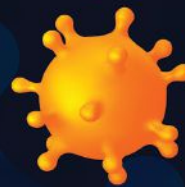


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MAY/JUNE 2020
VOLUME 36 ISSUE 3

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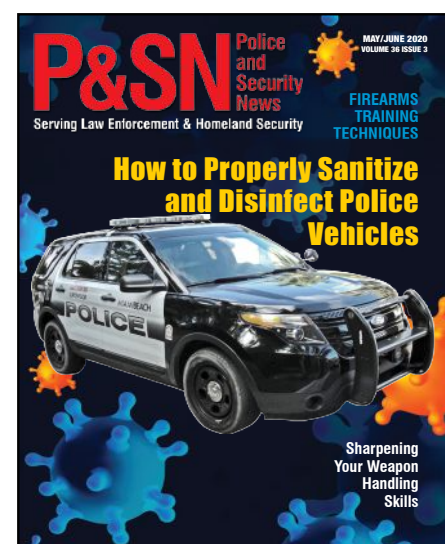
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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

RAMESH NYBERG

I almost didn't write anything for this issue. It's not that I didn't have anything to write about; I certainly do. It was because I wasn't sure if I really could – physically or mentally.

Today is Thursday, April 30th, 2020. Four days ago, I woke up to a regular day. My wife, stepdaughter and I went out for a long walk to relieve some of the COVID-19 induced cabin fever and we took the dog with us. A couple of hours later, after we got home and cooled off, my world was turned on its head. My 16-year-old daughter, who lives with my ex-wife, was dead.

I spent 21 years knocking on doors and giving people the worst news they would ever hear in their lives. It was the toughest part of my job in homicide. Suddenly, there I was, standing in front of my ex-wife's house, facing a detective from my old department, who wore a lanyard and an ID which said, "Traffic Homicide." His voice, like something out of a bad dream, was saying, "She didn't make it."



LINNEA MARIA NYBERG
10/30/2003 - 04/26/2020

FEAR OF MISSING OUT

I can't fully explain what that felt like. Being on the other side of that conversation and trying to absorb the reality that my daughter was gone...gone...was so immense that I felt I was in some sort of surreal play. It couldn't be. Oh, and as bad as that day was, the next day was worse and the next day was worse than that.

Linnea Maria Nyberg was a loving girl. She was also 16 – an impetuous, impatient teenager. She missed her friends and was tired of being cooped up. On Sunday, April 26th, she waited until her Mom went to sleep after a midnight shift as a nurse, then she grabbed the car keys and hit the road. What a perfect time to sneak a visit to a friend a few miles away: A COVID-19 Sunday...the streets were all but deserted. So, she put the pedal to the metal. Flying down an empty Hammocks Boulevard in the western suburbs of town, she

lost control of the vehicle, hit a curb and went airborne into a large tree. In one chaotic split second, whatever was to come – graduation, college, love, and dreams – was instantly erased.

Why or how could I be writing this, you might be asking. Tuesday morning, after

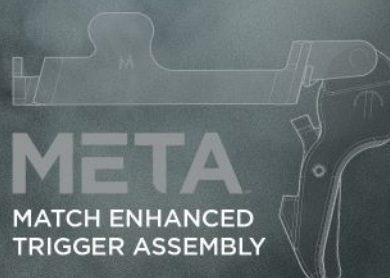


we had gotten all of the details of the crash and learned that Linnea had been on an Instagram chat, I decided that her legacy would be a message to teens (and adults, for that matter): Texting/video chatting and driving can end your life. Have you ever heard of FOMO? It means Fear of Missing Out. It's a real thing, because of this generation's addiction to cell phones. Millions of young people have it. I'm now on a mission. Fear of Missing Out on your friends' posts, pics, chats, and videos can cause you to "miss out" on the rest of your life. Kids think they are invincible. I probably did, too, when I was 16. But, today's world doesn't do anything to alleviate that feeling; it only furthers it. My daughter was doing between 75 and 90 miles per hour on that empty Hammocks Boulevard. Why? I'll never get that answer. She made horrible choices. The consequences of her

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6



choices changed my life and the lives of our family members forever. COVID-19? Yeah, April of 2020 will be remembered for that. But, in the Nyberg world, it will be the time we lost our Linnea.

Once I decided to start spreading the message of Linnea's death to everyone, I was able to talk about the crash with a little less of an ache each time. But, it's still brutal and every day is the emotional equivalent of walking uphill in mud. I don't want you to experience it. I don't want your loved ones to experience it. I don't want you to wake up at 3:00 a.m., night after night, with the images of a car – with your young child in it – exploding onto a tree, over and over and over again, and wonder: Why, Linnea, why?

Will you honor her? I'm not asking you to send money anywhere or to any organization. Instead, please do this: Grab your teenage son or daughter – hell, grab the whole family – sit them down and make

them read this. Tell them that distracted driving is *six times more likely to cause an accident than drunk driving* and that it kills 5,000 people a year. Tell them that there is a reason for speed limits and show them these pictures, especially the one of the crash scene.

I'll never have her back, but maybe you can keep yours. **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 LED Driving Lights

Striker IR LEDs are the newest infrared driving lights from Lightforce. Designed for Tier 1 military and special operations units and law enforcement applications, the **Striker IR LED Driving Lights** are class leading in performance and durability. IP68 and IP69K ingress protection ratings mean they can handle extreme conditions; the lights are engineered and manufactured in the US and Australia.

lightforce.com

Space Creator Partition

Jotto Desk's **Space Creator Partitions** feature the High Security/High Visibility (HS/HV) Window which gives officers the best of both worlds: tremendous sight lines, whether looking out the rear-view mirror or turning around; and the 4" H x 11" W window allows for communication/passing information, but is small enough to prevent squeezing through this opening.

The BiDirectional Recessed Housing provides a partition solution with maximum room for the driver and creates additional room for a prisoner. Jotto Desk places a great deal of emphasis on a quick and easy installation which requires no drilling into the B-pillar or trim, saving both time and money.

jottopublicsafety.com



Ford® Interceptor Utility Armoring Kit



New from Hardwire is the **2020 Interceptor Utility armor kit**. The kits are available in Level IIIA (preferred by most departments/agencies), Level III and Level III+. Hardwire's Vehicle Armor products are a solution for adding ballistic protection to a police vehicle without major vehicle modifications. Hardwire's car door armor quickly attaches to a vehicle's exterior and their Transparent Armor Window Insert fits into existing vehicle window openings. The window insert and vehicle door armor provide protection against handguns and shotguns (NIJ IIIA) or rifles (NIJ Level III).

hardwirellc.com

Police Vehicles and Equipment



bluePRINT® 3 Vehicle Control System

To meet the challenges which law enforcement vehicles face on today's roadways, SoundOff Signal developed **bluePRINT**, the most complete and capable intelligent control system currently available. Networked, programmable and logic-driven, **bluePRINT** enhances safety by automating emergency lighting and siren functions, reducing the need for operator input.

A **bluePRINT**-equipped vehicle is state-of-the-art and utilizes vehicle data and other inputs to inform and modify a vehicle's warning system profile in real time. Users are provided with improved policy and law compliance, situation specific warning profiles, automatic dimming, and flash rate adjustments and diagnostics.

SoundOff lightbars integrate fully and easily into the system. Secondary lights become remote units, as the system will control their functions, including cruise, low power and flash patterns, and multicolor lights are also fully controllable. Accessories, like cameras, radios and radars, can be powered through **bluePRINT** to eliminate electronic drains and provide load shed protection.

soundoffsignal.com



New Mid-height Angled Console from Havis

Designed for the 2020 Ford® Interceptor Utility, the new **Angled Console** features a lower overall height which improves the user's ease of leaning as well as emergency egress.

The new **Angled Console** mounts between the seats and fits flush with the lower dash contour, and the mid-height front section lands below the rear HVAC controls located on the dash.

Manufactured from heavy gauge steel with a black powder coat finish, this new console provides 22 inches of total internal mounting space – 12" front angled and 10" rear horizontal – and is nine inches wide.

The **Angled Console** includes OEM USB and parking brake relocation cutouts and four additional 12 volt sockets with wire and fuse, plates and brackets.

havis.com



Rear Cargo Storage Systems

Setina's multi-tiered **Cargo Box** provides law enforcement with a first-rate solution for trunk placement of supporting equipment. Manufactured with heavy-duty, lightweight aluminum, this **Cargo Storage Solution** offers quick and easy installation, with no drilling required.

Users are able to maximize vehicle storage capabilities for firearms, cargo and communications equipment. Features also include innovative modular designs, along with a choice of advanced locking systems. Lock options for this **Cargo Storage Solution** include RFID (electronic self-containing lock); Key Pad (electronic self-containing lock); Combi Lock (combination only); or Handle Key Lock (single key lock system). Setina's Rear **Cargo Storage Box** is available in multiple tiers and configurations to meet every department's needs.

setina.com

Command Grille™

Pro-gard's new **Command Grille**, designed specifically for the 2020 Ford® Interceptor Utility, offers a lighting solution for agencies with a "No Push Policy." The sleek UV ABS design is easy to install; provides an added layer of exterior lighting safety to the front of the vehicle without removing the front fascia; and mounts to the factory grille. It is available with lights (either Whelen ION™ T-Series™ or SoundOff Signal mpower® series lights) or without lights.

pro-gard.com



New Mount for 2020 Ford® Utility



Lund Industries, Inc. has introduced the **On-Dash Mount (ODM)** for the 2020 Ford Police Interceptor Utility. On-dash mounting utilizes the Ford factory equipment tray for easy installation and solid performance. The unit has lockable 90 degree tilt and 60 degree swivel, allowing easy access to the dash. The **ODM** has a VESA mounting plate to accept a variety of tablets, docking stations and monitors. A pull pin secures the display for driver's side viewing and the built-in roll adjustment allows leveling of the display; they are made of powder coated steel and aluminum for long life and easy cleaning.

lund-industries.com



New Push Bumper

Westin's Public Safety **Push Bumper Elite** is made of heavy-duty HRPO steel with four gauge uprights featuring 2 3/4" wide rubber strips. Designed with maximum safety features and options in mind, it offers customization. Choose a Light Channel to complete your patent pending **Push Bumper Elite** front-end protection unit, available in solid (with no light openings); or two, three or four light options. It is predrilled for side mounting LED lights, Elite Wing Wraps, or PIT Bars.

westinpublicsafety.com



OPS Public Safety's 2020 PIU Radio Flip-up Base

Designed and tested to fit the 2020 PIU, OPS Public Safety now offers a **2020 PIU Flip-up Radio Base** for premium storage drawers, specifically for the Ford® Interceptor. Mount all your electronics to the inside of lid, saving space and more room for equipment in the drawers. Features include fabrication from aluminum, a flip-up door, a removable equipment tray, and they are powder coated black. Keep your radio equipment from overheating – safe and secure – with the **2020 PIU Flip-up Radio Base**.

opspublicsafety.com

Louisville Metro Mobile EOD Vehicle

The Louisville (KY) Metro Police chose a Freightliner M2 regular cab for their new bomb disposal/EOD vehicle. The 24 foot dry van body includes extreme duty body storage compartments, a vehicle leveling system, and an antenna storage compartment with a slide out tray for the antenna box. LDV's Intel-I-Touch™ vehicle automation system controls all vehicle features such as the HVAC, vehicle leveling system and a 12 kW generator.

The rear area is used for storing the department's bomb robot and includes a flip-down bench seat, a monitor, an overhead cabinet, and a countertop area for the robot operator and gear.

The exterior features an LDV-fabricated weatherproof exterior workstation with a small Intel-I-Touch pad, Extron™ control pad, HDMI inputs, CAT 6 network jacks, GFCI outlet, and dual USB charging ports.

The 2,000 pound Thiemann Liftgate is utilized to deploy the department's bomb robot when needed. Other features include a special bomb suit storage compartment with heavy-duty hanger rod; two 12 volt fans for air circulation; and a custom underbody pullout step which provides easy accessibility.

ldvusa.com



New Spotlight from Golight®, Inc.

The **Stryker ST Series** includes upgraded features, such as the Multiple Unit Selection Function which allows for independent control of two units with one wireless remote; and a Home Position Function, an on-command return to 0° home. The new remote's features are paired with their standard 370° x 135° rotation; halogen (225,000 candela) or LED (544,000 candela) light heads; and permanent or portable mounting.

golight.com

New Lockable Drawer

Tuffy Security Products has introduced the **Atlas Vault Lockbox**, a lockable drawer with a built-in cargo carrier on top. It measures 40" W x 20" L x 10" H and is manufactured of 16-gauge steel with a textured powder coated finish. The single drawer holds up to 100 pounds and the top deck has a tie-down capacity of 100 pounds, for a total 200 pound weight carrying capacity. It locks with an electronic ten digit combination lock set by the owner and comes with a key override.

Atlas Vault mounts directly to the floor of any pickup or SUV with a steel mounting kit and comes with risers so the vault can be lifted five to eight inches from the floor's surface to provide additional storage area underneath.

tuffyproducts.com



New from Whelen

Whelen is redefining vehicle control systems with **CenCom Core™**. With the greatest configurability, speed and expansion yet, **CenCom Core** is a system created to enhance officer safety with advanced automation and remote connectivity. Core is powered by We-CanX™, the smartest and most powerful CAN-based communication system on the market today.

whelen.com



LEGAL UPDATE

May a law enforcement officer, consistent with the Fourth Amendment, initiate an investigative traffic stop after running a vehicle's license plate and learning that the registered owner has a revoked driver's license? In *Kansas v. Glover* (U.S. 2020), the United States Supreme Court said, "Yes."

The facts in *Glover* unfolded in late April 2016, when Douglas County, Kansas, Sheriff's Deputy Mark Mehrer, while on patrol, ran a registration check on a 1995 Chevy pickup truck. This revealed that the truck was registered to Charles Glover, Jr. and that his driver's license was revoked. The deputy did not observe any traffic violations and he did not attempt to identify the driver of the truck. Instead, he initiated a traffic stop based solely on the information that the driver's license of the registered owner of the truck was revoked and on his assumption that the driver was the registered owner. The driver (Glover) turned out to be the registered owner and the officer issued

TRAFFIC STOPS: THE "OWNER IS THE DRIVER" ASSUMPTION



LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.

him a citation.

Finding the stop lawful, the Court held that, so long as there are no facts negating the "inference that the owner is the driver of the vehicle, the stop is reasonable." In this case, before initiating the traffic stop, Deputy Mehrer observed an individual operating a 1995 Chevrolet 1500 pickup truck with a specific Kansas license plate. He also knew that the registered owner of

the truck had a revoked license and that the model of the truck matched the observed vehicle. "From these three facts, Deputy Mehrer drew the commonsense inference that Glover was likely the driver of the vehicle which provided more than reasonable suspicion to initiate the stop."

"The fact that the registered owner of a vehicle is not always the driver of the vehicle does not negate the reasonable-

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ness of Deputy Mehrer's inference. Such is the case with all reasonable inferences. The reasonable suspicion inquiry falls considerably short of 51% accuracy," for, as the Court has explained, "[t]o be reasonable is not to be perfect." Moreover, the "inference that the driver of a car is its registered owner does not require any specialized training; rather, it is a reasonable inference made by ordinary people on a daily basis."

"Glover's revoked license does not render Deputy Mehrer's inference unreasonable, either. Empirical studies demonstrate what common experience readily reveals: Drivers with revoked licenses frequently continue to drive and, therefore, pose safety risks to other motorists and pedestrians."

The Court paused to note, however, that the "reasonable suspicion" standard takes into account "the totality of the circumstances – the whole picture." As a result, "the presence of additional facts might dispel reasonable suspicion." For example, "if an officer knows that the registered owner of the vehicle is in his mid-60s, but observes that the driver is in her mid-20s, then the totality of the circumstances would not raise a suspicion that the particular individual being stopped is engaged in wrongdoing." Here, "Deputy Mehrer possessed no exculpatory information – let alone sufficient information to rebut the reasonable inference that Glover was driving his own truck – and thus the stop was justified." **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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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



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M-SATS is a portable use-of-force and tactical judgment training system which is ultracompact and self-calibrating. The **M-SATS** provides fully interactive video scenarios, graphics-based firearms drills and additional features in a compact, all-inclusive design which is easy to transport and set up in less than ten minutes.

In addition to ready-to-train scenarios, an extensive library of interactive exercises is included, ranging from simple diagnostic drills to advanced judgment and decision-making applications. Optional **MILO** Course Designer software empowers instructors to create new, fully interactive video scenarios allowing them to apply their policies and procedures in a familiar environment.

milorange.com



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The **T4E S&W M&P9 2.0** is a licensed training pistol which fires .43 caliber rubber, powder and paintball rounds. An officially licensed replica, it accepts standard aftermarket accessories and works in most holsters. The **S&W M&P9** is a less-lethal platform ideal for active shooter, close combative and force-on-force training at a fraction of the cost of using traditional simulation rounds.

t4eguns.com

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blueguns.com



TAKE AIM TARGETS



The patent pending **Fragshield** provides a durable, close range target accessory which is safe for bystanders and shooters and enables close quarter shooting of steel targets. The **Fragshield** mounts in front of a steel target and reduces the energy of the bullet. Its proprietary polymers safely eliminate the bullet fragments from ricocheting back towards the shooter, allowing for indoor shooting and close quarters training with steel targets. It is capable of handling bullets fired at the face of the **Fragshield** from perpendicular to 60 degrees in any direction.

takeaimtargets.com



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titraining.com

VIRTRA, INC.

The **VirTra Driver Training Simulator (V-DTS)** combines patented technology with preauthored or customizable scenarios and test facility tracks designed by internal experts to teach defensive and emergency driving. Instructors can control a trainee's location, objective and whether to participate in free drive or work on specific defensive techniques.

The photorealistic graphics utilize the most up-to-date technology, while a combination of vibration and an optional motion platform further immerse trainees in the experience. The simulated vehicle, as well as all other virtual vehicles, obey the laws of physics so that even the weight distribution of vehicles when stopping looks and feels realistic. VirTra has also included incredibly realistic looking real-world hazards such as rain and sun glare.

virtra.com





VIRTRA, INC.

VirTra recently debuted its **Ultra High Definition 300-degree immersive training simulator** which combines five state-of-the-art, laser-based 4K projectors.

By more accurately reproducing objects, subtle visual details, body language, and nonverbal threat cues, these new simulators more perfectly replicate simulations of real-world encounters. In conjunction with the new simulators, VirTra has also released updated versions of its certified V-VICTA curriculum which will include Autism Spectrum Disorders, Special Populations and Emotionally Disturbed Persons, among others.

Research has demonstrated that the more accurately training simulations can reproduce lifelike situations, the more effective that training becomes. This advancement ushers in a new era of simulation realism for both judgmental use-of-force and marksmanship training.

virtra.com

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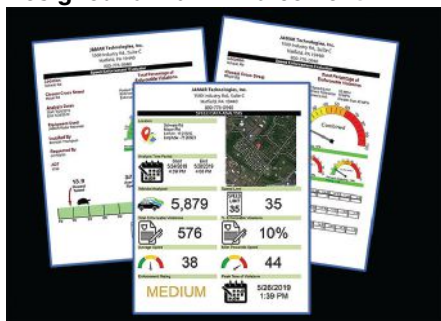


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The “CARES” Act and Its Impact on State and Local Governments

The federal government’s response to the COVID-19 world public health crisis includes the unprecedented nearly \$2 trillion emergency relief package presented in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act – an amount equal to about ten percent of the total US gross domestic product.

STEPHENIE SLAHOR, PH.D.

While much of the financial relief is targeted to individuals, businesses, unemployment compensation, and measures to restore the thriving economy, \$150 billion of the package will apply to state, local and tribal governments in onetime grants and other provisions, with about \$1.25 billion allocated to each state. In addition, there is a lending fund of more than \$450 billion for loans to businesses, states and cities, with funds through the Small Business Administration to support emergency grants, loans and loan forgiveness.

Fiscal year 2020 Opportunity ID BJA-2020-18553 is the Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding Program (CESF) which is intended to assist law enforcement in the fight against coronavirus.

In addition, although the grant aid

seems particularly applicable to cities with more than 500,000 residents, there is also a provision for a Disaster Relief Fund for financial support directly related to immediate needs in coping with the COVID-19 problem. About \$5 billion relates to Community Development Block Grants; \$4.3 billion for federal, state and local public health agencies (through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); and other funds for public transit.

With police agencies not only maintaining the need to keep a steady hand on the budget, but adding in the need for funds for more assistance during the health crisis, it seems future financial aid to states may be needed to assess and evaluate such needs.

CARES includes \$850 million for the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant Program

which allows state and local police agencies and jails to meet local needs. This includes purchases of personal protective equipment and other necessary medical items, and it includes overtime for officers on the front lines. Restrictions, if any, are unclear at press time and it is also unclear whether the grants are available to “sanctuary” jurisdictions.

With business and activity closures throughout most of the nation, there will certainly be a huge impact on state tax revenues, but that impact might not be fully seen until June or later. States may be using “rainy day funds” to have enough to pay for health departments’ and public agencies’ responses to virus control. Such emergency funds might be reimbursed through the monies to be paid to the states. Plans for tax cuts, exemptions and other financial benefits may be curtailed if the virus costs more than anticipated which seems likely.

Implementing CARES will require responsible strategies, solutions and smooth planning for quick, but efficient, action and meeting the challenges of specific expectations or demands of senior administrators of the Act. The pressure to continue seamlessly and responsibly will be demanded by the citizen taxpayers, the President and the Congress. The looming presence of the November election will be yet another way the citizenry will show whether it receives the articulated and actual leadership it expects from its government. The old buzzwords of transparency, comprehensive oversight and risk management will be at the forefront again once the immediacy of coping with the situation is well in hand.

The General Administrative provisions of CARES state that Justice Information Sharing Technology funds shall remain available until expended to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus, provided that an amount is designated by Congress as being for an emergency requirement.

For state and local law enforcement assistance, \$850 million is to remain available to each state until expended to prevent, prepare for and respond to the coronavirus and to be awarded via the formula allocation in use in 2019 for the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. The awards shall not be subject to restrictions or special conditions which are the same as, or substantially similar to, those imposed on awards which forbid interference with federal law enforcement.

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THE CARES ACT AND ITS IMPACT ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Continued from page 16

eligible states, local units of government and tribes in preventing, preparing for and responding to the coronavirus. Allowable projects and purchases include, but are not limited to, overtime; equipment (including law enforcement and medical personal protective equipment, hiring, supplies [e.g., gloves, masks, sanitizers]; training; travel expenses; and addressing the medical needs of inmates in state, local and tribal detention facilities). It is vital to note that BJC-2020-18553 will have an application closing date of May 29, 2020.

Eligibility is given to states, US territories, the District of Columbia, units of local government, and federally recognized tribal governments eligible for funding under the 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program. Only the state administering agency which applied for FY 2019 JAG funding for a state/territory may apply for the state allocation of CARES CESF funding. At <https://tinyurl.com/udycopl> is a listing, by state, of each state's allocation and, upon clicking on a specific state, the amount for each county/parish of the state.

The Standard Form-424 application is a cover sheet for submission of pre-applications, applications and related information. The Program Narrative must describe the specific coronavirus prevention, preparation and/or response efforts which will be addressed with the funding and must include a summary of

the types of projects or items which will be funded over the two year grant period. The Budget Narrative should include a full description of all costs, including administrative or indirect costs, if any.

Application information will be reviewed as to whether it is reasonable, understandable, measurable, achievable, and consistent with the solicitation.

If selected for funding, all award conditions must be fulfilled. It is best to review information on post-award legal requirements and conditions prior to submitting an application for the proposed project. Applicants must register in the Grants Management System (GMS) prior to submitting an application under the solicitation, even if previously registered in the CMS. Select the Apply Online button associated with the solicitation title. All registrations and applications are due by 11:59 p.m. EDT May 29, 2020.

While there are no apparent specific prohibitions under the CESF program, individual items costing \$500,000 or more should be identified and thoroughly justified by the grantee and receive written prior approval from BJA post-award through the submission and approval of a Grant Adjustment Notice. Costs must be reasonable to receive approval. If the grantee is requesting purchase of an unmanned aerial system, unmanned aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicle, Federal Aviation Administration approval must be ob-

tained as outlined at <https://tinyurl.com/y6jthdq3>

The BJA expects to make 1873 awards and have a performance duration of two years for any grants. Recipients have the option to request a onetime, up to a 12 month extension, provided the extension is requested via GMS no fewer than 30 days prior to the end of the performance period.

For assistance with any requirements other than technical, contact the NCJRS Response Center at 800-851-3420, E-mail at grants@ncjrs.gov, or Web chat at <https://webcontact.ncjrs.gov/ncjchat/chat.jsp> Its hours of operation are 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday.

For technical assistance, contact the Grants Management System Support Hotline at 888-549-9901, option 3, or E-mail GMS.HelpDesk@usdoj.gov (which operates 24/7 including holidays).

Consult the OJP Grant Application Resource Guide for further details at ojp.gov.

Parenthetically, while the emphasis has been on funding through CARES and CESF, keep alert to the nonprofit, private foundation sector in your state, region or locality. The downturn caused by COVID-19 sees some foundations expressing community concern about well-being and the providing of help where needed within a specific locale directly affected by the coronavirus. One example is the Inland Empire Community Foundation in Southern California which opened a new fund, "The IE COVID-19 Resilience Fund," financed by donations and available to nonprofits in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties responding to the health crisis. The funds will go to the front lines combating COVID-19, such as food pantries, health care clinics and homeless providers working directly to assist the most vulnerable populations impacted by the virus. Demands on services (current and pending), operations changes (to raise and distribute funding), and anticipated continuing demand for more support will grow in the coming weeks.

Also, continue to monitor grants.gov for possible new grant opportunities related to coronavirus/COVID-19 prevention and relief funds. **P&SN**

Stephenie Slahor, Ph.D., J.D., is a writer in the fields of law enforcement and security. She can be reached at drss12@msn.com.



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Coronavirus (COVID-19): Resources for Law Enforcement

COVID-19 RESOURCES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

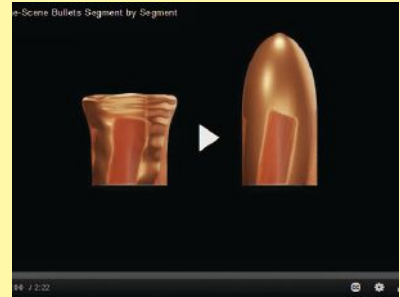
Featuring a real-time COVID-19 law enforcement impact situational awareness dashboard

In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and its impact on law enforcement and other first responders, the National Police Foundation (NPF), in collaboration with the National Alliance for Public Safety GIS (NAPSG) Foundation and Esri, has developed a COVID-19 situational awareness tool for law enforcement agencies. The tool, featuring a real-time dashboard, provides critical insights to assist executives, commanders, administrators, and other decision makers in assessing and monitoring the impact of COVID-19 on our nation's first responders, including officer exposures, diagnoses, workforce impacts, and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs and projections.

The interactive tool allows agencies to provide confidential, real-time updates which are instantly incorporated into the national dashboard and map. The dashboard identifies the number of officers exposed through their work; officially tested and diagnosed; placed in off duty status due to exposure; and who are self-isolating due to symptoms or off duty exposure. The dashboard also estimates the availability

of necessary PPE; the most critical PPE which agencies are lacking; and current and projected shortages of PPE. The data is then aggregated and mapped at the state level in order to show these impacts across the country. Individual agencies are not identified. Law enforcement agencies can then compare impacts in the state with those of other states.

The dashboard can be accessed by going to
<https://tinyurl.com/y8jj82x5>



New Crime Scene Bullet Algorithm

Crime scene bullets are often deformed from collisions which can make direct comparison difficult. Now, researchers at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) have developed a new algorithm which makes matching them more accurate by dividing the markings on deformed bullets into segments and correlating those segments with reference bullets.

You can read the full NIST article at
<https://tinyurl.com/st9waa8>

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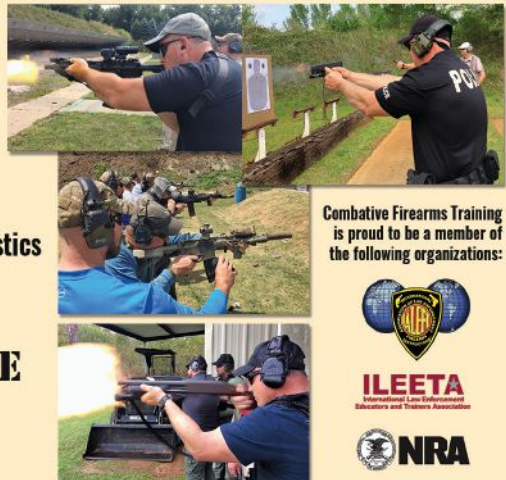
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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE



CORONAVIRUS AND POLICE CARS

SERGEANT JAMES POST

If you had told me six months ago, or even 20 years ago (when I first started this column), that I would be writing about a global pandemic, I would have volunteered you for a room at the laughing academy. But, here I am in lockdown, staring out of my office window, feeling like my dogs watching for squirrels.

A new enemy of all Americans (and the rest of the world) has landed and America's first responders, military and medical personnel are on the front lines.

Switching from Police Cars to PPEs

As I write this, American police vehicle factories are shuttered and the companies are only selling units which are already built. This came at a time when sales of the new 2020 Ford® PIU Hybrid had increased to more than 20% of all their PIU orders. Tony Gratson, Ford's National Government Sales Manager, reported that Ford was on track for the best PIU sales year to date, but everything changed with the arrival of the coronavirus, aka COVID-19.

Ford and other car companies, under the auspices of the *Defense Production Act of 1950*, have quickly shifted gears to provide critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) desperately needed by medical personal across our country, including face masks, face shields, ventilators, and respirators. Ford and more than 300 UAW employees working two shifts are now making face shields.

During this crisis, automobile companies have also formed first ever partner-

ships with other American companies. Ford is also working with 3M™ and GE Healthcare to manufacture respirators and ventilators. The effort includes using off-the-shelf parts like fans from Ford E-150 cooled seats, J.D. Power reported.

General Motors first teamed with Ventec Life Systems to begin assembling ventilators designed by Ventec, then began building ventilators at the GM Components Holdings plant in Kokomo, IN. Tesla Motors purchased a quantity of ventilators in China and shipped over a thousand of the FDA approved units to California hospitals.

Other American companies – large and small and not associated with automobile production – have also stepped up to produce PPEs. For example, the popular My Pillow™ company in Chaska, MN, is making hospital masks, gowns and scrubs and the Jack Daniel's distillery in Lynchburg, KY, is now making hand sanitizer.

Hardwire, a leading manufacturer of protective armor used by LE and the military, is also building face shields. Literally, in days, Hardwire designed, field-tested, optimized, and productionized face shields and has now scaled production to 6000 units a day with the potential of increasing that number exponentially should the need arise.

This is an unprecedented collaboration

of American companies working together towards a common goal of defeating an enemy, albeit invisible, which has not been seen since WWII.

Law Enforcement on the Front Lines

As in any American crisis, law enforcement (and other first responders) find themselves on the front lines of this pandemic. From tornadoes in Louisiana to riots in Ferguson, mass shootings in Las Vegas to the aftermath of the Twin Towers, these heroes are the ones who run into danger while all others run away. They do this because of an uncommon valor most citizens do not comprehend. This crisis, however, is different and the toll of sickened and dying men and women of law enforcement is already alarming. Unfortunately, the annual ceremonies in Washington, DC, which honor fallen law enforcement members, have been cancelled. I hate to think how many names will be added to the LE Memorial Wall next year because of this virus.

I'm reminded of a time (and another pandemic – HIV) when protective gloves were placed in all of my department's cruisers and, en route to unattended death calls, I radioed my officers to "glove up" before approaching the victim. For some

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Hardwire, a well-known manufacturer of ballistic armor products, has also “shifted gears” in order to produce face shields for use as personal protective equipment.

time prior to this, officers were responsible for checking their engine oil at the start of every shift which, in reality, probably only happened 50-75% of the time. One of my responsibilities as a Field Sergeant was to conduct a weekly inspection

of my sector’s vehicles. This happened on Sundays and I soon discovered that the cars were always missing the protective gloves. After a brief investigation, I discovered the new gloves were great for checking oil, too.

Creating Your Own Cruiser Safety Zone

Most of you know how I feel about police cars. I drove them for 25 years protecting and serving, followed by collecting and restoring them for another 25 years. Simply stated, I feel police cars are the most honorable vehicles ever built. I know that’s a brash statement, but think about it for a minute: Most cruisers are an officer’s office, lunchroom, board (bored) room, sanctuary, safe room, and home away from home. Despite all of the technical advances in police cars over the past 100 years, these descriptions still ring true.

With these thoughts in mind, I felt I must write this article to provide our heroic men and women on the front lines with any information I could find to make their jobs safer from COVID-19. I realize that, during this pandemic, guidelines and responses to it are changing every day,

but what follows is up-to-date information gleaned from LE agencies and other sources about making your vehicles as safe as possible for you and other occupants.

First, there are three terms frequently used interchangeably which are actually three distinctly different processes: “clean,” “sanitize” and “disinfect.” Hagerty® classic car insurance provided these explanations: *“Cleaning a surface physically removes dirt and germs, but doesn’t chemically kill any of those germs. Sanitizing and disinfecting a surface may or may not remove dirt and grime, and each one denotes a different intensity. When you sanitize your hands, for example, you aren’t killing all of the germs; you’re simply knocking down their numbers to a safe, lower level as determined by public health standards, but disinfecting is a take-no-germs-as-prisoners method. A realistic approach for your car’s interior is to clean and then sanitize.”*

Following are procedures various departments around the country are taking to halt the spread of COVID-19 and protect their employees as reported by government-fleet.com.

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 22

San Diego County has their fleet mechanics wear latex gloves and wipe down all contacted surfaces with disinfectant wipes before, and after, making repairs. They also spray keys with disinfectant.

New York City has the largest outbreak of coronavirus and its police department has been severely impacted, prompting the NYC Fleet Services to issue a list of precautions which includes: "Operators should wipe down their vehicles at least once a day with standard cleaning and disinfecting products, paying particular attention to surfaces which are touched often, such as door handles, armrests and seat belts."

From Michigan, the Kent County Sher-



During the last pandemic, officers discovered that protective gloves also worked well when checking motor oil.

iff's Office has set up sanitation stations where cruisers are completely sanitized after transporting arrests and the Grand Rapids Police Department has a policy to clean vehicles at the start and end of each shift and after each prisoner transportation. Detroit Police, which has seen a serious infection of its personnel, now disinfects the interiors of patrol cars every few hours.

I reached out to my alma mater, the Kansas City, MO, Police Department (KCPD). Kansas City officers have been supplied with equipment (wipes, sprays and gloves) to disinfect their assigned vehicles. They seldom, if ever, transport arrests because (for decades) the department has assigned patrol wagons at each of the six patrol divisions (aka precincts), so their squad cars do not have partitions or prisoner seating. There are a few exceptions, of course, but the majority of the field units are traditionally equipped with sedans or SUVs without prisoner containment areas. The wagons, however, have separate prisoner compartments and the assigned officers are responsible for cleaning them at the end of each shift, or sooner, following

contaminations of what Johnny Cash once sang, "the mud, the blood and the beer." Each patrol division has power washers for this purpose.

The KCPD maintains their own garage for service, repairs and bodywork. When a vehicle arrives, the technicians put on gloves and masks and use an aerosol spray disinfectant (Claire® brand) before entering it. They then cover the seats with plastic seat covers (Slip-N-Grip® brand) and wipe down frequently touched interior components. The uniform fleet is equipped with rubber floor mats, so the spray is deemed effective on them, too.

Automobile Club of America (AAA) Guidelines

The AAA has published guidelines on how to properly disinfect cars which you may find informational, too. Their report states that most household cleaners which kill viruses are safe to use on a car interior without causing damage. Cleaning solutions which are at least 70% alcohol are the most effective. DO NOT use bleach or hydrogen peroxide cleaners which will damage upholstery. Use soap and water

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Avoid bleach and hydrogen peroxide-based cleaners which may damage a vehicle's upholstery.

to clean dirty surfaces before disinfecting, but do not use water or other cleaners on sensitive electronic devices. Use an alcohol-based glass cleaner for all window surfaces. This should work for touch screen displays as well, but consult your owner's manual to be sure. Clean carpets (if equipped) by spraying a suitable detergent and using a brush to work it in. Dry with a towel to remove stains and the cleaner.

Hagerty Classic Car Insurance Company Guidelines

Hagerty insures many of the most collectible and valuable vehicles in North America and periodically E-mails maintenance and preservation guides to its customers. After consulting with high-end restorers and detailers, they recently published their guide for disinfecting interiors. They have identified the six "hot spots" for COVID-19 contamination in a vehicle's interior, but before initiating decontamination of these hot spots, first thoroughly consider the wipe or spray you are using. If it has an EPA registration number on the back label, it is a legit germ annihilator. Be certain to make note of the product's "dwell time" which tells you how long it is supposed to stay on the surface. The general rule is "disinfect for three minutes, then clean for 15 seconds."

Hagerty recommends these procedures be followed every day the vehicle is used (before operating it) and remember to wear gloves.

These are the six "hot spots":

1. **Steering wheel:** An average steering wheel can hold four times the germs of an average toilet seat. Clean the front, back, air bag housing, spokes, controls, and crevices. Attack any space where COVID-19 (or BBQ sauce) can hide.
2. **Door panels:** These are vinyl surfaces where the virus can live for some time. Clean the panels, door handles, and power window and mirror controls.
3. **Gear stick and other levers:** This includes column, floor and dial type gear selectors, turn signal and other levers.
4. **Cupholders** (but be sure to remove your coffee cup first).
5. **Controls, buttons and switches:** In police cars, this would include siren and radio controls, radio microphone, computer terminal, and especially the keyboard.
6. **Seat belts:** This includes inserts and receivers.

I've added another category to Hagerty's excellent tips which pertains to police cars.

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7. Police equipment: This includes prisoner partitions and seating, rear window grilles, spotlight handles, weapons, and weapon mounts. This includes gear in the trunk and rear compartments in SUVs, but only after use.

Hagerty concluded its discussion with a critical piece of advice which applies to both your assigned units and your personal vehicles. Avoid ALL unprotected contact with gas pump

nozzles and controls every time you fill up. Those are unbelievably filthy and studies have shown that, even before the virus, they contained one thousand times more dirt, germs and contaminants than toilet seats in gas stations. Glove up before picking up the nozzle and then use it to push the selector buttons. When finished, throw away the gloves and, if you use a credit/debit card or department gas card, clean it with hand sanitizer be-



One study determined that both gas pumps and keypads/gas selection buttons are 11,000 times worse than toilet seats for the number of germs present.

fore putting it away.

You'll want to carry a small trash bag with you and, after cleaning your cruiser, or at the end of your shift, dispose of soiled gloves, wipes and towels in the bag and wash your hands again, probably for the umpteenth time during your tour.

NOTE: I realize that some of the above procedures differ in the order which cleaning and sanitizing/disinfecting occurs, but the point to remember is that both steps need to be taken, regardless of the order you choose.

Procedures to Sanitize a Vehicle Which Has Been Exposed to a Person with COVID-19

It is certainly possible that, during this pandemic, you may transport a person who tests positive for COVID-19 or an officer contracts the virus. The procedures for disinfecting the vehicle before returning it to service differ greatly from daily cleaning techniques and are more complex.

The following procedure was provided by Catherine Brown, Fleet and Facilities Division Director, Missouri State Highway Patrol, and we appreciate her sharing this valuable information.

- Personal protective equipment to utilize while cleaning: Tyvek® suit, gloves, shoe booties/coverings, mask and eye protection due to chemicals.



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- Quarantine: Leave the vehicle secured and windows closed with no access by anyone for at least 96 hours from the point the presence of COVID-19 is confirmed. Cleaning can begin at the conclusion of the 96 hour period.
- Cleaning process: Open all of the vehicle's doors to allow for proper air circulation to dissipate potential chemical fumes. Begin the wipe down process and dispose of all rags and wipes in a heavy-duty trash bag, tied off and disposed of properly. When finished, dispose all of the PPE properly and wash hands thoroughly as recommended by the CDC.
- Recommended cleaning agents: Lysol® or Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes (non-bleach-based); isopropyl alcohol (must be a concentration of 70% or higher); Lysol Disinfectant Spray (sprayed directly on seat fabric ONLY); and soap and water which chemically interacts with the surface of the virus and degrades and destroys the virus quickly.
- Non-recommended cleaning agents: standard hand sanitizers because they generally contain glycerin; all solvents (acetone, kerosene, etc.) which can damage surfaces and have no adverse effect on viruses; bleach; hydrogen peroxide; ammonia; and no liquid sprays due to potential overspray which could damage electronic equipment.
- What to clean inside/outside of a vehicle: anything which is touched or considered a "touch point" – the entire steering wheel; buttons; tilt/telescope adjustment; turn signal and wiper stalks; gear shift lever; all knobs and switches; touch screen; key fobs; all levers; door handles (inside and out); rearview mirror; seat belt buckle receptacle and tongue; exterior mirrors; engine start button; lift gate or trunk release button; seat adjustment controls; side mirror controls; all dash cam controls; all center console controls; overhead controls; grab handles; armrests; center console latch; glove box; vents; cupholders; sun visors; "A" pillar; exterior trunk handle; etc.

The Bottom Line

In closing, I recommend every department conduct some type of "deep cleaning" of their fleets after this pandemic is over. In addition to being healthy, this can be a great morale booster for your troops. Obviously, removing the seats and carpets/rubber mats can be time-consuming, so a quicker option would be to follow MOSHP's procedure for disinfecting seats and carpets with a spray disinfectant.

Finally, regardless of which disinfecting or deep cleaning procedure you

choose, ALWAYS remember to change cabin filters (if so equipped) frequently.

Our prayers are with all of you on the front lines and for your families confined at home. We may not recognize our "new normal" when this is all over, but, by working together, we will get there. Thanks for always supporting my efforts and we will talk again on the other side. **P&SN**

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

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Pistol Practice with a Purpose

Without question, these are dangerous times for the law enforcement professional. Over the last several years, the rate of attack on officers has been creeping up along with a corresponding spike in serious injuries and fatalities.

MIKE BOYLE

To meet this challenge and to stay safe, many officers recognize that they have to take the initiative. To cut right to the chase, spending a few hours on the range or in the gym only when the department pays you to be there isn't going to make you safer. It may indeed satisfy the prevailing administrative standard, but it will hardly prepare you for the unforgiving realities of the street.

Some of us may be fortunate enough to have facilities available at our agency where we might be able to put in a little extra time and, if that's the case, you can thank your lucky stars. Commercial and private ranges are yet another option; however, you may not be able to work on skills such as drawing from the holster, shooting at any sort of speed or working out in low light. We can, however, find ways to practice these skills outside of the range environment.

Most Bang for the Buck

Most of my self-practice takes place at relatively close range with targets set three to seven yards away. There are almost an infinite number of variations which can be performed including a partial target, movement, more than one threat, as well as firing strong and support hand only. Even at close range, I like to occasionally incorporate a quick step to

cover and this can be done by stacking a couple of trash barrels. Unlike the sterile environment of the typical police range, real-life threats aren't always neatly positioned downrange and may appear to our side or even behind us. To prepare for this, pivots and turns should be included in your training regimen.

My goal in all of this is to execute a reasonably fast draw and place a two to three round burst into the high value scoring area of the target. Training should be accomplished with the gear and type of clothing you actually wear. If you don't practice this way, you are indeed squandering a training opportunity and cutting yourself short. Needless to say, it is best to find out our limitations on the range.

When practicing with a handgun, the goal should be to strike a balance between accuracy and speed. Putting a burst of shots into the chest of a target seven yards away isn't an especially difficult task, but the idea should be to do it as efficiently as possible in the least amount of time. Draw as fast as you can, take an acceptable sight picture and have at it. Once you are consistently printing a tight knot of hits, gradually increase speed and push the gas pedal a little bit harder. At some point in time, your shots will begin to stray from that vital area and you will have reached your limit for that particular day. Contrary to popular opinion, it is

okay to miss in training. By pushing to the limit of your capabilities, you will become familiar with your mental clock and know exactly how fast you can shoot and expect well-placed hits.

I make extensive use of a shot timer to get a handle on performance. This tool will yield all sorts of valuable feedback on draw times, splits between the shots, reload time, as well as total elapsed time on a particular drill. As much as I rely on the timer, you can indeed gain insight as to your own performance without one. The good news is that they are not all that expensive and there are even apps for a cell phone which can serve as a timer.

Make no mistake about it, training with firearms can be an expensive proposition, but, when your safety is at issue, it is still a bargain. Ammunition can be pricey, but the cost can be mitigated in a number of different ways. Many serious shooters reload their own ammunition, but there is a set-up cost and a time investment associated with this as well. Another alternative is to buy low-cost ball ammunition in bulk which is available from a number of sources. You can also consider a .22 rimfire pistol similar to the one you carry on duty. Both GLOCK® and Smith & Wesson®, the manufacturers of the two most popular pistols in police service, are now producing .22LR models. It may not be the perfect solution, but one can shoot

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PISTOL PRACTICE WITH A PURPOSE

Continued from page 28



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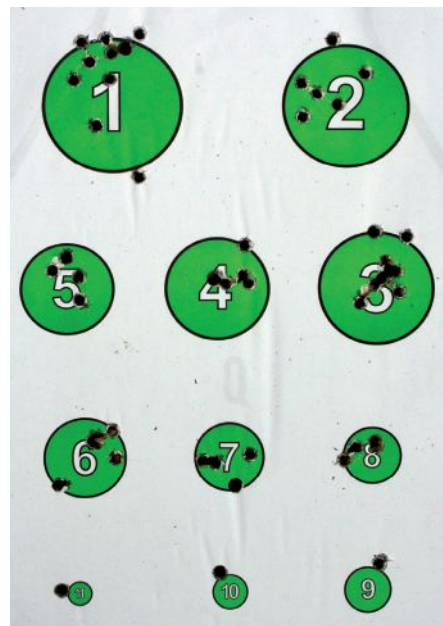
I'm sure most cops are not especially fussy about the targets they utilize and almost any sort of paper or cardboard silhouette can be used. A problem I have with a lot of popular targets is that they have an overly large high value scoring area or, like the FBI Q target, no high value area at all. In real life, it's not important that we hit; it's important that we hit something important. The organs which support life are located in the high chest and our best chance of shutting down a determined adversary is

to place one or more hits in this area. To create a high value area on any sort of silhouette target, I simply affix an eight inch paper plate. Again, this may be less than a perfect solution, but it's a step in the right direction. Shot placement matters!

Training Short to Go Long

Although our primary focus should be on the scenarios and distances which are most likely to occur, we should not neglect shooting at extended range. Something very much on our minds is dealing with an active shooter event. Exactly how long are the corridors in your local school or the aisles in the grocery store? If you have only prepared for threats inside of conversational distance and don't have immediate access to a shoulder weapon, you will be ill-equipped to manage a long distance problem. Make it a point to occasionally work out at distances 25 yards and greater.

One trick I utilize to improve shooting at longer distances is to work on precision skills at relatively short range. Some instructors feel that working on anything other than tactical skills is a waste of time,



Precision skills can be refined at close range using smaller targets.

but I disagree. Anything which reacquaints us with the marksmanship fundamentals is certainly going to help our cause at longer range. If I can convince someone that they

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can reliably nail a dot, circle or other small geometric shape at five yards, tagging a silhouette at 25 yards becomes a piece of cake. By building confidence at close range, I have pretty much eliminated that mental hurdle of shooting at extended distance. Without too much trouble, there are all sorts of free targets to be found online.

Practice at Home

There are a number of productive things we can do at home in order to stay sharp. However, it is especially important to remember that, even though we aren't participating in live fire, there is an even more important safety protocol we have to follow. There is no impact berm in your bedroom.

Many of us are familiar with situations when an officer was "dry firing" their handgun, but somehow a live round found its way into it with catastrophic results. My classroom has a gouge in the carpet where an officer from a visiting agency let a round go and, fortunately, no one got hurt. Some years ago, a student at a big name shooting school was dry firing a .308 rifle in a motel room when

he managed to put a round through several walls. I also know of a few incidents when people were killed because a round penetrated a wall and hit someone on the other side.

If you opt to dry fire or practice other gun handling skills, it's extremely important that there are no live rounds on your person or in the immediate area. Ideally, dry practice should be done in an area where other people will not be in close proximity or be walking through. If, at any time, you are interrupted, double-check your pistol and ammunition before resuming practice. In two of the instances I outlined, the shooter had stopped practice, loaded his handgun and was distracted. At some point in time, he decided to resume the practice session, but instead launched a live round. We can never assume and should always make it a point to check the condition of our handgun.

Dry practice will enable you to do a very critical analysis at basics such as the grip and trigger press so when you do get the opportunity to get out to the range, you will be well rehearsed and that much further along. It also provides you a great



For off range practice in basic operational skills such as clearing stoppages or reloading, inert dummy rounds should be used.

training opportunity whenever you have a few minutes to spare, and the fact you don't have to leave home allows you to do it at frequent intervals.

One of my dry practice routines is something called the "Wall Drill" which was designed by George Harris, former director of the SIG SAUER Academy. I draw my empty pistol (check it twice!) and raise it to eye level with the muzzle just an inch or two off the wall. The goal is to hold the pistol as still as possible and make a perfect trigger press. At this time,

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PISTOL PRACTICE WITH A PURPOSE

Continued from page 31



A sticky note affixed to soft body armor is an extra measure of safety when dry firing.

no attempt is made to take a sight picture. After a dozen or so reps, I repeat it with my strong hand only and, then, with my support hand only. With a traditional double-action pistol, I would run the gun with the hammer down to simulate that first long, heavy pull and repeat it again with the hammer back in single-action mode.

At some point in time, working the sights into the mix is also a plus. One can use a miniature silhouette of some type or even

a sticky note. To accomplish this, I like to back off to room distance if possible. With any luck, our previous investment in practicing the Wall Drill is now paying off and the movement of the sights against the target is minimal. As an extra margin of safety, dry firing can always be done with your soft body armor as a backstop.

It has been my observation for many years that the loading technique used by far too many officers is less than stellar. This, too, can be practiced outside of the range environment with dummy rounds. The inert training rounds I recommend are made by S.T. Action Pro, Inc. (stactionpro.com) and feature a high visibility plastic bullet, loaded into a brass case, which makes it easy to distinguish from a live round. Unlike the all plastic trainers, the dummies from S.T. Action Pro can be used time after time without failing and the bright colored bullet makes them easy to find once they hit the deck.

Practice should include speed reloads with the gun in battery and also emergency reloads with the slide locked to rear. Again, it's extremely important you work with the gear you actually utilize. When

drawing the fresh magazine, be sure the index finger runs across the front of the magazine tube to guide it into the gun. In addition to reloading, one can also practice clearing stoppages using dummy rounds. Again, make sure there is no live ammunition anywhere in the area.

In the age of triple retention duty holsters, practicing the draw stroke is also more important than ever. Quite simply, the more obstacles you have to clear in order to get the gun into play, the greater the chance something could go wrong. The draw stroke needs to be practiced to the extent where it is second nature – with no fumbling whatsoever. If you carry your primary gun or off duty gun concealed from view, draw practice from under a layer of clothing is also recommended.

Draw practice should begin slowly with conscious, deliberate actions which ensure your technique is absolutely perfect. Once you're satisfied that you are hitting on all cylinders, gradually increase the tempo and add the trigger press (check it twice!). Emphasis should be on a clean, efficient draw stroke with no nonessential movement. In fairly short order, that gun





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will be out of the holster and up on target in the blink of an eye. It is also very important that we practice a one hand return. In the operational environment, we may have to quickly reholster and transition to a lower force option or draw our handcuffs.

Another element we can incorporate into dry practice is movement. Movement is situationally dependent on what is unfolding before us and, at times, a simple lateral step to get off the line of attack can afford an advantage. Working a step into our dry draw practice will also better prepare us for a violent encounter.

As with all dry practice, be sure there is no live ammunition on your person or in the immediate area when practicing the draw stroke. Unfortunately, a great many of negligent discharges occur with people who are comfortable with firearms because they get complacent.

It's All Up to You

All law enforcement officers receive a pretty big dose of firearms training at the onset of their careers and are required to periodically requalify with their fire-

arms at regular intervals. In my part of the world, this breaks down to just one or two trips to the range per year. No matter how good that training is, this isn't enough time to get truly proficient with your firearm.

To put this in a different light, think about this analogy. Many of us have wagered a buck or two about the outcome of a sporting contest such as the World Series or the Super Bowl. How comfortable would you feel laying down a C-note on a quarterback who only practiced twice per year? I would submit that, in our game, the stakes are a whole lot higher.

The training techniques discussed herein do not require any specialized equipment or large expenditures. As indicated earlier, ammunition isn't cheap, but springing for a box or two every now and again probably won't break the bank. I consider the off range practice such as dry firing, drawing from the holster and working on efficient reloads to be every bit as important as live fire. A few minutes spent on some dry work at frequent intervals will pay off when it's time to go to the range. **P&SN**



Improvements in reload efficiency can be realized with off range practice.

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



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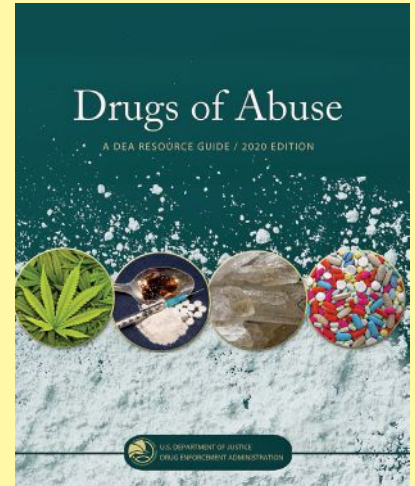
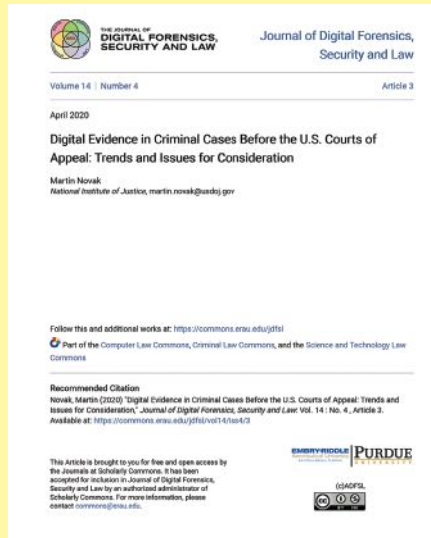
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NEWS

Digital Evidence in Criminal Cases

Though the use of computer forensics in criminal investigations has expanded in recent years, there is little empirical evidence about the prevalence of the use of digital evidence in the court system and its impact on prosecution outcomes. A study published by *The Journal of Digital Forensics, Security and Law* examines criminal cases before the United States Courts of Appeal in which legal issues were related to digital evidence. The purpose of this research was to determine the most common legal basis for appeals relating to the introduction or exclusion of digital evidence; the frequency with which cases involving an appeal regarding digital evidence affirmed or reversed for the defense; whether certain challenges to digital evidence are more prevalent than others; and whether there are trends or areas of the law as applied to computer forensics and digital evidence needing further attention by the criminal justice system.

A copy of the study, "Digital Evidence in Criminal Cases Before the U.S. Courts of Appeal: Trends and Issues for Consideration," can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/ybfqo3zs>



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The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has released the 2020 edition of *Drugs of Abuse, A DEA Resource Guide* which is designed to be a reliable resource on the most commonly abused and misused drugs in the United States. Because education plays a critical role in preventing substance abuse, this comprehensive guide is intended as a tool not just for medical practitioners and law enforcement officials, but also for educators, families and communities.

A copy of the 112 page guide can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/ybdyw7wt>



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Confidence and Competence through Weapon Handling Practice

TODD FLETCHER

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the cancelation of nearly all law enforcement training. This has affected in-service training, agencies hosting training courses and officers attending training conferences. As a result, it's more important than ever to take responsibility for our own training needs.

Competence breeds confidence and many officers need more confidence in their skills to motivate them to practice voluntarily. The most skilled shooters are the ones excited about improving their skill level, even though the basic or remedial shooters are the ones who need the most practice. One proven method to increase confidence and skill is to improve weapon handling skills.

It doesn't matter if you're practicing with a patrol rifle, shotgun, handgun, or any other weapon system, improving the ability to get on target, reload and clear malfunctions will build confidence in using that system quickly and competently. Increased confidence may result in an increased willingness to practice and more practice will result in significantly improved skill.

Whether we do live fire or dry fire practice doesn't matter as much as simply putting in the time to properly work on these valuable skills.

The Why

Aside from a Hollywood action movie, all firearms will need to be reloaded at some point. Modern duty firearms are more durable and reliable than ever, but they still malfunction. And, while reloads and malfunctions seldom occur in a law enforcement gunfight, it does happen. Ask the LAPD officers involved in the North Hollywood Bank of America shootout or the agents involved in the 1986 Miami FBI shootout how they feel about being able to quickly reload or clear a malfunction and get back in the fight. Empty and malfunctioning duty weapons don't happen until they do. And, when they happen in the middle of your fight, you'll be thankful for the time you put in practicing those skills.

Weapon Presentation

When pressed to use one of your duty weapons to save a life, the first step is

getting the weapon up and on target. This may seem obvious, but few shooters put in the requisite time to practice this valuable skill. Whether using a handgun, rifle or shotgun, developing the skills necessary to present the weapon on target in a manner maximizing economy of motion is crucial. Law enforcement gunfights occur quickly and suddenly.

If you have enough warning beforehand, having your handgun out of the holster and in a ready position is always faster and easier. But, this doesn't mean we get to neglect practicing from a variety of positions. Whatever ready position(s) you utilize on the street, you should be practicing. You should also be practicing drawing from a variety of body positions including prone, supine and other awkward orientations.

If drawing from a holster, the draw should be as smooth and efficient as possible. This starts with ensuring a solid grip on the handgun as high on the backstrap

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The draw should be as smooth and efficient as possible beginning with the grip and finishing at the eye-target line.

as possible while, at the same time, releasing all retention devices. I've seen too many shooters become "hood flickers." These are the officers who move a retention hood forward in one motion, then obtain their grip in a completely separate motion. This wastes time and is incredibly slow. Once you have a grip on the handgun and the retention devices on the holster have been released, the gun should come out of the holster and up to your eye-target line as quickly and smoothly as possible. A smooth and efficient draw provides a little more time to make accurate shots. For a video reviewing some additional points of the handgun draw, check out <https://youtu.be/II-OBhxnjwQ>.


A shoulder mounted weapon, such as a patrol rifle or shotgun, is faster to present to the target because they're (most likely) already in hand. But, again, this doesn't mean we get to skip practicing presentations. Work on presenting the weapon up to the eye-target line while moving, from a variety of ready positions and different distances. When doing each repetition, make sure you're presenting the weapon AND manipulating the safety at the same time. Don't cheat yourself by moving the safety before the presentation. Practice good habits and give yourself the benefit of practicing skills which you may need to prevail in your gunfight.

Reloads

All firearms need to be reloaded at some point. Unfortunately, most people do not practice this enough. For a lot of officers, their idea of practicing reloads is conducting an off the clock reload after a course of fire. This doesn't tell us anything about our skill level. However, video and a shot timer can show you whether your reloads are smooth and efficient.

Basically, there are two types of reloads: reloads of convenience and reloads of necessity. As I travel around conducting training in different regions, I've heard a wide variety of terms used to describe these reloads. So, let's not

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get too wrapped around the axle with the specific words used. The bottom line is that, if your weapon is empty, you need to reload it.

A couple of pointers when it comes to reloads. First, keep the weapon out of your face. This looks super cool on television because the director can get close-ups of the gun and actor at the same time. But, this is not your “workspace.” Your workspace is around eye level somewhere halfway between full extension and your face. This is all subject to shooter preference, but, if you have to move the weapon a long distance to get to full extension, you will be slow to reacquire

an acceptable sight picture.

A second pointer is to angle the magazine well toward the magazine pouch. This creates a straight line between the fresh magazine and the magazine well. A straight line is the shortest distance between two points, so this will help feed your weapon quicker. When working with a shotgun, turning the shotgun slightly so the magazine loading port is angled toward your support hand accomplishes the same result. There are several videos on my YouTube channel covering several different types of reloads, but check out this empty reload video as a place to start: <https://youtu.be/JXsjCV4SYhg>.

One last tip for speeding up your empty handgun reloads. Don’t be afraid to practice using the slide release lever to drop the slide forward after inserting a full magazine. This is much faster than “power stroking” the slide by hand and it can save you precious time. It doesn’t matter what the manufacturer calls the part, either. Different manufacturers call this part the slide stop, slide release, slide catch, or slide lock. In any event, the name of the part has nothing to do with the most efficient and quickest way to manipulate your handgun during a reload.



This is not your “workspace.”



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Malfunctions

Malfunctions don't happen until they do. Modern duty weapons are so dependable that, under controlled conditions on the range, we will rarely get the repetitions needed to become competent in clearing malfunctions. As a result, it requires specific practice to improve our skills. When a malfunction occurs in the middle of a gunfight, we won't have the sudden ability to quickly and effectively clear that malfunction unless we've practiced it.

One thing to note is that any malfunction procedures based solely upon visual inspection WILL fail you during low light conditions. There are also procedures which rely upon hearing what the weapon does or doesn't do. When attempting to fire the first round, the shooter may hear a "click" instead of a "bang." However, if the gunfight is in progress and shots have been fired, there is a strong possibility that nothing will be heard due to loud noise or auditory exclusion. As a result, a more comprehensive, reaction-based approach to malfunction diagnosis and clearance is necessary.

Classifying malfunctions as "Type 1," "Type 2" and "Type 3" does nothing to help determine what is wrong with the weapon. I prefer to break them into two categories: simple and complex malfunctions. Simple malfunctions are generally failure to fire or failure to eject problems. The simple malfunction drill is something most everyone reading this article will recognize – regardless of the specific terminology used. This immediate action response should be used as a primary malfunction procedure since this will solve most malfunctions:

- Tap the magazine aggressively (finger out of trigger guard);
- Rack/Rip the slide/charging handle to the rear and release – do not ride slide/charging handle forward; and
- Ready/Reassess the target and environment.

If the immediate action response fails to fix the problem, then you're probably working with a complex malfunction. Complex malfunctions include double feeds, triple feeds (carbine), failure to unlock, and others. When it comes to clearing complex malfunctions from your handgun, it comes down to unloading and then reloading the gun.

There are two slightly different methods for clearing complex malfunctions



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The immediate action response will solve most malfunctions. Tap the magazine aggressively, rack the slide to the rear and release, and then reassess the target and environment.



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from a handgun. First, “lock, rip, work, and reload.” Lock the slide to the rear to relieve the pressure on the top of your magazine. Rip the magazine out while depressing the magazine release button. Work the slide by quickly racking it to the rear at least three times. Reload the handgun just like you normally would and reassess your target. One downside to this method is that most shooters forget to lock the slide to the rear to relieve the pressure from the top of the magazine making it difficult to remove. Once they remember to lock the slide open, they’ve lost valuable time.

A slight variation for clearing complex malfunctions is to, instead of locking the slide open, simply depress the magazine release while working the slide to the rear at least three times. This relieves pressure from the top of the magazine allowing it to drop free from the magazine well and clears the cause of the malfunction at the same time. Once cleared, reload the handgun and reassess your target. This variation is significantly faster.

If you are carrying only one spare magazine, use the first technique and secure the magazine after you rip it out. The magazine can be secured between your ring and middle fingers on your dominant hand, or you can put it into a pocket or inside the belt of your pants. After working the slide, use that spare magazine to reload. No matter which technique you use, it’s important to slow down, breathe and work the problem. With a little bit of consistent practice, you will be on the fast track to diagnosing and clearing whatever malfunction you encounter.

Wrapping It Up

Former New York City Police Depart-

ment Officer Jim Cirillo once told me that, during his time on the Stakeout Squad, the fastest reload was a second gun. A second gun is also the fastest way to clear a malfunction, but we may not always be able to access a second gun in the middle of a firefight. The only way to ensure you have the skills necessary to finish the fight is to practice weapon handling skills until you can perform them without conscious thought.

Improved weapon handling skills will lead to more confidence in your ability to safely and competently utilize them when needed to save your life or the life of another. Whether you're practicing at home due to social distancing restrictions, or on the live-fire range getting some extra work in, time spent on these skills will improve your confidence and familiarity with your duty weapons. I look forward to seeing you on the range! **P&SN**

Todd Fletcher is a sergeant in Central Oregon with over 25 years of law enforcement experience. 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.



A faster variation to clear complex malfunctions is to press the magazine release while working the slide to drop the magazine from the magazine well and clear the cause of the malfunction at the same time.

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NEWS

FBI Releases Report on 2019 Active Shooter Incidents

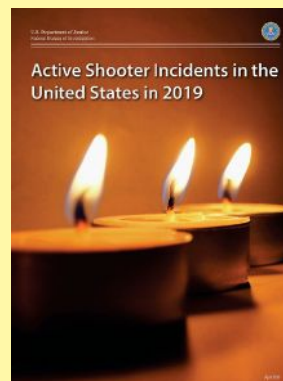
Twenty-eight shootings in 2019 have been designated as active shooter incidents. The report, *Active Shooter Incidents in the United States in 2019*, focuses on active shooter incidents – a specific type of shooting situation.

The FBI defines an active shooter as one or more individuals actively engaged in killing, or attempting to kill, people in a populated area.

Implicit in this definition is the shooter's use of one or more firearms. The active aspect of the definition inherently implies that both law enforcement personnel and citizens have the potential to affect the outcome of the incident based upon their responses to the situation.

In 11 incidents, law enforcement engaged the shooter; in seven of those incidents, they sustained injuries. Two law enforcement officers were killed; 15 law enforcement officers were wounded (13 from gunshot wounds and two from injuries incidental to the shooting).

To download a copy of the report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yczzqcdt>



Public Safety Officers' Benefits Program

Administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) Program provides death benefits to the eligible survivors of public safety officers who are fatally injured in the line of duty; disability benefits to public safety officers catastrophically injured in the line of duty; and education benefits to the eligible spouses and children of fallen and catastrophically injured officers.

With the recent outbreak of the novel coronavirus disease or COVID-19, America's law enforcement officers, firefighters and other first responders face a new health risk as they continue to selflessly serve their communities.

For questions regarding the PSOB Program or filing a claim, visit PSOB's online portal at psob.gov or E-mail the PSOB Director at AskPSOB@usdoj.gov.

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New BVP Application Funding Period

The Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP), created by the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998, is a unique U.S. Department of Justice initiative designed to provide a critical resource to state and local law enforcement.

Since 1999, the BVP program has awarded more than 13,000 jurisdictions a total of \$467 million in federal funds for the purchase of over one million vests (1,395,976) as of February 2020.



The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is pleased to announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 BVP application funding period. Applications for FY 2020 BVP funds will be accepted beginning April 23, 2020. All applications must be submitted online by 6:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), June 8, 2020.

For more information on this resource, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y9b23s92>

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P&SN Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

PUBLISHER: Al Menear

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Toni Saturno

MANAGING EDITOR: John G. Stephenson

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Police and Security News is published bimonthly by Performance Publishing, LLC, PO Box 1185, Quakertown, PA 18951-0079.

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Standard Rate Postage Paid at Bellmawr, NJ (permit #1239).

POSTMASTER: Please send form #3579 to Performance Publishing, LLC, PO Box 1185, Quakertown, PA 18951-0079.

All subscriptions and editorial should be directed to: Performance Publishing, LLC, PO Box 1185, Quakertown, PA 18951-0079.

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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

The Hansel and Gretel robbers...

Three crooks in Clearwater, Florida, had their big heist of a local CVS planned out in great detail. Surveillance camera footage shows one of them casing the drugstore the day before the robbery. So far, so good. On the day of the crime, the terrific trio burst into the store at 5:00 a.m. when it wasn't busy. Perfect. The men wore latex gloves so as not to leave prints. That worked. They then waved guns at employees before binding them with zip ties. They nailed it. Then, they whipped out white garbage bags and filled them with massive amounts of drugs, including over 10,000 hydrocodone and oxycodone pills. Mission accomplished! For reasons unknown, they took pills out of their bottles as they sped away and tossed the emptied bottles out the car window. Police officers literally followed the trail of empty bottles like bread crumbs and it led straight to a residence where they found the perps along with thousands of pills. *(Police should have added littering to the charges.)*

"No, that's not weed – a skunk got loose in my purse"... A woman went to the jail in Ashland, Louisiana, in order to pay the bond fee for a friend who was being held on drug charges. As the officers were counting out the \$5000 in cash, they noticed a familiar aroma. There was a powerful smell of marijuana emanating from the money which prompted the officers to search her car. They quickly discovered \$40,000 more in cash inside, along with about 100 Klonopin pills. A subsequent search of her residence turned up hundreds of additional pills and cash, as well as marijuana, cocaine and paraphernalia. She was arrested and booked on numerous charges. *(Hasn't she heard of "money laundering"?)*

And they want to control my health-care?... The Washington, DC, Metro has spent five years and \$3.8 million building two still unfinished bike racks at two of its stations. The original budget for the two covered racks, which will each house 92 bikes, was \$600,000 apiece. "Quality control issues with contractors can take time to sort out," the Metro said in a statement, "but Metro determined it was important to

"How I met your father"...

A young man in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, met a woman via a dating app and arranged a date. For their first encounter, he asked the fair maiden to pick him up at his parents' house. That struck her as being a little odd, but she agreed to his request. The man then drank wine in the passenger's seat while she drove around town. When they approached a bank, he asked her to pull into the parking lot and he then went inside. But, before doing so, he donned a hat and sunglasses and then went about robbing the teller, eventually walking out with \$1000. He jumped back in the car and told his date to step on it. Panicking, she did as she was told. With police in pursuit, the two didn't get very far. The woman pulled over immediately and surrendered to police. Casanova was arrested, but she was not charged after what had to be the worst date of all time. *(That romantic dinner at Olive Garden® wasn't going to pay for itself.)*



get the project done right rather than get it done quickly." It hopes the projects, first set to be completed in December of 2015, will be finished in the next few months. *(If anyone's paying attention, this comes out to \$20,652 per bike, so far.)*

They probably wore out the "Open Door" button in their attempt to escape... Two criminals in Kenwood, Ohio, tried to steal jewelry from a local store. Security cameras recorded their efforts as they crashed through the door, broke display cases and then made their getaway. Everything went well until they decided to take the elevator to their waiting getaway car in the basement. They stepped inside and headed down to the basement – until the elevator got stuck on the way down. The burglars tried to hide their loot in the elevator ceiling, but to no avail. Emergency responders were kind enough to rescue them and law enforcement was happy to place them under arrest. *(After having to endure three hours of elevator music, they were probably glad to go to jail.)*

"I'd like to trade in for a new truck. My current one is on fire"... Police officers were dispatched after receiving a call of a reported disturbance in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Upon their arrival, they discovered that the reported cause, a man who

was well-known to police, had already left. Officers were on the lookout and, when he was spotted a short time later, a chase ensued through residential streets. When the suspect pulled onto I-94, spikes were set up to stop him. He ran over the strips, puncturing his tires, then kept driving. It wasn't long before he suddenly realized that the friction of the right front flat tire caused it to burst into flames. So, what do you think the blockhead did next? Believe it or not, he pulled into the nearest Nissan dealer for service. The dealership wasn't able to help him, but police officers quickly placed him under arrest. *(This brings a new meaning to the phrase "hot pursuit"!)*

It's like a criminal came up with this design... Ontario's new license plates have "hit the roads," displaying an attractive color of blue with white numbers and letters. But, at night, all that's visible is a shiny blue rectangle – the numbers and letters disappear which makes them a problem for law enforcement. "Did anyone consult with police before designing and manufacturing the new Ontario license plates?" wrote a Kingston Police sergeant. "They're virtually unreadable at night." A government spokesperson said authorities "are currently looking into this." *(They had ONE JOB...)* **P&SN**



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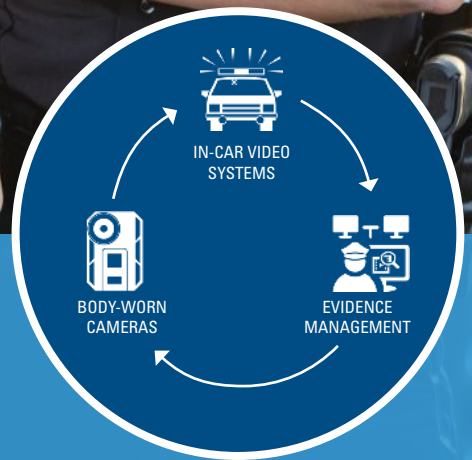
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