

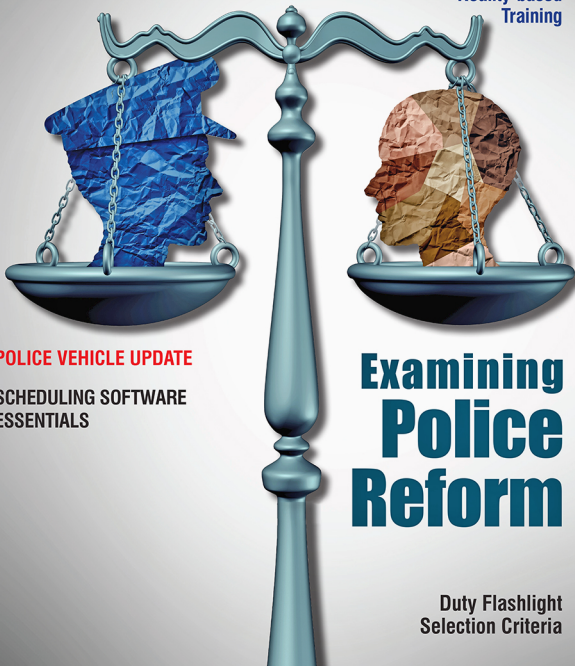
P&SN

**Police
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News**

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020
VOLUME 36 ISSUE 5

Virtual
Reality-based
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POLICE VEHICLE UPDATE

**SCHEDULING SOFTWARE
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Examining Police Reform

**Duty Flashlight
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UNDERCOVER.



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CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020
Volume 36 • Issue 5
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HARDWARE/SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

Scheduling Software Essentials22

Lt. Steve Lynk (Ret.)

Along with saving you time in developing the initial schedule, your chosen software should make it easier to fill open shifts and ensure proper coverage.

The New “Reality”: How Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR) Impact Law Enforcement Training28

Todd Brown

As this technology continues to develop, there will be more realistic, more accurate, more valuable, and more “real” training available to our officers than ever before.

FEATURES

Executive Orders, Chokehold Bans and Eliminating Qualified Immunity: We Are a Witness to History34

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

Few people “live” through history changing events, yet alone be the target of them.

Duty Flashlight Selection40

Eugene Nielsen

While everyone recognizes the need for a flashlight, often very little thought is given to its selection. Although on the surface a flashlight is a relatively simple tool, there are a number of features which need to be considered.

COLUMNS

...and nothing but the truth.....6
One Positive Aspect of 2020

Focus on Technology10
Body-worn and In-car Video Systems

The Wheels of Justice12
Summer Specials (and It Ain't Ice Cream)

Product Highlight18
Handguns and Accessories

Busted!46
Real Stories of Genuine Absurdity



ON THE COVER

What do the calls for the reform of law enforcement actually mean?



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360

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

RAMESH NYBERG

It is the year of the unprecedented. It is also the year of the unthinkable; the undesirable; and, apparently, the unmanageable.

If there is a silver lining to 2020, it is that this has laid bare the true colors of our politicians. Before you recoil in horror (Nyberg is talking politics?), let me assure you, this is *not* a piece about politics. I am not going to venture into those shark-infested waters to discuss the Dems vs. the Republicans and all that. There's enough – no, there is way too much – hostility going in both directions about that. The way I prefer to characterize the flavor of this column is to say that it is about what is right. What is *right* is for politicians to do what they were elected to do: provide protection and responsible management for



One Positive Aspect of 2020...

their citizens.

A colleague and I were talking about Portland, Oregon, and other American cities which have been mired in violence and unrest for three months now (at the writing of this article) since the death of George Floyd. I don't care what political party you belong to. Whether you are young or old, or whether you are black, white or any shade in between, the truth about government is this: Protect the cit-

izens from harm first. Mayors and governors have an indisputable duty to make sure that their cities and states do not fall into abject anarchy. There is not one city in the United States which does not have adequate police manpower and legal authority to provide that very basic expectation. Even in ancient Greece, as far back as 3000 BC, the powers that be recognized that law and order had to be a part of their government. The police were

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Law Enforcement Radar – Speeding Complaint Management

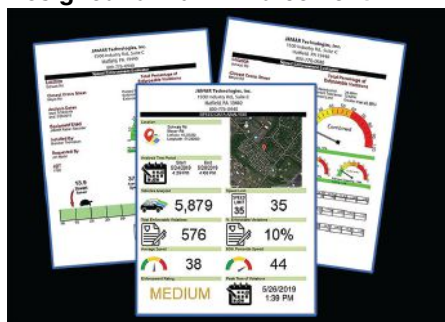
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considered a part of the city; hence, the word “police” comes from the Greek word *polis* which means “city.” The early towns of 10th century England – “shires” – had a constable who was responsible for making sure the shire was buttoned up tight at night and all of the taverns were closed (and, no doubt, he assisted in closing them!). He was called a “reeve” – and the “shire reeve” later melded into the word “sheriff.”

But, that’s enough history. They didn’t have cell phones and YouTube in 10th century England and they didn’t have tear gas and TASER®s, either. But, here is what they did have: Like every community all the way back to the Stone Age, they had people who misbehaved and they had people responsible for managing that bad behavior. Nothing, absolutely nothing, about societies has changed in thousands of years with regard to that aspect of local government. They also had people in charge – magistrates, kings, shire reeves, and what have you – who were looked upon by the citizens as their protectors. Sure, it was probably corrupt as hell. The more money you had, the more protection you got. Today, we’ve managed to even it out more effectively – pay taxes, get the protection of government. Those who went overboard in bygone days and did more oppressing than protecting didn’t face losing an election. Instead, they might have faced losing their *heads* (see French Revolution) in an uprising or a coup by a rival.

The responsibilities of today’s civic leaders are virtually unchanged. If you are a mayor, county manager or governor, and you see anarchy and chaos running amuck, it is your **JOB** to stop it – not explain it, not side with a movement or a political ideology – *stop it in its tracks*. If you don’t, you’ve *failed* in your job. If you turn your back on the very police you have made swear would uphold the law and let the anarchists overrun a neighborhood, burn the police station, and let violent goons establish gang mentality street law, then you have done worse than fail: You have become *complicit* and you are a criminal yourself.

Our elected leaders should have one important attribute above all and that is courage. What courage means, when your city is being set afire and innocent people cannot walk to the pharmacy or the grocery store without being accosted, is sending in a platoon of well-trained officers and getting in front of the television cameras to make this announcement:

“Dear Citizens,

There are some people in our midst who are attempting to destroy your way of



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 7

life and terrorize you. I will not have it. I have instructed our police force to arrest every one and anyone who attempts to commit a crime in our city. You are welcome to come out and peacefully picket, chant and carry signs to express your feelings. We will even protect you while you do so. But, if you so much as pick up a rock and cock your arm, you will go to jail – and you will be prosecuted, not excused. You can call us racists and pigs, and any other name you like, and you can scream it until you are hoarse. You can post stuff on YouTube or whatever (and thanks because we'll use it as evidence in your prosecution). It doesn't matter – you will go to jail anyway.

By the way, there is no such thing as 'looting' in our jurisdiction. It's called burglary which is a felony. That's what will happen if you enter a place where you don't belong with the intention of stealing or destroying. 'Looting' is a term people use when they want to 'soft touch' a serious crime.

If you are watching this and you are one of those people who are preparing

to go out and be destructive tonight, then mark my words – there are way more peace-loving people in this city than there are your kind. And, we don't care what color or age you are, you will be arrested and our police will not run from you. If you don't like it, go to the polls and vote me out. But, that's what's going to happen. Law and order rule the day here, not you."

Whew. I feel so much better. I've spoken to the fictional citizens in my fictional town and you know what? They are happy! They wanted this. They elected me for this. They wanted someone with courage. I cannot let them down.

Bless you all, Brothers and Sisters. I hope you're all working for someone who can say those things with conviction and stick to it. Be safe out there. **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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Vantage Body-worn Video Camera

The **Vantage** body-worn video camera from Kustom Signals can now replace the standard wireless transmitter for Eyewitness HD in-car video. This integration allows officers to have fully integrated in-car and body-worn video protection with one less piece of equipment attached to their uniform. The **Vantage** simultaneously records audio and video locally on the camera and transmits the audio back in real time to the in-car system for recording with its video files. If the **Vantage** is out of range, it still records audio locally. Files from the two systems are automatically associated which allow synchronized playback of the files using the Eyewitness Data Vault file management system.

kustomsignals.com

Body-worn and In-car Video Systems

V300 Body-worn Cameras

Motorola Solutions recently announced the availability of the **WatchGuard V300** continuous operation body-worn camera.

The **V300** addresses law enforcement's need for body-worn cameras which remain operational beyond a 12 hour shift. Swappable battery packs and 128 GB of memory enable it to operate continuously while officers are in the field.

The **WatchGuard V300** body-worn camera can also be integrated with the WatchGuard 4RE® in-car video system, allowing for the capture of synchronized video of an incident from multiple vantage points. With Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) capabilities, the WatchGuard 4RE in-car video system delivers real-time, in-vehicle intelligence to law enforcement officers.

motorolasolutions.com



New Arbitrator BWC with Removable Battery

Panasonic i-PRO's new and improved **Arbitrator** body-worn camera features a removable battery to help keep officers on the street. Sporting a two-piece design, the **BWC4000** is IP67/MIL-STD-810G rated to provide officers with a more reliable way to capture video and audio evidence in nearly any condition.

The **Arbitrator BWC4000** records in 1080P/720P and seamlessly integrates with Panasonic i-PRO's Unified Digital Evidence™ Management Software. The **Arbitrator BWC4000**, in unison with Arbitrator in-car video systems and Panasonic i-PRO fixed surveillance cameras, form a unified evidence management platform which preserves the chain of custody.

publicsafety.i-pro.com



Updated Protector II

Sentinel Camera Systems' **Protector II** camera is a 4G LTE body camera which transmits live video, audio and GPS location in real time, day or night, to a central command center while simultaneously recording the video on the camera itself. The newest version has been updated to feature automatic streaming of the video upon camera activation in standby mode, and audio communication between the central command center and the camera wearer can now be initiated from the observer to the wearer and heard through the speakers within the camera. The streaming video can be automatically saved and stored in an appropriate evidence management system without the need for additional recording and downloading of the data.

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NEWS

William D. Siuru, Jr., Technology Editor, Police and Security News

It is with great sadness that we mark the passing of *P&SN's* Technology Editor, William D. Siuru, Jr.

Bill passed away on July 12, 2020, in Banning, California. He was born on January 29, 1938, in Detroit, Michigan, to William B. Siuru and Bertha Siuru.

Like most kids who grew up in Detroit during the golden age of the American automobile, Bill loved cars – not just driving them, but taking them apart and putting them back together. His fascination with engines grew into an obsession with anything that moves, including all motor vehicles and aircraft.

During his first year at Wayne State University in Detroit, he had to choose either a PE class or to join the ROTC which was how his military career began. He finished his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1960 and was immediately commissioned into the Air Force. He earned his master's degree in aerospace engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology in 1964 and his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University in 1975.

Col. Siuru's Air Force highlights include Branch Chief, Foreign Technology Division, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Branch Chief, Rocket Propulsion Laboratory, Edwards Air Force Base, California; Assistant Professor of Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York; and Commander, Frank J. Seiler Research Laboratory, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado.

Bill's military career ended suddenly in 1984 when he was diagnosed with a spinal tumor. He spent the next six months recovering from surgery in Walter Reed Hospital and another six months learning to walk again. He recovered, but his lasting disability forced his retirement from the military.

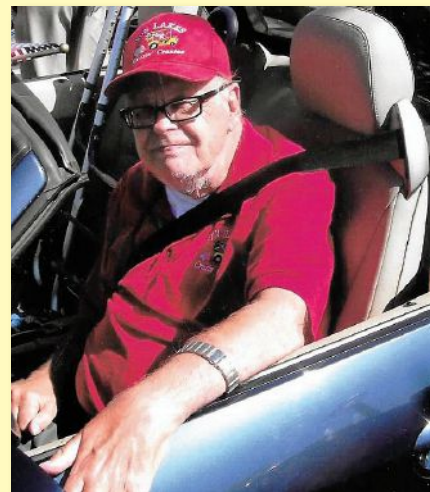
Fortunately, Bill had other career plans. He had been moonlighting as a freelance writer long before his disability, ever since he and a friend cowrote an article about Skylab and eventually expanded it into a book.

With his military career over, he began working full-time as an automotive and aviation journalist. Over the course of his 40 year writing career, he wrote and published 22 books and thousands of articles. His published books include, *Skylab: Pioneer Space Station*; *General*

Dynamics F-16 Fighting Falcon; *Future Flight: The Next Generation of Aircraft Technology*; *The Huey and Huey Cobra*; *Planes without Pilots: Advances in Unmanned Flight*; *Illustrated Micro and Mini Car Buyer's Guide*; and *Presidential Cars and Transportation: From Horse and Carriage to Air Force One, the Story of How the Presidents of the United States Travel*.

Bill first started writing for *Police and Security News* back in 1993 and was named its Technology Editor in 2005. He also regularly wrote for *Autoweek*, *Popular Mechanics*, *BMW Roundel*, *Old Cars Weekly*, *Green Car Journal*, and other magazines. For many years, he test-drove cars released by major car companies, writing reviews for *Kelley Blue Book* online. He traveled extensively to car events around the world, even test-driving new BMWs on the Autobahn.

He loved his work as a journalist and kept writing articles until the last week



of his life. His final article, "The Red Ball Express," detailed how American trucks kept the supply chain moving through Europe to help the Allies win World War II. It was published in the July/August 2020 issue of *Wheels of Time* magazine.

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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE



SUMMER SPECIALS (and It Ain't Ice Cream)

Sergeant James Post

Nat King Cole once sang about “Those Lazy-Hazy-Crazy Days of Summer,” but who would have guessed that the new “lazy” is because of the never-ending COVID-19 lockdown and the new “hazy” is the tear gas and arson smoke hanging over almost every major American city?

My job as a columnist for this magazine is to report on the latest LE vehicles and equipment and those of you who have followed my columns for the last two decades know that I do not hesitate to report on both the good and the bad without favoritism... my conscience (and especially my appreciation of cops) prohibits me from doing otherwise. But, first...

The last six months have been the most frustrating and infuriating period in my three quarters of a century on this rock. As a retired American police officer, I'm pissed. I'm pissed about a lethal virus and the CCP officials who covered up its initial outbreak and allowed it to spread around the globe. I'm pissed about all of the conflicting and slanted media reports and politics involved in finding a cure for this virus. I'm pissed about DC politicians' apparent lack of con-

cern and empathy for the families of the many thousands of good Americans who have perished from this disease. And last, but certainly not least, I'm pissed because the pent-up emotions of the lockdown, combined with unemployment and the death of George Floyd, have been misappropriated by domestic terrorists and anarchists to create the perfect storm of protest which ultimately mutated into complete and utter chaos from sea to shining sea. This has now become all about, and directed towards, America's most dedicated public servants – the POLICE. Officers have been ambushed, assaulted, injured, blinded, murdered, and subjected to a never ceasing barrage of insults; dosed with all manner of bodily fluids and flammable liquids; and attacked with lasers, rocks, bricks, frozen water bottles, explosives, vehicles, and more – and all the while with little or no support from many elected officials. The police are blamed, criticized and threatened with defunding and even complete elimination. Officers who have provided a thin blue line of protection for our country's most cherished residents – our children – have been removed from schools. Crucial SWAT

and anticrime units have been disbanded. Nonlethal techniques and tools have been taken away and officers' disciplinary records made public.

And, if you think what we've seen in the last two months has been Americans innocently expressing their constitutional right to free speech in “peaceful protests,” your head is in the sand. All of this has been nothing more than an excuse for criminals (of all races) to loot, burn, and murder at will, with little or no consequences, and with a not so hidden agenda of erasing America's history.

I used to think I'd never see anything worse than what I experienced in 27 years on the job – from sniper fire and watching my beloved city burn in 1968, to seeing returning heroic, battle worn soldiers being spat upon and called “baby killers,” to witnessing man's inhumanity towards adults and children without respect or care for the lives or the property of

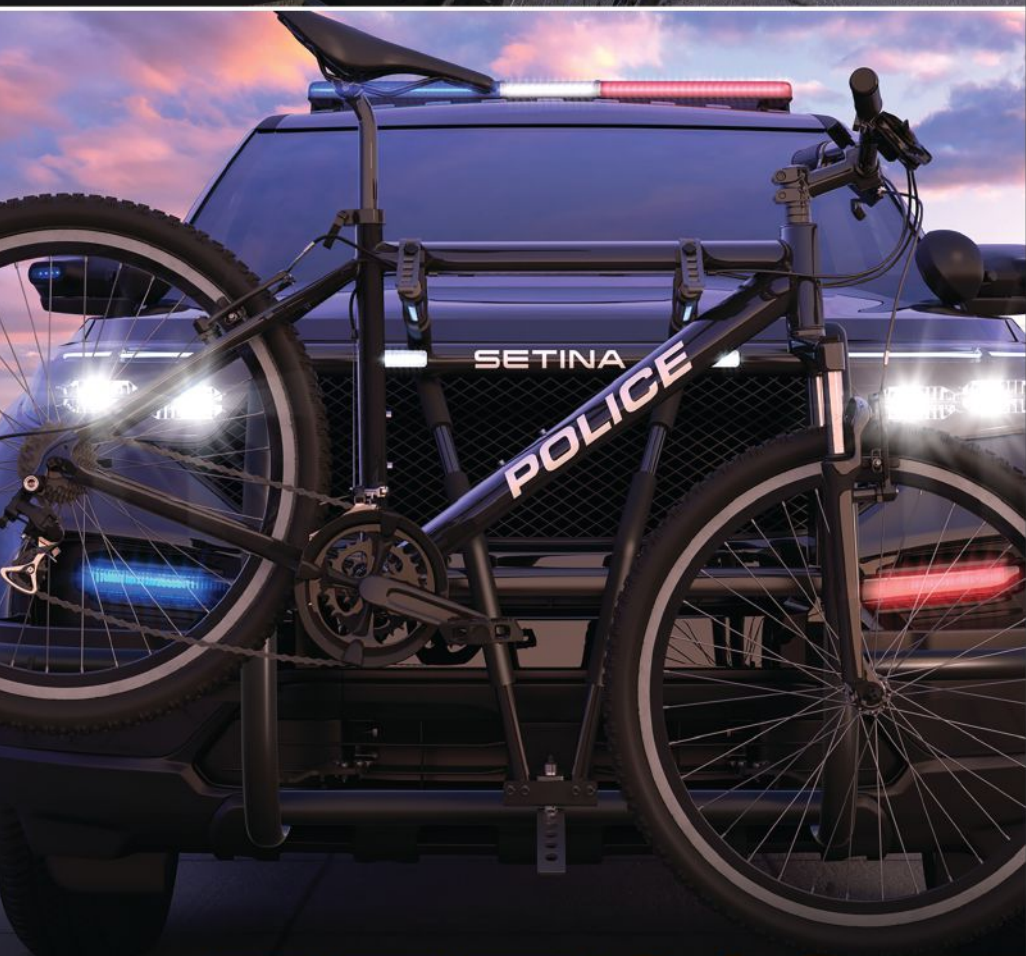


Violence and chaos continue in cities and towns across the US.



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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 12

others, plus a multitude of other visions which still wake me in the night. But, all this pales to what invades my living room every night in living color. At least, in 1968, we were never ordered to “stand down” and we never lost a police precinct.

Okay, I’ve vented and now I will get to why we are here.

Breaking News/Vehicles

While there has not been much good news so far in 2020, there is some news to report from the folks who build our police cars and equipment. As we’ve reported, while some plants and factories were shuttered because of COVID concerns, others switched gears to build PPE and many have continued to design and build products to make your officers’ jobs safer and more efficient.

Chevrolet

Production of the eagerly anticipated 2021 Tahoe LE vehicles will soon resume in their Arlington, TX, assembly plant and dealers are taking orders as we speak. The start was delayed by a couple of factors. The primary reason was a strike by the 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. Following you will find some of what you can expect in the next generation Tahoe.

As in the past, there are two law enforcement 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 will be 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



The 2021 Tahoe is available in two law enforcement packages.

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. Rear door openings are now 13% wider (3.5 inches) than before to ease prisoner loading or K-9 partners’ access.

Both units have numerous standard safety features, including larger brakes with Automatic Emergency Braking and Front Pedestrian Braking, plus an 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 the police specific front seats which provide additional hip room, allow-

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ing duty belts to fit more comfortably.

One last note on Chevrolet: If you have 2020 Silverado trucks in your fleet, you may have missed a recall notice released during the nationwide COVID lockdown. Issued in March, the recall concerns bolts which attach the front and/or rear brake calipers which may not have been heat treated and could break under load.

Dodge®

Hagerty Insurance Media reported that Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) and Peugeot Société Anonyme (PSA) Group (which merged in December 2019) have selected a name for their parent corporation – Stellantis which is rooted in the Latin verb “stello” meaning “to brighten with stars.” The move is largely a symbolic and logistical one. Corporate housekeeping means FCA and PSA makes and vehicles will retain their current branding, leaving Stellantis Group as the umbrella for the two conglomerates.

So, how does all of this impact you? Actually, very little...the Dodge and RAM® brands will remain the same and the Charger, Durango and RAM LE packages are still viable options for your fleet and Charger remains the only choice available for

agencies requiring a V-8 four-door police sedan. While the 2020 vehicles are basically carryover models, rumors of significant changes in the 2021 model year have been floated about, but there are no firm announcements from FCA/PSA and it has been reported that the COVID shutdown may have impacted deliveries of the 2020 models.

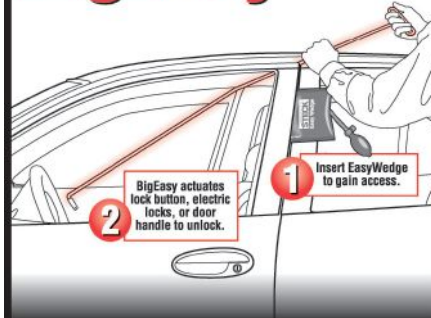
Ford®

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

With COVID a primary concern, Ford engineers have also developed a technique for the Interceptor Utilities to “self-disinfect” and neutralize the COVID-19 virus. Using a new heat software solution which temporarily raises interior temperatures beyond 133 degrees for 15 minutes, studies conducted by Ohio State University (using Interceptors from the NYPD and the LAPD and others) inactivated the virus by 99%. This solution is available now for all 2013-2019 Interceptor Utilities and is meant to supplement CDC cleaning/disinfecting recommendations. This system

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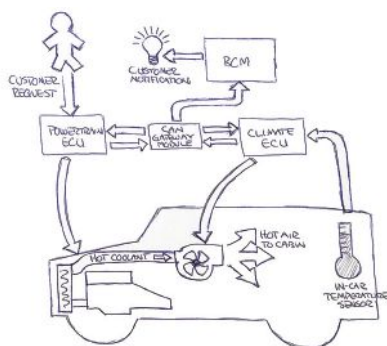
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A key point to remember is that the vehicle doesn't have to be taken out of service (or relocated to a service facility) for a lengthy period. After heating, the system automatically switches to a cooldown process to return the temperature to normal. Throughout the process, officers can monitor the status by a preset series of flashing hazard lights and taillights. Large departments with their own service centers can install the software solution using their existing diagnostic tools, while dealers can perform the process on smaller fleets.

There has been a continuing thread of information about departments who have purchased the 2020 PI Utility Hybrids. The Massachusetts State Police added 161 units to their annual purchase of 350 vehicles for frontline patrol duties. The Tacoma, WA, Police Department purchased 59 Utility Hybrids in a first step to transition the entire fleet to hybrids over the next seven years. And, on July 22, 2020, *Government Fleet* reported that every NYPD purchase this year has been a hybrid, for a total of 409 units, a combination of Utility and Responder sedans. With the new hybrids, the NYPD will have 2,199 alternative fuel vehicles on the road working to comply with NYC Executive Order 54 which calls for a transition to all electric by 2040.

In late 2019, the Westport, CT, Police Department purchased a 2020 Tesla Model 3 for patrol duties. *Government Fleet* reported that “Police Chief Kosinkas was primarily impressed by the Model 3’s performance, five-star crash rating and collision avoidance technology and the agency expects to save \$11,000 in maintenance and \$13,770 in fuel over the first three years.”



Earlier this year, the Fremont PD Tesla made national news when it nearly ran out of power during a freeway chase. The driver realized he was running out of battery power (six miles left) and asked others to take over for him so he could find a charging station. But, the equipment was not at fault...a CSI-grade investigation revealed it had not been charged at the end of the previous shift.

Jotto Desk is a leading manufacturer of consoles, mounts and weapon racks. They have announced the new Mamba Mount, the most deployable laptop mount on the market, designed with the bare minimum of action needed for an officer to utilize their laptop. It has five points of adjustment, including a 110 degree Motion Arm and a 90 degree adjustable tilt/swivel assembly. The unique swivel/slide design allows you to position your laptop in three positions: Store & Drive, Park & Work and Tactically Safe



The Mamba Mount is touted as the most deployable laptop mount on the market, with five points of adjustment.

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which can be used while standing outside and behind the passenger door.



Setina Mfg. has geared up to supply all of their newest equipment for the 2021 Tahoe.

Setina Mfg. 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.

Setina is among the oldest push bar manufacturers in the United States. They have recently debuted their new Police Bike Rack which temporarily mounts to their push bumpers without tools and will transport two bicycles. The main advantage of this new bike rack is that it makes



This new bike rack attaches to the push bumper as a quick and easy method of transport.

it possible to transport police bikes quickly and easily, without having to pile them into the back of a patrol vehicle. Initially, I did have a few concerns regarding this bike rack. However, a quick call has answered these concerns. For example, it is my understanding that the front mounted bicycle(s) will not obstruct the driver's frontal vision. Furthermore, there is little danger of the bike shaking loose during transport, as it features a positive locking system which utilizes heavy-duty (thick) strapping which stays in place. As far as the danger of frontal impacts, this folding mount is a quick and temporary solution to transporting bikes and is intended to simply go from point A to point B.

SoundOff Signal's new nFUSE® exterior lightbar is a full-size unit which is bright,



The new nFUSE® lightbar is touted as being bright, durable and competitively priced.

durable and competitively priced, enabling departments to experience multicolor benefits at an entry level cost. At a 1.9" slim profile, and available in 36" to 72" lengths, they offer single or dual color modules and replaceable lenses in four colors. They offer over 50 flash patterns, including cruise mode, takedown and alley, plus directional arrows.

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 for vented storage of the aircraft, batteries, monitors, cameras, and other drone-related gear. They also offer a dedicated power source.

Postscript

I would be remiss if I didn't include vital officer safety news in this article. The FBI recently issued a bulletin regarding marked and unmarked take-home vehicles. Officers have been followed home and at least one shot at while off-duty. Three take-home units have been torched in officers' driveways. Militant groups have been observed cruising residential neighborhoods looking for officers' homes with marked and unmarked units and even marking the pavement with statements like "pig lives here." These militants have recently even taken their "peaceful" protests to LE members' homes.

I have written extensively about take-home units and I won't repeat everything now, but I will just offer a couple of tips. Of course, the simplest solution is not to drive a police car home and instead carpool with other cops in POVs. Obviously, many rapid response assignments like SWAT and K-9 require take-home units, so they are best stashed out of sight in a garage or even under a car cover. If you are off for a number of days, the unit should be left at a police facility. Vary your

routes to and from work; always check your "six"; drive by your home a couple of times; check the sides and front of your home before getting out; and take your weapons and gear with you. Remember, you signed up for all the bullshit and danger...however, your family didn't.

Lastly, I know your breaks nowadays are too short and infrequent, but, before you return to the chaos, be cautious. There have been documented reports of employees at Starbucks and Dunkin'® Donuts spitting in officers' drinks before placing on the lids. Years ago, an officer I worked with was eating at a restaurant and recognized the fry cook as someone he had arrested, so he took the top bun off his burger and he discovered the "secret sauce" was mixed with small broken glass particles. Of course, when these SOBs are discovered, they are terminated and prosecuted, but a couple of seconds of prevention could save you from disease or worse...open those lids, look inside your sandwiches and please take care. **P&S**

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

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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

Combining light weight and ease of carry with rugged reliability, the new **Ronin™ Operator® 4.25"** is suitable for everyday carry. The two-tone pistol, available in both 9mm or .45 ACP, features a hot salt blued forged slide with a lightweight satin Cerakote® finished forged alloy frame. The rear sight combines high visibility white dots with a "Tactical Rack" ledge for one-handed cycling of the pistol and a bright fiber-optic front sight gives the **Ronin Operator** a high visibility sight picture. The stainless steel magazine with basepad features an 8+1 capacity in .45 and 9+1 in 9mm, and the pistol sports an enhanced grip safety featuring a beaver-tail and raised "memory bump" for positive engagement.

springfield-armory.com



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY®

Building on its strength as the highest capacity micro-compact 9mm in the world, Springfield Armory has recently introduced the **Hellcat® in Desert Flat Dark Earth**, in both standard and OSP™ versions. The three inch barreled micro-compact pistol features a class leading capacity of 11+1 with its patented magazine and 13+1 with the included extended mag. The flush fit optic mounting capability of the **Hellcat OSP** has further established it as the class leader.

Previously, **Hellcat** proved its mettle in a 10,000 round test. Now, that same exact pistol (serial # AT234795) has recently been pushed to 20,000 rounds, with every round captured on video.

springfield-armory.com

Handguns and Accessories



FN AMERICA, LLC

The **FN 509® Compact Tactical**, available in both black and FN's signature Flat Dark Earth (FDE), can be easily deployed as an everyday carry with the standard 12 or 15 round magazines or on the range with the extended 24 round magazine.

The 4.3 inch cold hammer forged threaded barrel makes it compatible with today's most popular aftermarket accessories like compensators or suppressors and the FN Low-Profile Optics-Mounting System™, capable of accepting more than ten miniature red sights, rounds out this compact tactical pistol.

The compact frame features the **FN 509** signature enhanced grip texturing for secure hold; a MIL-STD 1913 picatinny rail which is compatible with most compact pistol lights; and interchangeable backstraps for a customized fit.

Additional features like the suppressor height night sights aid in co-witness of the miniature red dot and, while the optics system is not in use, the protective slide cap provides a serrated surface for racking the slide from any surface and ensures iron sight alignment.

fnamerica.com

DESANTIS GUNHIDE®

DeSantis Gunhide recently introduced **ten new holster models for the Springfield Armory® Hellcat® OSP™**. The OSP configuration (Optical Sight Pistol) has its billet-machined rear slide deck cut to accept a micro red dot sight.

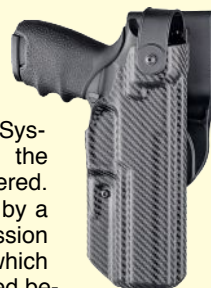


Some of these new offerings include the Thumb Break Mini Slide®, Mini Slide®, Mini Scabbard®, Slim-Tuk™, and others. All of the **new holsters for the Hellcat** feature tough construction, precise gun fit and minimal printing.

desantisholster.com

HOGUE, INC.

The **Hogue Duty Holster** features an Automatic Retention System™ which secures the firearm when holstered. Retention is released by a natural thumb depression on the release lever which is completely concealed behind the **holster**. An automatic release rotating hood provides additional protection against weapon takeaways. The **holster** is accompanied by an adjustable drop belt plate and is contoured to fit close to the body.



hogueinc.com

NIGHTSTICK®



The compact, 2.5 ounce **TCM-550XL Weapon Light** produces a bright white 550 lumen beam for 2.5 hours from one CR123 battery. Constructed of aircraft grade aluminum and rated IP-X7 waterproof, the dual rear switches provide intuitive and robust illumination during critical low light threat identification and target discrimination. Designed to fit a broad range of handguns, the **TCM-550XL** features a spring-loaded rail clamp and convenient coin-cut screw head for toolless installation and is backed by a limited lifetime warranty.

nightstick.com

SIGHTMARK



The ultracompact **Mini Shot M-Spec Reflex Sight** is perfect for LE applications on pistols, shotguns and ARs. The kit includes a low profile mount for shotguns and pistols and a riser mount for AR platform rifles. The **Mini Shot M-Spec** is 100% waterproof and features a durable aluminum housing; a steel protective shield; 300-30,000 hours of battery life; 12 hour auto shutoff; a 3 MOA red dot reticle with ten brightness settings; ambidextrous digital controls; parallax-free glass; and a lifetime warranty.

sightmark.com

NEWS

Border Law Enforcement

The COPS Office recently released a new publication, *Unique Needs and Challenges of Border Law Enforcement and Promising Practices for Establishing a Criminal Interdiction Unit*.

The US Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) and the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) hosted a series of roundtable and focus groups, supplemented by a needs assessment, to determine the needs, promising practices and challenges of sheriffs' offices along the northern and southern borders of the United States. The report summarizes the findings of those discussions.

Border sheriffs' primary needs are for personnel; updated equipment and infrastructure, particularly along the northern border; and support in information sharing and communication across all levels of government. The report also focuses on a widely shared promising practice – the establishment of dedicated interdiction units. A COPS Office/NSA training on rural interdiction is summarized, along with lessons learned from an interdiction unit in North Texas.

A copy of the publication can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/y4vrlaor>





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NEWS

Finding Meaning in Retirement

In a new, no-cost book from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), *Chapter 2: How Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Are Finding Meaning in Retirement*, retired police chiefs and sheriffs share their stories about what they are doing and give advice for how to plan for life after being on a police force. Chapter 2 is intended for everyone in the policing profession, while recognizing that the concept of retirement is changing in many professions. Four short videos featuring retired police chiefs and sheriffs also are part of this resource.

To access this new book, visit policeforum.org/chapter2

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Scheduling Software Essentials

Lt. Steve Lynk (Ret.)

Along with saving you time in developing the initial schedule, your chosen software should make it easier to fill open shifts and ensure proper coverage.

Law enforcement administrators have a lot on their plates. From recruiting and training officers, to coordinating meetings and responding to daily disruptions, their list of duties is extensive. Of these, ensuring adequate shift coverage to meet their department's requirements is one of the most critical. It also can be one of the most time-consuming. Building public safety staff schedules is a tedious process. Factor in no-shows and other unforeseen absences and managing schedules can become downright exhausting.

Managers and supervisors often spend hours making calls to fill open shifts. To combat this, many police and sheriff's departments started implementing online scheduling software to manage their employee schedules. This ensures each shift is properly covered and frees up managers' time so they can focus on other responsibilities.

While there are several scheduling software options, managers should consider each system's capabilities to determine whether it will help them reduce the time spent on scheduling and ensure the right people are scheduled in the right time and place. Here are some features to look for when selecting scheduling software to fit your public safety department's unique requirements.

Open the Lines of Communication

When an unforeseen absence occurs, the resulting open shift needs to be covered quickly. Software which includes an integrated messaging system allows managers to text or E-mail available and qualified individuals or groups of employees. For optimal accessibility and efficiency, departments should consider software which includes a mobile app.

Share and Share Alike

Many public safety employees work in multiple departments or locations. Some scheduling software allows managers to share schedules across the entire organization, so changes to the schedule are immediately available to officers, administration and support staff. This not only gives everyone access to real-time data, it also shows managers how many total hours are scheduled which can help reduce unnecessary overtime.

Cover All the Bases

Public safety department managers must ensure each shift is accurately covered in compliance with rules and regulations. Administrators should look for scheduling software which tracks skills, training and certifications. When a shift needs to be filled, managers can quickly identify and notify only properly qualified

personnel. For added security, some software alerts managers when certifications are nearing expiration.

Take the Load Off of Managers

The most efficient way managers can be certain shifts are covered is to give officers the tools to handle it themselves. Scheduling software which allows employees to submit swap and cover requests online makes it easy for them to find another employee to trade or pick up a shift. To ensure there are no scheduling conflicts and that shifts are properly covered, look for software which notifies managers of schedule requests and allows them to approve or deny each request prior to any schedule changes.

Hundreds of public safety departments have discovered the benefits of online officer and staff scheduling software which provide managers with more time to focus on day-to-day operations. **P&SN**

Steve Lynk lives in Fargo, ND, and served on the Fargo Police Department for 30 years. He held several positions within the department, including patrol officer, sergeant and lieutenant. Steve retired from the police department in 2015 and is currently the Senior Law Enforcement Account Executive at Atlas Business Solutions, Inc., a software marketing company specializing in employee and officer scheduling software, including ScheduleAnywhere.

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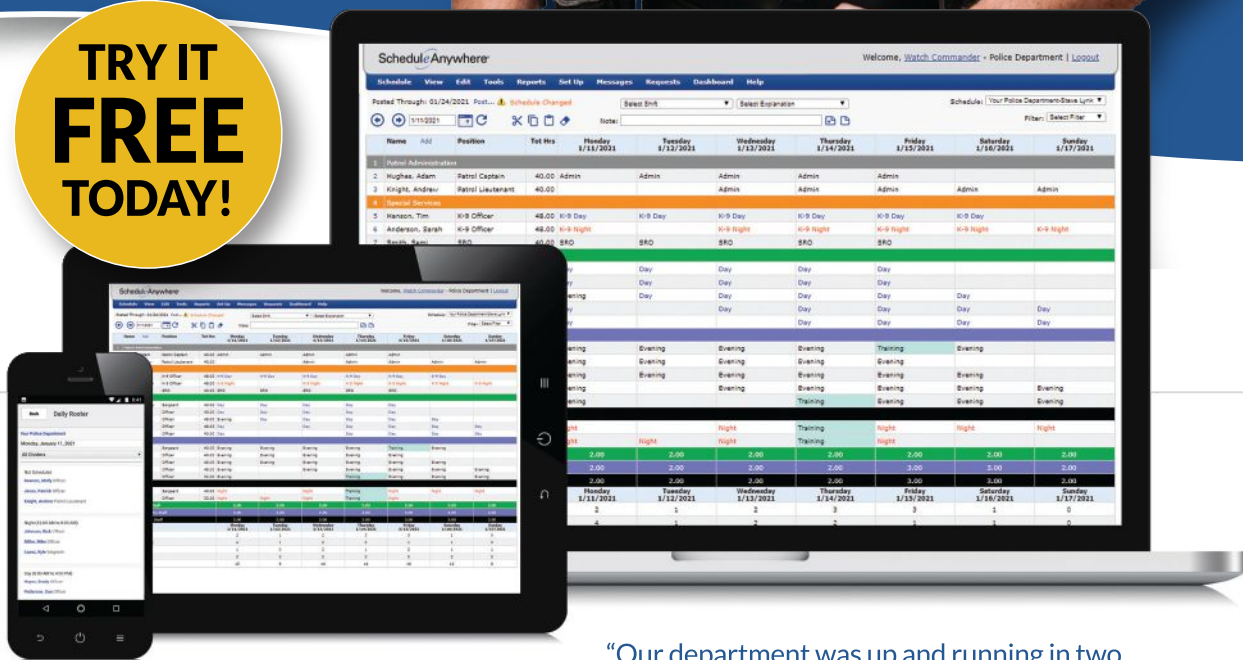
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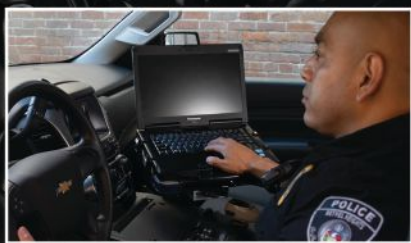
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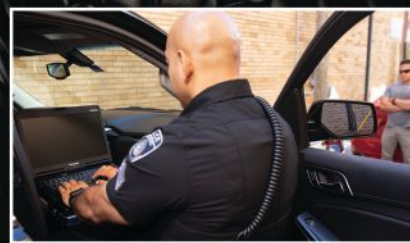
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THE NEW “REALITY”:

HOW VIRTUAL REALITY (VR), AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) AND MIXED REALITY (MR) IMPACT LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

TODD BROWN

As this technology continues to develop, there will be more realistic, more accurate, more valuable, and more “real” training available to our officers than ever before.



Virtual reality is exploding all over. From entertainment to training NFL quarterbacks, new “reality” technologies are poised to change the way we accomplish many training goals in law enforcement. In fact, as a result of the worldwide pandemic we are dealing with, online, AR, VR, and MR technologies are quickly becoming a regular means of providing educational content. Whenever and wherever these technologies are utilized, people often describe the experience by stating things such as, “It felt like I was actually there,” or “I felt like that person/object was actually in the room with me.” This is critically important because, when someone uses the word “feel” as a verb, he (or she) is describing the emotional component his (or her) experience provoked. This emotional component provides a much more genuine experience for that person. In terms of training our law enforcement personnel, the value of this cannot be overstated. For example, anyone who has ever been involved in any sort of “force on force” marking cartridge training understands how effectively this type of training evokes emotional responses and, as a result, creates a “real” experience.

Understanding this technology, its various types and applications, and the relative strengths and weaknesses of each in different applications is critical to providing effective training. We must first understand the tool before we can effectively

use it. Otherwise, we run the risk of investing in technologies and content which might be counter to our training goals. In this article, the different types of “virtual” technologies will be defined and then we can begin to see how each may be used to accomplish our training objectives. Finally, we can utilize this information to evaluate currently available hardware, software and content which fits the needs of our agency and our officers.

THE TECHNOLOGY DEFINED

Often, the term “Virtual Reality” is used as a catch-all phrase to describe technologies which alter our perception of the world with some type of headset or glasses. In fact, there are many types and variations of “virtual” reality technology. For our purposes, we will focus on the three main types. These are Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR).

These represent similar, but distinct, applications of this technology. Understanding these differences is critically important when examining how these new “reality” technologies can, and will, impact law enforcement training. A very useful and succinct definition of each is provided by the Franklin Institute (<https://tinyurl.com/wmt4vrt>). It states, “Virtual Reality implies a complete immersion experience [which] shuts out the physical world. Using VR devices such as HTC Vive, Oculus Quest/Rift or Google Cardboard, users can be transported into a number of real-world

and imagined environments such as the middle of a squawking penguin colony or even the back of a dragon.”

“Augmented Reality adds digital elements to a live view, often by using the camera on a smartphone. Examples of augmented reality experiences include Snapchat lenses and the game Pokémon GO™.”

“In a Mixed Reality experience, which combines elements of both AR and VR, real-world and digital objects interact. Mixed reality technology is just now starting to take off with Microsoft’s HoloLens, one of the most notable early mixed reality apparatuses.”

APPLICATIONS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Each of these technologies has certain training applications including benefits and limitations which may make it better suited than another one for specific objectives in law enforcement training. Once this is understood, you will have a starting point from which to select the technology which best suits your agency and your training objectives. We will begin by looking at each technology in a little more detail and examining what objectives each is best suited for and why.

VIRTUAL REALITY

Take a moment to read the VR definition once more.

VR is an “experience [which] shuts out the physical world.” In this technology, ev-

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Aftermarket equipment shown. Preproduction computer-generated image shown. Available fall 2020. *EPA-estimated 23 city/24 hwy/24 combined mpg for the 3.3L HEV. See fuelconomy.gov for fuel economy of other engine/transmission combinations. Actual mileage will vary. **Calculated via combined performance of the engine and electric motor(s) with peak battery power. The calculations utilize SAE J1349® engine results and Ford electric motor dyno testing. Your results may vary. Hybrid fuel savings calculator available at www.fordpoliceinterceptor.com.

THE NEW “REALITY”: HOW VIRTUAL REALITY (VR), AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) AND MIXED REALITY (MR) IMPACT LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Continued from page 28



Airmen from the 334th Training Squadron try out the new virtual reality technology on Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi. The simulation includes the setting of an airfield and allows students to practice their job as if they were operational.

everything the user experiences is provided for him (or her) in the headset. The user does not see anything outside of the headset. Objects such as your hands in front of you holding a firearm can only be projected as graphic images since you cannot see your actual hands. The people and the environment around you can be either a video or part of the graphics.

ADVANTAGES OF VR IN LE TRAINING

- It is completely immersive since the only reality you see is what is provided

in your headset.

- It can accomplish very specific training goals with complete immersion (see “AXON” example below).
- It can provide very specific environments.

DISADVANTAGES OF VR IN LE TRAINING

- By definition, there is no connection to the real world. This makes movement difficult and kinesthetic awareness of the real world nearly impossible. This can have an adverse effect on many training objectives.
- It sometimes requires the user to be tethered to a Central Processing Unit (CPU) which may be worn as a backpack.
- Since the experience is entirely digital, there might be less of an emotional impact.

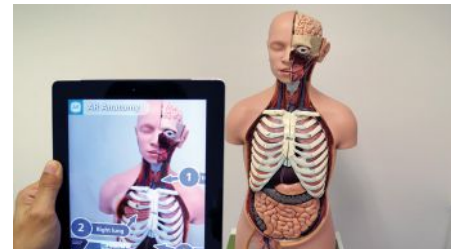
AUGMENTED REALITY

AR allows the user to experience the real world while it is augmented with either video or graphical elements which aid the training objective. For example, you are still able to see and navigate the real world, or see your hands and firearm in front of you. AR allows you the ability to place any-

thing or anyone in the training space with your officers such as a three-dimensional image of a patrol car, or a volumetric video of a bystander.

ADVANTAGES OF AR IN LE TRAINING


- AR offers complete freedom of movement. Your officers are free to interact with the real world and each other, without any hindrance.
- It can accomplish very specific training goals in a more immersive environment (see the “Ti Training” example below).
- It can provide very specific elements to aid in reaching your training objective.



Augmented Reality (AR) is an interactive experience in which objects in the real world are enhanced by computer-generated perceptual information.

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This jet pilot training program utilizes a mixed reality environment during a training session which allows students to further practice their skills outside of an actual aircraft.

- Because the experience takes place in the real world, there will likely be more of an emotional response to the experience.
- It easily integrates with existing technologies.

DISADVANTAGES OF AR IN LE TRAINING

- It may not be the best choice if you wish to provide specific viewpoints of others.

MIXED REALITY

MR combines the best of both worlds and allows the user to experience the real world while interacting with virtual objects – be they video- or graphic-based. The potential training applications of MR are limitless.

ADVANTAGES OF MR IN LE TRAINING

- MR offers complete freedom of movement. Your officers are free to interact with the real world and each other, without any hindrance.
- It can accomplish very specific training goals in a more immersive environment (see the example below).
- It can provide very specific elements to aid in reaching your training objective.
- Because the experience takes place in the real world, there will likely be more of an emotional response to the experience.

DISADVANTAGES OF MR IN LE TRAINING

- The content is harder to produce since everything is “in play.”

TRAINING OBJECTIVES BEST SUITED TO EACH

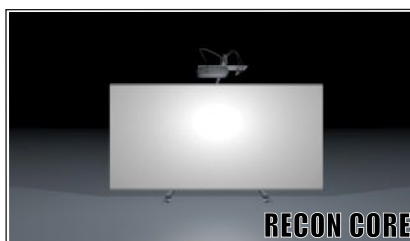
- **Virtual Reality** – AXON currently produces VR training content utilizing the Oculus Quest headset for crisis intervention training. I had the pleasure of viewing the 360° video of an encounter with a subject experiencing a mental health episode.

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One of the unique things about this was the ability to view the encounter not just from the officer's perspective, but also from the perspective of the subject. By use of a hand controller, the participant can select options that then branch to a likely outcome of that decision. The immersion was very complete. Since this is a VR application, I was seated the entire time and, although I could look all around, I did not physically move through the virtual world.

This type of training application is

great for a variety of situations in order to expose the trainee to a variety of subjects. For example, imagine a VR training which displayed what a firearms instructor sees when firing his (or her) pistol. You would be able to see a clear front sight picture, how the recoil of the pistol was managed, malfunction clearances, etc. – all from the perspective of the instructor. You would then have the experience of what it all should look like before doing it yourself. It isn't hard to imagine other topics which

THE NEW “REALITY”: HOW VIRTUAL REALITY (VR), AUGMENTED REALITY (AR) AND MIXED REALITY (MR) IMPACT LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING *Continued from page 31*

would be accomplished via VR.

- **Augmented Reality** – Ti Training is currently using the RealMax headset to provide an AR experience in conjunction with its simulation systems. Everything from a full-size patrol car to a volumetric video of a bystander who is filming you on a mobile phone can appear in the training room in front of the video simulation. The trainee can not only still see the scenario, but they can see everything else in the real world including the other trainees, their own hands and pistol in front of them, etc. Very soon, Ti will add MR into these training evolutions. The untethered RealMax headset supports not only both AR and MR, but a simple magnetic shield turns the headset into a VR platform as well. Pitch, yaw and roll, in addition to the physical location of the headsets, can also be tracked for debriefing.
- **Mixed Reality** – Current MR applications include sharing real-world visual workspaces by combining multiple mixed reality headsets into a space where team members can share a virtual world overlaid on the real world. An example would be a sales rep who could work with a client to show their product catalog while they are both at the client's desk.

Another application of MR is to either train or support customers by using this technology from a remote location. Since this reality can be “shared,” the instructor could show the student what is important in the student's headset in real time.

HARDWARE

Virtual Reality: Oculus, Sony, Nintendo, and several other manufacturers

Augmented Reality: Epson, RealMax, Kopin, and other manufacturers

Mixed Reality: Microsoft, Magic Leap, and other manufacturers

The costs of the hardware for this technology can vary widely, from a few hundred dollars to several thousand dollars. The specific cost for each form of these technologies is usually dependent on both the functionality, capability and potential of the hardware itself as well as the software which is required.

WHAT IT MEANS FOR LE TRAINING

Our law enforcement professionals live and work in the physical world. A training methodology which “shuts out” the physical world can be a recipe for disaster for most training objectives. For example, how can you possibly see your gun in front of your face if it is purposely “shut out”? Training has to be as real as possible in an environment which most closely matches the way our officers work – from movement in relation to subjects, objects, and other officers to kinesthetic awareness of potential threat areas, avenues of escape, avenues of retreat, paths to cover, etc. These all demand a connection to the physical world.

In truth, AR and MR are better paths to effective law enforcement training in most cases. By adding digital elements

to the real world, AR and eventually MR will make training which was never possible before available to law enforcement. **P&SN**

Todd Brown has over 25 years of experience instructing federal, international, state, and municipal agencies in simulated environments, as well as in live-fire environments, both at the officer/agent level and at the instructor level. He holds instructor certifications for fire-arm, defensive tactics, OC (chemical agents), baton, and is a Master TASER® Instructor. He played an integral role in the development of The RECON™ Use of Force Simulation System, as well as other simulation systems.



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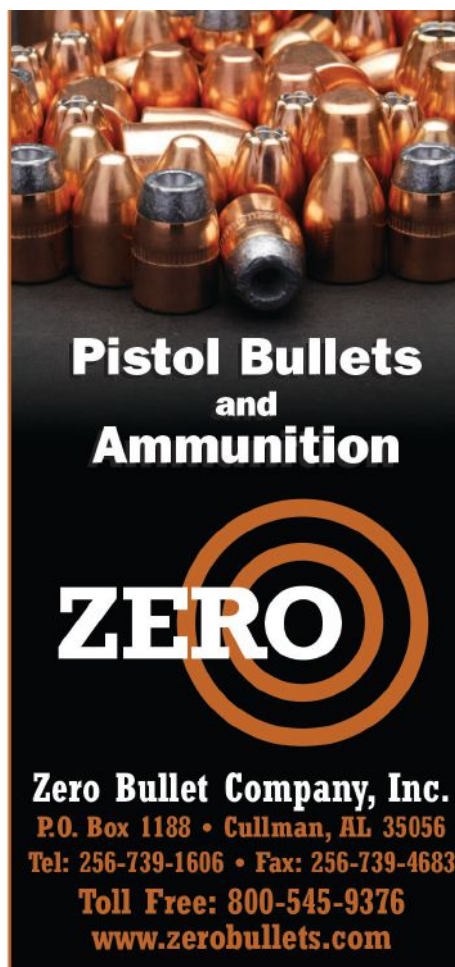
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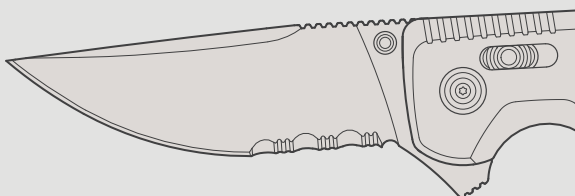
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WE ARE A WITNESS TO HISTORY

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JOHN G. PETERS, JR., CLS, PH.D.

Few people “live” through history changing events, yet alone be the target of them.

The Revolutionary War, the American Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement are three examples when citizens “lived” the experience and saw massive changes take place before their eyes and during their lifetime. Now, we in law enforcement (past and present) are seeing and living through unprecedented changes in the profession of our choosing, in our communities, in our nation, and around the globe. Like many of those before us, we are the target of focused rage from some groups who are leaning on, and inappropriately using, the tragic death of George Floyd to allegedly effect positive change in law enforcement. Other groups are disguising their anarchist goals, prejudices, hatred, criminal intent, and political agenda through their violent carnage inside cities and towns as a “justified response” for Mr. Floyd’s death.

Many protesters, their supporters and others inaccurately recite the First Amendment of the United States Constitution as their legal platform for assembly and freedom of speech. While they are partially correct, the First Amendment clearly provides this “right of the people **peaceably** to assemble. . . [emphasis added].” Anarchy in the streets, hurling objects at police officers, shooting at police officers, burning buildings, looting, and taking over sections of cities are not peaceful and, therefore, outside the boundaries of the First Amendment. Whatever one’s view about their behaviors, attitudes toward law enforcement and government, these protests have created some changes within law enforcement. One such response is President Trump’s Executive Order on safe policing.

Presidential Executive Order

On Tuesday, June 16, 2020, President Donald Trump issued an “Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities.” The Order highlighted, “Law enforcement officers provide the essential protection that all Americans require to raise their families and lead productive lives.” While viewed as a “law and order” president, the Order also confirmed, “Unfortunately, there have been instances in which some officers have misused their authority, challenging the trust of the American people, with tragic consequences for individual victims, their communities and our Nation.” No specific victims are mentioned, but the names of George Floyd and Walter Scott, the latter fatally shot by a police officer on April 4, 2015, come to mind.

In Section 1 of the five section Executive Order, the protection of all people’s rights stand out in the “Purpose” of the Order. “Particularly in African-American communities, we must redouble our efforts as a Nation to swiftly address instances of misconduct.” In short, justice must become a guarantee to all people within the United States, while only the very few will say that “injustice” is acceptable.

Section 2 focuses on “Certification and Credentialing” of law enforcement agencies and officers. The United States Attorney General “shall certify independent credentialing bodies that meet standards to be set by the Attorney General.” State and local law enforcement agency’s “use-of-force policies” must “prohibit the use of chokeholds . . . except in those situations where the use of deadly force is allowed by law.”

Establishing and meeting minimum agency credentialing standards will change the professionalism of policing in many areas of the United States. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for example, has many part-time law enforcement agencies and officers. In two other states, statutes authorize sworn officers to work for up to one year before attending an academy. Few will argue that this is a good practice, but it came about because some law enforcement administrators wanted to “test drive” their new employee before spending a lot of money sending him (or her) to the academy. Poor leadership leads to poor decisions and this is but one example. These practices need to be eliminated because it gives the antagonists fuel for their arguments and actions.

Information sharing is the focus of Section 3 of the Order and requires the United States Attorney General to “create a database to coordinate the sharing of information between and among Federal, State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies concerning instances of excessive use of force related to law enforcement matters, accounting for applicable privacy and due process rights.” This is consistent with recommendations made by the US Department of Justice, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Police Executive Research Forum, and other groups. These “warning systems” are designed to identify those officers who use force on a frequent basis so command staff can analyze why they are frequently using force. Explanations may include that the officer is working in a high crime area, makes a lot of arrests, and encounters re-

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EXECUTIVE ORDERS, CHOKEHOLD BANS AND ELIMINATING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY: WE ARE A WITNESS TO HISTORY

Continued from page 34



Many from the baby boomer generation are comparing the current civil unrest to that of the 1960s – minus the 24/7 news coverage.

sisting suspects. Another possible reason is that the officer enjoys using force and abuses it. However, the FBI reports few law enforcement agencies are contributing to its use-of-force database, raising questions about why many administrators are unwilling to share these data.

Dovetailing social services with law enforcement services is the focus of Section 4 of the Order which accurately declares, “because law enforcement officers often encounter [mental health, homeless and addicted] individuals suffering from these conditions in the course of their duties, all officers should be properly trained for such encounters.” The US Attorney General is directed to work with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to “identify and develop opportunities to train law enforcement officers with respect to encounters with individuals suffering from impaired mental health, homelessness, and addiction” [and] “to increase the capacity

of social workers working directly with law enforcement agencies. A recent example is the City of Albuquerque which changed its police department to a public safety agency and is using trained mental health professionals to respond to people in mental health crises.

Of course, these lofty proposals take time and money to develop, implement and monitor. Section 5 focuses on providing not only money, but also legislation through the Congress to “enhance the tools and resources available to improve law enforcement practices and build community engagement.” These practices include:

- “training and technical assistance required to adopt and implement improved use-of-force policies and procedures, including scenario-driven de-escalation techniques”;
- “retention of high-performing law enforcement officers and recruitment

of law enforcement officers who are likely to be high-performing”;

- “confidential access to mental health services for law enforcement officers”; and
- “programs aimed at developing or improving relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve”

Training in these and other areas is critical to improving law enforcement’s response to the community. I encountered inadequate law enforcement training when I was a patrol officer and deputy sheriff, and many who are reading this may have similar experiences. The average number of hours required to become a barber across the US is 1500 hours. Surprisingly, many states accept far fewer hours for the recruit training of their officers. Many law enforcement “problems” cited by the public reflect poor training, such as not knowing how to appropriately engage a disabled individual using a wheelchair or another who is autistic. Another problem begins in recruitment.

If law enforcement is willing to embrace the mandates of President Trump’s Order, then the focus of requirements for law enforcement officers must change. One former IACP president appropriately questions today’s recruiting focus when recent technological, cultural, and social changes require different skill sets to decade-old job requirements. Yesterday’s recruitment criteria may not fit well into the needs of today’s communities.

Qualified Immunity Changes

Colorado recently passed its “Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity Act” which allows plaintiffs who sue law enforcement officers to bypass qualified immunity at the state level. The doctrine of qualified immunity protection is still available to government agents at the federal level. Qualified immunity is a judicial liability shield created by the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) in 1982. In short, qualified immunity protects law enforcement officers from legal liability, unless the rights they allegedly violate are clearly established by previous decisions in their federal district or by SCOTUS. Qualified immunity is an affirmative defense available to law enforcement officers.

Congress and many other states are also looking to nullify the doctrine of qualified immunity, too. It is important to pay attention to what Congress (and possibly your state) does because it can impact your civil liability defenses.



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EXECUTIVE ORDERS, CHOKEHOLD BANS AND ELIMINATING QUALIFIED IMMUNITY: WE ARE A WITNESS TO HISTORY

Continued from page 36



Section 3 establishes the need to create a database to coordinate the sharing of information between federal, state and local agencies.

Recommendations

Whether or not we agree with the enacted or the proposed changes, including changes yet imagined, this is the new reality. Law enforcement is under strong magnification in the societal microscope. While policy and training which permitted the kneeling on a person's neck, and the officer's failure to get off the neck (even when questioned by other officers and by citizens who watched the problematic technique used on Mr. Floyd), at first

blush may appear to be the issues, it is much deeper and complex. There are many systemic issues such as the failure to discipline officers who repeatedly use too much force, often protected by union agreements which will come under intense scrutiny as the microscope expands its focus. Administrators, too, are not immune. Many have resigned, or will be resigning or retiring, because they have had enough of "defunding" realities and know they are facing an impossible uphill battle (think Seattle's police chief). How does one fight against national and local politicians who repeatedly claim protestors engaged in criminal activities (such as burning and looting of buildings and assaulting officers and business owners) are peacefully exercising their First Amendment rights. This is utter nonsense and only fuels the violence.

Many pundits claim the causes of arrest-related deaths are training and policy failures. This may be partly true, but what about an organizational culture resistant to change? That resistance will crumble, like collective bargaining agreements which often protect officers. Yes, there is abuse of officers by leader-

ship and command staff in some agencies, but prohibiting or making it nearly impossible to discipline rogue officers is unacceptable, too. Change is here and we are compelled to embrace it.

Confusingly, some prosecutors (such as in St. Louis, Chicago and Philadelphia) are reluctant to prosecute people who commit serious crimes and appear eager to hastily charge officers with crimes before investigators complete the incident investigation. Defunding police agencies will make this worse because it will take longer to investigate incidents with inadequate personnel. Taxpayers cannot have it both ways: defunding police and increasing personal and community safety. Recently, protesters in Seattle confronted and rushed a "60 Minutes" reporter and her news team. She exclaimed, "Where are the cops?" Defunding is the inverse of protection.

Police response to calls for service will change. As a University of Baltimore undergraduate studying criminal justice, my professor, retired Major Norman Pomrenke (Baltimore City Police Academy) told us that one day police will respond from the station like firefighters.

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Former Seattle Chief of Police Carmen Best recently announced her resignation. News reports have indicated that police in major cities are choosing retirement at a rate which is almost double what it normally would be (shown above is the destroyed Minneapolis PD's 3rd Precinct).

We laughed and could not conceive his prediction. He must have had a crystal ball as law enforcement is forcibly becoming more reactive than proactive in patrolling communities. While some may scoff at this reality, there are those who equally scoff at implementing training topics which make them feel uncomfortable. One example is Implicit Bias training.

Four years ago, after "Implicit Bias" trainers shared their information with attendants at an international conference, several older officers questioned the need for such training. "This is BS," one male said. Another officer declared that this type of training only caters to the minority community. The Implicit Bias trainers returned to the international conference for the next three years and, in 2019, no one questioned the training. In fact, it was one of the highlights of the conference.

Another change is the elimination of chokeholds as a force option for officers. Several states and city councils have now banned officers from using chokeholds. It can make sense to eliminate them because of improper application training or when officers are seldom retrained in their application. Applying chokeholds is a perishable skill and retraining is necessary. Conversely, the elimination of this force option may have unintended consequences: the increased shootings of wild, drug-crazed individuals who are nearly impossible to physically capture and control.

An unintended result of eliminating or severely limiting force options (such as pepper spray, TASER®, chokeholds) will cause officers to use more force or to let other officers "handle" the problem. Many trainers and street officers know

that, over the past couple of decades, the watering down of training programs – particularly defensive skills – has produced officers who are often scared and ill-equipped to handle physical combat. "Don't hurt them," or "People in your class are filing workers' comp claims, so tone it down," are two refrains heard by trainers from administrators. To stay in coveted training positions, some trainers became enablers versus solution finders. The result: Many officers are often scared when they get into a confrontation because they lack the necessary physical skills and mental attitude due to insufficient and inadequate training.

Forcing change on law enforcement officers without effecting multiple changes in the societal and political cultures are doomed for failure and will only escalate situations and anger officers, administrators, local government officials, and the public. Change is a two-way street. Community residents and visitors must realize that, when they obey law enforcement commands or peaceably assemble, there is little risk of abuse by those who comprise the thin blue line. Yes, there are rogue officers, just like any profession. In contrast, other professionals must seldom tolerate what we have witnessed over the past several weeks: protesters shoving officers; blinding officers with laser lights; ambushing officers; shooting officers, causing death or serious bodily harm; destroying government property; and, yes, partially taking over sections of a city and then disrespecting and holding

hostage local businesses and citizens.

Legislators, media pundits, law enforcement administrators, along with progressive law enforcement organizations must hit the "pause button" and stop responding with knee-jerk reactions, but with critically thought-out responses which have a genuine chance of working. Politicians are quick to argue that they are "following the COVID-19 data" to justify the closing of businesses, limiting church gatherings, etc. They, like the citizens, need to also "follow the data on officer-involved shootings" which discredits their narrative about unjustified, racial disparate killings. Thoughtful, timely and appropriate responses must be the norm; otherwise, disruptive and biased changes will occur which will do more harm than good. Officers are watching just like community members. Many officers, I predict, will retire like the Seattle police chief or resign from a job they love, while still others will "tread water" until they can retire. The big question is: Who will be qualified to take their place or want to take it? **P&SN**

John G. Peters, Jr., CLS, Ph.D. contributes regularly to Police and Security News. He serves as president of the Institute for the Prevention of In-custody Deaths, Inc. (www.ipicd.com) and as Executive Director of the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement (www.aele.org). A judicially qualified expert witness, he has testified in international, federal and state courts, and is the author of more than 250 publications.

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Duty Flashlight Selection

Eugene Nielsen

Photo courtesy of Streamlight, Inc.

While everyone recognizes the need for a flashlight, often very little thought is given to its selection. Although on the surface a flashlight is a relatively simple tool, there are a number of features which need to be considered.

Flashlights differ greatly in convenience and performance. Every flashlight has its own compromises between size, weight, light output, battery type, and runtime.

Advances in LED (Light-Emitting Diode) technology, as well as in battery efficiency, have resulted in flashlights which are smaller, lighter and brighter than they were just a few years ago. Incandescent flashlights still exist in a few flashlight models, but the advancements in LED technology have rendered them obsolete. You cannot beat the energy efficiency, runtime, brightness options, and impact resistance of an LED flashlight.

ANSI/PLATO® FL 1-2019 Standard

In 2009, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) approved a new specification called ANSI/NEMA FL-1 standardizing flashlight performance. The standard was developed by the Flashlight Standards Committee of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA).

Following the standards' publication, the manufacturers who developed it formed a

trade group known as the Portable Lights American Trade Organization (PLATO) to further refine the standard and encourage its adoption industrywide. In late 2016, PLATO became an ANSI Accredited Standards Developer.

The standard has subsequently undergone two revisions. In these revisions, testing procedures were refined and area lighting added.

The current edition of the standard, the ANSI/PLATO FL 1-2019 Standard, was published in late 2019.

The purpose of the ANSI/PLATO FL 1 Flashlight Basic Performance Standard is to allow consumers to make valid comparisons of lights and to eliminate exaggerated light performance. Compliance with these standards is voluntary and most of the manufacturers do their own testing, but a majority of the major brands now include the ANSI/PLATO FL 1 performance data on their packaging.

Performance of flashlights is measured using new batteries included with the light when purchased or, if no batteries are included, the batteries recommended by the

packaging.

There are six ANSI/PLATO FL 1 criteria: light output; runtime; peak beam intensity; beam distance; impact resistance; and water resistance.

Light Output

Light output is measured in lumens. This is a measure of the intensity of the visible light coming out of the flashlight, on the highest brightness setting powered by new batteries. It may also be shown for multiple light settings.

The total lumen output is measured in an integrating sphere after the light has been on for 30 to 120 seconds. This allows time for the LED to heat up and the battery voltage to sag which will usually result in a lower output number than had the light been immediately tested when it was turned on.

The lumen has become the international standard of light and puts the lights which you are comparing on a level playing field. Although candlepower may adequately indicate the intensity of the light source itself, it doesn't provide an accurate picture of light output, since it only measures the brightest spot within the beam.

Light output is important and is a great comparison tool. However, it is only part of the brightness equation. Beam intensity, distance and type all need to be taken into consideration when evaluating the effectiveness of a light in different applications.



Lumen is a base metric used to indicate the total potential amount of light from a light source – similar to the horsepower of an engine. Lux is the measure of light at a specific distance, within a specific area at that distance. Candela is the total volume of light within a certain beam angle and direction.

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DUTY FLASHLIGHT SELECTION

Continued from page 40



When selecting a flashlight, it's important to consider how it will be used.

Runtime

This is the amount of continuous runtime measured in hours until the light output drops to ten percent of its original value. It is rounded to the nearest quarter hour. Testing is done using the batteries included with the flashlight or the test is done using the batteries recommended by the manufacturer (if no batteries are included).

Light output is measured every 15 minutes in an integrating sphere. It should be noted that the ten percent of brightness probably gives inflated runtime numbers. Some testers in the past used 50% in order to be a little more practical in runtime. However, with most batteries, the drop-off between 50% and ten percent brightness usually is not very long.

Runtime is commonly given for each light setting. Although not always provided, a runtime graph will give the best illustration of the performance of a light over time.

Peak Beam Intensity

Peak beam intensity is the light intensity in candela (cd) at the brightest part of the beam. A lux reading in the brightest portion of the beam is taken at some distance (2m, 10m, or 30m) with the light on its brightest mode and tightest focus at sometime between 30 and 120 seconds of turning the light on.

Beam Distance

Beam distance is the distance in meters at which the flashlight produces a light intensity of at least 0.25 lux which is the equivalent of the light from a full moon. Although not very bright, full moon illumination is considered adequate for safe and careful travel outdoors. On variable output flashlights, the beam distance will vary with the brightness setting selected. Beam distance is not actually measured, but is calculated using a mathematical formula and peak beam intensity.

Impact Resistance

Impact resistance is the height, in meters, from which the light (including batteries) can be dropped onto concrete without cracking or breaking and still function. Lights are dropped while in the "off" position and allowed to come to rest before inspecting them for damage. For ratings over one meter, each sample light is dropped six times with different faces towards the ground. The primary purpose of this test to ensure the light remains fully functional if it is accidentally dropped.

Water Resistance

Water resistance is important for any light which will be used in the rain or around bodies of water. ANSI/PLATO FL 1 water resistance is rated in accordance with the IP Code, International Protection Marking, International Electro Technical Commission (IED) 60529.

There are three possible ratings: IPX4, IPX7 and IPX8. Testing for water resistance and immersion is conducted after the impact resistance testing.

- IPX 4 – Water-resistant: can be splashed with water from all directions without water getting inside.
- IPX7 – Temporary immersion: immersion up to 30 minutes at a depth of one meter.
- IPX8 – Submersible: submersible up to four hours at the specified depth.

Other Features

There are a number of other features which need to be considered when selecting a duty flashlight. These include beam type, regulated output, battery type, modes, controls, body materials, physical design, and accessories.

Beam Type

A duty flashlight should have a focused beam with a bright central hotspot (the portion of the beam which provides "throw") and broad peripheral corona/spill (the portion of the light which provides flood) to accommodate peripheral vision. Spill is important for situational awareness, especially in building clearing/room searches where peripheral vision plays a major role.

This isn't a problem with an incandescent bulb with a properly designed reflector, but LEDs are another matter. Unlike incandescent bulbs which have a spherical radiance, LEDs radiate their light in a 180 degree forward arc. There are two options: Use a lens to achieve a more concentrated central spot of light or use a specially designed reflector to achieve some degree of peripheral light around a bright center.

Some flashlights have an adjustable beam which allows the width of the beam to be changed from "spot" to "flood." Although this may sound like a beneficial feature, it may not be the optimal choice for a duty flashlight.

Regulated Output

Digitally regulated output means that there's a microprocessor attached to the LED which controls the output and runtime in relation to the battery life. Lights with a digitally regulated power supply maintain a steady brightness level at near

An advertisement for VirTra training equipment. It features a silhouette of a police officer in a tactical vest with "POLICE" written on the back, standing in front of a large screen displaying a cityscape at night. The text "DE-ESCALATION TRAINING HAS NEVER BEEN SO REALISTIC" is overlaid on the top half of the image. At the bottom, it says "See Training in Action at VirTra.com" and the "VirTra" logo is prominently displayed.

peak throughout most of the battery's life cycle. Near the end of battery life, the light output drops off abruptly and significantly. Lights which are unregulated grow progressively dimmer as power is drained from the batteries.

Battery Type

The type and availability of replacement batteries is a factor which needs to be considered in selecting a flashlight. Selecting a flashlight with the right type of battery is extremely important.

Batteries may be broadly classified into two types: disposable and rechargeable. If a flashlight will only be used occasionally or for mission-critical applications, disposable batteries are the only way to go. If a flashlight will see frequent, heavy use, rechargeable batteries will provide considerable cost savings.

Alkaline batteries are the most widely used flashlight batteries. They have a longer shelf life than zinc carbon batteries, as well as improved shelf life. Although rechargeable alkaline batteries are available, standard alkaline batteries aren't rechargeable.

Lithium batteries are more reliable than alkaline and zinc carbon batteries.

They have a very high power density; a shelf life of up to ten years; and superior low temperature performance. Their only disadvantage is that they cost more than other types of batteries. Although standard lithium batteries aren't rechargeable, rechargeable lithium batteries are available.

Whereas nickel cadmium (NiCd) batteries are rechargeable, they have a tendency to self-discharge and may take a set if improperly recharged. All things considered, lithium batteries are the optimal choice for a duty flashlight, with alkaline batteries coming in second.

AAA or AA are the most common battery sizes in general use and are readily available. CR123A is also common and has become the standard disposable battery for tactical lights. The advantage to CR123 is that it has a higher voltage output allowing for a smaller, lighter and brighter flashlight, although they are more expensive. C and D cell batteries are still available if you want a larger flashlight.

Rechargeable lithium phosphate LFP 123A batteries are available for LED flashlights which use CR123 batteries. The runtime of LFP 123A batteries is approximately 50 percent less than the runtime



Candlepower indicates the intensity of the light source itself; however, it doesn't provide an accurate picture of light output.

provided by disposable CR123A lithium batteries; although maximum output levels are typically not affected. They should not be used in incandescent flashlights.

An increasing number of rechargeable flashlights feature a charging port on the side of the body, eliminating the need to remove the battery or place the light in a separate charging cradle. There are also now rechargeable batteries with a built-in micro-USB charging port. Charging may



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DUTY FLASHLIGHT SELECTION

Continued from page 43



A duty flashlight should have both a momentary and constant on switch available.

be accomplished via wall (AC) chargers, (DC) chargers or a USB connection.

Some of the newer rechargeable flashlights feature a proprietary-sized battery and/or battery which isn't user replaceable. I would recommend user replaceable batteries on any rechargeable duty flashlight, as it allows you to simply drop in fully charged batteries when the flashlight batteries need to be recharged.

Do not use lithium or lithium ion batteries with any flashlight unless recommended by the manufacturer. You risk damaging a light by mismatching it with lithium batteries.

Modes

A single output setting may be sufficient for general-purpose use. Some models offer two or more modes, such as low,

medium, high, and boost. You may rarely use more than one mode, but having the option can be advantageous. Lower outputs extend runtime and battery life, and have less of an impact on dark adapted vision when less light is needed to accomplish the task at hand. Some flashlights are programmable.

Some models may offer special modes such as a strobe. Although strobes have been the subject of much controversy and considered little more than a gimmick by some, strobing can be a useful tool. Strobing is typically employed when closing gaps; to disorientate and confuse threats; channel the route of a subject; or to gain attention.

Controls

The type of on/off and lighting mode switches is an important consideration when selecting a duty light. The switches should be easy to operate with one hand, yet not turn on accidentally. A duty flashlight should have both momentary and constant on switches. Separate switching is considered desirable by many as it avoids switching errors. On some tactical tailcap switches, you press for momentary on and twist for constant on. Click switches are also popular – you press for momentary on and press further to click constant on. A lockout feature which prevents the light from being accidentally turned on is also a desirable feature.

Body Materials and Physical Design

Duty flashlights are subjected to considerable abuse and need to be ruggedly constructed. The better flashlights have bodies of machined aerospace aluminum or heavy-duty polymer. Each has its advantages.

Machined high strength aerospace aluminum alloy bodies are extremely resistant to damage from impact, crushing or bending. It allows the lights to be made as small and light as possible without sacrificing strength. Keep in mind that not all aluminum bodies are the same. Thinner aluminum bodies are a little lighter, but they lack the durability of the thicker, machined aluminum bodies which is essential in a duty light.

Polymers are durable and lighter in weight than aluminum. They are more comfortable to hold in cold weather and nonconductive. Look for polymer flashlights with bodies made of high strength, nonimpact-resistant, glass-filled polyamide polymer. Some flashlight manufacturers use cheap polymers such as ABS. As is so

often the case, you get what you pay for.

The window material is also an important consideration as it is what protects the reflector and emitter of a flashlight from water and debris, as well as allowing light transmission. The windows on the better flashlights are commonly either Lexan® polymer or tempered, coated Pyrex® glass.

A duty flashlight should be comfortable, easy to hold and provide a good grip. Cylindrical bodies are the most common. As they tend to roll around when laid on a surface, look for models which are profiled to resist rolling. Knurling and/or texturing on the body is also an important feature as it will provide better grip and reduce slipping.

Size and weight are largely a matter of personal preference. Smaller flashlights are more convenient and are more likely to be nearby when needed as they are easier to carry. They are also much easier to employ with flashlight assisted shooting techniques.

Thanks to technological advances, small size and high output are no longer necessarily incompatible with one another. Larger lights are no longer necessarily brighter, although they are likely to have a longer runtime due to a greater battery capacity.

Accessories

Add-on accessories which may be included with the flashlight or sold separately include a belt or pocket clip; a lanyard; tactical rings; a holster; and lens filters, diffusers and covers to provide additional lighting options which add to the versatility of the light.

Other Considerations

Before purchasing a flashlight, pick it up and see how it balances and feels in the hand. Operate the switches. If at all possible, test the flashlight by shining it down a darkened corridor to see how brightly and broadly it illuminates an area. Also, check out the warranty. Most of the better flashlights are warranted for life.

It is a good idea to carry two flashlights while on duty – a primary flashlight and a backup flashlight in case of failure of the primary light. I recommend a powerful rechargeable lithium ion powered flashlight which is easily carried on the belt for primary duty use and a small powerful flashlight with disposable lithium batteries carried as a backup. Spending a little more to get the very best is a worthwhile investment. **P&SN**

Eugene Nielsen owns and operates a private intelligence and security consulting firm. He has a BA degree in political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara.

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Advertiser Index

Page #	Advertiser	Web Site
8.....	Accu-Shot	accu-shot.com
37	Alien Gear Holsters.....	aliengearholsters.com/duty-holsters
14	Black Hills Ammunition.....	black-hills.com
41	COAST Products, Inc.....	coastportland.com
16	Combative Firearms Training	combativefirearms.com
7.....	Dragon Skin	hi-tec.qc.ca
17	EVIDENT, Inc.....	shopevident.com
Cover 2-Page 3	FCA Fleet	fcausfleet.com
19	Fire Hooks Unlimited, Inc.....	firehooksunlimited.net
29	Ford Motor Co	fleet.ford.com
20	Golight, Inc.	golight.com
21	Gun Shop, The.....	policeammo.com
35	Hardwire, LLC.....	hardwirellc.com
8.....	Humane Restraint Co., Inc.	humanerestraint.com
6.....	JAMAR Technologies, Inc.	speedingcomplaint.com
27	Jotto Desk	jottopublicsafety.com
30	Leonardo/ELSAG ALPR Systems.....	leonardocompany-us.com/lpr
38	Liberty Art Works, Inc.	libertyartworks.com
5.....	N-ear Pro	n-earpro.com
19	Nightstick.....	nightstick.com
36	OfficerStore.....	officer.com/flirle
7.....	Pearce Grip, Inc.....	pearcegrip.com
43	Powertac USA, Inc.....	powertac.com
20	Rescue Essentials.....	rescue-essentials.com
Cover 4	Safe Fleet	try.safefleet.net/cameras-system/
23	Schedule Anywhere	scheduleanywhere.com/law
11	Sentinel Camera Systems, LLC	sentinelcamerasystems.com
13	Setina Mfg. Co., Inc.....	setina.com
39	Sniper Tools Design Co., LLC	snipertools.com
33	SOG Specialty Knives, Inc.....	sogknives.com
24-25	Springfield Armory	springfield-armory.com
15	Steck Manufacturing Co., Inc.....	steckmfg.com
32	Stratton Hats.....	strattonhats.com
15	Streamlight, Inc.....	streamlight.com
6.....	Strong Leather Co.	strongbadgecase.com
26	Take Aim Targets	takeaimtargets.com
31	Ti Training.....	titraining.com
44	Umarex USA, Inc.....	t4eguns.com/psn
42	VirTra, Inc.	virtra.com
9.....	WaterShed, LLC.....	wearewatershed.com
Cover 3	WaterShed, LLC.....	wearewatershed.com
32	Zero Bullet Co., Inc.....	zerobullets.com

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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

He's not going in my patrol car. You can take him... A man was cruising around Sacramento County, California, on Memorial Day when he somehow lost control of his vehicle and crashed into a pond. The driver called 911 around 1:30 a.m. to report the incident and request assistance. When responding officers arrived on-scene, they found the man and his vehicle "well submerged" in the pond. He explained to the officers that he had spent about an hour trying to get his car unstuck before calling the police. What made the incident worthy of being included herein is the fact that the "pond" he was submerged in was a liquid manure storage pond at a dairy farm. The man was charged with DUI. So much for the "new car" smell! (*He really got s-t-faced on that day.*)

Hey, how about some toppings which taste like rubber bullets?... An ice cream shop in Hong Kong has been offering tear gas flavored ice cream in support of the region's pro-democracy movement. The shop's owner explained that he wanted "to make a flavor [which] reminds people that they still have to persist in the protest movement and don't lose their passion." "It tastes like tear gas," said one customer. "It feels difficult to breathe at first and it's really pungent and irritating. It makes me want to drink a lot of water immediately." The owner tried several different combinations to achieve the flavor and found that black pepper came the closest. (*It does wonders to clear out your sinuses.*)

He's like my best friend's brother who ate a grasshopper for \$3.00... A TikTok user told a local TV station that he was looking for his five minutes of fame when he jumped into a fish tank at Bass Pro Shops® in Bossier, Louisiana. "I said that, if I got 2,000 likes, I would jump in the tank," he explained. "I got way more than that and didn't want to be a liar." A shopper in the store recorded video of the man swimming around in the tank before he climbed out and ran through the store soaking wet. "We heard a big splash and I thought it was one of the fish," he said. Bass Pro Shops later filed a complaint with the Bossier City Police Department,

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



So, how'd you two meet? Well, we just ran into each other on the street one day...

After police received a report of a stolen Toyota® Land Cruiser, they quickly spotted the vehicle as it drove through downtown Newberg, Oregon. As the 27-year-old driver fled from police in the ensuing pursuit, speeding through the city streets, the Land Cruiser plowed into a Buick Regal which was being driven by a 25-year-old Newberg woman. Investigators quickly discovered that the Toyota Land Cruiser and the Buick Regal had both been stolen. The male driver was arrested on suspicion of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and other charges. The female was arrested on suspicion of unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and driving under the influence. (*What a story for the grandchildren!*)

noting that it had to empty the 13,000 gallon tank and clean it after the man's swim. (*How I wish there were electric eels in the tank.*)

A local officer noticed a boar doing 67 mph and decided to investigate...

In Montepulciano, Italy, the police were aware of a gang which had been peddling cocaine in the area and even went so far as to wiretap their phones. However, the gang somehow became aware that something was up and decided to hide their stash. So, where did they hide their stash from the police? They decided to "head for the hills" and made a beeline for the countryside where they buried it in a remote location. That seemed like a great idea so who could possibly find it? Unfortunately, they didn't consider the pack of feral hogs which was roaming around the area. Police listening in to the wiretap heard them complaining that the hogs had dug up the coke stash and scattered it everywhere. Police closed in and arrested the gang. (*I bet they were living high on the hog after finding that stash.*)

Anyone who thinks Hot Pockets® are worth doing hard time for is bound to love prison food... Police responded to the report of a break-in at the local branch

of the Wells Fargo bank in San Diego, California. Upon arrival, officers found a broken window near the drive-thru. They then entered the bank and looked around inside, where it appeared that everything seemed to be normal – until they walked into the break room. Inside, the officers found a man calmly enjoying a tasty meal of Hot Pockets. When questioned, he told the officers that he only broke into the bank so he could use the bank's microwave oven. When asked whether or not he thought the Hot Pockets were worth it, he replied, "Hell, yeah!" Officers placed the man under arrest. (*Every time I go into Wells Fargo, I leave with "Empty Pockets."*)

From Lamborghini to fettuccini in 20 minutes...

An English police officer in West Yorkshire shared the thoughts of many after being dispatched to the scene of a wreck involving a \$300,000 Lamborghini. "It's only a car," the officer tweeted, but he "could have cried." The BBC reported that a Huracán Performante Spyder was wrecked on a highway 20 minutes after its new owner left the dealership when it broke down and was rear-ended by a van at high speed. The driver of the van suffered nonserious injuries in the crash. (*Lamborghini for sale; gently used.*) **P&SN**



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