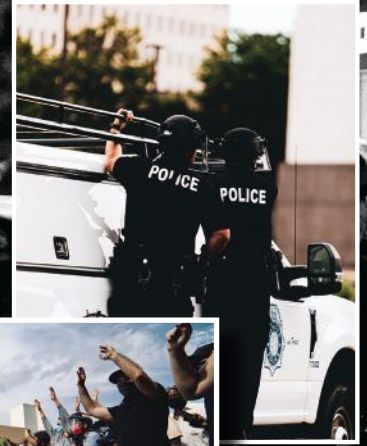


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Police and Security News

JULY/AUGUST 2020
VOLUME 36 ISSUE 4

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security



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P&SN Staff

The 27th Annual Report on the Latest Advances in Ballistic Armor Technology and Design

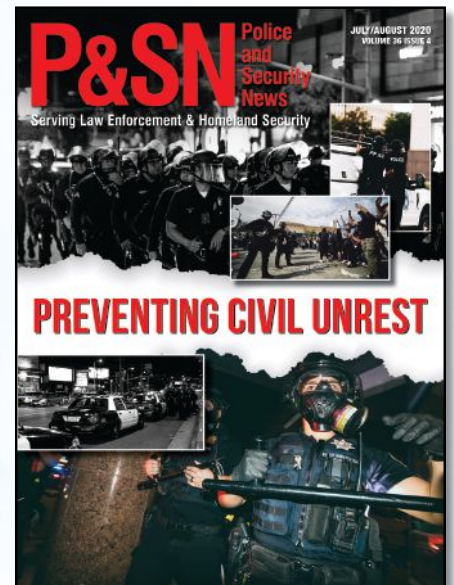
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Behind blue eyes

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To be hated

To be fated

To telling only lies

"Behind Blue Eyes" – The Who

my daughter's memory strong, bright – and positive. Your kindness will never be forgotten and, on behalf of my family, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And, then, when my emotions are still raw, there's nothing like seeing the career I cherish and am proud of being demonized, hated and burned at the stake, right? Wow. I never thought I would see this day. We've had riots and unrest before – I've written about them here – and, within the context of those events, we all kind of understood that "this too shall pass." But, I'm afraid, my dear colleagues, this is not going to pass. I believe we are poised for profound change in this country. Don't get me wrong: Some change in our profes-

thing torn down and built from scratch and they are not even remotely interested in hearing alternatives from the older generation – much less from anyone in law enforcement. Why? Because we all lie and none of us can be trusted. For those of us in law enforcement (including dinosaurs like me who left it almost 14 years ago) who did our jobs with pride, and felt honor in serving our communities, this is excruciating, isn't it? One of the things which makes it so hard to watch is that no one has consulted with us about anything. No one has thought that maybe some of us can provide honest insight about race or police use of force which can be used to serve their call for reform. As the New York union president said in that passionate speech which has gone viral in law enforcement circles, "We've been left out of the conversation." That was putting it mildly. We have been branded as the enemy.

We are the baby who is being thrown out with the bathwater.

Let's talk about these words which are being thrown around because they matter. Defund...abolish...ACAB...we've heard them all. Like most people, I was confused and misled by the term "defund." To me, if you want to improve and reform, you're going to have to increase funding, if anything. If you think the police are a bunch of drooling morons waiting to pummel the shit out of innocent people, then how does taking money away make that better? "Abolish," I understand. I think it's ludicrous, but at least I know what that word means. So, I did some research and found that "defund" really means (in my estimation) to repurpose. The "defund" camp wants to change patrol so that we don't respond to anything except violent, in progress types of calls. Everything else – neighbor disputes, loud music, nonviolent domestic situations, thefts, and other nonviolent incidents which have already occurred – will be handled by some sort of "specialists." And, though no one has directly addressed it, I believe this will eliminate traffic stops. If you are going to take police out of the equation of nonviolent offenses, then, in my view, that includes the cessation of all traffic enforcement. Load up highways and intersections with cameras and no one gets pulled over. My older son nodded emphatically during our Zoom chat about all of this.

"And that," I said to him, "will save a lot of officers' lives, too. Traffic stops are



Photo by Fred Moon

Where do I start? Well, that's easy for me this time. I must start by thanking all of you. The outpouring of support and condolences I received was incredibly touching. It was – and still is – a very difficult time for me and my family. Navigating new emotional waters in the dark, with no chart, was something immensely challenging. It's better now. It will never be the same, but it is much better, and your words and prayers truly helped. Even greater were the many pledges you conveyed to me that you would share and instill the message of distracted driving with your loved ones. This commitment to changing awareness so that others can be saved is what keeps me going forward and what keeps

sion has long been needed. I've written about that, too. Some changes in the way our society in general (housing policies and so on) treats people of color, and some honest examination of how we have failed in the past to be the truly fair and equality-minded country we claim to be, is also much needed.

But, this pendulum hasn't just swung wildly in the other direction. This pendulum has been ripped out of its encasement and tossed into the gutter. This generation doesn't want the pendulum. They don't even want to know what it is or how it got here. Some elements of this movement don't want anything that existed before. If this were a house, they would be shouting, "The plumbing leaks, so bulldoze the place!" They want every-



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

one of the most dangerous scenarios for cops."

There were more emphatic nods from my son, the defund supporter.

"Now, understand this," I told him. "Cameras don't use discretion. That means that the guy who is rushing his wife to the emergency room to have a baby gets a ticket."

My son stopped nodding.

"It means that the innocent woman who has never had a ticket and is taking her sick four-year-old to the clinic gets a ticket. Cameras don't give breaks or warnings."

"Hmm, yeah," he said.

"And, consider this: The four guys who just shot someone during a robbery and are rushing to get away don't get stopped and investigated. They get a ticket – and they get away. There are different reasons why people speed and run red lights. Some are innocent and some might not be."

My talk with my son was great because he knows how to listen and consider all sides of an issue. But, my fear is that not enough people do the same. It's easier

to scream, march, throw your fist in the air, and repeat a lot of rhetoric which you have never really thought about than to ask the crucial question, "Hey, just how does this work anyway?"

There is so much more to talk about. There is so much more ahead of us and I'm afraid very little of it is positive. Those who want drastic, immediate change are in for a rude awakening, because none of this happens easily or quickly. They are about to get an in-depth lesson in how things work. Some of that machinery needs some tuning up, too, and I hope they can make positive changes there. But, this is an uphill battle for us all.

They call them "growing pains" for a reason. I think we're in for a bunch more of them.

Stay safe and watch your backs, my brothers and sisters. **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years in police work. He is the Director of Security & Auxiliary Programs for Ransom-Everglades School in Miami. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com.



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New Carrier from Armor Express

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New Ballistic Mandible

The **Busch PROtective BAM-1 Ballistic Mandible**, from Armor Express, can be installed within seconds in conjunction with all AMP-1 E or TP ballistic helmets only. It is designed with penetration resistance against the 9mm DM41 with 415 ± 10 m/s – 1362 ± 33 fps. The **BAM-1** can also be integrated with Busch's Speed Connect System (SCS) Visors and BAN-1 Neck Guard. It can be tilted up if the wearer needs to use a drinking bottle. The textile coating also provides greater protection when used with rifles. Made of Aramid fiber, it weighs .62 pounds and is available in black and green.

armorexpress.com



New Monocular from Pulsar

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New XD-M® Elite

The new **XD-M Elite**, from Springfield Armory®, represents the pinnacle of performance in factory striker-fired pistols. At the heart of the new **XD-M Elite** is the Match Enhanced Trigger Assembly (META™) system, a refined trigger which features a flat face and integral overtravel stop.

The **XD-M Elite** also features increased capacity magazines holding up to 22 rounds of 9mm. These magazines mate up with removable extended and flared magwells, designed for ultrafast reloads.

The new **XD-M Elite** family of pistols include four models, ranging from competition-ready and tactical variants to duty-sized and CCW-ready versions.

The **XD-M Elite** Tactical OSP™ sports a hammer forged 5.34" threaded barrel with thread protector, a slide capable of mounting today's top red dot optics and suppressor height iron sights.

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TLR-1 HL® Dual Remote Switch Kit

Streamlight, Inc. has launched the **TLR-1 HL Dual Remote Kit**. The new kit, with included TLR-1 HL light, allows for the individual or simultaneous activation of the light and an external aiming device. With direct mounting to all MIL-STD-1913 (Picatinny) rails, the Dual Remote Pressure Switch permits momentary or constant activation. The company also introduced the TLR® Dual Remote Switch Accessory for use with the Streamlight TLR-1 and TLR-2® series lights and an accompanying external aiming device.

The new **TLR-1 HL Kit** includes the TLR-1 HL weapon light with Safe Off Tail Switch, lithium batteries, a Dual Remote Pressure Switch, and mounting clips. The TLR Dual Remote Switch Accessory includes a Dual Remote Pressure Switch for use with TLR-1 or TLR-2 series lights (sold separately) and mounting clips.

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Preventing Civil Unrest: Transitioning from Prisoner to Patient

The tragic death of George Floyd serves to remind us that there still exists systemic failures in law enforcement leadership, in policy development, in training, and in supervision.

John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D.

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Many police trainers and experts will say Mr. Floyd's arrest-related death is a "once in a career event." Statistically, this claim is mathematically correct, but, to the four involved Minneapolis Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs), it is a "career-ending event" and, lest we forget, it is a "life-ending event" for Mr. Floyd. Statistical probabilities mean little, if anything, when you become the statistic.

Focusing only on Mr. Floyd's death (outcome) is misleading because there is other evidence impacting the "outcome." Evidence (inputs) include a policy permitting the placement of a knee on a prisoner's neck area; training which reinforced the policy and ignored medical warnings about the dangers associated with this practice; leaders who permitted and ratified this policy; and supervisors who failed to prohibit this dangerous restraint policy, custom, or practice on their shifts. Connecting the policy, training, leadership, and supervision dots clearly show organizational system failures and the need for an audit of these policies, practices and previous force outcomes.

To those people who question Mr.

Floyd's asphyxia autopsy suggestions, point to illicit drugs identified in his system, or his testing positive for COVID-19 (postmortem) to deflect or justify the officers' actions and/or inactions, please refocus on the three words repeated by Mr. Floyd 12 times which were ignored by the LEOs: "I can't breathe."

Contemporary, forward-looking leaders, trainers and officers know that when a restrained person utters, "I can't breathe," this is first and foremost a *medical emergency*. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) must be immediately summoned along with an attitude shift that "I am now interacting with a patient who is having a medical emergency." The medical emergency must take precedence over arrest procedure. Instilling and reinforcing this paradigm into the minds of officers takes place through leading-edge leadership, scientific-based policy and training, and proactive supervision.

Most LEOs cannot make diagnoses about a person's physical or mental health because they lack the necessary training and qualification. Such diagnoses are better left to other qualified individuals. In contrast, LEOs and supervisors

both need training (or refresher training) on how to recognize medical emergencies. Steps include: Stop, look and listen.

Briefly stopping to assess the situation and/or the person is an important and simple way to potentially identify a medical emergency. For example, LEOs may develop "tunnel vision" during the restraint process and miss the prisoner going "nonresponsive" and needing immediate medical care. Too often, supervisors fail to supervise because they are involved in helping LEOs capture and control the individual, but they need to disengage and *supervise*. This "failure to supervise" becomes another "count" in the civil complaint when the plaintiff alleges this failure attributed to the serious injury or death. When LEOs stop for a moment and assess the situation and/or the suspect, this usually slows the *pacing* (speed) of the event, allowing time for assessment of force options and/or tactics.

Visually scanning the individual during and after the capture, control and restraint process may help identify a medical emergency. A combative suspect who suddenly quiets down and stops fighting may indicate a medical emergency.

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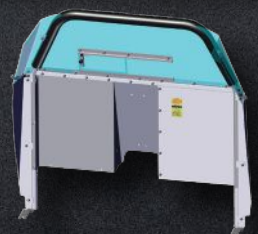
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PREVENTING CIVIL UNREST: TRANSITIONING FROM PRISONER TO PATIENT

Continued from page 12

Recognizing Medical Emergencies

Listening to a restrained individual's complaining of injury is easy, but some LEOs ignore or fail to act on such complaints because "it is not my job" or "she's faking it." Recently, a large Pennsylvania city, along with its former police chief and involved LEOs, lost a jury trial where the plaintiff alleged that officers ignored her pleas of injury during and following her arrest and the former police chief failed to conduct a meaningful internal investigation thereby ratifying the officers' conduct.

The officer who allegedly injured her (who was also certified as an EMT) told the court he took her to the jail, thereby transferring her "care" to jail staff. At trial, she proved her serious injuries and that the LEO-EMT ignored her injury complaints. The LEO admitted his failure to follow agency policy about providing medical assistance even though he is EMT-certified.

In another case, a LEO testified at deposition that he did not want to take the suspect to the hospital because he would have to "babysit" him for several hours. Tragically, the suspect died in jail shortly after the LEO dropped him off at the jail. Instead of "saving" time, after the officer sat through his and other LEOs' depositions following a civil suit, the four hours he tried to avoid paled in comparison. The LEO knew the suspect had a medical issue, yet failed to take appropriate intervention.

LEOs should be given training regard-

ing how medical emergencies can arise and that injury-causing emergencies can occur to suspects and others when LEOs effectively use restraint devices and techniques. Injury-producing devices and techniques include:

- **Electronic control weapons** can cause eye, groin and breast injuries when the probes strike and penetrate these areas. The manufacturer warns users of rare cardiac-associated injuries which may become fatal.
- **Metallic and similar restraints** have caused nerve and other injuries to individuals after improper application.
- **OC, CN and CS sprays** have caused corneal burns and abrasions (associated with pepper spray), while blistering and burns to the skin are associated with tear gas sprays (CN and CS). Breathing issues are associated with the three sprays.
- **Choke holds** remain very controversial and have serious injuries and deaths associated with their use. On June 5, 2020, California Governor Gavin Newsome ordered California peace officers to stop using them.
- **Prone restraint** — Asphyxia from death is arguably associated with prone restraint, but scientific research studies fail to support the fatal outcome. Applying a knee on the neck can cause cervical spinal injuries and, in rare cases, death. Too much weight on a person's back may

cause shoulder, back and spinal injuries and, in rare cases, death.

- **Kinetic impact munitions**, flexible (bean bags) and inflexible (rubber pellets and wooden dowels), can cause serious injury and, in rare cases, death. Research shows that these munitions, which are commonly used in crowd control settings, have caused injuries to the head, neck and torso areas, including death from trauma.
- **Distraction devices** such as flash bangs can potentially cause serious eye and burn injuries.

Organizational Diagnosis: Identifying Problems and Solutions

Command officers, trainers and investigators need to perform a focused organizational diagnosis (audit) identifying failures and potential problems in policy, training, reporting, and investigating force events and then develop solutions. For example, are policy and training based on scientific findings, legal outcomes and evidence-based practices? If not, why not? Here are some areas to perform an audit:

Policy and training — Minneapolis Police Department policy and training sanctioned putting a knee on a suspect's neck despite overwhelming scientific and legal documentation to the contrary. Command officers and trainers have an obligation to keep aware of scientific knowledge about force options and



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change their policy and curricula to parallel the science (e.g., placing a knee on a neck). They must also work as a team and not as individual “turf defenders” protecting their fiefdom from change. Yes, it will take some work, but that is why leaders and trainers are in these positions. Relevant scientific findings should cause capable trainers to update their lesson plans, and share the information with command officers and all LEOs, during or after command officers change affected policies and procedures. This takes time and effort. However, sitting in federal or state court for days or weeks during a criminal or civil trial involves a lot more work. Knowledgeable command officers and trainers are positive change agents for their agencies and communities.

“Business as usual” is no longer a leadership option. A small number of states have statutes allowing new officers to work the streets for at least one year before attending a police academy. Leadership can follow state statute and allow untrained LEOs to work, but this is not a safe practice for obvious reasons.

Similarly, many officers are promoted to supervisor or another management level and supervise others without at-

tending a supervisory or command school. While most LEOs will not work with an untrained LEO, many are quite comfortable knowingly working with an untrained supervisor who will evaluate their performance for continued employment. Training is not a magical solution, but it makes supervisors and trainers aware of advancements and evidence-based practices they need to consider for their agencies and officers – regardless of agency size.

Force options – Medical emergencies sometimes follow a LEO’s use of force. Are officers trained to *stop, look and listen* for visible signs of injury and complaints of injury by the suspect or from others during and after using force? Train LEOs to pause and *look* at the individual during restraint to make sure the person is breathing and is responsive. *Listen* to the person when complaining of injury, or when told by others who perceive injuries, particularly if the person says, “I can’t breathe.” Visible signs of injury, becoming nonresponsive and complaints of injury are medical emergencies which take precedent over the arrest procedure.

Identify unwritten ground rules – Unwritten Ground Rules (UGRs) show

the “actual” culture of the organizational unit and/or the organization and, in many cases, what a LEO “can get away with while working.” Supervisors must be diligent in their supervision and leaders must make sure every member keeps the organization’s overall mission in mind. Too often, the actual rules followed on the street are not in keeping with the agency’s published “mission” on its Web site or published policies and procedures.

Some supervisors are strict and make LEOs follow training and agency policy. Other supervisors are lax and let subordinates do most anything in the field. These diverse forms of supervision create confusion for officers. There must be a uniform approach to supervision throughout the organization to maintain stability and procedures. Leaders must take time to identify UGRs (e.g., not providing medical care for a suspect who complains of injury; not double-locking handcuffs; incomplete force reports) and supervisors must work on the elimination of such practices. Correcting these and other problems is up to the leadership, but realignment with agency mission and values involves everyone inside the agency.



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PREVENTING CIVIL UNREST: TRANSITIONING FROM PRISONER TO PATIENT

Continued from page 15

A seeming universal UGR discourages LEOs to **intervene** or report when a fellow officer does something wrong or uses too much force. Training and supervision must remind LEOs to actively intervene and those supervisors who chastise officers for reporting officers who they perceive abuse their power or authority or use unnecessary force need to be removed from supervisory duties until retraining on this and collateral issues is completed. The LEOs not on Mr. Floyd's back needed to know they must intervene and, if necessary, push the senior officer off Mr. Floyd.

Audit for implicit bias – The infamous and late attorney Johnnie Cochran, Jr. told a story of a Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officer stopping him late at night. When Mr. Cochran asked the officer the reason for the traffic stop, the officer replied, "Well, Mr. Cochran, black people don't drive a Rolls-Royce®." Cochran often used this story to illustrate implicit bias in law enforcement situations.

Everyone has biases and prejudices – be it against tomatoes or going to the

movies. Some individuals have preconceived biases and prejudices against people of color (think Native American); against people practicing a religion (think Jewish); or against one's home state or country (think Middle East). Bias training does not guarantee biases and prejudice elimination, but it is a step in the right direction. Implicit bias may not contribute to a medical emergency, but it may affect a LEO's response to the person experiencing one.

Summary

LEOs, by law, have one half the power of God: the power to take a life when appropriate and necessary. In contrast, statutes, policies and other authority cannot give LEOs the most important other one half: restoring life. It is up to leaders, supervisors and trainers to audit the organization to identify policy, training, supervision, leadership, and investigative failures and potential failures, and then correct them through policy and training changes. LEOs must be given contemporary training on how to identify medical emergencies which will mini-

mize serious injury or death to suspects.

The tragic death of Mr. Floyd, rather than proactive organizational audits, exposed systemic failures we all know exist in law enforcement agencies. His death showed the continued need to train officers in techniques and policies which reduce injury to suspects, not increase it, and how to identify and respond to medical emergencies. Training officers (action) about how to identify "medical emergencies" and how to transition in their thinking from prisoner to patient are mission critical. **P&SN**

John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D. serves as President and Chief Learning Officer for the Institute for the Prevention of In-custody Deaths, Inc. He also serves as Executive Director of the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. A judicially qualified expert witness, Dr. Peters has testified in federal, state and international courts and has appeared on international and national news shows talking about force and policy issues. He is a regular contributor to Police and Security News.



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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

POLICE FOOTWEAR AND APPAREL

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aliengearholsters.com



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reebokwork.com



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haixusa.com

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The **Stormforce™ Tango** jacket is perfect for on or off duty. Its sleek design creates a smooth finish which works well under an external carrier while maximizing comfort. The two chest zippered pockets are located high and offset to allow for easy access. Manufactured with high quality, three layer GORE-TEX®, the Tango is the ideal abrasion-resistant, waterproof, windproof, and highly breathable jacket to stay warm and dry. It is made in the USA and is Berry Compliant.

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NEWS



COPS
COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Department of Justice Awards Nearly \$400 Million for Law Enforcement Hiring to Advance Community Policing

The Department of Justice recently announced nearly \$400 million in grant funding through the Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) COPS Hiring Program (CHP). The Attorney General announced funding awards to 596 law enforcement agencies across the nation which allows those agencies to hire 2,732 additional full-time law enforcement professionals. The awards are inclusive of the \$51 million announced in May 2020 as part of Operation Relentless Pursuit.

"The Department of Justice is committed to providing the police chiefs and sheriffs of our great nation with needed resources, tools and support. The funding...will bolster their ranks and contribute to expanding community policing efforts nationwide," said Attorney General William P. Barr. "A law enforcement agency's most valuable assets are the men and women who put their lives on the line every day in the name of protecting and serving their communities."

The COPS Hiring Program is a competitive award program intended to reduce crime and advance public safety through community policing by providing direct funding for the hiring of career law enforcement officers. In addition to providing financial support for hiring, CHP provides funding to state, local and tribal law enforcement to enhance local community policing strategies and tactics. In a changing economic climate, CHP funding helps law enforcement agencies maintain sufficient sworn personnel levels to promote safe communities. Funding through this program had been on hold since the spring of 2018 due to a nationwide injunction which was lifted earlier this year.

CHP applicants were required to identify a specific crime and disorder problem focus area and explain how the funding will be used to implement community po-



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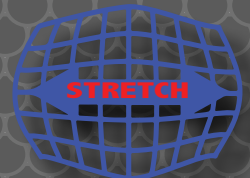


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licing approaches to that problem focus area. Forty-three percent of the awards recently announced will focus on violent crime, while the remainder of the awards will focus on a variety of issues including school-based policing to fund school resource officer positions; building trust and respect; and opioid education, prevention, and intervention. The COPS Of-

fice received nearly 1,100 applications requesting more than 4,000 law enforcement positions.

The complete list of awards can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y9ezxs9>. To learn more about the CHP, please visit <https://cops.usdoj.gov/chp>. For additional information about the COPS Office, please visit cops.usdoj.gov.



Getting an Edge on Online Threat Actors

JOHN MICHAEL O'HARE

Law enforcement agencies must contend with the proverbial double-edged sword when they attempt to chase down crime in the online world.

On one side, threat actors leave a trail of information through Internet activity, social media posts and cell phone use which investigators can track. But, on the other side, those same actors – if sufficiently knowledgeable – can use born on the Web techniques to conceal their activities and evade detection. The same dichotomy also surfaces when gathering evidence. The telltale data needed to identify a threat actor and build a criminal case is out there, but that data, often scattered across a multitude of online sources, can prove difficult to obtain and even harder to manage. Finding the informational gems hidden in vast volumes of electronic records can be an onerous and time-consuming job.

It's a tough challenge. You'll need a combination of legal knowledge, emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and old-fashioned legwork to overcome the obstacles and turn online data to your advantage.

Hide and Seek Online

Threat actors, depending on their level of sophistication, use a variety of methods to cover their online tracks. The creation of fictitious user accounts tends to be the first level of activity masking. At this level, a person might build a presence on any of the social media platforms under an assumed name or a "handle."

In some cases, the account holder's identity could prove fairly straightforward to uncover: A person may create a fake account using an E-mail address from a service provider which requires a phone number for identity verification. The task becomes more complicated, however, when the bogus account is based on an E-mail address from a service provider which doesn't require a phone number or takes steps to shield the user's personally identifiable information.

Higher up on the sophistication scale, a threat actor may operate in the deep Web which is not indexed by search engines such as Google, or the dark Web, a

portion of the deep Web where illegal activities abound. People use several techniques to mask their identities in the dark Web. They may use a privacy and identity protecting router to ward off surveillance, proxy servers to conceal their IP addresses or logless virtual private networks which don't track user activity. Cryptocurrencies, the typical payment method for illicit dark Web commodities, introduce another element of pseudo-anonymity.

Tapping OSINT, WEBINT and AI for Online Investigations

Open-Source Intelligence, or OSINT, is law enforcement's ally for identifying online threat actors and building a criminal case against them. OSINT covers a broad spectrum of publicly available information, including traditional print and broadcast media outlets. These days, social media platforms, blogs, Internet forums, and other online resources account for a growing portion of OSINT.

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Getting an Edge on Online Threat Actors

Continued from page 20

and pursue a variety of leads through OSINT. Phone numbers, social media handles and IP addresses are among the items which are searchable across the open Web. In one case I'm familiar with, a burner phone number couldn't be traced back to the person making threats. A Web search, however, discovered the phone number was associated with a user's account on a leading social media network which included a photo of the potential threat actor.

The open Web can move a case along, but its usefulness is limited. Google only indexes four to five percent of all Web sites. So, agencies will often need to dig far below the surface Web to execute a fruitful investigation. Billions of uncharted sites exist in the deep Web and the dark Web. That's a lot of ground to cover for law enforcement agencies searching for threat actors and investigating illegal activity. Compounding matters are the 26 billion social media profiles in existence today.

The process of combing OSINT sources and extracting the pieces of actionable data is called Web Intelligence (WEBINT). A skilled investigator can conduct OSINT and WEBINT manually, but to zero in on

the data you need in a timely fashion requires technical horsepower.

Specifically, effective online investigations call for an automated WEBINT capability which can probe across the various layers of the Web and multiple social media platforms. Automation – skillfully applied – can help you rapidly locate threat actors and point you toward the data which may be used as evidence.

To make that happen, however, automation must be infused with AI to effectively gather, process and make sense of the staggering amounts of data generated in a WEBINT sweep. AI, for example, lets agencies create custom search parameters to penetrate deep Web sites beyond the reach of conventional search engine technology. In addition, AI can help investigators draw the line of logic between the bits of data an automated WEBINT process uncovers. AI can make crucial connections much faster than investigators using manual methods.

Preserving Evidence and Issuing Subpoenas

Automation, coupled with AI, can help investigators assemble threat actors' profiles and unearth evidence. But, the investigative

task, of course, is far from over. Law enforcement personnel must perform due diligence to ensure that they have identified the right threat actor and singled out the online platform which was used to make the threat.

At this stage, investigators must seek to preserve the evidence, with preservation letters dispatched to the social media platforms or cloud services in question. The objective here is to make sure the sought after information isn't wiped from the servers of cloud storage and service providers, those of any of the social media platforms, or wherever the data is thought to reside.

Here, investigators need to understand how to write the request to preserve evidence. This calls for knowledge of the applicable laws and a grasp of the specific language required to obtain the data you actually want. Next comes the subpoena process and investigators will need to understand case law – which often shapes the evolving field of cybercrime – as well as the relevant statutes.

Finding threat actors and locating evidence online is tough enough, but the data hold and request phase presents its own set of hurdles which can frustrate law enforcement authorities. Here are some of the issues you can expect to deal with:

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- **Steep learning curve** – The first hurdle is experience or the lack thereof. Is the law enforcement agency equipped to handle the subpoena process? Has anyone on staff gone through the process previously? If the answer is no, preparing a subpoena for any of the major online platforms will probably seem overwhelming. Indeed, most police departments don't know how to subpoena an Internet giant. And, even agencies with the process know-how may only have one or two people on hand with experience. You can only stretch those limited resources so far – they don't work 24/7.
- **Subpoena response time** – Law enforcement agencies aren't the only ones battling resource constraints. Internet platforms are inundated with data requests and must triage and prioritize their responses. One leading social networking site received 128,617 user data requests from government agencies between January and June 2019. That works out to more than 700 requests per day. If you extrapolate that number across the

entire population of Internet and cloud service providers, the number of daily requests easily rises into the thousands. Some platforms aim to facilitate the process, providing portals for law enforcement agencies seeking data. Just the same, be prepared to take a number and stand in line – unless your data request is deemed to have national security implications. The biggest challenge is time, especially for time sensitive cases where someone's life is at risk.

- **Data overload** – If you think crafting a subpoena is a daunting prospect, just wait until you face the data deluge at the end of the process. Online platforms may dump massive amounts of information. A global employment Web site reports that tens of thousands of pages long are a possibility. To make matters worse, the data you receive will likely arrive in a flat file containing unstructured data which is difficult to decipher. You may have a couple of people on staff with the skills to translate piles of data into useful information, but they will not always be available to work on a case. Automation

can help, but many law enforcement agencies lack the technology wherewithal to handle the amount of information coming back from a data request.

- **Documenting your investigative methods** – When it's time to present a case in court, you'll need to testify to the methodology you used during the online investigation. Will you be able to do that when a trial begins two years after the investigation concluded? The entire process needs to be described, with each step documented along the way, from identifying the threat actor to issuing the search warrant or subpoena to making the arrest.


Overcoming the Obstacles

The process of pursuing threat actors online, gathering evidence and preparing preservation letters and subpoenas involves plenty of headaches from beginning to end. And, those aren't the types of challenges law enforcement officers were trained to deal with in police academies.

There are some workarounds, however, which can expedite WEBINT and take some of the sting out of the arduous subpoena cycle. Let's take a look at a few of them:

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Getting an Edge on Online Threat Actors

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- **Education** – If you've never attempted to obtain data from an online platform, the time to educate yourself is now, not when you're in the midst of an investigation. Learning about Internet platforms' data request timelines, for instance, is an important step toward approaching online investigations with realistic expectations. An education regimen should also include a review of the current law and relevant court cases.
- **Disrupting potential trouble** – When you have reason to believe a threat actor may carry out an attack in the next 12 hours, you're not in a position to wait two weeks for an online platform to produce the data which could lead to an arrest. Human intelligence needs to assert itself at this point. Physical surveillance of a threat actor identified online may be the way to go if probable cause has been established. A "knock and talk" may be enough to disrupt a potentially dangerous situation.
- **Automation** – Automation can support many aspects of an online investigation and plays a particularly

important role when dealing with voluminous data sets. Ideally, a law enforcement agency should have some automated means for ingesting and batch processing data. Such a system should make that data interactive and searchable. Automation speeds up the search for the key nuggets of information and can also address resource limitations. If the data is made readily consumable, a person with limited training should be able to use the system. You won't be entirely dependent on a small group of data experts.

- **Case management** – Finally, a law enforcement organization should have some mechanism for documenting the steps of an online investigation. A case management system with a detailed activity log will become a valuable asset when you're called to testify later on.

Conclusion: Take a Holistic Approach

To wrap up, law enforcement agencies

have new avenues of investigation in the online world – and a counterbalancing list of challenges.

Capitalizing on the advantages and navigating the obstacles calls for a holistic approach. OSINT, WEBINT, signals intelligence, automation, bleeding edge AI, and time-tested investigative techniques all play a role. The effective integration of those tools will help you locate online threat actors, uncover evidence and build an effective case. **P&SN**

Johnmichael O'Hare is business development and sales director at Cobwebs Technologies. He is the former Commander of the Vice, Intelligence and Narcotics Division for the Hartford Police Department. Prior to that, he was the Project Developer for the City of Hartford's Capital City Command Center (C4), a Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) which reaches throughout Hartford County and beyond. C4 provided real-time and investigative back support for local, state and federal law enforcement partners utilizing multiple layers of forensic tools, coupled with data resources and real-time intelligence. For more information, visit cobwebs.com or E-mail john.ohare@cobwebs.com.



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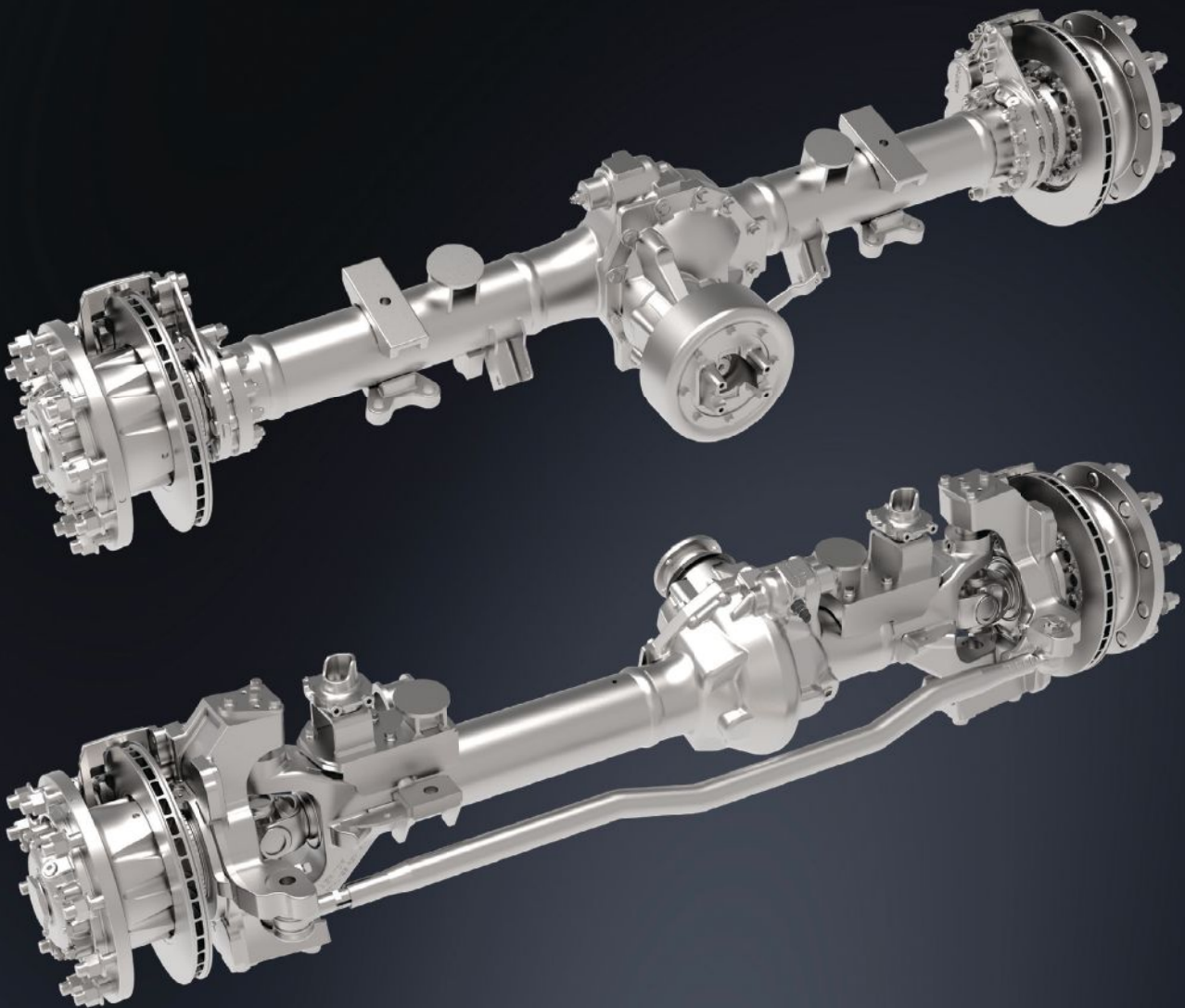




Photo courtesy of ESS

Tactical Protective Eyewear Basics

Eye protection only works when you wear it, so finding the right fit, form and functionality will help ensure that your eye pro becomes an essential part of your daily kit. You not only need to protect your eyes from the sun, but from unexpected eye hazards as well.

EUGENE NIELSEN

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), approximately 2,000 eye injuries occur every day at work in the US. Wearing the proper eyewear could prevent more than 90% of all eye injuries.

There are two basic types of protective eyewear – glasses and goggles. In this article, I will specifically discuss protective glasses.

Protection

Nonprescription sunglasses sold in the US are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as Class 1 medical devices and are required to conform to basic safety standards. Compliance with the voluntary American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z80.3 standard is considered acceptable.

ANSI Z80.3 establishes standard guidelines for “noncorrective lenses which are intended for attenuation of light and for fashion eyewear,” commonly known as sunglasses. ANSI Z80.3 includes standards for impact resistance, flammability, biocompatibility, and optical properties.

Ultraviolet (UV) protection is covered by the ANSI Z80.3 standard which also includes elements such as light transmittance, including being able to distinguish between

green and yellow light in average daylight.

UV is invisible to the human eye. Long-term exposure to UV has been linked to serious eye damage. The three types of UV radiation are UVA, UVB and UVC. UVA is the most damaging to the eyes, although UVB has also been linked to eye damage. Most UVC is filtered out by the ozone layer.

High-Energy Visible (HEV) radiation, or blue light, can also damage eyes. Although HEV rays have longer wavelengths and lower energy than UV rays, they penetrate deeply into the eye and can cause retinal damage. While some sunglasses block HEV, the FDA doesn’t require it.

FDA safety standards for sunglasses don’t provide the level of impact protection which is essential for active sports, shooting or duty/tactical applications. Most lenses shatter into fragments when hit by objects moving at easily reached speeds, according to ophthalmologist Dr. Paul F. Vinger, an Associate Clinical Professor at Tufts Medical School in Medford, Massachusetts. Dr. Vinger conducted 350 impact tests on various types of glasses.

In the study, which appeared in an issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, tennis balls propelled at 40 mph (64 kph) shattered high-index plastic lenses, while balls at 55 mph (89 kph) shattered allyl resin (also known as hard resin or CR-39) plastic lenses and those at 89 mph (143 kph) shattered glass lenses. Polycarbonate lenses didn’t shatter at 89 mph (143 kph). All of the glass and plastic lenses met the FDA standards.

Polycarbonate lenses with a center thickness of one millimeter withstood the impact of a baseball fired at 94 mph (151



ICE™ PPE from ESS offers a combination of impact resistance, unrestricted views and interchangeable lenses with an anti-scratch lens coating.

kph). Lenses made from glass, allyl resin plastic and high-index plastic shattered at that speed, according to the study. To quote Dr. Vinger, “Polycarbonate lenses demonstrated resistance to impact for all tested projectiles exceeding the impact potential expected during routine use.”

Developed commercially in 1957, polycarbonates are tough, impact-resistant thermoplastics which have many applications. They’re available in different grades and proprietary blends. Polycarbonates are known by a variety of trademarked names, including Lexan®, Makrolon®, Zelux®, Plutonite®, and others.

Polycarbonate lenses are the most impact-resistant lenses available. They’re lighter and thinner than glass or plastic lenses and have from ten to 20 times more impact resistance. These lenses have excellent optical clarity, although they can’t match glass lenses in this regard. Polycarbonate inherently blocks 100% of UV and HEV up to 400nm (UV400 protection). It does scratch fairly easily and requires a scratch-resistant coating for durability.

Trivex® is a rival to polycarbonate which was developed in 2001. Trivex lenses and polycarbonate lenses are comparable in impact resistance, inherent UV protection and scratching. Trivex is approximately ten percent lighter than polycarbonate and may have a very slight edge in optical clarity, but it’s more expensive.

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TACTICAL PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR BASICS

Continued from page 28



The Wiley X PT-1 consists of a plastic frame with interchangeable polycarbonate lenses. The frame and lens assembly weighs 1.3 ounces and the nosepiece is adjustable for improved fit and comfort.

The ANSI Z87.1 Standard

The ANSI Z87.1 standard is designed to help eliminate eye and face hazards in occupational and educational settings. The standard provides criteria and requirements for selection, use and maintenance of the different face and eye protectors to promote the most effective materials and methods of use. Compliance with this standard is also voluntary.

The 2015 edition of ANSI/ISEA Z87.1 is the first revision to be released since 2010. The 2010 revision was important due to a shift towards being more hazards-based. Protective eyewear was previously classified as either basic or high impact. Starting with ANSI Z87.1-2010, the distinction now is that they're either nonimpact or impact rated.

In the ANSI high mass test, a one inch (2.54 cm) steel ball is dropped on the lens from a height of 50 inches (127 cm). In the high velocity test, a 0.25 inch (0.635 cm) steel ball is shot at the lens at 150 fps (45.72 m/s). To pass both tests, no part of the lens may touch the eye.

ANSI/ISEA Z87.1-2015 also guarantees optical precision, impact resistance on frames equipped with prescription and standard glasses (made of two millimeter thick polycarbonate), anti-fog and anti-scratch coating, UVA and UVB filtering, frame resistance, and side protection.

Impact rated eyewear carry the Z87+ mark on both the lens and the frame or housing. Compliant prescription products are marked with Z87-2+. Commercial eyewear products, even if marked ANSI Z87.1 compliant, don't necessarily meet military impact requirements.

US Military Combat Eye Protection System Specifications

The US Military Combat Eye Protection (MCEP) System specifications for combat eye protection (MIL-PRF-32432A) is even more stringent.

MCEP provides protection from dust, flying debris and ballistic hazards both in training and on the battlefield while maintaining compatibility with existing equipment. This specification is approved for use by all departments and agencies of the Department of Defense.

The MIL-PRF-32432A ballistic fragmentation performance for requirement requires Class I eyewear (spectacles) withstand two hits with a 0.15 caliber (3.81 mm), 585 (\pm 0.15) grain, T37 shaped projectile at 700 to 725 fps (213.36 to 220.98 m/s) to the primary lens. This is over seven times the kinetic energy level of ANSI Z87.1 impact tests.

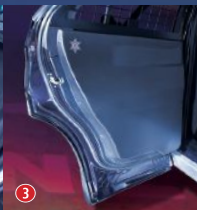
Eyewear meeting military ballistic standards may be identified by reading the manufacturer's product description or by purchasing those on the US Army's Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL®) Qualified Products List (QPL). APEL qualified eyewear will have the APEL logo on the eyewear itself.

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Photochromic lenses darken on exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation and may be made of glass, polycarbonate or another plastic.

Visible Light Transmission and Other Important Features

Visible Light Transmission (VLT) is the amount of visible (non-UV) light which passes through your lenses and reaches your eye. VLT is measured in percentages. For example, a lens with a VLT of 20% admits 20% of visible light and filters out the remaining 80%. Here are some general guidelines for VLT:

- 10–19%: Ideal for bright, sunny conditions
- 20–40%: Good for all-purpose use
- 40+%: Best for overcast and low light conditions
- 80–90+%: Virtually clear lenses for very dim and night conditions

Lens colors affect how much visible light reaches your eyes; how well you see other colors; and how well you see contrasts. Dark colors (gray/green/brown) excel in moderate to bright light conditions. The darker shades are intended to cut through glare and reduce eye strain.

Light colors (yellow/gold/amber/rose/vermillion) excel in moderate to low level light conditions. They provide excellent depth perception, improve contrast, make your surroundings appear brighter, cut through glare, and reduce eye strain in moderate to bright conditions.

Gray and green lenses won't distort colors. However, only gray and clear lenses provide true color perception.

Only eyewear with neutral gray and clear lenses are on the US Army's APEL QPL, with the exception of products with approved laser protective lenses. Non-laser commercial lens tints, such as yellow, aren't approved for use due to their impact on color perception.

Gradient lenses go from a darker shade at the top to a lighter one at the bottom. They're good for driving as they shield your eyes from overhead sunlight, while the lower half allows more light in to see the dashboard. They're good for pilots for the same reason.

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Photochromic lenses are designed to darken on exposure to specific types of light of sufficient intensity, most commonly UV radiation. The lenses return to their clear state in the absence of activating light. Darkening typically takes about a minute, while lightening takes longer.

The photochromic process takes longer in colder weather and the lenses also become darker. The reverse is true at higher temps. Photochromic lenses which respond to UV won't work when driving a vehicle because your windshield blocks

most of the UV rays. They also won't work in the shade or under heavy cloud cover.

Polarized lenses are designed for bright conditions where glare is a problem. They have a built-in laminated filter which allows only vertical light rays to pass through. The polarization almost totally blocks horizontal rays, thus eliminating reflected glare. Polarized lenses can block the visibility of many electronic displays.

Mirrored or flash coatings are also designed to reduce glare. They do make objects appear darker than they actually are,

TACTICAL PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR BASICS

Continued from page 31

so lighter tints are often used to compensate for this. They don't interfere with the visibility of electronic displays.

Other coatings which may be found on better sunglasses can include a hydrophobic coating to repel water, an anti-scratch coating and an anti-fog coating for humid conditions or high sweat activities.

Polycarbonate prescription lenses typically run about \$140 with a scratch-resistant coating. If you have a stronger prescription and require high index lenses, bifocal/multimodal/multifocal lenses, specialized coatings, or polarized or photochromic lenses, prepare to pay more.

Eyewear with interchangeable lenses can be useful when weight and space are at a premium. They allow you to tailor your eye protection to different activities and environments, while taking up minimal space.

Frames

Choosing the right frame is nearly as important as choosing the right lenses.

Frame materials which may be found on brand-name eyewear include a variety of metals, nylon, cellulose acetate, and castor-based polymer. The quality and design of the eyeglass frame are greater

determinants of its durability than the material from which it's made.

Metal continues to remain popular as a frame material and is easy to adjust. Although durability is an issue with many metal frames, some are very robust.

Nylon frames were introduced in the 1940s. Because of brittleness issues, manufacturers switched to blended nylons. Most sports and performance eyewear frames are made of blended nylons which are lightweight and strong, but not adjustable unless they have an internal adjustable wire core.

Castor-based polymer is another biobased polymer which is seeing use for sunglass frames. It's a relatively new polymer which uses castor oil extracted from the seeds of the castor bean. It's light, durable and features superior flexibility which can withstand repeated bending.

Impact rating, fit and style are important. So, too, is compatibility with any other PPE which may be worn in conjunction with them and with any comms.

For optimal protection, the frames should fit snugly around the face in a wraparound style to prevent unfiltered sunlight from entering the eyes, as well as to provide additional coverage for protec-

tion from debris and impact and a wider peripheral view.

The availability of foam inserts for the frame which can be installed when needed to provide the protection of a goggle can be a real plus. Some frames take it even further and are designed to be easily convertible from glasses to goggles.

All name brand ballistic eyewear manufacturers offer Rx capable models. Rx lenses may be built into the frame or into Rx inserts which attach to the frame. Regular eyeglasses should never be worn under your protective eyewear. Doing so puts you at a safety risk.

The US Army has adopted a cross-platform Universal Prescription Lens Carrier (UPLC) as the only lens carrier platform used by its soldiers. The Army's APEL indicates which of the approved eyewear is UPLC compatible.

Final Thoughts

Proper eye protection is essential. Only by becoming better informed consumers can we make the right purchasing decisions. **P&SN**

Eugene Nielsen is a private consultant and a former police officer.

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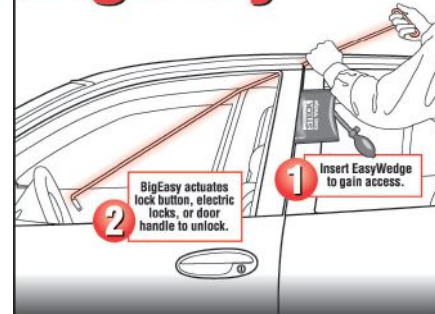


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PISTOL MOUNTED OPTICS — THE FUTURE IS NOW

TODD FLETCHER

There was no doubt in my mind that uniformed officers would be carrying handguns with optics in their duty holsters as soon as durability and battery life were improved. Now, the future has arrived with an outstanding selection of duty ready handgun optics.



These new Mini Red Dot Sights (MRDS) are durable and ready for officers to carry on a regular basis. Let's face it: Most officers don't take good care of their equipment (handguns are a perfect example). Too many officers do not regularly check their pistols to ensure that

they are clean and properly lubricated. Consequently, any MRDS mounted to their pistols has to be rugged and its battery life has to be exceptional. Trijicon® and Sightmark® are two MRDS manufacturers who have stepped up to the challenge of making duty handgun optics ready for the rigors of law en-

forcement.

If you have any remaining doubt regarding optics mounted to duty pistols, the most preferred law enforcement handguns which accept MRDS are now available directly from the manufacturer. GLOCK® offers the Modular Optic System (MOS) line of pistols which are available in Gen 4 and Gen 5 configurations. Smith & Wesson® offers two lines of duty capable handguns with the M&P® M2.0™ Optics Ready Law Enforcement Only line, as well as the Performance Center® M&P M2.0 C.O.R.E. Pro Series® pistols. SIG SAUER® has upped the ante with a complete line of MRDS pistols which includes the P320RXP and P226 RX. The Beretta® APX™ and Heckler & Koch (HK®) VP9 are also vying to be contenders in this market.

THE TEST

For this article, I had the opportunity to test two different MRDS optics. In spite of recent difficulties with product supply and demand, both Trijicon and Sightmark were able to get me their duty capable MRDS and I had a great time wringing them out. To compare apples to apples, these optics were mounted and tested on the same GLOCK 17 Gen 5 MOS.

Testing and evaluation of the two sights

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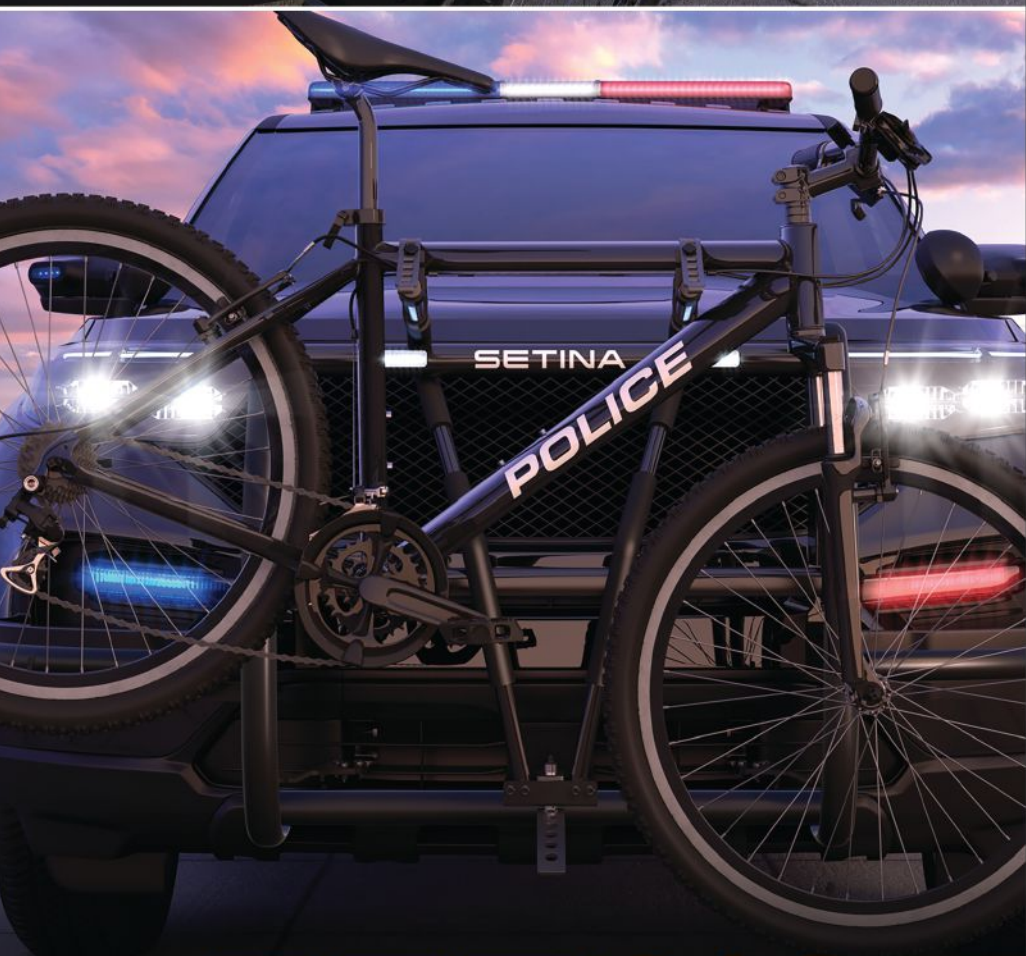
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PISTOL MOUNTED OPTICS – THE FUTURE IS NOW

Continued from page 34



The Safariland® 7360RDS 7TS™ and the Trijicon® RMR® Type 2 Adjustable LED make a rugged and durable duo perfectly suited for uniform patrol duty.

included zeroing each optic before conducting a test. There were no surprises during accuracy testing. I was able to shoot tighter groups with the MRDS optics compared to using iron sights. After testing for accuracy, we ran them through several drills which verified our ability to see and track the reticles between shots. In addition, I used each of these sights on the same handgun to demonstrate drills during one of our instructor development classes.

HOLSTERS

To help with this evaluation, I was also sent two different holsters which represent the needs of most law enforcement officers. Safariland® has been a driving force within the duty holster market for quite some time and they sent me their new Safariland 7360RDS 7TS™ Mid-ride duty holster. This duty holster is specifically designed to fit and protect weapons with red dot optics. It features the intuitive ALS® (Automatic Locking System) retention system and the straight-up draw makes them very instinctive to use.

I've been carrying a Safariland holster with their ALS retention system for



The DeSantis Speed Scabbard® and the Sightmark® Mini Shot M-Spec FMS would be terrific additions to anyone's concealed or plainclothes carry gear.

over ten years and, as expected, the 7360RDS 7TS was quick and simple to learn, so there was virtually no learning curve before my draw felt natural and smooth. I was a little concerned the protective covering over the MRDS would be bulky and could get in the way during the draw. However, it never did interfere and went completely unnoticed during testing. This cover is an important part of the holster design, keeping your optic



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protected from the elements and damage.

I also received a DeSantis Speed Scabbard® which is designed for plainclothes officers who prefer a holster without a thumb break while still providing good retention. This is accomplished through precise molding and a tension screw device which fits the GLOCK 17 Gen 5 MOS like the proverbial bug in a rug.

The Speed Scabbard is a pancake, outside the waistband holster which carries the pistol very close to the body. It does a fantastic job of comfortably concealing the full-size GLOCK 17 and nearly eliminates "printing," making it a very good choice for concealed carry. Even when wearing a T-shirt or polo shirt, the holster made the GLOCK 17 Gen 5 MOS (with an optic) disappear.

TRIJICON RMR® TYPE 2 ADJUSTABLE LED WITH 3.25 MOA DOT

The Trijicon RMR Type 2 is designed with a forged aluminum housing in a shape which absorbs impacts and diverts stresses away from the lens. This MRDS features control buttons on the sides of



The Trijicon® RMR® Type 2 Adjustable LED with 3.25 MOA Dot (left) is glass mounted in a housing designed for durability. The Sightmark® Mini Shot M-Spec FMS (right) has a similar-sized dot with a slightly larger, clear glass window housed in a rugged aluminum housing.

the optic which allow access to adjust the illumination brightness; toggle between manual and automatic modes; and power down for storage.

The Trijicon Type 2 adjustable LED incorporates a sensor which automatically

adjusts the brightness of the illuminated red dot based on ambient lighting conditions. This proved to be very effective and is a feature I grew to appreciate when going from bright daylight into a dark building during a building search. Alternately, if the manual mode is selected, the RMR will remain in manual mode for 16.5 hours following the last push of a button. After 16.5 hours, the optic will default back to the automatic mode so the RMR will be ready for any condition in which it may be needed. Additionally, the user can lock out the buttons so the RMR functions in automatic mode only.

In my opinion, the 3.25 MOA dot is the most versatile of all RMR dot sizes. The dot is small enough to allow accurate shooting at distance while also being big enough to locate quickly.

SIGHTMARK MINI SHOT M-SPEC FMS

Sightmark sent their excellent Mini Shot M-Spec FMS. This MRDS proved to be versatile and effective in a variety of shooting environments. I mounted this optic on my GLOCK 17 Gen 5 MOS, a patrol rifle and my 12-gauge shotgun. It worked equally well across each of these weapon

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PISTOL MOUNTED OPTICS – THE FUTURE IS NOW

Continued from page 37

platforms. While I didn't get a chance to evaluate the optic on the competitive range, I did set up some speed steel stages and tested it. Quick target acquisition is paramount when shooting speed steel. It's even more important if you're using a firearm to defend your life or the life of another. The M-Spec FMS comes with a 3 MOA red dot which got me on target swiftly and accurately.

The M-Spec FMS has on/off control buttons on the side which double as brightness controls. The reticle brightness has ten different settings which

proved to be perfect for any low light through bright outdoor environments. To preserve battery life, it has an auto shut-off feature which engages at 12 hours. The M-Spec FMS looked to be a very rugged unit. The objective lens is mounted in a waterproof and dustproof aluminum housing. The windage and elevation are adjustable in 1 MOA increments and are located on the housing. Best of all, the battery compartment is positioned on top of the aluminum housing which allows full access to the battery without having to remove the optic from the firearm.

THE RESULTS

Overall, I understand why many folks believe that the 3 MOA dot is the most popular choice for handgun use. The reticle is big enough to pick up quickly on the draw and presentation, but small enough for precision shooting at reasonable distances. The Sightmark Mini Shot M-Spec FMS and the Trijicon RMR Type 2 Adjustable LED were both capable of making 25+ yard head shots as long as I did my part.

The window on the M-Spec FMS is slightly larger than the Type 2 Adjustable LED. I found this made it easier to pick up the red dot when my presentation was slightly off due to drawing from an awkward position.

Testing each MRDS demonstrated more similarities than differences. Both were rugged and withstood the pounding of using the optics to manipulate the slide. I conducted numerous one-hand reloads and found that using the optic was a fast and easy method of running the slide to the rear when chambering a fresh round. Whether I hooked the optic on my belt or boot heel, both sights proved to be durable and just kept working. And, just as importantly, both maintained their zero after dozens of repetitions.

On the range, each sight was easily adjusted using the side mounted controls. There were no issues whatsoever with either of these optics. When it came to the brightness controls, I did prefer leaving the Type 2 in automatic mode to adjust the brightness of the red dot based on the lighting conditions. Manually adjusting the intensity of the red dot was simple and quick on both sights, but the automatic mode made it even easier.

During this evaluation, I didn't need to change the batteries in order to complete my testing. However, this is a regular part of maintaining a MRDS for duty use to ensure it's ready to go whenever needed. So, I did remove the batteries from each optic to simulate a battery change. I was pleased with the location of the battery compartment on the M-Spec FMS. It was a simple matter of unscrewing the battery cap, changing the battery and screwing the cap back on. There was no need to remove the optic from the handgun.

When it comes to batteries, keep in mind that manufacturers may determine battery life using a predetermined ideal condition selected to maximize the longevity of their advertised battery life. Law enforcement personnel work in a variety of lighting conditions from indoors to bright and sunny conditions to low light night shift environments. Each of these conditions will change the amount of energy used by any

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MRDS. As a result, regularly changing batteries will ensure your optic is properly functioning when you need it most. I recommend changing the batteries in all your optics at least twice a year. If you have any doubt as to the longevity of the batteries, simply change them more often. The few extra dollars you spend each year are worth the investment.

READY FOR DUTY

After investing in some ballistic therapy with the M-Spec FMS and the Type 2 Adjustable optics, I am a believer that every law enforcement duty holster should be occupied with a pistol equipped with an MRDS. While it's true a red dot optic won't miraculously turn a bad shooter into a USPSA champion, these optics help to reinforce good fundamental marksmanship skills. Training with a red dot allows the shooter to see mistakes more easily which should help the shooter self-diagnose and correct his/her own shooting errors.

As for any of the naysayers who don't believe the future has arrived, start training with an MRDS on your duty pistol and see for yourself. It won't take long to see how an optic can make officers become more accurate. **P&SN**

Todd Fletcher has over 25 years of law enforcement experience, with assignments to patrol, criminal investigations and training. He has presented 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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Ballistic Armor Update: 2020

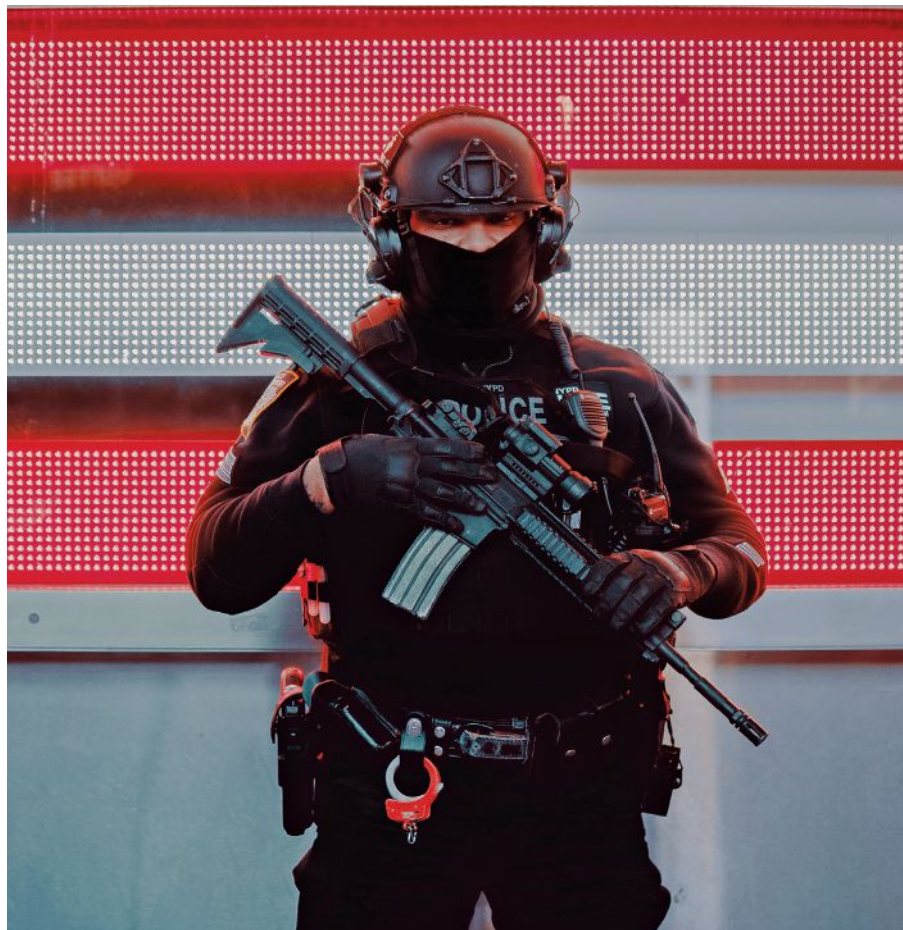


Photo by Alec Favale

The 27th Annual Report on the Latest Advances in Ballistic Armor Technology and Design

POLICE AND SECURITY NEWS EDITORIAL STAFF

It's been unusually quiet on the home front regarding the state of the industry for advances in ballistic armor technology. This can be attributed to a number of reasons – the most obvious being the current situation worldwide, with countries continuing to battle against the COVID-19 pandemic.

First reported back in 2018, the NIJ's revised ballistic-resistant body armor standard 0101.07 is still awaiting implementation. It is a revision of NIJ Standard 0101.06, Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor, introduced in 2008. Its primary purpose is for use by the NIJ Compliance Testing Program (CTP) for testing and evaluation of ballistic-resistant body armor for certification by the NIJ. The .07 standard seeks to improve the test methods, along with the performance requirements, for the level of ballistic resistance body armor

must have to protect from handgun and rifle fire. The NIJ Standard 0101.07 is more stringent when compared to the previous NIJ .06 Standard. For example, it will include improved test methods for female body armor and updated body armor protection levels which incorporate additional rifle threats faced by US law enforcement. According to unconfirmed sources, publication of the final version of NIJ Standard 0101.07 is anticipated to occur in the beginning of 2021.

New Materials

In late November 2019, Honeywell introduced Spectra Shield® 6360, an advanced ballistic material for the creation of soft body armor. In tests, Spectra Shield 6360 demonstrated up to seven percent more ballistic protection than its predecessor in the Spectra Shield 5000 series, reducing

the risk of blunt force trauma with greater absorption of energy from bullets. Subsequently, in late January of this year, an announcement was made regarding the introduction of Spectra Shield 6166 which is Honeywell's highest performing ballistic material for rifle protection in hard body armor designs. Pound for pound, Spectra is 15 times stronger than steel, yet light enough to float.

Help for the Ladies

In September 2019, women from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) National Urban Security Technology Laboratory (NUSTL) embarked on a project to assess the capability, usability, deployability, maintainability, and affordability of various makes and models of female body armor. NUSTL's System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) program convened a focus group of female first responders from several states to obtain their recommendations for evaluation criteria, product selection and operational scenarios. Because the responders use ballistic-resistant body armor in daily operations, their input was critical to ensure that the right models are tested and that they are assessed in true to life environments. All of their initial input is available now in NUSTL's recently published focus group report which will serve as the basis for evaluating several PPE models during an upcoming assessment. A copy of the focus group report can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/yad8elcz>.

Existing body armor which female officers wear in the field tends to either be gender-neutral, (meaning it can be worn by any officer), or it has a three-dimensional structure (using folds, darts or seams to create cup shapes) intended to curve and fit around the bustline. Focus group participants noted that, in their experience, these designs do not conform well to their body contours. For NUSTL, providing an opportunity for female responders to assess several currently available body armor options will ultimately allow response agencies to purchase the right PPE for their officers.

Focus group participants identified 21 different evaluation criteria and determined that, first and foremost, usability and capability – not affordability – are the most important factors to consider in assessing the garments, though cost, ease of deploying and ease of maintenance will be taken into account. Regarding design, assessment

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BALLISTIC ARMOR UPDATE: 2020

Continued from page 40

criteria will include belt and vest compatibility, comfort, cup size, fit measurement process, female design fit, nonprohibitive movement, and closure direction.

NUSTL's Body Armor for Women assessment will address the practical aspects and experiences of women wearing armor. It will take place after the release of the new NIJ standard and associated product certification and will include female law enforcement officers of all shapes, sizes, ages, and levels of professional experience.

Pandemic Protection

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has previously warned that the COVID-19 virus can remain infectious on hard surfaces, such as plastic and steel, for up to three days.

In response, the Safariland® Group has recently issued guidelines for properly disinfecting their armor products including ballistics, carriers, hard armor plates, shields and helmets.

In order to prevent exposure and illness, it is critical for first responders to frequently and thoroughly disinfect all armor equipment:

- Visibly dirty surfaces should be cleaned using a mild detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- **DO NOT USE AEROSOLS**, such as Lysol®, on armor products. Aerosols may negatively affect the ballistic material, reducing the performance of the product.
- Use only EPA registered disinfectant wipes. Use only wipes which don't contain bleach.
- Refer to the product label for the required contact time (how long the disinfectant should remain on the surface), the product's shelf life and

all safety instructions prior to handling and use.

- The surface should remain "visibly wet" for the prescribed contact time in order to produce disinfection. **Note:** If the surface is not kept wet for the appropriate amount of time to kill the microorganisms, it is possible to spread microorganisms with the wipe.
- It may be necessary to use more than one wipe to keep the surface wet for the recommended contact time.
- After prescribed disinfectant contact time, surface may be wiped dry or the surface may be allowed to air-dry.

For additional information, refer to the Safariland Use and Care Web page for cleaning information on armor ballistics and carriers (<https://tinyurl.com/yaleeupu>).

New Ballistic Protection Products

Angel Armor®

The RISE® Tactical Carrier (R.T.C.) is Angel Armor's newest offering in the RISE Armor System Family. The R.T.C. provides a fully adjustable cummerbund system which transfers weight from your shoulders to your core and features locking hardware and rapid release FirstSpear® Tubes™. The adjustable shoulders come with padded inserts and optional rapid release technology. The vest mesh lining is constructed with custom moisture wicking and antimicrobial properties coupled with a removable passive air channel torso pad for increased airflow.

Up-armor is achieved with external loading rifle plate pockets located at the front, back and sides. Front and back plate pockets can fit multiple plate sizes up to 10" x 12".

The R.T.C. is customizable with 360



The RISE® Tactical Carrier offers external loading rifle plate pockets located at the front, back and sides.

degrees of MOLLE compatible, laser cut laminate fabric which is lightweight and durable. The R.T.C. also accommodates quick attach, mission flap PALS placards or kangaroo/rifle magazine pouch accessories. (angelarmor.com)

Armor Express

The Traverse overt carrier with a front zippered opening offers both MOLLE and dress configurations, along with optional features to meet departmental requirements. It is available in Armor Express' new BRAVO cut. Internal plate pockets accommodate inserts for added protection. Front and rear hard armor plate pockets accommodate rifle plate protection.

Also from Armor Express, the Busch PROtective face shield visor, constructed of a silica/polycarbonate proprietary mixture, offers protection levels ranging from lightweight impact to fragmentation for 9mm and .44 Mag IIIA threats. Coupled with Busch's Speed Connect System (SCS), the end user can instantly connect a visor in the field without any tools or having to remove the helmet.

All Busch PROtective helmets are now available with an advanced padding system, including the latest CPP-2 Pad Sys-

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Busch's Speed Connect System (SCS) allows the end user to instantly connect a visor in the field without any tools or having to remove the helmet.

tem. The pad system connects with VELCRO® to the helmet surface; is constructed of EPP, foam, porous foam, and mesh fabric; and comes in light blue and black. (armorexpress.com)

GH Armor Systems

The Tactical Tactical Carrier MOLLE (TCC.M) is an external tactical carrier made of 500 and 1000 denier CORDURA® nylon and incorporates MOLLE webbing. An external 360° adjustable cummerbund is designed with standard hook and loop front closure or a new feature, a quick-clip closure, as an upgrade. Front and rear top-loading plate pockets accept a variety of special threat and hard armor plates. Other features include shoulder closures which offer up to three inches of adjustment; a telescoping rear drag strap; mic tabs; and an internal cummerbund for secure fit. (gharmorsystems.com)

Hardwire®, LLC

Hardwire's Tactical Shields come in three designs (notched, window or standard) and two levels of certified NIJ protection (Level IIIA or Level III). These tactical shields are lightweight – weighing only 5.8-8.2 pounds for Level IIIA and 20-25 pounds for Level III (depending on design). Hardwire designed their shields from armor technology which was developed for the Department of Defense and with input from law enforcement professionals. This provides ease when carrying any of these Tactical Shields with one arm, for as long as necessary. It also adds speed to



Hardwire®'s Tactical Shields are available in three designs: notched, window or standard.

the officers and protects the head and torso area in nearly every tactical scenario. (hardwirellc.com)

Havis, Inc.

Havis recently announced a partnership with Hardwire, LLC to provide mission critical ballistic armor for public safety vehicles. (hardwirellc.com)



Hardwire®'s armor kits from Havis include a window insert solution.

Hardwire ballistic panels are proven, high performance vehicle armor. The armor provides NIJ Level IIIA armor protection and tests confirm that they will stop .357 SIG and .44 Magnum ammunition fired from longer barreled handguns, as well as from shotguns. This enhanced armor provides additional protection to public safety officers while in the field or on the scene.

Hardwire's armor kits from Havis include an external door and window insert solution. The kits are lightweight and durable, easy to install or remove, and transferable to like models. (havis.com)

Point Blank Enterprises, Inc.

Point Blank Body Armor has a host of new ballistic protection products available in 2020. Constructed of a highly durable stretch material, the Compression Carrier incorporates four-way stretch mesh material on the shoulders, sides and tail for improved ventilation. The proprietary Thoracic Ballistic Contour (TBC) design naturally represents the human form with soft ballistic panel edges to achieve a low signature. The Compression Carrier naturally flexes to the contours of the body for greater maneuverability and concealability while the thermoregulating inner lining provides a cool, comfortable fit.

The new Guardian Series allows the user to custom build a carrier based on the most frequently requested options, such as the Pocket Shape, ID Panel, Badge Flap, Load Carriage, and Plate Loading preference. These features can be selected to meet mission specific needs, resulting in multiple varia-

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The Guardian Series features a front and back 3-D inner spacer mesh which provides cooling.

tions of the Guardian which offer optimal functionality. The Guardian (GDC) is one of the variations which combines the durability of a load-bearing vest with the tailored appearance of a uniform shirt carrier. The carrier features multi-functional pockets, MOLLE webbing to attach equipment pouches and a concealed center zipper for easy donning and doffing.

The SOB NEMESIS™ is a rifle-rated defensive position designed for situations where mobility, lightning-fast deployment and efficient transport are essential. The SOB NEMESIS is available in NIJ Level III armor, as well as NIJ Level III+ armor which is certified to defeat the special threats of the M855 and 7.62x39 MSC. The viewport and front fasteners are certified to the same ballistic rating

as the armor itself. The system features a removable shield which can be quickly detached and used independently as a hand carry shield and the entire system folds in half for storage and transport. (pointblankenterprises.com)

Safariland

The Safariland Group (Safariland) introduced its next generation Safariland PROTECH® X Series ballistic shields featuring the FoxFury® Taker B70 integrated shield light and handle.

The X Series models with the FoxFury Taker B70 Integrated light and handle feature a highest quality LED light with the functionality merged into the handle design. The cord-free light is bolted to the shield through the handle and is powered by six CR123 batteries which are incorporated into the handle, eliminating the need for battery packs and external wiring.



The NEMESIS™ system folds in half for convenient storage and transport.

Two handle options are offered: the standard horizontal handle or a three position handle design which is ambidextrous and features ergonomically designed pressure switches easily activated by the thumb. (safariland.com) **P&SN**



The next generation PROTECH® X Series ballistic shields features the FoxFury® Taker B70 integrated shield light and handle.

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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

“Just walk casually; they won’t notice us”... In Virginia, Louisa Police say two people wore hollowed-out watermelons on their heads, with holes cut in them for their eyes, as a disguise. Surprisingly, the melons stayed in place long enough for them to “commit larceny.” Security video from the Sheetz Gas Station showed the two melon-heads strolling into the business where they reportedly committed their crime. The Louisa County Sheriff’s Office reportedly used the security video to see their getaway vehicle and one suspect was arrested. (*A rind is a terrible thing to waste.*)

Ah, gee, Mom, all of my friends are doing it!... A young female student recently recorded herself on video as she licked a toilet seat during a flight to Miami in what she called the “coronavirus challenge.” She posted the video to Twitter with a caption which read, “Please RT this so people can know how to properly be sanitary on the airplane.” The six second clip shows her squatting next to the airplane toilet, licking the seat and then throwing up peace signs for the camera. In numerous interviews, she essentially said that she wanted to take advantage of all the buzz surrounding COVID-19 in order to get attention. In a subsequent interview with Dr. Phil, she admitted that she had lied and had bleached the toilet seat before she licked it. She explained that she was upset because COVID-19 was “getting more attention than she was.” (*She just joined the “Vile High Club.”*)

Cocaine deposits at this bank earned this customer a lot of “interest” from local police... A man in Jefferson County, Colorado, had money he knew he had to deposit at the local bank and he headed on over to do his business. Upon arrival, he pulled up to the drive-thru and then diligently placed his deposit in the pneumatic tube and sent it on its way to the teller. Unfortunately, he included two bags of cocaine along with the cash he was depositing. The teller quickly called the police and responding officers found more drugs in his car. The man was arrested and all of the cocaine was taken into evidence. (*I’d like to withdraw an eight ball, please.*)

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY

What happened to the “no shirt, no shoes, no service” rule?...

In Modesto, California, Webcam footage from a Cherokee Freight Lines tanker truck showed a vehicle pulling in front of the big rig. The driver, who had his hazard flashers on, directed the truck driver to pull over. The trucker then stopped, thinking he might have a mechanical problem. The incident then took on a bizarre twist. Wearing nothing more than his underwear, the driver of the car then jumped out of his car, ran to the back of the truck and disappeared from the driver’s view. The trucker then pulled away and tried to distance himself from the man by driving his rig back onto the freeway. When he reached highway cruising speed, the half-naked man suddenly reappeared, climbing on the side of the truck. Hanging on, he positioned himself near the bottom of the tanker and opened up a large valve. Suddenly, the truck’s cargo of red wine started to gush out and the man positioned his mouth into the stream and gulped down as much as he could swallow. The driver called the police and the man, now inebriated, was arrested. Unfortunately, the tanker truck lost about 1000 gallons of red wine, most of it ending up on the highway. (*Apparently, it was “wine o’clock” in Modesto.*)



I’m making my sign now... A 93-year-old Pennsylvania woman, whose plea to neighbors for more beer went viral on social media, got her request fulfilled by the Coors Brewery Company. The elderly woman, of Seminole, went viral after a news station shared a photo on Facebook showing her standing with a can of Coors Light and holding a sign in her window reading, “I need more beer.” She later said several people have since reached out offering her beer. Coors Light said in a Twitter post that she would soon be receiving some beer directly from the company. “She asked and beer is on its way!” the tweet said. (*My sign’s been up for an hour now and nothing’s happened.*)

Pants are so pre-coronavirus... A Maryland police department’s Facebook post serves as a final warning to a resident who has apparently been leaving his house without pants to check his mail. The Taneytown Police Department’s cryptic warning is for a local resident who apparently has a habit of checking the mail without pants during the coronavirus lockdown. Officers with the department posted a reminder to its Facebook page which appears to be specifically aimed at an unnamed resident. The post serves

as a reminder that, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, some dress code rules remain in effect. “Please remember to put pants on before leaving the house to check your mailbox. You know who you are. This is your final warning,” the post states. (*I guess we know who wears the pants in that family.*)

All of this COVID-19 humor means we’re in the midst of a “pundemic”... In Newport, Oregon, police were compelled to remind residents that running out of toilet paper is not, in fact, an emergency worthy of dialing 9-1-1. The coronavirus has taken a toll on supplies of toilet paper, hand sanitizer and other disinfectants. But, the run on TP caused the Newport Police Department to post, “Please, for goodness’ sake, don’t panic if you run out. It’s hard to believe that we even have to post this. Do not call 9-1-1 just because you ran out of toilet paper.” The department told residents, “You will survive without our assistance.” Newport police ended their public service announcement with some soothing words. “This too shall pass,” they said. “Just don’t call 9-1-1. We cannot bring you toilet paper.” (*Social distancing is especially important when people who have run out of toilet paper are involved.*)



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