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January/February 2015
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How to “Make It Real”

An officer utilizes an FX® Conversion Kit for the GLOCK® during a reality-based training session (photo courtesy of Simunition®).



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If I had the time, I'd be out there with the protestors!

What??" you say, recoiling. Yes, but I would be out there asking questions. I'm not sure if most of the protestors want to be asked questions. More importantly, I have my doubts that most of them have asked many questions themselves. It's much easier to just go out and yell; scream; wave signs; and, in some cases, burn cars and loot businesses.

Here is the first question I would ask: Why are you here? Now, the temptation for most of the protestors would be to start telling me how unarmed Michael

Brown lost his life to a police officer's bullet and about the Garner case, etc. But, I think it behooves all of them – and us – to answer the "why" questions starting with the word, "because" – something along the lines of "Because I am angry about the grand jury's decision on the Brown case." That's a start, but then the follow-up question would be, "What do you think should be done about it?" Is that correct? No, that should be the #3 follow-up question (I'll get to follow-up question #2 a little later).

Recently, I was listening to some

educated people discussing the situations in Ferguson, Missouri; in New York City; and, now, all over the place. On this television show, these knowledgeable individuals (two of whom had never worn a police uniform) spoke very matter-of-factly that there needs to be sweeping "change" and "reform" in our nation's police departments. Now, I have some questions for them: What specifically should be reformed? Changes in *what*? Take away our guns? Take away people and put robo-cops out there? Eliminate grand juries? What do you mean by change and reform, exactly? I listened to the show for a half hour and never heard any specifics whatsoever.

Here in Miami, hundreds of protestors recently blocked a portion of I-95 and caused a massive traffic jam during rush hour (we already have massive traffic jams during this time, so this one was "ultramassive"). You'll notice that, in a previous column, I spoke about my experiences in the 1980 riots in Miami and how Ferguson wouldn't be the last of them. It won't unless we *do* implement some sort of change, so I have some changes to propose.

We need to change what we are teaching our children in the classrooms and households of America, starting when they are old enough to read and write. I don't know about you, but I'm 56 and, when I went to elementary school, there was a huge emphasis on being good citizens (citizenship was also emphasized in the Boy Scouts back in the day). What did that mean? Well, it meant appreciating our country and helping to take care of it, starting with stuff which third graders can understand, like "Don't litter!" But, to appreciate something, you have to understand it, don't you? So, my change and reform is focused on teaching children that they are citizens and, like any give-and-take relationship, their obligation is to give to the community by understanding its laws and respecting them. When they get to be middle-schoolers, let's start talking about the legal *process*. Let's explain to them that we have this wondrous document called the Constitution and that, when people say, "I know my rights," it is their duty as citizens to understand those rights. Let's teach them – starting in the sixth grade and not stopping until they graduate high school – that everyone in our country has equal protection under the law and that everyone gets this very cool thing called due process. Let's make them understand and appreciate the

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14th Amendment because that part of the Constitution is the most compassionate element any government has ever created for its citizens. We'll teach them that part of this due process thing is states have grand juries.

STOP!

We take you now to our roving reporter, Nancy Newscaster, who is on-scene at I-95 in Miami where hundreds of protestors have gathered right in the middle of the expressway to protest the Brown and Garner decisions. Nancy, can you hear us?

Nancy (with finger in one ear, looks around during that annoying five second delay, then smiles): Yes, Ramesh, I can hear you! It's quite a scene over here. I'm going to talk to some of these protestors and see what's going on! (She moves closer to a scowling woman carrying a sign which says, "Police=Legalized Murder")

Nancy: Ma'am, can I ask you something, please? Why are you here?

Protestor: Cuz, I'm angry! The police are getting away with killing our young

people! We're tired of it! We need change and uh...reeeee...

Nancy: Um, you mean REFORM?

Protestor: Yeah. And, we're angry about them damned grand juries. They don't think a young man's life is worth anything. We need to get rid of these damned grand juries!

Nancy: Can you tell us exactly what a grand jury is and what they do?

(Congrats, Nancy, you nailed it! That's follow-up question #2!)

Protestor: Umm...yeah. They're a bunch of racists who make sure minorities don't get any justice!

Nancy: Well, actually, I can tell you exactly what a grand jury is. Can you get everyone to move to the side of the road for a moment and I'll explain?

(Here's the fairyland part of this where the protestors actually move to the side and take a seat, intently listening to Nancy.)

Nancy: You see, class (a projector screen appears out of nowhere, with a PowerPoint® presentation which says, "Grand Juries for Protestors"), a grand

jury is actually a layer of protection for the citizen. It's a safeguard against corrupt or overzealous government, providing a step in due process which gives the citizens themselves a chance to test the case for validity. Grand juries make sure that cases are viable enough to go trial, so that no one gets prosecuted maliciously for something substantial and lose their freedom or their life because of a prosecutor who wants to imprison them without having a solid case. If we do away with grand juries for police officers, the 14th Amendment says we would have to do away with them for everyone – including you and your families.

Random protestors: Oh, wow, we didn't really see it that way. Gee, thanks, Nancy. We'll go home now. (The protestors pick up their signs and place them in a nearby recycling bin and head off, apologizing to the motorists who are now able to head home.)

And, then, I woke up!

2015 is shaping up to be full of surprises – I wish you much joy in the New Year. **P&SN**

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The **Aimpoint® Micro T-2** features a newly designed front lens which enhances optical performance by providing a noticeable increase in clarity and performance. The new sight housing of the **Micro T-2** allows the addition of front and rear flip covers; protection for the sight's adjustment turrets; and increased ruggedness for the internal components.

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New Holster Availability for FNX-45 Tactical

DeSantis Gunhide® recently introduced a new holster fit for the **FN Herstal FNX-45 Tactical**. The firearm rides high and is presented at an optimum draw angle. Its thumb break and exact molding, together with a tension device, allow for a secure and highly concealable carry. Belt slots are 1 3/4" wide. It is available in black or tan leather; with or without a suede lining; and in a plain or basket weave finish.

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New Rifle from Colt

The **AR901-16S** is one of four new additions to Colt's M.A.R.C. (Modular AR Carbine) family. It features a free-floating barrel and a user configurable tubular hand guard which allows for rail mounting locations on 16 different planes. This makes the firearm more customizable and comfortable for users.

The **AR901-16S** has a B5 Bravo butt stock and measures 34.24" with the stock retracted or 37.5" with the stock extended. It has a 1:12 RH twist and weighs 8.24 pounds.

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The Newest LCRx™

Ruger recently announced the introduction of the **LCRx** with a three inch barrel, the newest variation of the Lightweight Compact Revolver (LCR®). Chambered in .38 Special +P, this LCRx features an exposed hammer which allows it to be fired in either double- or single-action mode.

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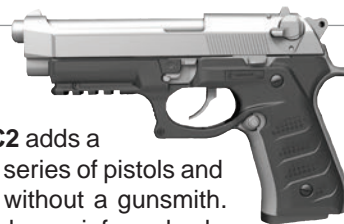
Lancer Systems' replacement hand guard for the **SIG 716** features a free-floating design with an aluminum picatinny sight rail at 12 o'clock and an octagonal carbon fiber tube with cutouts to expose the gas block adjusting knob. Cooling slots in the tube accept rails, and slots at six o'clock accept a rail for mounting a bipod. It is available with top rails in a carbine length of 7.4" and in an extended length of 13.1".

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THE POLICE GENERALLY MAY NOT, WITHOUT A WARRANT, SEARCH DIGITAL INFORMATION ON A CELL PHONE SEIZED FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED.

Modern Cell Phones and a Suspect's Right to Privacy



Larry E. Holtz, Esq.

In *Riley v. California*, 134 S.Ct. 2473 (2014), the United States Supreme Court held that the police generally may not, without a warrant, search digital information on a cell phone seized from an individual who has been arrested.

The Cases: For this opinion, the Court combined two separate cases. In the first case, defendant David Riley was stopped by the police for driving with expired registration tags. During the stop, "the officer also learned that Riley's license had been suspended. The officer impounded Riley's car, pursuant to department policy, and another officer conducted an inventory search of the car. Riley was arrested for possession of concealed and loaded firearms when that search turned up two handguns

under the car's hood."

"An officer searched Riley incident to the arrest and found items associated with the 'Bloods' street gang." The officer also seized a cell phone from Riley's pants pocket. The phone was a type of "smartphone," having "a broad range of other functions based on advanced computing capability, large storage capacity, and Internet connectivity."

At police headquarters, "a detective specializing in gangs further examined the contents of the phone." In light of the photographs and videos the detective found in the cell phone, the prosecution was able to charge Riley in connection with a shooting which had occurred a few weeks earlier and, in addition, sought an enhanced sentence based on his gang membership. Riley moved to suppress

all evidence taken from his cell phone, arguing that "the searches of his phone violated the Fourth Amendment, because they had been performed without a warrant and were not otherwise justified by exigent circumstances."

In the second case, defendant Brima Wurie was arrested after the police observed him make an apparent drug sale from a car. At the station, the officer seized two cell phones from Wurie. "The one at issue here was a 'flip phone,' a kind of phone which is flipped open for use and that generally has a smaller range of features than a smartphone. Five to ten minutes after arriving at the station, the officers noticed that the phone was repeatedly receiving calls from a source identified as 'my house' on the phone's external screen." The officers opened the phone and accessed its call log. They then accessed the phone number associated with the "my house" label and traced the number to an apartment building.

"When the officers went to the building, they saw Wurie's name on a mailbox and observed through a window a woman who resembled [a] woman in [a] photograph on Wurie's phone. They secured the apartment while obtaining a search warrant and, upon later executing the warrant, found and seized 215 grams of crack cocaine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia, a firearm and ammunition, and cash." Wurie moved to suppress the evidence obtained from the search of the apartment, arguing that it was the fruit of an unconstitutional search of his cell phone.

The Law: *Finding both searches unlawful, the United States Supreme Court held that law enforcement officers, in conducting a lawful search incident to arrest, must generally obtain a warrant before searching information stored or accessible on a cell phone.*

These two cases concern the reasonableness of a warrantless search incident to a lawful arrest. The issue is the lawful extent to which officers may search property found on or near the arrestee.


In the landmark case of *Chimel v. California*, 395 U.S. 752, 89 S.Ct. 2034 (1969), the Court held:

When an arrest is made, it is reasonable for the arresting officer to search the person arrested in order to remove any weapons that the latter might seek to use in order to resist arrest or effect his escape. * * * In addition, it is entirely reasonable for the arresting officer to search for and seize any evidence on the arrestee's person in order to prevent its concealment or destruction[.] There is ample justification, therefore, for a search of the arrestee's person and the area "within his immediate control" – construing that phrase to mean the area from within which he might gain possession of a weapon or destructible evidence.

"Four years later, in *United States v. Robinson*, 414 U.S. 218, 94 S.Ct. 467 (1973), the Court determined that '[t]he authority to search the person incident to a lawful custodial arrest, while based upon the need to disarm and to discover evidence, does not depend on what a court may later decide was the probability in a particular arrest situation that weapons or evidence would in fact be found upon the person of the suspect.' Instead, a 'custodial arrest of a suspect based on probable cause is a reasonable intrusion under the Fourth Amendment; that intrusion being lawful, a search incident to the arrest requires no additional justification.'"

Here, in *Riley*, the Court had to decide "how the search incident to arrest doctrine applies to modern cell phones which are now such a pervasive and insistent part of daily life that the proverbial visitor from Mars might conclude they were an important feature of human anatomy. A smart phone of the sort taken from Riley was unheard of ten years ago; a significant majority of American adults now own such phones. Even less sophisticated phones like Wurie's, which have already faded in popularity since Wurie was arrested in 2007, have been around for less than 15 years. Both phones are based on technology nearly inconceivable just

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a few decades ago.”

But, while the *Chimel* and *Robinson* rules strike the appropriate balance in the context of physical objects, neither rationale has much force with respect to digital content on cell phones. “*Robinson* concluded that the two risks identified in *Chimel* – harm to officers and destruction of evidence – are present in all custodial arrests. There are no comparable risks when the search is of digital data. In addition, *Robinson* regarded any privacy interests retained by an individual after arrest as significantly diminished by the fact of the arrest itself. Cell phones, however, place vast quantities of personal informa-

tion literally in the hands of individuals. A search of the information on a cell phone bears little resemblance to the type of brief physical search considered in *Robinson*.”

Accordingly, the Court declined to extend the rationale of *Chimel* and *Robinson* to searches of data on cell phones and held instead that “officers must generally secure a warrant before conducting such a search.”

Clearly, the “[d]igital data stored on a cell phone cannot itself be used as a weapon to harm an arresting officer or to effectuate the arrestee’s escape. Law enforcement officers remain free to examine the physical aspects of a phone to ensure

that it will not be used as a weapon – say, to determine whether there is a razor blade hidden between the phone and its case. Once an officer has secured a phone and eliminated any potential physical threats, however, data on the phone can endanger no one.” To the extent dangers to arresting officers “may be implicated in a particular way in a particular case, they are better addressed through consideration of case-specific exceptions to the warrant requirement, such as the one for exigent circumstances.”

Even though the search incident to arrest exception does not apply to cell phones, other case-specific exceptions may still justify a warrantless search of a particular phone.

Regarding the second *Chimel* rationale, preventing the destruction of evidence, the officers “could have seized and secured the cell phones to prevent destruction of evidence while seeking a warrant. And, once law enforcement officers have secured a cell phone, there is no longer any risk that the arrestee himself will be able to delete incriminating data from the phone.”

In this case, the government argued that “information on a cell phone may nevertheless be vulnerable to two types of evidence destruction unique to digital data – remote wiping and data encryption. Remote wiping occurs when a phone, connected to a wireless network, receives a signal which erases stored data. This can happen when a third party sends a remote signal or when a phone is preprogrammed to delete data upon entering or leaving certain geographic areas (so-called ‘geofencing’). Encryption is a security feature which some modern cell phones use in addition to password protection. When such phones

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lock, data becomes protected by sophisticated encryption which renders a phone all but 'unbreakable' unless police know the password."

"[I]n situations in which an arrest might trigger a remote wipe attempt or an officer discovers an unlocked phone, it is not clear that the ability to conduct a warrantless search would make much of a difference. The need to effect the arrest, secure the scene, and tend to other pressing matters means that law enforcement officers may well not be able to turn their attention to a cell phone right away. Cell phone data would be vulnerable to remote wiping from the time an individual anticipates arrest to the time any eventual search of the phone is completed, which might be at the station house hours later. Likewise, an officer who seizes a phone in an unlocked state might not be able to begin his search in the short time remaining before the phone locks and data becomes encrypted."

"In any event, as to remote wiping, law enforcement is not without specific

means to address the threat. Remote wiping can be fully prevented by disconnecting a phone from the network. There are at least two simple ways to do this: First, law enforcement officers can turn the phone off or remove its battery. Second, if they are concerned about encryption or other potential problems, they can leave a phone powered on and place it in an enclosure which isolates the phone from radio waves. Such devices are commonly called 'Faraday bags,' after the English scientist Michael Faraday. They are essentially sandwich bags made of aluminum foil: cheap, lightweight, and easy to use. They may not be a complete answer to the problem, but at least for now they provide a reasonable response."

"Modern cell phones, as a category, implicate privacy concerns far beyond those implicated by the search of a cigarette pack, a wallet, or a purse. Cell phones differ in both a quantitative and a qualitative sense from other objects which might be kept on an arrestee's person. The term 'cell phone' is itself

misleading shorthand; many of these devices are in fact minicomputers which also happen to have the capacity to be used as a telephone."

During the course of its opinion, the Court noted that its holding is not that the information on a cell phone is immune from search; it is instead that a warrant is generally required before such a search, even when a cell phone is seized incident to arrest.

Even though the search incident to arrest exception does not apply to cell phones, other case-specific exceptions may still justify a warrantless search of a particular phone. "One well recognized exception applies when 'the exigencies of the situation' make the needs of law enforcement so compelling that [a] warrantless search is objectively reasonable under the Fourth Amendment." Such exigencies could include the need to prevent the imminent destruction of evidence in individual cases, to pursue a fleeing suspect, and to assist persons who are seriously injured or are threatened with imminent injury. **P&SN**

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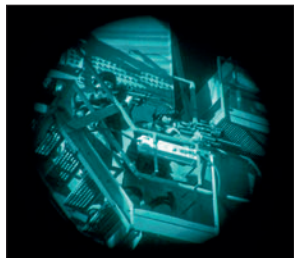
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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



NIGHT VISION DEPOT

Night Vision Depot (NVD)'s night vision products are now available for purchase with **Gen III White Phosphor (WP) image intensifiers** manufactured by Exelis. Traditional image intensifier tubes use a P-43 phosphor screen output which results in the yellow-green image; **WP tubes** use a P-45 phosphor screen which yields an alternate coloration closer to black-and-white imagery which enhances overall object recognition. These **WP tubes** are available for system upgrades and can be Hand-Select for higher performance for an extra fee. NVD systems come with a ten year warranty! **Circle 1029 for More Information**



NIGHT OPTICS USA, INC.

The **Panther 336** (336 x 256) and **Panther 640** (640 x 480) thermal riflescopes come with 2 x 50mm high-grade optics and a quick release weapon mount; feature precise optical focus adjustment; 1x, 2x, and 4x digital zoom; 600 x 800 high resolution AMOLED display; more than four hours of continuous use on two CR1213 batteries; and a simplistic menu system. **Circle 1032 for More Information**

Night Vision & Thermal Imaging Equipment



The **Binocular Night Vision Device with Single Gain Control (BNVD-SG)**, redesigned to be lighter while increasing performance, operates with a single gain control knob. The user can adjust the tube brightness (gain) lower to compensate for overly bright conditions or to increase the gain under extreme dark conditions. It is available with Gen III Pinnacle Commercial and Mil Spec tubes and comes with a ten year warranty! **Circle 1028 for More Information**

NIGHT OPTICS USA, INC.



The **Observer 320** is a 384 x 288 resolution thermal camera packed with features like a 640 x 480 OLED display and Real Time Object Tracking; a 2x digital zoom is also included for added range and visibility. You can toggle between fully automatic, semiautomatic, or manual brightness and contrast control, while selecting either automatic or manual calibration. The **Observer 320** comes in two models (25mm and 50mm). **Circle 1030 for More Information**

US NIGHT VISION CORP.



The **Triad™** is a Mil-Std-810G and ESD compliant multibeam weapon laser which combines both a covert IR aiming laser and a rear focusing IR illuminator for tactical night vision operations at an affordable cost. Also built into the **Triad's** diode cone housing is the very latest advanced generation green aiming laser for dim light or daytime targeting applications. The system also includes an integral Picatinny rail for additional accessories, as well as an adjustable quick detach throw lever mount with lock to prevent accidental detachment in the field. **Circle 1033 for More Information**

NIGHT VISION DEPOT

The **Binocular Night Vision Device with Single Gain Control (BNVD-SG)**, redesigned to be lighter while increasing performance, operates with a single gain control knob. The user can adjust the tube brightness (gain) lower to compensate for overly bright conditions or to increase the gain under extreme dark conditions. It is available with Gen III

N-VISION OPTICS LLC



The **TC Series** of thermal weapon sights attach in front of the day scope on a standard, allowing the flexibility to use the sight on multiple weapons. The **TC Series** is fully collimated to maintain bore sight with the day optic, eliminating the need to re-zero, when attached or detached from the weapon. It can also be used as a standalone weapon scope, with four reticle patterns custom tailored for individual weapons with corresponding zero, color, brightness, and contrast. The sights are available with 320 x 256 (TC35) and 6340 x 512 (TC50) VOx thermal detectors. **Circle 1031 for More Information**

NIGHT OPTICS USA, INC.



The **Explorer 320** handheld thermal imaging camera features a 19mm fixed focus lens system; a 384 x 288 Asi microbolometer; a 320 x 240 display; 2x/4x digital zoom; an internal rechargeable Li-ion battery USB; automatic standby mode; and variable display brightness. It is water-resistant, shockproof to one meter, and weighs 10.7 ounces. **Circle 1034 for More Information**

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How to Keep Your Officers Motivated

DO YOUR OFFICERS ARRIVE AT THE STATION WITH A POSITIVE ATTITUDE OR DO THEY SHOW UP AT ROLL CALL GRUMBLING AND WHINING?

Michael Carpenter

Are they consistently making arrests, solving problems and effectively serving the public or are they goofing off and avoiding work?

The quality of your supervision could be part of the solution or part of the problem. Bosses on all levels can have a profound effect on their subordinates' performance, both positively and negatively.

To help ensure that your performance as a successful commander is a positive motivating factor, here are a few tips on becoming a successful supervisor.

Create a Friendly Atmosphere on Your Shift

There have been many research studies conducted on the relationship between supervisors and employees in both the public and private sectors. These studies have repeatedly shown that the supervisor who is friendly and approachable is the most effective type of supervisor. Good supervisors strike a balance between making sure that the task at hand gets accomplished and making sure that the needs of the employees are met (i.e., Blake and Mouton's "Managerial Grid").

As an example, everyone enjoys a pleasant greeting when they arrive at

work. Knowing that one of your employee's children plays a high school sport and commenting at roll call that you saw his (or her) name in the newspaper for scoring the winning goal or hitting a home run, etc., shows your employees that you view them as more than just police officers. They are people, each with individual lives, families, personal interests, etc. Let them know that you acknowledge their presence as a person, not just as a post number on the shift.

The important thing which your employees should feel about you is that you are creating a positive and upbeat atmosphere. Your job, and their job, has enough stress, negatives and "downers" – you need to play a major role in striking a balance to counteract those.

Maintain a Positive Attitude in Dealing with the Public

If you are positive and upbeat about protecting and serving the public, your subordinates' attitudes are more likely to be positive and upbeat as well.

Remind your officers that every person they come in contact with is not a child molester or a serial murderer. Despite some of the unpleasant dealings they may have with some people, the

vast majority of citizens are law-abiding and deserve professional and courteous police service. Reinforce that concept occasionally with your officers to help both of you maintain the proper and positive perspective on the world of policing.

Let Them Know What Is Expected

As a supervisor, you have a right to expect a reasonable quality and quantity of work. You can insist that officers handle complaints professionally; effect arrests when warranted; turn in reports on time; and show up in court to be effective witnesses.

However, you must share your concept of

what constitutes "good work" in your unit so they know what is expected of them in their daily activities. The first step would be to follow the old adage of "lead by example." If you consistently and continually deliver better than average work in your duties and tasks, your employees will pick up on that and know that you set a high bar for yourself and for them. Another step would be to model what you expect of them in handling calls or dealing with situations (regardless of their experience, whether a new rookie or a gray-haired veteran). This can be done when you are there with them responding to a call, or if you overhear a phone conversation between them and a complainant, or if you notice how they handle a routine traffic stop. Immediately follow up with feedback – whether positive or negative – so that they know what you expect of them. After you've conveyed your message to them, you must reinforce it on a regular basis.

Keep in mind that both acceptable and unacceptable performance can be addressed positively. "Good job" is easy to say and it needs to be said and repeated often. However, it may take a little more thought on your part to say something like, "Jones, could you clarify a couple of things on your burglary report from yesterday. Maybe I'm not reading



them right.” That sounds a lot better to Jones than “Jones, that report of yours is sloppy, unreadable and unacceptable.” Your positive lead-in to the poor report problem will likely result in Jones being less defensive and, therefore, more willing to listen and correct the problems with his report.

Build Trust

If you are to build a positive rapport with your subordinates, they have to be able to trust you. Employees on all levels need to know that supervisors will always tell them the truth and will always be fair and “up-front” with them. As we all know, this is a LOT easier said than done, but that is exactly what successful supervisors do. This applies to bosses on all levels, from the chief on down.

But, remember, trust is a two-way street – for your employees to trust you, you have to trust them. If you micromanage them or if your employees know you will overreact to their mistakes and you don’t acknowledge their efforts, they will soon lose respect for you.

Cut Red Tape

As management expert Peter Drucker once said, “So much of what we call ‘management’ consists of making it difficult for people to work.” Awkward procedures and/or out-of-date, restrictive or unreasonable policies can all lead to demoralizing the best of employees.

A big part of any supervisor’s job is to make their subordinates’ jobs easier. It may be as simple as helping them find the resources they need to solve a problem; showing them where to find a certain procedure; or teaching them an easier way to do something. It may also be important to explain the reasons for a cumbersome procedure or policy (or so they may think) so that they understand why they must follow it.

If you can make your employees’ job easier, quicker, less cumbersome or, in any way, more efficient and effective, then do it! General Pershing, during World War I, once said, “A competent leader can get efficient service from poor troops; while on the contrary, an incapable leader can demoralize the best of troops.”

Reward Good Work

A big part of any boss’s job is to develop their subordinates to take on greater responsibilities within the department. The bosses who show their subordinates the opportunities available and what they need to do to get to their goal are best serving their subordinates, themselves and the department. This creates a much overused (but accurate in this case)

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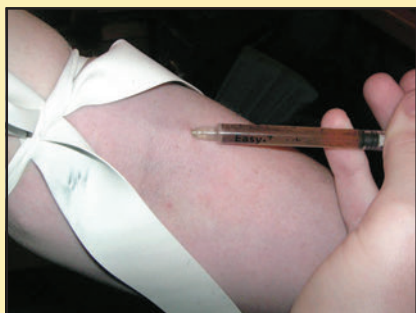


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New York AG Critical of Heroin Antidote's Cost

NEWS



The *New York Times* reported that Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman of New York wrote to the chief executive of a company which makes a heroin antidote medication and demanded an explanation for what he called an "unacceptable" rise in price.

The news report said the two page letter amplified complaints by police and public health officials nationwide about a recent jump in the cost of the drug, naloxone.

To read the complete report, go to <http://tinyurl.com/pjrk7j>.

phrase called "win win."

If you are a true leader, you should want all of your people to be promoted or to move on to the specialty assignments they want. There may not be an official "career counselor" in your agency, but if you want to inspire your employees and increase their motivation, then you can become the official "career counselor" for your shift. Do whatever you can to train them, mentor them and guide them towards a successful career. The employees who want to be successful

will take your advice and counsel and move ahead. Other employees will choose not to, but, at least, you gave them the opportunity.

What's in It for You?

Let's say that you decide to follow the tips in this column. And, let's say that your people come to work with a good attitude, their productivity and morale are high, and your people consistently get promoted. Then, what?

Rest assured that your efforts won't go unnoticed over time. Progressive top

ranking police officials are always looking for good supervisors to fill the promotional vacancies in the upper ranks of the agency. As you have mentored and trained and allowed your subordinates' careers to grow, so, too, will someone above you mentor and train and allow your career to grow. Your pay and benefits will go up and you will take on even greater responsibilities within the department. That's good for you, good for the department, and good for your new subordinates. **P&SN**



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THROUGH THE SIGHTS

Walt Rauch

BERETTA'S ARX100

A State-of-the-Art Battle Rifle!



The ARX100 is a semiautomatic, short-stroke, piston operated rifle which weighs 6.9 pounds and is chambered in 5.56 NATO. The 16" chrome lined, hammer forged barrel has a 1:7 rifling twist with an AR-type M16 birdcage flash hider on its muzzle. The barrel is threaded to accept other muzzle devices.

Go Through the Manual

After taking my T&E sample of the Beretta ARX100 rifle from its nice padded carrying case, embroidered with "ARX100" and "Beretta" on one side, I quickly saw I needed to read the owner's manual. Past the ambidextrous thumb safety above the trigger, any other controls were not quickly apparent to me. (More on all of this below.)

The gas piston system has an adjustment on its exposed front end above the barrel. It has two gas metering settings for variations in ammunition. The settings are marked "S" for standard and "N" for nonstandard (low pressure) ammo. These settings are easily changed by turning the circular valve on the left side. The gas system itself is permanently attached to the barrel.

The barrel is quickly detachable from the receiver without further disassembly of the rifle by locking the bolt back and then pulling down on two frame located, opposing barrel release levers. While holding these down, pulling forward on the barrel frees it from the receiver. Reverse the process to reinstall or replace it with another caliber. (Beretta intends to offer 300 Black Out and .308 Winchester® chamberings in the future.)

Room for Add-ons

The rifle has four Picatinny rails at

nine, twelve, three and six o'clock attached to the barrel and the stock. The rail beneath the fore end is partially covered by a polymer rail cover which is secure, yet easy to slide on and off. The ejection port opens to both sides of the receiver and, by moving the case ejection lever within the action, ejection is changed to either the left or right side.

Techno polymer material is used for the body; the receiver; and the four position, right side folding stock. The other operating parts are metal. The stock folds only to the right side by pushing down on a large release button on the left forward side. For selecting one of the four lengths, you simply squeeze the protruding bar placed inside the back of the stock. When folded, the stock then

secures to the receiver with a molded catch. The butt plate has molded checkering. Assembling the trigger group to the receiver secures them for use. The ARX100 has no pins, nor does it require tools for disassembly or assembly. As far as lubrication, Beretta asserts that almost none is needed. A simple black nylon sling is provided and the rifle has six sling attachment points.

The winged, ambidextrous, manual safety is above the pistol grip and is numbered "1" and "S" which indicate fire and safe, respectively. The rearward angled pistol grip also has a covered storage space in it which has one finger groove

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The operating controls, including the bolt handle, are ambidextrous.

Left or Right

The ARX100 has dual extractors and the bolt handle can be moved to either side of the bolt body. Ejection is changed by moving the ejector selector which is inside the action to the left or to the right. The owner's manual suggests that the bolt handle be switched to the left side of the bolt and left ejection selected when the stock is folded. Note: The firing pin is spring-loaded and the schematic illustration and parts listing shows and states a Drop Safety and Drop Safety Spring.

Stock lengths are changed by squeezing a release bar inside and at the rear of the stock and it locks up solid.

on its otherwise smooth front strap and the backstrap is vertically grooved. Both sides of the grip have small molded checkering. The ambidextrous magazine release is above the ample trigger guard and protected from accidental release with small ledges above it. The trigger guard is not hinged; however, I was able to still use the trigger while wearing a pair of heavy gloves. The trigger is curved and flat-faced with a smooth overall finish. Using a Chatillon trigger pull gauge, the trigger pull measured 9.5 pounds and did not change, despite dry and live firing.

To lock the bolt open without using

an empty magazine, use the ambidextrous, rectangular and grooved vertical sliding catch placed inside, forward and within the trigger guard. Push up or down as needed to hold open or release the bolt. You can also use the other bolt catch which is part of the above releases. Its body runs down and through the stock and its horizontally grooved outside part is behind the magazine well and protrudes slightly. It, too, is protected from accidental release with molded walls around it.



Elevation and windage adjustments are made with the front sight. The Beretta sight adjusting tool is shown on the elevation adjusting disc.

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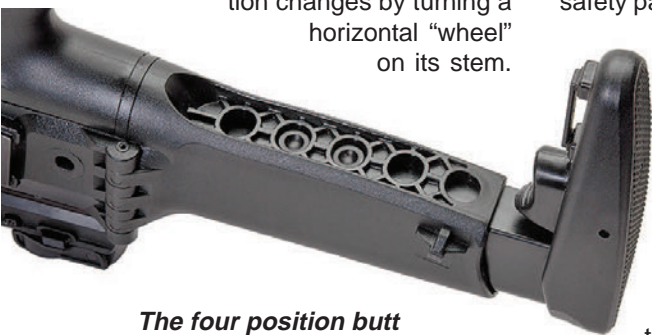
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Up top, folding Back-Up Iron Sights (BUIS) are present. All elevation and windage adjustments are done with the front sight. The rear sight provides five apertures on a disc which allow for quick adjustment for 100 yards or meters and 200, 300, 400 or 600 meters. The front sight is raised or lowered for elevation changes by turning a horizontal "wheel" on its stem.



The four position butt stock is moved by compressing the extended release inside the rear of the stock.

Windage is changed by turning the windage screw on the right side of the sight base. The sights fold flat and lock down or up after a base mounted, spring-loaded button is depressed. Beretta supplies a very small tool for front sight

manipulation (which comes in the same clear bag as the 30 round, all metal magazine). On using these sights, they are high in their relationship to the top of the butt stock.

Takedown

For field-stripping the rifle, after clearing it, fold the stock, then push the safety past its "S" position and hold this while pressing in the disassembly plate which is now accessible in the rear of the open back of the receiver to disengage the lower receiver. Push down on the lower receiver with a slight forward pressure on the lower rear of the grip and remove it. Next, pull the bolt handle out to the point it can be folded forward against the bolt, then remove the bolt assembly rearward. I refer the reader to the owner's manual for this or the Beretta Web site for a video which explains this, as well as the entire rifle (www.beretta.com/en-us/arx-100/#). The procedure is not complicated, but my son and I had to refer to the written instructions and photos more than a few

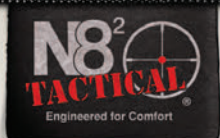


Quick elevation changes can be made on the rear sight by turning the sighting disc.

times to get it right (and only banged our knuckles twice!).

Range Results

As noted earlier, the gas system has two metering settings, one marked "S" for Standard, the other "N" for Nonstandard ammunition. We needed both during our range testing which was done on the 100 yard range of Lower Providence Rod and Gun Club by Joe Venezia and my son, Walter M. We used the iron sights and they needed only a few adjustments to get "on target." We knew going in that the 9.5 pound trigger pull was not going



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CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY RESULTS

The following data was obtained using a Pro Chrony® chronograph at 300 feet above sea level with a temperature of 65 degrees. The rifle used was the Beretta ARX100 in 5.56 NATO caliber with a 16" barrel. The five shot group averages were shot at 100 yards, shot supported using a rest and from a shooting bench.

Ammunition	Group Size	Velocity	SD*
Cor@Bon 69-gr. BTHP	1.75"	2660 fps	18
Hornady 75-gr. TAP Precision BTHP	2.00"	2490 fps	13
Winchester MATCH 69-gr. BTHP	7/8" and 5"	2780 fps	19

*Standard Deviation



The Beretta ARX100, disassembled

to make good group shooting easy and it wasn't. I was willing to accept any five shots which looked like something that could be called a group, so Joe and my son very much surprised me with their results.

I brought the same ammo I had used for a T&E of a 16", 1 in 7" twist AR rifle and had gotten good results with it. We used Cor@Bon 69-grain BTHP (Boat Tail Hollow Point), Hornady 75-grain TAP

(Tactical Application Police) Precision BTHP and Winchester MATCH 69-grain BTHP. Targets were Shoot•N•C® 12" Dirty Bird® targets at 100 yards. We shot supported from a shooting bench. My son started by firing a few familiarization rounds using PMC 55-grain Ball, then switched over to the Cor@Bon load. His very first five shot group measured 2.5" and the rifle was passed over to Joe, who then used the Hornady ammunition and

shot a nice 1 7/8" five shot group. Since he was on a roll, he then switched to the Winchester MATCH load and put his first three shots into 7/8"! Unfortunately, he had moved to better see his results through his spotting scope and his next two rounds opened the group up to five inches. In fairness to his efforts, he had shot over 20 rounds which meant he had pulled the 9.5 pound trigger

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numerous times and simple finger fatigue could have caused this. As it was, we called it a day.

Final Thoughts

After my "tour" through the owner's manual, attempting to digest how and where things functioned, the very well written and well illustrated manual clearly answered all of my questions. And, I found all the controls located so they are easily used – if you know how.

After all that, I had one primary observation. The ARX100 looks as though

Cannabix Technologies Releases Renderings and Video of Marijuana Breathalyzer™

NEWS



Cannabix Technologies, Inc. is developing a handheld THC breathalyzer device for law enforcement and the workplace. Media files and video which show the design and features of the prototype are available for online viewing at cannabixtechnologies.com.

"We are impressed with the amount of increasing interest which has been expressed for the Cannabix Marijuana Breathalyzer device from a wide range of industries and potential users," said Kal Malhi, President of Cannabix Technologies, Inc. "With the legalization of marijuana in several U.S. states and zero tolerance for marijuana impaired driving in 12 states, we can see that the need for the product is significant."

Cannabix reports development of its Marijuana Breathalyzer prototype is progressing well, with hardware circuits and printed circuit board designs now complete. Software development is well underway with drivers for the various subsystems already executing.

"We are working to create a device that will be durable for everyday field use," added Malhi. "A device which will be easy to administer and provide results quickly and reliably."

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SPECIFICATIONS

BERETTA ARX100 RIFLE

Caliber: 5.56 NATO/.223 Remington®

Weight: 6.9 pounds (unloaded)

Barrel length: 16"

Rate of twist: 1:7

Gas system: Short stroke gas piston

Action: Semiauto

Magazine: One AR-type with
30 round capacity

Overall height: 8.5"

Overall length: 35.75"

Overall width: 2.75"

Sight radius: 15"

Sights: Removable/Adjustable

MSRP: \$1950



*Target results at 100 yards –
Joe Venezia's 7/8" three shot group is shown on the upper left target.*

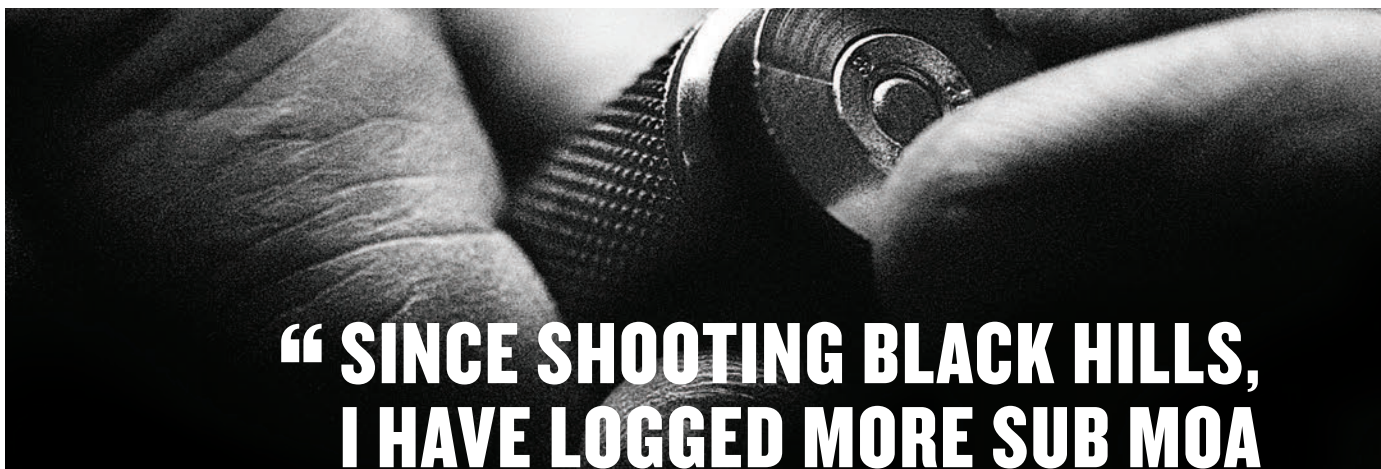
Beretta thought of everything which might be in a government RFB (Request For Bid) document as the ARX100 appears to cover most of the criticisms and suggestions I've come across with the

AR-15/M16 rifle. Since its forbearer is the ARX160, an Italian military arm, there should not be any "bugs" to discover. As far as the heavy trigger, this may well have been a government request which carried over to this rifle. All


in all, the ARX100 is an impressive advancement of the "Black Rifle" genre.

For more information, visit Beretta's Web site at www.beretta.com. And, do watch that video! **P&SN**


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FIFTY YEARS BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A POLICE CAR

Part III

Sergeant James Post

different items over the years, but police memorabilia was a perfect fit for me. By mid-career, collecting became a passion (my ex-wife would argue it was an obsession). To patches, I added door shields, license plates, posters, statues and badges. My only criteria was the object had to say "Police" or "Sheriff." Visitors to my home frequently commented, "You should start a police museum," and the seed was planted. My personal "eureka" moment came when I met a couple of guys who had restored old police cars, the largest police artifacts available.

I've always been a car guy. I owned all types, but police cars became a natural transition for me and were, by far, the cheapest to restore – no candy pearl metal flake, just plain old black or white and no money wasted on chrome goodies. I was hooked.

The first police car I restored was a 1984 CHP Diplomat, complete with all of the correct equipment and markings. I've owned a lot of Diplomats since then and now that I'm down to only one police car left in the garage, it is a Diplomat.

Police Car

Owners of America

That's the name I gave a car club I started in 1991 with a dozen or so fellow police car collectors. To say the club took off like wildfire would be an understatement. By year's end, we had 250 members and, at the high point, we counted over 750 members throughout North America and overseas. The club is still going strong, although I stepped down as president after 20 years.

Prior to our club, there were no books on restoring police cars or technical manuals. There were no accurate police car toys and there were no police car shows. All of that soon changed because of our group. Today, there are over two dozen books about police cars, mostly written by club members and even one coauthored by me. Three club members (including myself) were hired by toy

Welcome to the final installment of a three part chronology of my 50 year relationship with police cars.

October 4, 1990

That's the day I finished my 25 year tour of duty with the Kansas City, MO, Police Department and embarked on a journey into the unknowns of retirement! I soon put on a couple of different badges when I became a full-time security officer at a local high school (bad choice) and a part-time guard with the U.S. Marshals Service (good choice). Both of those lasted the better part of 1991, but I soon craved more diversity in my life.

I had actually purchased my first used

police car – a 1986 Wyoming Highway Patrol Ford – a year before I retired. It was a great daily driver, but I took a lot of flak from my buddies on the job for buying a used cruiser: “Isn’t eight hours in one enough?” I eventually restored it to its full Wyoming glory for a six year tour in my police museum. It’s now the proud possession of a police officer in Spain, but I’m getting ahead of myself.

Collecting Police Memorabilia

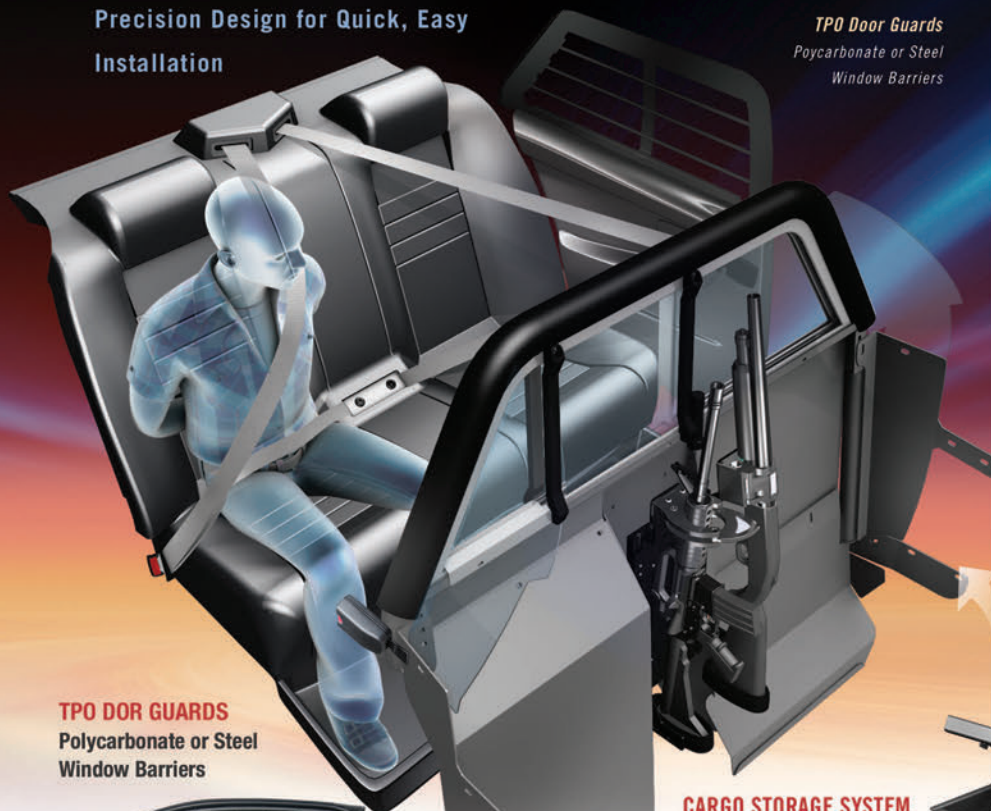
Like most cops, I actually started collecting police memorabilia without even planning on it. Cops from other jurisdictions visiting my department would bring patches to swap. I had collected

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companies to design accurate toy models in various scales. I designed contemporary and antique police car lines for the now defunct Road Champs Company. The car club holds a national convention every summer and they have become media events as our police cars have circled the Indy 500 track twice; participated in Detroit's annual Woodward Avenue Dream Cruise; toured police car assembly plants in America and Canada; and (twice) drove the infamous Dallas JFK route with lights and sirens blazing. It's been an exciting ride.

If You Build It, They Will Come

As my police car collection expanded in step with the car club's growth, I longed for a place where I could display them for others to enjoy. After all, you can only drive one at a time; plus, I'd never forgotten the suggestions about my collection being in a museum.

We relocated to Arkansas in 1994 and the job of creating a museum began in earnest. The first task was to obtain more police cars and memorabilia. The cars had to be restored, if not already, and displays had to be constructed. By 1995, a suitable building was located and interior design began.



Sgt. Post on the set of the movie, Chrystal, with actor Billy Bob Thornton

The Last Precinct Police Museum (one of only three privately owned police museums in the U.S.) opened in 1996 outside Eureka Springs, AR. The name was chosen because it was to be the last police precinct in which I would ever work.

Our museum gave visitors a glimpse into police work worldwide – from the 1800s to the present. Starting with a typical old west sheriff's office and jail, their tour visited major American police departments, federal agencies, highway patrols and state police, and the Royal

Canadian Mounted Police and British Bobbies. Individual displays were dedicated to the tools of the trade: restraints; batons; badges; communications; radar; and, of course, firearms.

The "Police Garage" was where the cruisers lived. There were several featured vehicles which never moved. Other units were rotated in and out to keep the collection fresh. The purpose of my museum was twofold: first, to pay respect to a profession seldom praised and, second, to educate the public and reveal to them aspects of law enforcement

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seldom seen. Because of somewhat limited space, I carefully chose police cars which represented a wide variety of cruisers spanning 50 years of law enforcement.

The rarest museum car was a 1979 Camaro Z-28, the last remaining one of 12 built by GM for the California Highway Patrol. It was joined by my 1984 CHP Diplomat and a 1986 Wyoming Highway Patrol Ford; a 1985 Arkansas State Police Diplomat; a 1980 Impala propane powered cruiser; a 1964 Bel Air representing Eureka Springs, AR; and a 1985 Missouri State Patrol Diplomat. Two 1992 Missouri and Utah Highway Patrol Mustangs were stabled there, along with a KCMOPD 1964 Dodge 880 "Freeway Pursuit" behemoth. Last, but not least, from the movies, there were a 1974 Dodge Monaco Bluesmobile and a 1949 Plymouth Dick Tracy squad car.

Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow

No statement could be truer in the case of The Last Precinct. The years spent and miles driven building my collection were a pure joy; the hours researching and restoring my cars were



Jake and Elwood would be proud – a 1974 Dodge Monaco "Bluesmobile."

a true labor of love; and the huge expenditure of time and money invested in building the museum was well spent, but, once the doors opened, the bubble burst. Don't get me wrong – I met hundreds of great cops from around the world and those are memories and friendships I will cherish forever. The tourists, however,

were another matter, as I sadly learned firsthand why we are sometimes called "ugly Americans" overseas.

I had a lot on my plate, too. Besides putting in 50+ hours a week running the museum and gift shop, I had maintenance and upkeep on the cars, the displays, the facility and the grounds. I was also volunteering as both cop and firefighter and designing the aforementioned toy police cars. I was also running the car club, handling memberships, newsletters and planning conventions. Also, during this period, I was

hired to write the column you are now reading.

In 2000, we moved my father to our home as he had been diagnosed with early signs of Alzheimer's. It was wonderful to spend quality time together which our individual careers had robbed from us in years past.

As dad's health deteriorated and I

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Establishing a Prescription Drug Disposal Program

NEWS



In November, the Office of National Drug Control Policy joined the Drug Enforcement Administration to host a Webinar for community agencies looking to implement drug disposal programs. The safe, environmentally sound disposal of prescription drugs is one of the four pillars outlined in the 2011 Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention Plan to reduce prescription drug misuse and is critical to curbing the national opioid epidemic. Officials and disposal experts from Alameda County, California, also joined to discuss how ordinances might define and fund programs at the county level.

The Webinar can be viewed by going to <http://youtube/xzJOJnhgZZ8>.

had some health issues, too, the mental and physical toll became too much and we made the difficult decision to close the museum in the summer of 2002. Even the closing was planned around a club convention and members were invited to purchase memorabilia from the museum displays and walls.

But, the Beat Goes On

Disposing of the museum's contents became the first order of business which actually continues today. Donated items were returned and many items were provided to the National Law Enforcement Museum being built in Washington, DC.

The cars are another matter, as they are considerably harder to market than soccer moms' SUVs; however, I am pleased with many of their final destinations. I am proudest of the 1980 Impala propane car I had in the museum. I sold it and it was restored by the LAPD Garage into an LAPD replica and it now resides in President Reagan's Library, part of a simulated escort of the President's limo. My 1984 CHP Diplomat is now in the hands of a collector in Florida who shows it almost weekly and it looks as good as when I restored it 25 years ago. Others have gone to the four points of the compass.

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Currently on display at the Reagan Presidential Library is this fully restored 1980 Chevy Impala.

I have continued building and collecting police cars and I've enjoyed owning police cars which were not even imagined when I was a cop, like the Caprices with LT-1 Corvette engines, Camaros, Mustangs and the last generation of Crown Vic Interceptors. In 2010, I finally had the opportunity to purchase my first brand-new police car, a HEMI® Dodge Charger. After owning Mopar muscle cars of the 1970s, what a thrill it was to own this HEMI monster.

We have built four 9-11 tribute cars which have been seen throughout the Midwest. I've had my cars featured in two movies and several commercials. Although we're down to one police car now, we continue to enjoy fellowship with owners of collector cars of all types.

Thoughts on Retirement

In closing, my message is to those members of the fraternity of law enforcement nearing retirement. First, there is life after retirement. The possibilities are almost limitless and the only constraint is your own imagination. Don't hesitate to dream and act on those dreams – unfulfilled dreams become nightmares. Taking chances in retirement is not without risk, of course, but it's always better to give it a shot than to forever wonder "what if." **P&SN**

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ABOVE AND BEYOND

"Above and Beyond..." salutes Senior Investigator John Vescio of the New York State Police

ABOVE AND BEYOND



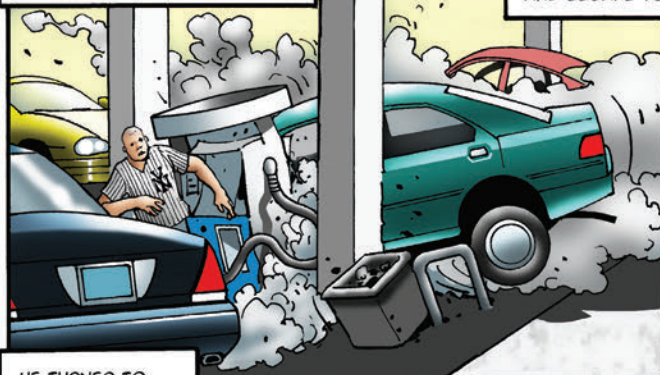
Artwork by Don Lomax

JUNE 3, 2014
WHITE PLAINS,
NEW YORK
11:00 AM



SENIOR INVESTIGATOR JOHN VESCIO, OF THE NEW YORK STATE POLICE, WAS OFF-DUTY, FILLING HIS DEPARTMENT VEHICLE AT A BUSY MOBIL STATION, WHEN HE HEARD AN AUTO-MOBILE APPROACHING THE GAS PUMPS AT A HIGH RATE OF SPEED!

AN OUT-OF-CONTROL SEDAN SLAMMED INTO THE GAS PUMP VESCIO WAS UTILIZING WITH SUCH FORCE THAT IT TOPPLED ONTO VESCIO AND IMMEDIATELY CAUGHT FIRE!



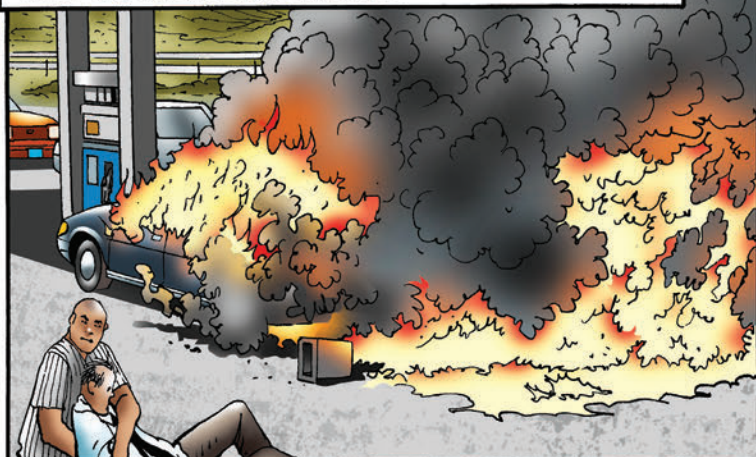
VESCIO MANAGED TO FREE HIMSELF WITH ONLY AN INJURED SHOULDER AND ESCAPE TO A SAFE DISTANCE!



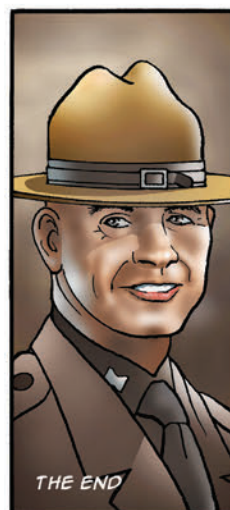
HE TURNED TO REALIZE THAT AN ELDERLY MAN WAS TRAPPED IN THE OFFENDING AUTOMOBILE AND IN DANGER OF BURNING ALIVE! VESCIO RUSHED BACK TO THE SCENE AND EXTRICATED THE MAN FROM THE BLAZING AUTO...



...DRAGGING HIM TO A SAFE DISTANCE BEFORE THE PUMP AND BOTH AUTOS WERE FULLY ENGULFED IN FLAMES!



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Social Media Use for Crime Prevention Is Up

NEWS



Social media use in law enforcement remains high. According to LexisNexis® Risk Solutions, eight out of ten law enforcement professionals use it. The most common use is crime investigations (63%). More than half (51%) are using social media for crime prevention activities, with 67% agreeing social media is an effective tool for crime anticipation, both up from 2012.

The research found the frequency of use is high and on the rise, with a quarter of law enforcement professionals using social media daily and 56% using it at least twice a week.

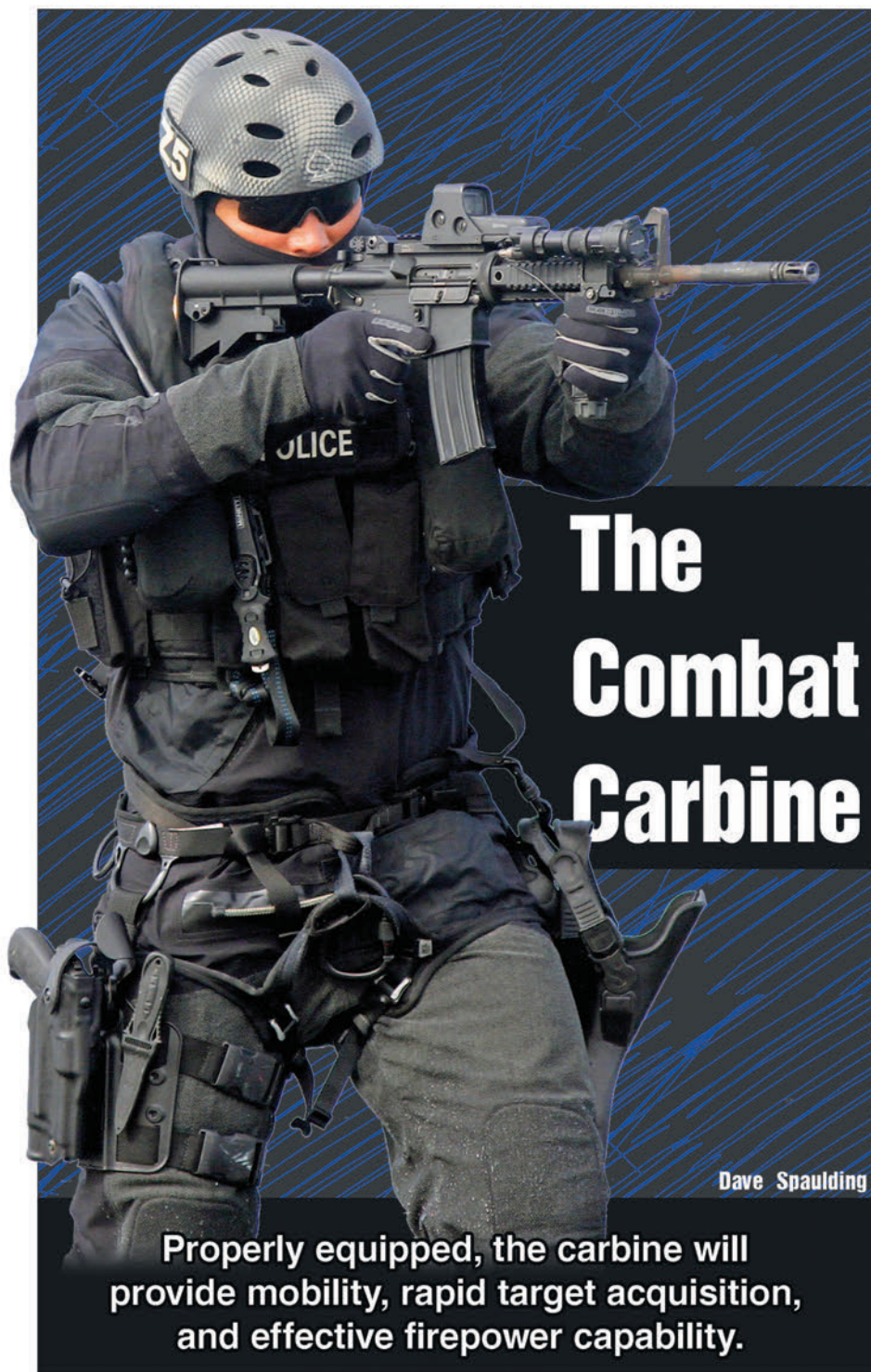
Additional findings include:

- The role of social media in investigations will continue to become more mainstream, as 78% of current users expect to use it even more in the upcoming year;
- Communal, personal sites such as Facebook (93%) and YouTube (67%) are most frequently used for investigative purposes, followed closely by Twitter (50%) which has increased significantly since 2012;
- Despite widespread use, 52% of agencies do not have a formal process governing usage in place and only 33% have someone dedicated solely to monitoring social media; and
- 73% believe social media helps solve crimes more quickly.

Looking at leveraging social media as a tool for managing and communicating information about public events and emergency situations, the study found that 40% use it to monitor special events; 34% use it to notify the public of crimes; and 34% use it to notify the public of emergencies or disasters.

"The benefits of social media from an information gathering and community outreach perspective became very evident during the subsequent investigations of the Boston Marathon bombings and the Washington Navy Yard tragedy," said Rick Graham, Law Enforcement Specialist, LexisNexis Risk Solutions and former Chief of Detectives for the Jacksonville (Florida) Sheriff's Office. "It is imperative that agencies invest in formal social media investigative tools, provide formal training, and develop or amend current policies to ensure investigators and analysts are fully armed to more effectively take advantage of the power social media provides."

For more information on the study and its results, visit www.lexisnexis.com/investigations.



The Essentials

Once you have dealt with setting up your cruiser carbine as desired (lights, sights, slings, etc.), it's time to train and prepare to use the long gun in real-world situations. Every officer needs to give critical thought as to what he (or she) really needs on a combative-grade cruiser carbine, as he should never rely on gadgets for performance! You can't buy skill, so don't even try. As a general rule, an AR setup for law enforcement operations should have an optic; backup iron sights; a sling (the holster for the long gun); a mounted white light with pressure switch activation; and a good muzzle break/flash hider. Additions beyond these will probably make your light-weight carbine clunky, unwieldy and heavy, so think carefully before bolting on useless accessories.

I like the AR-15 platform because it offers a certain continuity of action with the semiauto pistol. It uses a pistol grip; a push-button magazine release; a slide action which can be manipulated with the support hand; and the ability to clear stoppages quickly. "Tap, Rack, Target" is a simple stoppage drill which prepares students for this potentiality and works with both pistols and the AR. Tap the bottom of the magazine to make sure it's seated, rack the action and focus back on the target to access your next move. Controlling the recoil of the two guns is also similar in that putting one's body mass behind the gun will help keep the muzzle on target. The carbine's recoil is even more "rearward linear" than a pistol, as the bore of the AR is actually in line with the stock while the pistol sits above the hand. Having the bore in line with the shoulder makes recoil control all the easier.

Combat Tactics and Drills

With the AR/M4 carbine, combat-grade speed and accuracy is accomplished by the following: Square the body behind the gun with the upper torso slightly forward. This keeps your body weight behind the gun holding the muzzle down. Many shooters want to blade their body due to the length of the gun, but this is a serious mistake in a fight. Think of it as if your upper torso were a gate: When the gate is closed, it's locked in line with the rest of the fence. If the gate is left open to swing, it can be moved with very little effort. Square to the target, the gun is locked down with very little muzzle rise occurring. But, if the body is bladed behind the gun, recoil can actually push it back,

The end goal of shooting any firearm is to hit your target – whether it is in competition or combat. Nowhere are the downsides of a miss as serious as during a gunfight. If you miss, someone may lose his (or her) life and someone will be shooting back at you. Can you shoot your carbine quickly and accurately at distances of 25 yards, or more, under the stress and duress of actual combat – all while incoming rounds are trying to "tag" you?

The primary reason for the cruiser carbine – whether it is an AR-15 or some other platform – is to have a gun with greater reach and precision for the atypical law enforcement situation, such as a sniper, active killer or some other crime in progress. The faster the threat is neutralized, the greater the chance all involved will go home with few, if any, psychological or physical scars. Getting the first hit and following up fast is how a gunfight is brought to a conclusion.

allowing the muzzle to rise unnecessarily. Controlling recoil and keeping the muzzle on target results in fast, accurate shots which end the confrontation quickly!

Get a Grip

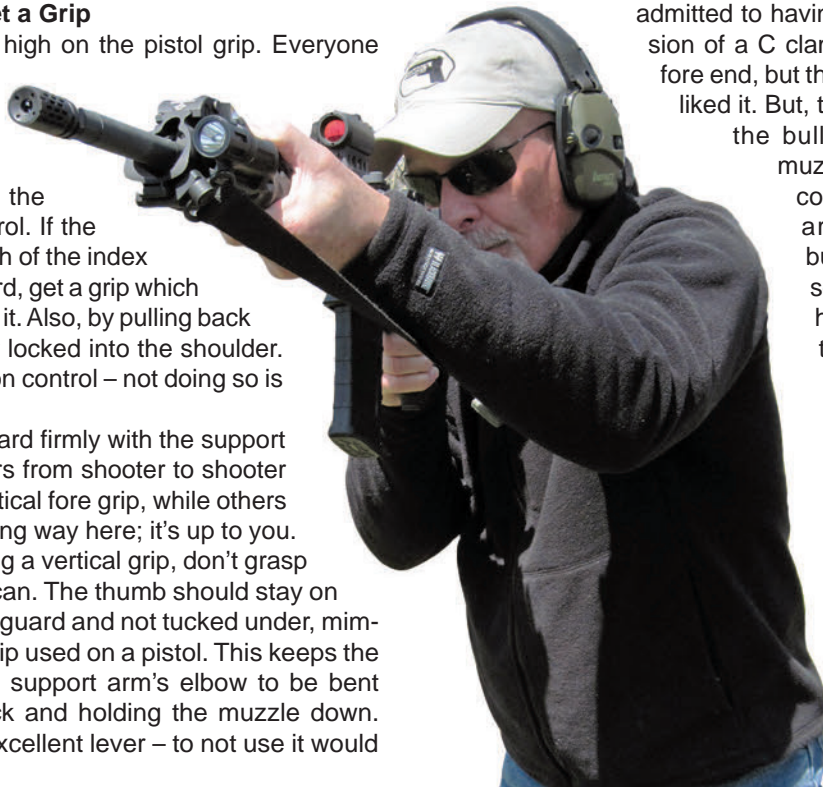
Keep the shooting hand high on the pistol grip. Everyone knows that gripping the semiauto pistol high on the tang helps control the gun. On the AR, it keeps the hand in proper alignment behind the trigger for better trigger control. If the standard grip allows too much of the index finger to enter the trigger guard, get a grip which adds surface material behind it. Also, by pulling back on the grip, the gun is better locked into the shoulder. This further increases weapon control – not doing so is the mark of a lazy shooter.

Grip the forward hand guard firmly with the support hand. How this is done differs from shooter to shooter and some prefer to use a vertical fore grip, while others don't. There's no right or wrong way here; it's up to you. Keep in mind that, when using a vertical grip, don't grasp it like you're holding a beer can. The thumb should stay on the support side of the hand guard and not tucked under, mimicking the thumbs forward grip used on a pistol. This keeps the wrist locked and allows the support arm's elbow to be bent down holding the hand back and holding the muzzle down. The vertical fore grip is an excellent lever – to not use it would be such a waste.

It might be of interest to the readers that I had the opportunity to bring this up during an interview with a couple of recently returned Army Rangers and they admitted to having been trained in a version of a C clamp grip (thumb over the fore end, but the elbow not as high) and liked it. But, they also said that, when

the bullets are flying and the muzzle is leading out around cover towards the threat, around the corner of a building or over a wall, few soldiers want to place their hand near the muzzle, so they end up pulling it back and grasping the magazine well. While I like reaching forward on the hand guard, this is something to consider. Maybe the solution is to

An aggressive forward stance without "over squatting" is important to get the carbine back on target fast.



An essential skill is being able to "check 360" or look to the rear and sides. Lower the carbine from the shoulder just low enough to turn your head.

Variations

Some instructors advocate gripping the hand guard as far forward as possible with the thumb wrapped over the top of the hand guard. This "C clamp grip" allows for an exceptional level of control when driving the muzzle from one target to another and is popular in three gun competition, but it is seldom seen in actual conflict. Watch news footage from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and you'll see many soldiers and Marines grasping the magazine well, a technique I used to use with my HK MP-5 which I still prefer. That said, using this technique infuriates many instructors. In fact, I had an instructor slap my hand when I reverted to it unknowingly during a training course. (He and I had a little discussion about this afterward.)

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Shooting in unconventional positions is an essential skill, as you never know where you will end up in a gunfight.



Practicing to use cover and concealment will better enable an officer to face violence, should it develop.

grasp the hand guard in the middle, but still wrap the thumb over top. It's something to think about.

Positioning

Keep the head locked down on the rear stock. Not only does this give a consistent view through the optic, it also helps hold the gun firmly in place. With the head locked down (the consistent cheek weld) and the shoulders forward, there's no place for the gun to go, so the recoil comes straight back, making follow-up shots very fast. Drop the strong side elbow down: Once you've mounted the carbine as described, the next thing is to drop your strong side elbow. This performs a few

important functions: First, it tightens the pectoral muscle which helps solidify the carbine's position. Second, it helps keep the elbow out of the way of objects and prevents injury. As someone who smacked his elbow on a door frame during a building search for a bank robber, I can't express how important this is. Third, the downward pressure also helps bring the gun tighter into the upper torso.

Control the trigger! Trigger control is weapon control. If you

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Winning a gunfight usually comes down to adapting your practiced skills to the situation which is unfolding before you.

slap, smack, smash or spank the trigger, the muzzle will move – no matter how hard you hold the fore end. It won't be as much as a pistol, but poor trigger control will affect the muzzle. Proper trigger control – whether it's a pistol, shotgun or carbine – is a smooth depression straight to the rear (i.e., press). This will always be the case, regardless of the gun being shot. Control the trigger and you'll control the muzzle.

Proper Tactics

Incorporate tactics into your shooting. Tactics keep you from being seen and shot. Shoot around objects of various sizes and heights; move into and out of position; reload and "run the gun" in unorthodox positions; transition to a secondary weapon; and practice pulling it out of whatever type of rack the gun is carried in while being transported in the cruiser. Combative firearms training doesn't vary greatly from weapon to weapon; it just needs to be relevant and prepare the shooter for the likely situations he (or she) may face. Remember: Winning a gunfight usually comes down to adapting your practiced skills to the situation which is unfolding before you. **P&SN**

About the Author: Dave Spaulding is a 34 year veteran of law enforcement operations. He retired with the rank of lieutenant; is the author of over 1,000 articles; and is the author of two best-selling books.

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How to “Make It Real”



Conducting Interactive Training

Select photos by Mike Boyle; additional photos courtesy of ATK, Simunition®

Mike Boyle

The goal of every law enforcement firearms training program is to keep officers and the citizens they are sworn to protect safe. Most agencies devote a great deal of time and resources to this effort, including purchasing ammunition and maintaining a physical facility, as well as instructor staffing and development. Despite the fact that

training represents a significant percentage of any law enforcement budget, I have often wondered if we are pushing the right buttons to prepare our officers for the harsh realities of the street.

Training That Works

In order to meet this challenge, effective firearms training needs to be conducted on three levels. The most

basic level is static line training. In static line training, participants fire a set number of rounds from a pre-determined distance. Static line training on the square range allows a large number of shooters to participate at the same time and is widely used for the acquisition, maintenance and assessment of basic marksmanship skills.

At the next level, we have dynamic training. Dynamic level training tests the officer's ability to fire with a degree of accuracy while applying basic tactics, such as cover and movement. Shooters may have to discriminate between hostile and friendly targets and use some judgment relative to the number of shots fired and positions utilized. In short, these drills tend to be far less structured than those in static line training and there may be more than one way to arrive at a tactically sound solution. Much like real life, compressed time frames contribute to a higher level of stress.

Finally, we arrive at interactive training. Interactive training requires an officer to apply the concepts of practical marksmanship tactics while justifying their application of force. This sort of training can be accomplished on an electronic simulator, such as a FATS® or MILO system, or through role-playing exercises using marking cartridges.

Generally speaking, interactive training is open-ended and participants are given precious little information on what is to unfold before them. Much like real life, you have absolutely no idea of what is about to play out before you. In some instances, a firearms response may not be justified. Officers who are superb



Participants in force on force simulations have to apply the principles of practical marksmanship and tactics, as well as legal principles.

performers on the square range often come up short when they have to apply these same principles in a fast breaking simulation.

While I do see a great value to electronic simulators, I personally prefer role-playing – force on force simulations in interactive training. Electronic simulators can be pricey and tend to be outside the reach of many agencies, particularly in the era of tight budgets. On the other hand, gear for performing force on force simulations can be purchased for a fraction of the cost. With attention to details, this type of training can be performed in complete safety and training scenarios can be scripted to meet specific agency needs.

Better Prepared?

Are officers who regularly participate in scenario-based training better prepared for a real-world confrontation? I think so. Years ago, I heard some old sage state that your chance of prevailing in armed combat was much better if you didn't begin the process with gunfight number one. This may sound like an oxymoron, but what he was really saying is that prior participation in well scripted training scenarios are a great tool in helping you make the transition from the square range to the street.

In a parallel universe, I would offer the overwhelming success rate of U.S. Air Force and Navy pilots in modern air combat. To cut right to the chase, our pilots are far better trained and have participated in numerous simulated dogfights before going up against a real-life

adversary. This has played out time and time again since the Korean War. Although we may not have the resources of the military, I think the point is well taken. Success favors the prepared individual.



**Simunition® manufactures conversion kits for many popular pistols.
A modified Beretta 92D is pictured.**

Available Technology

My immersion into force on force simulations took place in the early 1980s. My agency modified a number of Smith & Wesson® Model 10 revolvers to shoot some primitive marking cartridges which consisted of cotton balls coated with baby powder. Machine pins were installed in the revolver's cylinders to prevent the chambering of full-length .38 Special cases. Cotton balls were propelled by a primed plastic cartridge case which was shorter than a .38 Special. Our "marking cartridges" were loaded forward of the pins in the cylinder and we were able to achieve acceptable combat accuracy with the primer driven cotton balls out to 15 feet.



An officer puts a tree between himself and the subject with a knife.

A little later on, I was able to participate in some training where paintball guns were utilized. Paintballs brought a new element to the table in that, if you messed up and got shot, there was a pain penalty. This was indeed an interesting concept, but we weren't quite there yet, as paintball guns were not compatible with duty rigs.

Today, we have a number of highly refined marking technologies from which to choose. Perhaps the best known is Simunition® FX®. Simunition markets a number of kits to modify popular police weapons so that they are capable of firing nonlethal FX marking cartridges. Firearms retrofitted with Simunition kits are not capable of firing live ammunition and are safe to use in most any environment. Six different marking colors are offered and FX cartridges deliver tactical accuracy out to 25 feet. In addition to pistol kits, FX conversion kits are available for carbines and subguns. Cartridge adapters are also available for 12-gauge pump shotguns.

Another line of fine products is available from Alliant Techsystems, Inc. (ATK) under the Force-on-Force banner. Force-on-Force cartridges are entirely lead-free, an important quality when training indoors. Marking cartridges are available in a variety of colors and make a dime-sized dot on impact. No propellants are utilized and the marking agent easily washes out of clothing. The six-grain projectile is loaded in an aluminum case and travels downrange at 325 to 425 fps, depending on barrel length. Expect the accuracy from the 9mm marking cartridges to be a four inch group at 25 feet. The Force-on-Force ammo has a maximum "training" range of 50 feet and a maximum possible range of 600 feet. Of great significance, the minimum "safe" distance is one foot. Conversion kits are available for popular pistols, as well as AR pattern rifles. A unique product from Force-on-Force is a felt edge marking knife to help

Developing a Proper Mind-Set During Search Training



According to the "Ten Fatal Errors," published by the National Association of Chiefs of Police, failing to search, or conducting a poor search, has resulted in the deaths of even the most experienced law enforcement officers.

Even in today's policing, it is not uncommon for law enforcement officers to locate weapons which have been missed by other officers in the backseats of patrol vehicles, jail cells, or while conducting secondary pat-down or booking searches. In those situations, officers should consider themselves lucky these dangerous items were not used against them and should serve as a serious reminder of the risks associated with poor searches.

Pat-down and search training is a perishable skill and should be part of every recurring physical techniques training program – from the basic to advanced officer levels. Scenarios should not end simply when the handcuffs are applied, but, rather, after a thorough and systematic search has been conducted and evaluated. The goal should be to instill and reinforce an adequate search mind-set and to avoid just "going through the motions." The use of training props can substantially aid in the development of competent search techniques and proper mind-set.

An example of developing a search mind-set was recently demonstrated at a large police academy in Southern California where Pat-Down Props® were introduced to recruits conducting search training.

The first group of recruits was instructed to conduct recently learned search techniques on a role player. In this first group, the props were excluded from training and not utilized. The searches conducted were acceptable; however, they were performed in a hasty fashion and the recruits appeared to be just going through the motions.

The second group was then instructed to search their partners who had now concealed Pat-Down Props on their person. Knowing the role player had concealed an item of contraband prior to the search, the searches conducted by the recruits were less hasty and were significantly more thorough and systematic.

Unknown to the third group, the Pat-Down Props were excluded from some of the role players, while other role players had concealed props on them. For this last group, the searches were extremely thorough, systematic and took nearly twice as long as the first two test groups. When the third group was asked why some of the searches were so thorough and lengthy, one recruit commented, "Because I thought there was something on them and I was really trying to find it." With the simple addition of including Pat-Down Props in search training, this third group of recruits had successfully developed their own proper search mind-set and demonstrated far superior techniques in contrast to the first group.

Presenting reality-based training which fosters proper mind-set is something all law enforcement instructors should instill at every level of training. Coupled with proper search techniques, the use of Pat-Down Props, or other training aids, can develop proper mind-set; increase competence; and reduce the risk of missing potentially deadly weapons or dangerous items of contraband which may subsequently lead to one of the "Ten Fatal Errors."

For additional info on these new training tools, go to www.PatDownProps.com.

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create realistic scenarios involving an edged weapon.

Yet another consideration is the product line offered by UTM™. Like Simunition and Force-on-Force, UTM offers conversion kits, marking cartridges and protective gear. I remain particularly impressed by their 5.56mm man marking cartridges which are capable of reaching out a bit further than pistol distance.

GLOCK® has also gotten into the game and they offer a dedicated pistol designed to fire marking cartridges. The GLOCK 17T is identical to the firm's highly regarded 9mm service pistol, but is not capable of firing live ammunition. The receiver and magazines of the GLOCK 17T are rendered in high visibility blue to differentiate from the real thing.

Airsoft

Airsoft technology originated in Asia where the possession of personally owned firearms, by and large, is prohibited. With Airsoft, dimensionally identical replica firearms are created which are capable of launching small plastic pellets. Airsoft guns are typically semiautomatic and can be powered by springs, compressed gas or electronically. My personal experience is limited to firearms which run off compressed (green) gas.

So, where does Airsoft fit into the mix? Unlike marking cartridges, Airsoft pellets don't make a mess. I have participated in training scenarios conducted in a hotel ballroom and cleanup was quickly accomplished with a few passes of a vacuum cleaner. Lightweight Airsoft pellets don't have the sting of marking cartridges and, depending on your application, that can be a good thing or a bad thing. I like integrating empty hand techniques into firearms training and Airsoft allows me to do this without all of the protective gear needed for training with marking cartridges. Protective goggles are a must and I would strongly consider a mouthguard and a long sleeved shirt.

On the downside, hits to the body don't have that negative reinforcement quality associated with marking cartridges. Likewise, it's sometimes difficult to ascertain hits fired by officer participants and role players when conducting training scenarios. Nonetheless, I feel that Airsoft can fill a valuable niche in our training.

Safety First

Training with any sort of firearms has an element of danger and this certainly includes scenario-based training. Tragically can easily be averted by adhering to a comprehensive training protocol and



ATK's Force-On-Force line
includes marking cartridges, conversion units and protective gear.

using the appropriate protective gear. Unfortunately, a number of individuals and agencies have not given this the proper attention and we continue to experience "accidents" which have resulted in loss of life. The most common cause has been the presence of live firearms in the training environment.

At no time can a firearm – capable of firing live ammunition – be allowed into the training environment. If a real firearm needs to be used as a prop, key components, such as the bolt, firing pin, or trigger group, need to be removed before allowing its use. Such firearms should be marked or flagged so all participants recognize them as an inert gun. Live ammunition of any type should never be allowed into the training environment. Should an armed individual wander into the area, training should cease until that person leaves. On more than one occasion, I've been present when the boss or other officers stop by to "see how things are going." I recognize that this can be a touchy subject, but, by all means, let these folks know as politely as possible that we cannot continue as long as there are live weapons in the area. Having a sign nearby stating, "Training in progress, no live weapons beyond this point," can help your cause.

Before participating in training, all participants are triple checked for weapons and live ammunition. This also includes knives, OC spray, TASER®s, batons, etc. Initially, participants will check themselves. This includes students, role players and instructors. Next, students will check and pat down a partner. Finally, the safety officer will make a final

check. Don't be insulted if someone asks what that bulge is in your pocket. You might know it's a handkerchief, but he/she doesn't.

During our most recent sessions, only the individual authorized to load magazines and other weapons was the instructor. This ensured that the only ammunition utilized was nonlethal marking cartridges. It's better to be safe than sorry.

In addition to students, instructors and role players, a safety officer should be present. Should an unsafe condition present itself, the safety officer can call a cease-fire and immediately shut down the exercise. For that matter, anyone could – and should – call for a cease-fire if they spot an unsafe condition. Examples could include an unauthorized person entering the training area or a piece of protector equipment coming loose.

It is extremely important for all of the role players to stick to the script. Improvisation defeats the purpose of the exercise and gets people hurt. Scenarios should be realistic and the officer should "win" if they do everything right.

All of the aforementioned companies make protective gear to use in scenario-based training. Minimally, officer participants should wear a helmet with a visor, neck protector and groin protector. I don't like to overdress officer participants, as there should be a pain penalty for doing something stupid. Much like real life, play smart and don't get shot. Bad guy role players who will likely get shot multiple times during a training day need more protective gear to cover the upper body and hands.



Not all scenarios should end with shots fired. In reality, law enforcement officers are far more likely to manage threats with a drawn gun than to shoot.

Making It All Work

Simunition, ATK and UTM all offer instructor level courses to support their product lines. I feel strongly that obtaining instructor certification is an absolute must. These courses not only provide you with a wealth of info on the manufacturers' product line and capabilities, but will give you greater insight into conducting this sort of training safely and creating scenarios.

By all means, pick up a copy of *IALEFI Guidelines for Simulation Training Safety*. This booklet is available for a nominal cost from the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (www.ialefi.com) and is loaded with information on how to conduct force on force simulations in complete safety.

Agencies who only conduct static line training are doing a great disservice to their officers. Not only are they jeopardizing the safety of their officers and the public they are sworn to protect, but they are putting themselves in a high liability predicament. There is a great deal of case law suggesting that departments have a responsibility to train officers under realistic conditions, including decision-making. Quite frankly, if you are not doing this, you are skating on thin ice.

We will never be able to replicate the stress and dynamics of a real live gunfight in training. I would submit that scenario-based force on force training where you match wits against a thinking, moving adversary is the next best thing. It may not be perfect, but it's as real as it can get. **P&SN**

About the Author: 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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Time to Hit the Books:



Strategies for Balancing Education with your Career

Leischen Stelter

Police officers have different reasons for going back to school. Some officers choose to get a degree because it makes them a strong candidate for promotion. After all, more officers than ever are joining the force with an associate's or bachelor's degree in hand, so having a formal degree can help officers keep up with the competition.

Other officers choose to get a degree because it can prepare them for a career outside policing. Education can help build skills and knowledge which complement a career as a law enforcement officer.

Deciding to Go Back to School

Whatever your reasons for pursuing an education, deciding to go back to school is a big deal. It will require you to make time in your life for school and balance school with a full-time career, as well as other commitments and obligations.

"There's no doubt you have to put a lot of other things on hold to get your degree, but, once you put your mind to it, you will find a way to get it done," said Scott Roberts, who has spent more than 20 years in law enforcement. He started as a corrections officer in Connecticut

before going to the academy to become a sworn officer. He has worked as a police officer for several city and county agencies in Georgia and was inspired to go back to school after holding a second in command position at his agency which led to him being appointed as interim chief.

"I decided that I wanted to get back to that position and education was vital to making it happen," he said. "I needed to have a degree to push me over the edge." In 2013, Roberts earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from American Public University.

Yes, You Can

Many officers think the demands of their job are an insurmountable barrier to completing a degree program. "Your schedule can be chaotic and maybe you have a position which demands more time than others – whether that's SWAT or another specialized role," Roberts said. "A lot of people don't think they have the time, but, in reality, they do. Once you decide education is something you want to do, you learn how to fit it in – you find a way to get it done."

Start Small – Don't Overshoot

When you make the decision to go back to school, enroll in just one course. If you're trying online education for the first time, allow yourself time to adjust to the format and to acquaint yourself with the library and other available resources.

"Be realistic with your goals," Roberts advised. "Set your goals high, but be realistic about how you're going to attain them. The last thing you want to do is take on too much and fail and then give up."

Kyle W. has been in law enforcement for 13 years and is currently working for a Federal law enforcement agency. This November, he completed his bachelor's degree in criminal justice at American Military University (AMU), a 100 percent online university. When he first started the program, it took time to determine the best way to balance his course workload.

"While in school, I really enjoyed AMU's eight week course schedule and I eventually learned to start a new course every four weeks instead of starting two courses at the same time," he said. "Overlapping courses this way meant that I never had a ton of work due all at once during finals. It took a few months, but, once I figured out how to pace myself, I was able to balance multiple classes and still produce the quality work which was required."

Learn How to Manage your Time

Time management is the key to success. It will take considerable effort to get into the routine of school and a lot of self-discipline is required to complete a program. "If you can't be strict with

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yourself and you can't self-allocate time to your studies, you're going to fail," Roberts said.

Here are some strategies about how to better manage your time:

- *Set up a schedule for schoolwork and get into a routine.* Using a calendar, make note of all assignment due dates. Setting aside blocks of time on your calendar for schoolwork can help keep you on track. Make sure you set aside time to read assignments as well as write papers. Some students are surprised by how long it takes to complete reading assignments. The key is to be realistic when planning for time to complete schoolwork.

- *Break larger tasks into smaller, more manageable tasks.* As you're evaluating the course and setting up your calendar, make note of large assignments like final papers. Then, take the time to break up this large project into smaller tasks, such as starting the research for the paper, developing the outline and writing. This strategy can help keep you from feeling overwhelmed and also help keep you on schedule.

- *Prioritize projects.* Determine which projects are the most important and have the shortest deadline and work on them first.

- *Plan around your best work hours.* Most people know how their body and mind feel at various points of the day. If you're a morning person, get up early and work on schoolwork. If you're a night owl, schedule schoolwork in the evening. Try to plan your work around the times of day when your body and mind function best.

- *Assess and adapt your schedule.* You may not master the balancing act of school, career and family life on the first try. Make note of what worked for you and what didn't and adjust accordingly.

Do Not Let Yourself Procrastinate

Do not wait until the last minute to complete your schoolwork; it will only add to your stress level and your work will not be as good.

"I used to be a huge procrastinator. I would have an assignment due in two weeks and I would wait until a few days before it was due and try to cram it in all at once," said Ryan Dobbs, a federal law enforcement officer in Washington, DC. He earned his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Penn State before joining the department.

When he decided to go back to school for a master's degree, Dobbs wanted to diversify his knowledge base. He graduated from AMU in June 2013 with an MA in Homeland Security. In October 2013, he was promoted to sergeant.

Dobbs learned quickly that planning ahead and getting work done in small pieces and ahead of deadlines saved him a lot of stress and late nights.

Similarly, Kyle also saw the dangers of putting off schoolwork. "I quickly learned that procrastination was not a valuable trait and I needed to start projects and papers sooner rather than later to avoid trying to play catch up at the end," he said.

Don't Underestimate the Challenges of Online Learning

Online education has a lot of benefits for police officers. Many officers choose to pursue a degree at an online university because the schedule is much more flexible than traditional brick and mortar schools. At AMU, for example, courses start at the beginning of every month and typically run for eight weeks. This means that officers can design their course load around busy times of the year. With online classes, assignments can be completed any time during the week – day or night.

"Just because [the online format] is convenient, doesn't mean it's easy," Roberts said. "I would say an online program is actually harder." Online education requires a lot of self-discipline, reading and writing. Don't fall prey to the notion that, because the schedule is more flexible, the classes are easier.

Another common misconception among prospective students is that online learning requires less time than a brick and mortar class. While you will save time because you aren't commuting to and from a physical classroom, expect to spend more time writing. The online format relies heavily on the written word as its primary form of communication with the professor and other students.

Instead of participating in a verbal conversation with students, those conversations take place in online forums where answers and questions are all written. This can take a lot of time and effort.

Introduce Yourself to Your Professors

One of the most challenging aspects of online learning is that you do not get to meet your professors in person. However, just because you can't shake his (or her) hand does not mean you shouldn't introduce yourself via E-mail or a phone call.

Getting to know your professor early in the course can be very important for police officers and others who often have unexpected work obligations.

"Establishing good communication with your professor early can help easily resolve any issues you may encounter throughout the course," said Kyle. There were several times throughout his program when he was pulled away for work reasons and couldn't complete an assignment on time. But, because professors knew him and understood the nature of his job, Kyle found they were very understanding and he was able to get extensions on assignments.

The earlier you can let professors know about a conflict, the better off you'll be. Don't wait until long after the assignment

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is due; be in touch with them as soon as a situation arises and keep them updated about your progress.

Preparing to Going Back to School

Talk to your family. You will be more likely to succeed in school if you have the support of your family. Before you enroll in your first class, talk to your family members about the time commitment needed for you to get your degree. Be clear with them that you will need uninterrupted quiet time to read and complete assignments. Setting these expectations with your family early means it will be easier to get the time you need for school.

Designate a study space. Find a place in the house where you can work. Whether it's an office space or the kitchen table, find a place where you can immerse yourself in schoolwork. Be sure to let your family know when and where you plan to do your schoolwork, so they know not to interrupt you.

Consider having family study time. If your children are school-aged, designate a family homework time. Whether you sit down together or work in your respective study areas, having a quiet time in the house can help everyone succeed in their education.

By talking to your family about your educational efforts and asking for their support, you are making it clear what an important role they play in your education. Taking this step can also provide a great example for your spouse and children. When they see how hard you're working in school and how dedicated you are to succeeding, this sends an important message about the importance and value of education.

When in Doubt, Don't Delay

There will always be reasons why now is not the best time to get your degree. Completing a degree program will require a lot of time and work, as well as a major shift in your priorities. In order to make time for school, you will likely have to give up something such as family time or leisure time. However, the strategies discussed above can help you be better prepared and balance your career, school, and life obligations.

"The best advice I can give to other officers is: Do it. Do not wait; do not think you will never need it; and do not think it is not worth it. Every piece of schoolwork I did was worth every minute and every penny," said Kyle.

"Even if your aspirations are not to rise to the command or management level, having a degree simply makes you a better officer," he said. "You will gain a

better understanding of the criminal justice field as a whole which can only lead to more opportunities now and in the future." **P&SN**

About the Author: Leischen Stelter is currently a staff writer with American Military University, writing about issues

and trends relevant to professionals in law enforcement, corrections, fire services, emergency management and national security. You can read more of her articles on the blog, InPublicSafety.com, and follow her on Twitter @AMUPoliceEd.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY

Custom Carrier Program



Mayhem recently introduced a new **Custom Exterior Carrier Program**, a no minimum program which allows great standard features like a water-resistant, 500 D nylon outer shell;

full-size chest pockets; a large hidden internal pocket with center zip access; hidden ink pen holders; a back-saving cummerbund system; front and back trauma plate pockets; and a built-in suspension system which can attach to your duty belt keepers. You can choose the custom features to add to this basic carrier.

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The **Safe Cycle**, from Warrior Tech, LLC, was designed for officers who need to maintain a safe weapon in the cruiser or rack, yet have the ability to quickly chamber a round under extreme stress. Operation is simple and the device is reliable. It does not inhibit deployment, yet it provides a visual indicator that the weapon needs to be charged for all to see. In less than one second, it can be cleared and a round can be chambered using gross motor skills.

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BUSTED!

James L. McClinton, Ph.D

You could say she went to jail for love... Authorities in Kentucky said a woman arrested on methamphetamine charges was wearing an "I [heart] Crystal Meth" T-shirt at the time of her arrest. The Laurel County Sheriff's Office said the 37-year-old woman was wearing the T-shirt when she was arrested alongside a 57-year-old man, as part of a drug investigation. Police said the suspects were in possession of 3.37 grams of crystal meth, as well as a set of digital scales. (*"Always dress for success!"*)

He was arrested for TWS (Texting While Stupid)... A New York state man was recently convicted after accidentally texting his probation officer a message that he was seeking marijuana. Prosecutors said the Albany man sent his probation officer a text message reading, "You have some weed?" Authorities responded by raiding the man's home and seizing a bag of cocaine. The accused pleaded guilty to cocaine possession and was sentenced to one year in prison. (*He should be a poster boy for not legalizing marijuana.*)

"Felony," a new fragrance for men... Officers in western Oregon say a suspect they tried to collar at a traffic stop drove too fast for pursuing officers. The driver gave officers in Linn County the slip in a high-speed chase before dawn, doing better than 100 mph in a red Honda Prelude. But, Lebanon police later saw the car parked and launched a search by foot. That's when officers caught a "strong scent of cologne" in the darkness and soon found their suspect hiding in shrubbery. Officers said he told them he regretted using the cologne. (*The Fast and the Fragrant!*)

Seriously, they wanted to burglarize the Dollar Store?... Two men ran out the door of a Houston Family Dollar store after a failed theft attempt. According to the surveillance video, one man had removed items from a bottom shelf while the store was still open and crawled behind the shelf space just before his partner came by and restocked the shelf (thus, hiding his buddy). After the last

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



I guess she thought her mug shot was gonna be taken by Olan Mills...

In Columbus, Ohio, local police established "Warrant Wednesday" online. Each week, they post mug shots on Facebook of crooks they are looking for. Recently, they posted a picture of a 34-year-old woman, along with details of a robbery and kidnapping she was alleged to have taken part in. In less than 48 hours, she reached out to the police, calling to say that the mug shot was unflattering and demanded that they take it down. The detective said, "Sure, come on in and we'll talk about it." When the woman showed up at the station house, she was placed under arrest. It's not known if she was pleased with her new mug shot. (*We have some bracelets which will really bring out the color of your eyes!*)

employee had closed up around 11:00 p.m., the "hidden" (and extremely patient) man crawled out, surely intending to let his partner in so he could start snatching things. Unfortunately, the "hidden" man was only able to take a few steps before a motion detector sounded an alarm and both men fled on foot. (*At the very least, hide out at the Five Below store.*)

The twinkle in this crook's eyes was just the sun shining between his ears!... A 24-year-old man and a buddy were charged with robbing five sunbathers in Dania Beach, Florida, at gunpoint. Police quickly picked up the two suspects based on a lookout for the only man around with the word "Misunderstood" tattooed in large letters across his

forehead as the alleged crook had. (*"Don't get me wrong, Judge, I was just borrowing the money and planned to give it back!"*)

The dog knew how to fetch a bone – fetching a bonehead was just as easy... Police in central Alabama say a man's own dog helped officers bust him on a drug charge. A Prattville Police spokeswoman said the pooch named Bo followed his fleeing master who was being pursued by officers. The chase began when two drug officers arrived with a search warrant and the suspect took off running. After an investigator pointed at him and told the dog, "Go get him," that's what Bo did. (*Who's a good boy? Who's a good boy? You're a good boy!*) **P&SN**

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