

P&SN

Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021
VOLUME 37 ISSUE 6

IN CUSTODY DEATHS:
MYTHS VS. SCIENCE

COPING WITH
THE AMMUNITION
SHORTAGE



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

Your partner, Officer Don, arrested and fought a resisting male, wrestled him to the ground, applied metallic handcuffs, and then rolled the facedown person onto his side. A few moments later, the male barely muttered, "I'm having difficulty breathing," and then suddenly, without making sounds or movements, became nonresponsive and died.

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Transportation 202216

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P&SN presents its 24th annual report on the latest technical advances in police vehicles, components and aftermarket equipment.



ON THE COVER

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

Vehicles and equipment pictured on the cover (clockwise, starting from the very top right): Ford's 2021 Mustang Mach-E SUV; Chevrolet's Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle; Ford's 3.5L EcoBoost® engine; CTech Manufacturing's trunk storage solution for the Chevrolet Tahoe PPV; Setina Manufacturing; the Patrol G2 ALPR Light Bar from Ekin.

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...AND
NOTHING BUT
THE TRUTH

IT'S BEEN A BUSY WEEK...

RAMESH NYBERG



The week I am writing this column began on Monday, October 25th. It's a week following a week of three big criminal justice stories – two of them in my home state.

I tell my students that we are never lacking for study material and it's true. The headlines of the *Miami Herald* – as well as every major news outlet in the country – are always overflowing with real crime stories, arrests, trials, and Constitutional conflicts. Last week, two major events in Florida had hands going up in

all of my classes; comments and questions were in abundance. First was the guilty plea of Nikolas Cruz, the shooter in the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School massacre on Valentine's Day in 2018. Cruz had previously offered a guilty plea in exchange for a life sentence, but the Broward State Attorney's Office flatly refused to take the death penalty off the table. It's a rarity for a homicide case to have such a mountain of overwhelming, irrefutable evidence against a defendant. The testimony of 17 wounded victims,

plus reams of security video showing Cruz gunning down students, topped off with Cruz's confession *and* his video manifesto in which he forecast exactly what he was going to do and where, were all too much for the Cruz defense camp. The thought of a trial was pure folly. Under Florida law, however, a jury has to be empaneled to hear aggravating versus mitigating factors before the judge can sentence Cruz to death and that won't happen until January. We talked about a multitude of things that week – plea negotiation, discovery and the Florida death penalty statute to name a few.

The very next day, the skeletal remains of Brian Laundrie were found. We had been discussing the disappearance of Gabby Petito from day one, so the discovery launched a whole new slew of questions: How will they figure out how he died? What happens to the criminal case now? Is it better that he died or would it have been better to have a trial? I'm sure the news of Laundrie's remains has sparked much banter and debate in the chairs of barbershops, nail salons and at coffee break rooms across the nation as well. I happen to think it's better that he's dead. I don't trust juries and this case – had they been able to make an arrest for murder – wasn't exactly bulging with evidence and eyewitnesses. As we all know...what you know to be the truth and what you can prove in court are two very different things.

These two cases still have loose ends to tie up: Cruz with a death sentence looming and Laundrie with the cause of death and a notebook which *might* yield some writing which could shed more light on how and why Gabby Petito died. For the sake of her parents, we can only hope that's the case. As dramatic as both events were, they weren't terribly surpris-

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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

ing. One could see both of them coming, especially the Cruz guilty plea.

But, what no one saw coming was the week's third event: A bullet, fired in a New Mexico desert from a gun which was not supposed to fire, streaking into the body of an unsuspecting cinematographer on a movie set.

Setting aside the dark irony of Alec Baldwin shooting and killing someone with a firearm, this case is already a beehive of legal activity. Investigations are in full swing to identify evidence in both civil and criminal arenas, sending the many potential defendants into a frenzy of hatch-battening. And, in the shadows of this freshly kicked anthill, Halyna Hutchins, a promising young cinematographer, was bid farewell by family and friends on October 24th in a candlelit ceremony in Albuquerque.

I haven't even glanced at social media about this incident, but I'm sure the memes and jokes abound. The fact that Mr. Baldwin has made himself a prominent political satirist adds a lot of fuel to the fire. From a strictly investigative standpoint, though, there is a lot to try and understand. When this story first hit the news, an assistant director named David Hall was identified as the person who handed Baldwin the gun, announcing, "Cold gun" – their communication to indicate the weapon was safe. But, where did Hall get the weapon? What was the chain of custody and how many people might have liability in this unusual scenario?

If you are reading this, you've been to a gun range many times. You've been trained in the safe handling of firearms. In fact, each time you've been to the firearms range, no range instructor has ever assumed you know how to safely handle a firearm and has used the same range commands and safety protocols you heard when you first went to qualify in the police academy. Those of us who have such a background know there are things you do and don't do with firearms and there are ways you transfer a handgun from one person to another. In our culture, the way you say "cold gun" is to hand over a weapon with the slide locked back or with the cylinder open. Sure, I trust you, but we're going to be sure anyway. With that mind-set, here are some of the questions I would have on my legal pad for witnesses – and there are a bunch of them.

- Who procures "prop" guns to be used in movies?
- Where are these guns purchased?
- Where are these firearms stored when not in use and how many people have access to them?
- Exactly what type of ammunition is used in these weapons to simulate firing?
- Who provided training on firearms safety? (I think we know the answer here.)

The most recent article I read indicated that Santa Fe County, NM, investigators have interviewed several crew and cast members and that the production has an "armorer" – Hannah Reed-Gutierrez – as part of their crew and that Hannah provided the gun to Hall, who in turn gave it to Alec Baldwin. The famous actor obviously didn't check the weapon or know about pointing weapons "down-range" and not in the direction of other human beings. In this article, Hall is said to have told police that he did *not* check the weapon, but that Hannah "showed it" to him. He couldn't recall, according to the investigator's report, whether Hannah "spun the drum." According to the sheriff's office, Ms. Hutchins was struck with a live round projectile. Hannah, however, says "no live ammo is kept on the set." If all of that is true – and "spun the drum" are the words Hall really used – then the safety mind-set on this movie set was akin to letting your children play on the interstate.

Nikolas Cruz could have navigated his fate without an attorney because the outcome would not have changed. Brian Laundrie will never need a lawyer again.

But, this motley crew of grown-ups playing make-believe in the desert better saddle up with a posse of well paid lawyers. This shootout at the OK Corral is going to be badly one-sided. **P&SN**

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years in police work. He lives in Miami and teaches criminal justice at a local high school. He also teaches regional law enforcement courses through Training Force, USA. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has recently announced his newly published book, The Ten Must-Haves to Be a Great Detective, available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle eBook. You can find it by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/hwc2xajm>

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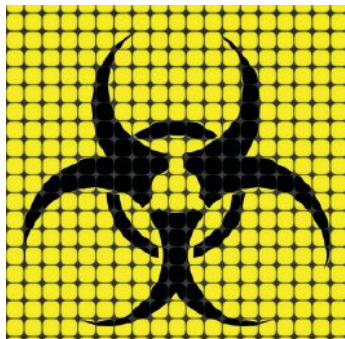
Hardwire Awarded Modular Scalable Vest Order

Hardwire, LLC was awarded its first delivery order for the Army's next generation **Modular Scalable Vest (MSV) program**. The Army **MSV program** will replace body armor systems with new lightweight armor and carriers. The Army's top priority for the **MSV program** is to "lighten the load" on its troops with a tailorable vest. Hardwire's patented armor was the lightest evaluated for the program and one of the first chosen for production.

Variants of the Hardwire military-grade armor systems are also available to civilian law enforcement.

hardwirellc.com

NEWS



Combatting Future Biological Threats

A new key strategy document, "American Pandemic Preparedness: Transforming Our Capabilities," outlines critical action needed to transform the United States' "capabilities to respond rapidly and effectively to any future pandemic of high consequence biological threat." The preparedness and response plan identifies the following five pillars as key areas requiring urgent attention in the effort to protect the country against future biological threats:

1. Transforming our medical defenses, including dramatically improving and expanding our arsenal of vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.
2. Ensuring situational awareness about infectious disease threats, for both early warning and real-time monitoring.
3. Strengthening public health systems, both in the United States and internationally, enabling them to respond to emergencies, with a particular focus on reducing inequities and protecting the most vulnerable communities.
4. Building core capabilities, including personal protective equipment, stockpiles and supply chains, bio-safety and biosecurity, and regulatory improvement.
5. Managing the mission with the seriousness of purpose, commitment and accountability, akin to the Apollo mission which took our astronauts to the moon decades ago.

To read a copy of the strategy plan, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yhmd5rd2>



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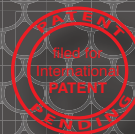
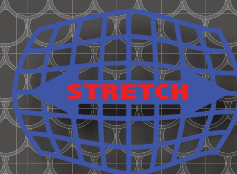
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THE AMMUNITION SHORTAGE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE FIREARMS TRAINING

Since March of 2020, ammunition has been in short supply for shooters, police academies and law enforcement agencies. The situation has improved a little bit as of late, but don't fool yourself into thinking the shortage has ended.

TODD FLETCHER



Photo by Jay Rembert

The demand for ammunition is still high – especially for training ammunition. Add in the cloud of gun and ammunition control legislation at the federal level and demand may continue unabated into the foreseeable future.

For most departments, the ammunition shortage has resulted in changes to firearms training. Nearly all departments have cut back the number of rounds fired during live fire training and have curtailed or eliminated their monthly training ammo allotments. Some agencies have slashed firearms training all together, instead opting to only run their department or state mandated qualification courses.

However, many law enforcement agencies have adapted and their training programs have thrived because of creative instructors and training staff.

Analysis

George Petronis is the President of Police Ammo from The Gun Shop in Southampton Township, NJ. They are a Vista Outdoor distributor for Delaware, Virginia and Maryland, selling ammunition from Federal, CCI, Speer, and Remington brands. He told me the ammunition supply is a “critical situation” and new orders are out 12-15 months from the day they are ordered to the day they are delivered with no relief in the fore-

seeable future. He stated each of the Vista Outdoor brands has been churning ammunition out as fast as they can, but the demand is outpacing their manufacturing capabilities.

Petronis told me that his business has been working hard to get ammunition to the law enforcement agencies they serve. He has tried to learn from past shortages to make sure their warehouse inventory is a year ahead, keeping customers supplied with training ammunition even if they can only fill partial orders.

Petronis believes the single greatest contributing factor to the low supply of ammunition is a surge in new firearm and ammunition buyers. He says an overwhelming number of first-time gun buyers are buying large amounts of ammunition to keep on hand rather than buying one or two boxes at a time. On top of this, he believes the labor issues resulting from COVID-19 and a shortage of raw materials, like copper, contribute to the manufacturers struggling to keep up with demand.

Training Ammo

Deputy Chief Art LeCours from the Ashland (OR) Police Department told me he has been able to keep a continuous supply of ammo on hand due in part to prior planning. Instead of ordering a





Some departments have shifted to other methods of training which they have never done in the past.

one year supply of training ammunition, he has attempted to keep a two year supply of ammunition on hand to guard against ammunition shortages. I know this can be a difficult process due to budget and purchasing rules, but when I was a sergeant with the Bend (OR) Police Department (before retiring), I was able to navigate my department's red tape and do something similar to Deputy Chief LeCours. It can be done and it's a battle worth fighting.

The situation isn't quite so rosy for some other departments. An instructor from a Midwest municipal agency told me training ammunition has been extremely difficult to get. This instructor told me suppliers who value working with police departments are unable to reliably procure ammo through their normal supply chains. This instructor said, "The suppliers have also experienced price increases and can no longer sell to police departments at previously contracted rates without taking huge losses. The ammo companies do not seem to be working with suppliers to keep costs down for police."

Officers who are responsible for purchasing or supplying their own training ammunition have reported seeing an increase in supplies at their dealers, but have also reported an increase in cost. As one officer told me, "The availability seems to be getting better for commercial purchases, but availability for large orders at bulk prices has not caught up." Having entered the realm of the newly retired, I can attest that ammunition is more easily found on store shelves.

Changing Training

Lieutenant Gabe Sapp from the Corvallis (OR) Police Department heads their training division and he told me that their firearm instructors have had to be creative when developing and executing training. They have utilized the shortage as an opportunity to "slow things down," go back to the basics and focus on the fundamentals. He told me their instructor staff has embraced the challenge by being flexible; by offering different training options compared to the past; and by doing more reality-based training which includes more less-lethal options, medical aid and threat assessment. He told me that this has resulted in about the same amount of training, but it's much different than the training the department has done in the past. Lt. Sapp said, "Overall, it has forced our heads to think outside the box and allowed us to provide training which we have never done in the past."

Sergeant Alexandra Nelson, the Tactical Operations Group Supervisor from the Arlington Heights (IL) Police Department and an International Association of Law Enforcement Firearm Instructors

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THE AMMUNITION SHORTAGE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE FIREARMS TRAINING

Continued from page 13



Air pistols from Umarex offer an affordable alternative, allowing officers to work on fundamental skills.

(IALEFI) board member, told me that the training ammunition shortage hasn't affected their department training so far. She told me that they have a simulator in their department and have used it to effectively supplement live fire training. She said that, as far as actual firearms training is concerned, they have focused on supplemental firearms skills which don't necessitate as much live fire training ammunition, such as working on magazine changes, drawing more efficiently from the holster and the use of handheld flashlights.

Deputy Chief LeCours went even

further and changed how his department schedules their in-service format. Instead of scheduling the more traditional six to eight hour training blocks, they have embraced the adult learning concept of high frequency, short duration training. Now, they train monthly in one hour increments of on-duty training. A side benefit to this change in scheduling has been that live fire training can be more "round count" specific. Their training has also become more of a one-on-one training which better addresses the training needs of individual officers. Deputy Chief LeCours added, "This has increased our firearms training from four to six hours a year to eight to ten hours with better quality training."

Alternative Training

Even though departments like the ones mentioned have found successful ways to train, what is a department to do when they have exhausted their ammunition supplies and are stuck waiting for their order to be delivered? When it comes to managing recoil, there really is no substitute for live fire firearms training. However, there are some pretty amazing alternatives which allow officers to work on the fundamentals of marksmanship, drawing from the holster, target transitions, and other weapon handling skills.

Everyone knows about the huge benefits to dry fire practice; however, some officers don't have the patience or personal discipline it takes to maximize dry fire practice. This is unfortunate because dry fire practice is the single best way to improve the efficiency of the draw and presentation and improve reloads. And, when it comes to working on good trigger control, dry fire practice allows officers to see how their trigger press moves their sights without recoil masking trigger press errors.

Simulator training is another short-term alternative to live fire training. This type of training should never replace live fire training, but in these days of ammo scarcity, instructors can maximize the benefits of simulator training to work on firearm skills. In addition to decision-making training, simulators can be set up to mimic recoil allowing officers to work on managing recoil, recovering their sights back to the target, transitioning between targets, and many other important skills.


When done correctly, reality-based training using airsoft or marking cartridges is another way to get quality training time without the need for live

fire ammunition. Like simulator training, reality-based training can improve officer threat assessment and decision-making skills. As far as range training is concerned, officers can use reality-based training to work on drawing from the holster, target transitions and recoil mitigation.

As good as today's simulators and reality-based training equipment is, it remains limiting when it comes to working on the fundamentals of marksmanship. However, Umarex USA produces some fantastic CO₂ BB gun options which mimic our duty handguns. **These are not to be used during force-on-force training.** These options fire BBs at 400 fps and can cause fairly serious injuries. The tradeoff is that they offer some surprising accuracy results out to 30 to 35 feet. These have the same look and feel – and nearly the same weight – as a duty handgun. As a result, they fit into the same duty holsters officers use every day. These air pistols have blowback action; full-size drop-free magazines; slides stay locked open on the last round fired; 15 to 18 round BB capacity depending on the model; trigger safeties; interchangeable grip backstraps; and ambidextrous slide releases. These are a great alternative to live fire training when ammunition is scarce, allowing officers to work on their fundamentals while managing recoil due to their blowback action. And, for about .01¢ per shot, this is a very affordable alternative which can pay for itself in short order.

While it's true the ammunition shortage has affected law enforcement training, it's also true that this provides departments, instructors and officers with an opportunity to evaluate what we do and reimagine how it can be done better in the future. We can make scheduling more efficient, utilize our available training resources more effectively and assess new training alternatives for future use. **P&SN**

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



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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

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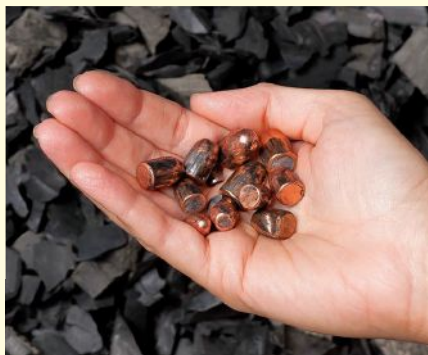
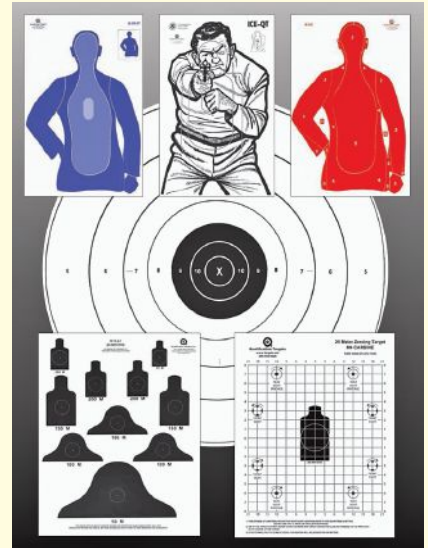
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For concealed carry practice, choose a traditional silhouette target or a variation which features the human anatomy or real-life depictions of active shooters. A hostage shooting target with a paper overlay helps change up each scenario, ensuring that you stay alert and think critically. Critical response paper targets help to master shoot/no shoot commands and to not mistake a common device for a weapon.

targets.net

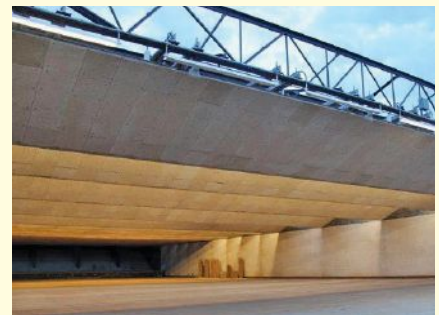


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Troy Acoustics' **Resource Library** offers additional information to get started, including drawings, order forms, a "How to..." and even a generic specification you can use on an RFP to assure OSHA and NFPA 286 compliance.

troyacoustics.com/resource-library

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE



TRANSPORTATION 2022

P&SN presents its 24th annual report on the latest technical advances in police vehicles, components and aftermarket equipment.

SERGEANT JAMES POST

Welcome to our annual transportation issue when we announce the results of the annual Michigan State Police (MSP) pursuit vehicle evaluations and introduce you to recently released vehicle and equipment announcements. Unfortunately, like our 2021 report, the results for 2022 have once again been impacted by worldwide events, primarily COVID-19. From politics to fuel shortages, to the shortage of computer chips, to shipping containers stranded in the Pacific Ocean with no trucks to transport their contents, it seems we wake up every day to a new dose of doom and gloom. Some departments required to purchase units under a state bid process have had to circumvent that process and purchase from local dealers. Used cruiser prices have skyrocketed and even the Ford® CVPI (discontinued in 2011) is being sold at over half of the original MSRP!

This annual feature is designed to unveil the latest technology and products (as well as vehicles) to enable you to make viable, educated choices for your next budgets. In addition to the MSP results, most of what we write about is gleaned from various LE expos around the country; however, the largest (hosted by the IACP) was again cancelled this year. This, along with companies hesitant to develop new products in the midst of an unstable economy and delivery concerns, impacts our efforts. While the auto manufacturers were able to provide MSP with vehicles to test, most were carry-

over 2021 units which may be tweaked when production ramps up. Delivery for some new models is likely the first quarter of next year or later.

Our coverage begins with the results of the MSP tests, where 11 vehicles and four motorcycles were put through the paces.

Sections following the MSP results and the vehicle and motorcycle reviews include emergency lighting, consoles, storage solutions, and more.

MICHIGAN STATE POLICE RESULTS

The annual Michigan State Police vehicle evaluations were conducted September 16-20, 2021. Pursuit vehicle acceleration, top speed and braking were conducted at the Chelsea (Chrysler) Proving Grounds in Chelsea, MI, while motorcycle tests were conducted at the MSP track in Lansing, MI.

Chevrolet provided two Tahoe SUVs for testing, both with 5.3L V-8s, one RWD and one 4WD, while Dodge® presented four members of their LE Pursuit program, two Chargers – a 3.6L AWD and a 5.7L HEMI® RWD – and two Durango SUVs, both AWD, powered with either the 3.6L V-6 or 5.7L V-8. Ford brought a full pallet of vehicles, three SUVs, a pickup and an all-electric coupe. Their SUV lineup consisted of three PI Utilities (all in AWD), the Hybrid, an EcoBoost® 3.0L and a base 3.0L; the F-150 3.5L EcoBoost Responder® pickup; and the Mustang Mach-E AWD coupe.



The new Mach-E Mustang boasts a top speed of 124 mph.

Basically, there were two types of popular LE vehicles tested for the annual evaluation, sedans and SUVs, with a pickup and an electric coupe thrown in for good measure. Gradually, starting with the Jeep® Cherokee, the SUVs have gained popularity with the only extra expense (over a sedan) being that they require two prisoner partitions to keep prisoners from climbing out the rear hatch. Now, the SUVs have all but replaced sedans. Currently, once the workhorse of cops everywhere, only one police sedan remains, the Dodge Charger Pursuit and, despite being the only sedan tested, it provided some of the best results of this year's tests.

Acceleration and Top Speed

These categories are always the first results cops are interested in, but they are also the most troubling for the brass because we've seen speeds increase dramatically over the last 20 years I've been

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covering these tests. Before we get into timed results, we'll answer the first question always asked...this year's fastest police car was the Ford Utility with the amazing EcoBoost V-6 engine at 148 mph. Second was a tie between the two Pursuit Chargers, the RWD HEMI and the often overlooked AWD V-6 at 139 mph. Third place may surprise some skeptics, as it was the Ford Utility Hybrid at 136 mph. Other top speeds of note were the Ford F-150 Responder at 120 mph and the EV Mustang Mach-E at 124 mph, but more on them later.

Other than the Ford Utilities, top speed of the other SUVs ranked as follows: the Dodge Durango V-8 and the Tahoe RWD tied for first at 130 mph, the AWD Durango V-6 was second at 127 mph and the Tahoe 4WD came in third (and slowest) at 124 mph.

The next category we follow is the timed results of 0-60 and 0-120 mph, as these represent the time it takes to go from a standing start to overtaking a violator. This year, we'll also report the time it takes to reach the top speeds. All of these results are of particular interest to state patrols and city/county enforcement units. These are recorded in seconds and there were some surprises.

The best results in the 0-60 mph analysis were the Utility EcoBoost first at 5.45 seconds; in second was the RWD Charger at

6.15 seconds; and third was the Durango HEMI at 6.70 seconds. The 0-100 mph results were the Utility EcoBoost first again at 13.47 seconds; in second at 14.06 was the RWD Charger and in third at 17.40 seconds was the Utility Hybrid.

The distance to reach 100 mph and top speed are other important considerations. The quickest to reach 100 mph was the Utility EcoBoost at 0.23 miles; second was the V-8 RWD Charger at 0.24 miles and third was the Utility Hybrid at 0.30 miles. The distance needed to reach top speed varied somewhat with the RWD Charger the best at 0.93; second was the Hybrid Utility at 1.25 miles and third at 1.28 miles was the Durango HEMI.

Vehicle Braking

Even more important than acceleration is stopping distance because that can mean the difference between catching a violator or ending up in the ER or worse. A factor to remember is that with today's speeds, engines and superior handling, it's possible to outrun your own siren. Couple that with car windows rolled up, Sirius radio blasting and drivers talking/texting, your brakes are your best friend.

The projected stopping distance is determined by the average of three 60-0 mph

stops and are reported in feet. Surprisingly, the best (shortest) at 129.10 feet was the RWD Tahoe with the AWD Charger second at 129.70 feet; third was the 4WD Tahoe at 131.50 feet. The worst recorded was the AWD Durango at 136.60 feet, 7½ feet further than the first place Tahoe which equals a T-bone in an intersection that the Chevy would have avoided!

Other Results

The results of the two non-sedan/SUV evaluations, the F-150 and the Mustang were not factored into the aforementioned results, as they are considered "niche" vehicles, not associated with normal patrol/pursuit duties, but we have included them for those of you who may have an interest in these vehicles. I think the results will surprise you.

Ford F-150 Responder: Rural and/or mountainous jurisdictions are utilizing pickup trucks more frequently and Ford, RAM® and Chevrolet all offer LE versions; however, only the Ford truck was tested this year and with results which will surely get the attention of the competition. The 150's top speed was 120 mph which should scare the crap out of speeders when they see it in the rearview mirror. With a 0-60 of 5.79 seconds and 0-100 of 14.34 seconds, I hope

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whatever is in the bed is secure. Stopping distance was projected as 160.90 feet, the worst of all vehicles tested.

EV Mustang: Ford produced some 15,000 Special Service Package (SSP) Mustangs from 1982 to 1993 and, before the program ended, at least half of America's state patrols utilized them. The Missouri State Highway Patrol alone fielded 71 units between 1988 and 1993 in a total of nine colors. I've personally owned two retired SSP Mustangs and I am still amazed at how troopers could manage light, siren and radio controls; a cup of coffee; and shift the five-speed simultaneously! Talk about multitasking!

In the years since 1993, several departments have used civilian Mustangs for stealth traffic enforcement and undercover work, but they were not LE spec'd, built or equipped. Die-hard SSP fans feared that there would never again be a SSP Mustang. Well, I've got good news and bad news: The good news is that there is a new Mustang cruiser in town, but the bad news (for combustible engine fans) is that it's all-electric. But, wait, quit crying in your beer. Just check out the MSP results of the new Mach-E AWD coupe. How about 100 mph in 11.94 seconds or a top speed of 124 mph? And, with standard AWD and

ABS, the estimated 60-0 mph stopping distance was 125 feet, the best of all vehicles tested this year! So, for some departments, there may be another pony in the stable in the near future, only this one eats voltage instead of hay.

NEWS FROM THE BIG THREE

Chevrolet (gmfleet.com/police)

The very popular Tahoes continue to be available from Chevrolet, powered by the venerable 5.3L V-8 and available as either the pursuit model (PPV) in RWD or the off-road SSV in 4X4. Both feature ten-speed autos; dual 12V batteries; Class IV, 6000 pound trailering capacity; and a plethora of safety and convenience items. These are basically carryover 2021 models, as are the SSV Silverado trucks.

New from Chevrolet is the Silverado EV which will be unveiled at the 2022 Consumer Electronics Show (CES), the most influential technology event in the world, on January 5, 2022. The all-electric pickup was designed as an EV from the ground up with a variety of options, including four-wheel steering. The estimated driving range is more than 400 miles on a full charge. No word yet if there will be a LE specific model, but civilian and fleet vehicles will be released simultaneously.

GM has also announced the recall of 2021 Tahoes for a fuel pump issue. Specifically, the fuel pump power control module can cause the fuel pump to fail, interrupting fuel flow to the engine and causing an engine stall, increasing the chance of a collision.

FCA US LLC (fcausfleet.com)

Mother Mopar® continues to offer a wide variety of LE vehicles for any assignment your agency may require – two sedans, three SUVs, two pickups, and a van suitable for prisoner transport or a mobile lab or command post.

The LX Platform Dodge Charger Pursuit sedan, first offered in 2006, is available with two engine choices: the famous 5.7L HEMI V-8 with exclusive Fuel Saver Technology or the 3.6L V-6, the choice of many city departments. The Charger is available with two drive choices, AWD and RWD. The available AWD V-6 offers an increase in both horsepower and torque over the previous V-6 RWD configuration, but AWD is no longer offered with the HEMI engine. Options include NIJ Level III ballistic panel inserts for the front doors.

The Durango Pursuit is also available in both engines, the 3.6L Pentastar and the 5.7L HEMI, and both feature standard AWD. Features include an automatic tri-

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zone HVAC temperature control to keep K9 units comfortable. It has 85 cubic feet of cargo volume and a towing capacity of 7,200 pounds. You may not be aware of the Durango Special Service – a nonpursuit model available in RWD only which comes with your choice of either engine.

New for 2022 is the RAM 1500 Classic Special Service pickup which features a Class IV, 10,220 pound towing capacity, all-speed traction control and an eight-speed auto trans coupled to the 5.7L V-8 with Fuel Saver Technology and in part-time 4X4 configuration. Available is the optional RAM Cargo Management System. The RAM 2500 Special Service is still available as well. Rounding out the RAM Division is the RAM ProMaster® van which is powered by the 3.6L Pentastar V-6 and features a 4680 pound payload and exclusive 260° rear opening doors which close against the van sides. The spacious interior allows various prisoner configurations or other functions.

Ford Motor Company
(fleet.ford.com)

Ford can rightfully boast to be the first American brand to offer a police package vehicle. This occurred in 1950 and, for over 70 years, they continue to produce quality, innovative police vehicles. They offer three SUVs, the PI Utilities, two LE pickups, one passenger van, and a prisoner transport van.

Their lineup starts with three Police Interceptor® Utility SUVs, all with standard AWD. Two are gasoline-powered and one is a Hybrid. The base model features a 3.3L V-6, while their most popular model features a 3.0L V-6 with the amazing twin turbo EcoBoost. While the 2022 Utilities are basically

carryover units, they continue to offer an amazing list of standard and optional equipment which have made them the best-selling LE SUVs in North America...and they are built in the USA! The Utilities feature a number of safety features for your officers including being the first police vehicle capable of self-disinfecting for the COVID-19 virus and other contaminants. They are also offered in a whopping pallet of 17 colors.

Ford's two F-150 LE pickups are both based on SuperCrew Cab bodies: the Responder and the SSV which offer both the 5.0L V-8 and the 3.5L EcoBoost V-6 and the SSV is 4X2. The Responder is a 4X4 and the EcoBoost V-6 is coupled to their ten-speed auto transmission. Ford Fleet's other two LE vehicles are the Transport Prisoner Vehicle and the Expedition Max SSV with three row seating and both are carryover models.

SPECIALTY VEHICLES

Custom Truck and Body Works
(customtruckandbodyworks.com)

The Savannah Police Department in Georgia recently took delivery of their second Forensic Unit manufactured by Custom Truck and Body Works, Inc. The vehicle was customized throughout to help the forensic unit while on location.

The interior features stainless steel countertops, kitchen sink, refrigerator, mobile workstations, wall-mounted TV screens, whiteboards, and ample storage space.

The outside featured a TOMAR light package, locking external storage compartments, two Coleman® roof-mounted AC units, a 50" LCD monitor, two electrical roll-out awnings, Onan gas generator, beacon lights, tripod lights, Zico steps, along with rear and side entry.



Nassau County recently took delivery of their new LDV mobile command center.

LDV
(ldvusa.com)

The Nassau County Office of Emergency Management recently chose LDV to create their new mobile command center/HNT unit. They selected a Ford F-550 regular cab 2WD gas chassis to build their new command unit. It is powered by a 7.3L V-8 gas engine and a six-speed TorqShift automatic transmission with overdrive. Custom fabricated aluminum cabinets provide overhead storage and are faced with dry erase writing surfaces. Installed on the rear wall are two 43" Samsung 4K Ultra Smart LED TVs which can provide a feed from the rear mast to those working at the five workstations inside the vehicle. On the rear of the vehicle is a heavy-duty non-locking telescoping pneumatic mast. To help keep watch over the command center's surroundings, a Dome Network camera with Lightfinder technology has also been installed.

POLICE MOTORCYCLE EVALUATION

Three companies provided LE motorcycles for testing. BMW brought their popular R 1250 RT-P; Harley-Davidson® brandished two police motors – the FLHTP and the FLHP; while Yamaha fielded their FJR1300 P-AB model. The results are as follows:

Motorcycle Acceleration and Top Speed

The top speed recorded was by the Yamaha at 145 mph, followed by the BMW at 134 mph. Third place was shared by the two Harleys at 110 mph each. BMW posted the fastest 0-60 mph time at 4.17 seconds, while the Yamaha posted the fastest 0-100 mph at 9.25 seconds. Second in the 0-60 ranking was the Yamaha at 4.45 seconds and second in the 0-100 was the BMW at 9.29 seconds. The lighter FLHP posted third place in both the 0-60 (5.30) and 0-100 (17.20) tests, while the FLHTP posted the slowest times in both the 0-60 and 0-100 listings with times of 5.56 and 18.74, respectively.

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Motorcycle Braking

The brake testing presented different rankings, as if the bikes traded places on a Monopoly® board. The best ranking was set by the BMW at a projected distance of 138.30 feet and the second best was the H-D® FLHP at 141.40 feet and followed (for third) by the FLHTP at 145.10 feet. The worst braking was the Yamaha at 147.90 feet, over 9½ feet further than the BMW which would easily have taken out a couple of kids in a school crosswalk.

POLICE MOTORCYCLE DATA

BMW provided no information for this column.

Harley-Davidson (h-d.com/police)

The two Harley-Davidson motorcycles tested are both carryover 2021 models, the Road King® and the Electra Glide®, but H-D has two new products they have recently announced. First is their new Police Sidecar Chassis which features improved straight line and cornering stability and requires less steering input for both left and right turns, as well as improved tire to ground contact, reduced vibration and noise, plus improved weight distribution. This will fit 2017 and up

Police Touring models.

H-D has also proudly announced a new motorcycle for police worldwide, the Pan American Police Concept. H-D tasked one of their dealers, Laidlaw Harley-Davidson of Los Angeles, to customize their Pan American 1250 Special for police duty and their work debuted at the Orange County Traffic Officers Association's annual Police Motor Rodeo. This is a new model, so there are not many accessory parts available yet; most came from Harley's accessory catalog, including H-D's optional wire-spoked wheels and skid plates. Their Panniers and top box were equipped with red and blue flashing LED lights, plus flashing LED handguards, auxiliary lights and LEDs under the bike's headlight.

Yamaha (yamahamotorsports.com)

The Yamaha motorcycle tested was their FJR1300 P-AB, an option to the touring type motorcycles offered by the competition and the company states it emulates the styling of a luxury sports car. It features an electrically adjustable tall windshield which ensures wind protection at any speed, a taller handlebar, foot shields, and a comfortable seat with two height adjustments.

The 1298cc liquid cooled DOHC inline four cylinder is fuel-injected and the bike has detachable side cases. It features a one year limited factory warranty.

NEW EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Following is a review of new equipment available for your fleet in these sections: Emergency Lighting, Consoles, Prisoner Containment Systems, Storage Solutions, and More, plus a tribute you won't want to miss.

EMERGENCY LIGHTING

CODE 3, Inc. (code3esg.com)

CODE 3's new CD5031 is an exterior warning grille insert light specifically designed to fit inside the Interceptor Utility grille. Its 12 dual color LEDs provide combinations of amber, white, red, and blue colors. The mounts give installation flexibility and each color can be controlled independently. It features a clear lens and black die-cast base.

Ekin Technology (ekin.com)

Ekin is a pioneer in mobile and fixed solutions for safe cities and the creator of the Ekin Patrol G2 ALPR Light Bar and ALPR



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The Patrol G2 lightbar incorporates built-in ALPR technology.

Bike Patrol.

The Patrol G2 combines a modern design with AI technology, making it the go-to mobile enforcement product which is vehicle compatible, transforming ordinary vehicles into smart patrols. It is able to analyze up to seven lanes of ALPR, as well as front and rear 24/7 video surveillance, along with additional speed detection and parking enforcement options. With extensive data analytics, law enforcement is provided with continuous feedback, giving them the tools to make informed decisions which prioritize safety and save lives.

In addition, Ekin also introduced the world's first and only compact ALPR Bike Patrol product compatible with any bicycle. The plug-and-play design is a 12V wirelessly controlled system which requires no additional equipment to operate, providing a solution for parking violation enforcement while also generating an audio or visual alert sent in real time which is compatible with smartphones.

Federal Signal (fedsig.com)

Federal's newest lightbar, the Reliant™, features a low profile, linear design which provides a multicolor warning system at a budget friendly price. It includes 28 flash patterns and all of the features you have grown to expect in a LED bar. Their SpectraLux® multicolor LED technology allows the light source to change colors (while in operation) between amber, blue, red, and white. The height is 1.3 inches and width is 47.6 inches.

SoundOff Signal (soundoffsignal.com)

SoundOff has introduced their new 48" nFORCE® NXT lightbar which is the next generation lightbar with 15% increased brightness, yet with a 20% reduction in power consumption. It is available with five dif-



The new nFORCE® NXT lightbar delivers 15% increased brightness.

ferent color lenses, three LED alley, six LED inboards, and 12 LED corners. This new lightbar is available with tinted lenses, along with built-in photo cell. Symmetrical endcaps and multicolor alleys are also featured, along with a simple three-wire install.

Also new from SoundOff is their Rapid Deployment Vehicle Warning Kit which provides everything needed to turn an ordinary car into an emergency response vehicle without complex wiring or a permanent install. The kit comes in a case with six mpower® Arrow Kit modules (with red/blue/white LEDs); single and dual shroud Dual Lock Kits; a 100J Speaker; and a handheld controller, along with the necessary brackets and harnesses.

Whelen Engineering Co., Inc. (whelen.com)

Whelen revolutionized emergency lighting in 1952 with their invention of the first rotating "anti-collision" beacon. Today, they continue to push innovation and their WCP Traffic Preemption powered by Opticom™ clears intersections and has been proven to reduce intersection crash rates by up to 70% and reduce response times by as much as 25%. Opticom EVP functions as a new feature within the Whelen Cloud Platform®, allowing intersection traffic signals to automatically change based on the status and priority of police, fire and EMS emergency vehicles.

CONSOLES

Havis, Inc. (havis.com)

Havis recently introduced their new VSX Console for the Chevrolet Tahoe PPV and SSV. It incorporates a heavy-duty steel floor mounting structure and a polycarbonate plastic body which mounts to the frame, resulting in a 30% lower weight. Features include an integrated printer mount, an internal laptop pole mount, a padded armrest with locking handgun pocket, a card holder and pen well, side storage pockets on the driver and passenger sides (with charging stations), and integral cup holders.

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

Lund features new consoles for both the Dodge Durango Pursuit and the Chevrolet Tahoe. The Durango console utilizes the OEM floor mount and features Lund's "Tactical Design" with a seven inch front height, a 60 degree slope, and a four inch high horizontal section. The console maximizes seat space for duty belts and is specifically designed to wrap the contour of the dash. It is available in four different horizontal section lengths and is designed for emergency egress. The innovative Tahoe console design consists of a primary console body and an attached "Side-Car" module which



Lund has new consoles for both the Dodge Durango Pursuit and the Tahoe.

allows for a variety of user configurable options, including cup holders and printer mounts. The console is designed to allow emergency egress out of either side of the vehicle if needed.

Tuffy Security Products® (tuffyproducts.com)

New from Tuffy is their Model 376-01 Security Console for the Ford F-150 LE pickups. These are designed to be inserted into the OEM console with no drilling required, maintaining a stock look while providing superior security utilizing their exclusive Pry-Guard system. Constructed of welded steel, it features a ten tumbler bitted lock and provides secure weapon storage while allowing access to the factory ashtray, armrest, and USB and power outlets.

PRISONER CONTAINMENT SYSTEMS

Go Rhino! Products (publicsafety.gorhino.com)

Go Rhino! has created a new Single Cell Detainee Safety Seat for the 2020 and up Ford Utility which addresses the concern of limited space. The complete system includes a half front partition, a half "Pro-Strait" detainee seat, a rear seat frame, and a three-point harness seat belt. It allows full function of the driver's seat and maximum legroom for the driver which will be welcomed by taller officers. It has been designed specifically to eliminate gaps and cervices where contraband could be hidden and has optional window bars or polycarbonate window guards available.

STORAGE SOLUTIONS AND MORE

CTech Manufacturing (ctechmanufacturing.com)

CTech has unveiled a CopBox Cabinet® tactical trunk storage solution for the Chevrolet Tahoe PPV which utilizes factory mounting points with a dedicated "Quick-Link®" mounting plate. It features a host of exclusive features such as a lightweight fastener constructed assembly; "Motion-Latch®"; full-length dual latching drawers



CTech's new CopBox Cabinet® Selector allows you to view CopBox models in simulated 3D.

and doors; a hammer tone, powder-coat finish; and radius end corners. In many cases, a CopBox cabinet can be transferred from vehicle to vehicle by simply swapping out the mounting plate. This saves money and time compared to similar trunk storage solutions.

A unique service now available is CTech's new CopBox Cabinet Selector which represents an innovative new way to shop for trunk storage solutions. This new buying experience allows buyers to view standard CopBox models in simulated 3D. However, the CopBox Cabinet Selector goes far beyond a rendering, offering the chance to customize CopBox Cabinets in a live environment. Options such as gear guards and electronics panels can be added with the click of a button. Prospective buyers select a vehicle application immediately upon entering the selector, ensuring that only compatible CopBox solutions are presented.

The CopBox Cabinet Selector gives prospective buyers a never before seen look at standard trunk storage solutions. A live 3D rendering of each CopBox model allows buyers to comb over construction details and features in detail before ordering.

Gamber-Johnson, LLC
(gamberjohnson.com)

Gamber-Johnson, known for their electronic mounting equipment, now offers rugged cargo storage with its new Trunk Box solution to improve security and organization of gear and equipment. Its lightweight aluminum construction features a sliding drawer using a dual lock system to access crucial gear quickly. The sliding drawer includes vent cutouts to keep equipment cool, while the inverted top provides additional mounting space. Vehicle-specific mounts are available for the newest pursuit SUVs available, including the 2020+ Police Interceptor Utility and

2021+ Chevrolet Tahoe.

Also new from Gamber-Johnson is their 2021+ Dodge Charger Console Box (Short 8.5"). This has been designed with a shortened length in the horizontal section to provide extra clearance for weapon retrieval while still providing ample mount-



The Dodge Charger Console Box from Gamber-Johnson provides extra clearance for weapon retrieval.

ing space for radios and controls. The new console design is part of their bumper-to-bumper vehicle solution for the 2021+ Dodge Charger.

Jotto Desk
(jottopublicsafety.com)

Jotto continues to develop innovative products for LE applications. Their exclusive Tahoe Cargo Cover is designed to provide a solid horizontal divider in the rear compartment. The upper/top section creates an area for mounting expensive communications, in-car video and lighting equipment which uninstalls easily for service, retaining the lower area for personal gear, or a tote for supplies or mission-critical tactical gear. It provides the strength of 14-gauge steel construction. Mounting options include a Cargo Barrier Mount and



Jotto's new Tahoe Cargo Cover

a Bio Seat Replacement System Mount. Coming soon is a PI Utility Cargo Cover and a Durango Pursuit Cargo Cover.

OPS Public Safety
(opspublicsafety.com)

OPS Public Safety manufactures vehicle storage systems for the popular law enforcement and public safety vehicles. New from OPS is their Response-Ready Turn-Key Trailers which include a range of modular interior options (drawers, cabinets, shelving units) to upfit enclosed trailers used for functions such as SWAT, command response, CSI, event security, and disaster relief. They maintain an extensive inventory of these units and can also create a custom design for any unique needs.

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

Pro-gard announced their new Cargo Storage Floor for the Tahoe PPV and SSV models. This is a three compartment, elevated storage system which expands the cargo area allowing officers to conceal a wide range of equipment, weapons and electronics. The three unique hinged storage compartments are installed with push-button latches to easily open and close each time a compartment is needed. It is easily installed and securely mounts directly to the floor utilizing the existing OEM mounting points.

PrintekMobile
(printek.com)

The Interceptor 80 Series provides officers the ability to print full page tickets, reports and other printing needs for patrol car applications. It is the fastest eight inch mobile printer on the market with user-friendly features like dual serrated tear bars, large function buttons, an easy to open paper door, and a ruggedized casing. Mounting systems currently offered by the major mounting companies will work with the I80 with no modifications needed.

Like other PrintekMobile printers, the I80 is available in Bluetooth®, Wi-Fi and USB version, and comes with a two year warranty. The I80 is compatible with Windows, Android and iOS Bluetooth operating systems.

Setina Manufacturing Company, Inc.
(setina.com)

Setina has developed a Rear Cargo Management System with electronics and firearms storage for the Chevrolet Tahoe PPV designed to maximize its rear storage capabilities. It is easily installed and provides a flat surface for upper storage, along with two lower storage bays for electronics, cargo and firearms. A lift-up gas spring assists opening the lid for easy access to the storage bays beneath and features a

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 25



The new Rear Cargo Management System from Setina is easily installed.

push-button lock. The versatile design works with or without a rear partition and is compatible with Setina's cargo box systems.

TruckVault, Inc.
(truckvault.com)

TruckVault is the first company with a secure, low profile LE drone storage system, called the Drone Responder Line. They offer public safety teams secure and efficient methods of storing and deploying drones from their vehicles, as rapid deployment often determines effective response.

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A TRIBUTE

Setina Manufacturing Co. has a 58 year history of creating and building quality products and innovation which set the industry standard with their uncompromising adherence to the highest standards. The good folks at Setina always think outside the box and their forward-thinking designs and creations always set the bar which the competition tries to reach, but their new line is bound to have the industry spinning. They have now created a comprehensive line of equipment for the Tesla Y! Despite the fact that only a dozen or so departments are field-testing the Tesla now, Setina recognized the future of electric cars and is leading the charge (pun intended) with their Tesla lineup which includes a prisoner partition and rear partition; a dual firearms mount with bolt lock; and a console with an armrest, cup holders and a USB port. Outside, the future continues with push bumpers (with or without fender guards), available in aluminum or steel.



John Setina built the first roll bar/prisoner partition.

Of course, innovation is nothing new for Setina, as the founder, the late John R. Setina, created the first roll bar/prisoner partition in the industry in 1963 while working as a vehicle repair specialist for the Washington State Patrol. His design was also the first patented in America. John's legacy continues with the integrity and family values he strongly believed in as Setina carries on as one of the most respected names in law enforcement equipment. John's family values live on in his children, Terry Setina, President, and Judy Setina, Vice President, who have both been an integral part of the company for over 30 years.

After I retired and began restoring retired police cars, I remembered a shotgun lock my department used throughout my 25 year career. I always appreciated the innovative locking design which fooled potential thieves every time one tried to steal our shotguns, as they quickly learned that pushing the button actually locked the device instead of opening it! I asked our garage who supplied the locks as I needed them to complete accurate interiors of my old cruisers and they referred me to Setina. These had to also be an early invention of John's as we used them in 1965 and I still think they are superior to electric locks (which can be defeated), while that great manual lock keeps working! As I prepared this article, I checked their online catalog and was pleased to see that they still offer this great lock.

Again, I salute John, Terry and Judy for the company they have created and the police lives they have saved. **P&SN**

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



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RECOVERY POSITION, BREATHING AND IN-CUSTODY DEATHS: MYTHS VS. SCIENCE

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

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Your partner, Officer Don, arrested and fought a resisting male, wrestled him to the ground, applied metallic handcuffs, and then rolled the facedown person onto his side. A few moments later, the male barely muttered, "I'm having difficulty breathing," and then suddenly, without making sounds or movements, became nonresponsive and died.

You and others question how this could have happened. After all, he had remembered to use the Recovery Position to improve breathing following restraint to prevent such deaths and performed it exactly as it was taught to him and to you in the police academy and during in-service training. The Recovery Position, also known as the *lateral decubitus position* or the *lateral recumbent position*, is generally taught during basic first aid training. Its

purpose is to minimize an individual's aspiration on vomit or other material which may obstruct the airway.

The decedent's family filed a civil action alleging Officer Don caused the death of their loved one. During his deposition and again at trial, plaintiff's counsel firmly asked, "You wrote in your report that you placed the decedent in the Recovery Position, but he didn't recover...isn't that, right?" "Yes," answered Officer Don. The attorney then

alleged, "You were trying to misrepresent to your supervisors and to the community that you used a so-called Recovery Position which you knew would not aid in my client's recovery. Isn't that, correct?" "No," he responded, "I was taught to use the Recovery Position because it improved a person's ability to breathe. I do not know why it did not work."

The attorney, who is now getting louder and more aggressive, declared to the jury

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while glaring at Officer Don, "This officer is deliberately misleading this court and all of you about the efficacy of the Recovery Position! Medical studies have shown that it **does not** improve breathing and was never designed to improve breathing, unlike his testimony under oath." Then, he asked to show several studies, treatises and articles to the jury and, after the court granted his request, the publications confirmed the intended purpose of the Recovery Position, confirming that both his training and his beliefs were wrong.

During closing argument, the attorney reminded the jurors of the medical examiner's testimony: The male had congestive heart failure and the repositioning onto his side was a contributing factor to his death. After arguing that Officer Don's repositioning the male into the Recovery Position had contributed to his death, the jury returned a large monetary verdict against him and the municipality.

Stunned and shocked by the verdict, Officer Don told everyone who would listen, "I did what I was taught to do because they said it would improve breathing and help prevent an in-custody death." He and other officers began to question their training and whether the Recovery Position improved breathing. Officer Don told officers that, after searching the Internet, he had found publications which explained why placing a person into the Recovery Position to improve breathing is a myth.

Recovery Position Paradigm and Basic First Aid Training

Many Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) are taught to reposition a restrained subject onto their side – preferably the left side – to enhance breathing, but there is little scientific evidence that such repositioning will improve respiration (gas exchange) and/or ventilation (inhaling and exhaling). This recommendation follows basic first aid training for unconscious individuals who are breathing normally whom officers may encounter. When a person becomes unconscious prior, during or after a confrontation with LEOs, officers are taught to do a rapid visual assessment of the person using the ABCs: **A**irway, **B**reathing and **C**irculation, and then are trained how to reposition the person into the Recovery Position for breathing improvement. The *theory* behind the Recovery Position is that, if the unconscious person has an open airway and is breathing, the person should be rolled onto the side (Recovery Position) for two reasons: to protect the person's airway and to minimize and/or prevent aspiration of gastric contents. In some cases, however, the Recovery Position may cause medical issues.

Aspiration

Aspiration focuses on food from the stomach or saliva entering the subglottis,

thereby obstructing a person's airway which can cause them to die. Of course, dirt, sand or other materials may also enter the mouth causing the person to aspirate. If stomach contents find their way into the lungs, this can create an infection in the lungs commonly referred to as *aspiration pneumonia*. The limited medical literature on minimizing

aspiration is clear that there is no ideal position for every person to be placed into to prevent aspiration.

One 2011 scientific article identified and discussed three categories of aspiration: before swallowing, during swallowing and after swallowing. The Recovery Position focuses on repositioning an unconscious per-



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RECOVERY POSITION, BREATHING AND IN-CUSTODY DEATHS: MYTHS VS. SCIENCE

Continued from page 29



Photo: Curtis McCain (curtmccain.com)

The Recovery Position can possibly worsen a person's preexisting medical condition.

son who is breathing normally so the stomach contents will more easily drain from the throat and mouth. Of course, if the person is vomiting; bleeding heavily around the mouth; or has foreign debris such as dirt, sand, mud, etc., the Recovery Position may help to drain these fluids from the throat and the mouth and make the suction and/or debris removal easier if the officer is qualified to perform debris removal techniques.

Prisoner to Patient

Officers must be taught to mentally reframe how they view the suspect or the inmate who suddenly becomes unconscious while under the officer's care, custody and control. The reframing: View the individual as a *patient* because he (or she) is suffering a medical emergency. It is critical to request that Emergency Medical Services (EMS) urgently respond to the officer's location and then transfer the *prehospital*

care of the individual to trained and certified EMS providers.

While awaiting EMS, DO NOT permit an individual to lie on his (or her) back (supine) because, according to a 1992 study, there is an increase in aspiration risk factors the longer a person is kept in the supine position. Depending upon the situation and the individual's injuries, if any, officers may decide to roll a person onto his (or her) side for the primary purpose of minimizing aspiration, not improving breathing. If the person stops breathing, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) must begin immediately to help save the person's life.

Recovery Position Medical Concerns

Most LEOs are neither trained nor qualified to make a medical and/or a psychological diagnosis. Yet, many administrators, supervisors and/or trainers encourage LEOs to do *something* after a suspect or inmate collapses in front of them, becomes nonresponsive following a struggle, and so forth. No LEO wants to experience an arrest related death or an in-custody death of a person with whom (s)he was dealing. Based upon his (or her) training and/or policy and not knowing what else to do, the LEO may place an unconscious individual into the Recovery Position, hoping it will help the indi-

vidual and show the administration and the community that something was done in an effort to save the person's life, preventing an in-custody death.

Practically, the Recovery Position may worsen a person's preexisting medical condition. For example, a 2005 medical study compared 14 chronic heart failure patients to 13 healthy volunteers and found the Recovery Position caused greater discomfort and worsened lung function in those patients who had chronic heart failure. In fact, the group of patients who had congestive heart failure reported shortness of breath and more discomfort than the other group. Another study determined that those patients with larger hearts were affected more when placed into the Recovery Position. During autopsy, medical examiners often find a person who died during a struggle with LEOs had an enlarged heart which contributed to the person's death. Of course, LEOs, and often the individual with an enlarged heart, do not know such a condition is present.

In a 1999 medical study, 59 participants were broken into two groups. One group was given a CPR refresher course which included the Recovery Position, compared to the other group which was given a CPR refresher course which used head tilt and chin lift techniques for unconscious and breathing individuals. The study found



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One study has revealed that participants were better able to detect when breathing had stopped when using head tilt and chin lift techniques.

that 51.85% (14 of 27) of the participants who were taught the Recovery Position were unable to detect when a person had stopped breathing within two minutes. In comparison, 82.14% (23 of 28) were able to detect when breathing had stopped within two minutes using the head tilt and chin lift techniques.

The study found that the Recovery Position delayed breathing assessment and delayed participants from identifying when breathing had stopped. The Recovery Position not only showed it was more difficult to assess these variables when compared to the head tilt and chin lift group, but also showed from a practical perspective that CPR was delayed.

Summary

The post-George Floyd culture demands many changes to the criminal justice system including accountability and transparency from municipalities, law enforcement administrators, police officers, and correctional officers. These demands are here to stay and will require law enforcement administrators, supervisors, trainers, and officers to scrutinize and then change policies, lesson plans, training, supervision, and reports which contain inaccurate and/or misleading information. After consultation with municipal legal counsel and medical professionals, if current agency policy or training directs officers to place any restrained person who is face-down after a struggle onto his (or her) side "to improve breathing," the policy, lesson plan and training will need to be revised.

While these changes are being made, a short microlearning lesson can be easily and timely produced about the Recovery Position; all officers should be required to view it. The lesson must explain why the change(s) are being made, while simultaneously emphasizing the need to stop using the word "recovery" even though the repositioning will continue to be authorized depending upon the circumstances. Everyone in the agency must be told that the Recovery Position is not designed to improve breathing and may, in fact, cause medical issues. This must translate into removing the term

Recovery Position, from training, from report writing and from testifying because there is no guarantee that the individual will recover. Replace the term by simply substituting, "Roll the person onto his or her side."

Officers need to be reminded that a medical emergency takes precedence over criminal prosecution. Instilling and reinforcing this paradigm shift [reframing] into the minds of officers takes place through progressive leadership, scientific-based policy, training and initiative taking supervision.

Improvement of breathing by repositioning an individual into the Recovery Position is one of many myths which continue to plague and be perpetuated in law enforcement, but, in today's environment, science is one primary foundation upon which to build policy and training programs. In short, replacing myths with scientific and evidence-based findings will not only save lives, but also careers. **P&SN**

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

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The Importance of ONE-HANDED Shooting Skills



The firearm you carry on your hip is a handgun, not a hand(s)gun. It was originally designed and built to be shot with one hand.

MICHAEL T. RAYBURN

I know what you're thinking, "Two hands are better than one," and you're absolutely correct, but one-handed shooting is always going to be faster. If you have the opportunity, go ahead and

use two hands for your grip. It's certainly going to be more stable, but chances are you're not going to have that kind of time in an actual gunfight.

The vast majority of Officer Involved

Shootings (OIS) are over in a matter of seconds. Most times, according to FBI research, the offender fired first. If you really sit down and think about it, how many of the videos you've seen recently where the subject was armed with a firearm did the offender fire first? If you look at the recent rash of ambush-style attacks against law enforcement, this is almost always the case.

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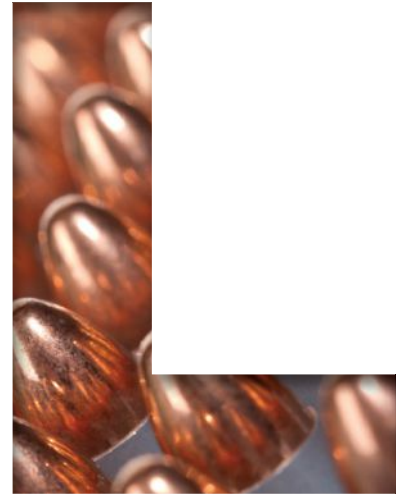


Reaction Time

This puts us behind the curve because we're always reacting to the threat or to the action versus the suspects who are causing the "action." Remember, action is always faster than reaction. There's always going to be that time gap. You can lessen the gap by doing certain things, like moving, which causes the suspect to react to your action. You can also lessen that reaction gap by getting your firearm out of your holster as quickly as possible.

Some of you are probably thinking back to your academy training where the Firearms Instructor (FI) walked you through the "steps of the draw." You're probably remembering the part where the FI told you to "draw your handgun out and bring it over to the centerline of your body while, at the same time, bringing your off hand to the centerline of your body to get a two-handed grip." The FI might have then said something like this, "If done correctly, it should take no more time to get a two-handed grip than a one-handed grip."

That may be true in a perfect world, but when was the last time law enforce-



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THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE-HANDED SHOOTING SKILLS

Continued from page 32



When obtaining a two-handed “traditional” grip, the gun will automatically align with the centerline of your body. This is our starting point.

ment ever worked in a “perfect world”? I’ll pause here while you laugh that one out.... Seriously, though, a “perfect world” is not the environment we work in or, for that matter, live in. Suppose your off hand is busy doing something like holding a flashlight, opening a door or holding onto a railing in a stairwell so that you don’t trip over the garbage on the stairs.

Since we don’t live in a perfect world where it seems like we’re always behind in the action versus reaction curve, and given the fact that our off hands are

sometimes busy with other tasks, and one-handed shooting is always faster than two hands, then shouldn’t we be training in one-handed shooting skills?

Here’s another consideration. When your startle response – or what’s commonly called your fight or flight response – kicks in, all that fancy stuff you learned at the academy or read in a magazine goes right out the window. Your focus – and your only concern – is going to boil down to one goal and that is to get your gun out of your holster as fast as you can. With the real possibility of the bad guy already shooting at you, there’s a good chance you’re not even going to be thinking about getting your off hand into place for a two-handed grip.

I can already hear the FI’s grumbling, “Muscle memory – fall back on your training. Because you trained this way, you’ll subconsciously revert back to the way you were trained”...blah, blah, blah. If that was the case, then why do most officers in the majority of OISs shoot with one hand? I can guarantee you that not all of these departments train extensively in one-handed shooting skills. These days,

you’re lucky to get enough training time and money – let alone the ammo – to do anything other than “qualify,” if your state even requires a mandatory qualification every year.

This whole “defund the police” movement has pretty much killed training other than the mandatory training – and even that’s in jeopardy. “We want better trained cops” is the cry we hear. Yet, we all know the first thing to get cut in the budget is training. Learning to shoot with one hand is an extremely important skill you need to master for all of the reasons we’ve already laid out. Because of this, don’t be afraid to invest in your own safety and well-being. Ask your spouse or loved ones if your life is worth a couple of boxes of ammo to learn this skill. I think we all know the answer to that one.

Learning One-handed Shooting

This brings us to the easy part – learning how to shoot with one hand. It’s a lot easier than you think. It’s easy because we’re working off of the basic skills you already possess. Remember that two-handed grip you learned all the way back in the acad-

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Keeping the gun aligned with the centerline, raise it up on target.

emy? Well, we're going to be using that to start.

Get your hands on a red/blue training gun or, if that's not possible, insure you have a safe and empty firearm before starting this training.

Head out to the range and stand at the three yard line with your red/blue training gun or your safe and empty firearm. We'll start at the three yard line and work our way back as your skills progress. Don't worry, your skills will progress fairly rapidly.

Take your red/blue gun or safe and empty firearm and get a good two-handed grip in the low ready position. If you look down at your gun, you'll realize the firearm is located in the middle or on the centerline of your body. This is a natural index for you.

Keep your two-handed grip on the gun and raise it up on target. The gun is still indexed on the centerline of your body. Do this up and down motion several times with your two-handed grip. Once you get the feel for this, raise your gun up on target and hold it there. Now, take your off hand away and put it out to your side for balance.

The firearm should remain on the centerline of your body in your one-handed grip. Raise and lower the handgun several times, going from the low ready position to on target, keeping the gun indexed on the centerline of your body while holding the firearm with one hand.

Once you've done this, keep the gun on target and bring your off hand over to the gun. The gun should not have moved. If it did, then you moved it off the centerline of your body. Practice this up and down, taking the off hand away and then bringing it back to a two-handed grip, several times until the gun doesn't move when it's on target.

A Training Partner

This is where having a training partner can really help, as he/she can watch your movements while you can focus on the task at hand. It's a lot easier for your



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Go from the low ready position to on target. If you feel you're moving off of the centerline of your body, switch back to a two-handed grip to bring it back into alignment.

training partner to see what's going on and to assist you in correcting any issues you may be having.

Continue to go back and forth from one to two hands until you feel comfortable enough to move onto live fire. Initially, start with shooting one round at a time. You can start off with one hand, or you can start with a two-handed grip and then take your off hand away to insure you're staying on the centerline of your body. Go from one round to two rounds to multiple rounds, shooting them all with a one-handed grip.

Once you feel comfortable with that, move back a couple of feet and go through

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THE IMPORTANCE OF ONE-HANDED SHOOTING SKILLS

Continued from page 35



One-handed shooting is a skill which is easily learned. Like any tactic, it just takes a little practice. Notice how the gun is aligned with the centerline of the body.

the whole sequence again, shooting one round, two rounds and then multiple rounds. Keep doing this, moving back a couple of feet at a time until you get out to the seven yard line. Since the majority of officer involved shootings occur at 21 feet and closer, there's really no need to train with one-handed shooting skills out past seven yards.

Time and distance are our ally: The more distance you have, the more reaction time you have. The more reaction time you have, the more time you have to get a good, solid two-handed grip on the firearm.

If you have any inclination at all to anticipate the recoil of the firearm, they're going to show up even more with one-handed shooting, and even more the further back you get from the target, but that's an issue which can be easily corrected by using the Ball and Dummy Drill (Google the name of this drill for more info).

This is a basic tactic, or skill, which every officer working the street needs to possess and it should be taught in the academy and reinforced throughout the officer's career with in service firearms training. Once you have this basic one-handed shooting technique in your tactical toolbox, then you can move onto other one-handed shooting skills like hip shooting and other close quarters shooting techniques.

Be safe; watch you and your partner's six; and, remember, it's a handgun, not a hand(s)gun. **P&SN**

Michael T. Rayburn has been involved in law enforcement since 1977 and is the author of five books. He is a former Adjunct Instructor for the Smith & Wesson Academy and is the owner of Rayburn Law Enforcement Training. He can be reached at combatgunfighting.com

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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

And what happens when they stop getting paid?... A new program intended to alleviate rising gun violence in the city of San Francisco will pay people who are at high risk of shooting someone not to pull the trigger. The Dream Keeper Fellowship will pay ten individuals \$300 each month to not be involved in shootings, said the executive director of the Human Rights Commission. She explained that the program is not “transactional,” but will rather focus on making investments in communities most impacted by violence. She says the program aims to get to the “root causes” of violence “which in so many ways are economic.” There are opportunities for participants to earn an additional \$200 each month as they work to improve their community by working, going to school and even being a mediator in situations which could lead to violence. (*So, if someone decides not to be a serial killer, does the bounty go up?*)

But, he says he only reads the articles... A US district judge in Michigan has ordered a couple to pay \$30,441 to their 43-year-old son for throwing out his pornography collection. The son said they had no right to throw out his collection of films, magazines and other items which he said was then worth \$29,000. In his ruling, the judge assigned a value set by an expert. The parents were also ordered to pay \$14,500 to their son’s attorney. The son lived at his parents’ Grand Haven home for ten months after a divorce. After moving, he learned that his boxes of films and magazines were missing. His father wrote in an E-mail, “Frankly, David, I did you a big favor getting rid of all this stuff.” (*I would assume he’s no longer in the will.*)

The court shouldn’t be surprised if he drops in for his appearance by means of a parachute... In Saskatchewan, Canada, Mounties say a 34-year-old man got himself into trouble after he landed a helicopter to pick up a cool treat. The RCMP said they received a complaint that a helicopter had landed in a parking lot in Tisdale, blowing up dust and debris through the area. An investigation revealed that the landing was not an emergency. When it landed, a passenger left the helicopter and went into a nearby Dairy Queen® restaurant to buy an ice

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



Firearms are very scarce in Japan so criminals often have to compensate by resorting to makeshift weapons when threatening their victims. Impromptu weapons include, among other items, nose hair clippers and kitchen knives. Recently, a 41-year-old Sapporo man was arrested after trying to rob a convenience store using a cigarette lighter. “Out with the money or I’ll light you up,” the robber allegedly said to the store manager. The store manager responded by calling the police. When officers arrived, the robber tried to turn his fierce weapon on them. But, alas, they quickly overwhelmed him and charged him with robbery and assault, along with other offenses. (*The police simply went “Ffffoooo!” and it was all over.*)

cream cake. Officers said the pilot had a license to fly the helicopter, but had landed in an illegal spot. He was charged with dangerous operation of an aircraft and given a court date. (*At least he didn’t use the drive-thru.*)

I’ve heard of “an elephant in the room,” but... In South Carolina, a 31-year-old Oconee County man was jailed after deputies say he stole a horse and hid it in a bedroom. Deputies said a woman called about a man riding a horse down Country Lane in Mountain Rest and taking it inside a house. When deputies entered the house, they found a full-size quarter horse standing in the middle of a bedroom where the man was located. A deputy reported, “The horse appeared to be calm and continued following [the accused] into the bathroom where I was able to successfully place him into custody.” The “neigh-sayer” was charged with stealing livestock and is facing other charges related to recent thefts. (*Doing a little “horsing around”?*)

If Kenosha defunds the police, will animal control respond to shootings like this one?... In Kenosha, Wisconsin, a 19-year-old woman had been using a handgun’s laser sight as a cat toy when she accidentally shot a friend. A crimi-

nal complaint charging the woman with a crime said she was visiting a Kenosha apartment where a 21-year-old man had brought a handgun. The woman, who a witness said had been drinking, reportedly picked up the handgun, “turned on the laser sight and was pointing it at the floor to get the cat to chase it,” when the gun fired. The man, who was standing in a doorway, was shot in the thigh. The woman told police she thought the magazine had been taken out of the gun and insisted that it “accidentally went off.” (*This doggone incident almost became a cat-astrophe.*)

His one-track mind reaped havoc with his train of thought... A New York City subway motorman got himself into trouble with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority after letting his girlfriend take a train for a joyride on a subway he was operating. Local news reported that the couple posted photos on social media showing them in the cab, with the woman operating the controls, traveling through several stops. The interim NYC Transit president called the incident an “egregious violation of public trust – something that I haven’t seen in my 32 years here.” The motorman was “taken out of service.” (*The only subway he can control now is one with turkey, lettuce and cheese.*) **P&SN**

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