

P&SN

Police and Security News

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021
VOLUME 37 ISSUE 1

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

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ON THE COVER

Whether on or off duty, a properly equipped ready bag, which is easily accessible, durable and convenient, will allow you and your family to better respond to many types of emergency situations. (Photo courtesy of 5.11, Inc.)



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

RAMESH NYBERG

The old “Adventures of Superman” TV show started with, “Look, up in the sky! It’s a bird...it’s a plane...no, it’s...”

...Officer Friendly! It *is*?

Yes! I’m not talking about a police officer wearing a cape. I’m speaking about unmanned aerial systems, better known as “drones.” Quadcopters (as they are also called) have become more than just wondrous playthings for retired cops who write for magazines and are frustrated pilots (I wonder who I could be talking about), but they have long been big money savers for movie producers, terrain mappers, and, now, high-tech assets for law enforcement. Police agencies all over the world have been using drones for over a decade for everything from search and



“I am the eye in the sky, looking at you...”

– Alan Parsons, 1982

rescue, chases, and, yes, surveillance. As you would expect, the latter term has sent many members of the far left into a tizzy.

Anything which even brushes up against the Fourth Amendment usually does rustle a few feathers – even I am a staunch libertarian when it comes to personal privacy – but the whirring blades and powerful camera of a DJI Phantom overhead sends the more paranoid citizens sprinting to the nearest ACLU office and shrieking about “Big Brother.” Arguments about what is a “reasonable”

search and/or seizure go way back. I’ve always been fascinated with these arguments. I could even be considered a kind of amateur Fourth Amendment geek. Was the search of Dolly Mapp’s house – with the fake warrant – reasonable and fair? No, of course it wasn’t. Great decision there. Was the Cleveland detective’s famous pat down of the defendant in *Terry vs. Ohio* warranted and reasonable? Heck, yes it was and that very important case gave us “stop and frisk” (which has been turned into a bad word, unfortunately) and the very important distinction between reasonable suspicion and probable cause. Fourth Amendment battlegrounds have made us better, more responsible and more resourceful cops.

But, what about drones? Why is an eye in the sky which is being piloted remotely looked upon so differently than a helicopter, piloted by someone sitting inside the aircraft? It is a compelling question and not unlike the same inquiries posed in other Fourth Amendment cases about “enhancement” of human surveillance tactics: If I stand on a street corner and I can look inside someone’s window and observe a heroin deal going down with the naked eye, why can’t I do the same thing from 200 yards away with a pair of binoculars or a camera with a powerful zoom?

Why can I smell marijuana smoke and generate a perfectly legal search of a vehicle, but I can’t use a dog who smells marijuana from outside of a home and have probable cause there?

It’s the *enhancement* of the search which SCOTUS has historically frowned upon and that’s why the tussle about drone use continues.

I own a DJI Mavic Air. I fly it just about every weekend, weather permitting, and I love the thing. It is a very easy little aircraft to fly and, with the obstacle avoidance sensors it has fore and aft and on the bottom, it’s damn near crash proof. The video and stills I have been able to shoot are im-

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Continued from page 6

pressive, too. At an altitude of 150 feet, this drone is so small (about the same size of this magazine) that it becomes a speck in the sky and it can fly (or hover) for approximately 18 minutes on one battery. It would go completely unnoticed – and, at that altitude, unheard – in most situations. Is that an enhancement which would get the Supremes all squirmy? I know that another technology which law enforcement used to have ended up on the cutting room floor not long ago: GPS trackers. The Supreme Court slapped our hand on that enhancement because, they said, placing it on a suspect's vehicle is an unreasonable search and seizure. I kind of get that, but, again, I go back to this comparison: If I am tailing the same suspect in a car, or with a surveillance team, I am accomplishing the exact same thing. In fact, human surveillance is way more intrusive than electronic tracking because, when the subject parks that car and walks away from it, all I am looking at with the GPS system is a stationary car on computer map. With human eyes, I am watching where the subject goes and what he does.

Then, we have the whole argument about *where* and *when* you have a right to privacy. I would agree that my Mavic Air can watch, record and follow from angles and places I can't readily get to with my human limitations. It can also enter smaller airspaces and a wider range of low altitudes than a helicopter can. But, if Pee Wee and Taco (these are our two drug dealers, bear with me) are exchanging money and small packages of little white powder in the park, what is wrong with my Mavic Air watching and recording it from 80 feet above them? The park is a *public* place. If there was a business across the

street and I could get on the roof and observe the same activity, what would be the difference? Then, if Pee Wee spots a police car coming around the block and starts running through alleys and over fences, I can fly over him and never lose track with the drone. Would anyone have an argument against the fact that we just used a \$700 aircraft to pinpoint the location of a fleeing criminal, rather than the thousands of dollars it takes to keep a helicopter (and its pilot) in the air?

We are going to have these arguments for a long time. We will have them because drones are getting faster and smaller, and are being outfitted with more capable camera systems. GPS satellites help remote pilots navigate them now, but don't kid yourself about what's coming to make the drone a real superhero: artificial intelligence. Imagine this: A drone which identifies Pee Wee's face from previous booking photos and, based on his last known address, is already alerting a second drone – waiting in a pod – which will launch from the other side of the neighborhood and head towards his house. As Jed Clampett would have said, "Wheee doggie!"

Does this sound far-fetched? My stepson works in computer robotics at UF and he said that programming such a scenario would be pretty simple.

The ACLU better have a big waiting room. **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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Springfield Armory® is now outfitting select **SAINT models with furniture from B5 Systems**, a producer of top-grade gear for the US military. The **B5 Systems furniture** is featured on select SAINT and SAINT Victor firearms and is available in addition to the original offerings equipped with BCM furniture.

In the SAINT Victor line, both the 5.56mm SAINT Victor Pistol and the 5.56mm SAINT Victor Rifle are now being offered with B5 Systems gear. Both models feature B5 Systems' enhanced Type 23 P-Grip pistol grip and enlarged polymer trigger guard and the SAINT Victor Rifle in 5.56mm features the B5 Systems Enhanced SOPMOD Stock. In addition to the Victor line, the SAINT Pistol and SAINT Rifle are also getting B5 Systems enhancements

springfield-armory.com

Firearms, Ammunition and Accessories

Smith & Wesson® Optics-ready Compact Pistol

Smith & Wesson has expanded its line of M&P® M2.0™ Compact pistols to include an optics-ready variant, the **M&P9 M2.0 Compact 4" OR**. The new models are chambered in 9mm and feature a slide cut for optics, co-witness white dot front and rear sights, and enlarged forward slide serrations.

The **M&P9 M2.0 Compact** pistols include the M2.0 feature set and are available with, or without, an ambidextrous manual thumb safety. Chambered in 9mm with a four inch barrel, it comes standard with seven mounting plates designed to fit popular slide mounted optics, two 15 round magazines, four interchangeable palm swell grip inserts, and more.

smith-wesson.com



New Tripod with Reaper Grip Kit

The **Kopffjäger K800 CF Tripod with Reaper Grip Kit** includes a 3.85 pound, carbon-fiber tripod with telescoping leg extensions and flip locks, and a Reaper Grip rest. The Reaper Grip boasts an adjustable, pivoting grip to accommodate tapered and straight stocks. The **K800 Tripod and Reaper Grip Kit** provides 360° smooth pan, 109° tilt range (21° up and 87° down) and easily stands up to harsh environments.

kjrests.com



LGL-160 Long-Gun Lighting Kit



Nightstick's **LGL-160** is a close combat/defense illumination solution for rifles, carbines and shotguns with MIL-STD-1913 (Picatinny) rails. Weighing 6.3 ounces, it features an 1100 lumen, 300 meter beam ideal for longer range outdoor use. Two hours of runtime come from a pair of included CR123 batteries. The **kit** includes both standard and 45 degree offset rail mounts; a tail cap; six inch remote pressure switches; a RPS rail mount; and Nightstick's proprietary wire management clamp.

nightstick.com

XD-S Mod.2® OSP™ Handgun



Springfield Armory's most popular single stack EDC is now optics ready. The **XD-S Mod.2 OSP** comes with a factory milled slide for low profile, direct mounting of compact optics for an intuitive sight picture and uninterrupted focus on target.

Available with an optional Crimson Trace® micro red dot and chambered in 9mm, the **XD-S Mod.2 OSP** features a 3.3" hammer forged barrel and a passive grip safety. Shipping with both seven and nine round magazines, the **XD-S Mod.2 OSP** also comes with a white dot front sight paired with an anti-glare serrated rear.

springfield-armory.com

New UMAREX® T4E® Pepper Pistol

T4E, a brand of UMAREX, has announced the release of a less-than-lethal pepper pistol. The new T4E product is labeled as the **Prepared 2 Protect™ HDP 50**, a .50 caliber handgun engineered to shoot spherical pepper, rubber or inert powder rounds.

The new pepper pistol is designed for civilian use, with an effective range of up to 50 feet. The pepper projectiles are filled with a pepper-infused chemical irritant that bursts upon impact, leaving a debilitating cloud which affects the eyes, nose and respiratory system.

The **HDP 50** is powered by readily available compressed air in the form of a single 12-gram CO2 cartridge. It shoots .50 caliber round pepper projectiles from an internal six round magazine and places pepper rounds on target with zero felt recoil.

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LEGAL UPDATE

US Supreme Court to Decide Warrantless “Hot Pursuit” Home Entry for a Minor Offense

LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.



In *Lange v. California* (US 20-18) (*cert. granted* 10-19-20), the United States Supreme Court agreed to decide the issue of whether a police officer may make a warrantless home entry when the officer is in pursuit of a person of whom

the officer has probable cause to believe has committed a jailable misdemeanor offense.

In the case description below, the defendant, Arthur Lange, was charged with drunk driving and with operating a vehi-

cle's sound system at excessive levels. He moved to suppress the evidence, arguing that the officer's warrantless entry into his home violated the Fourth Amendment.

The facts unfolded in the first week of

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October 2016 when, at about 10:20 p.m., California Highway Patrol Officer Aaron Weikert noticed the defendant's car "playing music very loudly" near Route 12 in Sonoma County. The driver – later identified as Lange – honked the car's horn four or five times which the officer thought strange because there were no vehicles in front of Lange.

The officer began following Lange intending to conduct a traffic stop. The officer observed Lange make a right turn and then a left turn. Lange then stopped for a few seconds and the officer stopped as well. When Lange began to move forward, the officer activated his overhead lights which consisted of "four red lights" and "a white bright light which switches between red and blue." Lange "failed to yield."

Lange then turned into a driveway and the officer followed. Lange's car went into a garage and the garage door began to close. The officer exited his vehicle, approached the garage door, stuck his foot "in front of the sensor and the garage door started to go back up." At that point, the officer entered the garage to speak to Lange, asking him whether he noticed the officer. Lange said he did not. Evidence gathered in the garage led to Lange's arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol.

At the defendant's motion to suppress, the prosecutor argued that Lange committed a "jailable" misdemeanor when he failed to stop after the officer activated his overhead lights. At that point, the officer had probable cause to arrest Lange for this misdemeanor offense and exigent circumstances justified the warrantless entry into Lange's garage. *The California Court of Appeal agreed*, finding that Lange's "arrest or detention based on probable cause [had] begun in a public place, but the suspect retreat[ed] into a private place in an attempt to thwart the arrest."

First, there was ample evidence that Lange was violating the Vehicle Code which justified the officer's attempt to conduct a traffic stop. Second, Lange clearly had reason to believe that the vehicle behind him was a police car. "There were no other cars on the street when Lange's car slowed down and almost came to a complete stop. When Lange's car moved forward, the officer activated his overhead emergency lights. The lights consisted of 'four red lights and there is a white bright light [which] switches between red and blue.' It was very dark outside and the lights provided considerable illumination." Thus, "a reasonable person in Lange's position would have known the officer intended for him to pull over."



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Third, after the officer activated his overhead lights, Lange continued driving his car for approximately 100 feet before it turned into the driveway. In this state, it is a "jailable" misdemeanor offense to "willfully resist, delay or obstruct a peace officer in the discharge of his duties." The Vehicle Code also makes it unlawful "to willfully fail or refuse to comply with a lawful order, signal or direction of a peace officer." By failing to immediately pull over, Lange's conduct gave the officer probable cause to arrest him for these misdemeanor offenses.

Accordingly, the court concluded that the officer's warrantless, "hot pursuit" entry onto Lange's driveway and into his garage were lawful; it prevented Lange from frustrating the arrest which had been set

in motion in a public place.

Oral argument at the US Supreme Court will occur in 2021. **P&SN**

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey, and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is the Managing Editor of Blue360° Media, the largest US provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement. Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

Night Vision and Thermal Imaging Equipment



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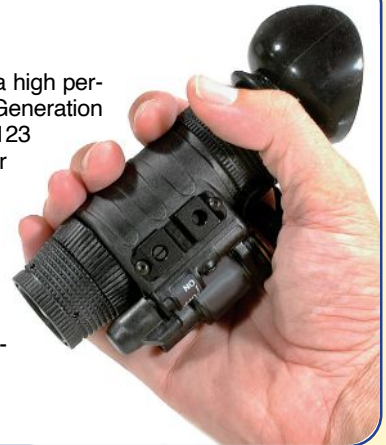
At only 475 grams, the **UL BNVD-SG** ultralight dual tube goggle with Single Gain Control incorporates new high performance optics which are not only much lighter, but also offer higher performance than standard optics. Currently, the AN/PVS-14 and most other night vision systems use optics which were only designed for green (P43) phosphor image tubes; however, these new **BNVD** optics were designed specifically to be optimized for both white (P45) and green (P43) image tubes.

nvdevices.com

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The Nivisys **MUM-14 Mini-Monocular** is a high performance modular which utilizes a single Generation III intensifier tube and a single AA or CR123 battery to provide crisp, clear images under the darkest conditions. The **MUM-14** is a high performance system in a small, tough package, making it a favorite of police departments worldwide. The **MUM-14** has the ability to be weapon mounted, head/helmet mounted, handheld, and optionally attached to cameras and extender 3X/5X afocal objective lenses.

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Pulsar's **Lexion Thermal Monoculars** boast IP67 waterproof rated construction and, depending on the model, heat signature detection ranges up to 2,000 yards. Onboard Wi-Fi and integrated video are perfect for recording evidence, as well as connecting a device for secondary monitoring. The **Lexion** also includes high-resolution 384 or 640 microbolometer sensors; 17 micron pixel pitch; a full eight color palette; picture-in-picture, AMOLED display; an eight hour rechargeable battery; and more.

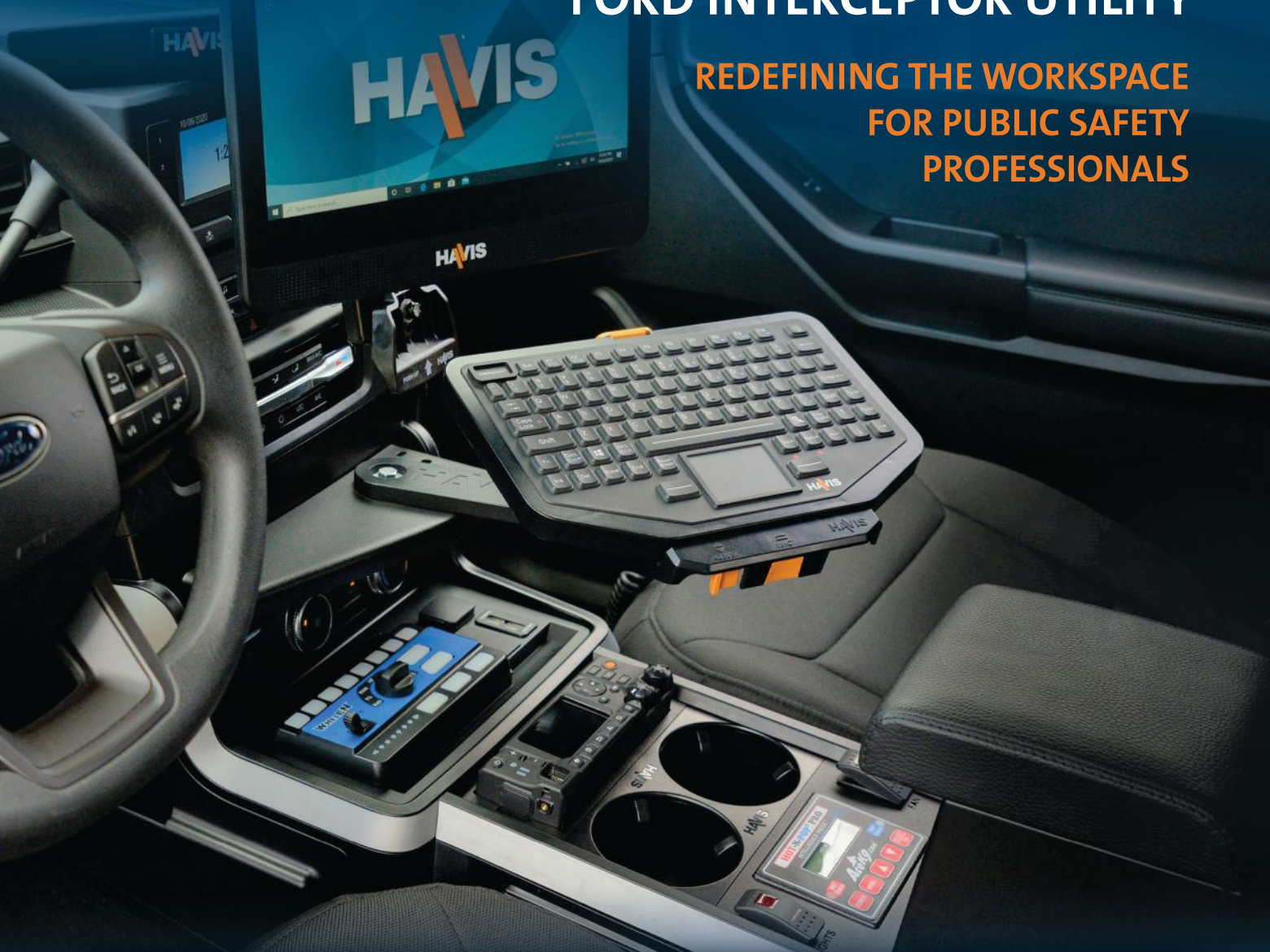
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SERGEANT JAMES POST

Advances in ballistic protection technology have made adding armor to law enforcement vehicles easier and more affordable, eliminating the need for “patrol cars” like the one shown below.

“Let’s be careful out there.”

With these words, Sergeant Phil Esterhaus (played by Michael Conrad) closed the daily roll call which signaled a new episode of the beloved “Hill Street Blues,” a television show on NBC which aired from 1981 to 1987. The police procedural created a new style TV show using handheld cameras and it featured an ensemble cast portraying the daily activities of a fictitious police precinct. It provided the audience with a mix of action, humor, drama, sexual innuendo, and gritty action seldom seen before...just another day on the job, right?

“Hill Street Blues” soon became “must-see TV” for cops across the country who blocked off every Thursday night to watch and, if they were stuck working evenings or dogwatch, they set their VCRs to record every episode. (*If you’re too young to know what a VCR is, call my editor.*) Like the Joseph Wambaugh novels which preceded it, there were characters on the “Blues” we all could identify with because we worked with all of them...the joker, the slacker, the suck-up, the whiner, the coward, the ladies’ man, the gung ho, and the by the booker...well, you get the idea.

In my years as a sergeant, I conducted well over 4,000 daily roll calls. My different assignments didn’t change or vary the requirement of daily roll calls, whether it was uniform patrol, vice, narcotics, burglary, auto theft, pawnshops, or career criminal: Every tour of duty began with a mandated roll call. Business came first – crime reports, BOLOs, individual and group assignments, department information, personnel issues, and finished with BS sessions if we had time. I readily admit that I closed a bunch of roll calls by borrowing Sergeant Esterhaus’s admonition to be careful – be it for inclement weather, bad guys, new bosses, or IAD lurking about; that simple statement of concern covered the gamut.

Roll Calls in 2020

Roll calls get in your blood and still live in my memory. Even today, fellow retirees

from my alma mater and I are E-mailed the daily roll call bulletins. Despite being out to pasture for 30 years, I’ve always felt I could suit up and head to the nearest station tomorrow and hold roll call and never miss a beat. But, reality soon sets in and I realize the uniform won’t fit; I don’t recognize the acronyms of dozens of new units and procedures; and I’d never catch up with all the high tech.

As of December 1, 2020, 262 brothers and sisters of American law enforcement have perished in the line of duty and we’re on track to set a new sad record. Although the numbers vary depending on the source, at least 150 have died from COVID-19 contracted on duty. Other deaths have resulted from ambushes, car stops, radio calls, and civil disturbance.

Injuries as a result of the estimated 8700 “peaceful protests,” aka riots across the country which followed the death of George Floyd, now number over 2000 and are tough to comprehend as well. Officers have been assaulted with rocks, bricks, frozen water bottles, clubs, lasers, Molotov cocktails, and commercial-grade fireworks. The NYPD alone has experienced 472 injured officers, 319 of which have required medical attention and a handful have medically retired. Our K-9 partners have not been exempt from danger this year, either, as several have been injured or killed.

Across this country, morale is low or nonexistent due to anti-cop protests and threats to defund departments – or even shut them down completely – and to replace them with some kind of social workers or unarmed peacekeepers. Lots of luck with that.

Eighteen major US cities are now without chiefs because they resigned or retired because of unrelenting pressure, harassment and the defund movement. Rank-and-file retirements are increasing at an alarming rate which is leaving big cities with barely enough officers to respond to calls for service. But, the biggest threat to cops nowadays is not what’s happening on the streets; it’s what’s going on behind



the closed doors at city halls and police headquarters and, really, this is nothing new – it’s just worse.

We’ve Got Your Six

But, loyal readers, take heart as we take a break from the 2020 doom and gloom for a minute to remind you that, here at *P&SN*, we have your backs. Every issue brings you real information you can use, from the latest in tactics, weapons and equipment to the newest safety advancements for your vehicles. We always have and we always will.

My last two columns featured new innovations from LE vehicle manufacturers designed to enhance officer safety, such as Ford’s creative COVID vehicle disinfecting procedure which utilizes the unit’s HVAC system. We also told you about the new standard equipment from Chrysler and Ford: invisible protective barriers and warning systems using cameras, alarms, and automated door locking which alerts officers of suspicious activity outside the vehicle.

This column continues the topic of vehicle safety with new products from aftermarket companies.



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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 16



NIJ Level IIIA ballistic door panels from Angel Armor weigh less than ten pounds.

The Armored Car

While we may wish we all had armored cars as duty vehicles, we recognize this is fantasy as only federal agencies can afford the expense. However, several companies have stepped up to provide a degree of armor protection for police vehicles. (It should be noted that both Ford and Chrysler also offer optional armoring for the front doors of their cruisers.)

Exterior Protection

Angel Armor's AVAIL® Ballistic Door

Panels transform vehicle doors into tactical shields protecting against Level IIIA or Level III+ threats. Their panels are transferable and easy to install (inside factory door panels) in 30 minutes to two hours, depending on the level of protection desired. The panels do not interfere with window operation and feature a weather-proof coating which helps to resist environmental wear and corrosion. They do not require cutting, welding or special tools and provide safety you can literally stand behind. Angel Armor's panels are available for all of the popular police vehicles. (angelarmor.com)

DEW Engineering and Development's DEWPD Ballistic Door Panels offer protection levels NIJ IIIA and NIJ III+ and have now added Level IV+ protection (armor piercing). They convert OEM police vehicle doors into protective shields which are integrated inside the door between the outer metal and the inside door panel and their policy is to never add more than 50 pounds per door.

DEW manufactures the (optional) ballistic armor installed in the Ford Police Interceptor® Utility doors and has now branched out to offer armor panels for

Chevrolet and Dodge models which can be shipped directly to the agency or their upfitter. (dewpd.com)

Back in April of 2020, Havis, Inc. announced a partnership with Hardwire to provide mission critical ballistic armor for public safety vehicles. Hardwire Ballistic Armor by Havis armor kits offer a com-



Havis, Inc. has partnered with Hardwire to provide mission critical ballistic armor for public safety vehicles.

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The transparent armor window insert attaches to the vehicle door, enabling the OEM window to function normally.

plete external solution which includes an exterior door with door handle protection, as well as a window insert solution. The product origins began with the military. These products are now standard for both the New York and Philadelphia Police Departments. They are available for all pursuit-rated LE vehicles from Ford, Chevrolet and Dodge.

The armor offers NIJ Level IIIA armor protection and tests confirm they stop .357 SIG and .44 Magnum ammuni-

tion fired from longer barrel handguns, as well as shotgun fire. This enhanced armor is comprised of lightweight, ultrahigh molecular weight polyethylene ballistic material. The protective ballistic covering can be color matched to the vehicle's paint color and department graphics can be installed on the panel. The entire upfit takes approximately 15 minutes per door. The armor is easily removed when a unit is damaged or retired and is transferrable to other like units.

Glass is the most vulnerable area on any police car and Hardwire has developed protection for the driver's and passenger's windows. Their transparent armor window insert is a custom designed piece of transparent armor which seamlessly covers half of the existing window in a police car door. It provides ballistic protection for the officer while still allowing for community engagement. The window insert protects against handgun and shotgun ammunition and requires no modifications to the car. The OEM window still operates normally and the ballistic window insert is easily removable. It is my understanding that both the ballis-

tic door and window armor for the new 2021 Chevy Tahoe will be available shortly. (**havis.com**)

NIJ Level IIIA ballistic door panels from Pro-gard are manufactured from Kevlar® and are designed to optimize the coverage area for various makes and models. The weatherproof panels' bolt in design requires no vehicle modifications and are made for both driver and passenger side doors. (**pro-gard.com**)

We certainly hope that this column was meaningful for you and, if it saves one officer's life, it was a success. Oh, yes, before I close...let's be careful out there. **P&SN**

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



Setina Creates Storage Solutions for 2021 Tahoe

Excitedly awaiting the arrival of the new Tahoe, Setina has already developed new storage innovations for Chevy's 2021 model, in order to make law enforcement's job easier. The 2021 Tahoe includes a recess in the Cargo Area which would otherwise be a third row "foot-well" on retail models.

Setina's new 2021 Tahoe Cargo Deck provides a continuous level surface to the rear partition, so gear doesn't get lost. There is also available access underneath which can be utilized for additional purposes, such as mounting electronics. More information can be found at **setina.com**




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Are Dynamic Entries No Good?

If you see anything wrong with my reasoning, please feel free to correct me.

Ralph Mroz

I've been reading articles which claim that dynamic tactical entries are dangerous and outdated and that a more methodical "slice the pie/don't enter until you've visually cleared almost all of the room" approach is the current standard. These posts are written by ex-Special Forces guys from both the US and allies, but they are preaching to law enforcement folks. While I don't for a minute doubt the sincerity of these trainers, I have my doubts about the applicability of their reasoning to law enforcement in this country. I wonder if they aren't trying to apply the lessons of overseas antiterrorist engagements to domestic LE raids.

I literally mean that I have doubts. I don't know. However, I have great respect for the people making these arguments.

There are exceptions, of course, but here's how I see the general picture:

- Much of the construction overseas where our Special Forces troops have been (or had been) deployed is quite different than what you see here in the US. The layout is different (courtyards are common, for example) and the construction is often hard, round-stopping masonry (which is uncommon here).
- In countries where our military conducts antiterrorism raids, the Bad Guys (BGs) often expect that, sooner or later, our troops will show up and they've made mental and tactical preparations for that event.
- In the US, almost all interior and exterior walls will NOT reliably stop either handgun or rifle rounds.
- Most of the BGs which we raid in this country are taken by surprise – that's why we hit them at 4:00 a.m. They aren't usually lying in wait for us.
- BGs close and lock the door to their apartments and houses.
- There's no way to slice the pie into a BG's residence without first entering it and this usually involves making a substantial amount of noise. (I never did acquire the knack of ramming a door silently.) Once we're in, they definitely know we're there.



- Even if we didn't have to break down the door, there's no way that a team can really move completely quietly in a building.
- Even if we didn't have to break down a door, and even if we could move quietly and peek into a room:
 - * If it's dark, we have to use white light to see into it and that gives us away (very few tac teams in this country have outfitted each member with helmet mounted NVGs); and
 - * If it's daylight, the BGs can plainly see us.
- The bottom line: We're there and the BGs will know we're there. At this point, if we take the time to slice the pie, they can easily shoot through the walls and hit us.
 - * If they aren't "hard" enough to shoot through the walls, then we could simply saunter up to them and ask if it was a convenient time for us to arrest them. We have to assume they're "hard" – that's why we're raiding them with guns drawn in the first place.
- A dynamic entry, possibly preceded by a flashbang, often gets us inside the BG's OODA (observe–orient–decide–act) loop, especially if we hit them when they're in bed asleep and with their weapons not in the bed with them. Once there, we can dominate the space and apply any necessary force while the BGs – even if armed and even if possessing bad intent – are still trying to figure out what is happening.

Now, I have been trained in both dynamic and slow/slice the pie entries (while I've been trained and have a little experience, I'm hardly an expert). However, the slice the pie methods involved the use of shields.

Ballistic shields have both positive and negative attributes:

Pros

1. Provide additional ballistic protection and coverage;
2. A high intensity lighting system can be mounted on the shield;
3. Viewing corners and other danger areas is much safer; and
4. Multiple officers can stack behind it.

Cons

1. Purchase price;
2. Additional weight;
3. Requires additional/extensive training;
4. Limits operator's field of view; and
5. Loss of speed and maneuverability.

So, what am I missing? Why is a methodical slice the pie/don't enter until you've visually cleared almost all of the room approach safer than a dynamic entry for most bread-and-butter LE raids? **P&SN**

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

Taking Aim at the Dark – What Every Officer Needs to Know About Night Sights



The ability to engage and hit targets in low light scenarios is critical to officer survival.

The importance of low light shooting skills isn't diminished during daylight hours. During the day, there are many situations in which officers are faced with reduced or inconsistent light.

Ambient light isn't the only factor. Your visual acuity will be further reduced by the fact that you and your assailant will frequently be in motion prior to, and during, a shooting. And, the effects of stress and fear also adversely affect your visual acuity. Hormones secreted during periods of high stress or acute fear dramatically decrease visual functioning.

Why You Need Night Sights

Although they have only become popular relatively recently, night sights have been available for over 60 years. Many handguns now come equipped with night sights or are available with them installed as a factory option.

Handgun night sights can be divided into two categories: illuminated iron sights and electro-optical sights. All of these sights are equally usable in daylight.

Laser aimers technically fall into the category of low light sighting devices, but they are outside the scope of this article.

Photoluminescent Sights

Photoluminescent night sights need to be charged by exposure to light. They utilize what is sometimes referred to as "glow-in-the-dark paint." The paint contains special pigments which allow it to absorb photons from multiple light sources, causing excitation which is observed as the release of light, i.e., a glow-in-the-dark effect.

The length of time they glow and their brightness depend on the pigments used and the previous light exposure type and duration. The latest generation technology offers up to ten times higher brightness than previous materials and may be seen for up to three to five hours after exposure to sunlight or artificial light (500 lux) for about ten minutes.

Radioluminescent Sights

Radioluminescent night sights require no charging. They're self-powered and produce a consistent luminosity which does not fade during the night. Illumination is provided by special inserts consisting of small glass capsules filled with tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen. The inner walls of the capsules are coated with a phosphor compound. As the tritium de-

cays, beta rays are produced which strike the phosphor particles on the inside of the glass, causing them to emit visible light.

The color of the light emitted is determined by the type of phosphor used. Green, yellow and orange light emitting capsules are available. Green is the brightest color and the easiest for the human eye to see in low light, followed by yellow and then orange. Other colors could be provided, but would be too dim to be practical.



High visibility day/night sights can increase your shooting accuracy and speed. Tests which were conducted at the FBI Academy demonstrated an increase in night firing accuracy by as much as 500% when night sights were used. Photo: Andrew Frazier/Thyrm.



SIGLITE Night Sights on a SIG SAUER® P320 provide a high visibility sight picture day or night.

Night sights are available in a variety of fixed sight and adjustable sight models in both three dot systems and bar dot systems. Although green three dot systems are the most common, many shooters prefer two color night sights with green front and yellow rear dots.

The use of two colors provides more distinction between the front and rear sights and helps avoid the possibility of momentary confusion as to which dot is which. Many shooters also find that two color night sights make it easier for them to concentrate on front sight in low light conditions, aiding accuracy.

Tritium has a half-life of 12.3 years. The brightness of the capsules will diminish as the tritium decays over time. The sights will have lost approximately 50% of their illumination at the half-life. From a practical standpoint, tritium night sights may remain serviceable for up to 15 years.

Combo Sights and Fiber Optics

Combination tritium and photoluminescent night sights are designed so that the short-term glow of the paint would aid in transitional lighting situations, while the tritium inserts provide a long-term glow.

Tritium Fiber-Optic (TFO) night sights are also available. They're true night sights, designed to give you the advantages of both tritium night sights and fiber optics. The fiber optic provides an easy to



Trijicon® Tritium HD Night Sights have a yellow or orange photoluminescent paint outline and a tall blade on the front sight to increase visibility and quicken sight acquisition.

distinguish contrasting material.

Fiber optics emit no light and require an external light source. Fiber optics are by themselves high visibility day sights, although they could function as a quasi-night sight which aids in sight acquisition – depending on the lighting and if used in conjunction with a flashlight.

Electro-optical Sights

Electro-optical reflex sights for handguns are a comparatively recent innovation. Miniature reflex sights, often referred to as Mini Red Dot Sights (MRDS), are considered by many to be the future of handgun sights. Electro-optical sights with green dots are also now hitting the market. For purposes of this article, we will use MRDS generically for both red and green dot optics/sights.

Miniature open reflex sights first became popular in competitive shooting due to their advantages and have become increasingly popular for both duty and personal/home defense. The biggest downside has been their price tag; however, the cost of outfitting your pistol with an MRDS has come down substantially. Durability and battery life have also improved greatly to the point that they are no longer a factor for duty use. Most major handgun man-

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TAKING AIM AT THE DARK – WHAT EVERY OFFICER NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT NIGHT SIGHTS

Continued from page 23



An MRDS, such as the Trijicon® RMR® RM07 Type 2 Adjustable LED Ruggedized Miniature Reflex Optic shown, provides combination of speed and precision under virtually any lighting condition.

Manufacturers now offer pistols which come with the slide already milled to accept an MRDS, making it easier and less costly to mount optics.

An MRDS provides you with a combination of speed and precision under virtually any lighting condition. The human eye can only focus on one distance at a time. Shooters with aging eyes or less than perfect vision will find an MRDS much easier to use than iron sights.

Murphy being what he is, most users back up their MRDS with tall iron night

sights designed for use with suppressors. Suppressor sights provide an elevated sight picture which is able to co-witness with a slide mounted MRDS. Some MRDS are designed with an integral rear sight built into the body.

Getting on Target

In order to accurately aim your weapon, you need to be able to clearly see the sights. This is often difficult or impossible to do with standard sights in low light situations. Tests which were conducted at the FBI Academy demonstrated an increase in night firing accuracy by as much as 500% when tritium night sights were used.

Internal testing done by Trijicon® has shown that most users are ten to 30% faster getting center mass hits on a target with the company's HD™ Night Sights than with standard pistol sights. Their data shows this to be true, regardless of the user's current proficiency level in pistol shooting and is due to the ability to obtain a faster focus on the front sight of the HD Night Sights.

It is fair to assume that these test results would hold true for other radioluminescent sights as well. It would also be fair to assume that MRDS are as fast or faster.

Night Sights in Perspective

According to statistics, most shootings take place at distances of 20 feet or less. Many of the shootings may be classified as spontaneous, where there is no warning and the weapon is in the holster at the outset. From a practical standpoint, there's often little or no time to see the sights (even if the sights would be visible), nor any real opportunity to use them.

At these short ranges, a trained and practiced shooter shouldn't have any trouble getting center of mass hits in low light, even with the ability to see or use the sights impaired. This is due to what's commonly and erroneously referred to as "muscle memory."

Every time a shooter draws and aims a handgun, the action becomes imprinted in the shooter. Eventually, typically after several thousand repetitions, the conscious execution of skills becomes subconscious and automatic. The weapon's sights are instinctively aligned and little or no sight correction is needed.

Do night sights improve hit ratios on the street? The answers aren't clear-cut. Most individuals involved in spontaneous shooting scenarios report either not using their

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sights or not remembering if they did.

When faced with a threat, the human mind instinctively focuses on the threat. Plus, the physiological effects of extreme stress can make it difficult, if not impossible, for the eyes to get a clear sight picture. Training can help to overcome this to some extent. The issues of threat focus and clear sight picture are not an issue with an MRDS. You simply put the dot in the sight window on the target.

This isn't to say that iron night sights aren't advantageous to have in close range, spontaneous shooting scenarios. Night sights allow you to use a flash sight picture in situations when this would otherwise be impossible due to low ambient lighting. According to proponents, the flash sight technique – also known as the front sight method – is easier to learn than point shooting and inherently more accurate. With practice, there is very little loss of speed by using this technique.

At longer distances, or in situations when there is time to use the sights, night sights really come into their own. However, in many situations when there isn't enough ambient light to see standard sights, there also isn't enough ambient light to clearly identify and evaluate threats.

A research study conducted by the Los

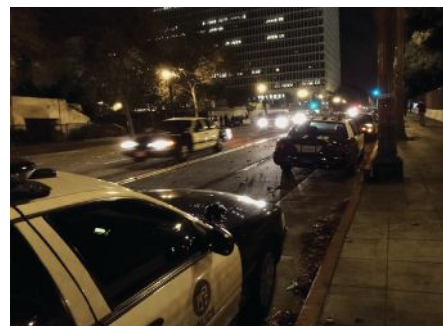
Angeles Police Department found that officers have difficulty distinguishing between lethal and nonlethal objects in levels of light less than that produced by 0.5 foot candles – routine working conditions at night.

Under these circumstances, you'll need the illumination of a white light, irrespective of whether your weapon has night sights, standard sights or a laser aimer. The application of a powerful white light can also blind the opponent and impair his ability to shoot us at critical moments.

Having a weapon light doesn't eliminate the need for a handheld flashlight. A flashlight is still essential for general illumination tasks and as a backup.

Separately, a weapon light is part of the weapon system and needs to be treated as such. It's an adjunct to a flashlight and not a replacement for it. If you're not justified in drawing and pointing your gun, you're not justified in pointing a weapon light. A flashlight allows you to safely assess the situation without pointing your gun at a nonthreat.

Night sights excel in nonspontaneous shooting scenarios when the target is clearly identifiable and standard sights could not be seen or wouldn't be silhou-



A Los Angeles Police Department research study found that officers have difficulty in distinguishing between lethal and nonlethal objects in levels of light less than that produced by 0.5 foot candles – routine working conditions at night. Photo: Craig Dietrich

etted against the target. Night sights are invaluable in these situations. Although they certainly aren't without their limitations, night sights are a valuable tactical aid. **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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Ready Bags and Packs for Law Enforcement

RALPH MROZ

I dislike the term “go bag” because it’s often not accurate. Sometimes, they are used in “go” situations; other times, in “return” situations; and, sometimes, they just haul stuff around.



(Photos: 5.11, Inc.)

What are called “go bags” are really just gear hauling bags – better referred to as “ready bags.” They are distinguished from paper grocery sacks and generic gym bags by 1) their sturdy materials and construction; 2) their suitability for traversing rough terrain (urban or wilderness); and 3) their compartmentalization and organization optimized for some tactical gear or purpose.

First Responders

Ready bags are also well-suited for many law enforcement and first responder activities:

- **Non-covert activities** – Evidence processing at narcotics busts, for example, requires a reasonable-size kit and a way to store and transport it; scene processing gear, ditto. You can think of many other examples: search and rescue, medical care, and so on.
- **Surveillance** – During these boring law enforcement assignments, you will probably need several pieces of special equipment: an NV scope, binoculars, electronic monitoring devices, and so on. A typical ready bag to hold and transport these items will

be sturdy enough and compartmented enough to make it a far better choice than a generic duffel bag. If getting to and from your surveillance position involves being seen, then your gear bag should be discrete, as well.

- **Demonstrations and civil unrest** – At these events, cops are often embedded and need to hide in plain sight. They also have to carry dedicated gear: lots of cuffs, recording devices, maybe OC, and so on.
- **Active shooter response** – In these events, every available sworn person needs to grab his/her response bag and head to the scene. In this bag are magazines, trauma kits, door chocks, chalk/markers, and a host of other items.

Pick Your Disaster

In addition to the above law enforcement uses, off-duty ready bags of this sort sometimes go by cutesy names for disastrous events:

- **Bug Out Bags (BUGs)** – These are meant to store all the essentials which you’d need if you had to leave your house/office/etc. on literally a moment’s notice. If you live

in tornado or wildfire country, these are a good idea. On the other hand, natural disasters like hurricanes and floods usually happen with enough notice to evacuate in a civilized manner.

- **Get Home Bags (GHBs)** – These units are meant to be with you or in your vehicle when you’re away from home. They contain the essentials you need to return home should you break down or are otherwise prevented from driving there. If you regularly traverse long stretches of terrain which can suddenly get snowed in or which sees no other traffic, these can be a good idea. But, if you live anywhere near a town, they probably aren’t necessary; although, a good first aid/trauma kit in your vehicle definitely is.
- **Zombie Apocalypse Bags** – These are meant to get you somewhere safe if total societal breakdown occurs. Now, this could definitely happen; it has on a regular and predictable basis throughout history. But, in most places in the United States and Western Europe, this is unlikely to happen suddenly. On the other hand, in urban areas you can expect



An IFAK (Individual First Aid Kit) is an indispensable item to have in your ready bag. (photo: Rescue Essentials)

rience citywide riots within minutes, so something like one of these bags is reasonable to have on hand.

- **EDC/Emergency Bags** – Every Day Carry bags are meant to be with you all of the time, keeping all the gear which you regularly use and might need in an emergency close at hand.

One mistake which many people make is to confuse a ready bag with a wilderness survival kit. An urban get home bag, for example, will require very few wilderness-type items.

Three Configurations

Ready bags appropriate for all of these

situations come in three basic configurations: backpacks, sling packs and messenger bags (lumber bags are usually too small for this purpose). Backpacks can carry more load and are more comfortable for long treks, but are harder to access. Sling bags ride on the back, go on easier and you can access them without stopping or taking them off, but they put all of the load on one shoulder. Messenger bags ride on the hip and shoulder and are the easiest to access, but probably the least comfortable for heavy loads or long stretches and are not easy to run with.

You Look Marvelous!

Ready bags can also have a tactical look or not. By “tactical look,” I mean a military color (black, grey, tan, green, or camo) and with PALS webbing on the outside. Tactical-looking bags by the major vendors are generally of high quality and their PALS webbing makes them modular which is one of their main benefits. On the other hand, to genuine bad guys, they stick out as “shoot me first” target indicators and as such are best suited for obvious law enforcement tasks or applications

where blending in isn’t an issue, such as maybe a get home bag. For an EDC ready bag or a civilian active shooter response bag, something more low-key is a better choice. Civilian vendors such as JanSport®, North Face®, Timberland®, Kelty®, etc. make a lot of packs every year, so they know something about how to do it and many of these packs are well laid out for organizing tactical and emergency gear. If



Two basic features of a good quality ready bag include sturdy construction and enough compartments to keep everything separate. (photo: Galls®)

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READY BAGS AND PACKS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Continued from page 27

you think that they won't hold up as well as a special "tactical" bag, well, consider that every day many of them are loaded up with heavy school books and tossed, dropped, thrown, and generally abused by teenagers who aren't known to be gentle on anything. Also remember that these same "civilian" vendors often make special packs for military units.



Everyday carry bags need to be light-weight and handy. (photo: 5.11, Inc.)

Items You May Not Have Thought Of

There are lots of lists of contents for any, and all, of the "ready" type bags available on Web sites and in print magazines and blogs. Remember, though, what you need depends a great deal on the needs and capabilities of you and those under your care. Everyone has an opinion and I don't want to add yet another list here which, in any case, would be relevant only to me in some specific situation. Instead, what follows are just a few items which aren't often thought of which you may want to consider for your bag, depending on its purpose:

- Nuclear fallout alert if you live near a nuclear plant;
- Pry bar – Think of getting out of a crashed subway car;
- Bright bandana for signaling, as well as 1000 other uses;
- Wool cap for warmth, particularly at night, even in the summer;
- Sharpie® and Rite in the Rain® for note taking and message leaving;
- Satellite Phone – Cell coverage isn't everywhere and the system may be down;
- Extra glasses – You have to see things (clearly);
- Soap for cleaning wounds, grime/grease off hands and for general morale; and
- Pain meds – OTC and prescription (ask your doc for a couple of tabs).

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- * Light enough for single person operation

How Big Is Yours?

Focusing just on backpacks, you want to choose the right size for your application. If you choose too big a pack, you incur a clumsiness which you don't need. On the other hand, you want to make sure your pack is big enough to carry all it might have to. A pack over 30-35 liters (1800-2100 cubic inches) tends to look large on most people in a civilian setting and may attract attention.



Assaults on officers are on the rise so it's safer to carry a ready bag which doesn't scream "tactical." (photo: 5.11, Inc.)

Got Support?

Packs may or may not have supportive frames which distribute the load and help transfer the weight to a belt. Small

packs usually have no support; some midsize packs have a polymer (usually HDPE) frame sheet or metal stays. Larger packs usually have more elaborate suspension systems. An appropriate frame can make all the difference in comfort when the load exceeds 20-30 pounds.

Duty Cycle and Max Stress

There are two significant questions you should ask when making choices from among the alternatives described above. First, what features or durability will you need if the bag is used in a reasonable worst-case scenario? Second, how often will the bag be used (which relates to durability)? That is, will it be used on a regular basis or will it be

"transported much and deployed seldom"? If your bag will be used often and hard, then you want top-shelf; if it will be seldom used and/or gently, then you have more options. **P&SN**

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

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DR. STEPHENIE SLAHOR



An associate two year degree program in law enforcement is a foundation for basic instruction. The coursework at that level will likely be cataloged by the school as 100 and 200 level courses. The associate degree is offered at community/junior colleges, technical colleges, vocational schools, and a few colleges. Most of the study will be completed in one or two years, depending on the amount of general college level liberal arts and sciences courses which will be required before the more specialized courses in law enforcement.

Associate degrees are usually accepted toward transfer to some of the requirements for a bachelor's degree four year program at a college or university, but such a transfer will depend on the college or university requirements, the courses taken, and the grades earned in those courses.

A bachelor's (or baccalaureate) degree is usually a four year program which not only includes the arts and sciences curriculum offered by a community/junior college, but more advanced courses usually cataloged as upper division courses and numbered at the 300 and 400 levels. Although the vast majority of colleges and universities grant a bachelor's degree after successful completion of coursework, a few will also require a senior level thesis. The degree is usually titled a Bachelor of Science (BS) or Bachelor of Arts (BA), depending on the college's classification system and the curriculum of the specific program of studies.

If you already have completed some

undergraduate level coursework and want to complete your bachelor's degree, some universities offer degree completion programs or transfer of your completed credits.

A master's degree is an advanced degree focusing on a specific field of study. Although most master's courses are cataloged at the 400 and 500 level, additional coursework at a lower level may be required if some foundation courses were not completed or if the bachelor's degree was in a different area of study. Most colleges and universities require that candidates applying for entrance to a master's degree program take one or more standardized tests, such as the Graduate Record Examination or the Graduate Management Admission Test – tests which appraise grammar, vocabulary, mathematics, English, comprehension, analysis, reasoning, synthesizing skill, and critical thinking. Colleges set a specified point over which the candidate must score on the standardized test(s) in order to be admitted to the master's degree program.

The typical master's degree curriculum includes both theoretical and practical aspects of the field of study and so includes deeper work in analysis, evaluation and practical applications. A thesis is usually required to demonstrate these abilities by means of an independent report by the student which considers a complex question or problem and seeks the question's or problem's analysis or solution. Typically, a committee of faculty members oversees the progress of the thesis and has the fi-

nal word about whether the thesis is approved or disapproved. However, with the increasing number of professionals who are pursuing their master's degrees, some universities allow a practical project-based capstone instead of a research-based thesis. This allows professionals to research and develop projects which may be directly related to their workplace.

The master's degree is usually designated as a Master of Arts (MA), Master of Science (MS) or a specialization such as Master of Education (MEd) and will probably take two to three years to complete. Among the master's level offerings pertinent to law enforcement are specializations in criminology, corrections, alternatives to incarceration, law, cybersecurity, forensics, terrorism, technology and data analytics, social and behavioral psychology, sociological aspects of criminal justice, juvenile delinquency, public finance, urban/intercultural sociology, criminal justice policy, drug policy, statistics in criminal justice, courts/criminal procedure, Homeland Security, emergency/crisis management, and organizational leadership.

Be sure to ask your prospective university if they offer a combined bachelor's and master's degree option which will shorten the time it takes you to compete both programs.

A doctoral degree in the United States is typically denoted as a Doctor of Philosophy or PhD program, even though the actual study of philosophy is not a major part of the curriculum. This is the highest academic degree awarded by universities



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and bestows the successful PhD graduate with the entitlement to use "Doctor" before his/her name, or use the post-nominal letters "PhD" after his/her name.

The typical PhD program will be highly selective of its candidates. Coursework is at the 500 level and above and may involve more than two years to complete. Most uni-

versities require a doctoral dissertation – a study far more complex and thorough than a master's degree thesis. The dissertation must be original and academic and worthy of publication in a professional, peer-reviewed publication. Again, faculty members will make up the student's committee to oversee the candidate's individual pro-

gram and the progress and completion of the dissertation. Rigorous discussions and examinations of the dissertation occur at the completion of the dissertation, but also along its way from inception. The final approval (or disapproval) of the dissertation is often called "oral examinations" or "orals" and is conducted by all the members of the candidate's committee over a number of hours or, even, days. (The dissertation can be hundreds of pages.)

Certificate Programs

More than a few colleges and universities are now offering certificate programs which focus on a specific topic. For the fields of law enforcement and security, certificates might be concentrated on intelligence, analysis, applied psychology, report writing, specific communication skills, or judgmental skills. Certificate programs can usually be pursued either while the student is enrolled in a degree program or while he/she is seeking professional development and career enhancement. Many certificate programs involve four to six courses.

Deciding on which college or university to attend means examining programs, course descriptions, retention (how many students continue a program after begin-

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ning it), graduation rates, admission policies, costs, quality of faculty, and whether to attend on campus or online. You can seek help from education counselors, other students, teachers or professors, or the Internet.

One Web-based starting point is **criminaljusticeprograms.com** which has information concerning programs for both law enforcement and security, and the colleges and universities offering certificate, associate, bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs. Over 1800 schools have been researched for the Web site. It provides a directory of more than 6800 certificate and degree programs.

"College Navigator" is a service of the Institute of Education Sciences and the National Center for Education Statistics. It includes data for over 7600 colleges and universities. Log onto <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator> Extended search options allow examining tuition and fees, accreditation, student enrollment, campus type, extended learning opportunities and online learning, weekend/evening classes, credit for life experiences, religious affiliation, student outcomes, and other specific inquiries.

The US Department of Education "College Scorecard" functions similarly to College Navigator. Log on to <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov> to find and compare schools by programs, degrees, geographic location, size, or name. You can also do advanced searches in the type of school, its specialized mission (religious affiliation, men's, women's, Asian, Hispanic, Black, etc.). Other portions of the Web site describe financial aid, calculating aid, GI Bill benefits, schools with lower tuition costs, graduation rates, and other data.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs has a college-related Web page at **vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool/** Enter your military status; which GI Bill you are considering using for your education; your cumulative post 9-11 active duty service; whether you will be taking classes online or in class; and the name of a school you are considering. Other pages and links include how to choose a school, the degree you want, how well the school supports veterans, and financing your education.

Funding

Affording education is a major part of your decision-making and an investment in yourself. Higher education can be costly, even at a public college or university, but there are financial helps available, most of which depend on your income, the college you choose, and the type of coursework you're pursuing. Personal eligibility for public colleges generally



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- Master of Arts in Global Affairs
- Master of Arts in Student Services Administration
- Bachelor's degree completion (BAIS)



Certificate Studies

Career-relevant certificates are available in global security and terrorism, homeland security, emergency management, public management, correctional administration, law and public safety, transportation management, healthcare management, diplomacy and international relations, and more. Ask about transfer credits for advanced standing.

- FDU is proud to participate in the Yellow ribbon G.I. Education Advancement program enabling eligible veterans to attend FDU at no charge.
- FDU accepts Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) for graduate courses (*restrictions apply*).
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For More Information

Graduate Programs

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depends upon your legal residency within the state or jurisdiction served by the college. Loans, grants and scholarships can help with financing to cover some, or all, of the tuition, lab fees, books, and E-books. Some programs defer interest on the loan until later when you've attained or returned to a job. If you cannot afford to go to school full-time, you must juggle your work obligations with your studies, so be sure the schools and pro-

grams you are considering allow flexibility in your time spent online. Be sure to look at the school's "student financial aid" pages to learn about financial assistance and the terms regarding how much the money will cover, repayment and any income tax concessions.

Merit-based aid – mostly scholarships – may be available, based on the criteria of the scholarship such as an excellent grade point average, outstanding work experi-

ence, or special talent or leadership abilities. There is usually no “rule” against applying for as many scholarships for which you’re qualified. (Be wary of any “scholarship” which asks you to pay an application or other fee. It may be a scam.)

Regardless of the source of your finan-

cial aid, whatever comes your way requires your discipline to borrow only what you need and to economize on your personal/family budget to keep your personal expenses as low as possible.

Discipline is necessary to your success in the online learning environment.

To help determine if you have the wherewithal to apply yourself to online learning, use the self-assessment test at miamioh.qualtrics.com

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Fairleigh Dickinson University, School of Public and Global Affairs

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This graduate school attracts students on four campuses in Canada, the UK, and the US and over 30 off-site locations in New Jersey. The School reaches the working professional with part-time cohorts during evening and weekend hours, using in-person, online and blended formats. Their programs offer specialization and certificate options which allow interdisciplinary study from five graduate degree programs.

The Master of Administrative Science (MAS) (30 credits) is structured to enhance the administrative and leadership skills of adult learners, primarily with five or more years of relevant administrative and professional experience in the private sector, government agencies, and not-for-profit organizations. Industry-focused specializations include Global Leadership, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, and many more.

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) (39-42-credits) is a management degree for career advancement in the public and nonprofit sectors. The program emphasizes a project-based curriculum which emphasizes group work led by accomplished practitioners and academics. Areas of specialization include Public Management, Public Policy, Public Finance, Healthcare Management, Global Affairs, Global Transportation Management, and more.

The Master of Science in Cyber and Homeland Security Administration (MSCHSA) (36 credits) focuses on the practical and theoretical aspects of enforcing and ensuring cyber and homeland security. Areas of specialization include Terrorism and Security Studies, Emergency Management, and Leadership.

Also offered are the Master of Arts in Global Affairs for diplomats and the Master of Student Services Administration.

Contact Christie Innes at innes@fdu.edu or 201-692-2741 for more information.

University of Cincinnati Online

uccj.online

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice; Master of Science in Criminal Justice

The UC Online Bachelor's in Criminal Justice program is for those who want a career in criminal justice or crime prevention. The bachelor's program is 100% online and features a comprehensive curriculum with classes spanning

the breadth of criminal justice and criminology to help students prepare for a career in law enforcement, corrections, supervision, security, loss prevention, and public safety by gaining expertise in communication, criminal and civil law, ethics and leadership.

The online Master of Science in Criminal Justice program approaches the study of criminal justice and crime from an interdisciplinary perspective, drawing insight from sociology, criminology, psychology, and law. Designed to achieve core objectives such as learning research skills; knowledge of social science and human behavior; and criminal justice theory, the program was ranked 12th best in the country for 2020 and the School of Justice is consistently ranked among the top 15 Best Criminal Justice Schools by *U.S. News and World Report*.

Upper Iowa University

uiu.edu

Criminal Justice; Master of Public Administration

The UIU Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice not only provides studies in law enforcement, courts, and corrections, but the University's multidisciplinary education also provides a focus on communication, politics, psychology, and sociology. Students learn from faculty who have real-world experience and are experts in the fields they teach. The program prepares students for many careers in the criminal justice field, such as corrections officer; court and prison administration; juvenile court officer; prosecution/defense attorneys; paralegal/legal assistant; victim/witness coordinator; and municipal, county, state, or federal law enforcement, including patrol investigations, civil service, border patrol, immigration and customs, FBI, and DEA.

The Master of Public Administration degree provides students with the practical knowledge and skills necessary to excel at leading and managing government and nonprofit organizations. Practitioner oriented and suitable for a variety of occupational fields, this graduate degree helps students navigate the unique political and legal challenges which surround public organizations. Core courses include subject matter such as writing in the profession, public policy, program evaluation, and public finance. UIU's MPA students can choose from the following areas of emphasis: Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Government Administration, Healthcare Management, Nonprofit Management, and Public Management.



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course instructor during office hours; direct communications with faculty and/or administration; information from academic advisors and counselors; writing and language skills centers; and online tutors.

Current Conditions

COVID has forced many, if not nearly all, schools to forego in-class programs and, instead, offer programs and courses online. While this eliminates the personal contacts one makes being on campus with faculty and peers, it does give the option of earning a degree or certificate without missing work, income and family time. Your online program demands your personal discipline in setting aside time for study, following a strict schedule of courses and progress in a program, and overcoming the lack of interaction which in-class programs usually provide quite easily. But, yet another benefit of online learning is that you don't lose time commuting to a campus for classes!

While many schools offered online programs even before COVID, the bans on in-person interaction on a campus have led to even more innovative procedures and technology to deliver lectures, assignments, group projects, individual research, and contact with professors. Online programs use Internet connected computer delivery of the course, usually at your convenience, and let you "pause" the lecture when you must. You may also be able to listen to lectures downloaded to your MP3 or other devices for study or review.

College and program accreditation is a voluntary process not usually overseen by government agencies. Colleges and universities pledge to honor standards set by accrediting organizations and allow periodic reviews of curricula, faculty, library, administration, financial status, student services, and courses of study. The college must demonstrate its programs and accomplishments and the quality of its curricula.

Accrediting Associations

The Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the US Department of Education recognize specific accrediting associations, including the following: The Middle States Association of Schools and Colleges; the New England Association of Schools and Colleges; The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities; The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; and The Western

Association of Schools and Colleges. So, examine the school's status and whether it is affiliated with an accrediting organization, a state's department of higher education, or is a part of a university system within a state. That helps assure that your degree will be transferable to another college or university if you are seeking a school where you must relocate, or if you later seek another higher level degree.

If you are part of a union, see if it participates in an online college degree offering and whether you can apply for federal aid, a grant, employer education grant, or tuition reimbursement for the money (or "last dollar" expense) you will spend on your tuition fees, books, E-books, or laboratory/research work associated with your degree and the curriculum of your program. (You may even be able to have previous college work, military experience or work experience count toward some of your degree requirements which helps save money.)

An example of such a program is offered through Union Plus (unionplusfreecollege.org) in partnership with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and Eastern Gateway Community College (part of the University System of Ohio). The program has offerings in associate of arts degrees in such fields as social work, management, cybersecurity, human resources management, programming, data science, and criminal justice. Students must complete an average of 60 credits which usually takes about two years to achieve. (Students using the "Free College Benefit" are not required to attend full-time and can even take just one class per term.) More specifically, the associate degree in criminal justice is formatted to support transfer to a four year college or university. Its topics include criminal investigation, crisis intervention and Homeland Security. In addition, those students who have completed peace officer training or corrections certificates may receive college credit toward their degree.

The Union Plus program of "Free College Benefit" fills the gap between any federal, state, military, or employer grants received and the costs of tuition, fees, E-books, etc. for the online degree programs of the Eastern Gateway Community College. Over 25,000 students representing all 50 states have already participated in the program since its start in 2015.

What to Expect

For the best progress through a

course or program, you should have a high-speed Internet connection and a recent model of computer or laptop and software. Determine whether your smartphone may be able to communicate with the instructor and students, and to participate in course work or discussions, receive alerts and check class materials. Figure on approximately 10 to 12 hours of study per week, per three credit hour course. The instructor will provide you with the course requirements, activities and examinations, but motivation and discipline are up to you to stay with the weekly regimen of expected student performance. Have a schedule. Have a physical setting which is conducive to study – good lighting, access to electrical outlets and no distractions. You won't succeed in online study if you procrastinate or wait until the last minute. Because online courses usually do updates during the week for text readings, resource books, assignments, writing, and discussion, log in daily to be sure that you are keeping up with changes, additions and modifications. Psychologically, be aware that your motivation will be high at the start of a course, but might wane near the midpoint of the course. Just remain determined to work through that plateau because your instructor or fellow students won't maintain your motivation for you. Be self-directed.

Instructors will grade you on your progress – not only on assignments, but also your participation in discussion boards, responding to topics or questions, and interacting with other students and the instructor. And, your instructor and the college will have plagiarism detection software which makes sure what you write is your own intellectual analysis and evaluation, not something which was "cut and pasted" into a written assignment, so do your research and write your own responses and reports.

Your education and continued learning are tools for a better job, a career change, or a specialization, but education and continued learning go far beyond that. They challenge you to develop more abilities and to expand your knowledge and processes. Manage your time, apply yourself and you can achieve success in your higher education. **P&SN**

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

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P&SN Police and Security News

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PUBLISHER: Al Menear

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Toni Saturno

MANAGING EDITOR: John G. Stephenson

ART DIRECTOR: Jeanne Daubner

GENERAL MANAGER: Cindie Bonsall

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Bill Zadlo

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Performance Publishing, LLC
PO Box 1185

Quakertown, PA 18951-0079

Phone: (215) 538-1240

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

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

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

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

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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

In this case, the term “criminal lawyer” is a little redundant... In Littleton, New Hampshire, a grand jury filed indictments against a 33-year-old woman who had been scheduled in court for three different cases involving drug possession and stalking. But, in order to avoid going to jail, she came up with a clever strategy. She impersonated a prosecutor, using the court’s electronic system to file fake documents which included the dropping of charges against her. A state forensic officer noticed that the charges were dropped and wondered if a scheduled competency evaluation on the phony “lawyer” should proceed which in turn tipped off court officials. (*That’s very embarrassing [for New Hampshire’s court system].*)

His next stop was to pick up a coffee table... An armed robber in Happy Valley, Oregon, violated a cardinal rule: Keep your getaway vehicle as inconspicuous as possible. Police had received a call of a robbery at the local Ace Hardware® store. The suspect had pulled a gun on a store employee and then fled in a Mazda. But, for reasons unknown, that Mazda had a sofa strapped to its roof. Making matters worse was the fact that it was also raining at the time. Since a Mazda driving down the road with a couch strapped to the roof in the pouring rain is not commonly seen, police spotted our man quickly. After a brief pursuit, the thief was apprehended and placed under arrest. (*With criminals like this running around town, it’s no wonder it’s called Happy Valley.*)

It’s not the “arresting part” which prevents repeats...it’s the incarceration... A 37-year-old man from Jersey City, New Jersey, whose last name is “Crook,” managed to live up to his name on two occasions in the same day. In the first incident, Crook was seen loading “several blue and white striped bags” into a black SUV. A police lieutenant said the witness confronted Crook, prompting him to make a hasty departure. The SUV had been reported stolen and police also found Crook in possession of methamphetamine along with drug paraphernalia. He was arrested and released on bond. But, later in the same day, a lieutenant with the Fairfield Fire Department saw Crook walking around in a fire station and rummaging through firefighters’ property. He was arrested again and now has

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



I can’t see that marriage lasting...

In Antwerp, Belgium, a 24-year-old convicted drug smuggler hired a helicopter at Deurne airport, then hijacked the aircraft in mid-flight and forced the pilot to fly to Berkendaal women’s prison to free his 27-year-old wife. As inmates cheered and waved below, the pilot circled the prison yard, trying unsuccessfully to land, while the hijacker put his head out of the chopper to vomit, before giving up and flying off. Authorities arrested the man within 24 hours when they discovered he had used his real name to hire the helicopter. The accused man’s attorney said, “It seems the whole thing has been staged quite amateurishly.” (*Planning is 90% of any operation. Not puking while implementing also helps.*)

two bonds, each set at \$25,000. (*Being “double arrested” in one day and you’re still granted bail?*)

A proud graduate of the Boss Hogg Driving Academy shows his stuff... A 26-year-old Michigan man was arrested after apparently jumping a Detroit drawbridge in “Dukes of Hazzard” fashion. The man was driving a Dodge sedan when he accelerated and attempted to cross the Fort Street Bridge as it was rising. “I looked. I said, ‘No, he ain’t,’” the drawbridge operator told reporters. “Over he went, blew out all four of his tires, and then he crashed into the other gate.” Authorities said the driver managed to get to the other side successfully before he “allegedly damaged the safety gates” and his own tires. He was uninjured following the jump and it’s not clear why he attempted it. (*Four tires: \$1,000. Fine: \$1,000. A story you can tell for the rest of your life: Priceless.*)

A new twist on the dog ate my homework... In Georgia, bodycam footage revealed a goat recently climbed into a sheriff’s deputy’s car, chewed on her paperwork and knocked her to the ground. The Douglas County Sheriff’s Office said the deputy was serving papers at a residence when she noticed a goat inside her patrol car. “The deputy explained that,

due to the number of houses she visits daily, she routinely leaves her vehicle’s door open because she has had to retreat from vicious dogs.” Footage shows that, after finally getting the goat to exit the vehicle, the animal head-butted her, knocking her to the ground. The sheriff’s office reported the deputy was not physically injured in the incident. (*This is just a scapegoat...*)

Men around the world are currently ripping up their floorboards and putting holes in walls... An architect in Ames, New York, who has a passion for restoring old houses, learned that the century-old home he purchased had been built by a German baron who turned to bootlegging in the 1920s. Incredibly, the man found evidence within the walls of the original owner’s criminal behavior – dozens of bottles labeled Old Smuggler Gaelic Whisky. The man told one reporter, “We discovered multiple false walls and secret compartments under the floor in our mudroom. The foundation walls and floors in the mudroom are lined with intact cases of 1920s whiskey.” The architect said auction houses and collectors have contacted him, speculating that the value on some of the bottles might range between \$500 and \$1,200 each. (*Now, there’s a man cave to die for.*) **P&SN**



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