durable – lasting for a million connection cycles – and allow for faster video upload from the camera. Users can also connect the docking station to the mobile data computer in their vehicles to upload videos directly to the Secur-aMax™ by PRO-VISION Cloud-Based Evidence Management Solution while on the scene.

Circle 5014 for More Information



New Router

The **RocketIoT**, from Utility Associates, Inc., is a combination of in-car video system and communications vehicle router, making it a powerful solution for law enforcement. The system detects incidents based on policy triggering the in-car video system to record and store video, audio and metadata. The communications side of the **RocketIoT** turns each vehicle into a powerful Wi-Fi hotspot; has enhanced signal strength; and continuously sends up GPS vehicle data for an overall better situational awareness for the department.

Circle 5015 for More Information



The BodyWorn™ System

From Utility Associates, Inc., **BodyWorn** is an advanced body camera system for law enforcement, incorporating real-time communications and multiple policy-based automatic recording triggers, such as officer down alerting, holster sensor activation, CAD activation, foot pursuit activation, and more. **BodyWorn** was designed with the officer in mind; therefore, it is securely mounted in the uniform; offers automatic wireless offload of video; and provides real-time alerting.

Circle 5016 for More Information

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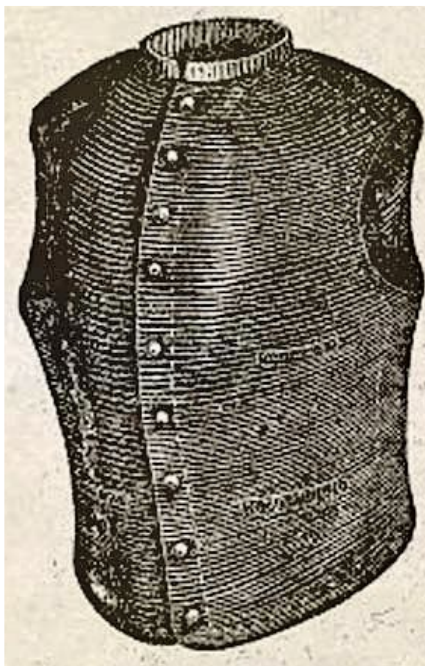
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TECHNOLOGY FROM THE PAST



THE SOLDIER'S BULLETPROOF VEST

In the March 15, 1862, edition of *Harper's Weekly* (a widely circulated New York-based newspaper), the following advertisement was published, offering a ballistic protection garment:

The Soldier's Bullet Proof Vest has been repeatedly and thoroughly tested with Pistol Bullets at ten paces [25 feet], Rifle Bullets at 40 rods [660 feet], by many Army Officers, and is approved and worn by them.

It is simple, light and is a true economy of life – it will save thousands. It will also double the value and power of the soldier; and every man in an army is entitled to its protection. Nos. 1, 2 and 3 express the sizes of men, and No. 2 fits nearly all.

Price for Private's Vest, \$5. Officers' Vest, \$7. They will be sent to any address, wholesale or retail.

As stated by Sarah Weicksel, on the National Museum of American History Web site, numerous types of bulletproof vests were commercially available during the Civil War. Soldiers or their families could

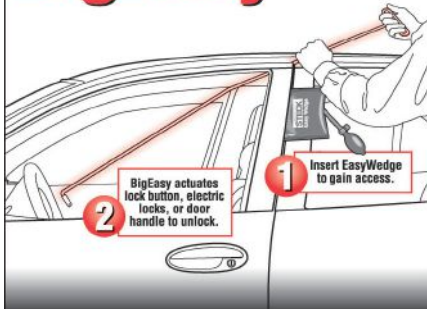
purchase these vests for between \$5.00 and \$8.00 (approximately \$115 to \$147 in today's currency).

As one soldier described, these "were nothing more than ordinary vests with metal plates between the lining and the outside of the front of the vest." (DeVelling, *History of the Seventeenth Regiment*, page 119)

How well did they work? The vests did provide a modicum of protection (based on the bullet-shaped dents found in surviving vests). However, they were ineffective in close combat. In a letter to his wife, Col. Charles F. Johnson of New Jersey divulged that he and his field officers had tested their bulletproof vests with muskets, rifles and pistols. He reported that they had "just returned with the great, mighty, powerful 'bullit proof' vest and the result is that a common musket put a ball clear through it at 50 yards, through yes, and carried some four or five inches of the stuff with it." (quoted in Pelka, ed., *The Civil War Letters of Colonel Charles F. Johnson*, pages 112-113) **P&SN**

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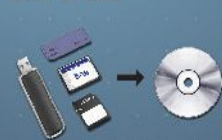
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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



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Firefield's new **BattleTek Flashlight** is the ideal handgun attachment which features an ambidextrous digital switch, a 5mW green laser, an IR laser for night vision use, and a 150 lumen flashlight.

Its CR123A battery provides continuous life of up to two hours and it is both water-resistant and shockproof. **BattleTek** sights are crafted out of glass-filled nylon plastic making them lightweight, yet durable, and the green laser allows for quick acquisition and reaches up to 50 yards during the day and 600 yards at night.

Circle 5023 for More Information

SMITH & WESSON®



Smith & Wesson has introduced a **new version of its M&P® M2.0™ Compact** pistol which features a Flat Dark Earth (FDE) finish. The **M&P®9 M2.0 Compact** four inch pistols feature a Cerakote FDE slide, polymer FDE frame and the enhanced M2.0 feature set.

Available with or without an ambidextrous thumb safety, the **M&P M2.0 Compact** pistol series features an aggressively textured grip; four interchangeable grip inserts; and a light, crisp trigger with a tactile and audible reset. The pistol comes standard with a white dot front sight and a white two dot rear sight, and offers a capacity of 15+1 rounds.

Circle 5024 for More Information

Handguns and Accessories

O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC.



O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. recently announced the release of a new MC1sc (subcompact) handgun, the **Mossberg MC1sc Stainless Two-Tone** in 9mm, available in standard frame and cross bolt safety frame versions.

The **MC1sc Stainless Two-Tone** features a bead blasted, stainless steel slide over a matte black polymer frame. The stainless steel slide features multiangle serrations which provide positive slide manipulation and is topped with dovetail mounted, low profile, white 3-dot sights. The frame is glass reinforced which provides high impact and chemical resistance, combined with high tensile strength and stiffness. The 3.4" barrel, constructed of stainless steel, features a black DLC (Diamond Like Coating) finish and a 1-in-16 twist rate. Optional cross bolt safety is available and is reversible for right- or left-handed shooters.

Other standard features include a flat profile trigger with integrated blade safety; short, tactile reset; reduced overtravel; and a five to six pound trigger pull weight. Trigger guards are oversized for ease of access and comfort. **MC1sc** pistols also have a reversible magazine release located behind the trigger guard. Featuring Mossberg's signature texturing, the grip has an added palm swell and grip angle, similar to a 1911, for a more comfortable, confident grip.

Circle 5025 for More Information



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

The **911 9mm** gives shooters the convenience of a small frame with the familiar feel of a 1911. A crisp, short, reset trigger featuring a G10 trigger shoe by Hogue® provides a clean, consistent trigger pull. Its oversized ambidextrous safety provides quick operation in adrenaline fueled defensive encounters. It also features an AmeriGlo Pro-Glo™ green tritium front sight inside a yellow luminescent circle and a tactical rack U-notch rear sight with green tritium inside of white luminescent circles.

The frame measures 5.9 inches long, less than four inches high and features Springfield's Octo-Grip™ texturing. The three inch precision broached barrel gives this small gun solid accuracy at ranges beyond expectation for a pistol of its size. A full-length guide rod and flat wire spring enhance control and soften recoil. The flush 6+1 and 7+1 extended magazine provide the necessary capacity for confidence when carrying concealed.

Circle 5026 for More Information



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

The **911 Alpha .380 ACP** offers an optimized frame to slide to trigger guard relationship which creates an intuitive and accurate shooting experience for a pistol of its size. A short reset, five pound, polymer trigger ensures a light, yet responsive, pull for precision. The extended thumb safety encourages easy manipulation and its fiber-optic front sight and white, 2-dot rear sight allows for quick and clear target acquisition.

The frame measures 5.5 inches long and less than four inches high, with a smooth profile which is crafted of 7075 T6 anodized hard coat aluminum. Cross Cannon polymer grips and vertical line texturing on the front strap and main-spring housing provide additional traction and a secure hold.

The 2.7 inch, 416R stainless barrel gives this small gun amazing accuracy at greater than confrontation distance. It is available in stainless or black nitride and comes with a flush six round magazine.

Circle 5027 for More Information



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

The **SAINT™ Edge 5.56mm pistol** is built on a machined lower receiver from aircraft-grade billet aluminum and feature Springfield Amory's proprietary adjustable Accu-Tite™ tension system to minimize play between the upper and lower receivers. The bolt group is coated with tough wearing Melonite® and the bolt itself is crafted from premium steel superior to MIL-SPEC. To keep external dimensions at a minimum, the barrel measures a short 10.3 inches.

Other features include a crisp, short, reset trigger; flip-up sights; and a slim free-float aluminum handguard for the mounting of accessories. A Maxim Defense CQB adjustable pistol brace reduces size, aids accuracy and helps control recoil. With the brace collapsed, the **Edge** measures 24.6 inches, ideal for working in tight spots.

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High Court Permits Warrantless Blood Draws from Unconscious Drunk Drivers

Is a warrant required for a blood test when an officer has probable cause to believe a motorist has been driving while under the influence of alcohol, but the motorist is unconscious and cannot be given a breath test?

LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.

Recently, in *Mitchell v. Wisconsin* (U.S. 2019), the United States Supreme Court said, “**No.**” In such cases, “the exigent circumstances rule almost always permits a blood test without a warrant. When a breath test is impossible, enforcement of the drunk-driving laws depends upon the administration of a blood test. And, when a police officer encounters an unconscious driver, it is very likely that the driver would be taken to an emergency room and that his blood would be drawn for diagnostic purposes even if the police were not seeking BAC [Blood Alcohol Concentration] information. In addition, police officers most frequently come upon unconscious drivers when they report to the scene of an accident and, under those circumstances, the officers’ many responsibilities – such as attending to other injured drivers or passengers and preventing further accidents – may be incompatible with the procedures that would be required to obtain a warrant. Thus, *when a driver is unconscious, the general rule is that a warrant is not needed.*”

Introduction: Laws in every state prohibit motorists from driving with a BAC which exceeds a specified level. “And, to help enforce BAC limits, every state has passed what are popularly called implied consent laws. As a condition of the privilege of using the public roads, these laws require that drivers submit to BAC testing when there is sufficient reason to believe they are violating the state’s drunk-driving laws.”

Wisconsin’s implied consent law is much like those of the other 49 states and the District of Columbia. “Officers seeking to conduct a BAC test must read aloud



a statement declaring their intent to administer the test and advising drivers of their options and the implications of their choice....If a driver’s BAC level proves too high, his license will be suspended, but if he refuses testing, his license will be revoked and his refusal may be used against him in court. No test will be administered if a driver refuses – or, as the state would put it, ‘withdraws’ his statutorily presumed consent. But ‘[a] person who is unconscious or otherwise not capable of withdrawing consent is presumed not to have’ withdrawn it....More than half the states have provisions like this one regarding unconscious drivers.”

In this case, defendant Gerald Mitchell was convicted of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated based on a blood test obtained without a warrant while he was unconscious.

The Case: The facts unfolded in late May 2013, when Sheboygan Police Officer Alex Jaeger responded to a report that an apparently intoxicated Mitchell entered a gray van and had driven off. “Jaeger soon found Mitchell wandering near a lake. Stumbling and slurring his words, Mitchell could hardly stand without the support of two officers. Jaeger judged a field sobriety test hopeless, if not dangerous, and gave Mitchell a preliminary breath test. It registered a BAC level of 0.24%, triple the legal limit for driving in Wisconsin.” Jaeger arrested Mitchell for drunk driving and, as is standard practice, drove him to a police station for an evidentiary breath test.

During the drive to the police station, Mitchell’s physical condition deteriorated. Upon arrival, it became apparent that an evidentiary breath test would not be feasible. Instead, Jaeger opted to transport

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Mitchell to a nearby hospital for a blood test. "Mitchell lost consciousness on the ride over and had to be wheeled in. Even so, Jaeger read aloud to a slumped Mitchell the standard statement giving drivers a chance to refuse BAC testing. Hearing no response, Jaeger asked hospital staff to draw a blood sample. Mitchell remained unconscious while the sample was taken and analysis of his blood showed that his BAC, about 90 minutes after his arrest, was 0.222%."

In this appeal, Mitchell argued that the warrantless blood draw violated his Fourth Amendment right to be free from "unreasonable searches and seizures," because it was conducted without a warrant. *The United States Supreme Court disagreed.*

The Law: Under the "exigent circumstances" exception, a warrantless blood test may be permitted "to prevent the imminent destruction of evidence." See *Missouri v. McNeely*, 133 S.Ct. 1552, 1558 (2013). In *McNeely*, the Court was asked if this exception covers BAC test-

ing of drunk-driving suspects in light of the fact that blood alcohol evidence is always dissipating due to "natural metabolic processes." 133 S.Ct. at 1560. The Court determined that the fleeting quality of BAC evidence alone is *not enough*. In *Schmerber v. California*, 384 U.S. 757, 86 S.Ct. 1826 (1966), however, exigent circumstances "did justify a blood test of a drunk driver who had gotten into a car accident that gave police other pressing duties, for then the 'further delay' caused by a warrant application really *would* have threatened the destruction of evidence."

"Like *Schmerber*, this case sits much higher than *McNeely* on the exigency spectrum. *McNeely* was about the minimum degree of urgency common to all drunk-driving cases. In *Schmerber*, a car accident heightened that urgency. And, here, Mitchell's medical condition did just the same. Mitchell's stupor and eventual unconsciousness also deprived officials of a reasonable opportunity to administer a breath test. To be sure, Officer Jaeger managed to conduct 'a preliminary breath

test' using a portable machine when he first encountered Mitchell at the lake. But he had no reasonable opportunity to give Mitchell a breath test using 'evidence-grade breath testing machinery.' As a result, it was reasonable for Jaeger to seek a better breath test at the station; he acted with reasonable dispatch to procure one; and when Mitchell's condition got in the way, it was reasonable for Jaeger to pursue a blood test."

According to the Court: "When a breath test is unavailable...a blood draw becomes necessary." Thus, in the case of unconscious drivers who cannot blow into a breathalyzer, blood tests are essential.

In *Schmerber*, the Court held that there was no time to secure a warrant before a blood test of a drunk-driving suspect because the officer there could "reasonably have believed that he was confronted with an emergency, in which the delay necessary to obtain a warrant, under the circumstances, threatened the destruction of evidence." So, even if the constant dissipation of BAC evidence alone does not

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create an exigency....*Schmerber* shows that it does so when combined with other pressing needs.

"Thus, exigency exists when (1) BAC evidence is dissipating and (2) some other factor creates pressing health, safety or law enforcement needs which would take priority over a warrant application. Both conditions are met when a drunk-driving suspect is unconscious, so *Schmerber* controls: With such suspects, too, a warrantless blood draw is lawful."

"In *Schmerber*, the extra factor giving rise to urgent needs that would only add to the delay caused by a warrant application was a car accident; here it is the driver's unconsciousness. Indeed, unconsciousness does not just create pressing needs; it is itself a medical emergency. It means that the suspect will have to be rushed to the hospital or similar facility, not just for the blood test itself, but for urgent medical care. Police can reasonably anticipate that such a driver might require monitoring, positioning and support on the way

to the hospital; that his blood may be drawn anyway, for diagnostic purposes, immediately on arrival; and that immediate medical treatment could delay (or otherwise distort the results of) a blood draw conducted later, upon receipt of a warrant, thus reducing its evidentiary value....All of that sets this case apart from *McNeely*. Just as the ramifications of a car accident pushed *Schmerber* over the line into exigency, so does the condition of an unconscious driver bring his blood draw under the exception. In such a case, as in *Schmerber*, an officer could "reasonably have believed that he was confronted with an emergency."... Indeed, in many unconscious driver cases, the exigency will be more acute. A driver so drunk as to lose consciousness is quite likely to crash, especially if he passes out before managing to park. And, then the accident might give officers a slew of urgent tasks beyond that of securing (and working around) medical care for the suspect."

Accordingly, "[w]hen police have

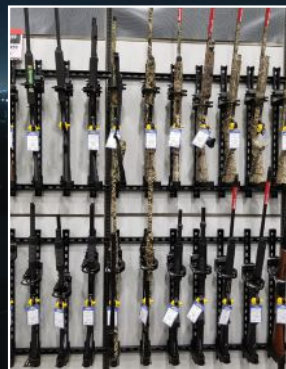
probable cause to believe a person has committed a drunk-driving offense and the driver's unconsciousness or stupor requires him to be taken to the hospital or similar facility before police have a reasonable opportunity to administer a standard evidentiary breath test, they may almost always order a warrantless blood test to measure the driver's BAC without offending the Fourth 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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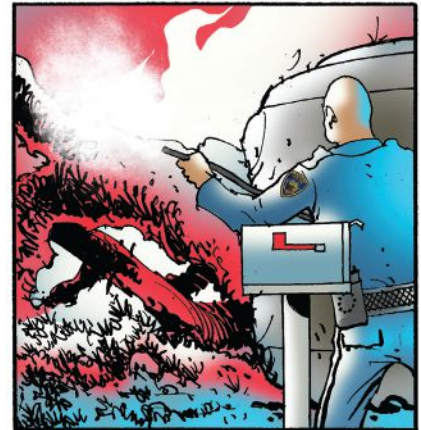


FREMONT POLICE OFFICER JASON TRZEWIECZYNSKI ARRIVED AT THE SCENE OF A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT WHERE AN SUV HAD LEFT THE ROAD AND SLAMMED INTO A TREE. THE VEHICLE HAD COME TO REST ON THE DRIVER'S SIDE AND FLAMES WERE EMANATING FROM THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT.

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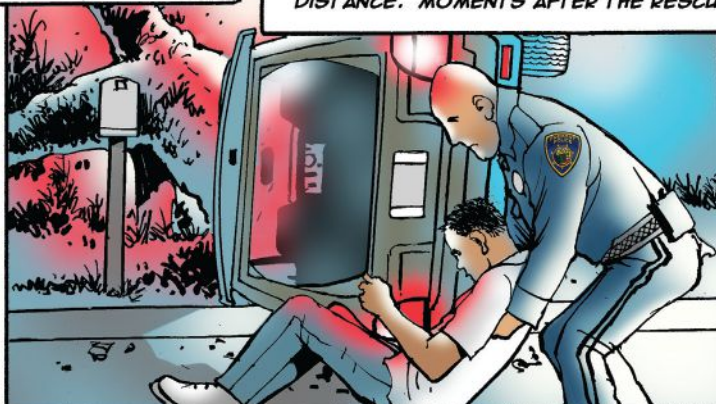
...THE OCCUPANTS HAD ESCAPED TO SAFETY, BUT THE CAR EXPLODED JUST AS TRZEWIECZYNSKI ARRIVED AT THE SCENE! THESE THOUGHTS RUSHED THROUGH HIS MIND AS HE ATTACKED THE BILLLOWING FLAMES WITH THE EXTINGUISHER!



THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER WAS NOT HAVING ANY MEASURABLE EFFECT ON THE BLAZE! OFFICER TRZEWIECZYNSKI TOSSED IT ASIDE AND TORE OPEN THE BACK HATCH, TRYING TO CALM THE PANICKED DRIVER WHILE LOCATING HIM AMID THE CLUTTER IN THE INTERIOR!



GRABBING THE HAND OF THE OCCUPANT, TRZEWIECZYNSKI DRAGGED HIM OVER THREE ROWS OF SEATS TO EXTRICATE HIM OUT THE BACK AND EVACUATED HIM TO A SAFE DISTANCE. MOMENTS AFTER THE RESCUE, THE ENTIRE VEHICLE BECAME ENGLUFED.



FREMONT PD REPORTED THAT IT WAS INVESTIGATING THE CRASH AS A POSSIBLE DUI. OFFICER TRZEWIECZYNSKI CONSIDERED THE INCIDENT ALL IN A DAY'S WORK. "THERE'S NOTHING SPECIAL ABOUT WHAT I DID," HE SAID. "ANY ONE OF MY PARTNERS WOULD'VE DONE THE EXACT SAME THING."



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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FIGHTING CRIME with ALPRS



BILL SIURU, PH.D., PE

Technology available to fight crime and guard against terrorism and other dangers brings challenges to the expectation of privacy and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Data collected by Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) systems can enhance law enforcement's ability to investigate crimes and enforce the law. However, at times, it also raises concerns that the information collected may be inaccurate; placed into databases shared without restrictions; retained longer than necessary; or used and abused in other ways.

How ALPRs Collect Data

ALPRs are video cameras which capture computer-readable images of license plates, as well as vehicle location, time, date, and sometimes other information. Though not officially collected by law en-

forcement, some ALPRs can now detect color, make and body type, dents, and specific bumper stickers.

ALPR cameras can be attached to free-way exit ramps, telephone poles and traffic lights. The license plate readers can also be installed on police vehicles; for instance, one pointing to each side and one facing backwards to capture license plate data. Some ALPR cameras work with automated red light cameras or speed enforcement systems. The latest camera technology can capture about 2,000 license plates a minute on vehicles traveling up to 120 mph.

Along with identifying drivers who run red lights or are speeding, ALPRs are being utilized for many more law enforcement applications. These range from locating fleeing criminals and recovering stolen vehicles to finding missing persons and individuals with outstanding felony warrants. While some police departments are only using ALPR for felony investigations, others are using this technology for lesser infractions such as suspended licenses, vandalism and even failure to pay fines. ALPR data has even helped exonerate people accused of crimes or have provided suspects with confirmed alibis.

ALPR cameras installed on police cars

or at fixed locations can read plates and, if a license plate is on a hot list, the associated software can alert a police dispatcher with a photo of the plate and its location. Usually, a human dispatcher verifies that the plate is on a wanted list. If confirmed, a police unit is dispatched. In other cases, the license plate information is sent directly to mobile data terminals in police vehicles.

Like most electronic and computer technology, the cost of ALPR systems has dropped dramatically. Once ALPR cameras cost \$10,000 or more; currently, off-the-shelf, Internet enabled security cameras can cost as little as \$150. ALPR software is available which can turn CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) surveillance cameras into license plate readers. Thus, now even small town police departments can afford ALPR systems.

OpenALPR (www.openalpr.com) is an ALPR library written in C++ (a general-purpose programming language) which is available in both a commercial and open-source version. OpenALPR provides free basic ALPR services, plus software options with more features and longer data retention times, for no more than \$79 per camera, per month. Anyone who downloads this software can turn



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Fighting Crime with ALPRs

Continued from page 24

an Internet connected camera into an ALPR which can potentially monitor traffic across a four lane highway. OpenALPR software is being used in over 9,000 cameras in 70 countries, an almost 3000% increase over a two year period. About half of the users are law enforcement; private citizens and organizations make up the remainder.

Proponents and Advocates

The proliferation of ALPR technology by law enforcement has resulted in intense public interest and, in many cases, litigation by privacy advocacy groups like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF). These organizations argue that license plate readers gather excessive sensitive information about citizens who have not committed any crimes. Additionally, it's not always clear with whom the data is being shared, how it is being used, and how long it is retained.

Many privacy advocates do not oppose using the technology for active

investigations; however, their argument is that, by maintaining a database of license plate locations for months, or years, doing so provides too much opportunity for abuse by law enforcement and others. The EFF has described ALPR technology as "a form of mass surveillance."

Advocates for ALPR surveillance point out license plates are essentially public documents. ALPR is like a patrol officer driving down a street, writing down license numbers and then comparing them against a hot list. ALPRs simply speed up the process. Because license plates are public and you are not required to have one (by choosing to not own/operate a motor vehicle), ALPR is a lesser invasion of privacy than other surveillance systems such as facial recognition. The bottom line: The power of ALPRs for law enforcement outweigh the invasion of privacy and Fourth Amendment issues.

Potential Problems

The concern over ALPR technol-




In response to privacy concerns, some police departments have purposely restricted the cameras to only photograph the rear of each vehicle, capturing the license plate, but not a wider shot of the car or its occupants.

ogy has less to do with reading errors than with its potential misuse. Studies show a minuscule number (somewhere around 0.3 to 0.5 percent) of the plates captured were on vehicles not associated with a crime. This means ALPRs are not just collecting data on suspects' vehicles, but they are collecting data on everyone and storing it.

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Examples of potential misuse cited include tracking drivers who attend political events, go to gun shows, visit abortion clinics, or frequent mosques. Also, rogue law enforcement personnel have used ALPR to stalk people; to look up women (or men) whom they find attractive; or to track a cheating spouse.

Officers (and others) can log onto a license plate database to get information on a vehicle's whereabouts, and then log in separately into a state's DMV database to discover the vehicle's owner. Privacy advocates argue that no one should be able to query an ALPR database without a warrant.

Some police departments share license plate data with hundreds of other agencies across the country. Along with other police departments, these could also be university police departments, airports, Customs and Border Protection (CBP), or the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). According to the ACLU, over 80 local law enforcement agencies share their license plate data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a practice which is vehemently opposed by immigrant rights groups.

Additionally, there is the matter of how long ALPR data is retained. While some municipalities have policies to only retain license plate data for six or 12 months, other law enforcement agencies do not have retention policies at all. Currently, 16 states have official statutes regarding ALPR use and/or data retention; however, this is increasing as ALPRs see greater use. Nine states have passed laws limiting how long the police can maintain the data, ranging from three minutes in New Hampshire to three years in Colorado.

Long retention times can potentially lead to innocent people being stopped, or even arrested, if the vehicle they are driving has not been updated in ALPR databases. There have been some instances when people have been stopped and handcuffed because they were driving a rental car which had been stolen, but its status was not reported/updated after the vehicle was recovered.

Another potential problem is when ALPR databases are maintained by non-law enforcement organizations which are not regulated.

ALPRs make it easier for police departments to enforce laws they previously overlooked because of a lack of resources. This technology not only

makes it easier to investigate serious crimes, but also petty crimes like shoplifting, credit card fraud and misdemeanors. To reduce the potential for abusing ALPR, advocates suggest purging the scans which do not generate a match on the hot list immediately, or at least after a few days.

Private ALPR

Significantly less expensive ALPR systems mean they are readily available for civilian applications. For example, private ALPR databases are being used by insurance companies, banks, "repo men," and credit reporting agencies. Schools can use ALPRs to control access to campuses. Casinos can access databases to alert police when criminals or banned individuals come onto their properties. Automotive dealerships, upscale hotels, resorts, and airports are using ALPRs as a concierge service to provide alerts when VIP customers arrive. Landlords and HOAs (Homeowner Associations) are using ALPR data for

security and landlord-tenant issues. ALPRs could be used to prevent workplace violence by warning when the vehicle of a disgruntled employee, who may have been fired, shows up.

Unlike law enforcement users of ALPR, private entities are not subject to constitutional protections against unlawful search and seizure, or racial profiling. Civilian users are not overseen by review boards or internal affairs departments. They are free from data retention limits, FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requests or other forms of public oversight. Even in jurisdictions like California, where anyone who uses ALPR is required to have a policy online, these policies might be on Web sites, but are actually not implemented or poorly enforced. **P&SN**

Bill Siuru is a retired USAF colonel. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University. He has been writing about automotive, aviation and technology subjects for many years.

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NEWS

Take These Three Steps to Safeguard Against Ransomware Attacks

The recent ransomware attacks targeting systems across the country are the latest in a string of attacks affecting state and local government partners. The growing number of such attacks highlights the critical importance of making cyber preparedness a priority and taking the necessary steps to secure our networks against adversaries. Prevention is the most effective defense against ransomware.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), the National Governors Association (NGA), and the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) are committed to supporting ransomware victims and encouraging all levels of government to proactively protect their networks against the threat of a ransomware attack.

Recently, they called on state, local, territorial, and tribal government partners, along with the wider cyber community, to take the following essential actions to enhance their defensive posture against ransomware.

Three Steps to Resilience Against Ransomware:

1. **Back Up Your Systems – Now (and Daily):** Immediately (and regularly) back up all critical agency and system configuration information on a separate device and store the backups offline, verifying their integrity and restoration process. If recovering after an attack, restore a stronger system than you lost – fully patched and updated to the latest version.



2. **Reinforce Basic Cybersecurity Awareness and Education:** Ransomware attacks often require the human element to succeed. Refresh employee training on recognizing cyber threats, phishing and suspicious links which are the most common vectors for ransomware attacks. Remind employees how to report incidents to appropriate IT staff in a timely manner which should include out-of-band communication paths.
3. **Revisit and Refine Cyber Incident Response Plans:** Agencies must have a clear plan to address attacks when they occur, including when internal capabilities are overwhelmed. Make sure response plans include how to request assistance from external cyber first responders, such as state agencies, CISA and the MS-ISAC, in the event of an attack. To download a copy of the NGA's State Cyber Disruption Response Plans, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxgr7luw>.

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The Importance and Impact of Cold Case Units

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The Importance and Impact of Cold Case Units

The National Institute of Justice has released a new video which highlights the work of practitioners from across the criminal justice system. The video and its companion document, "National Best Practices for Implementing and Sustaining a Cold Case Investigation Unit," provide information on the importance of cold case units and the impact they can have within the criminal justice system.

To view the video, go to nij.ojp.gov/media/video/23381

New NIJ Journal Article Focuses on Conducted Energy Device Policies

Better knowledge of the use and effects of Conducted Energy Devices (CEDs) and developments in constitutional law have prompted law enforcement in the past decade to revisit policies on the widely used "less-lethal weapon" which stuns and usually immobilizes subjects to make it easier for law enforcement officers to subdue them.

Since CEDs were introduced as a law enforcement tool, the NIJ has sponsored research related to implementation, officer training and potential effects. NIJ-sponsored research on CED effects has repeatedly stated that the effects of electrical shock from these devices are complex and more research is needed to fully understand them.

To learn more about this research and how policies are changing in the wake of research and field deployment experience, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxk32g5n>



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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE



BREAKING NEWS...

Sergeant James Post



Nat King Cole once sang about “Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer” and that’s what it certainly has been here in the great USA, what with floods, heat waves, politics, and criminals running amuck. Here’s the latest breaking news from the world of police wheels which you may have missed...vehicles, accessories, alerts, and recalls.

Police Vehicles

Electrifying news: The *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* announced that Harley-Davidson® released news about their electric motorcycle which will be unveiled later this year. To bolster declining sales, they hope this will appeal to a new generation of riders, a.k.a. Green Movement supporters.



The new Live Wire – 0-60 in three seconds



The Brookhaven, GA, Police Department recently field tested a (2015) Tesla Model S. (photo – city of Brookhaven)

The Live Wire will be available at a limited number of dealerships. With a MSRP of nearly \$30K, reportedly, it can do 0-60 mph in three seconds and without a clutch or shifting. Buyers will have free access to charge the Live Wire at participating dealers for the first two years.

There is no mention that this technology will be applied to H-D® police bikes in the future, but, if this trial program is successful (profitable), you can bet that future cops on Harleys will be looking for a place to plug in.

Speaking of electricity, *Government Fleet* has reported that a Tesla has been successfully track tested by the Brookhaven,

GA, Police Department. Utilizing a pre-owned (confiscated) 2015 Tesla Model S, tests were conducted on both high-speed and urban tracks at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center and it now has entered the third phase of evaluation and will be used to patrol city streets for 90 days. If successful, the city may consider switching to an all-electric fleet.

But, if you still aren’t sold on a “green” cruiser, consider the Florida Highway Patrol which has added a Dodge Challenger R/T to its fleet of Dodge Chargers. Although not a production police car, it comes equipped with the 375 hp 5.7L V-8, plus it’s painted the traditional black and tan two-tone and is fully marked. It also features all of the lights and other bells and whistles, but is run “slick top” with no over-head lightbar. This cruiser is currently assigned to Troop G in Jacksonville, reports *Government Fleet*, who quoted a FLHP tweet, “As you can see, we take aggressive driving seriously! Please slow down, buckle up and reduce distractions. We are watching.” Nuff said.

A recent cable TV special caught my attention. Actually, they had me from the title, “Live PD Presents: Top Ten Police Vehicles.” “Live PD” is a show patterned after what many experts cite as “the first reali-

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 30



Troop G's newest addition for combating aggressive driving (photo – FHP Jacksonville)

ty (nonscripted) television show, 'Cops,' which debuted 30 years ago this year. The original show came about during a protracted writers' strike and was possible because it required no script – just a two person sound and video crew on a ride-along with real officers. And, the rest is history.

The "Live PD" special's title was somewhat misleading, as the show only featured three vehicles which were actual production police vehicles, but, nonetheless, it was interesting and provided me with info for this column! So, without further ado, here are their "top ten" favorite police vehi-

cles, listed by agency: 10. Richland County (SC) Sheriff's Office – 2017 Camaro; 9. Patterson (LA) Police Department – Ford® Crown Victoria Interceptor; 8. Puerto Rico Super Bike Unit – 1300cc Hayabusa Motorcycle; 7. Arizona Highway Patrol Road Rage Squad – two Mustangs, a Challenger and a Camaro; 6. Marshall Islands Police Department – Quadski, a four-wheel vehicle which operates on land and water; 5. West Baton Rouge (LA) Parish Sheriff – Chevrolet SSV pickup; 4. Mission (TX) Police Department SWAT – military surplus MRAP six-wheel; 3. Riverside (CA) Police Department – Saleen Mustang; 2. NYPD Transit Bureau Bomb and K-9 – Ford Super Duty 450; and 1. Gwinnett County (GA) Police Department – Dodge Charger Pursuit.

Vehicle Alerts and Recalls

I've always advised departments to keep their fleets clean and there are several valid reasons; the first being officer morale and citizen perception. A clean police car should make an officer proud and,

hopefully, that will extend to his/her uniform and other equipment and even to his/her outlook and, ultimately, his/her performance. A clean police car should impress (most) citizens with how you are maintaining their equipment which should translate to the department's professionalism. Clean police cars are more efficient to operate and, if well maintained mechanically, internally and externally, should improve resale value.

I'm not suggesting that officers carry wash mitts and chamois with their other gear, but there are other options. Many departments utilize trustees serving minor/nonviolent sentences or folks performing community service to regularly wash their fleet.

Most large departments contract with local "automatic" or "do-it-yourself" car washes, as they do service stations, on an annual basis. Throughout the Rust Belt (and elsewhere), automatic car washes are popular because most include "bottom washes" which help remove salt and other contaminants which can cause an early

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

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Automatic car washes may have an adverse effect due to new vehicle technology.

demise to brake and chassis components.

But, now, modern technology forces me to contradict most of what I wrote in the preceding paragraph. *Automotive Fleet* recently warned that, in most cases, contemporary automotive technology has not been designed to be compatible with modern car washes. Of course, this applies to your police cars, too. They stated, "One visit to a car wash can wreak havoc because advanced systems weren't designed with car washes in mind."

Following are some of the systems/

functions which can be affected by automatic car washes. If you use a car wash with a "driverless" system, be sure to keep the fob on your person. Heavy brushes can lock doors which have external lock/unlock buttons. The same brushes can activate collision avoidance systems, so turn them off before entering the wash. While you're disengaging, do so with your start/stop technology, as well. Finally, most new vehicles feature moisture sensors which automatically activate windshield wipers when moisture is detected. If your fleet is so equipped, the feature should be disengaged (or the wipers taped in place) before entering the car wash because the brushes can rip them clean off the car. While some automated car washes are working to combat this technology, all of this sure makes the old "trusty" hand wash look more reliable!

More technology that can ruin your day is the optional Police Fleet Key System offered by manufacturers. While this system simplifies entering and starting vehicles used by multiple officers, it can

be a real nightmare if just one key falls into the wrong hands. This recently occurred at the Boynton Beach (FL) Police Department when juveniles obtained a fleet key and broke into 11 patrol cars. The loss from the vehicles and the disposition of the juveniles is unknown, but, obviously, some protective measures are in order – perhaps a rigid control system like controls for any other dangerous equipment, with officers' badge numbers stamped on keys, or even a return to magnetic key boxes concealed somewhere on a car.

Automotive Fleet announced a recall from FCA for 2019 Jeep® Cherokees. Although there is no police rated Cherokee currently available, they are popular with fleets which operate other FCA LE vehicles, such as Charger, Durango and RAM®. Often, the Jeeps are used by Admin and CID. FCA is recalling 41,169 units because impact and acceleration sensors may fail and reduce the air bag system's ability to properly detect certain crash events.



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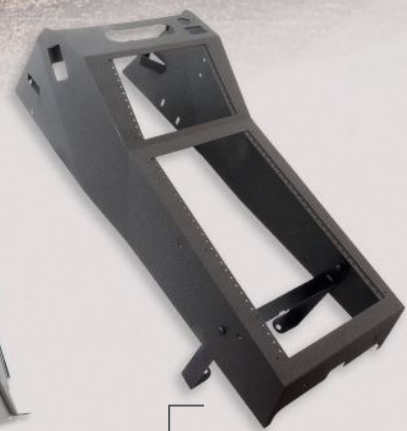
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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 36



Keep an eye out for the "Trooper in a Truck."

Cops, Cars and Criminals

Distracted drivers are currently the motorist's greatest threat. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, distracted drivers accounted for 3,166 deaths in 2017, the last year stats are available. The National Safety Council has stated that distracted driving has surpassed drunk driving in terms of the number of fatalities in this category. Of course, distracted driving can be anything from eating a Big Mac® to shaving or trying to find a cigarette ember dropped in a lap

to reading a newspaper. But, the primary distraction certainly is talking or texting on a cell phone. Jurisdictions throughout the country have enacted laws to combat this growing problem. Recently, *Automotive Fleet* reported on the enforcement of two states' new laws, Illinois and Georgia.

The "Trooper in a Truck" program is a joint effort between the Illinois Trucking Association and Illinois State Police to catch violators of Illinois' hands-free law. State troopers riding shotgun in borrowed trucks use the elevated position to spot drivers using cell phones and other devices and they radio ahead to waiting marked units.

Law officers in Georgia used a different technique as officers from the Marietta Police Department, disguised as utility workers, watched for drivers violating the Georgia Hands-Free Act. In July, three officers went undercover posing as utility workers on a major intersection's raised medians to observe traffic. They radioed ahead violators' information to 40 marked cars stationed in the area. While not all of the citations were for distracted driving,

Georgia troopers wrote 29 tickets and Marietta and Cobb County officers wrote 141. Georgia's law prohibits drivers from holding their phones, or having it anywhere on their body, while driving, even if the driver is stopped at a light.

Despite auto thefts in Albuquerque (NM) dropping 28% since 2016, according to the National Insurance Crime Bureau's (NICB's) 2018 Hot Spots Vehicle Theft Report, they still have the highest per capita rate of vehicle thefts in the nation. Specifically, in 2018, the Albuquerque Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced 7,146 thefts, compared to 9,839 in 2017. Rounding out the top five 2018 MSAs were Anchorage (AL) with 3,087 thefts; Bakersfield (CA) with 6,748; Pueblo (CO) with 1,175; and Modesto (CA) with 3,428.

These statistics may be somewhat misleading because the NICB survey is population-based which is how St. Joseph (MO) with 647 thefts placed tenth on the Hot Spot List, while Los Angeles with 53,928 thefts is ranked 38th. The majority of the top ten MSAs this year have been there before, but

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Wichita (KS) is the newest to break into the top ten, placing eighth with 3,547 vehicle thefts.

It's not all doom and gloom because modern technology has made vehicles more difficult to steal. In fact, the FBI reported a 33% decrease in vehicle thefts nationwide for the first half of 2018. That said, don't ever believe that thieves don't keep up with technology. When they discovered that the early '70s Dodge and Chrysler minivans had steering columns built by GM's Saginaw plant, the car thief's best friend, we saw those thefts increase dramatically.

And, why are all those vehicles stolen? Besides joy rides, being disassembled for parts and exotics being shipped overseas, an alarming number are being stolen for more serious offenses, such as human trafficking. I received a press release from the Liberty County (TX) Sheriff's Office which reported a large increase in pickup truck thefts since December 2018. Most of the trucks stolen were described as "typical South Texas work trucks, i.e., white, high profile crew cab trucks with big engines that can travel in areas where normal LE vehicles cannot."

Several of the trucks have been recovered and deputies discovered that the rear windows were totally blacked out, and rear seats and interior panels removed which provided enough room to carry from eight to ten persons. Food wrappers and water bottles littered the interiors, further indicating the trucks had been used to carry human cargo. It should be noted that Liberty County is several hundred miles from the Mexico border. A video of an incident which occurred in Brooks County, TX, serves as a perfect example of this occurrence and can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y4aa7g46>

Baltimore certainly has been in the news lately, but here is some Baltimore news you may have missed. *Government Fleet* announced that, in early June, a woman reported she had been sexually assaulted inside a patrol car by a man wearing a police uniform. The Baltimore Police Commissioner's office confirmed that they were investigating the allegation. During the resulting investigation, the police department pulled 120 patrol cars out of service so they could be forensically examined. This resulted in officers being "doubled" up for patrol, assigning two officers to each patrol car still on the road for the duration of the investigation. Detectives also reviewed over 600 written daily logs and viewed video from more than 300 body cameras.

After several days of investigation, the police department arrested Richard Stevens Barnes, a security guard at a local hospital who posed as a police officer. And, Baltimore returned to "normal," I assume. Overreaction? You be the judge.

Ever since our nation's Independence Day, we've witnessed far too many instances of lawless CRIMINAL MOBS assaulting our officers with water...hoses, buckets, plastic water guns, whatever. These attacks have occurred in several cities with spectators cheering on the offenders and filming it all for social media. Of course, those cell phone videos soon make their way to mainstream media where they are repeated on every broadcast. Now, I don't know of any jurisdiction where this latest disrespect of America's cops would not be considered some type of assault, but they went on for days with no apparent intervention which, naturally, caused copycat incidents. Finally, the NYPD and other departments started arresting offenders. Their cell phone videos proved to be the greatest evidence! Now, we have learned that New

York State lawmakers are preparing legislation which would make "water assaults" on police officers felonies with one to four year prison sentences possible. Let's hope the eventual law doesn't get "watered down" to a slap on the wrist misdemeanor.

Finally, and as if our cops don't have enough to worry about, I've learned from a friend who is a fellow LE retiree in Australia that their country shares our antipolice mindset in their liberal government and media, too. He states, "There is no respect for the police anymore and the latest crime wave in the country is intentionally ramming occupied police cars." He continued, "The hype about Australia being lucky and a peaceful place to live is absolute rubbish."

I know I'm preaching to the choir, but continue to pray for support and justice for the men and women of American law enforcement. **P&N**

Sergeant James Post always appreciates your comments, suggestions and ideas. He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net.



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Training with Steel Targets: The Basics

Why are steel targets a great training tool? One reason is because they don't need to be changed over like paper or cardboard targets, thus saving valuable time which can be used for training instead of range setup.

TODD FLETCHER

When using steel targets, there's no need for staples, target backers, tape, spray adhesive, or any of the other range supplies we typically need when using paper or cardboard targets. A little bit of spray paint and you're good to go. However, most instructors have never been trained how to safely use steel targets to effectively build better shooters.

Oftentimes, shooters and instructors go to the range, set up steel targets and start pressing the loud button. Unfortunately, on many occasions, we don't know what we don't know. Frequently, the result is shooters aren't using steel targets safely.

Unpredictable bullet spatter can be dangerous for everyone on the range. However, with a little bit of knowledge, we can set up steel targets safely and improve skills at the same time.

I've had the privilege of training with some of the best firearms instructors in the world. I've taken operator level classes, as well as instructor classes, from these trainers and I've always come away with great information and knowledge. However, I never learned much about using steel to help build better shooters. For a short time, I worked as an adjunct instructor for a well-known steel target manufacturer. As a result, I learned more about steel

targets than I ever could have imagined. The topics included how steel targets can develop skills; safety protocols for using steel; the differences between handgun and rifle steel; the types of steel used in manufacturing; angles of deflection; spatter zones; target placement; and target maintenance. In short, I learned that I didn't know what I didn't know.

Building Shooters

Historically, firearms instruction has emphasized precision shooting. This was done with mass qualification exercises rather than individual, realistic courses of fire. Modern firearms training begins with an emphasis on basic marksmanship skills, then advances to reactive or combative shooting skills. Combative shooting requires shooters to balance speed with accuracy to prepare officers for the fast-paced, dynamic encounters which occur on the street.

Using steel targets is a great way to develop speed and accuracy. One element shooters and instructors like about using steel targets is that they develop shooting skills at the subconscious level of awareness. The subconscious mind can learn to reflexively control the shooting process through the use of instantaneous feedback. This is done by providing instant audible and visual feedback when the target rings, falls, retracts, or drops – providing assurance of accuracy. This repetition and feedback compresses combative marksmanship into reaction time components, achieving a balance between speed and accuracy. Shooters gain confidence in their ability to quickly and accurately engage targets.

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Training with Steel Targets: The Basics

Continued from page 40

General Safety Protocols

Eye and ear protection should always be worn during firearms training. Eye protection should wrap around and fit tightly against the face at the top, sides and bottom of the glasses. This prevents debris from entering behind the glasses. Everyone on the range should wear a billed baseball-style cap or similar headgear to add additional protection against debris falling behind the shooter's glasses.

When it comes to mounting the steel target face to the stand, I do not recommend the use of targets which use rebar, brackets or clamps within the bullet impact zone. These create impact areas which can seriously change the way the bullet breaks up on impact and where the bullet fragments go.

Bullet Spatter

Shooting steel targets creates bullet spatter when the bullet strikes the plate. The amount of spatter is dependent on several factors, including angle of deflection, target hardness, bullet design, target placement, and target condition.

Angle of deflection is the area located under and around the target where fragmented bullets impact. The majority of fragments spread from the target at approximately a 20 degree angle and is known as the spatter zone. The forward lean of the target face affects the angle of deflection. The more the target face angles forward, the greater the angle of deflection. For example, there are steel targets made specifically for training with rifles and shotgun slugs which are angled at 45 degrees. This high angle of deflection directs bullet spat-

ter down and behind the target stand resulting in a target which can be used safely.

Bullet design is also an important part of the bullet spatter equation. Frangible ammunition is the ideal choice for training with steel targets, as it results in little to no bullet spatter. However, many departments find the cost difference between frangible ammunition and regular jacketed ammunition to be prohibitive. Generally, I avoid frangible ammunition as much as possible simply because it's not as affordable as normal lead or jacketed bullets. The best bet is to use high velocity nonbonded ammunition to create a predictable splatter zone on impact.

Types of Steel

Safe steel targets are manufactured using high quality hardened steel. If the steel is too soft, the target won't last. Steel which is too soft will also create an unsafe training environment by making the bullet spatter unpredictable.

Look for targets produced from AR500- or AR550-grade steel with a Brinell hardness rating of at least 500. Most high quality manufacturers use steel with a Brinell hardness rating of at least 500, so if you buy from a reputable manufacturer, you'll get the good stuff. These manufacturers source steel from suppliers who stand behind their materials and most of this steel is made in the USA. However, if you buy steel targets made in Uncle Cooter's garage, you may end up with lower quality steel. Just because your local supplier is selling steel which is labeled AR500 doesn't mean it compares in quality to the high carbon alloy steel plates which are made in the USA.

Rifle vs. Handgun Steel

Quality steel targets can take years of hard use on the range when properly maintained and used correctly. I've heard dozens of stories from people who have taken their new steel targets to the range and shot them with rifles only to discover their new steel targets resemble Swiss cheese. Their mistake was failing to match the steel targets with their intended use.

If you're going to use steel targets for only handgun training, I recommend buying 3/8" AR500 steel targets. These targets will provide sufficient strength, hardness, impact resistance, and durability for years of hard use from all duty caliber handguns.

However, if your plans include rifle training, I recommend buying 1/2" AR500 or 1/2" AR550 steel targets. These can take tens of thousands of rounds and can handle the heavy workload. To avoid pitting the targets, make sure the bullet ve-

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Dragon Skin Duty Belt

When I first heard about the Dragon Skin Ergonomic Duty Belt System, I was told it was a “revolutionary” new duty belt which would change the way I looked at other duty belts. Needless to say, I was dubious. I’ve seen a lot of “revolutionary” products come and go. Most are gimmicks dressed up in fancy packaging.

I’ve been wearing a duty belt for over 30 years. I’ve worked through the transition from all leather belts to nylon belts with VELCRO® lining. The nylon belts are lighter than the leather belts, but the biggest difference was the VELCRO liner which keeps the belts in place.

Enter the Dragon Skin Ergonomic Duty Belt. The inner and outer belts work together to expand and contract with the human body. According to the manufacturer, the material used to make the Dragon Skin duty belt has been tested extensively and has been shown to maintain its stretch after over 250,000 expansions. I’m not sure how that translates into bending, twisting, sitting, and crouching while working, but I really like this duty belt system so far.

The belts are VELCRO lined, resulting in solid lockup between the two belts. The result is a duty belt system which stretches with the body and flexes with movement. This is very noticeable, especially when bending over or twisting from side to side. This duty belt doesn’t bind or pinch like traditional leather or nylon belts, and it doesn’t create pressure points on the hips or lower back. Again, I’ve been wearing a duty belt for over 30 years and this has resulted in my share of back pain. Anything I can do to reduce or eliminate back pain is important and this duty belt system has been a welcome addition to my work life.

The Dragon Skin outer belt features a polymer insert at the holster position, providing additional rigidity to support the weight of the holster and duty gun. This can be reversed from one side to the other for either right- or left-handed officers. Adjustable polymer stabilizing inserts are also available to lock an expandable baton or TASER® holsters in place. Lastly, the outer belt features a very robust locking buckle which includes a center lock to provide extra security from inadvertent release.



The outer belt utilizes a polymer insert at the holster position which provides additional durability to support the weight of the holster and duty gun.

Once the belt was set up and ready to put on, I noticed another big difference between the Dragon Skin duty belt and a more traditional duty belt. The flexibility makes it more difficult to put on by swinging the belt behind and catching the other end. This just doesn’t work. The best way I’ve found to get this belt on is to put it on a counter or bench, reach behind and grab each end, then slide the belt up into place. Once buckled, you can slide your hand between the inner and outer belts to adjust it into place. There’s nothing wrong with this process; it’s just different.

I still wouldn’t call it “revolutionary.” That’s a pretty big step. But, the Dragon Skin duty belt is a more comfortable, lighter and more flexible duty belt than anything I’ve ever worn. It may not transform the entire industry, but it offers an ergonomic and modern update to the traditional duty belt.

If you’re looking for a new duty belt option, I recommend checking out the Dragon Skin Ergonomic Duty Belt at <https://www.hi-tec.qc.ca>

New High Volume Burst (Fogger) Spray

A new version of the High Volume Burst Fogger for FREEZE+P, CLEAROUT, and PUNCH II aerosol subject control sprays is available. This new design utilizes a spring-loaded flip top, replacing the “press to break” cover.

The Flip Top Burst version still uses the proven high volume valve mechanism for quick dispensing without sacrificing accuracy or spray distance. The High Volume Flip Top Burst version is available in two ounce, four ounce and 16 ounce sizes in FREEZE+P NF, DEEP FREEZE, PUNCH II NF, and DEEP PUNCH. A six ounce size of CLEAROUT vapor formula is also available with the Flip Top Burst or traditional total release lock down actuator.

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Circle 5056 for More Information

Training with Steel Targets: The Basics

Continued from page 42



Target placement is critical to range safety. Steel targets should be placed at least three feet apart and staggered to keep bullet spatter from bouncing off target stands.

locity at the target does not exceed 3,000 fps. I generally like to see bullet velocities down around 2,800 fps as an additional safety buffer.

Target Placement

There are a number of items to consider when setting up a course of fire using steel targets. Check the spatter zone around the target for rocks or other debris which could send bullet fragments back towards the shooter. Placing the steel target on a dirt or grass surface is important to keeping spatter going in a predictable direction. Gravel, asphalt, concrete, or any other hard surface

can lead to bullet spatter hitting the shooter or bystanders. Most of the time, bullet spatter is just annoying. However, I know of several instances which resulted in a trip to the local hospital to have bullet fragments dug out of shooters and instructors.

During handgun training, I recommend ten yards as the minimum distance between the shooter and the target. This keeps the shooter outside the spatter zone and decreases the likelihood of any safety problems. When it comes to rifle training, unless frangible ammunition is used, I recommend keeping the targets at 100 yards. Most steel targets use a 20° angle of deflection, and the last thing we want is for high velocity bullet spatter to come back and seriously injure someone. If the target is manufactured with a high angle of deflection, like the 45° target I mentioned earlier, then those targets can be safely used at closer distances.

Another consideration when setting up courses of fire is the location of other targets and target stands. Since bullet spatter can come off anything left around the steel target, we need to know where the spatter zone is and keep other targets and target stands outside this area. Additional steel targets should not be placed parallel to each

other without having a barrier between them. Spatter from one target can ricochet off another target, creating a hazardous training environment. If steel targets are going to be used in a group, they should be staggered to keep them out of the spatter zone of another target.

If you don't know what the spatter zone is for a target, set up a large piece of cardboard under the target and shoot the target from a safe distance. After a dozen or so rounds, the bullet spatter will penetrate the cardboard showing the extent of the spatter zone.



Ten yards is the minimum recommended distance between the shooter and the target to keep the shooter outside the spatter zone. Putting the steel targets on a dirt or grass surface is important to keeping bullet fragments going in a predictable direction.



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Trends in Iron Sights for Handguns



The traditional 3-dot green tritium night sight has come a long way since Trijicon® introduced their Bright and Tough® night sights back in 1985. Today, law enforcement has many manufacturers to choose from for their firearm night sight needs. And, they also have many choices as to color combinations, tritium configurations and heights. Leading manufacturers include Trijicon, TRUGLO®, Meprolight®, and AmeriGlo.

The newest trend in LE handguns is adding a reflex sight to pistols and pairing said reflex sight with backup iron sights. These backup sights are taller than stock sights in most cases and designed to co-witness with the reflex sight. The end user can utilize the iron sights in conjunction with the reflex sight to quickly find their red dot while the iron sights also provide a reliable aiming reference in case the reflex sight fails. The co-witness sights are available with or without tritium in a variety of heights. The most common type of backup iron sights being used for this purpose are solid black (no tritium, no painted dots). With many LE agencies requiring tritium on handguns, a tritium front sight, with a white or black outline, is often paired with a solid black rear sight. Many end users want to keep it as simple as possible for the iron sights as to not create eye-catching focal points which detract from the purpose of the reflex sight. Some officers still prefer a traditional 3-dot, white outline tritium set as backup sights as this style is what has served them well over the years, before the use of reflex sights on handguns.

"We started machining tall sights back in 2002 for use with suppressors and have been adding to that segment every year since then. We now have over 50 options of tall front and rear iron sights to work with nearly every pistol mounted re-

flex sight on the market," commented Rick Callihan, AmeriGlo's Director of Sales. "What works on your GLOCK® for an RMR won't necessarily work with something from Vortex or Holosun," Callihan added. Since reflex sights vary in height, your backup sight heights will vary as well. And,

the depth of the slide's mounting area will vary depending upon if it's a factory cut slide or a slide milled by your local gunsmith. Choosing the correct height backup iron sights is as important as choosing the best reflex sight for your department's needs.



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Circle 5058 for More Information

Training with Steel Targets: The Basics

Continued from page 44



Properly caring for your steel targets will protect your investment and ensure they last through tens of thousands of rounds.

Target Maintenance and Condition

Steel targets are durable and can last a long time with proper care and maintenance. However, they do eventually wear out. Prior to training, inspect the steel plate for cracking, pitting or other signs of damage. Steel targets which are pitted, cratered, dimpled, or punctured can create a hazardous deformation of the bullet, making it impossible to predict the spatter zone. Most of these conditions are caused by steel which is not sufficiently hard for the calibers used during training. All the high quality, reputable manufacturers recommend only using steel targets with a flat, smooth surface. Steel targets which are smooth and flat provide a predictable spatter pattern.

Another critical aspect of steel target maintenance is keeping steel targets clean and free of corrosion once the training day is over. Some people coat a rag with oil and run it over the steel to prevent corrosion. This works well for steel which is frequently used and left outside. If the targets are going to be stored inside, no one wants to get covered in oil when moving portable targets. The most common way to prevent corrosion is to use spray paint with a rust inhibitor. Taking a few minutes to spray your targets down at the end of each training day will help protect your investment.

Go Train!

Steel targets are a great way to keep firearms training interesting and help shooters develop combative speed and accuracy. Shooters get audible and visual feedback from steel targets instantly confirming hits. They reduce the amount of downtime on the range by eliminating the need to tape holes and post new paper targets, and they aren't affected by rain, wind or other weather conditions. So, get out there and bang some steel! **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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THREAT CONCERNS TO RELIGIOUS PLACES OF WORSHIP

BRIAN P. HAUGHTON

August 20, 2019 - Indianapolis, Indiana

Thomas Matthew McVicker was arrested after issuing plausible threats to carry out a mass shooting and suicide at an unspecified church in Memphis, TN. McVicker, a truck driver, was apprehended before his plan could be carried out. The arrestee's mother had revealed that McVicker possessed a handgun and was taking medication for schizophrenia.

April 27, 2019 - Poway, California

A gunman armed with an AR-15-style rifle opened fire inside the Chabad of Poway synagogue. One woman was killed and three other people were injured when 19-year-old John Timothy Earnest fired eight to ten rounds inside the house of worship. Earnest's rifle became jammed or malfunctioned, undoubtedly preventing additional casualties.

October 27, 2018 - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

46-year-old Robert Gregory Bowers entered the Tree of Life Congregation synagogue in Pittsburgh and opened fire. The gunman is accused of killing 11 and wounding six, including four police officers, during the 20 minute attack. Bowers had previously posted anti-Semitic rhetoric on social media.

November 5, 2017 - Sutherland Springs, Texas

A mass shooting at the First Baptist Church claimed 26 lives, with 20 others wounded. Wearing black tactical-style gear (including body armor) and armed with a rifle, Devin Patrick Kelley advanced down the center aisle of the church, firing at parishioners. Kelley was eventually stopped after exchanging gunfire with Stephen Willeford, whose home is located near the church.

June 17, 2015 - Charleston, South Carolina

Nine worshippers, including a pastor, are murdered at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church by 21-year-old Dylann Roof, during a Bible study service. Described as a white supremacist, Roof was eventually convicted of federal hate crime and obstruction of religion charges and sentenced to death.

The reality of 21st century terrorism positions places of worship (i.e., churches, synagogues and mosques, etc.) high on any attacker's legitimate target list. No longer looked at as an "off limits" house of God or a place of sanctuary and refuge, these are now viewed in most instances as a soft target and usually a rich environment for killing and terrorizing. Law enforcement should recognize this fact as well for the need of protection. This country has had its unfortunate share of communities of faith being targeted recently and it is certainly a sad state of affairs, but it's the world we live in and we need to think and act accordingly.

Recently retired from 20 plus years in police work, my last assignment was as an instructor at a large academy teaching recruits and in-service officers. I had the good fortune to participate in the development of statewide lesson plans for several different courses, including terrorism response, active shooter tactics, domestic violence, and threat assessment, so I have been aware of the threats to places of worship and their vulnerabilities. In addition, for the last five years, I have been providing instruction to security guards in academics and firearms at the local gun range for certification to carry a handgun in the performance of their duties. In the last few years, some of my armed security guard students have been members of an area church who volunteer to provide protection to their fellow members of the congregation during religious services.

The implications for law enforcement, as well as other first responders, to this type of threat to places of worship is the need to "be ready." Education is the key for any proper response planning. A good first step in this direction is referring online to the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI). The NCTC has an excellent Web site with a wealth of information where law enforcement can learn more about various dangers related to terrorism tactics and response. Reports can be found on everything from "Acid Attacks" and "IED Manufacturing Indicators" to "Recognizing Arson with a Nexus to Terrorism." One of the resources available is a First Responder's Toolbox report on "Threats Against Religious Facilities and Adherents Highlight Importance of Religious Community Outreach," (link: <https://tinyurl.com/y4rlmx96>).

Engagement

One area of the ToolBox report puts an emphasis on the need for engagement. Law enforcement is encouraged to engage with any faith-based communities in their jurisdiction, the clergy, staff members and congregation, as well as any internal security teams which may be in place. Specifically, the report mentions "Engagement supports information exchange that can increase safety by ensuring reporting, review and investigation of local threats or suspicious activities, and that all partners are aware of the current local threat picture."

What are some of the other recommendations? Selected suggestions are:

- Be aware that international issues may affect the religious communities within jurisdictions, adjacent communities or regions.
- Jurisdictions should support and promote outreach groups, such as interfaith councils, to build networks, provide education and share accurate information on threats and attacks.
- Know the schedules for religious services and events, including festivals, picnics, guest speakers, concerts, special services, classes, or other functions.
- First responders who are already members of a religious community may serve as initial points of contact to create or strengthen community relationships.



President Donald J. Trump and First Lady Melania Trump visiting a memorial outside the Tree of Life Congregation Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Oct. 30, 2018, placing flowers and stones in remembrance of the victims of the mass shooting.

- Develop response and security protocols in conjunction with religious community security personnel to accommodate regular religious ceremonies and special events.
- Religious gatherings may occur in nontraditional locations, such as movie theaters, office buildings, schools, and in homes. These may not have standardized or modernized security and may occur in nontraditional venues such as parks or on city streets.



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Circle 5062 for More Information

Threat Concerns to Religious Places of Worship

Continued from page 49



Vice President Mike Pence and Karen Pence visiting a victim of the Sutherland Springs church shooting at the Brooke Army Medical Center.

Other highlights from the ToolBox report to consider are:

- Services or ceremonies may involve separation practices based on gender, culture, age, or other factors. It is important to be aware of specific community sensitivities which may affect the ability to provide assistance during an incident.
- Religious facilities may run or host activities at venues which provide a public service, such as schools, daycare and aftercare centers, donation sites, and food banks.
- First responders and religious groups may not have the same level of understanding or a common lexicon regarding violent radicalization. First responders should consider conducting training with religious groups and leaders to promote a common understanding of the indicators of radicalization or mobilization to violence.
- Religious facilities often publicize their meeting times and locations, including services and events such as festivals, picnics, concerts, special services, classes, or training, which is information which can be potentially useful to a terrorist.

Education

In the mission to protect faith communities and religious institutions in the US, FBI headquarters recently hosted a roundtable discussion with interfaith religious leaders and law enforcement officials. Representatives from various Jewish, Muslim and Christian groups gathered to learn more on the threats involved in these events and to discuss means of preventing bias-based attacks. One topic stressed was the benefit of religious leaders sharing information with the police. Law enforcement officials also emphasized that, while several of the past attacks seemed random, many shooters do show warning signs prior to acting. One of the FBI's past reports, "A Study of Pre-Attack Behaviors of Active Shooters in the United States Between 2000 and 2013" (<https://tinyurl.com/y7p3o2ac>), was recommended reading for the attendees. Harking back to Homeland Security's concept of "If you see something, say something," participants should remind their congregations

to watch for any warning signs and suspicious activity. These spiritual leaders were also encouraged to get to know their local police officers and first responders by inviting them to a service, thereby establishing a relationship before the possibility of a security incident occurring. This beneficial relationship building is a two-way street and law enforcement is strongly advised to engage and build networking opportunities.

Lastly, another critical area of discussion emphasized was for these faith-based communities to consider taking active shooter response training, such as "Run-Hide-Fight" instruction, as well as designing buildings for security, including multiple exits (keeping them unobstructed and clearly marked) and to make sure security cameras are in working order for police to obtain any footage quickly in an emergency.

Considering that many law enforcement agencies across the country are already involved in active shooter training for school administrators and staff, it seems an easy fit to implement the same service to any religious institutions in your area which would be receptive to the idea. Basic first aid training would be ideal as well for the possibility of any EMS involvement, with basic gunshot wound treatment added to the instruction. The location of the nearest hospital trauma centers and the quickest routes to these should also be addressed. It has been reported that, a few weeks prior to the attack at the Pittsburgh Tree of Life Synagogue which killed 11, congregants had received active shooter training and many of the survivors credit that training for saving their lives.

In conclusion, the sworn duty and credo of policing is "to protect and serve" and, in upholding this obligation, we can also attach some of America's founding principles. The First Amendment sites the right of freedom of religion, the liberty to worship and our citizens should be able to do so in peace and safety.

In these faith-based communities, we find some of the finest citizens in a town or city to be charitable, tolerant and caring of their fellow man. I must mention the past support received from local churches when there was a line of duty death of a police officer. We were grateful for the food brought to the police station, cards and children's drawings, etc. It was those little things that meant a lot to us. They are also found to be a resilient group in spite of misfortunate incidents. Take, for example, the spirit of forgiveness displayed by the members of the Emmanuel Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Some of the congregation who lost family members were present at the shooter's bond hearing, just 48 hours after the attack and they spoke of forgiving the shooter, repentance and the need for him to confess his sins. Our oftentimes coldhearted society could learn a great lesson in this example of kindness and how to heal after tragedy. This is one of the best reasons for the "good guys and gals" of law enforcement to train and provide the best protection possible against any evil which would threaten innocents in worship of their chosen creator. **P&SN**

Brian P. Haughton is a retired Corporal and 23 year veteran with the Philadelphia Police Department. His assignments were patrol operations in East Division, the SWAT Unit and working as an instructor at the Police Academy. He holds an MS degree in Public Safety Management, with a Homeland Security concentration from Saint Joseph's University and teaches Criminal Justice undergraduate degree courses at several colleges. In addition, he provides instruction to privately employed security agents for certification in Pennsylvania's Lethal Weapons Training Program (Act 235).

Additional Resources

1. Threats against Religious Facilities and Adherents Highlight Importance of Religious Community Outreach – <https://tinyurl.com/y4rlmx96>
2. Resources to Protect Your House of Worship (FEMA/ Department of Homeland Security Web site which includes numerous resources) – <https://www.fema.gov/faith-resources>
3. Safeguarding Houses of Worship Toolkit (an interactive PDF toolkit created by the National Institute of Justice/ JTIC; Web site also lists additional resources) – <https://tinyurl.com/y3zny282>
4. *Guide for Developing High-Quality Emergency Operations Plans for Houses of Worship* (June 2013 – Department of Homeland Security) – <https://tinyurl.com/y7zzaaoc>
5. *Recommended Best Practices for Securing Houses of Worship around the World: For People of All Faiths* (ASIS International, 2017) – <https://tinyurl.com/y6c2jp3m>
6. *Houses of Worship Security Practices Guide* (Department of Homeland Security, 2013) – <https://tinyurl.com/yy926cz9>
7. *Protecting Houses of Worship Event Resource Guide* (Prepared by the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Colorado – January, 2016) – <https://www.hsdl.org/?view&did=790107>



Law enforcement is encouraged to engage with faith-based communities in their jurisdiction.

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On May 15, 2019, Appleton, Wisconsin, police officers and firefighters responded to a bus passenger's medical emergency at the Valley Transit Center in downtown Appleton. The passenger, later identified as 47-year-old Ruben Houston of Wausau, Wisconsin, was asleep on the bus and did not get up to exit when it arrived at the Transit Center. Passengers reported him snoring oddly, while another passenger claimed Mr. Houston appeared to exhibit symptoms of a seizure. Police and firefighters were called to help him.

Firefighter first responders quickly examined Mr. Houston and concluded he was most likely suffering from an opioid overdose because his eyes were extremely dilated and he had inconsistent breathing. The opioid antagonist, NARCAN® (naloxone HCl), was administered and shortly thereafter Mr. Houston awoke, but appeared to be confused, paranoid, angry, and violent. He told first responders

he had taken four of his wife's morphine pills because both of his legs bothered him on the bus ride. Paramedics informed Mr. Houston that he needed to go to the hospital because, when the NARCAN wore off, the morphine could trigger another "overdose."

Appleton firefighter Mitchell Lundgaard brought Mr. Houston a cot so he could lie down, but he declined saying he wanted to get home. Appleton Police Sergeant Christopher Biese asked if he could conduct a "pat down," but Houston refused, saying he just wanted to get back on the bus. Transit employees told Mr. Houston he could not reboard the bus because of liability. Sergeant Biese then attempted to do a pat down, but Mr. Houston kept turning his right side away from the sergeant.

Body-worn camera video footage showed that Mr. Houston got very aggravated and suddenly and unexpectedly pulled out a .380 semiautomatic handgun from under his shirt and fired two shots.

One shot struck Firefighter Lundgaard in the back, killing him. Another shot struck Appleton Police Officer Paul Christensen in the leg. Then, running while shooting, Mr. Houston grabbed Brittany Schowalter by the neck and used her as a shield, as Officer Christensen and Sergeant Biese returned fire, striking Mr. Houston in the arms, fingers and stomach. He later died in a local hospital.

Waking the Dragon

Emergency Medical Service (EMS) providers often refer to the time immediately following the administration of NARCAN to a patient as "waking the dragon." As shown in the murder of Firefighter Lundgaard, the sudden awakening of Mr. Houston proved deadly. First responders must make reasonable attempts to anticipate and mitigate risks of individuals who become agitated and violent *before* "waking the dragon."

One California paramedic has stated



SAFETY ALERT

What They Didn't Teach You About Naloxone Could Get You Killed

John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D. and Gregg J. Gunta, Esq.
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that experience is a great teacher and when NARCAN is given too fast to a patient, (s)he may awaken very angry and violent. “You have ruined their high and they are not happy,” he said. “That is why I suggest giving small doses of NARCAN to wake them slowly and to also evaluate their reactions.”

Michael Leonesio, a retired California peace officer and paramedic, echoed the paramedic’s cautions. “I learned my lessons about NARCAN when I was on the street. If you wakened a patient too quickly, you were probably going to fight an angry person,” Leonesio said. Continuing, he said, “Because more police officers are being trained to do medical interventions, it is important for them to learn and to know the possible risks associated with the use of pushing antagonists too fast.”

Limited Safety Warnings and Dangers about NARCAN Use

The opioid antagonist, NARCAN, is a brand name for a product which is often given to, and used by, law enforcement officers when they need to reverse an apparent opioid overdose in people. Nonetheless, the warnings provided to many first responders focus on the safety of the antagonist and not on their personal safety. One author who was associated with Boston Public Health wrote that she had never had a patient become violent after being given naloxone. She continued saying that what makes a patient agitated is when they receive too much medication too quickly.

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) published that naloxone “is a very safe medication” and that it is “uncommon” for the revived patient to “become violent or combative” (<https://tinyurl.com/y68uss5s>). PDR.net identified several adverse reactions to the use of NARCAN identifying “hallucinations” as a MODERATE adverse reaction, and “agitation” as a MILD adverse reaction.

In contrast, several authors and studies have noted that naloxone may result in violent patient behaviors and may require the restraint of pre-hospital patients to prevent violence. In one study (2002-2003), 28% of restrained patients had assaulted first responders. Many patients develop “Post-Acute-Withdrawal Syndrome (PAWS)” which is not an official medical diagnosis, but patients may experience withdrawal or withdrawal-like symptoms. Use caution! Being assaulted by a patient in the field is a form of workplace violence.

Workplace violence is simply violence which occurs in the workplace. Many

“workplaces” of first responders are in the “field” and are not limited to a hospital setting. Violent behavior is not simply an overt act, but rather a process which includes stress building over time which often includes personal conflicts and problems, and personal failures. Opioid use may be a signal to first responders that the person has coping issues with life, job, family, etc. The person may want to “escape” to euphoria through the use of opioids and when first responders interrupt this journey by administering NARCAN, the person awakes angry that his (or her) journey has been shortened and/or stopped. The possible results are aggression and violence.

To prepare employees about the dangerous risks associated with the use of antagonists such as NARCAN, appropriate training and policy are needed.

Create Awareness through Appropriate NARCAN Policy and Training

Law enforcement officers are increasingly expected by their employers and their supervisors to handle medical emergencies.

Municipalities and law enforcement agencies that do expect their officers to use NARCAN must have a written policy about who is authorized to administer NARCAN and under what conditions. Clearly, a suspected opioid overdose is a medical emergency. Most law enforcement administrators who have authorized and adopted the use of NARCAN have such a policy. However, these policies often fail to identify and highlight the potential patient dangers and/or permit the limited restraint of the patient prior to the administration of NARCAN. For example, one Ohio sheriff’s department’s naloxone policy provided good procedural instructions for the administration of naloxone, but said nothing specific about restraint of the patient prior to using the drug. Policies can be used to remind officers about the dangers of using the drug, while simultaneously authorizing the temporary restraint of the patient prior to giving the drug for increased safety.

NARCAN training must include its proper administration and its potential of aggression and/or violence in the patient when administered too fast. Employees must know about potential adverse events so they can plan and prepare a timely response should a patient suddenly become violent. In January 2019, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reported that “11.4 million people misused prescription opi-

oids; that 2.1 million people had an opioid use disorder; and that, in 2017, two million people misused prescription opioids for the first time” (<http://www.hhs.gov/opioids/>).

Defensive tactics instructors must also be included in this training and policy mix. They must identify what type of safe pre-hospital restraint can be applied to people who are suspected of suffering an opioid overdose, prior to the administration of NARCAN. This training may focus on the use of flexible restraints applied around the wrists, frontal handcuffing, etc. It is not enough to warn about the dangers to officers and others by an aggressive patient. Pre-administration and pre-hospital restraint techniques must also be taught to the officers.

Your Legal Liability Protections

What about personal or municipal liability? Can force be used on people who are experiencing medical emergencies? Must the force used follow the factors in *Graham v. Connor*? Am I covered by my state’s Good Samaritan laws?

Many times, force must be used on people who are in the throes of a medical emergency. People who are in a state of *excited delirium* or similar agitated state must be captured, controlled and restrained before medical intervention can occur. The force used must be appropriate for the totality of the circumstances.

A Sixth Circuit case provides insight into how force may be analyzed when used on a person experiencing a medical emergency. In the case *Estate of Corey Hill v. Christopher Miracle*, 853 F.3d 306 (6th Cir. 2017), a deputy responded to assist EMS at a call involving a diabetic emergency. The diabetic person became combative, kicking and swinging his arms at EMS providers. The deputy used his TASER® Electronic Control Weapon (ECW) in drive-stun mode to the agitated person’s right thigh. The drive-stun worked and calmed the person so EMS providers could re-establish an IV, administering dextrose (sugar).

The Sixth Circuit held that, when a situation does not meet the mirror image of the *Graham* test (i.e., patient has not committed a crime, is not resisting arrest, and is not directly threatening the officer), the following analysis can be used: “(1) Was the person experiencing a medical emergency that rendered him incapable of making a rational decision under circumstances that posed an immediate threat of serious harm to himself or others? (2) Was some degree of force reasonably necessary to ameliorate the immediate threat? and (3) Was the force used more than reasonably



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necessary under the circumstances (i.e., was it excessive)?" (*Estate of Corey Hill v. Christopher Miracle*, <https://tinyurl.com/y6qpclte>).

The Sixth Circuit held that "If the answers to the first two questions are 'yes,' and the answer to the third question is 'no,' then the officer is entitled to qualified immunity" (*Estate of Corey Hill v. Christopher Miracle*). This decision and analysis were applied to the facts of this case, and therefore became mandatory law in the Sixth Circuit, but only persuasive law in other Circuits. Check with your local legal counsel for appropriate guidance. Also, don't forget to answer these questions in your incident report. Detailed explanations about what was perceived and what possible interventions were chosen and used will help defense counsel prepare for deposition and trial.

Of course, there are Good Samaritan laws which may help to protect officers from civil liability. Coauthor Gunta is a police and municipal defense attorney in Wisconsin and noted that the state of Wisconsin does provide immunity from both criminal and civil liability for law enforcement officers who participate in, or directly administer, an opioid antagonist and receive proper training from an

ambulance service provider or a physician. However, there are requirements. One requirement is that the officer or firefighter receive the necessary training to "safely and properly administer naloxone, or another opioid antagonist . . ." What is "necessary training"? Check with local legal counsel and the program trainer to make sure the training meets state statutory criteria.

Make sure the training is competency-based; in other words, that the officer's demonstration of his (or her) ability to administer NARCAN is quantitatively measured. Attendance in training does not equal competency, so make sure there is a measurable test given to each trainee. There should be a written examination (about the antagonist and agency policy) and a practical examination (demonstration of application) which can be objectively measured through quantitative performance objectives.

Summary

Tragically, Firefighter Lundgaard was murdered by the very patient whose life he had saved. There are often lessons to be learned from workplace tragedies and, in this case, it includes sharing information during NARCAN training about the poten-

tial violence and agitation from patients who received NARCAN. It also includes modifying agency policy to permit the reasonable restraint of individuals prior to the administration of NARCAN, if such a modification is necessary. Restraint training must include a scenario of briefly restraining an individual, usually handcuffed in the front, prior to administering NARCAN as a safety precaution to the patient, first responders and bystanders. The killing of Firefighter Lundgaard challenges general safety information and traditional training in the use of NARCAN and is another example of preventable workplace violence.

P&SN

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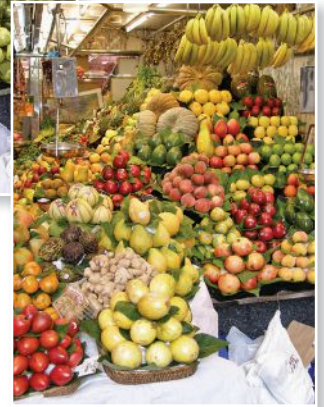
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Shades of Gray: Color-blind Individuals May Prove Beneficial for Law Enforcement

CARLEY SWETZ, DR. TOD W. BURKE, AND DR. STEPHEN S. OWEN

Individuals with color blindness can benefit law enforcement and other first response agencies in a number of different ways.



Consider the following hypothetical scenario: An armored truck is robbed at gunpoint by a group of individuals who made their escape in a privately owned vehicle. The two uniformed officers are injured and unable to pursue the perpetrators who also elude local law enforcement. Footage of the robbery and parts of the chase scene are captured on surveillance cameras which show the suspects making a foot escape into a heavily wooded area.

Investigators put together a team of highly trained individuals to locate the perpetrators. Due to the unique visual capabilities associated with color blindness, color-blind members of the search team are able to locate the perpetrators in the woods more quickly than persons with normal color vision.

The purpose of this article is to identify the ways in which color-blind individuals may aid law enforcement agencies in some of their field operations. The article will provide an overview of color vision, the differences in vision between color blindness and normal vision, and why persons with color blindness may be an asset to law enforcement (and other first responders).

Overview of Color Vision Perception

Color vision perception is a complex process. Lieutenant Michal Kinney, a US Navy Aerospace Optometrist with the Navy Aerospace Medicine Institute and Research Center, shared information about color vision. According to Lt. Kinney, the ability to visualize colors comes from the reflection of light within the retina of the eye. Differences between colors are based on the color perception, often known as the color spectrum, within the retina.

The retina is comprised of two types of cells, known as cones and rods, which are sensitive to wavelengths of light. When activated by particular wavelengths, these cones and rods produce photo pigments of different colors in the retina. In turn, it is these photo pigments, also known as photoreceptors, which produce chemical changes which allow individuals to perceive color. Individuals with a normal color perception possess the ability to access all cones pertaining to color on the spectrum; individuals without full use of a cone are unable to view certain colors on their color spectrum.

Overview of Color Blindness

Normal color perception, also known as trichromatic vision, occurs when long, middle and short wavelength cones are all present and functional. Long or L-cones produce a red color; middle or M-cones produce a green color; and short or S-cones produce a blue color. The absence of a cone can render individuals unable to fully process color associated with the missing cone.

Color blindness is widely known as the inability for individuals to distinguish between different colors on the color spectrum. Worldwide, 2.4% of individuals are born with some degree of color blindness. Causes of color blindness may include genetics or a disruption between the neural pathways of the eye and the brain.

There are numerous classifications of color blindness based on which cones are affected and how they are affected.

- Anomalous Trichromats access all three cones, but with a slight abnormality in one cone. Depending on which cone, the range of color vision may change. Individuals may have normal color vision or may experience a "faulty" color pertaining to the



The American flag as seen:

1. **By most people**
2. **By red-blind persons**
3. **By green-blind persons**
4. **By violet-blind persons**
5. **By totally color-blind persons**

cone which is involved.

- Dichromats access only two of the three types of cones and have the total absence of function or limited function for colors pertaining to the inaccessible cone. However, certain cones may overlap, such as red (L-cones) with green (M-cones), causing deficiencies within both. This overlap is what leads to the condition most commonly known as red/green color blindness.

Further classification is based on the specific cones involved and the color perceptions associated with them:

- Deuteranomaly, the most common form of color blindness, lacks identification within the M-cones; this results in a distilled green color and difficulty in establishing the green pigments. It may also be challenging to distinguish between red and green.
- Protanomaly lacks identification of the L-cones, making it difficult to vi-

sualize red color and the difference between the red and green.

- Deuteranomaly and protanomaly result in difficulties identifying green and red. However, deuteranopia or protanopia are more severe color deficiencies, in which individuals cannot see green (deuteranopia) or red (protanopia) at all.
- An additional form of color blindness, though not the focus of this article, is monochromacy. Individuals with monochromacy do not visualize any colors, instead perceiving various shades of black, grey and white.

Benefits of Color Blindness in Law Enforcement

While color blindness related to protanomaly and deuteranomaly is often listed as a disqualification from becoming a law enforcement officer, it has the potential to benefit law enforcement (and other first responders). For instance, in search and rescue operations, individuals with limited color perception may, in fact, be able to locate items or people which persons with normal color vision would not so readily see.

While individuals with color blindness may not be able to fully identify all colors, other aspects of their vision are heightened. This includes the ability to visualize differences in textures and brightness. In addition, individuals with color blindness may have heightened visual ability for detecting different shades of colors. For instance, a study conducted by Gabriele Jordan, an expert in color vision at the University of New Castle, found that dichromat individuals were able to identify 15 different shades of khaki, while individuals with normal color vision saw no difference between the shades.

- Due to the ability to ignore some colors in their environment, dichromat individuals may also more quickly identify differences in patterns and textures, including those located against camouflaged backgrounds. In a 1992 study reported through the Royal Society of London for the Biological Sciences, scientists tested the capabilities of individuals with color blindness to detect camouflaged objects which were not detectable by individuals with normal color vision (trichromats). The study found that individuals with color blindness could distinguish texture, size and orientation from the background elements, allowing them to diffuse the camouflage capabilities.

Specifically, dichromatic individuals identified the target region within the camouflage more quickly than trichromatic individuals. This suggests that dichromats can better distinguish color from texture, making them less vulnerable to camouflaged backgrounds.

The previously mentioned attributes may assist in law enforcement duties, such as search and rescue operations, finding missing persons, or locating evidence, due to heightened abilities to distinguish shades, textures, and backgrounds. These unique visual capabilities are directly related to vision perception stemming from color blindness; however, many law enforcement agencies reject applicants who are color-blind.

Hiring officials argue that normal color vision is a legitimate job qualification. Color vision may be measured by job-related tasks an individual must perform. Agencies may use different methods in testing for color blindness, but most share three common components: visual acuity, which is an individual's visual attention to detail; peripheral vision, which is the ability to see and identify an object regardless of movement and contrast; and visual color.

Multiple tests can serve as diagnostic tools, but do not generally test for job tasks, such as search and rescue, locating missing persons, and identifying evidence; as such, specific additional testing and training in these tasks may be necessary before deploying color-blind individuals to these areas.

Potential Concerns in Hiring Individuals with Color Blindness

Although individuals with color blindness can assist law enforcement (and other first response) organizations with many tasks, agencies may have concerns about hiring color-blind individuals. It is important for agencies to determine and document what levels of color perception are necessary for required occupational tasks – most notably, to protect the safety of officers and of the communities they serve – and to provide proper testing for that.

At the same time, agencies differ on policies related to hiring individuals with color blindness. Some agencies consider color blindness to be an automatic disqualifier. Other agencies are less stringent, allowing individuals with color blindness to be hired so long as they meet certain minimum thresholds for vision. As suggested by these differences, agen-

cies must make their own determinations on the benefits of hiring color-blind individuals. Findings, such as those presented above about the enhanced visual perceptions associated with color blindness, can inform discussions and decisions in this area.

Recommendations

Individuals with color blindness can provide unique and advantageous abilities to law enforcement and other first response agencies by assisting in tasks related to missing persons, evidence recovery, and search and rescue operations. Including at least one person with unique color perception during such operations may have the potential to enhance operational effectiveness.

For agencies which allow hiring of

persons with color vision deficiencies, there may be persons on staff whose visual abilities can be utilized. In addition, reserve corps, volunteer based search and rescue organizations, and inter-agency partnerships can allow persons who, though not serving as sworn officers, may be of assistance in selection missions (presuming that they have the training to do so and that the area has been cleared for nontactical personnel to enter).

Conclusion


Individuals with color blindness can benefit law enforcement and other first response agencies in several ways, including identification of evidence, assistance in search and rescue operations, and assistance in finding missing per-

sons – all of which are critical and often time-sensitive activities. Color-blind individuals should not be viewed by law enforcement as having a deficiency, but rather, research, as noted above, suggests that color blindness may provide benefits to law enforcement and other first responders, aiding with a variety of public safety operations. **P&SN**

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Is Facial Recognition Technology Ready for Prime Time?

Bill Siuru, Ph.D., PE

Facial recognition is considered to be the most natural of all biometric measurements by virtue of individuals being recognized not by scanning their fingerprints or eyes, but by looking at their face.

Facial recognition could become the future investigative and surveillance tool of choice by law enforcement because it is much more accurate than the human eye in recognizing faces. It is also easy to implement; verification and/or identification of faces can be very fast; and, unlike other biometric techniques like fingerprints and DNA, physical

contact with an individual is not required. Like any new technology involving surveillance and identification of people, facial recognition presents serious privacy issues for law enforcement, namely, with respect to Fourth Amendment rights which will require rules and laws for its use.

Where We Are Today

Facial recognition technology can pick out a particular face in a crowd; extract the face from the remainder of the scene; and compare it to a database of stored images, such as in a mug shot notebook, an FBI database or a department of motor vehicle's database. Today, images for comparison can come from a plethora of sources – surveillance cameras, cell phone cameras and even body cameras worn by police officers. Facial recognition software recognizes a face and then measures its various features like spacing of eyes, width of the nose, depth of the eye sockets, shape of the cheekbones, contour of lips, length of the jawline, as well as scars, moles and tattoos. The

measurements of these so-called nodal points create a numerical code, called a faceprint – much like a fingerprint, but substantially more complicated.

This faceprint can be used to either identify or authenticate a particular person. Identification answers the question, “Who are you?” Authentication answers the question, “Are you really who you say you are?” In authentication, an image is matched to only one image in the database or 1:1. For example, an image taken of a subject may be matched to an image in the DMV database to verify the subject is who he says he is. Or, it can be as simple as a person turning on a cell phone by looking at it. For identification, the image is compared to all images in the database or 1:N and results in several possibilities ranked according to the probability of a match between the unknown person and faces in the database.

A “false negative” occurs when the facial recognition system fails to match a person's face to an image in the database even through there should be a match. A “false positive” occurs when the facial



In the United States, as many as 30 states allow law enforcement to run searches against their databases of driver's license and ID photos. (AZDOT)

recognition system does match a person's face to an image in a database, but that match is incorrect. In the first case, a suspect is not identified; in the latter case, the wrong person is identified. Thus, facial recognition systems for law enforcement must be designed to have as few false positives as possible; ideally, zero false positives.

Problem Areas

Erroneous facial recognition results can have a devastating effect if used solely to implicate innocent people in crimes they have not committed. Current face recognition technology still has difficulty in recognizing African-Americans and other darker skin minorities, as well as women and young people.

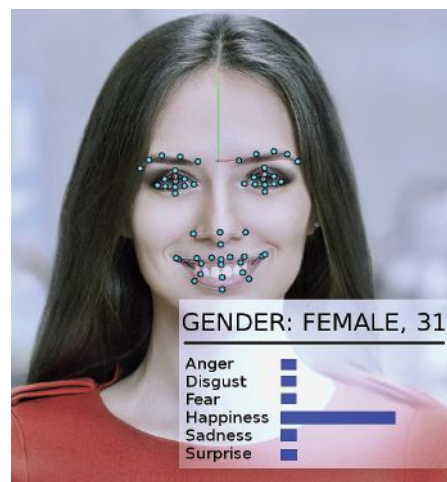
Varying lighting conditions also continue to be a problem for many facial recognition systems, as are low resolution images and less than optimal viewing angles. Because faces change over time, unlike fingerprints or DNA, software can produce incorrect results by changes in

hairstyle, facial hair, body weight, eyeglasses or sunglasses, and the effects of aging. Facial recognition performs less effectively as the number of people in the database increases since many more people look similar to each other. Fortunately, according to a recent NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) report, great gains in accuracy of facial recognition have been made in the last five years, and even greater improvements are expected in the future.

Due to these current deficiencies, San Francisco was the first city to ban the use of facial recognition technology by its government agencies; Oakland, CA, and Somerville, MA, have followed suit. The California State Senate is also considering legislation which would ban law enforcement's use of facial and biometric scanners statewide in police body cameras.

Current Applications

While face recognition technology may not yet be ready for use in positive



How facial recognition is used for identification: The image is compared to all images in the database (1:N) and this results in several possibilities which are ranked according to the probability of a match between the unknown person and the faces in a database. Future versions will incorporate emotion recognition. (Visage SDK)

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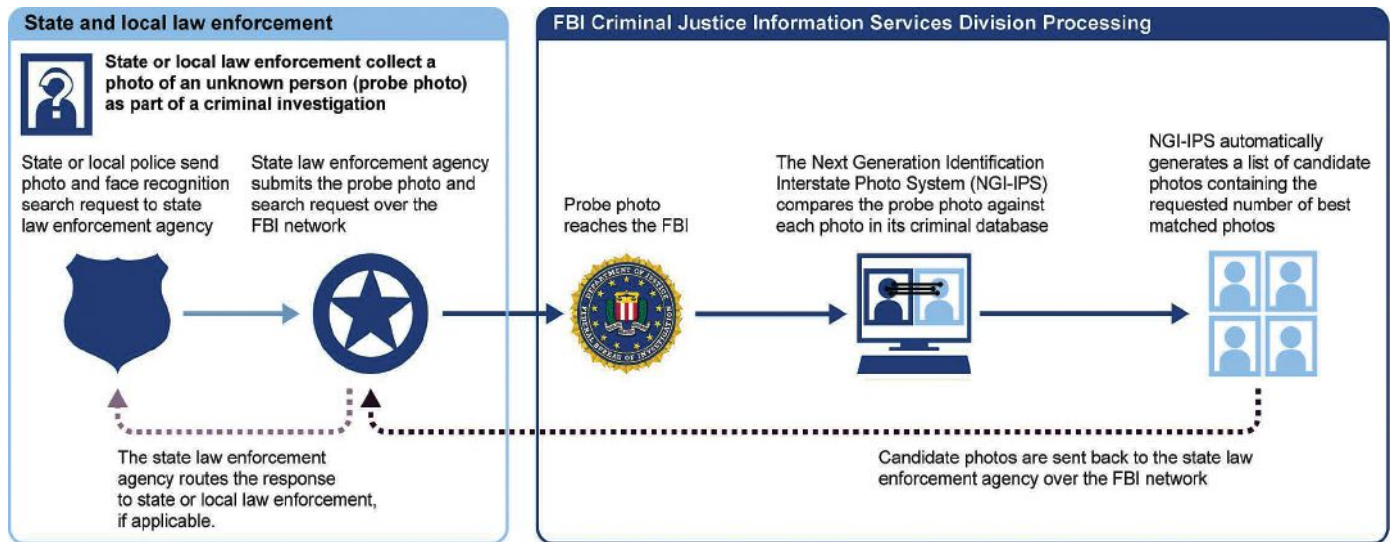
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Is Facial Recognition Technology Ready for Prime Time?

Continued from page 61



A depiction of the FBI's Face Recognition System Request and Response Process for state and local law enforcement

identification where a false positive ID can put an innocent behind bars, it has been useful in investigations when used in conjunction with other evidence. For example, facial recognition can contribute to establishing probable cause for the arrest of suspects.

Federal legislators are grappling with facial recognition, as agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the FBI are using the technology in its investigations. Civil rights advocates, like the ACLU and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, along with many Democratic representatives, want an outright ban on the technology, saying "Americans don't expect – and certainly don't consent – to be surveilled just because they get a license or ID card." Proponents of facial recognition point out the protection benefits of this powerful identification and recognition tool, and say "participation in society necessarily exposes one's images in public spaces."

The federal government has invested approximately one billion dollars in the FBI's Next Generation Identification (NGI) system database. A component of NGI's Interstate Photo System includes facial recognition and search capabilities in a photo database, consisting of photographs from different sources, including criminal mug shots and noncriminal sources like employment records and background check databases. When the FBI released NGI, it issued a caveat that the system was to be used for investiga-

tory purposes only and it could not serve as the sole basis for an arrest.

The Near Future

Axon, the largest US manufacturer of body cameras, has a self-imposed moratorium on adding software which could allow officers to identify people in real time based on their faces. The technology also could lead to expanded government surveillance and overzealous law enforcement activity due to function creep. Axon does leave open the possibility that it may include facial recognition in body cams in the future when its accuracy has been proven. Likewise, governments should keep the door open rather than issuing bans which may be irreversible.

An example of an improvement includes the ability to handle 3-D images. Previously, to make accurate matches with 2-D images, faces had to be looking almost directly at the camera, and there could be little difference in lighting or facial expression between the captured image and the image in the database. Now, facial recognition software can capture 3-D images of a facial surface rigid tissue and bone, such as the curves of the eye socket, nose and chin, to identify the subject. These areas are all unique and don't change over time. Using depth and an axis of measurement which is not affected by lighting, 3-D facial recognition can even be made in darkness and can recognize a subject at different view an-

gles with the potential to recognize up to a profile shot. Faces have the potential to be recognized at up to 90 degrees compared to 2-D imagery when the head must be turned at least 35 degrees toward the camera to be effective.

When facial recognition technology alone cannot verify or identify an image, other methods such as skin biometrics based on the uniqueness of skin texture can improve recognition accuracy. These enhanced techniques are relatively insensitive to changes in expression, including blinking, frowning or smiling, and have the ability to compensate for mustaches, beards and eyeglasses. Advanced FR technology can also eliminate race and gender bias. Research is also underway on real-time emotion recognition which is the process of mapping facial expressions to identify emotions such as disgust, joy, anger, surprise, fear, or sadness. Emotion recognition, combined with face recognition, could not only potentially identify a person, but maybe help discern any negative intentions.

Stay tuned to the advances in facial recognition technology and its future application in law enforcement. Hopefully, these will not be hindered by overzealous advocates of privacy rights. **P&SN**

Bill Siuru is a retired USAF colonel. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University. He has been writing about automotive, aviation and technology subjects for many years.

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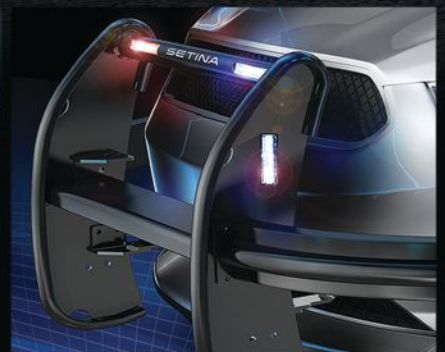
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Circle 5069 for More Information



2020 PI Utility Solutions

Jotto Desk has announced a brand-new **2020 PI Utility suite of police vehicle products**. Jotto Desk is the "everything but lights" one-stop shop for equipping public safety and Homeland Security vehicles. New **2020 PI Utility** aftermarket equipment includes vehicle partitions, prisoner seating, gun racks, equipment consoles, computer mounts, and more. Jotto Desk's integrated designs ensure that all new products fit together perfectly to ensure a hassle-free upfit.

Circle 5070 for More Information



New ASPIS X Ballistic Shield

Exceptionally lightweight at only 17.9 lbs., the new 20" x 30" **ASPIS X Gen II Shield** from Point Blank Enterprises provides superior maneuverability for handgun and long gun deployment. Available in Level III protection, the **ASPIS X Gen II** delivers high performance protection and optimal functionality. Manufactured from a hybrid composite ballistic material, this new shield features a unique hook and loop forearm strap attachment system and is offered with an optional ballistic viewport.

Circle 5071 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 (add-on) 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 5072 for More Information



Defender Front Partition from Westin

The unique patent pending design of Westin Public Safety's **Defender Front Partition** allows 20% more viewing area than the competition and ensures a quick and easy install. The overall recessed design allows for maximum driver comfort and the 16-gauge powder coated steel with 18-gauge 1.5" tubular frame makes safety a high priority. Tamperproof hardware is used on all exposed hardware in the prisoner area. It also features recessed foot wells, anti-glare and scratch-resistant windows and 10-gauge upper mounting brackets. It is available in black powder coat for various Ford, Chevy, and Dodge models and is backed by a three year warranty.

Circle 5073 for More Information



The Arges™ Remote

Whelen has introduced the **Arges** remote spotlight, designed from the ground up and packed with innovative technology. It has a small footprint which, combined with Whelen's mounts, can help reduce blind spots while driving; the collision-safe control head eliminates the need for an internal handle.

Featuring 360° of continuous rotation and a 180° tilt range, it is 50% brighter with 1800 lumens and 130,000 peak candela than Whelen's PAR-46 lamp. Proclera® Silicone Optics are engineered to provide less light distortion and up to a 3x brighter light output; ProFocus™ LED technology switches from spotlight to floodlight with no moving parts. **Arges** works with CenCom Core™, a control system created to enhance officer safety with advanced automation, and it can be programmed with Whelen Command™ software.

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BUSTED!

James L. McClinton, Ph.D.

There's still a Kmart open?... A man who had recently bought an eight million dollar island off of Key West was arrested for participating in what police described as a scheme to steal \$300 in household items from Kmart. Kmart officials called Key West police after they say the 59-year-old accused had purchased several items and returned the original boxes for a refund. But, police say the boxes were stuffed with other items. The store's loss prevention officer provided detectives with video of him buying and returning all of the items, according to an arrest report. He was charged with grand theft and booked into jail. He told reporters the theft allegation is "complicated" and he'd rather not talk about it. *(He probably didn't have any cash left after blowing eight million dollars on the purchase of a tropical island.)*

I'm glad to hear that there was no high-speed pursuit involved... In Florida, sheriff's deputies said it was an unusual situation when they helped with the recovery of a different type of stolen vehicle — a hot air balloon. The Marion County Sheriff's Office said it was notified by the Bloomington Police Department in Indiana that a hot air balloon reported stolen in the Midwest had been spotted in Florida. Deputies confirmed the balloon as the missing vehicle and it was loaded up to be returned to its owner in Bloomington. The sheriff's office said the recovery of a stolen hot air balloon was a first for the department in all of its 175 years. *(It would seem that stealing as a profession has its ups and downs.)*

Some days, it just doesn't pay a bank robber to get outta bed... Frigid weather ended up being the downfall of a crook in Waterville, Maine. The criminal was determined to rob the Bangor State Bank. He strolled up to a teller, demanded cash, received cash, and then fled. The only challenge left was to make it across the parking lot. But, it turned out that the parking lot was icy and the robber slipped and fell, dropping his gun

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



Not quite Ocean's Eleven material...

Video captured three masked men as they tried to steal an ATM from a convenience store in Silver Spring, Maryland. They used their pickup to smash through the front windows of the store, exited the vehicle, and entered the store with a hand truck. The leader of the pack then punched one of his colleagues in the arm for failing to do his part. In the meantime, the getaway driver got nervous and drove off. Finally, the other two managed to get the ATM out the door, only to have it fall off the hand truck and onto one of the suspects. That's when they realized their ride had left. The thieves then fled the scene, with one of them coming back a short time later to grab the hand truck. Police are looking for suspects. *(Well, at least one guy thought to return and grab the dolly — it was probably a rental.)*

and sending money flying everywhere. A state police lieutenant just happened to be in the parking lot at the same time and saw everything unfold before his eyes. It was show time, with the policeman tackling our haphazard thief and holding him down until support arrived. *(The sidewalk was slicker than he was.)*

The exact opposite of energizing the electorate... In Michigan, Hartford High School received a tip that a student had brought pot-laced brownies to school. The tainted brownies were alleged to have been distributed to the football team in homecoming week "goodie bags" put together by a 17-year-old cheerleader. As it turns out, her motive was to coerce

team members to vote for her as homecoming queen. *(This is another example of "voter suppression.")*

Word to new hires: Make sure you get a different seat, desk and computer... An employee of the US Geological Survey (USGS) invited malware into the government agency's computer system by visiting more than 9,000 porn Web sites on his work computer. Many of the Web sites were Russian and the malware spread to the entire network at the USGS. The Office of the Inspector General made recommendations to the USGS about preventing future malware infections. *(That's only 4.5 Web site visits per hour if he was doing it for a year.)* **P&N**



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