

P&SN

Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020
VOLUME 36 ISSUE 6



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Transportation 202114

Sgt. James G. Post

P&SN presents its 23rd annual report on the latest technical advances in police vehicles, components and aftermarket equipment.



ON THE COVER

Find all of the newest information covering police vehicles and aftermarket equipment for the coming year in this annually featured report.

Vehicles and equipment pictured on the cover (starting from the very top, right): Chevrolet Tahoe interior; Setina Mfg.; C-Tech Mfg.; Dodge Durango Pursuit; Jotto Desk; and CODE 3.



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

RAMESH NYBERG

“You point directly at the person’s face,” the sergeant said, demonstrating. I was enthralled by the realization that directing traffic, something seemingly so mundane and easy – or so I thought – could have such specific science in its workings. It was 1979 and I was a recruit in Basic Law Enforcement Class #41 at the Southeast Florida Institute of Criminal Justice, better known as the police academy.

Sgt. Ben Robbins was the traffic guru and he methodically explained to us the “right way” to direct traffic. You use large, simple gestures; not small ones. You are very specific and you make sure you get the attention of drivers. If you don’t, he told us young wide-eyed recruits, you could cause a crash or you get run over yourself. This has all come back to me recently

because, in my new job as Director of Security at a very dynamic and busy private school, I have been put in charge of traffic routes and parking, among other things. Recent construction at the school has resulted in a new building, two new parking areas and two new access roads.

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

about 120 seniors are allowed to park on campus – would normally be a pretty simple thing to draw up. Ah, but this is 2020 and *nothing* is simple, is it, my friends? Every student arriving on campus has to assure us that he/she is “safe” (free of COVID-19 symptoms) and the campus we have is not conducive to having thermal imaging. We don’t have one enclosed area through which everyone can be channeled. I’ve learned a lot about thermal imaging lately and I’ve found that it is not South Florida weather-friendly. It’s not unusual for us to have high humidity and even rainstorms early in the morning. So, thermal imaging kiosks were out. Trust me, we looked at them, had many hours of Zoom meetings with their reps to discuss the possibilities, and we opted for a different plan. We would instead use an app on which everyone has to register and every morning the students fill out an electronic promise that they don’t have a temperature over 99.9 degrees, haven’t been in contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID, and so on. You probably know the drill and the questions.

What this also means is that no one can get out of his/her car without showing us (my team of morning app checkers) his/her green wellness check mark. So, at morning drop-off, I have nine teachers and administrative personnel on hand at the pedestrian gate, the parent drop-off “loop,” and at the senior parking lot, directing people in and out and checking apps. I found myself reverting to the training taught to me 41 years ago. Point at the driver you want to move – point right into his/her eyes, the sarge told us – and then blow your whistle and initiate that bent arm

“come to me” gesture. Oh, but my civilian oriented team was wiggling their fingers, giving little circular beckonings with their hands...all futile movements which I know would have Sgt. Robbins shaking his head in frustration (and, sadly, we don’t have whistles).

“Drivers can’t see small, rapid movements like that,” Robbins told us. “From the driver’s seat, with low light, maybe rain falling, those tiny little rapid movements can be misconstrued.”

Large, simple movements with your arm work – wiggly fingers don’t.

But, my dilemma was this: How much of a law enforcement geek was I going to look and sound like if I started incorporating traffic direction training with my mostly faculty morning traffic team? I mentioned it in passing to two of them who were standing nearby.

“This brings me back to my uniform days,” I said absently, dying inside to become the incarnation of Sgt. Ben Robbins and hold a traffic directing class right there.

“Oh, really? You actually *did* this out on the streets?”

That, and a whole lot more, friend.

Just then, another faculty member about 30 yards away moaned and threw up his hands.

“These people aren’t paying attention!” he grumbled. “I’m waving them in and they just sit there!”

I walked over to him and showed him the Robbins’ method. What the hell, I thought, I’ll risk being deemed some sort of paramilitary control freak.

“Oh, wow,” he said. I could see a smile forming under his mask. “This is cool! It works!”

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"Certificates will be distributed later today," I joked, very happy with myself.

At day's end, it's dismissal time and parents come and line up in the loop to pick up their kids. Our whole mission is to keep them moving up in the loop, so we don't incur a backup out to the main road. It's amazing to me how people act in these situations. They move their cars gingerly, as if there was some sort of vehicular version of COVID-19 making its way through society, infecting cars at an alarming rate. The same people who will be two inches off your bumper on I-95 doing 75 mph are somehow terrified to move their car up in a pickup loop, lest they should get within 20 feet of the car in front of them. It's downright baffling, but I had 27 years of dealing with baffling human behavior, so it doesn't get under my skin anymore.

If you are smacking yourself in the face right now, thinking, "I read through this column to hear about school pickup and traffic directing??" – fear not. Your loyal readership is not in vain. The big takeaway (Oh, there's a big takeaway? Ha!) of this column, brothers and sisters, is how duty and habit follow you around. This November 30th, I'm 14 years retired from police work. But, I still watch uniform cops whenever I see them directing traffic, and I think of Ben Robbins, and I check to see if they are doing it right. I still can't help but notice that, when I see a young cop working an off-duty job in a grocery store, leaning against the wall, texting on his phone, and think, "Nooooo...you look like *shit*!"

I saw this just yesterday and I wondered what would happen if his sergeant walked through the door. Then I noticed the three chevrons on his sleeve (sigh).

Yes, I still hear and read about some investigation going on and wonder if they've done this or that, and I think back to the investigative standards to which my department held us. There are mornings, of course, when I get up and start getting dressed for work and think, "Ah, Nyberg, you're not a cop any more...you've lost all that...just accept it and do your civilian stuff now and forget those old habits."

And, as that thought settles in and I accept my new role as a civilian, what happens?

I check my gig line. **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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FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

Foldable Ballistic Shield

ATCS introduced the **Swift Shield** at the beginning of 2020. The design is based on origami principles which enable it to collapse down to the size of a notebook for storage. When needed, the **Swift Shield** instantly



unfolds to provide five square feet of lightweight (eight pounds) NIJ Level IIIA ballistic protection.

Its foldable nature makes it possible to store in an officer's car door; in-between the front seats; or in a backpack. It can be deployed on a windshield or folded in half on top of the trunk or hood of an officer's vehicle.

The design of **Swift Shield** has evolved since being first introduced. Engineers have reduced the number of origami folds from ten to four. This makes the shield thinner when folded up for storage. They've also added SuperFabric® which is a versatile cut and abrasion-resistant material as the exterior casing, as well as a MOLLE strap system so that the shield can be easily adjusted when deployed.

swift-shield.com



NeoSteel™ Tactical Helmet Accessories

Diamond Age unveiled the NeoSteel Helmet earlier this year and now offers two helmet accessories. The NeoSteel Helmet is a modular combat helmet produced using advanced metal alloys resulting in a helmet which meets and exceeds VPAM-3 + Special Threats ballistic requirements.

The first two accessories available are the **Combat Circlet** and the **Face Protector**. The **Combat Circlet** is a mounting platform for Night Vision Gear (NVG) and other head worn accessories.

The NeoSteel **Ventail face protector** offers the wearer an enhanced protection platform from ballistic threats. It covers the face, side of the head and a portion of the anterior neck. It mounts easily and quickly and protects from blunt impact, blast over-pressure and debris. The **Ventail** is also fully compatible with most ballistic glasses and is lighter in weight than traditional transparent ballistic visors.

diamondage.org

Body Armor/Ballistic Protection

VADER-X3 Plate Carrier



The **VADER-X3** plate carrier, from BlueRidge Armor, is manufactured using 100% military-grade high strength Squadron® laminate, reinforced laser cut fabric. The **VADER-X3** features maximum front MOLLE Attachment Points (MAPS), ROC-LOCKER-QR (Quick Release), skeletonized cummerbunds, anti-twist padded shoulder wraps, and core load stabilizers. The **VADER-X3** accepts both hard armor rifle plates and soft armor ballistic inserts.

Weighing only 1.8 lbs., the **VADER-X3** includes padded shoulder wraps with an anti-twist feature; ID placard attachment front and back; and its non-skid, padded torso spacer provides both ventilation and core load stability. Standard colors include Black, Coyote, Multicam, Ranger Green, and Wolf Gray.

blueridgearmor-com.3dcartstores.com



New Tactical Shields

Hardwire's **Tactical Shields** come in three designs (notched, window or standard) and two levels of certified NIJ protection (Level IIIA or Level III). These **Tactical Shields** are lightweight – weighing only 5.8 to 8.2 pounds for Level IIIA and 20 to 25 pounds for Level III (depending on the design).

Hardwire designed their shields from armor technology which was developed for the Department of Defense and with input from law enforcement professionals. This provides ease when carrying any of these **Tactical Shields** with one arm, for as long as necessary. It also adds speed to the officers and protects the head and torso area in nearly every tactical scenario.

hardwirellc.com

TOMAHAWK Ballistic Shield

The **TOMAHAWK** hard armor ballistic shield, from BlueRidge Armor, is a flat, compact, weapon mount platform which offers threat Level III+ rifle protection.

The **TOMAHAWK** is an ideal vehicle assault rifle shield to provide law enforcement lightweight rifle-rated protection at a moment's notice.

Weighing only 12.5 lbs. in the 18" x 24" configuration, this shield utilizes a straight bar handle, along with a custom molded foam arm pad and a heavy-duty padded forearm strap.

Optional features include a custom ID placard; 600 lumen auxiliary lighting; and a shield hook with a MOLLE attachment or shoulder sling.

<https://blueridgearmor-com.3dcartstores.com>

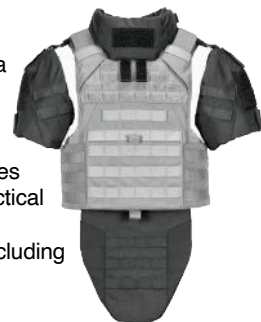


New from Armor Express

The **NextGen Accessories** offer optional extended coverage to a standard Armor Express Hard Core H3, Hard Core PT, or Lighthawk XT 3.0 carrier. Full components include the NextGen Ballistic Yoke/Collar Assembly, the NextGen Ballistic Throat, and the NextGen Ballistic Groin Protector. In addition, the end user may combine these accessories with one of Armor Express' ballistic deltoid options for a complete tactical ensemble.

The **NextGen Accessories** are available in a variety of colors including black, coyote, LAPD navy, ranger, and tactical grey.

armorexpress.com



TACOPS™ Tactical Operators Body Armor Kit



Available in a wide variety of colors, including Multi-Cam, Ranger Green, Coyote, and Black, the **Tactical Operators Body Armor Kit**, from TSSI, features NIJ Level IIIA certified front and back armor backers; Level IIIA throat/neck, shoulder/upper arm, cummerbund, padded belt, and lower back/groin armor panels; two Point Blank Enterprises Special Threat (NIJ III+) stand-alone plates; and two LTC NIJ Level IV certified stand-alone plates. Also included are two preconfigured front panels; one kangaroo panel with triple M4 insert; three front interchangeable panels; two back interchangeable panels (attached with PALS webbing); and a number of additional items.

tssi-ops.com

NEWS



New Article on Responding to Domestic Violence

Published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing, "Domestic Violence 101: How Should a Law Enforcement Agency Respond?" discusses best practices for police agencies responding to domestic violence; what resources exist to support their work; and how law enforcement officers and departments can build skills, capacity and comfort to address these crimes and the individuals involved with expertise and care. The article provides the essentials which officers should know about domestic violence and the importance of having a departmental domestic violence policy.

To read this article, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y32vdqzb>

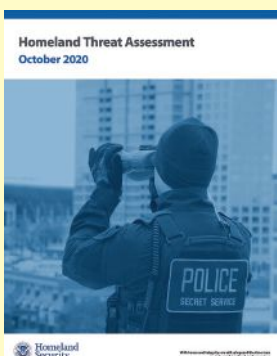
New Documentary Available

The newly released documentary, *In the Aftermath – When the Shooting Stops, Recovery Begins*, produced by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, focuses on best practices after school shooting tragedies, including family reunification, dealing with accompanying trauma and crisis planning. It highlights the difficult journey of recovery while giving hope to survivors. The documentary highlights interviews with survivors of school shootings and public officials, as well as discussing programs and resources available to school systems, law enforcement and the community before, during and after an incident.

The documentary can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/y64y2zw9>



New Report: Homeland Threat Assessment



The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has released a comprehensive report on threats to American security. The "October 2020 Homeland Threat Assessment" is specifically intended for public consumption and factors in all the new challenges DHS faces in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The inaugural report arranges the topmost threats to America in seven sections, including the cyber threat to the homeland, foreign influence in the homeland, threats to the US economic security, the terrorist threat to the homeland, transnational criminal organization threats to national security, illegal immigration in the United States, and natural disasters in the United States.

A copy of the full report can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/y6rqxml2>

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New Lazer-Shield Adhesive Strip Protects Police Officers from Increasing Threat of Laser Beam Attacks

Super Seer Corporation has released Lazer-Shield to effectively protect officers from the growing threat of laser beam attacks during protests. The shield is a universal self-adhesive protective strip which reduces a green, blue or violet laser beam from one watt to a harmless 1/1000 watt.

Inexpensive high-powered handheld lasers have led to an increasing number of attacks on law enforcement officers, often in riot situations. Attackers direct the laser toward an officer's eyes. If struck without protection, the officer can be blinded. Even traffic, marine and police aviators have been targets of laser beam attacks.

Super Seer's Lazer-Shield Kit creates universal protection which fits onto any face or body shield for highly effective immediate protection from laser beam attacks. New face or body shields can be Lazer-Shielded or law enforcement agencies can purchase a retrofit kit for existing equipment.

"The Lazer-Shield allows for a clear unobstructed field of view. When under attack from a laser beam, the officer simply dips [his or her] head forward to activate the Lazer-Shield protection. This action allows an officer to safely look through the Lazer-Shield directly into a laser beam to identify the attacker without the risk of permanent eye damage" said Steve Smith, President of Super Seer.

This is a big improvement over many protest and violent riot situations when officers must close their eyes when faced with a laser attack. This renders officers helpless in a very dangerous environment.

Laser attacks have become more frequent with greater severity. In recent weeks, an LAPD officer was partially blinded after someone pointed a green laser at him in downtown Los Angeles. The officer



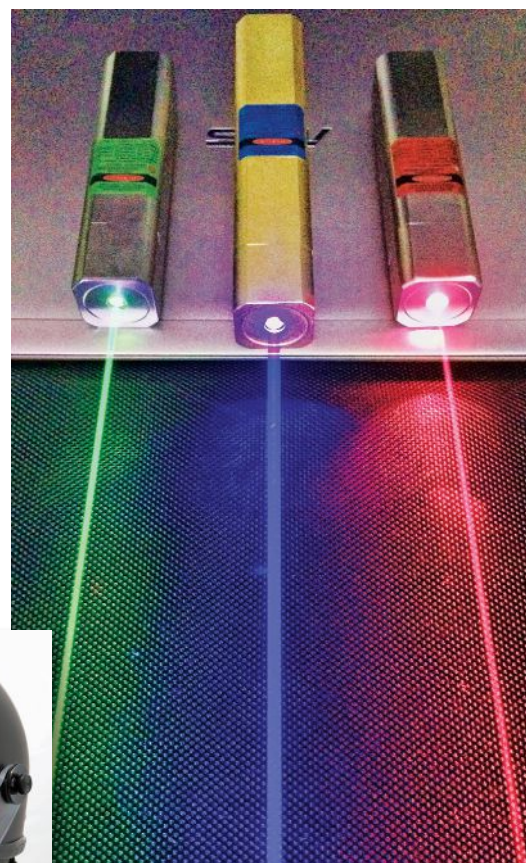
still reports debilitating migraines as told to NBC4 TV.

The Federal Government is currently pursuing charges against several individuals in Portland, OR, for laser attacks on officers.

In late August, several officers near Des Moines, IA, suffered injuries and required medical treatment after a protester shined a laser in their eyes. Officers were not able to apprehend the individual at the time.

"Unfortunately, many law enforcement organizations believe effective laser protection is either unavailable or very expensive. We are pleased to offer this highly effective, easy to use, and quite affordable adhesive strip which can go on helmets, glasses, shields, gas masks, and other protective gear," Steve Smith said.

Super Seer Lazer-Shield far surpasses any other laser protective product as tested from a distance of two yards for a period of ten seconds. The science is fully supported by world-class laser experts. During laboratory tests, the Lazer-Shield reduced the laser beam from an extremely harmful one watt to a harmless



1/1000 watt. Eye exposure was reduced to 1.0mW resulting in an Optical Density (OD) of OD 3.0.

Super Seer is a manufacturer of police protective products including riot, motorcycle, mounted, general duty, and ballistic riot helmets and accessories. They are designed with six layers of protection including ballistic, impact, ear, neck, face, and liquid. Laser beam protection adds a seventh layer for law enforcement officers, all in one complete package. Super Seer is working with other US police equipment manufacturers to make the Super Seer Lazer-Shield readily available to add to their products to protect our law enforcement officers.

superseer.com



New Model 200 Waypoint Rifle Introduced

Springfield Armory®'s new line of bolt-action rifles comes with a .75 MOA accuracy guarantee and is available in four calibers, including .308 Win.

Springfield Armory has recently announced the availability of the Model 200 family of bolt-action rifles. Manufactured in the USA, each Model 200 is built to deliver the accuracy and performance expected from a custom grade rifle. The Model 200 Waypoint features a premium carbon fiber stock and the option of a steel or carbon fiber barrel with a .75 MOA accuracy guarantee.

Each Model 200 action is manufactured from premium materials. Dual locking lugs on the fluted bolt run smoothly down Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM) raceways for perfect, repeatable engagement while an optimized extraction cam provides robust, reliable extraction in any condition. Additionally, the bolt features dual cocking cams for ease of operation

and toolless disassembly for maintenance. Other premium features include an enlarged ejection port, a sliding extractor for reliable operation and a hybrid dual plane feed ramp.

The Waypoint's trigger, from TriggerTech, features a low profile, non-sag safety and employs the company's Frictionless Release Technology™. It's adjustable from 2.5 to five pounds with a free-floating roller for a crisp, clean and repeatable pull.

Springfield Armory worked with AG Composites to develop the rifle's line of carbon fiber stocks. Each stock is hand-laid, made from 100% carbon fiber and pillar. With a weight as low as 6 lbs. 9 oz., the Waypoint and its carbon fiber stock strike the perfect balance between strength and mobility.

springfield-armory.com

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE



P&SN presents its 23rd annual report on the latest technical advances in police vehicles, components and aftermarket equipment.

The year 2020 has been one of the most significant in the last century for all Americans and not in a good way. The United States has been attacked with a virus which, in nine months as I write this, has infected 7.8 million Americans and killed over 215,000 souls (with similar results worldwide). This pandemic has closed millions of American businesses and put their employees out of work; schools have been closed; it has caused months of confinement at home for most of us; and, to date, there is no cure.

The single largest group of Americans impacted has been American law enforcement because, like other first responders, they went to work every day, were exposed to the virus, and many were infected. As if this hazardous duty wasn't enough, riots, looting and arsons (described as peaceful protests) have been raging in major American cities for months. Assaults, ambushes, attacks, and murders of police officers are on track to set a new record while homicide rates in major cities have quadrupled, primarily in the inner cities. Cries of "defunding" police resonate through militant groups and some cities have already done so – or are considering it. Anti-police sentiment has resulted in retirements and resigna-

tions across this country. The NYPD alone has lost over 2,000 members and at least 19 major cities are without chiefs.

COVID-19 has also had an impact on our ability to research this annual feature for you. Most vehicle and equipment factories in North America were closed, while others switched gears to manufacture much needed PPE. This created delays in production and delivery of vehicles and gear. Important national LE expos across the country (where new vehicles and equipment are traditionally unveiled) were cancelled or presented virtually and the eagerly anticipated annual Michigan State Police Vehicle Tests were postponed and, finally, conducted with no attendees permitted. There were no motorcycle tests done at all.

We have assembled this report with the information available to us and is arranged with vehicle information first, followed by new equipment.

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE 2021 VEHICLE TESTS

There are two police vehicle tests conducted every year – the Michigan State Police (MSP) and the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department (LASD). The oldest is

MSP, dating back to the 1950s, while the LASD tests began in 1974. Both evaluations are extensive and conducted by LE professionals. The results are eagerly anticipated by departments and fleet managers coast to coast because they create the criteria for determining pursuit-rated vehicles versus service vehicles and classify those tested accordingly. Generally speaking, departments west of the Rockies tend to favor the LASD tests, while the rest of the country prefers the MSP tests, although both evaluations feature similar elements and many LE representatives attend both. At the conclusion of the tests, results are published on the two agencies' Web sites.

The Michigan State Police 2021 Vehicle Acceleration, Top Speed and Braking Tests were conducted on October 10, 2020, at the Chelsea (Chrysler) Proving Grounds, Chelsea, MI, which is one of three such Chrysler facilities in the United States. The LASD tests are conducted at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, CA.

American manufacturers submitted ten 2021 MY vehicles to MSP for this annual evaluation. Chevrolet provided two Tahoes – the 5.3L V-8 RWD Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) and the 5.3L V-8 4WD Special Service Vehicle (SSV). Dodge® supplied four

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 14

vehicles – two Charger Pursuits, a 5.7L V-8 RWD and a 3.6L V-6 AWD, and two Durango Pursuits (both in AWD), a 5.7L V-8 and a 3.6L V-6. The field was rounded out by Ford's four entries – three AWD Police Interceptor® Utilities (PIU), the base 3.3L AWD, the 3.0L EcoBoost® AWD and the 5.7L Hybrid AWD. Also tested was Ford's 3.5L EcoBoost F-150 Police Responder® truck. (Although the F-150 truck's results were recorded, they are not factored into our report.)

2021 ACCELERATION AND TOP SPEED SUMMARY

These are always the tests most anticipated by cops, troopers and deputies – those of us who “feel the need for speed.” Everyone crowds against the guardrails of the oval and the straightaway guardrails while the MSP Precision Driving Team hammers down and shows no mercy. To slightly misquote Robert Duval, “There's nothing like the smell of burning rubber in the morning!”

So, let's get right to the first question everyone asks, “Who was the fastest?” Once again this year, at 148 mph, the title goes to Ford's PIU 3.0L EcoBoost. Tied for second at 140 mph were the two Charger Pursuits, both the six and the

HEMI®. The third fastest speeds were a tie, recorded by both the PIU Hybrid and the base PIU at 136 mph.

There was another two-way tie of note: The RWD Tahoe PPV tied with the Durango Pursuit V-8 AWD at a respectable 130 mph, while the V-6 Durango was two miles slower at 128 mph. The slowest top speed recorded was 125 mph by the 4WD Tahoe SSV, still faster than any posted speed limit in the US.

The acceleration tests are different, but just as much of an important consideration as top speed because they represent the time it takes an operator to reach a particular speed. In drag racing terminology, this is the “fastest off the line.” This is particularly significant for state troopers catching violators from a standing start. *These are recorded in seconds.*

Starting at 0-20 mph, speeds are electronically recorded in ten mile per hour increments from 0-100 mph. Although these times can vary somewhat by gear ratios (if purchasers have that option), we always look closely at 0-60 mph, as that is generally considered the time needed to merge into traffic lanes from the bottom of an on-ramp. The best 0-60 mph time of 5.75 seconds was recorded by the EcoBoost PIU, followed closely

by the HEMI Charger at 5.91 seconds. Everyone else ranged from seven to eight seconds, with the HEMI Durango next at 7.01 seconds. The slowest time (8.80 seconds) was recorded by the V-6 Durango.

The next criteria we look at is the distance to reach 100 miles per hour because, if you haven't at least gotten close enough to the violator to read the rear tag, it may be time to call for air support. *These are recorded in miles.* Two vehicles were tied for the shortest distance of 0.24 miles, the HEMI RWD Charger and the EcoBoost Utility. Next was the Utility Hybrid at 0.30 miles and right on its rear fascia was the AWD Charger at 0.31 miles. (If they weren't tested separately, I'd swear the Mopar® was drafting the Ford!)

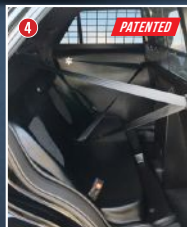
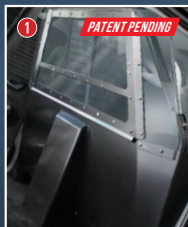
The distance to reach top speed is also recorded, but you have to take into consideration that the top speeds of the vehicles tested varied by 23 miles per hour and most were computer limited. For example, the slowest top speed (125 mph) recorded by the 4WD SSV Tahoe also set the record for reaching that speed in 1.06 miles, whereas the fastest vehicle (148 mph), the EcoBoost Utility, took 1.24 miles to top out.

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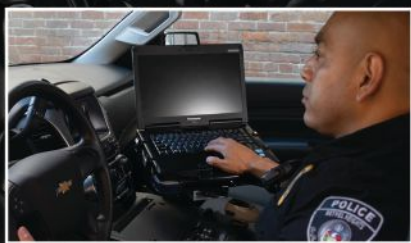
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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 16

2021 BRAKING SUMMARY

We all realize that braking is as important a consideration as acceleration, particularly as the popular LE SUVs grow bigger and heavier. Since I have been on the street and since the advent of ABS, four-wheel disc brakes and many other improvements, police vehicle braking has improved immensely, much to the pleasure of insurance companies, fleet body shops and bosses.

The braking tests conducted by the MSP are an average of three 0-60 miles per hour and are reported as Projected Stopping Distances from 60 mph. *These are reported in feet.*

The best projected stopping distance was posted by the base PI Utility at 126.60 feet. Next was the 4WD Tahoe at 127.10 feet. In third place was the Charger 3.6L. It's important to note that two of these vehicles were AWD and the other was 4WD. This is another consideration for you when selecting fleet vehicles, in addition to their superior winter characteristics. Although Chrysler has made vast improvements in their braking systems, the worst projected stopping distance was set by their V-6 Durango.

LE VEHICLES

Production of 2021 police package vehicles was delayed by shuttered factories

and prepping them (prior to reopening) to address social distancing and other COVID-19 concerns. There were also labor issues at both Ford's Chicago plant and Chevrolet's Arlington plant. Any automotive plant closing naturally has a trickle-down effect on suppliers. As far as we know, all factories are back up to strength.

Chevrolet (gmfleet.com/police)

Production of the eagerly anticipated redesigned 2021 Tahoe LE vehicles has resumed in their Arlington, TX, assembly plant and dealers are taking orders as we speak, with delivery expected in the first quarter of 2021. The start-up was delayed by a couple of factors. Primary was a strike by UAW last fall which *The New York Times* reported "cost GM an estimated \$1.75 billion and their ability to fill orders for about 5,000 vehicles." The strike also affected numerous GM suppliers and vendors and their employees.

The Arlington plant builds both LE and civilian Tahoes and, before 2021 production could begin (after the strike), the plant was closed for extensive retooling for the all-new models and COVID compliance.

Following you will find some of what you can expect in the next generation Tahoe.

As in the past, there are two law enforce-

ment packages: the Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV), designed for high speeds, and the Special Service Vehicle (SSV) which is designed for off-road and towing needs. Both are powered by the reliable 5.3L V-8 backed with a ten-speed automatic. The engine features Dynamic Fuel Management (DFM) which enables it to operate in up to 18 different cylinder patterns (with as few as two cylinders) to optimize power delivery and efficiency. The DFM controller calculates the number of cylinders needed as many as 80 times per second. The PPV is offered in 2WD and 4WD, while the SSV is exclusively 4WD.

Both packages feature Tahoe's completely new larger design platform which offers class leading interior space. They provide 70.3 cubic feet of cargo volume behind the second row seat which is 18.3 cubic feet more than the largest SUV competitor. The rear door openings are now 13% (3.5 inches) wider than before to ease prisoner loading and rapid K-9 entry/exit.

Both models have numerous standard safety features, including larger brakes with Automatic Emergency Braking and Front Pedestrian Braking, plus HD Rear Vision Camera, Rear Park Assist, Forward Collision Alert, Lane Keep Assist with Lane Departure Warning, and a Following Distance Indicator. Your officers will appreciate

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 18

the police specific front seats which provide additional hip room, allowing utility belts to fit more comfortably.

While the 2021 Silverado SSV is basically a carryover model, it does offer several new mechanical and technical upgrades. The most noticeable change is the optional Multi-Flex tailgate borrowed from their GMC cousin. This offers six different tailgate positions to facilitate loading and unloading. With a cost of over a grand, it remains to be seen if this option is too expensive for police fleets. However, the new enhanced trailer technology will be welcomed with open arms. It includes a Trailer Length Indicator which is activated by turn signals. The Jack-Knife Alert tracks the position of the trailer in relation to the vehicle and alerts if in a potential jackknife situation.

One of the most exciting features of the new Silverado is their enhanced camera system, first available on 2020 models and now vastly improved. I'm sure that, while on lockdown, you saw the amazing Silverado commercials where trailers seem to disappear. I still don't understand the technology, but then I still don't understand how they put toothpaste in a tube, either.

For you techies, here are the components of this groundbreaking system. The

Cargo View Enhancement system consists of Cargo Bed Zoom View and Hitch Guidance for assistance in hooking up a trailer. The Rear Trailer View and Trailer-Angle Indicator aid in backing a trailer. Lastly, Rear Side View Enhancement provides a split view of a trailer and was previously only available when driving forward, but is now available in reverse. All of them combine to make a trailer seem to disappear into the scenery.

FCA US LLC (fcausfleet.com)

In our last issue, we explained that the Chrysler (FCA) merger with Peugeot (PSA) does not impact the Dodge or RAM® lines, as they remain standalone marques. Departments currently using Dodge and Durango Pursuits, or RAM SSVs, can breathe a sigh of relief because they will be able to maintain integrity in their fleets and seamlessly integrate the 2021 models.

By now, delivery of 2020 models on order have been completed and dealers are now taking orders for both Dodge Pursuits. Charger Pursuit production starts the fourth quarter of this year at the Brampton (Ontario) Assembly Plant, while Durango Pursuit production starts the first quarter of 2021 at their Jefferson

Street Assembly Plant (Detroit).

While the 2021 Charger and Durango external appearance is pretty much unchanged, there are more upgrades to both than you could easily count. Both are equipped with new transmissions and high-tech features designed for officer safety, vehicle responsiveness and fuel efficiency.

The 2021 Dodge Charger Pursuit now features the new TorqueFlite eight-speed transmission with both engine/drive choices, the 3.6L V-6 AWD and the 5.7L HEMI V-8 RWD which is controlled by a lever shifter mounted on the dash. The new powertrain combos meet or exceed the Charger Pursuit's previous performance profiles of acceleration, braking and handling. These improvements are also expected to increase fuel efficiency.

Other new standard features include a computer limited top speed setting of 140 mph with the ability for departments to configure and limit top speeds if needed. The new Chargers also feature H/D BR9 braking systems, electric power steering, Apple CarPlay®, Android Auto, and an increased gross vehicle rating of 5,500 pounds to accommodate additional payloads.

The Charger's standard officer security system is a comprehensive warning system which alerts them of movement

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outside a stationary vehicle. The system utilizes rear-facing sensors and cameras to warn officers by immediately sounding an alarm, activating emergency lights, locking doors, and closing windows, while images of the threat appear instantly on the touch screen.

Secure Park uses the transmission brake switch to prevent the transmission being shifted out of the park position, thereby preventing theft, while optional front door ballistic panels protect officers seated or outside when using the doors as shields.

The 2021 Durango Pursuit interior is comfortable and easily disinfected for COVID with police specific seats and vinyl floor mats. Officers are protected by seven standard air bags and will appreciate the new dash mounted shift lever which replaces the "dial-a-gear" rotary knob. The K-9 friendly three zone HVAC system is a great addition which will probably be appreciated by detainees, too.

The Durango features a standard Load-Leveling Suspension which maintains a constant 8.1" ride height and full wheel travel even under maximum load.

Ford Motor Company (fleet.ford.com)

As we reported earlier, COVID-19 caused factory closings and halted Interceptor Utility production; however, Ford kept one plant open to manufacture PPE, primarily ventilators.

With COVID a primary concern, Ford engineers developed a technique for the Interceptor Utilities to "self-disinfect" and neutralize the COVID-19 virus by using a new heat software solution which temporarily raises interior temperatures beyond 133 degrees for 15 minutes. Extensive tests have shown that the system killed 99% of the virus and, in some situations, heat can even be more effective than disinfectants because it reaches all touch points and has the ability to seep into crevices and hard to reach areas which might have been missed during manual cleaning. This solution is standard on the 2020/2021 Utilities and is available to retrofit 2013-2019 Utilities.

This system can disinfect vehicles prior to, or after, shifts, or any time they may have been contaminated, meaning that a vehicle doesn't have to be taken out of service (or relocated to a service facility) for a lengthy period.

A new option for the 2021 Utility frees up interior space for officers in the front seats. Utilizing a 12.1" Integrated Computer Screen (ICS) which is smartly stationed within easy reach (and clear view) at the top of the instrument panel center stack, departments can now stash their portable

computers out of the way and they can connect directly with the ICS system. The system is factory installed and factory warranted and potentially eliminates the need for a standalone keyboard.

Lastly, Ford has added a new exterior color to their PI Utility color choices. Black and white police cars have long represented law enforcement, but now Ford's crime fighting SUV can also be ordered in their popular Carbonized Gray hue which has proven to be the choice of 38% of new Ford buyers.



Avondale PD's mobile command center

LDV (ldvusa.com)

LDV is one of the leading manufacturers of specialized law enforcement vehicles, including command centers, SWAT, bomb disposal, and more. One of their most recent deliveries was a Mobile Command Center for the Avondale (AZ) Police Department. Built on a Freightliner M2 conventional cab chassis, Avondale PD's mobile command center is powered by a Cummins L9 diesel engine which produces 350 hp. The vehicle features four flat floor slide-outs for maximum interior workspace, extreme duty body storage compartments, a weatherproof exterior workstation complete with large display monitor, and more. The interior includes a front conference area with countertops and dual workstations. The front room features flip-down bench seating and the center of the truck houses the Intel-I-Touch™ vehicle automation touchscreen.

VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

These are the aftermarket items you can add to your fleet to make your officers' jobs easier, more efficient and safer.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING

CODE 3, Inc. (code3esg.com)

The newest lightbar on the market comes from a company which is no stranger to American cops, CODE 3, of St. Louis, MO. The latest addition to their lineup is the Covert™ lightbar, the latest Matrix® enabled lightbar, a thin, highly adaptable bar which measures a scant 1.6" high with dual or tri-color LED light heads. Thicker lenses

and stronger frames resist wear, tear and warping, extending the overall service life. In addition, a built-in photocell can be used to trigger dimming functionality, greatly improving visibility at night.

The Covert is available in nine lengths and five lens cover colors and allows any color combination of the light heads (red, blue, white, amber, or green) and limitless flash pattern combinations.



The new Golight GT Series remote controlled spotlights provide 370° rotation and 135° tilt.

Golight, Inc. (golight.com)

Golight, Inc. is a leading manufacturer of remote controlled spotlights, headquartered in Nebraska. Their lights are in use worldwide, including a great number of law enforcement agencies here in the US.

Their new Golight GT Series features wireless or hardwired remote control options; permanent or portable mounting; 370° rotation x 135° tilt; and is UV ray- and saltwater-resistant. The GT Series (halogen) has a light output of 225,000 candela and a max beam distance of 3,113 feet. The LED version has 544,000 candela and a max beam distance of 4,839 feet.

The new Stryker ST Series features a number of upgrades from the previous Stryker models, including a Multiple Unit Selector Function which allows for independent control of two units with one remote and a Home Position Function (on command return to 0° home).

SoundOff Signal (soundoffsignal.com)

New from SoundOff is their mpower® ORV Lights which illuminate with the industry's first silicone lens with a high-power hybrid optic. The output of the 6x1 inch high-power optic bar generates 4,147 (raw) lumens. The design of this new product delivers a much higher candela output with a smaller footprint and the higher UV and thermal stability helps to prevent the lens from yellowing over time. These new lights come in a 2x1 inch, 6x1 inch, or 2x1 inch dual stack configurations.



New from SoundOff Signal are their mpower® ORV Lights. This 6x1 inch high-power optic bar generates 4,147 lumens.

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 21



Hardwire's armor kits from Havis include an external door and window insert solution.

SECURITY

Vehicle and many equipment manufacturers share your concern about the war on American LE and are rapidly developing safety-related products. Both Dodge and Ford have added alert systems to their vehicles which warn of approaching individuals.

Havis, Inc.
(havis.com)

Havis has recently partnered with Hardwire to provide mission critical ballistic armor for public safety vehicles. 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 Level IIIA) or rifles (NIJ Level III).



The new Defend IR Security System supplements factory alarms and protects parked take-home units.

Jotto Desk
(jottopublicsafety.com)

Jotto Desk has released the Defend IR Security System explicitly designed for patrol vehicles. This is a console mounted

infrared system which fits Jotto's and most competitors' consoles, monitoring the interior of your vehicle. The Defend IR automatically arms upon the ignition being turned off and not seeing movement for an adjustable period of time. If movement is sensed, a countdown begins (adjustable to ten, 20, 30, or 40 seconds). It will then activate your lights and siren, alerting the officer and scaring off any potential criminal. In the case of an accidental alarm trip, simply start your vehicle and the Defend IR will disarm. It supplements factory alarms and protects parked take-home units.

Pro-gard™ Products, LLC
(pro-gard.com)

Pro-gard has developed the VIPER™ Shield Enhanced Space Saver Partition which provides protection outside the vehicle for the officer. Through the Shield Rapid Deployment System, a lightweight ballistic shield mounts to the backside of Pro-gard's partitions, creating a dedicated location which makes it easy to locate and deploy when the officer pulls the T-lever from the driver's seat. Once deployed, the officer can slip out from the cover of the door (if needed), open the rear door, grab the shield, and approach the scene with additional ballistic protection. These are available for Chevy Tahoes and Suburbans, Ford PI Utilities and Dodge Chargers.

Tremco Police Products
(tremcopoliceproducts.com)

Tremco Police Products is an industry leader in emergency vehicle protection. Their anti-theft system is inexpensive, easily installed and is activated every time the gearshift lever is placed in the park position. It protects parked vehicles, as well as vehicles which have to be left running at crime scenes, accidents or to protect prisoners and K-9s from excessive heat or cold.

STORAGE SOLUTIONS, MOUNTS AND MORE

CTech Manufacturing
(ctech.is)

CTech Manufacturing produces a wide variety of cabinets and drawers for public safety. CTech's lightweight aluminum line of CopBox Cabinets fit most cargo bay areas across a range of manufacturers and models. For fast installation, they offer a "QuickLink®" mounting solution which uses factory mount locations to secure storage boxes in place. Features exclusive to CTech include MotionLatch®, its one hand-one motion operation which allows easy access to storage areas while maintaining



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secure closure during transit, as well as the QuickLink Mounting System which allows easy cabinet transfers to other vehicles during upgrades/replacement. Cargo storage cabinets are available in three models: the Trooper, Metro, and Patrol Series.

Havis, Inc.
(havis.com)

Havis, Inc. proudly announced their Next Gen K-9 Transport designed to maximize comfort and space for police dogs in the PI Utility and other LE SUVs and trucks. It features a rattle eliminating design, a sliding front door (with numerous locking points), a low floor for ease of entry and egress, and a durable flat rubber mat. It is available in a black or white smooth powder coat finish on heavy-duty aluminum.

Jotto Desk
(jottopublicsafety.com)

Jotto Desk, a leading manufacturer of consoles, mounts and weapon racks, recently announced the Mamba Mount, the most deployable laptop mount on the market, designed with the bare minimum of action needed for an officer to utilize his/her laptop. It has five points of adjustment, including a 110° motion arm and a 90° adjustable tilt swivel assembly. The unique swivel/slide design allows you to position your laptop in three positions: Store and Drive, Park and Work and Tactically Safe which can be used while standing outside and behind the passenger door.

Kussmaul Electronics
(kussmaul.com)

Kussmaul Electronics has introduced the Dual Port USB-C and USB-A, available in two housings, SVR and NGR. The Dual Port USB-C and USB-A offer a quick and easy way to recharge electronic devices in a vehicle. They feature a 63 watt max output which allows the charging of two devices at the same time (USB-C, 45 watts and USB-A, 18 watts max) and are easily installed in 12V or 24V systems.

Lund Industries, Inc.
(lund-industries.com)

Lund Industries, Inc. has announced their new patented LOFT lineup of gun vaults which store weapons out-of-sight in an otherwise "unused space" and provide three levels of locks to secure weapons, plus an auto opening feature. Lund has single gun and dual gun mount designs as well as electronics storage, auto-opening gun storage, and storage for emergency medical/rescue devices. They now have units available for the 2021 Tahoe, as well as other SUVs.



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OPS Public Safety (opspublicsafety.com)

OPS Public Safety has launched their Secure Underseat Storage Units for the Ford F-150, Dodge RAM and GMC and Silverado trucks. These units come fully assembled in 16-gauge steel construction. They feature a dual lid operation for both driver and passenger access and have a lifetime warranty.

Printek®, LLC (printek.com)

Printek has printers for public safety applications. Their VehiclePro 420 eCitation Console Printer is a four inch thermal printer which mounts to a dashboard or console and has applications for citations, accident reports and more. Their Interceptor 820 is a fast and easy to use eight inch mobile printer which is compact, rugged, self-con-



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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 23



Setina Manufacturing has all of their police vehicle products available for the 2021 Chevy Tahoe.

tained, and features a drop-in paper roll. It also works with a multitude of eCitation software packages.

Pro-gard Products, LLC (pro-gard.com)

Pro-gard has a new Cargo Security Cover for the popular LE SUVs which conceals equipment, weapons, tools, and electronics. It can be used with or without a Pro-gard Cargo Barrier and provides additional mounting surfaces for gun racks, accessories and electronics.

Rockland Custom Products (rocklandcustomproducts.com)

Rockland Custom Products has recently introduced Raised Weapons Drawers for LE SUVs and pickups. They keep weapons secure and, when installed in SUV cargo areas with their exclusive Secure Cabinet Risers, they raise the unit 12" off the floor and allow full access to the factory spare tire. They are available with a variety of locks, handles and accessories.

Setina Manufacturing Co., Inc. (setina.com)

Founded in 1963, Setina Manufacturing is among the first push bar manufacturers in the United States. Setina has recently announced the availability of all their police vehicle products for the newly designed 2021 Chevy Tahoe. These include push bumpers, partitions, transport seating, firearms mounting equipment, window barriers, and more. Along with that, Setina also has their complete line of vehicle products available for the Ford Interceptor Utility and for both the Dodge Charger and Durango Pursuit vehicles. One of their newer offerings is a multi-tiered Cargo Box which provides a first-rate solution for trunk placement of supporting equipment. Manufactured with heavy-duty, lightweight aluminum, this 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.



TruckVault's new UAV Command Center is a secure in-vehicle storage solution for drones.

TruckVault, Inc. (truckvault.com)

TruckVault has developed the new UAV Command Center at the request of agencies which wanted a secure in-vehicle storage solution for drones, keeping them ready for quick deployment. The cabinet is designed with a variety of drawers for vented storage of the aircraft, batteries, monitors, cameras and other drone-related gear. They also offer a dedicated power source.

TruckVault has also developed the All-Weather Line of weatherproof storage units for LE pickups. The Line-X® coating and compression locks ensure that your gear stays dry and clean no matter the conditions.



Westin's new Push Bumper Elite is customizable for specific needs.

Westin® Public Safety Division (westinpublicsafety.com)

Westin's new Public Safety Push Bumper Elite is made of heavy-duty HRPO steel with four-gauge uprights featuring 2 3/4" wide rubber strips. A lower tube provides extra protection and strength. The Push Bumper Elite offers customization for specific needs and provides the best in strength, durability and protection. The Push Bumper Elite front-end protection unit is available in solid (no light openings), as well as two, three or four light options. The unit comes pre-drilled for side mounting LED lights, as well as for Elite Wing Wraps (sold separately) and PIT Bars (also sold separately). **P&SN**

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

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RESCUE ESSENTIALS

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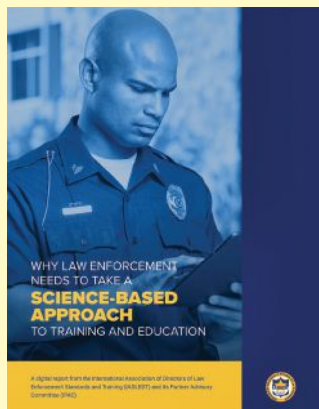
The **TACOPS™ Vehicle Trauma Kit (VTK)** was designed and equipped to fulfill a US federal agency contract providing over 800 kits containing specific medical items for use by its staff in remote areas. The **TACOPS VTK** bag features two 6" x 12" vinyl pouches and one 12" x 12" vinyl pouch, and contains over 75 individual items. Included in the trauma kit are abdominal pads; an elasticized pressure bandage; QuikClot® Combat Gauze®; compressed gauze; a CAT tourniquet; Nitrile gloves; face masks with an eye splash shield; and much more. Custom loadouts are also available.

tssi-ops.com

NEWS

New Report Available – Science-based Law Enforcement Training

Why Law Enforcement Needs to Take a Science-based Approach to Training and Education, a new report published by the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST)



and the IADLEST Partner Advisory Committee (IPAC), serves as a reference point for chiefs, sheriffs, mayors, risk managers, Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) directors, training academy directors, and all those who have an investment in police training and education. Topics covered in the report include evidence-based training; the science of human performance and skills development; sustaining a science-based approach; enhancing online learning; and measuring performance outcomes.

To download a digital copy of the report, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y2nazjkc>

Online Training Course

Sponsored by the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC), the virtual and self-paced training course, “Telecommunications Best Practices for Missing and Abducted Children,” provides law enforcement telecommunications personnel with information and resources to promote swift and effective responses to incidents of endangered missing and abducted children. Learn about the scope, scale, and nature of the problem; best practices; and protocols for telecommunications responses. Participants will also review important National Crime Information Center (NCIC) record entry and data management considerations for the communications center.

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RESCUE ESSENTIALS



Everything You Need to Know About Empty Hands Knife Defense

RALPH MROZ

Many officers believe that, since they carry a sidearm, pepper spray, baton, or a TASER®, they are adequately prepared to defend themselves during an edged weapon attack.

Those of us who were in law enforcement back in 1988 can remember Caliber Press' excellent training video, "Surviving Edged Weapons." At the time, it was a real eye-opener, one which popularized the "21 foot drill," or the Tueller Drill. This was the concept put forth by Dennis Tueller, a sergeant and trainer for the Salt Lake City PD, in which he sought to determine how quickly an attacker with a knife could cover distance. It was determined that, on average, an attacker could cover 21 feet in only 1.5 seconds. Furthermore, it was also determined that it took longer than 1.5 seconds for most officers to unholster their weapon, raise their firearms, point or aim, and shoot. Although many at the time were quick to point out that typical interactions between citizens and officers spaced 21 feet apart were unrealistic, the reaction to this training video started discussions within training circles about situational awareness, body movement and other related topics. In fact, "Surviving Edged Weapons" can still be viewed on YouTube through the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/y2x39n4v>

Fast forward to today. There is still a great deal of stupid/dangerous stuff out there being taught for empty hands knife defense. Prime examples include all manner of "strips" and the ubiquitous block and simultaneous counterattack. Feel free to try any of these techniques with a rubber knife and a very uncooperative partner who is really trying to "hurt" you. They don't work. Perfect examples of these deficient techniques can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y4hexgvm> and <https://tinyurl.com/y33ywqbs>

Almost everything you need to know about defending against a knife when time does not allow you to draw your side arm and neutralize the threat is as follows:

- The knifer has all the advantage because of the knife and his knife is your **only** concern. Don't worry about anything else

until you neutralize that threat because that will kill you first and fastest.

- You neutralize the knife threat by **momentarily** stopping the knife attack and then **putting down the man behind the knife**. You can't try and remove the knife from the equation – the threat comes from the man.
- You momentarily stop the knife by grabbing the knife arm with **both** of your hands because the knife has such an advantage that it can't be controlled with only one of your hands.
- Use the mere couple of seconds when you have the knife arm controlled to inflict ferocious damage on the knifer with your other weapons: your feet, head and body. Do not release your two-handed grip until you've diminished your attacker.

This takes a *lot* of skill. Empty hand knife defense is in fact the most difficult problem in martial arts. It is very difficult and the odds are against you. However, nothing else works and you can easily prove this by gearing up and going full force and full speed with a dummy knife.

There are some excellent instructors out there teaching this one workable approach...and far too many still ripping off students with the other stuff mentioned above. **P&SN**

Ralph Mroz was a police officer (part-time) in Massachusetts for 20 years, seven of which he was assigned to his county's drug task force. He has taught at a number of national, regional and international law enforcement conferences. Ralph now has three new books available on Amazon: Street Focused Handgun Training (Volumes 1, 2 and 3), as well as two newly republished books: Defensive Shooting for Real-Life Encounters, and Tactical Defensive Training for Real-Life Encounters, which are also available on Amazon.

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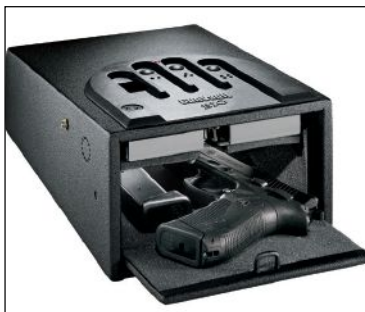
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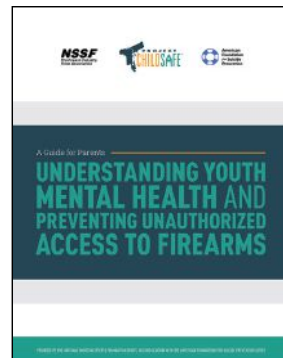
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COMPETITIVE SHOOTING CAN GIVE OFFICERS AN EDGE

TODD FLETCHER

As iron sharpens iron, competitive shooting sports can help officers sharpen their firearms skills.

Practical shooting sports evolved from groups of law enforcement officers, military people and private citizens looking for ways to improve on the techniques, training and equipment of the day. Competitions evolved to test what had been learned and quickly became matches requiring competitors to deal with constantly changing scenarios while

shooting rapidly and accurately.

Many of the advances in firearms and firearm accessories can be traced back to competitive shooting. Optics on carbines and handguns, as well as holster designs, can trace their roots back to various shooting sports. Similarly, numerous features found on today's firearms are direct descendants of custom touches added by

competitive shooters seeking to gain an advantage. Moving and falling targets, shooting on the move, shooting from cover, reloads, and many other things we take for granted on the range today were all derived from those early matches.

Many law enforcement officers who prevailed on the street were able to test and polish their skills on the competitive range. The late Jim Cirillo, a member of the New York City Police Department Stakeout Squad, was a veteran of over a dozen gunfights. In his book, *Guns, Bullets and Gunfights*, Cirillo explained why men who had performed well in the competition shooting arena were sought after by the renowned NYPD Stakeout Squad: They were already accustomed to shooting accurately under pressure. Based partly on performance on demand under pressure, Cirillo became a fan of practical pistol competition.

What's in It for Me?

When you attend your first shooting match, do not expect to win. Don't even expect to be one of the best shooters. Set your ego aside. First, learn the rules and how to shoot the courses of fire safely. Far too many law enforcement officers stay away from competitive shooting be-

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COMPETITIVE SHOOTING CAN GIVE OFFICERS AN EDGE

Continued from page 32



Texas Department of Public Safety Ranger Trace McDonald believes one of the benefits of competitive shooting is that it puts you in some awkward shooting conditions which could benefit officers during a real-world fight.

cause they let their egos get in the way. Texas Department of Public Safety Ranger Trace McDonald has been shooting competitively since 2007. He suggests that new shooters find a local club and bring a friend for support. He believes regular participants of competitive shooting matches will outshoot most law enforcement officers when they begin competition shooting.

I've also heard some officers say, "Competitive shooting will get you killed!" Most who say this have never shot a match be-

fore and have no idea what they're talking about. Competitive shooting isn't training. Instead, it's an opportunity to practice old skills and develop new skills in a safe environment. It's not designed to teach you tactics, but it will definitely help you develop better firearms skills. Competition is a test which will show both your strengths and weaknesses. Those weaknesses are the same ones you are going to have on the street. Competition shooting will show you what you need to improve and gives you the opportunity to practice while having a good time.

Another reason to try competitive shooting is that it provides a place to work on skills under stress. It may not be the same life-threatening combat stress you may encounter on the street, but neither competitive shooting nor force-on-force training includes an expectation of death or serious injury if you fail to perform better than your adversary. However, match shooting requires that you shoot on demand, without a warm-up, under time duress, on the clock, and in front of other shooters and spectators. This adds stress to your performance and can benefit you when there's actually a risk of death or serious injury. Ranger Trace McDonald sums it up nicely, "The stress of

shooting on a timer, and from awkward positions, can help prepare you for real-world encounters." A side benefit for firearms instructors is that this will help them become more comfortable performing demonstrations in front of students.

What's the Commitment?

The amount of time and money needed to compete is shooter dependent. As a law enforcement officer, you already have all the equipment you need to get started. A quality holster, magazines, magazine pouches, eye and ear protection, and a duty pistol are all you need to hit the range. On the other end of the spectrum, you can spend a lot of money buying "race" guns and other specialized equipment. Again, it all depends on your personal goals.

The same is true of the time commitment. Depending on your location, you may have the opportunity to participate in one match per month or you may have the chance to shoot multiple matches each week. Most club level matches take about three to four hours, but major matches can take up to two days. Let's say you shoot one club level match each month for one year. This translates to an additional 36-48 hours of range time annually. While you



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may only be shooting for a small portion of that time, you are (hopefully) watching and learning from other shooters during the entire time.

Where Do You Start?

There are many different forms of competitive shooting. As a result, there's something for everyone. So, whether your tastes run towards Cowboy Action Shooting™ or precision rifle, you will find something which suits your needs and interests. Even GLOCK® has gotten into the mix with the GLOCK Shooting Sports Foundation (GSSF) (gssfonline.com). For most people, competitive shooting is pure sport conducted with little thought to the self-defense aspect of firearms use. However, the different competitive shooting sports will help officers improve the skills they need to prevail in a gunfight.

For law enforcement officers, three of the most popular shooting sports offer a safe shooting environment where all skill levels can improve their abilities in a competitive environment. In no particular order, the three most popular shooting sports include the United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA), the International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) and

3-Gun. Let's take a little closer look at what makes these sports different and how they can help you as a law enforcement officer.

USPSA

The United States Practical Shooting Association is the national governing body of practical shooting in the United States under the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC). There are over 31,000 active members and over 440 clubs making USPSA the largest practical shooting organization in the United States.

In all practical shooting competitions, the elements of shooting rapidly and accurately are important. However, depending on how different courses of fire are scored, one of these elements may be slightly more important than the other. In USPSA shooting, accuracy is very important, but shooters must balance speed with their ability to make accurate shots. The time it takes to complete a course of fire is important when shooting these matches.

USPSA shooting includes something for everyone. If you're interested in competing with your duty gun, then Production Division is a great place to start. If you're interested in running the latest and greatest high-tech equipment, then Open Divi-



Competitive shooting can test all the skills you may need to prevail on the street, including reloading on the move, one-handed shooting and shooting from cover.

sion is home to the race guns. There's also a place for everything in-between, so no one should feel like they have to spend a lot of money to have a great experience shooting a USPSA match.

USPSA rules are mostly focused on safety and ensuring competitive balance within different divisions. The stages of fire in a typical USPSA match are focused on accuracy, speed and solving technical problems. Competitors try to figure out the fastest way to shoot a stage accurately. This takes practice to figure out when to shoot each target; when and where to conduct reloads; and how to move through the stage in the most efficient manner. This kind

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WHEN SAFETY MATTERS



Shooting Steel – Up Close and Safe

TODD FLETCHER

For years, firearms instructors and officers have enjoyed the benefits of training with steel targets. The immediate feedback from steel indicates the successful application of marksmanship and it is one of the best features of training with steel targets.

However, it doesn't take long to figure out that a disadvantage of training with steel targets is that bullet splatter can come back towards the shooter, potentially causing discomfort or injury. The Fragshield, from Take Aim Targets, can reduce bullet splatter resulting in a safer environment.

Take Aim Targets sent me a Fragshield fitted to an IPSC Contender target. It's the size of the IPSC B/C zone target which eliminates peripheral hits. This torso shaped target is 9" wide and 20" tall.

In another box, I found a Take Aim Targets Deluxe Swivel Mount, the Hostile Adaptor Target, and their smartly designed 29" Deluxe Transformer Base. The Deluxe Swivel Mount and Hostile Adaptor Target mount on the back of the IPSC Contender and provide a hostage-type target to diversify your training opportunities. The 29" Deluxe Transformer Base is a great addition. This base holds the wooden two-by-four for the target and is a fully functional portable target stand holding target backers of either 18" or 24". This is a portable target stand capable of performing many functions. It's truly a wonder of engineering. The legs detach with a quick pull of a pin and lock up under the target stand for a portable and compact unit.

Now to the Fragshield. The Fragshield is a patent-pending elastomeric material which can be bolted to the face of any target. The Fragshield is designed to reduce the likelihood and amount of bullet splatter coming off the face of a steel target and back towards the shooter. As the bullet penetrates through the Fragshield and strikes the target face, the fragmentation is safely deflected away from the shooter. Take Aim Targets said this is especially important for those shooters who like to shoot their steel closer than recommended safety distances.

Dan Parker from Take Aim Targets told me that all of the AR500 steel used to manufacture their targets is sourced from the USA. He sent me an actual steel test certificate showing the steel they use has a Brinell hardness of between 492 and 503. Do your own Internet search and see for yourself what is recommended by the "experts." What you'll find is that high quality steel target manufacturers use AR500 steel with a Brinell hardness rating of at least 450.

Dan told me the idea for the Fragshield was born when people repeatedly



asked about ricochets and splash back from shooting steel targets. He said that they have tested the Fragshield through several thousand rounds of ammunition and it keeps working as designed. The elastomeric material holds its shape well and creates a tight seal around the bullet hole preventing fragmentation and splash back. Using full metal jacket rounds extends the life of the Fragshield compared to using hollow point duty rounds, but the Fragshield has proven itself to be durable and resistant to high round counts.

As someone who owns a lot of steel targets from a variety of manufacturers, I asked if the Take Aim Targets Fragshield could be ordered to fit steel targets from other manufacturers. Dan told me that the Fragshield could be custom cut to fit any steel target. All they need to know is the dimensions and mounting of the target to be used and Take Aim Targets can custom cut a Fragshield to fit your target.

By this point, I was itching to get out on the range to test the Fragshield to see if it really was all Dan claimed. After putting a couple hundred rounds on these products, I can say it worked exactly as advertised.

The IPSC Contender target moves nicely when struck by rounds so shooters see a reaction to well-placed shots. The 29" Deluxe Transformer Base kept the

target planted to the ground and worked extremely well.

The Fragshield did a remarkable job controlling bullet splatter. I placed a large piece of cardboard beneath the IPSC Contender target to see how much struck

the ground between the target and the shooter. I was amazed at how well the Fragshield kept the bullet splatter away from the shooter. It slowed the splatter so much that there were very few holes in the cardboard under the target caused by full metal jacket bullets coming apart after striking the steel. The Fragshield did slightly lessen the audible tone of hitting the steel, but it didn't keep the target from reacting to bullet strikes.

I shot the Fragshield closer than I would ever use it during a class and I was still completely free of any bullet splatter. I don't recommend doing this same experiment, but I wanted to really test the Fragshield to see if I could recommend it. It really is a safer way to shoot steel targets. If I was a regular user of an indoor range, or a range with a hard concrete or asphalt deck, and wanted to utilize steel targets, then the Fragshield would be a mandatory accessory. This will keep your range safe, your shooters safe and your training environment free of unwanted distractions.

For more information, check out what Take Aim Targets has to offer at TakeAimTargets.com

COMPETITIVE SHOOTING CAN GIVE OFFICERS AN EDGE

Continued from page 35



Performing on demand, without a warm-up, on the clock, and in front of other shooters can help officers perform when it matters most.

of movement is very good for officers since a lot of shooting in a USPSA match is done on the move or after dynamic movement.

For more information on USPSA clubs, events and membership, go to uspsa.org

IDPA

International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) matches are meant to simulate self-defense and real-life encounters. The organization has more than 25,000 members in over 70 countries. IDPA prides itself on the use of practical equipment, including full power service ammunition, to solve simulated self-defense scenarios using practical handguns and holsters suitable for self-defense use.

Prior to IDPA, there was no place to compete with your concealed carry handgun and holster without being at a competitive disadvantage. While some of the other shooting sports have become equipment races, IDPA has fairly strict equipment rules to help level the competitive field. One advantage to IDPA matches is that sworn law enforcement officers can be competitive using their duty gear. There are no "race guns" or holsters allowed in IDPA. Different types of firearms are placed into different divisions based on their design. IDPA divisions include Custom Defensive Pistol, Enhanced Service Pistol, Stock Service Pistol, Compact Carry Pistol, Carry Optic, Revolver, Back-Up Gun, and Pistol Caliber Carbine.

In order to further level the playing field, IDPA competitors are divided into classifications within each division based upon their skill level. Each year, IDPA competitors shoot the classifier course which is similar to a law enforcement qualification course. Based on the shooter's score, they are assigned a skill classification of novice, marksman, sharpshooter, expert, or master. The different divisions and classifications within IDPA ensure everyone is competing with shooters of similar ability.

The scoring system used in IDPA matches rewards accurate shooting. For

each shot outside the center mass scoring area, time penalties of one, three or five seconds are assessed. So, even though speed is important just like in a USPSA match, the penalties for not making center mass hits is greater. Additionally, since IDPA is meant to simulate self-defense scenarios, penalty time is assessed for not using cover correctly or not engaging the nearest threat first.

For more information on USPSA clubs, events and membership, go to idpa.com

3-Gun

3-Gun matches are the fastest growing segment of competitive shooting. 3-Gun is a generic name used to describe shooting competitions in which participants use handguns, carbines and shotguns to engage targets from a variety of shooting positions. Each stage in a match requires the shooter to use a different firearm and to transition between them. There are a number of sanctioning bodies and clubs running 3-Gun matches, including USPSA, 3-Gun Nation, the National Rifle Association (NRA), International Multi-Gun Association (IMA), and the United Multi-Gun League (UML). Each of these have slightly different rules and divisions, but the nature of the events is basically the same. Just like USPSA and IDPA matches, the equipment rules vary by division and include options for everyday firearms, as well as "anything goes" Open and Open Outlaw divisions.

In a typical 3-Gun match, shooters will engage a variety of targets, including clay pigeons, cardboard silhouettes and steel targets of multiple shapes and sizes. Target distances usually depend on which weapon system the shooter is expected to use and may be from contact distance to over 400 yards. Each stage will test a shooter's ability to reload each weapon system, transition between firearms, and engage multiple targets with multiple rounds. Some

people have described shooting 3-Gun matches as a drag race with multiple firearms.

It's a Process

I've been shooting competitively for about 16 years and I was amazed at how much my skills improved in the first year. The more matches I attend, the more I realize that mastery is a journey. Competitive shooting is a learning process. Find a local club, take a friend and take the plunge into the competition arena. Check your ego at the door and don't be afraid to ask questions. Take it easy until you learn the game. It's a great way to improve your skills, meet new people and have a lot of fun. **P&SN**

Todd Fletcher has over 25 years of law enforcement experience, with assignments to patrol, criminal investigations and training. He has presented instructor development training nationwide and at multiple regional, national and international conferences. He owns Combative Firearms Training, LLC which provides firearms training and instructor development classes to law enforcement, military, private security, and armed citizens. He can be contacted at todd@combativefirearms.com.

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A Critical Look at Police Pistol Cartridges

Since the early part of the 20th century, the quest for the ultimate law enforcement handgun cartridge has generated all sorts of debates.

Mike Boyle

For the better part of that time, the .38 Special reigned supreme and it wasn't until the wholesale switch away from revolvers to semiautomatic pistols that the picture began to change. By the late 1980s, departments all over the country were transitioning to autopistols and, more often than not, they were chambered for the 9mm Parabellum.

Although autopistols had been on the scene for many years, American law enforcement was slow to embrace them. Much of it had to do with the fact that they weren't especially reliable, especially when fed a diet of hollow point ammunition. The turning point occurred when the US Armed Forces began searching for a 9mm pistol to replace the 1911 and began a process of reviewing more modern designs. Securing this bid would be a windfall and the world's major handgun manufacturers rose to the challenge and came up with some very reliable designs to submit for the trials. Just about all of them were equipped with a double-action trigger system and magazine capacity twice that of the 1911. In the end, Beretta secured the contract with their Model 92 (M9) which served for over 30 years.

In fairly short order, there was a wide selection of reliable, self-loading pistols available and they immediately captured the attention of the law enforcement and commercial markets. The vast majority were chambered for the 9mm, a mid-bore cartridge with power levels similar to the .38 Special.

On April 11, 1986, an event occurred which forever changed the police perspective on ammunition and handguns. In Dade County, Florida, seven FBI agents went up against a pair of hardcore bank robbers in a gunfight which lasted several minutes. In the end, two agents were killed, four were wounded and both criminals were killed. In the aftermath, it was determined that one of the criminals took a hit to the chest early in the gunfight which caused a nonsurvivable wound. Unfortunately, it did not cause instantaneous incapacitation. Had the bullet penetrated just a bit deeper on this cross



torso shot, more than likely it would have resulted in a quicker stop which would have averted much of this tragedy.

More Is Better

In their assessment of the Dade County shootout, the FBI identified the lack of penetration of a Winchester® 115-grain hollow point as a contributing factor in the failure to bring this conflict to a quick resolution. There, of course, are other factors which came into play, but the Bureau soon dedicated a great deal of their resources to coming up with the ideal law enforcement cartridge and handgun. Over the next several years, the FBI conducted extensive testing on the available handgun cartridges. Their test protocol involved firing rounds into calibrated 10% ballistic gelatin to test for penetration and expansion. Rounds were fired into bare gelatin and through barriers common in police action shootings, such as heavy clothing, windshield glass and sheet metal, and into the gelatin to assess performance. Expansion and penetration between 12 and 18 inches was considered optimum.

To cut right to the chase, there wasn't a great deal of ammunition available 30 years ago which met the FBI standard, but that began to change. The ammunition manufacturers were soon turning out premium quality loads to meet the challenge and today's offerings represent a quantum leap in performance over what was available in the past.

There is absolutely no question that the FBI has a great deal of influence on American law enforcement agencies. Most of us were more than a bit surprised when the FBI selected a mid-range 10mm load along with the S&W 1076 pistol for general issue to their agents. Overnight, the concept of "bigger is better" had taken hold and many outfits began to second-guess the capabilities of their 9mm pistols. In 1990, the picture became even more complicated with the introduction of the .40 S&W cartridge which duplicated the performance of the mid-range 10mm. The factor which put the .40 S&W over the top was the fact

that it could be chambered in a 9mm size platform, unlike the 10mm which requires a larger frame.

There were still quite a few agencies out there which couldn't see the point of reinventing the wheel and felt a .45 ACP pistol was still the way to go. The true believers of the FBI test protocol were quick to note that the better .45 ACP loads were right at the top of the heap and we were clearly in the "bigger is better" era. Over the next few years, law enforcement agencies began swapping out their 9mm pistols for copies in .40 S&W and .45 ACP. The odd thing about it was the fact that it had very little to do with street performance.

A Reversal of Fortune

Just when you thought the 9mm was headed for the scrap pile, the tide began to turn as a number of factors came into play. As indicated earlier, .40 S&W pistols are essentially 9mm designs with a bigger hole in the end of the barrel. That may sound all well and good on the surface, but when you are firing a fairly intense, high pressure cartridge with a heavier bullet, things are going to break. And they did! Many of the first generation .40s turned out to be absolute train wrecks, while their identical size 9mm cousins ran like tops. I would submit that the manufacturers finally got the bugs worked out and today's .40 S&Ws are pretty solid performers. But, service life will never be as long as an identical size 9mm.

Quite frankly, I have lost track of the various "ammo shortages" we have suffered over the last dozen years or so, but, rest assured, when demand returns to normal, there will be a significant price increase. This may not be a big deal for the individual officer buying a box or two, but it is a very big deal for departments which buy tens of thousands of rounds. Locally, the price for .40 S&W and .45 ACP was roughly 30% higher than 9mm.

One thing there is absolutely no getting away from is the fact that the bigger bores have a greater recoil impulse and more pronounced muzzle flip. For the gun guys and



The 9mm might still be the best choice for officers of different skill levels, sizes and aptitudes.

girls, this is not an issue. But, exactly what percentage of your officers are committed shooters? I daresay, most cops only go to the range when they are paid to do so. Even the less committed shooters will still be able to qualify on a slow-paced course of fire, but I would submit that only represents part of the picture. Can they efficiently control that pistol when shooting at “game speed” in a real-world confrontation? And, what about challenged shooters who, time after time, barely squeak by? For many, there may in fact be some significant benefits to shooting a user-friendly cartridge such as the 9mm Parabellum.

Back to the Future

Let's fast-forward to the present time. Two decades ago, the .40 S&W was the most popular cartridge used by police. Just about

all of the 14 or so local agencies which used my range were carrying .40 caliber pistols, as were many of the federal agencies. But, today, the 9mm is once again king of the hill. So exactly what brought about this 180 degree turn?

The resurgence of the 9mm came about largely because of a combination of the factors outlined earlier. Without question, running the .40 S&W cartridge in a 9mm size pistol will accelerate wear and shorten service life. Exactly how much is open to suggestion, but I suspect that increased wear will be significant. On the other hand, most cops simply don't shoot their pistols enough for that to be an issue. If you only fire a couple hundred rounds a year, that pistol may last an entire career.

We would be naïve to think that cost doesn't enter into the picture. Pistols chambered for 9mm and .40 S&W generally command the same price. When you consider tight training budgets, the 9mm starts to make more sense and literally gives you more bang for the buck.

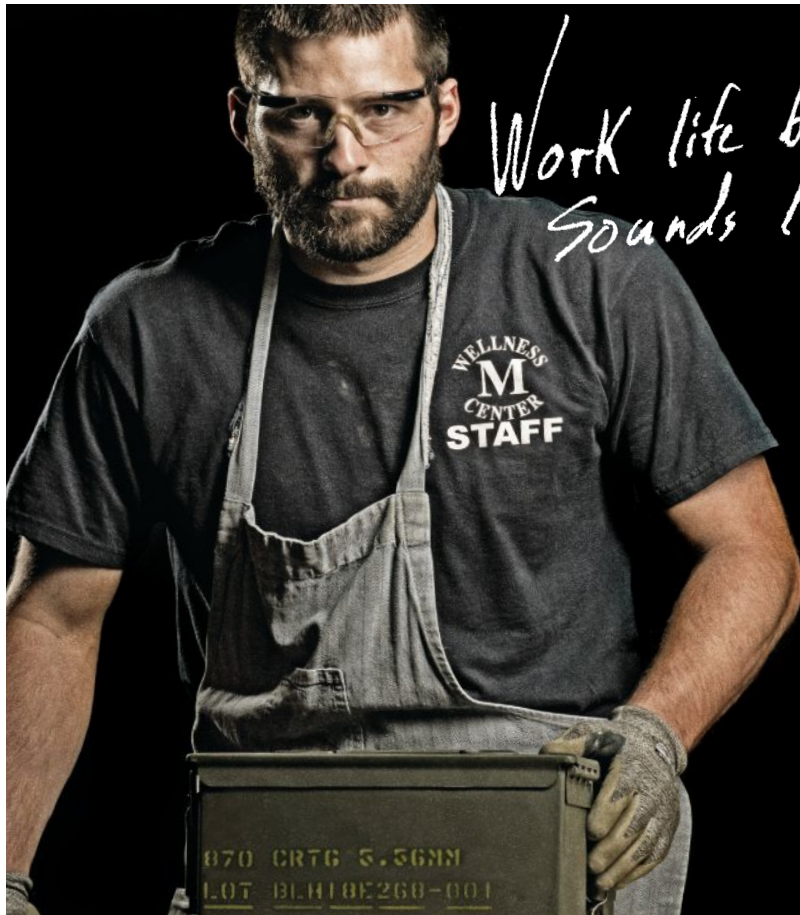
Like many agencies, the FBI settled on the .40 S&W back in the 1990s. Unlike smaller departments, the FBI has the resources to conduct extensive studies on firearms, ammunition and human performance. We may not always agree with the

results, but the Bureau typically gets all their ducks in a row before stating their case.

A few years back, the FBI began evaluating shooter performance with pistols chambered for 9mm and .40 S&W. What they discovered was that shooters of average ability were able to shoot the 9mm copy significantly better than a .40. They did acknowledge that the .40 S&W cartridge still holds a slight advantage in terminal performance, but this is largely overshadowed by the fact that the shooters performed to a higher standard with the 9mm pistol. Improved ammunition capabilities in 9mm also narrowed the performance gap.



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A CRITICAL LOOK AT POLICE PISTOL CARTRIDGES

Continued from page 39



Shot spread wasn't much different between 9mm and .45 ACP. However, the 9mm had the edge when firing at game speed.

One can't help noting that, in the not so distant past, the FBI was telling us to go big. But much has changed in the last 30 years. Since the original FBI test protocol, handgun ammunition performance has increased by leaps and bounds. Premium loads such as Federal HST, Hornady® Critical Duty®, Remington® Golden Saber®, Speer Gold Dot®, and Winchester Ranger® SXT® strike an ideal balance between penetration and expansion – even when fired through barriers common in police action shootings. Quite frankly, there is nothing out there now, or in the foreseeable future,

which will stop an armed assailant with a single hit, but terminal performance is just about as good as it can get.

Weird Science

I own pistols chambered for 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP and have shot them quite a bit. Like many baby boomers, I grew up with the notion that bigger was indeed better and this thought process carried over to firearms. Personally, I never felt that the .40 S&W or .45 ACP were hard kickers and certainly more pleasant to shoot than my old .357 Magnum service revolver. However, I did discover that those larger caliber pistols had a cumulative effect when you fired several hundred rounds in a single session.

When firing some of the dynamic drills in our training, I also noted my elapsed times with my .40 caliber pistol was just a tad or two slower than when firing the same drill with a 9mm. These drills consist of a relatively modest round count and emphasize striking a balance between speed and practical accuracy. Depending on the scenario, more than one target might be utilized and may be obstructed or moving. Targets are set at relatively short range. No matter how hard I bear down, I always seem to run the 9mm pistol faster.

In an attempt to quantify this, I conducted a simple test. Three service-size pistols were used, including a GLOCK® 17 9mm, a GLOCK 22 .40 S&W and a GLOCK 21 .45 ACP. All of the pistols sported high visibility aftermarket sights and Ghost Inc. five pound connectors. Service quality ammunition was used throughout the test and consisted of Federal 9mm 124-grain HST, Federal .40 S&W 180-grain HST, and Black Hills Ammunition .45 ACP JHP.

Five repetitions of three different exercises were performed with each pistol and firing was done from a low ready, muzzle depressed position to eliminate holster bias. An electronic shot timer was used to start each firing sequence and no “warm-ups” were allowed. Pistols were fired in a random order to avoid stacking the deck.

The drills used were as follows:

- Phase One: three yards – two shots in one second using strong hand only
- Phase Two: five yards – three shots in 1.5 seconds using two hands
- Phase Three: seven yards – four shots in two seconds using two hands

Forty shots were fired from each pistol and I was able to make the par times by a comfortable margin. The name of the game



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was to place all hits inside the A zone of an IPSC. The A zone may not be anatomically correct, but it's smaller than the high value area of most police targets. I wish I could report that I scored an A zone hit with every shot fired, but that wasn't the case. Oddly enough, I scored the highest point value (596 out of a possible 600 points) with the .45 ACP pistol, but posted the slowest overall time. Performance with the .40 S&W pistol was very close to the .45 ACP. Much to my chagrin, my point total with the 9mm pistol was the worst with 589 points, although I posted the fastest total elapsed time.

What does all this mean? As I suspected, the light kicking 9mm is easier to control when firing at speed. My less than stellar performance with the 9mm can probably be attributed to overconfidence and the results may be slightly different if I repeated the test on a different day. I may have lost a step or two over the years, but I probably shoot a pistol more than most. With an infrequent shooter, the performance disparity between the 9mm and big bore pistols would probably be greater.

Déjà Vu

A good argument can be made that the 9mm Parabellum is still the best pistol car-



The .40 S&W pushes a little more than a 9mm when fired in a like-size pistol. Serious shooters will not be adversely impacted, but infrequent shooters may find it more difficult to manage. Performance was very good in our informal test.

tridge for the law enforcement professional. The law enforcement workplace has grown more diverse in recent years and this moderate recoiling cartridge will prove much easier to manage for shooters of every skill level.

Both the .40 S&W and .45 ACP cartridges remain viable choices and, if truth be told, I'm not down on either one. There is just no getting around the fact that they buck in the hand just a little more, but that may not be a factor for a great many officers. However, when outfitting large numbers of officers of different sizes, skill levels

and aptitudes, the 9mm is the clear choice.

Cartridges such as the 10mm, .357 SIG, and .45 GAP all had their ten minutes of fame, but have pretty much vanished from the law enforcement scene. At the 2020 SHOT Show®, I couldn't help but note that many of the new variations in autopistols were only offered in 9mm with no .40 S&W variants being made. Before the recent panic buying of firearms, the used gun market was awash with used police .40 caliber pistols. That pretty much tells us where we are headed. The fact that the 9mm boasts a larger onboard ammunition capacity, is cheaper to run, and allows shooters to perform to the best of their abilities has sealed the deal. **P&SN**

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

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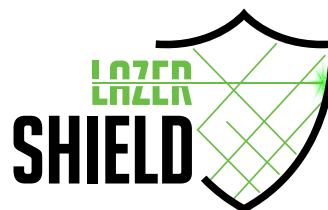


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Evaluating the Peacekeeper Rapid Containment Baton

MIKE BOYLE

Like many individuals who have been around the game for a while, I have trained with or carried a multitude of intermediate force options including Mace®, OC spray, different types of batons, and a conducted energy device.

One common quality is that all of these tools were promoted as being able to quickly shut down the aggressive behavior of a determined adversary. Under optimum conditions that may be true, but a harsh reality is that there is no handheld weapon, including a firearm, which is going to be effective 100% of the time. Circumstances beyond our control – such as environmental conditions, proximity and a wide range of subject factors such as skill, size and mental state of the subject – enter into the equation and that tool which worked great in training often comes up short.

Perhaps it's my old school mentality, but I have long been partial to impact weapons. Batons don't require a battery, are not deflected by the wind, and are not likely to contaminate bystanders. A baton can be a multipurpose tool and can be used to block incoming blows from an adversary, strike or to control and restrain. Unfortunately, impact weapons suffer from an image problem and, in many quarters, have fallen from favor. That is most unfortunate because, in trained hands, a baton is an extremely versatile and effective force option.

Many years ago, I was given some rudimentary instruction on the straight baton at the police academy. Training was cursory at best and, as a result, I wasn't especially confident in the baton and seldom carried it. In the early 1980s, I be-

came familiar with the PR-24 side handle baton and attended a very comprehensive instructor training course. I became a true believer and made it a point to slip it into the ring whenever I stepped away from my patrol vehicle. Some of my peers were less enamored with the PR-24 and never carried or practiced with it. This was evident when I provided their annual recertification training. Expandable straight batons soon worked their way into the mix because it was a tool which would always be carried on the belt and, unlike the PR-24, many of the techniques were intuitive.

I, too, bought into the concept of the expandable baton, but there was a fly in the ointment. For one, I quickly came to the conclusion that they weren't especially durable. In very short order, I bent my first example during a training session and this was hardly an isolated incident. Additionally, I didn't feel it delivered the same level of power as my PR-24 and, in a worst-case scenario, would prove ineffective against a determined adversary. The idea of having an impact weapon readily available was great, but the design was flawed.

Recently, I had the opportunity to review the Peacekeeper Rapid Containment Baton (RCB) which addresses many of my concerns. If I could use just one word to describe the Peacekeeper RCB, it would be "formidable" and it is indeed the .45 ACP of expandable batons. Circumfer-

ence of the grip is similar to that of a fixed straight baton and the gripping surface is rendered from Santoprene™ rubber. The telescopic tubes are beefier, are machined (as opposed to swaged) and are of equal thickness through the entire length. This



The Secure-Lock Rotational Holster can be adjusted for a 30, 60 or 90 degree carry. A fully extended baton may be returned to the holster.

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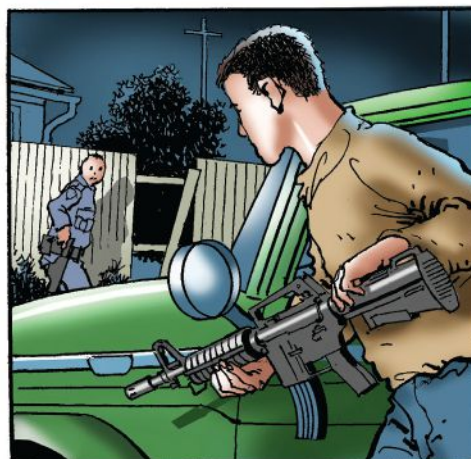
ARTWORK
BY
DON LOMAX

BREVARD COUNTY, FL
JUNE 4, 2019
8:30 PM

ANSWERING A DISTURBANCE CALL FROM A RESIDENT ON AVENIDA DE LA VISTA, BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPUTY, PAUL PHILLIPS, APPROACHED TWO VERBAL COMBATANTS RAGING AT EACH OTHER CONCERNING THE COMPLAINANT’S FEEDING OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD’S FERAL CAT POPULATION.

DEPUTY PHILLIPS SEPARATED THE PAIR AND BEGAN TO INTERVIEW THE ORIGINAL COMPLAINANT. THE MORE ANIMATED OF THE PAIR, LATER TO BE IDENTIFIED AS 45-YEAR-OLD, ERIK GEBAUER, THE LOCAL TROUBLE-MAKER AND GENERAL SCOFFLAW, SLUNK OFF TO DISAPPEAR BEHIND A PARKED VEHICLE.

DEPUTY PHILLIPS ENDED HIS INTERVIEW WITH THE COMPLAINANT AND TURNED TO ROOT OUT GEBAUER AND RECORD HIS SIDE OF THE DISAGREEMENT WHEN HE HEARD A RIFLE BEING CHARGED BEHIND THE PARKED PICKUP!



GEBAUER EMERGED FROM HIS HIDING PLACE ARMED WITH AN ASSAULT RIFLE AND ASSUMED A THREATENING POSTURE! DEPUTY PHILLIPS INITIATED A TACTICAL WITHDRAWAL AS THE PERP OPENED FIRE.



DEPUTY PHILLIPS WENT DOWN IN THE BLAZE OF GUNFIRE, BUT TERMINATED HIS ASSAILANT IN RETURN. HIS 14 YEARS IN SERVICE IN THE U.S. ARMY, WITH TWO TOURS OF DUTY IN IRAQ, STOOD HIM IN GOOD STEAD. A GOOD SAMARITAN HELPED THE DEPUTY TO A SAFE PLACE AS THE BACKUP THE DEPUTY HAD CALLED FOR EARLIER ARRIVED.



AFTER A LENGTHY STAY IN THE HOSPITAL, DEPUTY PAUL PHILLIPS RETURNED TO DUTY IN FEBRUARY EARLIER THIS YEAR. FOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO PROTECT OTHERS AND HIS VALOR IN THE FACE OF EXTREME DANGER, THE NRA BESTOWED DEPUTY PAUL PHILLIPS WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2019.



EVALUATING THE PEACEKEEPER RAPID CONTAINMENT BATON

Continued from page 42



The RCB strikes with greater authority than other expandable batons.

gives the RCB a weight forward balance which puts more kinetic energy on target resulting in faster incapacitation.

The Peacekeeper RCB is available in 21, 24, 26, and 29 inch lengths. The 21 inch model could be utilized by plainclothes officers while the 24 and 26 inch

copies are well-suited for uniform patrol. The long 29 inch model might be just the ticket for crowd control. Samples in 24 and 26 inch lengths were received for test and evaluation along with a Secure-Lock Rotational Holster.

My sample batons were finished in corrosion-resistant electroless nickel which is better suited for working on, or near, marine environments. A business-like black zinc finish is also available. I felt that the 24 inch version best suited the needs of my outfit and my evaluation focused on that.

The RCB is slightly heavier than same length competitive models, but this is not noticeable when the baton is worn on the belt. When executing striking techniques, the weight forward balance is clearly evident. While this is hardly a scientific observation, strikes on a heavy bag sounded harder and felt far more powerful than with the other expandables I had on hand. More powerful strikes will result in faster incapacitation and less risk of serious injury to the officer and subject. In close quarters, a broad end tip also lends itself to jabbing techniques with minimal risk.

The Peacekeeper RCB can be quickly opened from the collapsed position with a smart downward stroke. If a less overt opening is desired, pulling on the end cap will also open the baton. Collapsing the baton for return to the belt has often been a problem with many expandable batons. Not so with the RCB! While holding the RCB on an angle, tap the tip on a hard surface while rotating the grip in the hand. This will unlock the baton with very little effort. Use the palm of the hand to press down on the tip to fully collapse the RCB.

I was also impressed with the Se-




To collapse the RCB, tap the tip on a hard surface while rotating the grip. This will unlock the telescopic segments. Push the tip with your palm to fully collapse it.

cure-Lock Rotational Holster. The holster is threaded on the duty belt and secured in place with a pair of screws. It can be instantly adjusted for a 30, 60 or 90 degree rake depending on user preference. Should an officer not have an opportunity to collapse the baton, it can be returned to the open bottom holster in the fully extended condition. Vertical ridges in the bottom of the holster will retain the RCB during typical physical activity. In addition to the Secure-Lock Holster, Peacekeeper also offers a nylon MOLLE holster which can be affixed to a vest. Various end caps such as a retention model and glass breaker are also available.

Today, agencies can choose from a wide range of force options in order to keep their officers safe. Conducted energy devices such as the TASER® all have their place, but there have been a number of high-profile failures when officers had to resort to deadly force in order to maintain control. One can only speculate about how a trained officer with a high quality impact weapon would have fared in those situations.

In addition to the RCB family and accessories, Peacekeeper also offers instructor level training. If you are looking for a more effective impact weapon, be sure to check out the offerings from Peacekeeper. Check out their full line at peacekeeperproducts.com **P&SN**

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



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P&SN Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

PUBLISHER: Al Menear

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Toni Saturno

MANAGING EDITOR: John G. Stephenson

ART DIRECTOR: Jeanne Daubner

GENERAL MANAGER: Cindie Bonsall

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Bill Zadlo

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Performance Publishing, LLC

PO Box 1185

Quakertown, PA 18951-0079

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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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JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

Not surprisingly, the morons who want to eliminate police funding had no comment... Soon after two boys, both 13, started a lemonade stand in Peoria, Illinois, two men robbed them at gunpoint, taking the \$30 they'd made up to that point. "I got a call from police saying, 'Hey, your kids are okay, but they just got robbed,'" said the father of one of the lads. He rushed to the scene and found police officers surrounding the lemonade stand – buying lemonade and paying upwards of \$20 per cup. Soon after, word of the incident got around and more people started donating to the boys to encourage them to keep at it: Over \$3,500 was raised at press time. The boys were back in business four days later and the police came back again – with a parade of squad cars with lights on, lined up. (*How low can you go to rob a lemonade stand at gunpoint? Police come out of pocket to help victims of crimes much more frequently than most realize.*)

Hello, Dolly!... When sheriff's deputies responded to a report in Liberty County, Georgia, they found what appeared to be a body lying next to a railroad track in Allenhurst. The deputies were careful to follow protocol and respectfully covered the body with a sheet while they waited for the coroner to arrive. Upon arrival, the deputies and the coroner pulled the sheet off and inspected the remains to look for injuries. But, that's when they discovered that the body was in fact a female sex doll. A local TV station reported that the doll was fully clothed and was anatomically correct. Officials think they may have been victims of a prank. (*Will they notify the next of mannequin?*)

First rule of the court: Don't irritate the judge... In Montana, a 60-year-old man was summoned to the Cascade County District Court to serve as a juror. But, despite the governor's orders and those of the judge which required him to wear a mask in the courtroom, he refused because, he said, the COVID-19 scare is "exaggerated." The judge was willing to compromise and offered to allow a face shield instead, but the man refused that, too. The judge then ordered him to serve 24 hours in jail for contempt, starting immediately. When other inmates found out why he was being jailed, he said, "The whole cell block started laughing loudly." At almost the exact same time, the sheriff

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



In case you were wondering what kinds of idiots want to defund the police...

In Illinois, a Virgil man contacted the Kane County Sheriff's Office to let them know that his "DEFUND THE POLICE" sign had been stolen from his front yard where it was posted. Deputies diligently applied their detective skills in locating the culprit and the stolen sign. Witnesses gave them enough clues to wrap up the case in short order and the man who stole the sign admitted his crime. Deputies then promptly returned the sign to its rightful owner. The owner of the sign responded by saying the deputy who assisted him "is a wonderful person," then promptly stuck it back in the ground in his front yard for public display. (*"We found who has your sign. We've asked social services to send a social worker over to talk to him about his motivations and help guide him toward returning it."*)

was learning that there was a COVID-19 outbreak in his jail – with 55 cases. "They put me in a position where I could be infected," the man whined, "and that's wrong." (*That's a classic example of "stupidity unmasked."*)

Why buy the hitman when you can just rent him?... In South Rockwood, Michigan, a 51-year-old woman was arrested after offering an undercover state trooper \$5,000 to kill her ex-husband. The woman met the trooper after allegedly visiting the fake Web site, *rentahitman.com*, where she completed a form requesting a consultation and named her ex-husband as the target. The owner of the Web site contacted Michigan State Police who sent the undercover officer. The woman was charged with solicitation to commit murder and illegal use of a computer to facilitate a crime. The Web site owner said over the last 15 years that "the Web site has been responsible for preventing over 130 murders." The Web site's owner says that he turns all requests over to law enforcement. (*I fell for this guy's other Web site: DateASupermodel.com.*)

Heigh-ho, Heigh-ho, it's off to jail I go... A 42-year-old man found what he believed to be the perfect place to live in quarantine: an 11.5 acre deserted island in

Bay Lake, Florida. He later said that it was not only a "tropical paradise," but it even had buildings for him to "camp" in. Discovery Island, formerly known as Treasure Island, is within the confines of Disney World and has been closed and off limits for more than 20 years. Even when Disney World is in full operation and the theme park is open, no one is allowed there. Disney security said the man passed multiple "No Trespassing" signs and locked gates to get there – and was using a Disney boat to make his way around. (*Police introduced him to another "Magic Kingdom" – one with iron bars on the doors.*)

Okay...rock, paper, scissors, CHAINSAW!... The Pennsylvania State Police said a man went to his former boss's house in West Easton, Pennsylvania, threatened him, pulled a metal chain from his car, and started chasing him. At the time, the victim was unloading work equipment and grabbed a tool to defend himself. His defensive weapon of choice: a chainsaw which he immediately started. The boss mangled the attacker's chain with his chainsaw and the accused, knowing he was outclassed, retreated and drove away. Police caught up with him, charging him with terroristic threats and simple assault. (*It looks like he won't be getting his old job back anytime soon.*) **P&SN**

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