

P&SN

Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021
VOLUME 37 ISSUE 5

Traffic Safety and Enforcement

SPIT HAPPENS
PART TWO

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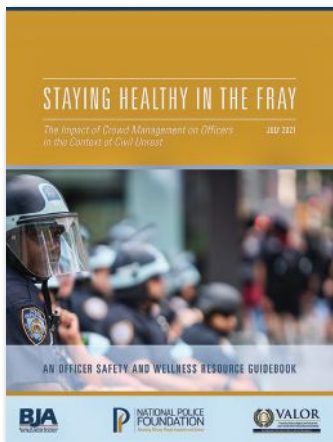
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New Guidebook Available - Staying Healthy in the Fray

Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and published in partnership between the National Police Foundation (NPF) and the Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Program, *Staying Healthy in the Fray – The Impact of Crowd Management on Officers in the Context of Civil Unrest* discusses the challenges of high stress police operations like crowd management. Crowd management often challenges officers to push their bodies beyond normal limits, leading to poor performance, fatigue, insomnia, and injury. In the summer of 2020, many officers repeatedly worked shifts that, at times, exceeded 12 hours, for ten to 12 days straight, leaving little time for appropriate nutrition, rest, exercise, recovery, or sleep. In light of the current environment, the NPF has developed this brief guide for law enforcement agencies on ways to recognize and protect the physical and mental well-being of officers during responses to intense and protracted protests and demonstrations. This guide offers educational information and practice considerations for sworn officers of all ranks, particularly frontline officers and mid-level supervisors, as well as their families, to better protect officers' mental and physical well-being during times of heightened stress.

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



Mental and Physical Wellness Resources for Law Enforcement

Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the National Suicide Awareness for Law Enforcement Officers (SAFLEO) Program focuses on the mental and physical wellness of law enforcement officers. The law enforcement community deserves better access to officer wellness and suicide prevention resources to help address officers' well-being. The SAFLEO Program answers that need. SAFLEO offers training, customized technical assistance and online resources designed to support officers as they engage in seeking help activities and to help agencies implement wellness and suicide prevention strategies.

For more information, visit valorforblue.org/SAFLEO



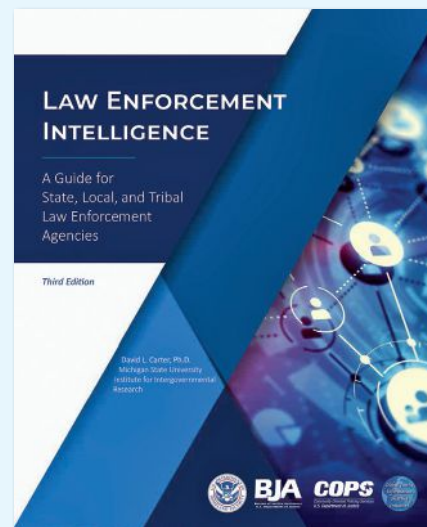
New StopRansomware.gov Web Site

Through the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the US government launched a new Web site to help public and private organizations defend against the rise in ransomware cases. This Web site is a whole government approach which gives one central location for ransomware resources and alerts. Organizations are encouraged to use this new Web site to understand the threat of ransomware; mitigate risk; and, in the event of an attack, know what steps to take next.

Visit the Web site at cisa.gov/stopransomware



NEWS



New Law Enforcement Intelligence Publication Available

Published by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and in partnership with the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Office of Community Oriented Policing, and the Global Justice Information Sharing Initiative, *Law Enforcement Intelligence – A Guide for State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement Agencies, Third Edition* builds on the first two editions which primarily focused on terrorism in illustration and application.

With changes in intelligence practices and threats to the community, a deliberate effort has been made in this edition to include content about, and examples of, criminal extremism beyond international terrorism. Among other changes, the third edition also includes discussions and analysis of targeted violence, such as school shootings, right-wing extremism, drug trafficking, gangs, and various types of criminal enterprises. The guide continues to be a policy oriented discussion of current initiatives, national standards and best practices for law enforcement intelligence in state, local and tribal agencies, providing law enforcement agencies with information to help develop and operate intelligence functions which are efficient, effective and lawful.

A copy of the publication can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/bxw2rd8n>

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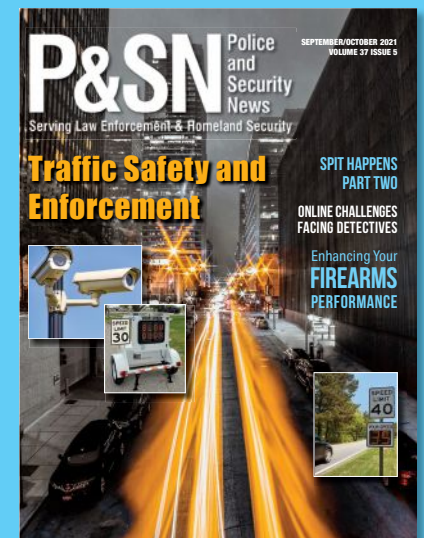
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ON THE COVER

The ultimate goal of traffic safety and enforcement is to save lives. Pictured on the front cover are traffic safety products from Kustom Signals and Radarsign, along with a pair of ALPR cameras. Background photo courtesy of Misael Garcia from Pexels.

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...AND
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THE TRUTH



RAMESH NYBERG

Spending the Hours Reminiscing

There are times when one is reminded of days gone by and it's emotional, or wistful, or just plain "those were the days."

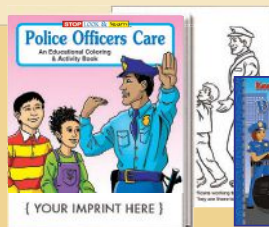
Three things have recently brought me

back down memory lane, specifically to the decade of the 1980s, and I was reminded of life in South Florida during that time. I should preface this by telling you that, though I have visited many places

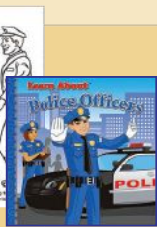
around the country and the world, I have never lived anywhere but in Miami, so there are a lot of things I might take for granted or remember with a shrug. But, a funny thing happens when you've been out of law enforcement for 15 years and you see a documentary or read a book about something and you were right in the middle of it. It's kind of like kayaking down rapids. You're not thinking about the fact that you are doing it or that you are enjoying it until you're done. Then, once you're in calm water, you look back at the rapids and go, "Whoa, I *did* that."

My police career started in 1979 and I left uniform in 1985 to go to homicide. 1980-81 saw an explosion of crime and narcotics smuggling in South Florida which was unprecedented in US history. To put this in perspective, consider this: Our department handled roughly 160-190 homicides a year in the 1970s. In 1980, the number rocketed to 401. Yes, that's well over one a day. We suddenly had the highest murder rate in the nation, with Detroit trailing a distant second. It was, of course, due to the sudden tsunami of cocaine which came crashing into South Florida, mostly from the Colombian cartels. Along with the white stuff came billions in cash and, naturally, rip-offs and murders spurred by retaliation, revenge and "this is what happens when you skim money from your employer." By the time I got to homicide in 1985, it had not declined – we were still hitting between 28-30 homicides per month. Piled on top of the cocaine invasion in 1980 was the Mariel boatlift, wherein tens of thousands

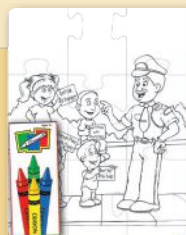
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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

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of Cuba's less desirable people were exported to the United States by a gleeful Fidel Castro. The very same weekend in May, our county's black communities exploded in violent riots after five white police officers were found not guilty in the murder of a black motorist by an all-white jury. With a good portion of the northwest sections on fire and in chaos, the Mariel refugees were pouring in – and the rate of drug murders didn't miss a beat, either.

Why am I reminiscing? In July, I started a podcast called...wait for it...“Nothing But the Truth.” Original, hmm? (By the way, please do check it out. It's on Spotify®, Amazon Music and most of the other podcast sites – search “Nothing But the Truth Investigations.”) A recent guest I had on talked about a little-known Cuban organized crime empire which based its enormous profits on a cultural neighborhood gambling network called *bolita*. “The Corporation,” headed by a Bay of Pigs hero José Miguel Battle, operated in the shadows of the sexier, more media appealing Colombian cartels, but was every bit as violent. One of the *bolita* murders was my case in 1987, so reading the book about Battle and his criminal empire (*The Corporation*, by T.J. English) was fascinating. Similarly, a book came out recently about Miami in 1980 called, *The Year of Dangerous Days – Riots, Refugees, and Cocaine in Miami 1980*, by Nicholas Griffin. Every page has the names of prosecutors, cops, judges, and defense attorneys who I knew well. It's a very fun – and accurate – read.

This past July, Netflix released the newest of producer Billy Corben's works, “Cocaine Cowboys – The Kings of Miami” which is the story of Willy Falcon and Sal Magluta who were arguably the most prolific cocaine dealers in the world. Of course, they were Miami-bred Cuban boys who grew up together, became criminal kingpins together and ultimately went to prison together. They amassed a fortune which defies comprehension, making millions of dollars a *month*, buying airplanes, racing boats and oceanfront mansions as if they were playing with Monopoly® money. The crimes, the investigation and the series of trials which ensued are more bizarre and appalling than any fiction you can imagine, or that Netflix could offer up, for that matter. One of the detectives I worked with, Alex Alvarez, tells a remarkable story in the show about he and his partner, Jorge Plasencia. They were in a store buying cigarettes or gum or something and there inside the store was the very wanted fugitive, named Sal Magluta, doing the same thing. Jorge, it turned out, went to high

school with Magluta. The two waited outside and collared Sal. On the way to the homicide office, Sal pleads with Alex, telling him there is a storehouse he can take him to containing \$25 million dollars in cocaine.

“It's yours if you just let me out of the car afterward. You can take it all.”

Who has the wherewithal to offer a \$25 million bribe? It's remarkable, as is the rest of the story. Get yourself a drink and some popcorn – lots of it because you're likely to binge-watch it as my wife and I did – and watch this program.

My wife was amazed. She has heard my war stories (perhaps all of them by now), but what happened in the saga of Willie and Sal strains the limits of believability. I remember a DEA case we handled in which the subjects jumped off a fourth floor balcony to escape arrest. Two of the group made it with some sprains and bruises (one of them was a pregnant woman), but the 50-year-old man died in his escape attempt, so it became a homicide case. I remember going into the bedroom of the apartment during the search and finding a duffle bag filled with cash totaling \$800,000. While we were waiting for the medical examiner's wagon to show up, my crime scene tech said, “Hey, I'm going outside to grab a smoke.”

“Oh, no you're not,” I told him. “You're staying inside this room with me.”

It's a story I like to tell my students when I'm talking about ethics, but I have to laugh at the amount when I think of Willy and Sal. They could've tossed that duffle bag to a friend for Christmas and told them to go buy their family a nice house and not even felt it.

It was the year – and decade – of dangerous days, as the book says. It was also, in retrospect, a great time and place to be a police officer and a homicide detective. The action was nonstop, the overtime was good and the camaraderie was lifelong.

And, I've got stuff to tell my grandkids. With my wife and kids, I think I'm close to running out of material. **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. 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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How to Enhance Your Performance with Firearms – Part 3

A harsh reality of gun fighting is the fact that you may be hit by an incoming round. A hit doesn't necessarily mean stop, nor does down mean out.

MIKE BOYLE



Approximately 88% of people struck with handgun rounds survive, but to tip the odds back in your favor, you can't give up and you have to immediately take the fight back to your assailant.

Learning how to fight after sustaining a hit should be a part of every officer's training regimen. One needs to be proficient in basic operational skills, as well as shooting with one hand and from nontypical positions. This is an area I review with our officers on a regular basis and the good news is that a great deal of it can be accomplished off the range.

The first area which needs to be addressed is getting the gun out of the holster. Drawing and firing with the dominant hand presents no mystery, but doing the same with the support hand only is a different story. Reaching across the body is tough enough, but neutralizing all those security measures on that retention holster presents an additional challenge. But, it can be done! When drawing with the support hand, most officers will be best served by reaching across the front of the body. Positioning of the duty holster on the belt is critical in order to access the pistol with the support hand.

Other critical operational skills such as reloading or clearing simple stoppages should also be practiced. I strongly recommend the use of inert, dummy rounds when performing these tasks solo hand because the muzzle may cover body parts or point in an unsafe direction. For example, a kneeling officer might stabilize the

pistol behind the knee when reloading support hand only. If an officer is familiar with basic operational skills, performing them strong or support hand only will be second nature.

Live fire could include strong and support hand only firing, and shooting from the ground. Grounded positions could include shooting while laying on either side, on the belly and on the back with the feet facing the target or up range. Because this may be new territory for many officers, initial practice should be with an empty gun. Most officers will find themselves well outside their comfort zone doing this and it is especially important to keep the muzzle under control and not cover your own body parts. Live fire should be done at a pace where safety is not compromised and be done one shooter at a time under the watchful eye of an instructor or training partner.

Low Light

Another ironic twist is that the vast majority of police firearms training takes place during the day while most police shootings take place under less than optimum conditions. This trend has been apparent for over 150 years and I wouldn't expect anything to change for the better soon. In most cases, if you want to develop your low light gun fighting skills, you are on your own!

Many agencies do in fact require officers to qualify in low light, but that doesn't equate to training. Shooting a predictable

drill while wearing a set of welding goggles to simulate poor light will hardly prepare an officer for the real world. So, how should one prepare for the very real possibility of a low light shooting incident? Those same drills we practice during bright light conditions will serve us equally well in the dark. The only difference is that we will be adding an artificial light source.

One takeaway I gained from a program I attended at the SureFire Institute some years ago was that "light helps us make an informed decision." Indeed it does! As a law enforcement officer, you are not going to get a pass on a bad shooting simply because it's dark. However, if you hesitate at the moment of truth, you might be killed or seriously injured. Clearly, there is a need to get it right and a light source helps us do that.

A light can be either handheld or weapon mounted. Weapon mounted lights have come on strong, but they do not replace a



Seize every opportunity you can to train in low light. Even working out with an empty or inert training gun and a flash-light will make you a better operator.



Hitting with a patrol rifle is easy, but you cannot be a proficient user if you only handle it once or twice a year.

handheld flashlight for most tasks. The overwhelming handheld choice for cops in the 21st century is a small, tactical light with a high lumen output. Numerous flashlight assisted shooting techniques have been developed over the years and can be categorized as hands together or hands apart. Personally, I think the hands apart techniques are more useful for patrol cops and investigators as most events evolve very quickly in relatively close quarters. Off-range practice (empty gun – check it twice) could consist of quickly going from a search to fire mode to simulate bringing the gun to bear on a spontaneous threat.

Weapon mounted lights have been a real game changer and most of the coppers in my part of the world are now sporting a pistol so equipped in their duty holster. It is important to understand that weapon mounted lights are a threat management tool and should not be used for routine tasks. Additionally, the trigger finger should not be used to activate a weapon mounted light. That may very well invite a negligent discharge in a highly stressed situation.

If you have the opportunity to do some low light practice, focus on one or more threats at relatively close range. Once you get comfortable with that, work in some pivots, a little movement and use of cover. Chance continues to favor the prepared individual.

Movement

An element common in many police action shootings is movement. Not only is the officer moving, but the bad guy is on the move as well. Movement remains a fundamental tactic, but is situationally dependent. Should an assailant be only double arm's length away, there simply may not be enough time to move and an immediate shooting response is in order. But, if danger is several yards away, movement is your friend. Moving targets are harder to hit!

In training, I make a distinction between moving and shooting and shoot-



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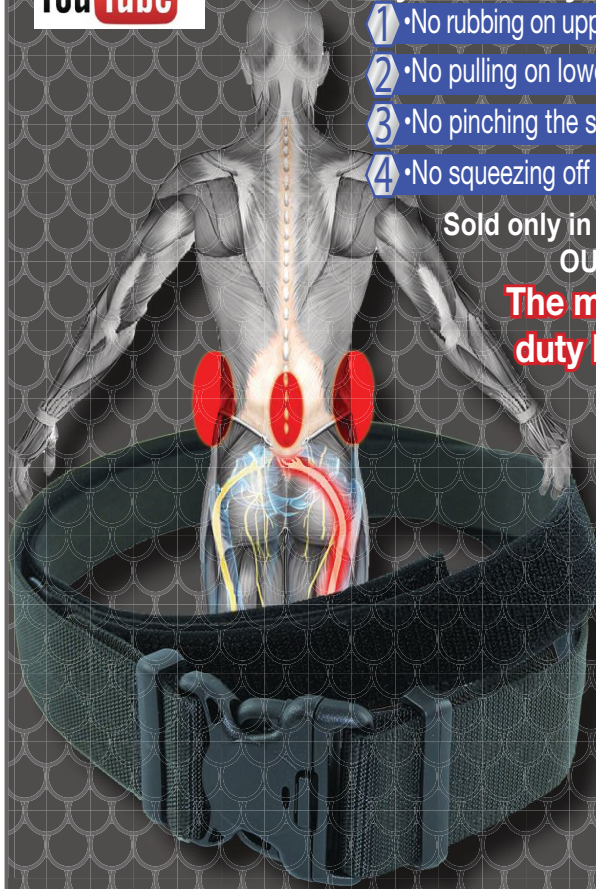


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HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE WITH FIREARMS – PART 3

Continued from page 13



In many agencies, training in shotguns and rifles is insufficient. In concept, all of the techniques we practice with our handgun can also be done with shoulder weapons.

ing while moving. The well-prepared officer should be competent in both areas. Many instructors make it a point to have their students “get off the X” either while drawing or immediately after that first volley of shots break. Even a little bit of

lateral movement can cause an assailant to delay his shot or miss and buy you a precious second to respond with decisive fire. Either way, that movement should be as fast as possible with a hard break to the left or right.

With just a bit of practice, officers of average ability will be able to put combat effective hits on a target while moving. The key to success is keeping the knees slightly bent while moving and watching the sights. Again, targets should be placed at relatively short range and initial movement should be slow. If this is totally new territory, work this first with an empty gun and only go ballistic once you are comfortable with the movement. Better yet, train with a partner who can provide a shoot stimulus where you fire a burst of two to four shots while moving. Movement can be forward or on an oblique angle.

Don't Forget Shoulder Weapons

In addition to their service pistol, most law enforcement officers also have shoulder weapons available to them. The previous discussions contained herein did focus on the handgun, but many of these same concepts can also be applied to shotguns and rifles.

In many areas, training time on shoulder weapons is but a small fraction of that devoted to pistols. Unless you are on a special team, training can be best described as cursory. Again, some outfits do go the extra mile in getting the troops squared away, but they remain the exception, not the rule. My agency frequently hosts training for outside agencies and it's not unusual to have officers come out who are absolutely clueless as to how to run their shotgun or rifle. I wish I was making this up, but, sadly, that's not the case.

So, team, get cozy with that rifle and/or shotgun. Know how it works. Know how to load it, maintain it and make it safe. If an opportunity comes up to get in some extra trigger time, by all means go for it! When things get ugly, that rifle or shotgun represents a huge advantage over a pistol.

I'm sure there are a few other areas we could explore to further refine our skills. Hopefully, the ones identified in this three part series will be a good start in ensuring your safety. Train as if your life depends on it. It really does! **P&SN**

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

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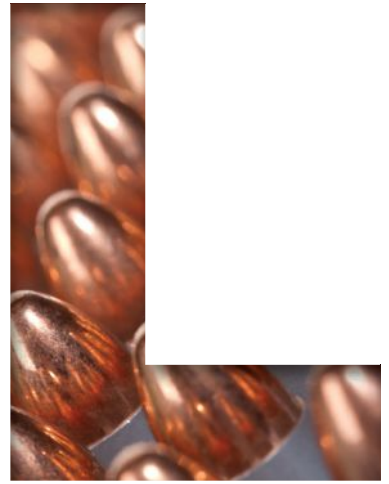
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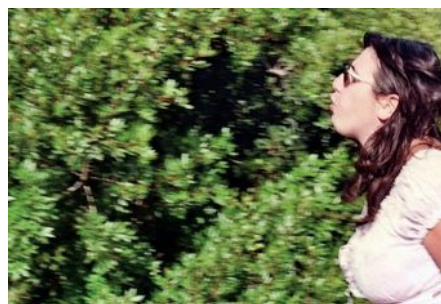
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THE CONTROVERSIAL USE OF SPIT MASKS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT – PART II

John G. Peters, Jr., CLS, Ph.D. and A. David Berman, CLS, M.S.
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The second part of this two part series discusses how to increase your safety using spit masks. The focus is on spit mask application, removal and storage guidelines, policy, training, and competency-based testing.

Recall from Part I of this series that there are no scientific data to support spit masks stopping the spread of the coronavirus. Do not confuse coronavirus “face” masks with “spit” masks because they are not the same. While there are spit masks which



Spit masks are not only used for preventing the transmission of bodily fluids, they can also be utilized as part of a de-escalation strategy.

will stop a person’s spittle from being ejected at you (e.g., Safariland TranZport Hood™), those with mesh designs or open areas for breathing permit the airborne transmission of viruses and/or contacting spittle. Know the limitations and efficacy of the spit mask your agency provides and remember to always use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when applying, removing, storing, or saving the spit mask per biohazard protocols.

Application Purposes

Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs) apply spit masks on individuals for many reasons, including using them as part of a de-escalation strategy. Other purposes may include, but are not limited to, preventing and/or reducing the spread of infectious diseases via oral, nasal and facial fluids; to stop or reduce aerosolized spittle from traveling in the air; or to stop

or reduce a person’s spittle, saliva, oral, nasal, or facial fluid from contacting another person. Spit masks may also be applied by LEOs for prophylactic protection.

LEOs in the United States know from their training that contacting a person’s spittle exposes them to bloodborne pathogens (Occupational Safety and Health Administration [OSHA] bloodborne pathogens standard 29 CFR 1910.1030). They must take universal precautions requiring them to treat all human blood and bodily fluids as if known to be infectious. “Bloodborne Pathogens means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, hepatitis B virus (HBV) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)” (29 CFR 1910.1030(b)).

LEOs often take measures to avoid encountering bloodborne pathogens and to comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration bloodborne pathogens standard. This is a major concern for today’s LEOs and correctional deputies who encounter individuals who may have a contagious disease which can be transferred through contact with his (or her) spittle.

Application Guidelines

Although we are not providing legal or medical advice, it is important for you to read and to follow the manufacturer warnings which come with your spit mask. We know from having purchased most spit mask brands that few manufacturers provide “warnings” about how to use their products. In some cases, the manufacturer warning simply reads, “Use at your own risk.” From a risk management perspective, this warning shifts any potential liability to you – the user – so it is wise to follow your agency’s spit mask policy and training.

If your spit mask came with a manufacturer warning and you deviated from the warning because of the totality of the circumstances, make sure you document why you were forced to make a deviation. Trainers, too, must explain in their lesson plan or in a dated memo why they deviated from the manufacturer warnings before conducting spit mask training.

Make sure you follow all applicable legal standards, agency policy and training protocols because applying a spit mask on a person is a use of force. Spit mask policies and procedures often provide guidance about when, and under what circumstances, a spit mask may be used. Training should include, parallel and reinforce agency policy and you should only use agency approved spit masks

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Make certain to follow all applicable legal standards, agency policy and training protocols during an arrest, because applying a spit mask on a person is a use of force.

and only the brand you are trained and qualified to use.

Spit mask application should never be used as a form of punishment, regard-

less of the circumstances. However, spit masks may be applied as a de-escalation strategy to help calm the situation. If possible and practical, tell the subject you

are going to apply a spit mask and why you are applying it. The individual may become cooperative because (s)he does not want to have the spit mask applied.

Do not apply a spit mask to anyone who is vomiting, bleeding heavily from the mouth, nose, facial area, who complains of or is having breathing difficulty. Choking or aspirating on vomitus, blood, another liquid, or dirt is always a concern, so, if practical, place a prone individual onto the side for better visual monitoring of the face and chest. Depending upon the type of spit mask applied, the subject's mouth and nose may not be visible, so continuously monitor the person (if practical) for signs of distress or attempts to remove the spit mask by brushing it against clothing, objects or people. Similarly, immediately remove a spit mask if the subject complains about having breathing difficulty, becomes nonresponsive, or begins to vomit or bleed heavily about the facial area. Vomiting, bleeding heavily, and/or losing consciousness are often signs of a medical emergency, so follow agency training and policy about obtaining medical services for the individual.

Adjust a spit mask if it is blocking the

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subject's vision or interfering with his (or her) breathing. If possible, video and/or audio record the adjustment and the application of the spit mask. Download and save the video and/or audio recording per agency policy. Always assume that you are being recorded, even if you do not have a recording device.

There may be times when a spit mask cannot be applied. Examples include a person wearing a large wig, a large hat, or who has a large head. If you cannot apply the spit mask, do not force it onto a person. Rather, select another defensive strategy or force option.

There may be environmental factors which affect the situation. For example, avoid placing an individual – masked or not – near the exhaust of a running vehicle. Also, do not leave the person unattended (if practical) or allow a spit mask to remain on a person for an unreasonable period of time. Based upon the totality of the circumstances, avoid spraying a spit-masked individual in the facial area with a chemical agent because of potential breathing issues, eye injury and/or skin injury. If the person was sprayed with an aerosol before a spit mask was applied, decontaminate him (or her) as soon as



It is imperative to immediately remove a spit mask if the person complains of having difficulty breathing, or if you see that (s)he is having breathing problems.

practical.

Removal Guidelines

Immediately remove a spit mask if the person complains of breathing difficulty; if you see that (s)he is having breathing difficulty; and/or if the person loses consciousness. Recall, this may also be a medical emergency so be prepared to request medical assistance. Spit mask removal may also calm the individual who becomes agitated after it is applied. When removing a spit mask, follow your training to avoid facial, head or neck injuries, and, if possible, wear PPE.

After removal, dispose of the single-use spit mask per biohazard protocols, unless it is being retained for potential evidence. For example, the subject may have spit drugs into the mask and you intend on keeping the mask and the drugs for evidentiary purposes. Also, consider the biodegradable timeline for substance processing because storing a mask with drugs or drug residue on it in a biohazard container inside an evidence room may make future testing a waste of time. When in doubt, follow your agency policy and training.


Spit Mask Policy

The IPICD-AELE 2021 spit mask survey discussed in Part I found approximately 46 percent of respondents (n = 523) reporting their agency did not have a spit mask written policy, although approximately 86 percent of respondents are authorized to use a spit mask. Written policy is an excellent risk management tool for offering guidance to officers who are trained and authorized to use spit mask devices. An online literature review identified several such policies, often embedded within larger restraint policies. Many of the policies were authored by

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SPIT HAPPENS™ !!! THE CONTROVERSIAL USE OF SPIT MASKS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT – PART II

Continued from page 19

Lexipol, a national and experienced law enforcement consulting firm specializing in policy development. We suggest you search for “spit mask” policies using a search engine such as Google or Edge and then compare what you find to your agency’s policy.

Spit Mask Training

Spit masks are another defensive

tool which can be applied on individuals to help restrain them from spitting while increasing your safety. Regardless of the spit mask brand or design authorized by your agency, you need to be trained in its application, removal and disposal, and then competency-based tested to show you learned the information and demonstrated the necessary skills to apply and remove it. Hands-

on application will help you to not only develop your application skills, but also show what it is like to wear a spit mask. Spit mask training is considered career and technical education.

Competency-based training helps to minimize municipal and officer liability and is a great risk management tool. Like a spit mask being used for prophylactic purposes, preincident training also helps protect the officer and his (or her) employer should an injury or arrest-related or in-custody death occur which is associated with spit mask application. Remember: It is never a problem until it is a problem and then it is usually too late. Proactively training officers on the appropriate uses of a spit mask will not take a lot of time. If your agency does not have a spit mask training program, consider the ON-DEMAND and tuition-free Spit Restraint™ User-Level program which takes approximately one hour to complete, including assessment (ipicdtc.com).

Proof and validation of training are critically important when facing litigation. Spit mask trainers must have a written lesson plan (not a topical outline) which details what is taught and testing rubrics which quantitatively show how learning and physical skills (e.g., application and removal) are demonstrated and measured. Teaching officers that spit mask applications are a use of force is also a good time to discuss a few of the high profile spit-mask associated arrest-related and in-custody deaths. It is also a good time to remind officers that they must explain in detail what induced the need for applying a spit mask. **P&SN**

John G. Peters, Jr., CLS, Ph.D. serves as president of the Henderson, Nevada-based international training firm, Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. He also serves as Executive Director for the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. a law enforcement educational provider. Dr. Peters is a frequent contributor to Police and Security News; has been judicially qualified in international, state, and federal courts; and is a former police administrator and officer.

A. David Berman, CLS, M.S. serves as vice president of the Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc., is a sworn Pennsylvania Constable, and a firearms instructor. He served 13 years on an Emergency Services Team while a police officer.

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The **AXIS W100 Body Worn Camera** is lightweight, robust and easy to use, capturing video up to 1080p @30fps and audio through dual microphones for noise suppression capabilities. Battery power lasts over 12 hours with the capability for USB charging in the field. All data is encrypted both at rest and in transfer using AES256 (CIJS compliant) and TLS. Additional features include stealth-mode, automatic recording with fall detection and unholstering, 90 second prebuffer recording, location data, a variety of Klick-Fast mounting accessories, extension lenses, and more.

axis.com/bodyworn



New from Getac Video Solutions

The **BC-03** delivers an ultrawide angle and full HD video, even in low light conditions. It features 4G LTE capabilities; 16-20 hours of battery life (with a second battery); supports date/time/officer ID stamp overlay on the video footage; and supports AT&T, Verizon, and other cellular networks for real-time and true live streaming with GPS geo-tracking.

getacvideo.com

Body-worn and In-car Video Systems

Panasonic i-PRO Sensing Solutions In-car Video System

Panasonic i-PRO Sensing Solutions has recently announced their new in-car video (**ICV4000**) system featuring a powerful new video processing unit (**VPU4000**). This new system features high-speed processing, wireless networking, new security features, improved image quality, and easier deployment.

With several options for front-end cameras, the **ICV4000** offers full 1080p HD recording along with a wider field of view and multiple optical/digital zoom levels. This provides users with superior video evidence quality and ensures that every detail is clearly captured, even under challenging conditions.

The new **ICV4000** employs the MPEG-4 recording format, eliminating the need for proprietary media devices and making it easier to share video and audio content with other applications.

ipro.panasonic.com



Update from Sentinel Camera Systems



The Protector II Body-Worn Camera, with 4G LTE technology, has been updated with a new feature: the capability of directly transmitting to police headquarters live video, audio and GPS locations in real time, day or night, between other officers in the field and the camera wearer, as well as adding Bluetooth® function and text streaming. **Cluster Talkback** provides detailed situational awareness and allows for the making of critical decisions to assist the officer in the field while simultaneously recording video on the camera itself for later downloading into Digital Evidence Management Systems software. Live video streaming (4G LTE or Wi-Fi) and real-time two-way audio is accomplished without the need for smartphones.

sentinelcamerasystems.com

Axon Fleet 3 Next Generation In-car Video System

Axon recently announced that its next generation **Fleet 3 in-car video system** is now shipping. Their newest in-car video system features Axon's AI-powered ALPR.

Axon has partnered with a number of industry leaders which enables its in-car dash camera to automatically and simultaneously scan plates across multiple lanes of traffic at closing speeds of up to 140 mph.

Axon's Respond for Devices technology is also built into **Fleet 3**, bringing real-time situational awareness including live video streaming, alerts and location updates enabled by LTE or 5G connectivity – providing real-time visibility and location mapping of vehicles in the field.

Axon is simultaneously addressing concerns to improve data security, transparency and privacy by applying a high level of ethical consideration to all products.

axon.com

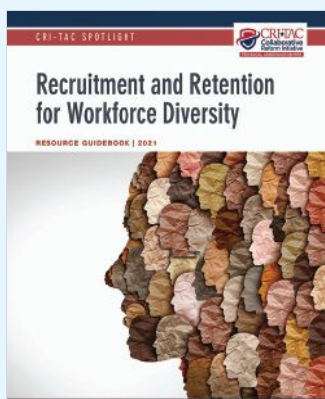


NEWS

Recruitment and Retention for Workplace Diversity Guidebook

Published by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), this guidebook provides the law enforcement field with information about existing resources for promoting workforce diversity through a variety of staffing mechanisms. It is not meant to be exhaustive, but rather to promote awareness of research and professional publications which may not have been visible or accessible to practitioners. Though limited, the number of resources on this issue is growing and this guidebook attempts to highlight publications which are unique, particularly insightful or considered foundational. Most of these resources contain rich reference lists which will direct the reader to other literature on issues of interest.

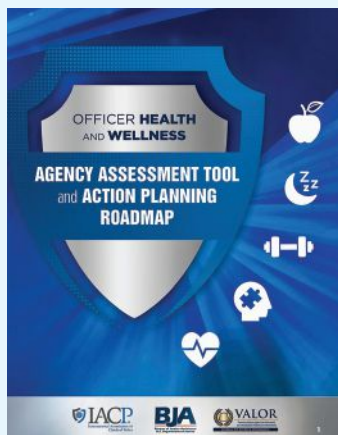
To read a copy of the guidebook, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yhy2z65n>



New Officer Health and Wellness Guidebook Released

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), in partnership with the BJA, has released the *Officer Health and Wellness Agency Assessment and Action Planning Roadmap*.

A comprehensive strategy to promote officer safety and wellness requires a multifaceted approach addressing a variety of essential topics. The information contained in this resource is intended to serve as a guide for law enforcement executives or wellness program personnel who seek to establish or enhance an officer wellness program.



A copy of the guidebook can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/6bd9txkf>

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Five Online Challenges Facing Detectives and How to Overcome Them



Image by torstensimon

Online sources open a new world of information which can help detectives find threat actors, speed up investigations and protect lives. But, there's a catch.

JOHNMICHAEL O'HARE

As part of any successful investigation, police departments must effectively collect, ingest and analyze vast amounts of data. Fortunately, a data management strategy and supporting technologies provide a way to tame the data explosion.

These are the top online challenges law enforcement investigators face and how they work around them:

1. Big Data and Data Analysis

Information management was arduous enough when investigators relied mostly on paper documents housed in filing cabinets. Online sources have significantly increased the amount of data potentially available to aid in an investigation. One terabyte of data – hardly a remarkable amount by today's standards – can contain more than 80 million document pages. The paper equivalent

would take up an absurd number of filing cabinets.

That's the essence of the so-called big data problem: sifting through an overabundance of data to identify the pivotal, high value information. And, it's not just the volume of data that's the issue. In addition to structured data such as database records, organizations must also cope with unstructured data such as digital photos, video, social asset data, and the aforementioned documents. In addition, there's the gray area of semi-structured datasets which lack the structural characteristics of a database record, but include elements such as tagging which define a document.

Police detectives need both a systematic management approach and technology to process big data. On the management side, they also require compliancy policies which govern online investigations, keeping in mind the salient regulations and legal principles.

The technical underpinnings of online investigations include a repository for storing large volumes of data and specialized tools for searching the data store and analyzing the information. Natural Language Processing (NLP), a type of artificial intelligence (AI), is critical here. NLP converts human language, whether text or spoken word, into a format a computer can process.

With NLP, investigators can query the database using code words, jargon, hashtags, and keywords associated with threat actors, groups or activities – local terminology for narcotics sold within a jurisdiction, for example. This AI-based approach lets organizations sift through terabytes of data to find the information they need to advance an investigation.

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2. De-anonymization of Online Threat Actors Across the Deep and Dark Web

When threat actors conduct business online, they enjoy a certain level of anonymity. The surface Web – the commonly used layer of social assets and indexed Web sites – provides the ability to use “handles” or create fake accounts to mask identity. This basic anonymity intensifies in the Web’s deep and dark layers which are not indexed via conventional search engines. The dark Web, in particular, enables sophisticated threat actors to conceal themselves using anonymizing routers and proxy servers, for example. Threat actors in the dark Web may traffic stolen credit card data, sell illicit drugs or cultivate extremism. The scale of the various Web layers – featuring some one billion-plus Web sites – coupled with various cloaking approaches, complicate online investigations. Where do detectives start their investigation to positively identify crooked individuals?

Threat actors, however, leave digital footprints as they traverse the Web’s layers: a dark Web site linked to a social asset on the surface web or an encryption



One terabyte of data can contain more than 80 million document pages.

key assigned to a regular E-mail account, for instance. De-anonymization boils down to connecting the dots among bits of information gleaned from the surface Web and the online world’s subterranean tiers. But, to succeed in identifying threat actors, investigators will need a knowledge of the dark Web, relevant Web intelligence (WEBINT) techniques and a specialized browser which can access hidden sites, forums and marketplaces. As with combining through big data, investigators should consider enlisting AI to help piece together identities. AI and the related field of machine learning can help law enforcement agencies correlate the bits of information which surface during an investigation, assisting with de-anonymization. Invest-

igative experience and intuition remain paramount, but those AI technology can extend those human capabilities.

3. Time and Accuracy of Investigations

Timeliness and the reliability of information are top concerns in any investigation. Online inquiries introduce some considerations specific to electronic data gathering and analysis, chief of which is volume. Finding actionable, accurate intelligence in a sea of data takes time and effort. Resource strapped organizations relying on manual searches and data sleuthing will probably find the job simply takes too long when time is critical. Agency leadership will soon drop support for online investigations which span days and appear to produce nothing. After all, taking too long to find a threat actor could give them time to disappear or result in more crimes being committed.

WEBINT combined with AI, however, can automate searches, dramatically accelerating online investigations while also improving accuracy. This intelligent automation should, ideally, span the surface,

Continued on page 28

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FIVE ONLINE CHALLENGES FACING DETECTIVES AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM

Continued from page 27



AI and the related field of machine learning can help correlate the bits of information which surface during an investigation.

as well as deep and dark Web layers. It should also enable investigators to create custom search parameters which could include details such as a threat group's hashtag, terminology and location data (names of countries, cities, streets, etc.). The ability to program a holistic search and turn it loose across the Web saves time. But, investigative organizations also need the power of intelligent automation to rapidly correlate data. Relying solely on detectives to find the connections among seemingly disparate pieces

of data will add hours, if not days, to an investigation. Correlation also helps unmask threat actors, as noted, leading investigators toward the data they need to maintain as evidence.

Faster investigation means faster interdiction. When searchers uncover threat actors' plans – whether an organized retail theft or extremist action – agencies can protect property and, potentially, save lives. Automation also provides business value and return on investment for police departments. Greater investigative efficiencies will result in investigators spending fewer hours on inquiries, resulting in a proportional cost savings. This ultimately helps create a positive image for police departments. As more criminal cases are solved, an enhanced and positive perception will be created that crime is being managed. Agencies can achieve a virtuous circle.

4. Threat Intelligence

Getting a jump on threat actors' plans depends on obtaining reliable threat intelligence. The threat intelligence domain aims to proactively acquire information on emerging dangers or crimes which are be-

ing planned so police officers can institute preventative strategies and tactics. The practice is often associated with financial institutions fending off cyberattacks, but it also applies to law enforcement agencies.

Indeed, law enforcement departments with poor threat intelligence can be caught off guard. A detective investigating the shipment of illegal firearms could miss "online chatter" between buyers and sellers planning to traffic the weapons and receive payment for the shipment. The problem often stems for a lack of investigative tools or approaches which are limited in scope. For example, police investigators may maintain good intelligence on individuals who sell illegal firearms at the "street level," but lack the ability to probe what is happening in the online world where planning, pricing, logistics, and trading is discussed. Similarly, an agency using tools limited to the surface Web will find it difficult to anticipate extremist groups which plan their actions on the dark Web. In both cases, threat intelligence is poor or nonexistent.

Automated WEBINT facilitates threat intelligence. The ability to quickly aggregate and search social asset data, for example, can help expose relationships

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among threat actors and gain insight into their plans. Dark Web search capabilities offer an additional window into activities in the works. Overall, data driven threat intelligence can help agencies snuff out problems before they materialize, with obvious benefits for lives and property. Agencies can also make strides toward greater investigative efficiency. Threat intelligence can help investigators prioritize threats and focus their energies on the most pressing risks. That way, agencies can deploy human intelligence (HUMINT) to its greatest effect. That's a huge plus for agencies facing staffing constraints.

5. Converting Online Data to Evidence

The end game of an investigation is preserving and presenting evidence which leads to indictments and convictions. Converting data gathered online to evidence requires due diligence to make sure agencies have properly identified the threat actor and the online platform used to make a threat. Investigators will send preservation letters to the relevant platforms, so the information is maintained and safeguarded. The subpoena process then follows.

Detectives often find the conversion process challenging. The issues range from learning how to request data from a hyperscale Web platform to documenting online investigative methods. But, WEBINT and intelligent automation can support this task. AI's precision and ability to construct finely-tuned searches builds confidence in the trustworthiness of the data, expediting due diligence.

Automation also comes into play at the end of the subpoena process which can result in a data dump of staggering proportions. Investigative agencies should have an automated system on hand for ingesting and processing large data sets. Without such a mechanism, an agency's online investigation can go to waste.

Online Investigations Require a Comprehensive, Automated Method


An online investigation can tap a rich store of information previously unavailable to law enforcement agencies. But, that potential will remain unrealized without a comprehensive strategy and appropriate technology for gathering and analyzing massive amounts of data. The melding

of WEBINT, automation and time-tested HUMINT speeds up investigations and increases confidence in the data generated. AI structures precise queries which provide a wide-angle view of threat actors and increases confidence in data quality. And, data correlation pieces together informational breadcrumbs to reveal threat actor identities.

Taken together, those techniques and tools help agencies overcome the dual challenge of big data and short deadlines.

P&SN

Johnmichael O'Hare is the sales and business development director of Cobwebs Technologies (www.cobwebs.com). He is the former Commander of the Vice, Intelligence and Narcotics Division for the Hartford (Connecticut) Police Department. Prior to that, he was the Project Developer for the City of Hartford's Capital City Command Center (C4), a Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) which reaches throughout Hartford County and beyond. C4 provided real-time and investigative support for local, state and federal law enforcement partners utilizing multiple layers of forensic tools, coupled with data resources and real-time intelligence. Contact him at john.ohare@cobwebs.com



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HEADLINES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

I don't know about you, but does today feel like it's 2020 all over again?

SERGEANT JAMES POST

It's like we're living the movie, *Groundhog Day* – every day is déjà vu. COVID is still here; masks on/masks off – who the hell knows what to do as the CDC changes guidelines hourly. Cities are still burning, killers are still killing, looters are still looting, and the men and women in blue are still dy-

ing in record setting, heartbreaking numbers. It seems nothing has changed in over a year. Not to start this article on a downer, but it's pretty bleak outside my window, folks, and it's not the weather.

So, while I close the blinds, here are some headlines you may have missed while you were reloading.

Adios and Farewell

This is my (early) obituary for the last true V-8 police sedan – the Dodge Charger Pursuit. Like the obit I wrote in 2012 of the demise of the Ford® CVPI, this notice is also written with a heavy heart. Having spent my entire LE career behind the wheel of LE V-8 sedans, I have become a fan of the Charger, but I fear its future is bleak. The Charger is not being unceremoniously axed like the CVPI was. This is all about economics, the world we live in and the world politicians want us to live in.

Departments are shifting to SUV platforms, hybrids and even trucks, and electric vehicles are in our near future, so the writing is spray painted on the precinct wall, folks. In my last article, I quoted Tim Kuniskis, Dodge Division CEO, who predicted that the popular HEMI® V-8's days are numbered because federal regulations will ultimately kill them off and he sees the electrification of the Dodge line coming. Already for the 2021 model year, agencies can no longer purchase the HEMI Chargers with AWD as it is now only available in the 3.6L V-6. While David Gallery, Program Manager for Dodge Law Enforcement, is encouraged by

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It only takes a couple of minutes for thieves to saw off your catalytic converter.

sales of the Charger and Chrysler's Police Advisory Board requesting the company "not to abandon the sedan market," the demise may still be inevitable.

Ford Keeps on Truckin'

Ford has now earned bragging rights to the title, "America's only pursuit-rated pickup," with their all-new 2021 F-150 Police Responder®. Plus, in recent tests, the trucks recorded the fastest 0-60 mph, 0-100 mph and quarter mile times of any police vehicle! Ford attributes these results to the increased torque of the new Torque-On-Demand® 4X4 transfer case and its automatic four-wheel-drive mode which constantly adjusts torque to the front or rear wheels as needed. Powered by the proven 3.5L EcoBoost® which produces 400 hp and 500 foot pounds of torque coupled to a ten-speed automatic, the truck has a top speed of 120 mph and runs on specifically developed Goodyear 18" Wrangler® Enforcer all-terrain tires.

The optional Police Engine Idle feature allows an officer to remove the ignition key, leaving the engine running with emergency lighting operating and/or cooling/heating K-9 partners while the truck remains secure.

Takin' It to the Bank

Ford's sales of electrified vehicles exploded 117% this June, setting a new half year sales record with the sale of 56,570 vehicles, including 12,975 Mustang Mach-E sales. The Mach-E is selling as soon as they arrive at dealers, Ford reports, with 2,465 units sold in June alone.

Tesla

Several police departments have added all-electric Teslas to their fleets since our last article, including Eden Prairie, MN; Wolfeboro, NH; Gates Mills, OH; and Westport, CT. All are being evaluated for patrol duties with test results to be published.



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During the “mostly peaceful protests” last year, the NYPD confirmed that 375 of its vehicles had been vandalized.

Is Your Cat Missing?

We’re not talking about your furry friend, but your vehicle’s catalytic converter. Cars and trucks have been equipped with “cats” as emission control devices since 1974, but once thieves and salvage yards discovered they contain precious metals, thefts started and they have skyrocketed during the global COVID “lockdown.” Starting in March of 2020, theft claims increased 293%, with payouts to insured going to \$33.7 million, up from nine million dollars in the prior 12 months.

Have I got your attention? Why are these things so damn

valuable? To do their dirty work, they all contain a cocktail of rhodium, platinum and palladium, making them more valuable to scrap dealers than your wife’s diamonds. Palladium went from less than \$500 an ounce in 2016 to a record of \$2,875 in 2020 and rhodium saw an even greater increase, going from \$640 an ounce to a whopping \$21,900 an ounce during the same period – 12% more valuable than gold! A replacement converter can cost you anywhere from \$900 to \$2500, or even more if your O2 sensor is damaged. California ranks number one in the US for thefts (three out of ten insurance claims) with Texas being second (one out of ten claims).

And, here’s the kicker: A converter theft is faster than a bank robbery and more profitable than a 7-Eleven stickup. Thieves simply roll under your car, truck or mom’s SUV and, using a cordless SAWZALL® (or other brand) reciprocating saw, cut the tail pipe fore and aft of the converter and run. The theft takes about two minutes or less and weather or time of day is not an issue. Vehicles in the greatest danger are those in large parking lots, particularly long-term lots, apartment complexes and being parked in your station lot does not get you a free pass, either.

From the Big Apple

There’s always news from the NYPD which can be good, bad or bizarre, but always interesting. For example, a new city law recently removed the enforcement of

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illegal street vendors from the NYPD and gave it to the Department of Consumer Affairs and Worker Protection who lack the authority to confiscate goods. *The New York Times* reports that one shopping district with 230 legit businesses recently counted 242 unlicensed illegal sidewalk vendors peddling water, jewelry, masks, toys, and counterfeit goods without apprehension. One businessman said that "it looks like a bazaar in Istanbul" and the new "enforcement" unit won't even be operational until September.

If your department operates its own body shop and garage, here's some information you can use. During the civil unrest (aka riots) of 2020, the NYPD had some 375 vehicles vandalized, including more than 600 windshields and other glass destroyed. Recently, the NYPD Fleet Services created a salvage area where every usable OEM part is removed from salvaged vehicles, inventoried and stockpiled to be reused on other vehicles. This includes body parts like fenders, doors, hoods, glass, and more, as well as lightbars and electronic equipment. Reusing salvaged equipment has allowed the department to purchase more vehicles and save \$5000 on every new vehicle it purchases.

Where's the Chips?

I'm not talking about potato chips. It's the semiconductor chips which power as many as 80 different vehicle computers which control everything from touch screens to transmissions, including crucial safety devices. The global pandemic caused concern among chip manufacturers in Japan and Taiwan that auto sales would decrease, along with manufacturing, so they switched to building chips to meet the demand of consumer electronics by stay at home buyers. In fact, global chip sales are expected to grow 8.4% in 2021.

In addition to the chip makers underestimating US car and truck sales and employees being furloughed because of COVID, the third largest automotive chip supplier, Japan's Renesas Electronics, was nearly destroyed in a massive fire, all of which has caused the worldwide shortage. While thousands of chip-less cars and trucks sit in assembly storage lots, docks and at rail heads around the world, the ripple

effect is empty new car lots all over our country and used car and truck prices have quadrupled. This also has a direct impact on police vehicle availability. Most orders for the 2021 MY police vehicles were suspended early and Ford projected they will produce 1.1 million fewer vehicles this year. The Bancorp Bank has projected that the new vehicle shortage will continue through the third quarter of 2021 or even into 2022. So, plan on fleet replacements taking a while. The bottom line is: Keep your fleet clean, serviced and your repairs made quickly because your troops will likely be driving them for a while.

Final Thought

For officers who have resigned or retired during this crisis, do not fear. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced in July that police officers from around the country are "welcome to relocate to Florida for a better workplace culture if they feel disrespected or disenfranchised."

That, combined with spectacular ocean sunsets, bikinis and NO STATE INCOME TAXES, makes this a no-brainer. **P&SN**

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

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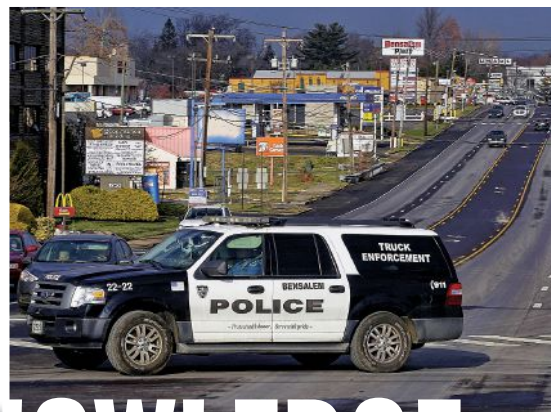
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TRAFFIC SAFETY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECH ASSISTANCE

DR. STEPHENIE SLAHOR

The NLELP uses multiple tools to reach out to a vast network in support of national, regional and state safety campaigns, sharing traffic safety news, information and more.



A few years ago, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Governors' Highway Safety Association (GHSA) jointly created the National Law Enforcement Liaison Program (NLELP – nlelp.org) to enhance the work of state highway safety offices and law enforcement communities. The game plan created the Law Enforcement Liaison, or LEL, which works in such diverse areas as highway safety, news, campaigns, traffic safety projects, legal aspects, and networking.

A typical LEL is composed of both sworn and retired law enforcement officials who work on a contractual basis or under a grant from the State Highway Safety Office to work toward sustained and effective traffic enforcement

programs. The LEL directory lists ten regions and coordinators as representatives for all of the states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the District of Columbia, the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Guam, and the Indian Nations.

The vast majority of the work of the NLELP program focuses on reducing fatal and serious injury crashes through targeted and aggressive, high visibility enforcement campaigns using the cooperation of LELs. More than 240 regional, state and local LELs currently exist, working on such programs as "Click It or Ticket"; reductions in impaired driving; and proactive planning and management of projects aimed at highway and traffic safety.

Recent safety campaigns include dis-

tracted driving, speeding, railway safety, and heatstroke/hot cars awareness. Weekly traffic safety E-mails, podcasts, social media accounts, Webinars, and videos round out the multiple tools the NLELP uses along with its quarterly newsletter – and it's all available free to users and subscribers of the NLELP Web site.

To enhance communication among the participants, the NLELP has a list-serve in use as a forum for information exchanges, questions, news items, officer safety, training, and special projects. To become a subscriber, just E-mail your name, E-mail address, position, and agency to Tim Burrows at tburrows@ghsa.org.

Among the projects described recent-

ly through the NLELP was the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety's Twitter feed about tire safety – a topic important in light of the deaths and injuries which occur directly related to tires. To drive down the numbers of such accidents and to promote public awareness via <https://tinyurl.com/2bkp93kp>, the word went out that only about 19 percent of consumers properly check and/or inflate their tires, even though tires lose about one pound per square inch of pressure each month. Additionally, one in four cars has at least one tire which is significantly underinflated which is not only unsafe, but also lowers gas mileage for 0.3 percent for every pound per square inch drop in pressure. Tires need to be checked at least annually for the wear and tear caused by driving and by sunlight and heat, and tires should be rotated about every 5000 to 8000 miles.

Such public service notices on social media serve as a quick, but cogent reminder, or an "I didn't know that" piece of knowledge which increases a driver's awareness of how to make tires safer and last longer.

In this day and age, social media works well in giving accessible, but effective, awareness notices which give drivers food for thought in a concise message, but that's only part of the picture at the NLELP. The organization's Web site also posts highway and traffic safety stories, ideas and projects to keep users and subscribers up to date with what is innovative and effective.

NO COST NEWSLETTER

The LEL Newsletter is a free quarterly publication highlighting news, events, best practices, and training to keep the full LEL network informed about activities and safety problems. Subscribing is easy and free of charge on the home page of the Web site. Recent newsletter issues have covered such topics as pedestrian safety, legal decisions, reducing officer deaths and serious injuries, seat belt use policies, child safety, distracted driving, underage drinking, police-community partnerships, and leadership.

The NLELP posted information about the National Sheriffs' Association's Annual Summer Conference. That organiza-

tion renewed its commitment to increased traffic safety training, communication and networking to better community relations and to improve traffic safety data. The organization's panel on traffic safety was recorded and saved to a Webinar, available for free viewing from the NLELP at <https://tinyurl.com/yftchsc7>

Targeting these and related problems in highway and traffic safety often needs the help of partners and the NLELP has a full bank of these including the US Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; links to state Drug Recognition Expert Coordinators; and such organizational partners as the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists, Citizens Against Drug Impaired Driving, Citizens Against Speeding and Aggressive Driving, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Road Safety Foundation, and the National Sheriffs' Association, among many others.

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TRAFFIC SAFETY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECH ASSISTANCE

Continued from page 35

NEW TRAFFIC SAFETY PRODUCTS

New products can play a role in traffic safety, such as the NLELP's recent story about research into alcohol detection sensors – a technology which could be ready to be installed in America's vehicles if the US Congress considers legislation which would make alcohol prevention technology mandatory in new cars and trucks. Using an embedded sensor which can measure a driver's blood alcohol level, a test determines if the driver is above a certain threshold level. If so, the vehicle will not start. The tests can either capture the driver's breath and pull it into a sensor which uses a beam of infrared light to calculate blood alcohol concentration, or the test can use a touch-based system built into the car's ignition button or gear shift, with tiny lasers which read the alcohol level below the surface of the driver's finger. Again, the NLELP Web site carried the details of this news, free to read, at <https://tinyurl.com/k8su6y9s>

Yet another news article focused on Idaho's data which indicates aggressive driving is a contributing factor in half of all vehicle crashes in that state. Most involve making a choice to speed; following another car too closely; running a red light; ignoring a stop sign; weaving in traffic; or not using turn signals. The original news release appears at shift-idaho.org/aggressive-driving

WEBINARS

Recorded Webinars from the NLELP are posted in such topics as preparing for summer driving safety (from Memorial Day to Labor Day); creative strategies and campaigns for safety; and the best uses of an LEL in some timely problems, such as accountability, police funding and procedure reimagining. Although the recent pandemic forced cancellation of some in-person training courses and conferences, virtual meetings have taken place instead.

Of course, some projects take mon-
Continued on page 38

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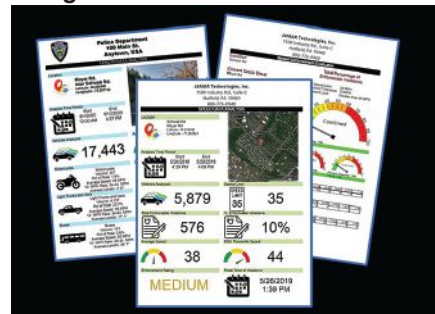


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The X Spotter from Ekin performs ALPR as well as speed and violation detection.

ey to begin or run successfully and the NLELP can be a source of news about grants. As an example, a recent article described how the Ford Motor Compa-

ny Fund, the philanthropic arm of Ford, extended its 18 year commitment to improving teen driving skills by awarding grants to state highway safety offices in

Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, New York, Tennessee, and Utah. The grants seek to reduce vehicle crashes by teen drivers – the leading cause of death for teenage drivers, with almost half of such crashes due to speeding. The article can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/wrcu6v7p>

Traffic safety enforcement is only part of the picture, though, and the NLELP helps fill the legal aspects gap with “Tips To Testify” and discussions of court cases involving officer procedures and traffic/highway safety. These can be found at nlelp.org/best-practices/tips-to-testify/ Among the recent posts are stories about how juries think, standards of proof, written reports and past recollections, lay witnesses vs. expert witnesses, and self-represented litigants.

So, if it's updates, information or resources you are seeking for your highway and traffic enforcement policies, procedures and projects, log on to **NLELP.org** for the help you need. They are there for the asking!

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enforcement works effectively when deterring vehicle operators from engaging in unsafe driving behaviors and practices.

There are numerous manufacturers who provide equipment for aiding law enforcement in their mission to keep the roads safe for all of us. Below are a number of these manufacturers.

EKIN SMART CITY SOLUTIONS

The Ekin X Spotter is a portable, smart AI-based traffic enforcement system which performs Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) and speed and violation detection of the vehicles in its field of view. With its compact design and size, the Ekin X Spotter can be mounted to a vehicle or pole, or used on a tripod to provide traffic management. With high resolution video from its 4K motor-zoom image sensor, Ekin X Spotter records photos and videos continuously without losing focus or sharpness.

This video-based number plate recognition technology, for up to four lanes of traffic, records not only the moment the violation takes place, but also the entire traffic flow.

All of the data gathered is centrally managed by Ekin's proprietary software, Ekin Red Eagle OS. The software compares databases in real time and generates alerts so that law enforcement officials can respond quickly.

More information can be found at <https://ekin.com/en/ekin-x-spotter>

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- Optional alerts include red/blue strobe (alternating) or white strobe with simulated camera flash
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TRAFFIC SAFETY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND TECH ASSISTANCE

Continued from page 39

road and pointed toward the traffic. The radar detects vehicles as they pass in each direction on the road and stores the speed and length of each individual vehicle. After the study period (typically a week) has ended, the data is downloaded to the STARnext software which has extensive reporting options.

A link to their Web site can be found at jamartech.com/le-radar

KUSTOM SIGNALS, INC.

Kustom Signals has been providing traffic safety equipment for more than 50 years, designing and manufacturing radar, LiDAR, video solutions and speed calming devices. Some of their flagship law enforcement products include the Eyewitness HD, Vantage, LaserCam 4, ProLaser 4, and Eagle 3 directional police radar.

Kustom Signals has recently released their new PMD 10 and 12 portable radar displays. The highly visible amber LED displays are available in two sizes (10" or 12" characters), with a flashing violator alert, red/blue light bar violator alert and white LED strobe violator alert. The unit is powered by a 24 amp hour rechargeable battery with options for solar and AC power configurations.

Also available is their SMART® 18 RADAR Speed Trailer. Designed for maximum visibility, the 18" LED display is visible up to 1,250 feet. The SMART18 includes a weatherproof

Continued on page 42

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INTERSTATE MESSAGE SIGN EFFECTIVENESS



Variable Message Signs (VMS) are often used on roadways to give travelers information about special events, as well as warnings of traffic congestion, accidents and road construction.

VMS systems were deployed as early as the 1950s on the New Jersey Turnpike. The NJ Turnpike's signs of that period (and up to around 2012) were capable of displaying a few messages in neon, all oriented around warning drivers to slow down: "REDUCE SPEED," followed by a warning.

Recently, the Virginia Department of Transportation has reported on a Virginia Tech study which provides evidence that some messages are memorable and more effective.

The Virginia Tech Cognitive Research Team compiled 1,200 unique messages ranging from rhymes, holiday themes and pop culture references, then gathered 300 drivers in four regions of Virginia to participate in their study. Participants viewed 16 blocks of five similar messages while wearing a fNIRS instrument – a "helmet like" device which measures the increase in oxygenated blood in the prefrontal cortex which serves as an indicator for increased attention.

The study determined that humor and wordplay, followed by holiday or seasonal messages and pop culture generated the greatest brain activity.

Jason Bond, District Communications Manager for the Virginia Department of Transportation stated that "We feel like with the creative messages people tend to take note of this. Anything that we can do to tie into popular culture or what people can relate to is certainly a way to get those safety messages out there and hopefully change driver behavior."

Over 90% of drivers in Virginia who participated in the study did not perceive a single message as inappropriate. It was also determined that messages should focus on holiday timing and themes to produce the best outcome.

A copy of the PowerPoint® presentation of the study can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/ums7kdbdt>

Some of the messages used on the roads in Virginia and in the study included the following:

- **NOBODY PUTS BABY IN A HOT CAR**
- **BE A FIREWORK, SPARK RESPONSIBLE DRIVING**
- **WHAT'S SCARIER – YOUR COSTUME OR YOUR DRIVING?**
- **ZERO FATALITIES, A GHOUL WE CAN ALL LIVE WITH**
- **SANTA'S COMING, HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD DRIVER?**
- **BE ON SANTA'S NICE LIST, DRIVE POLITELY**
- **SECURE THE FUTURE, BUCKLE YOUR CHILD**
- **SEE YOUR BFF TONIGHT, BUCKLE UP**
- **BUCKLE UP, SAVE \$25 AND YOUR LIFE**
- **DON'T MAKE ME STOP THIS CAR! BUCKLE UP**
- **AWWWWW SNAP! YOUR SEAT BELT!**
- **PEACE, LOVE, SEAT BELTS**
- **GOLD MEDAL DRIVERS DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE**
- **MAKE IT TO THE END ZONE, DRIVE ALERT**
- **DON'T LET SAFETY BE A HAIL MARY, DRIVE ALERT**
- **PLAY BALL! STRIKE THE DISTRACTIONS**
- **BLOW THE WHISTLE ON DISTRACTED DRIVING**
- **GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF YOUR APPS**
- **TEXTING WHILE DRIVING? OH, CELL NO**
- **DON'T DRIVE IN-TEXT-ICATED**
- **AVOID AN APPSIDENT, PHONES DOWN**
- **TEXTING AND DRIVING IS CLEVER, SAID NO ONE EVER**
- **WHO YA GONNA CALL? NOBODY. YOU'RE DRIVING**
- **YOU HAD ME AT "I DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE!"**
- **THE FORCE IS STRONG WHEN YOU PUT DOWN THE PHONE**
- **WE PITY THE FOOL WHO TEXTS AND DRIVES**
- **NO TEXT IS WORTH A LIFE**
- **MOM NEEDS YOUR HUG, NOT YOUR TEXT**
- **SPEEDING IS UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT**
- **MARCH MADNESS? KEEP AGGRESSION ON THE COURT**
- **NO SHOT CLOCK DRIVING A CAR, SLOW DOWN**
- **KEEP RIVALRIES OFF THE ROAD, DRIVE CALM**



ELISAG also provides ALPR upfitted radar trailers or variable message boards.

storage box for speed signs, equipment and batteries, and it operates with low power K-band directional radar. SMARTstat™ wireless data analysis and configuration software is included.

For more information, visit kustomsignals.com

LEONARDO/ELSAG ALPR SYSTEMS

Leonardo is a top ten global player in Aerospace, Defense and Security. Through its US subsidiary, Selex ES Inc., it has developed and manufactured a portfolio of ELSAG ALPR solutions which are used by nearly 4,000 customers in over 25 countries.

Leonardo's ELSAG Fixed Plate Hunter™ ALPR system can be mounted to bridges, overpasses and other structures for constant monitoring. It is comprised of digital cameras with built-in processors, a Field Control Unit (FCU) and proprietary software which captures images of license plates, crosschecking each with hot lists to identify vehicles of interest. Alarms are broadcast in real time to a command center, patrolling vehicles and/or mobile devices for immediate reaction. The data captured can also be reviewed for relevant periods of time, aiding investigations.

ELISAG also offers ALPR upfitted radar trailers or variable message boards which provide the benefits of speed monitoring or variable messaging along with ALPR.

To learn more about Leonardo/ELSAG's products, visit leonardocompany-us.com

MISSIONGO

The MissionGO Video Command Center (VCC), in combination with an unmanned aircraft (sUAS), is a tool law enforcement agencies are currently using for traffic management. The VCC and a sUAS are used at an accident or traffic incident to provide a live view back to a statewide operations center, helping them determine the correct use of temporary traffic control devices and methods.

The VCC can run on AC or DC power; uses an agency's current Wi-Fi connection and a Windows® operating system;



MissionGO's Video Command Center transmits critical video from the field to command personnel located in EOCs.

and features an integrated 22" monitor and a wireless handheld keyboard with touchpad. It connects wirelessly with the sUAS using most iOS or Android devices.

The MissionGO sUAS Startup Program provides training and helps you to establish a UAS program which will help maintain public safety in the community. Two days of hands-on UAS flight operations training (including night ops) and guidance for taking the FAA exam are provided, along with a textbook, software and other training materials.

To learn more about their products, visit missiongo.io



Radarsign's TC-600 full matrix radar speed sign is available in both AC and solar power models.

RADARSIGN, LLC

Radarsign was founded in 2004 by Ken Bass, a former Georgia state trooper turned business manager; Barry Ward, a laser-optics, electrography and microprocessor engineer; and Charlie Robeson, a sales and marketing executive. Together, they launched Radarsign with a goal to make roads safer by slowing speeding drivers.

Two of their most popular traffic safety products include the TC-600 full matrix sign and the TC-400 sign.

The TC-600 full matrix radar speed sign offers multiple display options and is available in AC and solar power models. The speed and message displays feature 13" tall numbers which make them easily readable up to 600 feet away. Standard alerts include SPEED (three flash rate options), SLOW DOWN and TOO FAST, along with optional message and strobe alerts.

The TC-400 sign is a portable, battery powered radar speed sign which was designed to be easily moved and used in different locations.

With a modular design, the front radar speed sign housing and the rear battery housing of the sign cabinet detach from each other, providing ease of portability. The TC-400 includes a universal mounting bracket which can be installed on any size/style pole in just a couple of minutes. Additional brackets left on poles allow you to create a circuit to regularly rotate the sign location with ease, allowing same day response to speeding complaints.

Radarsign put together a virtual trade show earlier this year which can be viewed on YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/2kjr24cP&SN>

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



National Law Enforcement Museum Begins Installation of 9/11 Exhibit as Part of Reopening

As it prepares for reopening following the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Law Enforcement Museum begins installation of its newest exhibit, "Post-9/11: The Evolution of American Law Enforcement," where artifacts from the disaster – including a 2,200 pound steel beam from the World Trade Center and a 6,300 pound concrete block from the Pentagon – have arrived to be positioned for visitors to experience.

The exhibition is being installed in the DuPont Gallery of the museum which will house artifacts and iconic images from all three crash sites, including a steel beam from the World Trade Center, a concrete block from the Pentagon and fragments of Flight 93. The steel beam measures 48" x 24"x 24", while the stone block measures 57"H x 60"W x 19.5"D.

The 2,000 square foot exhibit will examine the effects the terror strikes have had on police forces and agencies in the fight to keep the United States safe over the last two decades.

"We are honored to be able to display such powerful artifacts from that fateful day," said Marcia Ferranto, CEO of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund. "The devastating events from 9/11 have impacted us all, but exponentially more so for members of law enforcement. This exhibition will not only honor those who gave their all on that terrible day, but it will also illustrate how law enforcement has met the challenge of a post-9/11 world, making incredible strides to protect us from harm."

NEWS

New Forensics Publications Available

Recently, several programs related to forensic science moved from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA). New publications and fact sheets for a number of forensics programs are now available, including "DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program"; "Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program"; and "Postconviction Testing of DNA Evidence."

BJA's forensics-related programs enable communities to develop efficient, accurate, reliable, and cost-effective methods for the identification, analysis and interpretation of physical evidence for criminal justice purposes.

To view the complete list of BJA's Forensic Science Programs, visit <https://tinyurl.com/uvac9ev9>

BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE

FACT SHEET

DNA CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT FOR
BACKLOG REDUCTION PROGRAM

Unmet DNA in state and private laboratories contributes to backlog. Laboratories need to modernize and improve their capacity to analyze DNA testing of crime scene and convicted offender samples. The DNA Capacity Enhancement for Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program facilitates, identifies, and provides resources to enhance the capacity, quality, and efficiency of state and private laboratories to analyze DNA samples.

Program Goal

The overarching goal of the CEBR Program is to increase the capacity of publicly funded forensic DNA and DNA laboratories to analyze DNA samples, thereby helping to reduce the number of forensic DNA and DNA backlog samples waiting for analysis and prevent the backlog of forensic and database DNA samples.

Program Accomplishments

Since 2011, the CEBR Program has:

Identified and funded 117 DNA Capacity Enhancement projects across 38 states and the District of Columbia.

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Program Accomplishments

Program Funding & Awards

| Fiscal Year | Number of Awards | Total Funding |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|
| 2011 | 117 | \$86,707,086 |
| 2012 | 117 | \$74,247,203 |
| 2013 | 118 | \$10,406,176 |
| 2014 | 119 | \$17,578,865 |
| 2015 | 122 | \$40,771,250 |
| 2016 | 132 | \$63,391,847 |
| 2017 | 131 | \$47,127,964 |
| 2018 | 137 | \$67,636,537 |
| 2019 | 131 | \$28,551,480 |
| 2020 | 136 | \$85,749,273 |

U.S. Department of Justice • Office of Justice Programs • Bureau of Justice Assistance

July 2021

BJA-20-001

NEWS

DOJ Announces Expansion of Firearms Technical Assistance Project to Strengthen Community Response to Domestic Violence Incidents Involving Firearms

On August 12, 2021, the United States Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) announced the expansion of its Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP) to help communities across



the country reduce domestic violence homicides and injuries committed with firearms. OVW will award an estimated \$6 million for up to 12 sites and \$4 million for training and technical assistance on firearms and domestic violence. "Enforcing gun laws and keeping firearms from the hands of perpetrators of domestic violence is crucial to keeping victims safe," said OVW Acting Director Allison Randall. "The FTAP expansion is another example of the department's commitment in its efforts to reduce violent crime. The funding will help our grantees develop and implement community-based and culturally specific strategies to enforce firearms laws and is an important part of preventing homicides." The deadline for submitting an application to Grants.gov is September 20, 2021.

Go to <https://tinyurl.com/8pev6j47> to view the solicitation.

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New Publication Available – Agency Assessment Tool and Action Planning Roadmap

Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and published by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability (VALOR) Program, this publication discusses the importance of a comprehensive strategy to promote officer safety and wellness with a multifaceted approach addressing a variety of essential topics. The information contained in this resource is intended to serve as a guide for law enforcement executives or wellness program personnel who seek to establish or enhance an officer wellness program.

A copy of the publication can be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/6bd9txkf>



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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

She's fulfilling her destiny... A 34-year-old woman in St. Petersburg, Florida, whose last name is "Booze," crashed into a Taco Bell® sign as the result of driving drunk. The woman reportedly first crashed into a tree, then the Taco Bell sign, before fleeing the scene. Police spotted her and stopped her for speeding soon afterwards. Police reportedly observed that Booze had "bloodshot, watery eyes; a dazed and blank expression on her face; and an odor of an alcoholic beverage on her breath" as she was being questioned. It turned out that the Taco Bell where Booze caused the damage was actually her place of employment. *(The irony continues as they discover her first name is Chalupa.)*

Class, our words for today are "oblivious" and "hypocrisy"... A New York City councilwoman virtually attended a finance committee meeting, commenting on school classroom sizes and education funding, as she shifted her focus back and forth between the camera and...the road. A local newspaper reported that the two-term Democrat was driving her car during the meeting. During her time as a council member, she has advocated for improving bike lanes and expanding speed camera use. However, since 2013, the license plate registered to her car has received 62 traffic violations. The rap sheet includes three tickets for speeding in school zones in 2020, all in Manhattan. *(What she lacks in intelligence, she more than makes up for in stupidity.)*

Antonio, meet Kharma. Kharma, meet Antonio... An Atlanta city councilman — who aspires to be the city's next mayor — had his car stolen by kids in broad daylight. The councilman was attending a ribbon cutting ceremony at an event in Northeast Atlanta when at least four kids jumped into his car and took off. The councilman is reportedly running on a mayoral campaign of "reimagining public safety." Last year, he voted in support of an ordinance to withhold \$73 million from the budget of the Atlanta Police Department. The ordinance was narrowly voted down. He doesn't plan on filing charges against the kids who, he says, "acted out of desperation." Incidentally, he is under indictment on federal fraud charges related to alleged incidents which occurred in the years prior to him winning the council seat in 2019. *(Where is a social worker when you need one?)*

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY

He also uses that array to stay in touch with the mother ship...

A California Highway Patrol officer pulled over a vehicle which had a 19 inch satellite dish bolted to the car's hood. The dish appeared to be an antenna from the Starlink Satellite Internet Service. The officer said to the driver, "Sir, I stopped you today for that visual obstruction on your hood. Does it not block your view while driving?" The driver reportedly replied, "Only when I make right turns." A representative of the law enforcement agency told reporters that the motorist, driving a Toyota Prius, received a ticket for a moving violation. The driver explained that he uses the antenna to get Wi-Fi service for a business which he operates out of the car. *(Go left, young man, go left!)*



The number one rule of committing a crime: Don't dox yourself... A drug dealer in Liverpool, England, is a big fan of cheese, especially Stilton. He recently found a variety of blue Stilton which was so unbelievably tasty that he just had to share his find with some friends. The man took a picture of the cheese and posted it on EncroChat which is supposed to be an encrypted phone system. The man wasn't aware that the police had hacked into the system and had subsequently identified 10,000 of its users in the UK, most of them involved in criminal activity. The manner in which police busted this guy was a little unusual. Police used the man's photo of the Stilton to bust him. In the photo, he was holding the cheese in his hand and, surprisingly, his fingerprints were clearly visible. The police identified him from that picture and he's now serving time in jail, having been sentenced to 13 years for selling heroin and cocaine. *(The police taking his mug shot: "Say cheese!")*

It's always nice to see a civilized culture promoting the arts... Kentucky recently got a lot of attention for a five day party billed as a "Redneck Rave," with dozens of people being arrested or cited. A park in Edmonson County hosted the event which organizers boasted would feature "mud, music and mayhem." The sheriff told a local TV station

that 14 people were arrested and another 34 were cited on criminal charges which ranged from assault and strangulation to drug and alcohol possession. There were also a number of accidental injuries, including one when a person was impaled by a log which pierced the floorboard of his vehicle. The organizer's post on social media said they plan to improve the event and ensure the one scheduled for the autumn is even better. *("Hold my beer.")*

Everyone knows those little guys prefer Cracker Jack® and Corn Nuts... Staff at the El Paso Zoo in Texas will be pressing charges against a woman who reportedly jumped into a spider monkey exhibit and fed CHEETOS® FLAMIN' HOT® to the animals. Zookeepers found out about the stunt through Instagram after someone posted video of the woman with the monkeys just feet away. The zoo director said, "This young lady decided to hop a fence, climb through some bushes, drop down into a four foot deep moat, walk across the moat, and then try to feed the spider monkeys. It was stupid. She's very fortunate that it didn't have a worse outcome for her or the animals." After the woman was recognized by her employer, the Lovett Law Firm, she was promptly terminated from her job with the firm. *(She now works for the Saul Goodman & Associates law firm.)* **P&SN**



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