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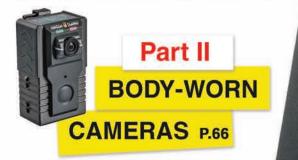
MAY/JUNE 2015 VOLUME 31 ISSUE 3

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HOW GOOD A BOSS ARE YOU? P.12

# CONCEALED CARRY P.52 CONSIDERATIONS

All law enforcement officers have a need to carry a concealed handgun



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# FOCUS

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#### Mike Boyle

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#### **ON THE COVER**



Holster Selection: Considerations for Concealed Carry Applications

How to select the proper holster for your needs.

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# ...AND Nothing But The truth

ey, tough guy. Yeah, you, the cop. You know, we all have some of that macho stuff going on, don't we? I am speaking primarily to the men, but the rest of this column shouldn't be ignored by the female officers out there, either. The women are better at personal disclosure than we are. They share things – really personal things – and feelings with their close friends and family. We don't, although there is some personal disclosure later in this column from me to all of you.

You fellas, though, c'mon, you strap on that belt, adjust it in the mirror, see the gun and the shiny badge in your reflection and, well, you like it. There's nothing wrong with that, nothing at all. What comes with that tough uniform cop image (and detectives, too) which we carry around is also this shell which we start to build around us. It's a protective shell and it's important. It's the shell which forms around our emotions - kind of like the stuff that an oyster forms around that morsel of sand or grit which eventually becomes a pearl. After a few years of seeing what we see, doing what we do and dealing with the pain, suffering, violence, and tragedy, the pearl which is our emotions is pretty well surrounded by that "toughness."

If you've never read the lyrics to the Jackson Browne song that I cited just



#### Doctor, my eyes have seen the years And the slow parade of fears without crying Now I want to understand

#### "Doctor My Eyes" by Jackson Browne

above this sentence, you should. It is as if he wrote it for police officers, combat veterans, emergency room nurses and others who have seen the "slow parade of fears, without crying." We have to protect the pearl, there is no doubt. We can't afford to start choking up on homicide scenes. We see the horror, the grief of the survivors and the suffering, but it doesn't get through the



psychological Kevlar® we've wrapped ourselves in, out of necessity, so we can function and do our jobs. But, there's a price to pay for the constant management and suppression of our feelings. Ask the millions of military personnel who have come back from every war in history. Only recently has the medical community given it the well-known name we all recognize: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. It can hit at different times and the movie Patton has a riveting scene which demonstrates that not all of us are cut out for the stress of combat. The General visits a field hospital, commends several of the wounded and then wonders why one of the soldiers is whimpering, with no apparent injuries. When he is told that the young man is stressed by the violence, Patton becomes enraged and slaps the soldier, angrily ordering him back to the front lines. Later, he says that all he was trving to do was restore the soldier's dignity and self-respect.

Yes, we need to operate with dignity and self-respect. But, eventually, things may worm their way into our

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POLIGE

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#### ... and nothing but the truth

psyche. Sometimes, it might not happen until after retirement, when the protective material around the pearl is no longer needed and it starts to dissolve. Then, things happen which we don't expect, like crying at movies, as a mild example. We're cops and we need to be tough, and we need to be ready to react and protect and do all the things which are expected of us. We are, however, human beings and we have to be careful how we deal with the management of our emotions. Turning off the emotional spigot completely can have profound effects on our personal lives. You've shut off your emotions while you're out on patrol, or out handling cases. Then, you come home to your wife, your kids, your parents. How do you open the spigot again? A lot of us don't know how or maybe we don't even realize that we have shut it off and so we have relationship problems.

I've been out of the job for nine years now. When I look back on my career, I see a lot of things through a different prism. I think I survived the slow parade of fears pretty well, though I had my moments. Part of that was my embracing the civilian life when I was home. Yes, I had cop friends, but not all of my friends were cops and that was important. Immersing yourself in nothing but police company and police talk may not have a real positive effect on your nonpolice family members. They really *don't* understand and that's not their fault.

I played my guitar at home from time to time and spent time writing – for this very magazine. Those outlets helped immensely. When my two sons were old enough, I spent a lot of time doing Boy Scout activities and camping with them. One homicide case was the catalyst for that.

It was late 1991 and I had been in homicide for almost seven years. Our team got a shooting in the northwest section which started as a home invasion robbery. The robbers went into a house, terrorized the couple there and, as they fled, they fired a random shot out the passenger window of their car. Why? It was totally unnecessary; it amounted to the pistol blast you always saw in cowboy movies as a show of bravado. The round went through the neighbor's front window and struck a woman in the head as she sat watching TV with her two-year-old son in her lap. She fell to the living room floor, dead. The uniform officers who arrived found the two-year-old standing over his mother's body, screaming. When we got there, the little tyke was still wailing as a female family member tried to comfort him. As I walked out of the house, I suddenly felt this very unfamiliar and foreign feeling: a sob, springing up in my gut, working its way up to my throat. Tears filled my eyes and I started to panic. I walked away from the yellow tape and found a dark corner of the front yard.

"Get a hold of yourself, Nyberg...stop it...stop it," a group of uniformed brain cells in my head were yelling through megaphones.

And, I did. The sob never made it completely out, but there was trouble in paradise and I knew it.

That night, I went home and agonized over the experience. Had I lost my mojo? Was I done? Should I transfer out of homicide? Where would I go? I loved the job, but maybe it didn't love me anymore. I finally found a compromise when I remembered that I had put in for the Cold Case squad a couple of years before. There hadn't been an opening, but, magically, the opening happened a short while later and I was still in homicide, just not on the front lines. I could have stayed in rotation and I could have "handled" it. but at what price? Looking back, Cold Case worked out for me. We were always busy, but not chaotic, and our dealings with next of kin were typically years after the murder, so the emotional onslaught was tamed way down.

I write this in hopes that some of this resonates with at least a few of you. This isn't just any job and, when you've been in it long enough, all you have to do is look around the squad room to remind yourself that fractured lives, alcoholism, divorce and suicide have been this profession's constant shadow.

Protect that pearl, brothers and sisters, but don't bury it so far that you can't find it when you need it. **P&SN** 

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years in police work. He now owns his own private investigation agency, Nyberg Security and Investigations, and can be reached at Ramesh@NybergPi.com. He enjoys getting feedback from readers.

# FROM THE ELITE



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# FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

#### New Prisoner Transport Inserts and Accessories



Havis, Inc. recently announced new prisoner transport inserts, accessories and a configurator. Through its continued collaboration with vehicle OEM partners, Havis designed prisoner transport systems specifically for the latest standard and long length Ford, Chevrolet, Dodge Ram, Nissan NV and Sprinter vans. These inserts are available in 80", 100" and 120" lengths with one, two or three compartments for safe and secure transport of up to 12 prisoners. Havis inserts utilize a lighter weight and structurally engineered aluminum design for maximum security and for minimum stress on the van's chassis. This design includes standard safety features such as emergency exit hatches and heavy-duty "slam latch" doors which maximize security by automatically locking the compartment when the door is shut.

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### **Police Vehicles and Equipment**

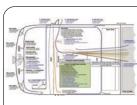
#### **New Front Windshield Interior Light**



Code 3<sup>®</sup>, Inc. recently introduced the **SuperVisor<sup>®</sup> Flex**, an updated version of Code 3's front windshield interior light, the SuperVisor U. It is designed to fit the windshield curves and angles of most vehicles and is available in Torus Multicolor (18 up)

and single color (nine up) lightheads. The adjustable side shield plates have been designed specifically to block out flashback light from the sides while the lightheads are situated to project light straight ahead. This two-part (one on the driver's side and one on the passenger's side) interior light can be mounted on almost any vehicle.

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#### New Harness Series

The Installer IFL1-Series is part of MNSTAR's adapt-

able design which allows you to select the right features and layout for your specific installation. The Level 1 Harness routes through the center of the vehicle with the braiding stopping at the center console. The IFL1-\* supports a wide array of sirens and switchboxes. The harness can be cut to length based upon installation locations of the controllers. A unique CanTrol<sup>™</sup> Level 1 harness, the ICANF1-\* is designed to support the centralized light head flashing of that product range.

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#### New Docking System

IntelliSkin<sup>™</sup> is a new product from the makers of RAM<sup>®</sup> Mounts which offers device protection and integrated charging capability with the use of GDS Technology<sup>™</sup>. GDS, or Global Docking System, provides universal connection and



charging for a variety of mobile devices. The **IntelliSkin** sleeve features integrated docking contacts which can be docked with any GDS dock or charging cable. The GDS dock allows for multiple inputs, including external monitor, mouse, keyboard and speakers.

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#### New LED Light



Code  $3^{\circ}$ , Inc. has introduced the **Forge**<sup>TM</sup> **LED Light** with high intensity LEDs in a rectangular enclosure for push bumpers or other locations. It offers 20 LEDs with individual reflectors which provide outstanding light output in a very cost-effective package. You can choose from red, blue, white, and amber LEDs and seven different flash patterns. The dimensions for the **Forge LED Light** are 5.9" wide x 2.1" high x 1.2" deep.

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#### New Inserts for Ford Transit



American Aluminum Accessories now offers Inmate Transport (IT) inserts for the Ford Transit to fit the low, mid, and high roof patterns. Hand fabricated of high strength, lightweight, durable, no rust aluminum, they provide a secure driver cab; diamond plate floors to improve traction; welded and riveted construction to provide durability; and a quiet ride. Individual inmate safety restraints and front emergency exits for every compartment provide security and access in emergency situations. Clear polycarbonate covers provide viewing of inmates and camera/DVR systems are available for enhanced surveillance.

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### LAW ENFORCEMENT **EADERSHIP**

# How Good a **Boss Are You?**

**Michael Carpenter** 

#### KNOWING ONE'S SELF IS CRITICAL TO **BEING SUCCESSFUL (IN ANY PROFESSION).**

hink about the bosses whom you've worked for over the years. You can probably use the bell-shaped curve to describe them: a few were good bosses...most were okay...a few had no business being promoted. As a supervisor, you should not be satisfied being labeled as just an "okay" boss.

One trait which all of the better bosses I've worked for over the years had was honesty. We should all strive for that in our personal and professional lives. Of course, honesty can be defined in many ways. We often associate honesty with "being truthful." We typically think of being honest or truthful in our interactions with other people. How about taking this one step further. Let's try to be honest with ourselves.

Survey

Excellent

To be successful, you must be able to take an objective and realistic look at your



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See us at PSE - Booth #942 Circle 3018 for More Information ] Good own performance as ] Average a police supervisor. Evaluating your own performance will help vou to maximize vour strengths and minimize your weaknesses in your current position and, of course, in your future career moves.

JPOOR I know of one police department which made a concerted effort to improve relationships between officers and supervisors. One of the first steps this chief did in his unique employee oriented initiative was to give all employees an anonymous survey. Part of this anonymous survey asked employees of all levels (not just police officers) what they valued most (or wanted most) from their supervisors.

> Here are a few of their responses. But, before you go on, let's try the "honesty game." There are three rules. First, read through the "Top Nine" things that employees want from their bosses. Then, honestly (the being "truthful with yourself" type of honesty) rate yourself on a scale of one to ten for each category. The third part of this will be explained after you read through all nine and rate yourself.

#### 1. Set a Good Example

Are you a model police officer or supervisor, both on and off duty? Is your uniform clean and pressed? Are you a professional in all aspects of vour personal and private lives/ Do you look like, sound like and act like a professional?

There are also other ways which you can set a good example. Do you bad-mouth your boss in front of your subordinates? When you come to work, are you enthused, motivated and "ready to go"? Are you a part of the community which you serve - living there and contributing to public service activities, both on and off duty? Do you insist upon excellence from your people and yourself?

#### Score yourself 1-10 2. Manage Correctly

The best managers don't overmanage or undermanage. The best supervisors know how to strike a balance. They give their people the freedom to perform their jobs and balance that freedom with the proper amount of guidance and control.

There is a big difference between delegation, mentoring and ordering. Every employee has different strengths and weaknesses. Good supervisors take the time to learn about each of their subordinates and give them opportunities to develop skills which will be inspiring to them and good for the department. For example, some police officers are better at criminal investigation than others or some are better at administrative tasks than others. The better bosses try to match a task to the employee who can do it best.

Score yourself 1-10 \_

#### 3. Respect Subordinates

This trait encompasses both personal and professional respect for your people. How do you respect them – both as people and as officers? A few years ago, I was speaking to a sergeant about "the job" and he made the comment, "Most of my job involves babysitting a bunch of guys who were too stupid to get promoted." That's not a really positive, supportive opinion of the people with whom you work.

Good supervisors take a "we're a team" approach rather than an "I'm the boss" approach.

Score yourself 1-10 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. Be Consistent

As a police supervisor, you should enforce rules and regulations equally with all of your subordinates. You can't play favorites and you need to treat everyone in your unit equally, consistent with their performance. That's hard to do. We are all human enough to like some people more than others – it's easier to discipline the ones whom we don't like. We may socialize with some subordinates more than others and it's not easy to discipline someone who we routinely have drinks with or if your families go camping together.

Score yourself 1-10

#### 5. Have Adequate Experience

Successful police careers are built on three separate, but connected, pillars: education, training and experience. The higher up you go in your organization, the more of these three you need.

Let's not argue the value or worth of a college education. I hope that most of us can agree that, the more education you have, the more likely your success. If you go back to school while you're working, you are increasing your chances for success and also acting as a role model for your subordinates.

It seems like training opportunities are becoming less frequent as agencies face budget battles. That's even more reason to take advantage of any schools which come your way. Even if you are not interested now, you never know where you'll





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be or what you'll be doing five or ten years from now. Besides, if the boss wants to send you to a school which is outside your area of interest, maybe he is setting you up for an opportunity you aren't aware of yet. More training gives you a more wellrounded background to better help your employees.

AW ENFORCEMENT LEADERSHIP

Do you have all three in adequate amounts?

#### Score yourself 1-10 \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. Be a Good Communicator

Successful police commanders have the ability to communicate with their subordinates, peers and superior officers professionally, both orally and in written communications, and with a degree of diplomacy in all directions.

We all know the value of being able to write a police report well or testify in court professionally, but supervisory communication is different. You aren't dealing with victims or suspects. You're dealing with coworkers and bosses and peers. You can survive in law enforcement with average or below average communication skills, but you won't be successful. Are your total communications skills exceptional or merely adequate?

Score yourself 1-10 \_

#### 7. Take Care of Subordinates

Part of your duties as a police supervisor is to ensure that your people know what is expected of them and to ensure that they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to perform their duties. They need you to guide them and make sure that they know applicable laws, case law, departmental policies and procedures so that they can feel secure about doing their jobs. Their training is your responsibility.

A supervisor can make sure their subordinates know what is expected of them in some obvious and some subtle ways. Better supervisors are good teachers: They sometimes guide, sometimes instruct, sometimes inquire, and sometimes direct their subordinates. Are you continually living up to that responsibility?

Score yourself 1-10

#### 8. Back Subordinates' Decisions

Sometimes, you may not be on scene to help your people make critical decisions. Are you willing to support your people when they make decisions in the field or are you a "Monday morning quarterback," criticizing the decisions they made in seconds, on the scene, when you weren't there?

Subordinates who trust their supervisors and who are better prepared to make decisions (see #7) are more confident in their abilities to make the right decision. The fear of retribution by a supervisor sometimes puts enough fear or doubt in the mind of an employee to inhibit his (or her) decision-making process. If your employees fear you, or fear an overreaction by you to a decision they make, the solution for them may be simple: Don't do anything.

Do you tend to throw your subordinates "under the bus" or are you confident and secure enough in your position as a supervisor to support them when



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#### they need it?

#### Score yourself 1-10 \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Honesty

Successful police supervisors or commanders are honest. If you are not honest, you may survive, but you will not have the respect of the good people in your unit. Repeatedly, surveys show that honesty is the number one quality officers want in their police supervisors! Are you totally honest with your people as well as yourself?

#### Score yourself 1-10 \_\_\_\_

#### Add It All Up

Now, add up your score for these nine traits. Your total is \_\_\_\_\_\_ out of a possible 90. So looking at your score, I bet you're pretty good. Probably at least a score of 81; maybe an 85; no doubt a few of you scored 90 out of 90. Really?

Remember back in the introduction to this column, I mentioned that there is a third part of this "game"? Here it is, but I must warn you – not all supervisors will want to finish the "honesty game." You just "honestly" evaluated your supervisory skills in a very small and limited survey. Good. That's a start. Now (if you dare), give this survey to all of your subordinates (anonymously, of course) and see how they score you. If the two sets of scores are close, then good for you. If your score is significantly higher than your subordinates' scores, then there is a problem. Occasionally, your subordinates will rate you higher than you think you are. That's REALLY good (...or they're lying).

#### A Pitfall

Here is the big problem you encounter when you rate yourself higher than your subordinates rate you: You think you're wonderful, but, in reality, you're not! There is something called the "selffulfilling prophecy" which happens when a person unknowingly causes a prediction to come true, due to the simple fact that he (or she) expects it to come true. In other words, an expectation about a person (boss) can affect a person's behavior towards that person which causes the expectation to be realized. So, if your employees THINK you are a good boss, then they treat you that way and they act that way. If your employees think you are dishonest or don't respect them or don't take care of them, then you don't. <u>I believe that the third part of this game is the most important.</u>

The question to ask yourself is this: Are you living up to their expectations of what your employees expect from you as a supervisor? Your career is a constant learning experience. Challenge yourself to get better as a boss – today.

#### P&SN

Mike Carpenter has been working in the field of law enforcement for more than 30 years. He has written several books on the topic of police leadership and supervision, as well as more than 100 articles for publications. He runs a successful consulting business, www.PoliceManagement.com. You can contact Mike at MJCarpenterX2@ yahoo.com.



# LEGAL UPDATE

IS THE FOURTH AMENDMENT VIOLATED WHEN AN OFFICER PULLS OVER A CAR BASED ON A REASONABLE, BUT MISTAKEN, BELIEF THAT THE TRAFFIC LAWS PROHIBIT THE DRIVER'S CONDUCT?

# A Reasonable Mistake of Law



Larry E. Holtz, Esq.

A s a basic principle, the Fourth Amendment prohibits "unreasonable searches and seizures." Under this standard, a search or seizure may be permissible even though the justification for the action includes a reasonable factual mistake. "An officer might, for example, stop a motorist for traveling alone in a high occupancy vehicle lane, only to discover, upon approaching the car, that two children are slumped over asleep in the backseat. The driver has not violated the law, but neither has the officer violated the Fourth Amendment." *Heien v. North Carolina* (U.S. 2014)

But, what if the police officer's reasonable mistake is not one of fact, but of law? In *Heien*, "an officer stopped a vehicle because one of its two brake lights was out, but a court later determined that a single working brake light was all the law required." The question presented was whether such a mistake of law can nonetheless give rise to the reasonable suspicion necessary to uphold the seizure under the Fourth Amendment. Holding that it can, the United States Supreme Court determined that because "the officer's mistake about the brake light law was reasonable, the stop in this case was lawful under the Fourth Amendment."

The Case: The facts unfolded in late April, shortly before 8:00 a.m., when Sergeant Matt Darisse of the Surry County Sheriff's Department stopped a Ford Escort due to a faulty right brake light. The stop occurred on Interstate 77 near Dobson, North Carolina. Maynor Vasquez was driving the vehicle and defendant Nicholas Brady Heien (the vehicle's owner) laid across the rear seat. A records check revealed no problems with the driver's license or vehicle registration and Sergeant Darisse issued only a warning for the broken brake light. Nonetheless, suspicious behavior by the occupants, including the two giving inconsistent answers about their destination, led the sergeant to ask

for consent to search. Heien gave his consent and, in the side compartment of a duffle bag, Darisse found a sandwich bag containing cocaine. As a result, both men were arrested.

Upon appeal, the North Carolina courts determined that the initial stop was not valid because driving with only one working brake light was not actually a violation of North Carolina law. The relevant provision of the vehicle code provides that a car must be "equipped with a stop lamp on the rear of the vehicle" and the Ford Escort had a working left brake light. Nonetheless, the state supreme court found that the officer's reasonable mistake of law generated a reasonable suspicion for the stop. This was because the North Carolina vehicle code which requires "a stop lamp" also provides that the lamp "may be incorporated into a unit with one or more other rear lamps" and that "all originally equipped rear lamps" must be "in good working order." Because Sergeant Darisse's mistaken understanding of the vehicle code was reasonable, the state court held that the stop was valid and the United States Supreme Court agreed.

The Ruling: The "ultimate touchstone of the Fourth Amendment is 'reasonableness.' \* \* \* To be reasonable is not to be perfect and so the Fourth Amendment allows for some mistakes on the part of government officials." In this regard, the Court has "recognized that searches and seizures based on mistakes of fact can be reasonable. The warrantless search of a home, for instance, is reasonable if undertaken with the consent of a resident and remains lawful when officers obtain the consent of someone who reasonably appears to be, but is not, in fact, a resident. See Illinois v. Rodriguez, 497 U.S. 177, 183-186 (1990). By the same token, if officers with probable cause to arrest a suspect mistakenly arrest an individual matching the suspect's description, neither the seizure nor an accompanying search of the arrestee would be unlawful. See Hill v. California, 401 U.S. 797, 802-805 (1971). The limit is that 'the mistakes must be those of reasonable men.' "

"But, reasonable men make mistakes of law, too, and such mistakes are no less compatible with the concept of reasonable suspicion. Reasonable suspicion arises from the combination of an officer's understanding of the facts and his understanding of the relevant law. The officer may be reasonably mistaken on either ground."

#### "The government cannot defend an officer's mistaken legal interpretation on the ground that the officer was unaware of, or untrained in, the law."

This case, according to the Court, is not necessarily focused on the exclusionary rule. Rather, it is about whether the officer had a reasonable suspicion for a valid motor vehicle stop. The officer's mistake of law relates to the question of "whether it was reasonable for an officer to suspect that the defendant's conduct was illegal. If so, there was no violation of the Fourth Amendment in the first place."

The Court did pause to note that its decision "does not discourage officers from learning the law. The Fourth Amendment tolerates only *reasonable* mistakes and those mistakes – whether of fact or of law – must be

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objectively reasonable. \* \* \* Thus, an officer can gain no Fourth Amendment advantage through a sloppy study of the laws he is duty bound to enforce." Moreover, an "officer's 'subjective understanding' is irrelevant. \* \* \* That means the government cannot defend an officer's mistaken legal interpretation on the ground that the officer was unaware of, or untrained in, the law."

During the course of the appeal, Heien pointed to the well-known maxim, "Ignorance of the law is no excuse," and contended that "it is fundamentally unfair to let police officers get away with mistakes of law when the citizenry is accorded no such leeway. Though this argument has a certain rhetorical appeal, it misconceives the implication of the maxim. The true symmetry is this: Just as an individual generally cannot escape criminal liability based on a mistaken understanding of the law, so, too, the government cannot impose criminal liability based on a mistaken understanding of the law. If the law required two working brake lights, Heien could not escape a ticket by claiming he reasonably thought he needed only one; if the law required only one, Sergeant Darisse could not issue a valid ticket by claiming he reasonably thought drivers needed two. But, just because mistakes of law cannot justify either the imposition or the avoidance of criminal liability, it does not follow that they cannot justify an investigatory stop. And, Heien is not appealing a brake light ticket; he is appealing a cocaine trafficking conviction as to which there is no asserted mistake of fact or law."

Accordingly, it was "objectively reasonable for an officer in Sergeant Darisse's position to think that Heien's faulty right brake light was a violation of North Carolina law. And, because the mistake of law was reasonable, there was reasonable suspicion justifying the stop." **P&SN** 

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey; and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.

# THROUGH THE SIGHTS .380ACP

# Curve

Walt Rauch

#### What to make of the new Taurus Curve?

CURVE

Its design shows that much thought was given to ergonomics and comfortable concealed carry. It also shoots well and is more than accurate enough for self-defense.

n my first look at the Curve when picking it up, I had mixed thoughts, starting with the obvious – the patented curved grip and, then, the apparent lack of sights. The integral light/laser from LaserLyte<sup>®</sup> was nicely fitted to the forward portion of the pistol beneath the dustcover and forward of the trigger guard. A separate owner's manual from LaserLyte was included, along with tools for adjustment of the laser.

THE LINE

#### Specs

The Curve weighs 10.2 ounces empty; has a 2.5" barrel; is doubleaction-only with a measured pull weight of 6.75 pounds; and has a semiconcealed spurless hammer. It measures 5.2" long, 3.7" high and



The switch for light/laser is indicated at the upper right. Bottom center, the magazine is held in the gun by the indicated flat spring which "hooks" inside the frame.

1.2" wide. The metal magazine with removable polymer base pad holds six rounds; two are included. The MSRP of the Curve is \$392.00.

The construction of the pistol is in line with others either on the market or about to be. The grip is black polymer, while the actual firearm is a serial numbered, metal insert pinned in the grip by two cross pins. The serial number is visible through an opening in the grip. It has a black oxide finish, forged steel slide which moves on two rails on the grip. Grasping grooves are rearward.

#### Sights?

There are no "traditional" sights (as commonly constructed and used) – substituting for these are two white lines on the rear face of the slide which is considered to be a sight. A loaded chamber indicator labeled by Taurus as the Limited Chamber Indicator (LCI) is center rear of the ample ejection port and is also considered to be a sight. The LCI has "loaded when up" centered in its top and has two vertical sides, or "ears," so, when

THROUGH THE SIGHTS

viewed from the rear, they form a very wide, but squat, "U."

How these two are used is explained in the owner's manual and I quote from it: "1. The lines on the rear of the slide form a cross and align with the bore (center) of the barrel. Used in conjunction with the two ears of the Limited Chamber Indicator or 2. The Laser (for laser model). The point of aim for your Curve is at the bottom of the bull's-eye." An accompanying illustration shows the horizontal line aligned in the upper half of a centered vertical black rectangle and the raised lower edges of the LCI are aligned in the middle lower half of the rectangle. (This is much easier to understand with the gun in hand.)

An external extractor is in the lower right side of the ejection port. Scaled grasping areas are rearward on the slide behind the ejection port. A long relief cut is made midway on the bottom left side of the slide which is done so the large headed takedown pin does not protrude.

No external slide stop or manual safety is present and a magazine must be inserted to lock back the slide, in addition to allowing the gun to fire. This makes locking the slide back somewhat of an annoyance, at the least.

#### Belt Clip

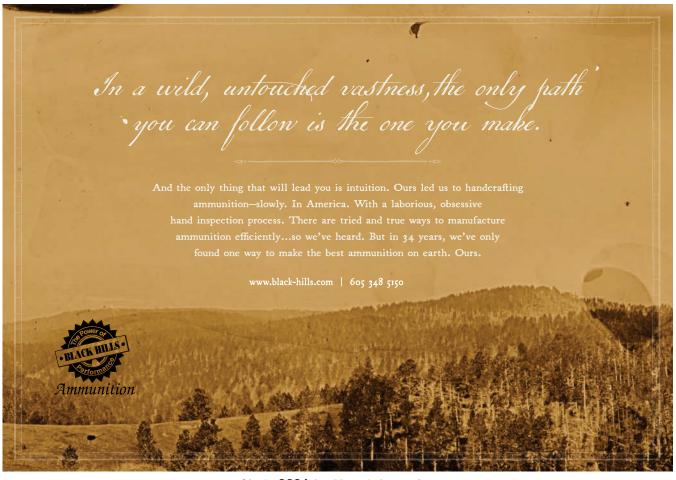
The frame also has a removable (but nonreversible) spring belt clip affixed to the upper right rear side of the frame with two Allen screws, so that it can be removed if not to the user's liking. Beneath the clip is the keyhole for the Taurus Safety Lock (two keys are supplied). The gripping area of the gun curves outward to its right side to follow the contour of your body at waist level. Being nonreversible, though, it is only realistically useful for a



The Limited Chamber Indicator and sight is centered on the ample ejection port. The external spring powered extractor is lower right of the port. The belt clip is attached to the frame.

#### right-hand draw.

The front strap and backstrap have molded stippling. A horizontally dished out area is on the upper left side of the frame – undoubtedly, a thumb rest. Near the muzzle at the top of the frame on the right side is a circular dished area which is to be used as a place to put your trigger finger until ready to fire. Just below and slightly to the rear of this finger rest is the laser/light operating switch. This vertically oval switch requires a forward



push to turn the laser on, off or to choose one of three settings – dual white lights only, laser only or lights and laser. The unit has an automatic shutoff after five or six minutes, as well as being inset into the frame to prolong battery life and help prevent inadvertent operation.

The bottom of the dustcover has a shallow relief cut for a finger of your support hand, allowing a higher grip, along with a high cut of the backstrap and on the bottom rear of the trigger guard. The rounded and curved solid trigger occupies about half the space in the trigger guard. The face of the trigger is enlarged somewhat akin to a trigger stop, but, here, the width is not larger than that of the trigger guard.

#### Disassembly

The Curve is disassembled by

removing a single large headed cross pin from the left side. A nonmarring and thin edged tool is best for this, as it removes easily. The assembly then comes off forward. Compress the closed ended dual recoil spring on its guide rod to remove it and drop the barrel down and rearward from the ejection port.



The Taurus<sup>®</sup> Curve<sup>™</sup>, disassembled

A spare magazine is included, along with the very necessary owner's manual, as well as the aforementioned LaserLyte instruction manual and tools for the laser's adjustment and service.

#### Range Results

Usually, range efforts with this genre of pocket pistol are similar, but this was not so with the Curve. Irv Gill and I started off and were quickly joined by two other club members who agreed to help us shoot the pistol. It's not much of an exaggeration to say that they all were quite taken with the gun; so much so, they shot all the ammo (over 200 rounds) Irv and I had brought!

Irv supplied jacketed hollow point reloads which I declined to shoot, as this would void the warranty and, very unlikely, damage

the gun (although, I've used his reloads for over a decade and have never had a problem). As a rule, I don't shoot hand loads at all for T&E, but the group was so enamored with the Curve that they found the box of reloads and shot them, too, along with 95-grain JRN Winchester white box and 95-grain JRN Federal



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#### 

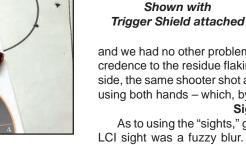
American Eagle<sup>®</sup> ammo, plus some loose factory HP rounds in the ammo bag. (They <u>really</u> liked the gun!)

All of the above ammo fired without a problem, with one exception which was light primer hits with three factory Winchester loads, but all fired the



Top left is a vertical 2.25" group. To the left of this is an outstanding 1/2" group. Top right is a 5.5" group shot one-handed, standing, and as fast as possible. The bull's-eye group measures 1.5". All are five shots.



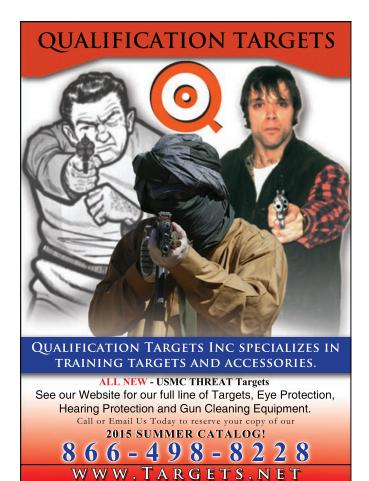


second time with the same shooter. He opined that. since he was very deliberate and slow pulling the trigger in his quest for accuracy, this might have been the cause of the light strikes. My thought was that I didn't lube the gun before shooting it, so it was bone-dry out of the box and we had shot over 150 rounds. I suspect firing residue interfered with barrel lockup. Since the misfires fired the second time

and we had no other problems (even with his trigger pull), it lends credence to the residue flaking off of wherever it was. On the plus side, the same shooter shot a half inch, five shot group – standing, using both hands – which, by far, was the best group of the day.

#### Sight Usage

As to using the "sights," given their very small size, for me, the LCI sight was a fuzzy blur. The others either used the sight to verify their alignment of the gun as they were using the top of the slide for sighting or simply ignored the device. The partial plus (+) marking on the rear of the slide was only used by one shooter for the same reason.



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#### CHRONOGRAPH AND ACCURACY RESULTS

The following data was obtained using a Pro Chrony<sup>®</sup> chronograph at 300 feet above sea level with an ambient temperature of 50 degrees. The pistol used was the Taurus<sup>®</sup> Curve<sup>™</sup> with a 2.5" barrel and five shot averages.

Ammunition	Velocity	Standard Deviation
Winchester (White Box) 95-gr. JRN	825	22
Federal American Eagle® 2.00" 95-gr. JRN	863	21

Now, when it came to the laser, they all went to it after a few rounds - as it allowed them to shoot much more accurately. This said, everyone agreed that pointing was all that was needed to get good hits on a reduced-size Warren Tactical IDPA target at seven yards.

#### General Consensus

I asked for impressions which are as follows: No one found recoil uncomfortable at all; indeed, two thought it was mild. One thought this would be a good gun for his recoil sensitive wife. They all thought the trigger pull was fine and were impressed by the gun's accuracy, particularly when using the laser. The "testing and evaluation" sort of broke down after they familiarized themselves with using the laser. They only wanted to shoot smaller and smaller five shot groups, which they did. They all shot standing, using two hands. I shot seated, using two

hands, and did not have the smallest group. As pointed out earlier, the one who was staging the trigger did.

One shooter observed that, due to the pistol's shape and well-rounded edges, if you carried it in a pocket, any bulging most likely would be attributed to a wallet. He added that these same features would also make it easy to draw from a pocket. When I told them its MSRP (\$392), they all thought it would have been higher because of the inclusion of the built-in light/laser.

#### **Trigger Shield**

The supplied polymer Trigger Shield was overlooked, except for some commenting that it protects the trigger well. This Trigger Shield is, indeed, novel; however, using it requires caution since at least one of your hands is near the gun's muzzle. Before doing anything else, I would remove the magazine when attaching or removing the Trigger Shield from the gun, so that the gun is on "safe." The exception to this is when the Trigger Shield's cord is attached to your person



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and you need to draw the gun quickly (as suggested in the owner's manual). I found that, by bringing the Trigger Shield up from beneath the gun, it will snap right on and pulling the cord down and to the rear also removes it easily and my hands are never forward of the muzzle.

As I previously stated, the Taurus Curve has features not found on other pocket pistols and a die-hard traditionalist might not favor them – only time, and the market, will tell. **P&SN** 

Upon receiving his BS degree from Carnegie Tech and completing service as a Special Agent in U.S. Army Intelligence, Walt Rauch was a Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service and an Investigator with the Warrant Unit, First Judicial District, PA.

Rauch is also a writer and lecturer in the firearms field. He is published regularly in national and international publications.



#### SPECIFICATIONS

Taurus <sup>®</sup> Curve In .380ACP
Caliber: .380ACP
Capacity: 6 + 1 rounds
Barrel: 2.5"
Frame: Polymer
Length: 5.18"
Height: 3.7"
Weight: 10.2 oz. unloaded
indicator lines on rear of slide, loaded

Taurue<sup>®</sup> Curvo<sup>™</sup> in 280ACB

**Sights:** Two unusual sights – bore axis indicator lines on rear of slide, loaded indicator with raised sides and an integral light/laser

Slide: Black oxide coated, forged stainless steel

MSRP: \$392

Web site: taurususa.com



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# PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



A new design for the TRU-SPEC<sup>®</sup> Tactical Side Zipper Boot provides support and stability. A water-repellent leather upper protects your feet from the elements, while an ergonomically padded ankle collar and breathable, cushioned lining provide comfort all day. The 9" **boot** has a YKK<sup>®</sup> rustproof zipper secured with a hook and loop tab.

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The **Strike 6" and 8" antifatigue boots** feature black waterproof leather and membrane, a YKK<sup>®</sup> nylon side zipper, and a multiterrain slip-resistant rubber lug outsole.

The unique technology which creates this long lasting comfort is Bates Endurance Performance System. Developed to deliver extreme cushion and durability, this four part technology works inside of the boot to provide all-day comfort.

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The **Reebok Krios Series** is a new line of waterproof tactical footwear designed for hot weather. Fused protective layers reduce bulk, minimize absorption and dry quickly, preventing added weight in wet conditions. The **Krios**'s construction results in a boot which absorbs 90% less water when compared to nonwaterproof boots. It is available in an eight inch mil-spec boot in desert tan, black, sage green and coyote. Features include a speed lacing system and electrical hazard protection.

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#### **ORIGINAL S.W.A.T.®**

H.A.W.K. 9" Side-Zip boots are not just another 9" black sneaker. These boots are equipped with Original S.W.A.T.'s custom Flex-Lite Support System build technology as their foundation which integrates a market-first Flex-Lite, molded, breathable, nylon stability board with torsional support ridges for the ultimate in lightweight, flexible support and performance durability. It is available in a plain toe option for the law enforcement professional who needs to keep his/her boots shined to perfection.

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#### **5.11 TACTICAL**

The new **EVO Boot** is constructed to allow for a more natural stance and responsive feel with a 14mm heel to toe drop, while a nylon shank works to provide torsional rigidity. 5.11 Tactical incorporated patented D30<sup>®</sup> Impact Protection for a softer, more flexible and shock-absorbent foundation. Customers can select from six inch and eight inch height options and the boots can also be purchased with waterproof or Composite Safety Toe (CST) features added.

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Combining HAIX innovative know-how with advanced running shoe technology, the **Black Eagle**<sup>®</sup> **Athletic 11 High Side Zip** is finally here. Similar to most running shoes, HAIX **Black Eagle** offers one width which easily adjusts to fit a variety of foot types while also giving you the easy in and out of a zipper boot. The **Athletic 11 High Side Zip** is lightweight, breathable, and extremely slip-resistant.

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# THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

# LAW ENFORCEMENT SUVs

Specialty vehicles are certainly not new for American police departments. Our work has always involved duties which were better performed with a variety of functional vehicles.

ating back to our earliest LE (Law Enforcement) history, many different vehicles have been commandeered by cops to do their jobs.

At the turn of the century, it was not uncommon to see horse drawn farm wagons used as prisoner transport and "rapid" response by groups of foot beat officers. Station wagons have seen use as ambulances; delivery vans have been used as paddy wagons and for crime scene investigators; and jurisdictions with unique terrain (beaches, mountains, and wooded areas) have resorted to a variety of 4WD and off-road vehicles and ATVs.

The last decade has seen a potpourri of "must have" contraptions developed for police, such as the Segway<sup>®</sup>, electric dirt bikes, and more. Many departments have purchased civilian pickups and SUVs (and modified them on their own) for patrol duties. Unfortunately, what those modified vehicles had in common was that they were not pursuit-rated and, furthermore, just plain dangerous at high speeds – not to mention being lawsuit magnets.

#### Sergeant James Post

Well, all that has changed as the "Big Three" all have LE versions of their popular SUVs waiting for you on their showroom floors.

But, they (the Three) can't lay claim to being the first – that honor belongs to JEEP<sup>®</sup> which introduced LE versions of



OLICE

POLICE

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Circle 3050 for More Information

#### THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Ford's 1958 Country Sedan Station Wagon could fit nine officers and came with an all vinyl interior.



their popular Cherokees in the late 1990s with their AHB model. Granted, the "LE specific equipment" was somewhat limited and consisted mainly of steel wheels, a stiffer suspension, a certified speedometer and a spotlight, but they were tested at MSP and available in both 2WD and 4WD. They did see moderate success, particularly to Mopar<sup>®</sup> loyal departments.

In 1995, Ford offered a Special Service version of their Explorer, available in 4X4 only. It featured some HD components and extra wiring, but sales were far from stellar.

#### Why SUVs?

or. Police package SUVs might not be for every department. Smaller departments with limited funds probably can get more for their money if they opt for the cheaper LE sedans or even low mileage used cruisers. However, departments which have chosen SUVs for all,

or a portion, of their fleets will probably never go back to sedans.

The primary advantage of SUVs over sedans is the enhanced officer comfort and safety because of the increased interior space and high stance. While there is ample (if not more) room for all the gear officers must surround themselves with, the increased visibility gained from the height and minimal blind spots allows them greater ability to see dangers and rapidly scan for perpetrators.

Because the Ford and Chevy SUVs are pursuit-rated, officers can safely engage in emergency runs and pursuits, but remain constantly aware of the dangers of a higher center of gravity.

There are disadvantages to the SUVs, too. Obviously, the first is that they cost more than the sedans. Second, if prisoners are transported, a second partition of some kind behind the perps is required to block escape out the rear. Fuel consumption is always a concern, too, but the new SUVs do benefit from the latest fuel saving technologies. Finally, the size can be a negative, too. You certainly will not be able to maneuver them in small areas which caused no problems for sedans and for traffic enforcement and surveillance – it will take a bigger billboard to hide one.

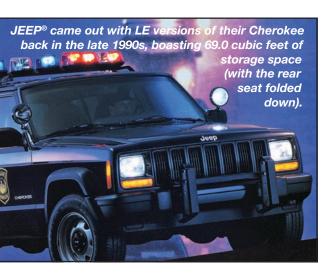
#### **Training and Equipment**

Also, there will be a training issue for officers transisitioning from sedans to SUVs, particularly when going from RWD to AWD or 4WD, or similarly, from FWD to the others, much like when we switched from revolvers to pistols decades ago. If you have a competent driving range nearby, an eight hour training course should handle the switch.

Emergency equipment for SUVs is



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another good news/bad news scenario. All the major suppliers feature equipment for all of the new SUVs, including lighting, consoles, crash bars, prisoner seating and partitions. The bad news is that very little, if any, of your equipment from your old sedans will fit your new SUVs. There are some exceptions, of course, and all three do offer equipment packages which can be ordered at the time of purchase. Although expensive, it is certainly preferable to purchase equipment specifically designed for your units instead of modifying the old stuff.

The bottom line is that LE SUVs just might be the perfect fit for today's police departments – if they can afford the buy in. In lieu of operating a variety of vehicles for duties as diverse as K-9, crime scene and traffic investigations, the same SUVs you use for

patrol duties can be utilized elsewhere with minimal modifications.

Following, you will find a review of the current crop of LE SUVs.

#### **Chevrolet Tahoe PPV**

I live on the border of two of the most populated counties in Arkansas and both operate fleets of Tahoes integrated with



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#### THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

sedans. Two of the closest cities also patrol in Tahoes and what all of the agencies also have in common is that they use 2014 models. These departments, like scores more around the country, took the advice of our magazine and stocked up on the 2014 models. This was because of two announcements by GM: There would be a hiatus (delay) as the factory retooled for the 2015 models and that there would be a significant price increase for the new models. Both predictions came true and departments which bought the 2014 models saved money.

The 2015 Tahoes do feature a new face-lift and important mechanical upgrades – the most significant being that the new PPV is available in 4WD. There are three Tahoe (LE) versions available – the 2WD and 4WD PPV (pursuit-rated) models and a Special Service (nonpursuit) PPV in 4WD only.

Tahoes feature the largest interior of the competition which Dana Hammer, GM LE Fleet Manager, boasts as the reason they outsell the competition. "The Tahoe gives the officers the space they need," he said. This square footage, plus the fact that they are the only LE SUV still built with body on frame construction, have made the Tahoes popular with state patrol commercial vehicle enforcement units which carry portable scales and other heavy equipment.

Standard features include OnStar and Bluetooth<sup>®</sup>, plus wider doors, a standard isolated (auxiliary) battery, rear HVAC, HD trailer towing capability, standard rear camera, park assist and more.



Ford did offer a Special Service version of their Explorer back in 1995, powered by a 4.0L V-6.

The 2015 Tahoes are powered by an updated version of the most popular V-8 engine EVER – the Chevy small block V-8 introduced 60 years ago. Of course, this is not your grandpa's V-8. Officially, it is now the 5.3L EcoTec 3, with a plethora of high performance, yet fuel saving, technology.



Westin's EliteXD Push Bumper is an all new design that is based on the Elite front-end protection program and is a clear representation of heavy duty style. It provides multiple options for your agency's specific lighting requirements with your choice of a 2 or 4 Light Top Channel that will accommodate Code3, Federal Signal, Whelen, or SoundOff Signal LED lights.

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Of course, all of this comes with a cost and we were warned in advance. Previous Tahoes could be purchased for a few grand more than the Australian built Caprices, but no longer. GM Fleet's Web site lists the following MSRPs for their 2015 LE line: Silverado \$26,105; Impala \$27,340; Caprice \$32,675; Tahoe (2WD) \$46,300; and Tahoe (4WD) \$49,300. Of course, various state bids and quantity purchases should lower this.

The Tahoe sticker shock is negated somewhat by the fact that used Tahoes are in great demand and command prices much higher than the police sedans. A recent sampling of a popular online auction site over two weeks, and over 200 used police cars, featured only four used Tahoes: 2003 167K miles – \$5000; 2009 117K miles – \$18,300; 2011 27K miles – \$26,900; 2012 70K miles – \$18,500.

#### Chrysler Ram<sup>®</sup> Durango SSV

First of all, it is important to note that the Durango is <u>not</u> pursuit-rated, nor tested as such. However, it is a Special Service LE vehicle, specifically designed with input from Chrysler's LE Advisory Panel. Equipped with the optional 5.7 HEMI®, the Durango is by far the most powerful of all SUVs offered. It comes standard with the Pentastar Flex Fuel 3.6L V-6 which has proven very reliable in the Charger Pursuit. Both engines are backed by an eight speed automatic transmission and are available in RWD or AWD.

The SSV Durango includes an HD brake package and battery, a larger alternator, an HD water pump and engine cooler and a customizable rear area with under floor storage areas. Options include a rear camera, an engine block heater and protective skid plates. Even with the standard V-6, the Durango has a 7,400 lb. towing capacity and it comes with a <u>transferrable</u> five year/100K power train warranty. The Durango SSV with the Ram 1500 Special Service pickup completes a formidable trio of LE vehicles from Chrysler.

#### Ford PI Utility

After unceremoniously killing off the best-selling police sedan in history in 2011, Ford now claims their Explorerbased Police Interceptor Utility is the bestselling LE SUV in America. It debuted in 2012, teamed with the PI Sedan, as replacements for the CVPI. (It's interesting to note that it took two new models to replace one old warrior.) The Utility averages about \$1000 more than the sedan and both are built in Ford's Chicago Assembly Plant and modified (upfitted) for police duty a block away at the Chicago Modification Center (CMC). Ford unveiled the new 2016 PI Utility at (where else?) the Chicago Auto Show in February of this year.

Also designed with significant input from Ford's LE Advisory Board, their SUV features many officer-friendly features, such as redesigned, wider opening doors and improved seating. The new model features new front and rear designs, new headlamps, a new instrument panel and an enhanced electrical system. A rear camera is standard, transmitting images to a four inch screen in the center stack or (optionally) to the rearview mirror.

The standard engine is the proven 3.6L V-6. The more popular choice, however, is the EcoBoost<sup>®</sup>, twin turbo 3.5L V-6 which is a gutsy package. The Utility

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#### THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

was first available in FWD and AWD, but now it's available <u>only</u> in AWD because Ford reported that a whopping 90% of their sales were for this version.

Ford PI vehicles are unique in that they can be ordered with a variety of two-tone vinyl wraps with (or without) generic "PO-LICE" or "SHERIFF" lettering. The markings, combined with a wide variety of emergency equipment available (and installed at CMC), means that you can have an

SUV cruiser delivered to your door which only needs an officer and your radios.

As with the new Tahoes, I have not seen a large number of the PI Utilities in my area; however, they are highly visible in larger jurisdictions, such as the NYPD, CPD, KCMOPD and the CHP.



Ford recently introduced its 2016 PI Utility which includes a front and rear redesign, along with a host of other new features.

#### Going Head-to-Head (Wheel to Wheel)

When discussing any new police vehicles, the first question usually asked is how they perform – "What will it do?" The national standard is set every year in the grueling tests conducted by the Michigan State Police. Following are the specs on how the SUVs performed at last September's MSP tests.

Note: This was a two horse race only as the Durango was not tested; however, with the different power trains and drive configurations, a total of four others were – two Tahoes and two PI Utilities.

The Tahoes were tested in 2WD and 4WD (see earlier note) and the Fords were both AWD, one with the standard V-6 and the other

with the optional EcoBoost twin turbo.

Speeds are recorded (in seconds) at MSP in ten mile increments and top speed (in mph). The two speeds considered significant are 0-60 and 0-100, important for entering on-ramps and overtaking violators. Among the SUVs, the fastest 0-60



#### VEHICLE PLATFORMS

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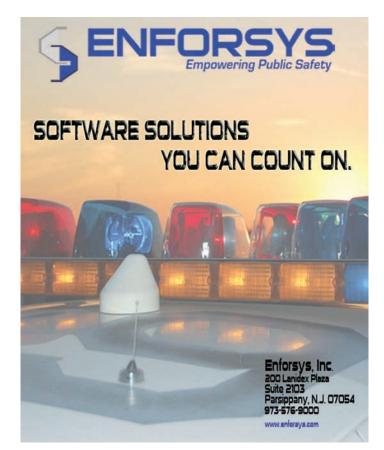
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and 0-100 times were both posted by the PI Utility in AWD – 6.55 seconds and 16.13 seconds, respectfully. Second place went to the 2WD Tahoe with times of 7.31 seconds and 18.99 seconds. The slowest times were posted by the standard engine PI Utilities.

Top speeds can be a little misleading, as any contemporary gearhead can tell you, because they are computer limited by the factory. There are numerous aftermarket goodies and programmers which will boost the performance of most late model vehicles, but MSP tests them like they come right out of the box, computer limitations and all. That said, the top SUV speed posted was by the 2WD Tahoe at 139 mph. Both PI Utilities shut down at 132 mph and the slowest SUV was the 4WD Tahoe at 121 mph.

Of course, getting them going fast is important, but you've got to be able to stop them, too. Braking tests are an average of three 60-0 stops. The Ford Utilities (with the advantage of AWD) were best with only a foot difference (132.5 and133.5) while the heavier Tahoes took a couple of feet further (135.6 and 135.7). **P&SN** *James Post welcomes your comments.* 

He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net.



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#### HONORING THOSE WHO TAKE RISKS AND SAVE LIVES

# ABOVE AND BEYOND

#### "Above and Beyond..." salutes Colorado State Trooper Shane Gosnell



Artwork by Don Lomax

### MAY 8, 2014 WESTBOUND I-70 GLENWOOD CANYON COLOPADO AROUND 9 AM

COLORADO STATE TROOPER SHANE GOSNELL HAD CAUGHT A RIDE WITH HIS CO-WORKER, TROOPER EUGENE HOFACKER. THEY SPOTTED A VEHICLE PARKED ON THE SHOULDER. THINKING THAT THE DRIVER MIGHT REQUIRE ASSISTANCE, HOFACKER PULLED OVER AND APPROACHED THE PASSENGER SIDE OF THE AUTO.

Sec. Con

THE DRIVER, THOMAS ORNELAS, 40, OF MONTROSE, CO., OBVIOUSLY IMPAIRED, BECAME BELLIGERENT. TROOPER HOFACKER WENT AROUND TO THE DRIVER'S SIDE AND DEMANDED ORNELAS' LICENSE, REGISTRATION, AND PROOF OF INSURANCE. TROOPER GOSNELL CALLED IN THE SITUATION AND APPROACHED THE REAR OF THE CAR TO ASSIST.



GOSNELL STEPPED BEHIND THE VEHICLE TO CALL THEM IN WHEN GUNFIRE ERUPTED FROM THE VEHICLE, STRIKING TROOPER HOFACKER AND SENDING HIM RETREATING!

TROOPER HOFACKER HANDED GOSNELL THE PAPERS AND



TROOPER GOSNELL SPRANG INTO ACTION ROUNDING THE VEHICLE TO THE FRONT AND OBSERVED THE DRIVER WITH A BLACK SEMIAUTOMATIC HAND GUIN STILL FIRING AT TROOPER HOFACKER, ORNELAS, NOW OUT OF HIS VEHICLE AND STILL IN A COMBATIVE STATURE, GAVE GOSNELL NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO OPEN FIRE!



TROOPER GOSNELL FIRED ON ORNELAS UNTIL THE ACTOR DROPPED TO HIS KNEES, THEN CONTINUED FIRING WHEN ORNELAS REFUSED TO DROP HIS WEAPON! GOSNELL FIRED 14 ROUNDS AT THE PERP UNTIL ORNELAS WAS FLAT ON THE GROUND AND NO LONGER A THREAT. TROOPER HOFACKER WAS STRUCK THREE TIMES AND, THANKS TO TROOPER GOSNELL, SURVIVED, ORNELAS EXPIRED.



THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE DECLARED THE SHOOTING JUSTIFIED. WE WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY OUR APPRECIATION TO TROOPER SHANE GOSNELL AND THANK HIM FOR HIS BRAVERY AND DEDICATION IN THIS LIFE THREATENING SITUATION. ABOVE AND BEYOND.



THE END

#### **2014 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year**



Mark Vaughan Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department

On September 25, 2014, an employee with a commercial fresh foods distributor in Moore, Oklahoma, was suspended after an investigation into violation of work rules and harassment of employees. After leaving the company's human resources office, the employee drove to his apartment where he retrieved an 8-inch-long serrated knife, drove back to the business and crashed his car into a car parked in front of the business. He then entered the main office and attacked Colleen Hufford, the first employee he came upon, and murdered her by decapitation.

Hearing screams and the commotion of the attack, Mark Vaughan, CEO of the business and an off-duty reserve deputy with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department, decided he needed to take swift and immediate action. Quickly evaluating the tactical needs of the incident, he knew he could best respond if he had his patrol rifle. He retrieved it and sought out the suspect.

While Deputy Vaughan was moving into action, the perpetrator had moved on and sought another victim to attack. Finding Traci Johnson, he immediately attacked her and cut across her throat and the side of her face. Now within view of the suspect, Deputy Vaughan saw the ongoing attack and, with his rifle, shot the suspect and ended the attack.

There is no doubt that without the immediate valorous actions of Deputy Vaughan, the suspect would have claimed the lives of others. This was perhaps best summarized by Sheriff John Whetsel, who stated, "Mark put an end to the threat by shooting the suspect and saving the life of the second victim who was being actively attacked by the suspect. There is every reason to believe that the lives of untold others were saved who would have been targeted by the suspect if it had not been for Deputy Vaughan's actions."

Deputy Vaughan's heroic actions under the most stressful and confusing circumstances – and his decision to intervene and neutralize the suspect, even though it placed him in great personal danger – are a credit to himself, his department, and the community he serves, and are in keeping with the highest traditions of law enforcement.

As such, it is with great honor and pride that the National Rifle Association recognizes Deputy Vaughan of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office for his valorous actions by naming him the 2014 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

"The actions of Deputy Vaughan on September 25th were nothing short of heroic," said NRA President James W. Porter III. "Thinking quickly and clearly, he put an end to an unspeakable rampage. The National Rifle Association is honored to name Deputy Vaughan as NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year."

NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award was established in 1993 and recognizes an exceptional act or service by a law enforcement officer and is administered by the NRA Law Enforcement Division.



Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet to get more information about the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year recognition. Forms for nominating candidates for the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award may be downloaded at http://le.nra.org/documents/pdf/law/leoy.pdf.

For more information about NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and its Law Enforcement Division, call (703) 267-1632 or send an e-mail to LE@nrahq.org.

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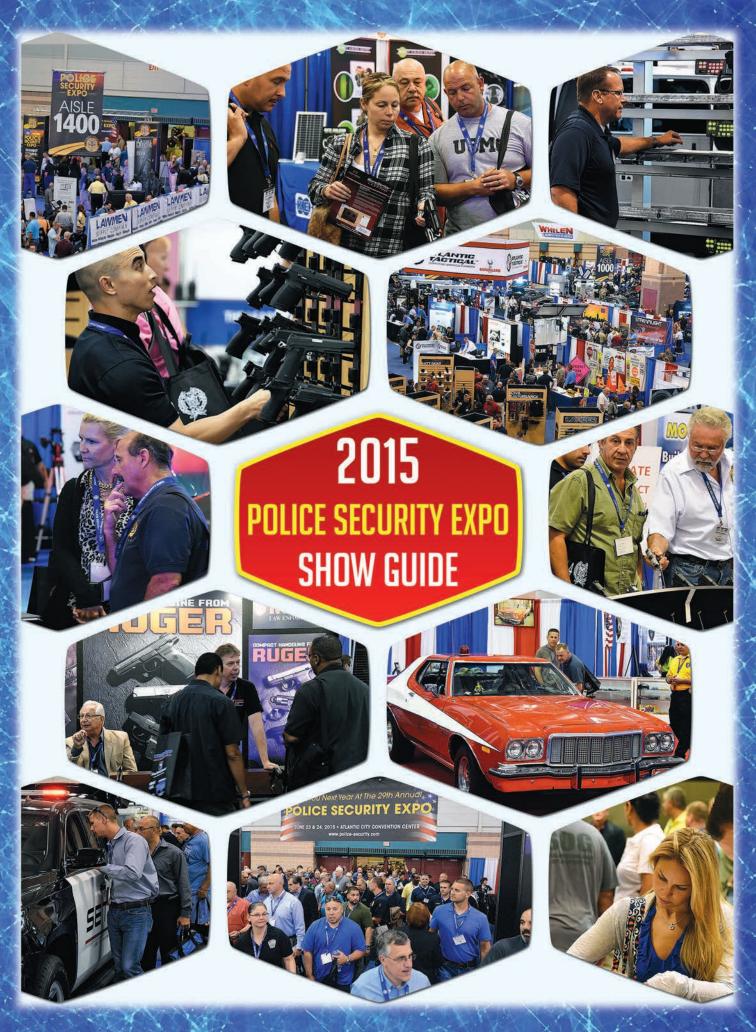
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Exhibitor listings are as of date of publication.

NOTE: Exhibitor names and booth numbers are subject to change.

### **Seminars/Product Demos**

### Free Admission to All Expo Attendees (with PSE 2015 Expo Badge)

Tuesday, June 23, 2015 Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

10:00 a.m.Body-Worn CamerasRoom #316Keeping Law Enforcement Covered on<br/>the Streets, in the Station and in Court<br/>Debut of Panasonic's New Arbitrator BWC with<br/>Demo on How the Video Solution Works in<br/>the Field (Continuous Sessions During the Day)<br/>Presenter: Mike Haas (Panasonic)

### 11:00 a.m. New Tactical Products

Room #307 Featuring SureFire® Lights and Trijicon Optics Product Overview Presenter: Dave Buchanan (The Evans Group)

1:30 p.m. "Excited Delirium" – A Management

- Room #314 Challenge for Law Enforcement and EMS What are your actions? You'll need EMS and, working as a team, you can bring this to an uneventful conclusion. Learn how to combine your training and experience with the clinical care EMS can offer – keeping everyone safe. Presenter: Nancy Kelly-Goodstein (NJ Dept. of Health – Office of Emergency Medical Serv.)
- 2:00 p.m. Maxx-Dri Vest and Extremity Glove Light Room #305 Demo: How to Wear Maxx-Dri Ultra Comfort

Vest Under Body Armor to Be Dry, Cooler and More Comfortable and How to Use the Extremity Glove Light for Hands-Free Lighting Presenter: Suresh Madhavan (221B Tactical)

2:30 p.m. Excess DoD Equipment Law Enforcement Room #306 Can Obtain from the DoD for Free Overview of how qualified law enforcement

> agencies can requisition DoD excess equipment online with the only cost being shipping from the location it resides in the US. Information discussed on how law enforcement agencies can properly account for it on their own books. Presenter: Daniel J. Arnold (Defense Logistics Agency – DLA Support Office)

3:00 p.m. Identity Theft Awareness Room #315 Your personal information is available to identity thieves in many ways. Awareness and prevention are essential in protecting yourself against becoming a victim. Learn the warning signs and ways to protect your identity. Presenter: Captain Lori Mambelli, PCSD (Ret.), MAS, CPM (President, New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement

Sim CityTake the "Interactive" InterrogationBooth #324Challenge. Try to Get a Confession.<br/>Prizes Offered Daily for the Top Finishers.<br/>Hands-on Investigative Interview and<br/>Interrogation Training<br/>Presenter: Dale Olsen, Ph.D. (SIMmersion™<br/>[HIITS™] Immersive Simulations)

Sim City Booth #332

### "Live Action" Performance Art – Meet John Kiernan, Kiernan Art

See John's finished artwork completed at PSE 2013 and 2014. Watch as he creates a new six foot high mural during PSE 2015 exhibit hours. (Blue Line Studios)

### Wednesday, June 24, 2015 Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

	11:00 a.m. Room #307	Portable Tablet Technology Without Compromises Learn about a range of tablet technology op- tions with a goal of finding the combinations available to law enforcement while focusing on portability, ruggedness, ease of use, screen size, expandability and cost. Presenter: Doug Surette (Patrol PC)
	11:30 a.m. Room #305	<b>Rugged Mobile Devices</b> Overview of Mobile Devices for Law Enforce- ment and a New Product Just Launched Presenter: John Lamb (Getac)
	12:00 noon Room #306	Excess DoD Equipment Law Enforcement Can Obtain from the DoD for Free Overview of how qualified law enforcement agencies can requisition DoD excess equip- ment online with the only cost being shipping from the location it resides in the US. Infor- mation discussed on how law enforcement agencies can properly account for it on their own books. Presenter: Daniel J. Arnold (Defense Logistics Agency – DLA Support Office)
9S	12:30 p.m. Room #315	Mentoring Women – A Presentation for Both Men and Women "A society that does not educate and train its women is like a person who just trains the right arm." Are we just training the right arm? Join this session and receive valuable information on the importance of the mentoring process and how it can influence the development of lead- ership qualities. Presenter: Captain Lori Mambelli, PCSD (Ret.), MAS, CPM (President, New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement
	Sim City Booth #324	Take the "Interactive" InterrogationChallenge. Try to Get a Confession. PrizesOffered Daily for the Top Finishers.Hands-on Investigative Interview and Interrogation TrainingPresenter: Dale Olsen, Ph.D. (SIMmersion™[HIITS™] Immersive Simulations)
	Sim City Booth #332	"Live Action" Performance Art – Meet John Kiernan, Kiernan Art See John's finished artwork completed at PSE 2013 and 2014. Watch as he creates a new

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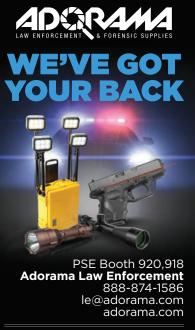
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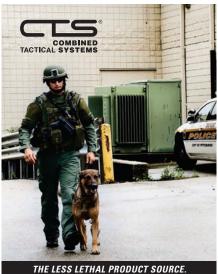
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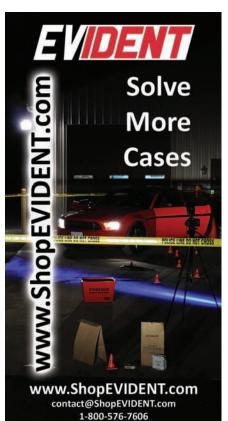
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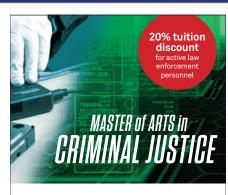
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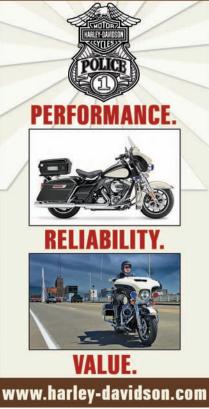
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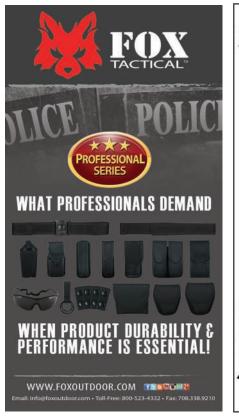
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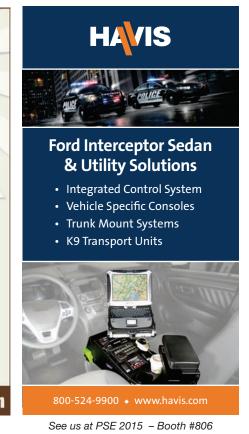
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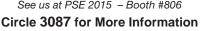


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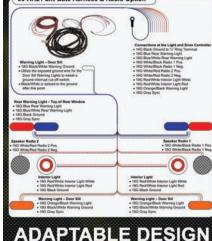
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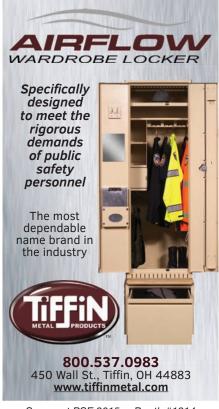


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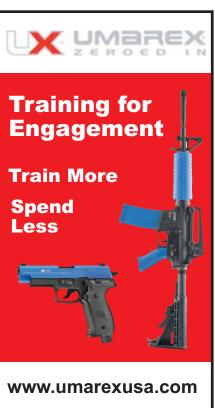
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## HOLSTER SELECTION:

### CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONCEALED CARRY APPLICATIONS Mike Boyle

All law enforcement officers – regardless of rank, job title or assignment – have a need to carry a concealed handgun.

have long felt that off duty carry was the way to go 100% of the time. Quite simply, we can never predict when the worst kind of trouble is going to come and visit. Of course, many law enforcement officers don't wear a uniform and their daily work routine involves carrying a

handgun hidden from view.

I remain puzzled by the lack of thought which many cops give to wearing a gun when they are dressed in soft clothes. Often, a great deal of consideration is given to exactly what sort of gun to carry and even the type of ammunition to feed it, but to a holster – not so much! A poorly designed holster can handicap the draw stroke or come up short in concealing your gun.

#### Considerations

Any holster we select for plainclothes or discreet carry applications must meet a number of criteria. I do, in fact, make a distinction between plainclothes and true concealment holsters. For example, some very popular holster designs might be just the ticket under a heavy jacket or a windbreaker, but they don't make the cut when worn with business attire.

A very important quality is comfort. A design which may be perfectly fine with one body type is unbearable with another. Holsters which are uncomfortable are a liability. When the comfort factor is compromised, the mind is not focused on the task at hand. Uncomfortable holsters are sometimes removed from the belt and stashed between, or under, the seats or in the glove box. Should the stuff hit the fan and your gun isn't instantly accessible, you have already lost the game.

Next, consider a system's security. Old school concealment holsters were not molded to a particular firearm, but accommodated a variety of handguns within a particular size range. Retention was achieved with a simple thumb break. I can tell you from personal experience that this concept does not work out well and, with any sort of intense physical activity, you might be separated from your gun. The good news is that, today, most holsters from reputable manufacturers are molded to a specific handgun which will retain your pistol when engaged in physical activity like running and jumping. In addition to thumb breaks, firms such as BLACKHAWK!®, DeSantis and Safariland incorporate alternate safety barriers to retain the holstered firearm.

### Materials

Modern holsters are crafted from leather, KYDEX<sup>®</sup> and other synthetic materials. Most of the time, I rely on a precisely molded, open top, Outside the WaistBand (OWB) holster to get through my daily routine. As a trainer, I'm very hard on holsters and it doesn't take me long to render some craftsman's work of art downright ugly. With that said, I often use KYDEX holsters for training. KYDEX is impervious to water, oil and solvents and is resistant to scratching when my body comes into contact with gravel or concrete on the range.

Leather holsters will eventually get "loose as a goose" over time and, eventually, they have to be replaced. In addition to stretching, the thread holding the



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### HOLSTER SELECTION



The FBI butt forward rake requires the user to bend the wrist and flare the elbow out on the draw stroke.

holster together can abrade, making the holster unserviceable. KYDEX, too, is not forever and, often, cracks will develop around belt loops and tunnels. Regardless of construction, a compromised holster should be replaced without delay.

Next, consider accessibility and return. Does your chosen rig allow you to obtain a firm and final shooting grip as soon as your hand makes contact with the gun? I have encountered examples from reputable manufacturers which do not allow you to get a proper shooting grip. As a result, getting the critical grip requires a double effort which slows things down considerably.

Most off-the-rack holsters feature an FBI rake or butt forward rake when the handgun is worn on the belt. Concealment qualities are good, but I find drawing with the gun positioned in such a manner to be awkward. I tend to favor a neutral or muzzle forward rake as my wrist is straight, rather than bent, when I contact the gun. For myself and many other people, this makes for a more efficient draw.

#### Something for the Ladies

Females have an especially difficult time finding an acceptable holster for plainclothes or concealed carry applications. Hip curvature is very different from men and this typically positions the gun too high with the butt poking inward toward the ribs. Several of the smaller manufacturers offer concealment holsters specifically designed for the female form. A well designed crossdraw holster might be another viable option.

One quality often overlooked is the capability of quickly returning the gun to the holster with one hand. In my experience, the worst offenders include soft Inside the WaistBand (IWB) rigs, pancake holsters with thumb breaks and scabbards made of ballistic nylon. Using the support hand for an assist is a dangerous practice on the range or in the street. Inevitably, the muzzle will cross the hand or arm when you reholster. Out in the real world, consider that you may have to quickly reholster and go to another force option. For me, the one-handed return is nonnegotiable.



See us at PSE - Booth #'s 1750 & 1752 P&SN • May/June 2015 • Page 54 **Circle 3116 for More Information** 



With a neutral rake, the wrist remains straight in relation to the arm for a more efficient draw.

### Keeping It Hidden

Finally, we come to concealability. Discreetly hiding a full-size, or even a compact-size, service caliber pistol is a challenge, but it can be done. To come to the right solution, consider what type of clothing might be worn when going about your business. On my job, I was able to get by with loose fitting, outdoor clothing most of the time and this enabled me to hide a full-size pistol. When I had to wear a jacket and tie, I had to go with a completely different holster. My point is that you may need more than one holster to meet different needs or clothing types. Even a small gun will stand out like the proverbial sore thumb if worn with the wrong holster.

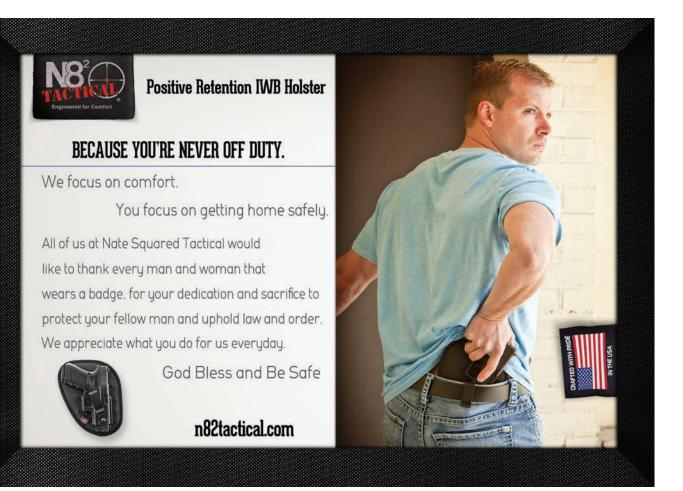
When wearing business attire, an IWB holster may be the best bet as it allows you to carry a fair-size handgun and still get under the radar. The key to success is making sure your pants and belt size are one size larger than normal to accommodate your pistol. Some people have a difficult time with IWB carry, but, fortunately, there are a number of OWB designs which ride high and close to the body and

warrant a closer look. No matter what your body type or mission, the time spent shopping around for the ideal combination is well worth the effort. Don't trust your life to some small, ineffective combination just because it's easier.

### New IWB Considerations

IWB holsters represent the ultimate in gun camouflage. Because the slide and barrel are down inside the pants, a light covering garment can be used to conceal a full-size pistol. Traditionally, most users position the IWB holster just behind the strong side hip. Not only are concealment qualities very good, draw stroke is similar to that of a duty rig. Of late, Appendix Inside the WaistBand (AIWB) carry has attracted a great deal of attention. Advantages include an even faster draw and the ability to better defend the holstered handgun. On the downside, moving the pistol out front can prove uncomfortable when sitting for any length of time.

Of late, a couple of IWB holsters have come to my attention which show great promise. I have carried a concealed handgun daily for most of my adult life and have



**Circle 3117 for More Information** 



**Circle 3118 for More Information** 

developed a very sensitive hip. As a result, conventional IWB holsters no longer work for me.



The DeSantis Invader<sup>™</sup> IWB rig proved very comfortable.

### DeSantis Gunhide<sup>®</sup> (www.desantisholster.com)

At first glance, the DeSantis Invader<sup>™</sup> has an external resemblance to similar IWB holsters made by other manufacturers. However, DeSantis may have made the better mousetrap. To create the Invader, DeSantis mated a body pad crafted of edge bound ballistic nylon and other synthetic material to a thermomolded KYDEX shell. The body pad covers a much greater area of the hip than a traditional IWB holster and this helps dissipate the discomfort I normally experience wearing a gun in this manner.



The Invader is affixed to the belt with a pair of C clips. One can adjust the angle of the C clips with an included Allen wrench. As an additional bonus, the Invader is a "tuckable" holster and one can blouse the tails of a shirt behind the C clips for greater discretion. Truth be told, I have trouble keeping my shirt tucked in under normal conditions, but this feature is there for those who wish to take advantage of it. The bottom line remains that the DeSantis Invader is both comfortable and provides ready access to the gun.



The N8<sup>2</sup> Tactical is a unique IWB holster which can be worn behind the hip or in the appendix position.

### N8<sup>2</sup> Tactical Inc. (www.n82tactical.com)

Another IWB holster received for evaluation was the Professional from N8<sup>2</sup> (pronounced Nate Squared) Tactical. N8<sup>2</sup> Tactical is a relatively new firm and, like many upstart outfits, their product was created out of necessity. This holster is indeed very different, but meets all of my requisites relative to comfort, accessibility and concealment.

The body backer of the Professional consists of oil tanned leather, neoprene and suede. The suede backing is next to the body and allows the skin to breathe and its natural friction helps displace the weight of the gun. A neoprene shield protects the wearer from sharp edges of the gun, including the hammer, sights, slide and beavertail, and also acts as a moisture barrier.

The holster body is made of clear polycarbonate material which boasts a number of unique advantages. Polycarbonate has three times the tensile strength and twice the impact strength of polyvinyl chlo-





The Safariland 578 GLS<sup>™</sup> is a secure design which can be adapted to multiple holsters.

ride, a material used in the construction of many other holsters. The Professional also features an additional measure of security called the "Twist Release." As soon as you achieve a grip on the pistol, a slight turn toward the body releases the lock for a fast, fumble-free draw. The clip which affixes the Professional to the belt has a wide range of adjustment, so the user can place it behind the hip or in the appendix position. Despite the fact that the Professional is very different than anything I've encountered before, N8<sup>2</sup> Tactical has hit a home run with this innovative design.

### Safariland (www.safariland.com)

No one individual has done more to advance the design of law enforcement holsters than Bill Rogers. His latest innovation is the Safariland Model 578 GLS<sup>™</sup> (Grip Locking System) which, once again, raises the bar in holster technology. Its most unique quality is that it is a true security design, yet a single holster is adaptable to a wide range of handguns based on barrel length.

The 578 GLS incorporates an innovative technology which automatically secures the gun on return and releases it upon application of the middle finger when taking a shooting grip.

To construct the body of the 578 GLS, Safariland utilizes their proprietary SafariSeven<sup>™</sup> material which is nonabrasive, tolerant of temperature extremes and easy to maintain. Both a paddle and belt loop are provided and the end user can make the choice of exactly how they want to mount it to the body. Multiple handgun fit is well within the realm of possibility and I was able to use my sample with pistols from GLOCK<sup>®</sup>, HK and Smith & Wesson<sup>®</sup>.

Like many belt holsters, the 578 GLS may not be the best choice for under a suit jacket, but that certainly doesn't disqualify it for other applications. Draw stroke is natural and fast. Automatic lock on return is also a big plus.

#### On the Hip

My preferred mode of carry remains OWB on the belt. I continue to get by with loose fitting, casual clothing and, accordingly, I don't draw any attention wearing a gun in this manner.

### Crossfire Tactical Gear (www.crossfiretacticalgear.com)

While walking the aisles of the 2015 SHOT Show, I came across an outfit called Crossfire Tactical Gear which was displaying some very nice holsters crafted of KYDEX. Plans were made to receive a sample for evaluation and, so far, their OWB/IWB holster has met all of my expectations. I've worn this holster for a few months now and it discreetly hides my GLOCK 19, yet provides instant access.

The Crossfire Tactical Gear OWB/IWB is a precisely molded KYDEX scabbard with a neutral rake. Precise molding ensures the gun will stay put during normal physical



Circle 3121 for More Information



### Circle 3120 for More Information

activity and the degree of retention can be adjusted by a screw. As indicated earlier, I'm partial to a neutral rake or having the gun positioned on the belt in a straight up and down fashion. This allows for the fastest possible draw, an important quality as we are often working from far behind on the curve.

Belt loops are crafted from 0.125 inch KYDEX for added durability. I have had thinner KYDEX loops crack on competitive designs, pretty much rendering the holster useless, and it's nice to see that Crossfire Tactical didn't cut corners here. A pair of IWB clips, along with spacers and rings, are provided for users who wish to modify their holster for even more discreet carry. This holster fits close to the body and represents a best buy in high quality KYDEX designs.



HOLSTER SELECTION

### and can be worn on either hip by moving a screw.

### The end user can also adjust the rake with the included Allen wrench. An optional paddle is also available.

#### **Shoulder Rigs**

Suffice it to say, I don't consider shoulder rigs to be a first choice for general concealed carry. They are not especially fast or efficient to draw from; present weapon security concerns when going hands on; and make it difficult to achieve a one-handed return. Like many other things in life, holster selection is a compromise.

#### **DeSantis Gunhide** (www.desantisholster.com)

If shoulder carry is on your agenda, the DeSantis NY Undercover™ is one of the best. The NY Undercover is of very high quality and the adjustable harness comfortably supports the

weight of my GLOCK pistol and a pair of magazines. Draw stroke is indeed different as one has to reach across the body to produce the gun. This is a very important consideration in extreme close guarters and users of any shoulder system are well-advised to give this matter some thought and practice the draw.

Some years ago, I recall having a conversation with a retired Chicago officer who had relocated to Arizona. When working in the Windy City, he felt a shoulder rig provided better access to his handgun than a belt holster when a heavy overcoat and suit jacket were worn. I certainly can't dispute that fact and, no doubt, there are other situations where the shoulder rig is the way to go.

I found I could accomplish a one-handed return with the NY Undercover by pinning the holster between the upper arm and return. It's far from a perfect solution, but at least you're not covering the support hand with the muzzle at any time.

If a shoulder rig is on your wish list, check out the NY Undercover from DeSantis. Comfort qualities are very good and, with practice, the pistol can be drawn quickly and in complete safety.

### **Final Thoughts**

Selecting the right holster is just as important to the gun itself. By considering your application, type of clothing worn, body type and where you would like to position the concealed firearm, you can arrive at an educated decision.

Other options such as pocket and ankle carry were not discussed as I feel they are best utilized for backup guns or deep concealment and are limited to smaller firearms. I would counsel for carrying the biggest gun you can discreetly carry in comfort. Under light summer clothing, that might only be a snub revolver or subcompact pistol, but having the means to control your immediate environment gives you a leg up on the bad guys. P&SN

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

#### **DeSantis Gunhide** (www.desantisholster.com)

DeSantis is now offering a slick compact belt slide called the C.H.A.M.P.<sup>™</sup> which could be used for a variety of different applications. Made of sheet KYDEX, the C.H.A.M.P. is a minimalist design which reminded me of the classic Yaqui Slide. It is completely ambidextrous and can be worn on the opposite hip by backing out a single screw and moving the tension assembly.



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## SIGHTS YOU CAN SEE

### Do handgun sights really matter?

#### Photo courtesy of TRUGLO

o arrive at the correct answer, we must first consider what they are designed to do. In short, our sights help us line up the muzzle of our gun with what we intend to shoot. On the range, this might be a two-dimensional paper target. But, out on the street, our requirements are somewhat different. Sights which excel when punching nice tight groups on paper targets typically prove less than optimum in poor light or when one is subjected to extreme stress.

Most police action shootings continue to take place at relatively close range. In view of that, there is a popular notion that handgun sights really don't matter because point shooting will prove effective when an adversary is only a few yards away. This is all well and good if our assailant sticks to the script – but what if he is moving obliquely or is positioned higher or lower than you? What if the assailant is partially shielded by a hostage? We also need to consider the possibility of having to deliver accurate fire beyond conversational distance.

#### **Of Vital Importance**

To my thinking, the ability to quickly deliver accurate fire from both an unsighted and sighted index is absolutely critical. Point shooting will indeed work against a totally exposed adversary a few yards away. But, even at relatively close range, any number of likely scenarios will require a surgically placed shot which can only be realized by using the sights. It's not important that we hit – it's important that we hit something important!

Plain black sights are the way to go when shooting targets, but may be tough to define with any sort of speed. This is especially true in our middle-age years as our vision begins to degrade. Ideally, we need a setup we can quickly acquire under all



XS<sup>®</sup> Sight Systems' 24/7 Big Dot features a white circle with a tritium insert. light conditions. In recent years, the three dot system has become the popular choice for law enforcement handguns. The majority are equipped with tritium dots

Mike Boyle

which glow in the dark. I, for one, am not convinced they are the best choice. The self-luminous qualities of three

dot night sights are achieved by combining phosphor particles with tritium gas and placing this combination in tiny capsules. The capsules are then embedded into the

> rear and front sight in a horizontal pattern. Tritium has a half-life of about 12.5 years and, under ideal conditions, your sights will be half as bright and still serviceable when you reach that point in time.

Many shooters (myself included) have a difficult time lining up the three horizontal dots with any sort of speed. As the sights get near the end of their practical service life, it is quite possible to mistake one of the rear dots for the front sight

and grossly misalign your pistol. The dots can also be difficult to read at dusk, dawn or when indoors.

### Look for the Sights

The extreme stress of a deadly encounter sets off a number of physiological changes – increased heart and respiration rate, a spike in blood pressure, perceptual narrowing, auditory exclusion, and compromised fine motor control. When our heart rate reaches 145 beats per minute, our eyes begin to dilate. With all of this going on, classic alignment of the sights at typical combat distance is near impossible.

There is a considerable body of research which indicates that, in a close quarters confrontation, our focus will remain on the threat. However, I'm not suggesting that your only recourse remains an unsighted index. The key to success remains a set of high visibility sights which you can quickly acquire as you drive your pistol to eye level. Essentially, you look for the sights as your gun breaks the plane of vision from your eye to the threat. A consistent grip as the shooting hand hits the pistol lines up the sights. This is the essence of a flash sight picture. Even a



crude index will result in better shot placement than no index at all.

### Fiber-optic Sights

Back when revolvers dominated the law enforcement scene, many of the highend Smith & Wesson<sup>®</sup> offerings featured a red ramp front sight mated to an adjustable rear. A bright red orange plastic insert in the front sight was fast to acquire and provided a sharp contrast against the black B-21 targets we used in training. With the shift to autopistols, this style of sight fell from favor.

Fiber-optic sights are indeed a very different critter, but they do share a positive quality with my old S&W service revolver. Much like that red ramp, fiberoptic sights are a low tech solution and provide a contrast to most backgrounds. This makes them easy to pick up quickly. Fiber-optic sight systems are available as a front

sight only, front and rear, as well as tritium/fiber-optic combinations.

Unlike tritium night sights, fiber-optic sights are not self-luminous. Instead, small light pipes are held captive in a metal frame. The pipes are typically fluorescent green, orange, or red and are clearly visible in anything but total darkness. Even in dimly lit environments, the light pipes gather up ambient light and are easy to define.



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Circle 3125 for More Information policeandsecuritynews.com • May/June 2015 • Page 61 Although fiber-optic sights are most often used by competitive shooters, they can be used for defensive applications as well. Utilized in this context, a fiber-optic front sight mated to a plain black rear remains a good choice. One municipal agency I'm familiar with

The Trijicon HD<sup>™</sup> front sight stands out

(day or night) and is quick to acquire.

went this route with their service pistols and enjoyed very good success.

Several manufacturers, including Ruger®, Smith & Wesson and Springfield Armory®, have offered handguns with factory fiber-optic sights. For the most part,

they were smaller handguns commonly used for backup and off duty carry. Aftermarket fiberoptic sights are available from Dawson Precision, HIVIZ<sup>®</sup> and TRUGLO<sup>®</sup>. **Three Dots Done Right** Tritium night sights

have been around since the 1970s and have captured the lion's share of the police market. In dark environments, these self-luminous sights are clearly visible and can be an aid in aligning the sights. While ideal conditions exist in the training environment, this process can be difficult, or impossible,

when the stress level is running high. Trijicon<sup>®</sup>, a world leader in sighting equipment, has indeed built a better mousetrap. Unlike traditional three dot tritium night sights, Trijicon HD<sup>™</sup> sights are clearly visible under a wide range of light conditions. A tritium insert in the front sight is framed by a yellow or orange luminescent paint line. The subdued rear sight features two additional tritium dots and a wide U-shaped notch.

On my GLOCK® 26, Trijicon HD sights have met all my expectations. The yellow border surrounding the tritium dot is tough to ignore and is a big advantage in those betwixt and between light conditions, such as dusk and dawn. In my experience, this has been the shortcoming of traditional three dot tritium sights. If, and when, time permits, a short light blast from a flashlight will cause the photoluminiscent border around the front sight to grow brightly. This may not be possible in the tactical environment, but the easy to read front sight is a plus. No matter how you slice it, Trijicon HD sights overcome the handicaps

### **Thank You**

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XS<sup>®</sup> Sight Systems' 24/7 has an express-style V rear.

often associated with three dot systems. To my thinking, the ability to deliver accurate fire from both an unsighted index, as well as by using the sights, is essential.

### XS<sup>®</sup> 24/7 Express Sights

Ashley Emerson deserves the credit for adapting express-style rifle sights used for hunting dangerous game to the handgun. His original express sights consisted of a shallow V-notch rear, paired off with a white dot front. I'll admit to initially being a bit skeptical about this concept, but it does indeed work. This type of sight system may not be the best choice for punching paper, but is an excellent choice for combat applications.

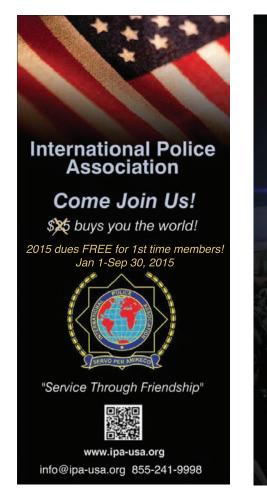
Emerson's concept is now marketed by XS Sight Systems and their 24/7 Express System is a personal favorite.

The front sight consists of an oversize white bead which contains a tritium vial, while the rear sight is the classic shallow V-notch with a vertical tritium bar in the center. To acquire a sight picture, the shooter merely "dots the i" and superimposes the front dot on the target. These sights are very fast to acquire and are clearly visible under all light conditions. With a bit of practice, they are surprisingly precise and, with little trouble, I have been able to nail pepper poppers out to 50 yards.

### AmeriGlo

AmeriGlo markets a wide variety of sights for most popular pistols, but their CAP (Combative Application Pistol) Sight is the pick of the litter. AmeriGlo CAP Sights feature a green tritium insert in the front sight surrounded by a photoluminescent border. The rear sight has a horizontal green tritium insert directly under the notch which helps confirm correct alignment in poor light. As an option, CAP Sights are available with a nonphotoluminiscent orange border on the front sight for users who prefer a different color contrast. I've had a set of CAP Sights on a GLOCK 17 for two years now and have become a believer. The photoluminiscent border really captures your attention and can help get you on target fast.

Yet another spin from AmeriGlo is the Spartan Tactical which uses the three



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The AmeriGlo CAP Sight rear has a horizontal tritium bar under the rear notch.

horizontal dot pattern, but with a twist. The front dot is surrounded by an orange ring which stands out in bright light to subdued light conditions. When the orange ring is no longer visible in poor light, the tritium dot will get you on target.

#### **TRUGLO TFO**<sup>™</sup>

By combining fiber-optic technology with tritium, TRUGLO has succeeded in developing a sight system which offers a seamless transition through all light conditions. A hermetically sealed TFX<sup>™</sup> capsule provides maximum protection for the tritium and fiber-optic element and provides protection against oils, chemicals and solvents, as well as the ultrasonic cleaning process. Capsules are secured in a durable CNC machined frame and the

snag-resistant TFO system is compatible with duty holsters. TFO sights are available in green/green or green/yellow. I have used the TRUGLO system in the past and the light gathering fiber-optic pipes make it difficult to ignore. Unlike some fiber-optic systems, TRUGLO TFO sights can stand up to the hard knocks of law enforcement. These sights are available for a wide range of handguns used by law enforcement officers, including models made by GLOCK, Kimber<sup>®</sup>, Ruger, SIG SAUER<sup>®</sup>, Smith & Wesson and Spring-field Armory. They stand out in just about every conceivable light condition and rate a hard look.

#### Laser Aimers

I'll confess to be an original member of the laser skeptic society, but the years have proven me wrong. Laser sights won't fix all your problems, but there are some things they do very well. In poor light, a laser will enable you to obtain a reliable index on a threat – even when stress levels are running very high. Considering that most police action shootings continue to take place under less than optimum light conditions, this is a very real advantage.

Various manufacturers have offered a number of different laser options, including aftermarket grip panels, guide rods, and white light combination units which can be fitted to a pistol's accessory rail. Some first-class products are offered from



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The National Rifle Association's Law Enforcement Division, in conjunction with many of the leading law enforcement firearms manufacturers and premier industry shooting academies, will host the following complimentary armorer/shooting schools and seminars during the year. All schools will be held at either the NRA Headquarters in Fairfax, VA, or at the Fairfax County Police Department's Firearms Training facility in Chantilly, VA, and are *tuition*free. There are, obviously, a limited number of seats available, so officers are selected to attend by a RANDOM DRAW-ING. Registration does not guarantee selection. To enter, applications will ONLY be accepted online through our Web site at http://le.nra.org/training/ tuition-free-schools.aspx.

### Law Enforcement Firearms Tuition-FREE Schools

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September 25, 2015 N	M1911/1911A1 Pistol Arr	norer
October 27, 2015 0	Glock Pistol Armorer	
December 14-15, 2015 S	SIG SAUER "P" Series F	Pistol Armore

own when affixed to small guns commonly used for backup and off duty carry. These guns typically have inferior sights and adding a laser is a big force multiplier. Considering their many advantages,

> I, too, have become a believer.

> > Future Shock

Over time, the sights used by law enforcement officers will continue to evolve better sights equate to better hit potential, greater

officer safety and reduced liability.

Right now, we are on the threshold of the next "big thing" in law enforcement sight systems. A number of manufacturers are turning out small reflex sights which can be affixed to the slide of a pistol. This technology has been all the rage with patrol rifles and "dot" sights do offer some very real advantages. Firms such as Trijicon, Leupold® and Burris® are turning out small reflex sights and at least two major manufacturers of pistols are now

turning out models with slide cutouts for mounting such a system. These sights have proven very popular with competitive shooters and may gain some traction in law enforcement circles as well.

At contact distance, the type of sighting equipment you have on your handgun does not matter. But, to succeed in a wide variety of anticipated street scenarios, you need sights you can see. All things considered, it's pretty cheap life insurance. 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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TRUGLO TFO<sup>™</sup> sights combine

tritium with fiber-optic pipes.

manufacturers such as Crimson Trace,

LaserMax, Streamlight®, SureFire and

others, and they all bring something to the

table. Laser sights really come into their

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## A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO BODY- WORN CAMERAS: Part Two

Rebecca Waters

With a wide field of options in the BWC marketplace, which system is right for your team?

Photo courtesy of WatchGuard Video

hen properly implemented, Body-Worn Cameras (BWCs) can be a useful law enforcement tool. "The two main goals of BWCs are to increase efficiency and reduce liability," says Steve Ward, CEO and founder of VIEVU®. "Body-worn video helps reduce complaints against officers and increase police transparency; at the end of the day, everybody behaves better on camera, regardless which side of the lens you're on. In addition to this, body-worn cameras show the entire incident unfolding. When used properly, there will be no gaps in the footage and this leads to fewer unsolved or ongoing questions about any incident."

Part one of this article discussed the pros and cons of body-worn cameras for law enforcement and considerations for the proper implementation of a BWC program in your department. This installment will look at the systems available and the features to consider before making a purchase.

#### Features

A wearable camera system typically includes a camera, a microphone, a battery pack and video storage. There are many specification issues to consider before purchasing a camera system, including battery life, video guality, recording limits, camera focal width, audio recording, camera placement, ease of use, night recording and radio integration capability. Storage options and encryption/ security are also concerns: Make sure the data/footage is secured at every stop, from filming to transit to storage/ archiving. The system requirements and trade-offs will be dependent on the intended use, budget, unit cost, inter-operability, operating environment, and other considerations.

"The most important feature [to consider] when selecting a BWC is file security. If the BWC is capable of editing or deleting captured files, which are considered evidence, that BWC is not appropriate for the Law Enforcement [LE] community," says Colin Smith, Marketing Manager at Safety Vision, LLC.

"[The] second is battery life. Currently, users would be hard-pressed to find a battery which will last a full shift. BWC features which officers request just drain the battery too fast. Batteries will continue to improve, but we are not there yet. Ideally, the camera should be able to make it at least three quarters of the way through a shift, with a car charger to make it the final quarter."

"[The] third is pre-event recording. This feature continually buffers video recording so the series of events which led to the main incident may be observed. Without pre-event recording, valuable context clues are lost. A close fourth is one touch recording initiation. In the heat of the moment, officers only have a split second to spare for initiating BWC recording. If recording initiation takes more than one motion, that BWC is not for the LE community."

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### Wearable Camera Systems Focus Group Report Recommendations

Product Selection Criteria	Description
VGA Resolution	The resolution should be at least 640 x 480 pixels.
Frame Rate	The frame rate should be at least 25 frames per second.
Battery Runtime	The camera should be able to record continuously for at least three hours on a fully charged battery.
Data Storage	The camera's onboard storage (at the lowest video quality settings) should permit at least three hours of recording.
Low Light Recording	The camera should have a low lux rating and/or an IR illuminator for recording targets in low light.
Warranty	System purchase should include (at a minimum) a one year warranty.

"[The] fifth and sixth are optional, yet extremely convenient," Smith adds. "[The] fifth is an integrated LCD screen, allowing for instant review of video in the field. The ability to immediately replay recent events on an officer's BWC presents the opportunity to stop false complaints before they occur. [The] sixth is a two-way radio microphone interface. A BWC is another piece of equipment which an officer must keep on his [or her] already product laden body. To lighten the load, look for BWCs which have a police/mic interface. This compatibility means that the BWC can assume the role of a twoway radio."

Units can be mounted in several areas, including around the ear or head; on a helmet or hat; on the lapel, pocket, badge; or various other places. Mounting is a serious factor to consider as lapel/ chest mounted cameras are always body facing units, whereas head-mounted units have a view of exactly what the officer is seeing. The camera lens angle will also make a difference on whether the recording reflects what the officer is actually seeing.

A reasonable set of recommendations for product selection was reported in the DHS SAVER Wearable Camera Systems Focus Group Report and is included in the NIJ's *Primer on Body-Worn Cameras* for Law Enforcement (see above).

### The Marketplace

### VIEVU (www.vievu.com)

VIEVU's LE3 is a small, lightweight, self-contained video recorder which is rugged, waterproof and easy to use. The camera eliminates the need for separate recorders, batteries, or cables and can easily be worn on the uniform. The LE3 contains



The LE3 from VIEVU

one moving part (the on/off switch) and was designed to be easily activated with gross motor skills. The camera uses a 68 degree lens to capture forensic video exactly as experienced by the officer. The high-definition video evidence is managed by the VERIPATROL<sup>™</sup> software and utilizes VidLock security which prevents access to the camera if lost or stolen. (2.8 oz.; 5 hour battery life; 16 GB storage; 1280 x 720 resolution)

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### BODY-WORN CAMERAS



The number of agencies which have purchased AXON cameras has recently surpassed 2500.

by a pocket-sized battery pack which ensures recording capability during an entire shift. When recording, the cameras capture a wide-angle, full-color view of what an officer is facing. The video automatically uploads via a docking station to EVIDENCE.com, a cloud-based storage and management system, where it can be easily accessed for review. The video files stored online or on the AXON video camera are secure and cannot be tampered with. (3.5 oz.; 12 hour battery life; 4-13 hours of storage; 640 x 480 resolution)

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POLICE

### WatchGuard® Video (http://watchguardvideo.com)

WatchGuard Video's VISTA<sup>™</sup> police body camera is constructed with cast magnesium, polyurethane rubber and a military-grade Polyetherimide resin providing an ultrarugged weatherproof design. This user-friendly system offers quick release mounting hardware, a convenient transfer/charging base and nine

hours of continuous HD recording on a single charge. The camera integrates with Evidence Library and 4RE® In-Car Video Systems and the Record-After-The-Fact® feature accumulates footage even when



WatchGuard<sup>®</sup> Video's VISTA<sup>™</sup> body camera system integrates with their 4RE® In-Car Video System.

the camera has not been triggered to record, allowing for evidence to be retrieved after the fact. (4.3 oz. standard, 5.3 oz. extended; 6 hour standard, 9 hour extended battery life; 32 GB; 640 x 480 resolution)

#### Safety Vision, LLC (www.safetyvision.com)

The Prima Facie® Body Worn Camera can record video, take high resolution stills or record only audio. With the integrated color LCD



Safety Vision's Prima Facie® camera allows officers to instantly review recorded images, audio and video.

used to easily download captured files or charge the Prima Facie. (5.3 oz.; 6 hour battery life; 32 GB storage; 720 x 480 to 1920 x 1080 resolution)



The FirstVu<sup>™</sup> HD is impact- and weather-resistant and utilizes solid-state memory which is unaffected by violent motion. The versatile design of the camera module, recording unit and mounting options allow the system to be worn together or mounted separately. The FirstVu HD offers various mounting locations so it can be worn comfortably while capturing the right point of view. It features pre-event and

video and still pictures can instantly be reviewed. The new Prima Facie was designed to help law enforcement users maintain a safe and secure chain of evidence. Recorded data can only be downloaded to an authorized computer and internal storage prevents evidence tampering. The included docking station is

screen and speaker,

recorded audio,

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customer.service@safetyinnovations.com www.bodyworncamera.com automatic recording, a field replaceable battery and VuVault™ software or VuVault.Com<sup>™</sup> cloud for easy viewing/organizing/ storing video evidence. Units are customizable to meet individual needs. (3.9 oz.; 8+ hour battery life; 32 GB storage; 1280 x 720 resolution) Utility

### (www.bodyworn.com)

BodyWorn is a voice activated, fully secure officer worn camera. Not only is BodyWorn equipped with high-resolution video, internal GPS and real-time connectivity, video is immediately uploaded to the video or to cloud storage, but video can't be uploaded to YouTube or social media Web sites. There is no waiting until the end of the shift to manually upload video. Video is immediately available to supervisors and central dispatch. (1080p HD resolution)

### Safety Innovations (www.safetyinnovations.com)

The VidMic  $\mathsf{VX}^{\scriptscriptstyle\mathsf{M}}$  is an industry standard speaker microphone with an embedded video camera and audio recorder.

The VidMic VX<sup>™</sup> from

Safety Innovations is a

fully functional speaker

microphone with an

embedded video camera

and audio recorder.

Its military-grade camera can record video and capture still photos in almost complete darkness - documenting events exactly as the officer experiences them. The fully functional speaker microphone is compatible with nearly every radio available and draws no more power than an ordinary speaker microphone. Flexible data storage provides secure storage for up to 128 hours of video recordings. The mic is lightweight and easy to use - with very little training required to get officers up and running quickly. (6.5 oz.; 12-14 hour battery life; 8 GB internal storage, 16, 32 and 64 GB upgrades available; 640 x 480 resolution)

### HQ Industries, LLC (http://codecam.com) The CodeCam body camera

combines functionality and ease of use. It fits into uniform pockets, pen loops and MOLLE webbing for convenient POVs. Its one touch, mistake-free activation slide en-



sures high-definition recording at the moment it's needed. The CodeCam also functions as a handsfree light source, utilizing patented QuiqLite technology. A ten lumen white LED is coupled with a ten lumen red LED which can be used independently or as a strobe. CodeCam is manufactured from high

The CodeCam also functions as a hands-free light source.

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strength nylon plastic which can withstand hard field conditions. (2 hour record time; 8 GB storage; 720p HD resolution) Stalker

#### (www.stalkerradar.com)

The StalkerVUE adapts to ambient light to achieve clear video recording and snapshots in virtually any lighting condition. In low light and nighttime, the user can slide the IR filter away from the lens to allow the camera to see in infrared light. Plug 'n play connectivity with your existing PC allows the transfer of files in AVI format which are viewable on any PC's media player. A user changeable battery allows officers to swap out batteries in the field. (10 oz.; 6 hour battery life; 8 or 32 GB storage; 640 x 480 resolution)

### **PRO-VISION®**

### (www.bodycameras.com)

BODYCAM<sup>®</sup> offers a simple and affordable approach to body-worn video cameras with 1080p true HD video, night vision and a waterproof rating. Pressing one button initiates BODYCAM recording and illuminates a discreet visual indicator letting only the operator know the camera is in use. Video files are automatically downloaded and the device is recharged by connecting to a computer workstation. (1.6 oz.; 4 hour battery life; 8 or 32 GB storage; 1080p resolution)

### Brite-Strike Technologies, Inc. (www.brite-strike.com)



The DLC-200-4-MIL-RC Duty Light Camera<sup>®</sup> is a bright, durable, water- and shock-resistant duty light in a small size which easily fits on an officer's belt. It is not just a great rechargeable duty light, but also a digital video recorder which allows the officer to record events as they take place. The DLC-200-4-MIL-RC Duty Light Camera is small and lightweight (approx. 12.3 oz) and 7.5" long, and has a removable light diffuser for high-end video clarity which virtually eliminates the hot spot. The diffuser can be stored in the end cap of the light when not in use. (2.5 hour battery life on high power setting, 8 on low; 4 or 8 GB storage; 640 x 480 resolution)





#### UNIFIED EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Cultivate, manage, and store video for a stronger chain of evidence.

- Panasonic SafeServ<sup>™</sup> Management Software
- Arbitrator 360 HD in-car video system
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- Flexible storage options (cloud, local, or hybrid)

### PLUS THE NEW ARBITRATOR BODY WORN CAMERA

- Single or two-piece, lightweight (4.6oz.) design
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- Captures evidence in 720p HD resolution

us.panasonic.com/arbitrator



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### See us at PSE - Booth #718 Circle 3150 for More Information

Circle 3149 for More Information

IFCIE 3 130 FOR MORE INFORMATION policeandsecuritynews.com • May/June 2015 • Page 73 MPH Industries (www.mphindustries.com)

The Muvi Series of video recorders are lightweight and can be integrated into any uniform; the recorder simply clips to your pocket or tie. They can begin recording by voice activation or by the press of a button. With a built-in microphone and crisp wide

view lens, you can record what you see and hear, even when you are away from your vehicle. Recordings can be viewed or downloaded on any computer by plugging the unit into a USB port with the supplied cable. In addition, MuviView recordings can be played back using the built-in video screen and speaker. (3 hour battery life; 8 or 32 GB storage; 640 x 480 resolution)

#### Panasonic (www.panasonic.com)

The Arbitrator<sup>®</sup> BWC<sup>™</sup> is a brand-new HD quality video evidence system which is promoted as being rugged and is also waterproof (iP-54). Engineered with upgraded features based on direct feedback from police officers, the Arbitrator BWC provides 130 degrees of evidence capture with GPS metadata, pre- and post-event recordings,



Panasonic's brand-new Arbitrator<sup>®</sup> BWC<sup>™</sup> features built-in GPS and WiFi.



See us at PSE - Booth #1603 Circle 3151 for More Information P&SN • May/June 2015 • Page 74 WiFi for easy offloading and smartphone integration. When paired with the Arbitrator 360<sup>™</sup> HD in-car digital video recording system and the Unified Evidence Management System (UEMS) software suite, it represents a comprehensive video evidence capture solution. (Supports up to two 512GB solid-state drives; 720p HD resolution)

### **BWC Successes**

The San Diego Police Department (SDPD) currently deploys 600 body-worn cameras to their police officers and uses a cloud-based platform to efficiently store and manage the data from their cameras and other digital devices, TASER reports. The department plans to have nearly 1,000 officers, including patrol officers, gang unit officers and motorcycle officers equipped with body cameras by the end of 2015.

A report developed by the SDPD for the City Council's Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee showed that complaints fell 41%; total allegations were reduced by 60%; and use of "personal body" force by officers dropped by 47% during the department's pilot program. The use of pepper spray was also reduced by 31%.

"The body cameras have proven to be a positive game-changer for our department and the San Diego community," says San Diego Police Chief

Shelley Zimmerman. "We find the cameras to be a win-win for our officers and citizens and we look forward to continued success with our body-worn video program here in San Diego."

VIEVUE reports similar success in the field: "In 2007, the first officer perspective, body-worn video cameras were introduced into the market. The cameras offered limitless range and recording capabilities for every type of incident, since the cameras were worn directly on the uniform. Agencies have reported drastic reductions in total complaints against officers (some to zero) and prosecution rates continue to soar while plea deals pervade the court systems. Substantially less money is spent on prosecution and officer overtime, while officers are afforded more time on the streets and in the communities.

"The most profound benefit of this type of technology is the insight into critical incidents. There have been numerous reports from agencies that video captured by their officers during critical incidents has revealed the most accurate information to date. Factual accuracy and the dismissal of erroneous 'eyewitness' accounts are the top reasons for deploying body-worn cameras. These videos offer the only foil against the staggering monetary lawsuits brought against law enforcement agencies nationwide."

#### The Future

With the public looking for more accountability and transparency in its police forces, federal grant money becoming available and more and more agencies recognizing the value of BWC technology, the widespread adoption of these systems seems likely.

"In order for this to work, we believe cloud storage will also become mainstream in law enforcement [as it already is in the civilian market]," Ward says. "Cloud storage offers long-range scalability and flexibility as agencies, and evidence collection, continue to grow. With advancements to security/encryption, as well as CJIS compatibility, we see this as the next logical step for law enforcement and public safety agencies."

"In addition to this, cameras will continue to get smaller, lighter and have even greater HD capabilities," Ward continues. "We do not believe cameras will gain features like night vision, infrared, etc. as this evidence may not hold up in court, as the camera should not collect more information than the officer's own eves could."

"The market has been flooded with manufacturers within the past year, each offering something different," Smith says. "What is certain is the future integration of BWCs and in-car video systems. The ability of these two products to integrate will produce, in real time, more robust, coherent and manageable data."

Whatever the future holds, it seems clear that body-worn camera systems are here to stay. How they play into your department's future is up to you. P&SN

Formerly the Editor-in-Chief of Forensic Magazine, Rebecca Waters is a freelance writer and editor.

### New Web Site Provides Facts about Body Armor Standards, Testing and Practical Use

Law enforcement and corrections officers have a new resource for determining how to purchase high quality equipment which could ultimately save their lives. PoliceArmor.org features news and information on body armor which meets the standards set forth by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). Provided by the

people who write the standards, test the products and promote officer safety, PoliceArmor.org is a one-stop resource for body armor information.

The NIJ and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), both components of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, have teamed up to offer tips on how to select, purchase, wear and care for body armor. The NIJ's National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC) hosts the site. PoliceArmor.org highlights the NIJ's Compliance Testing Program and features targeted messages for law enforcement leaders, female officers and those working in corrections. It also includes real-life accounts of officers who survived potentially deadly assaults.

### Law Enforcement Camera-based Systems Symposium

The IPICD Center for Excellence in Event Reconstruction (CEER) 3-day Symposium will focus on law enforcement camera-based systems (e.g. body-worn cameras, UAV's, ALPR, jail cameras, etc.). While the primary focus of the Symposium will be on bodyworn cameras - storage, First Amendment, redaction, release, policy, and the topics listed below will be discussed in addition to similar legal, operational, and labor issues that apply.

Legislative update (state and federal)

- ACLU and citizen concerns
- Obtaining grants for body-worn cameras
- **Policy issues**
- Organizational culture change essentials
- **HIPAA** concerns
- First Amendment concerns (what can be recorded and released?)
- Handling Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests
- Maintaining evidence credibility (spoliation, retention, redaction issues)
- Recording concerns (witnesses, juveniles, domestic situations, etc.)
- Storage concerns (1st and 2nd tier storage, hybrid)
- Collective bargaining/labor concerns
- **Consent Decrees and Body-worn cameras**
- Internal Affairs use of camera-based video and recordings
- How body-worn cameras can inhibit/aid investigations
- Cameras and the need for specialized force training
- Geo-fencing concerns for law enforcement agencies

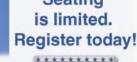
Presented By: The Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. (IPICD)

### The Orleans Hotel 4500 W. Tropicana Ave. Las Vegas, NV

Circle 3152 for More Information

Seating is limited.

June 9-11, 2015



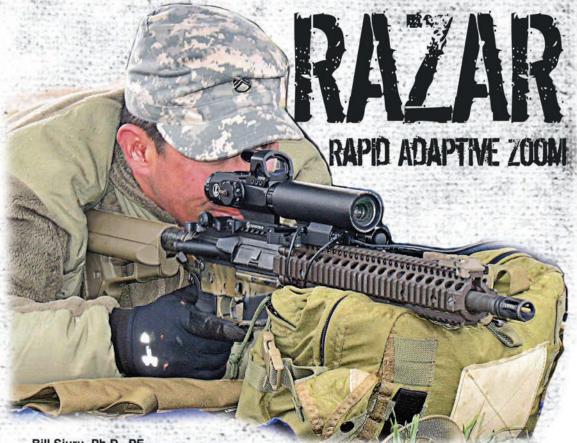






www.ipicd.com/ceer

Ethical issues



Bill Siuru, Ph.D., PE

Whether you are using a riflescope as a military sniper or on a SWAT team, the seconds needed to change a scope's magnification can mean the difference between life and death – especially when someone is firing at you.

Prett Bagwell, an ex-Army Special Forces officer turned optical engineer at the Sandia National Laboratories, has developed an innovative solution – the Rapid Adaptive Zoom for Assault Rifles (RAZAR). With a push of a button, shooters can switch between high and low magnification without removing their eyes from the target or their hands from the rifle. Targets can be acquired at low magnification, then you can zoom in for greater clarity.

The requirement for a compact zoom riflescope capable of rapidly changing magnification at the push of a button came from the Department of Defense. Since no commercial products or components would result in a riflescope meeting these requirements, Bagwell, with other scientists and engineers, designed and built the first RAZAR from scratch, as well as developing the manufacturing process. This took eight years.

#### How Does It Work?

The heart of RAZAR is "adaptive zooming" which changes the focal lengths of two or more lenses by varying the curvature of the lenses' surfaces to provide optical zoom without changing their overall positions relative to one another. In conventional variable power riflescopes, zooming requires movement of two or more optical elements along the optical axis. This mechanical motion increases the size and power

requirements of the zoom lens.

The RAZAR features a polymer lens core with two flexble, hermetically sealed membranes which encapsulate a polymer fluid. The 3/4" lenses are aligned with glass lenses to complete the optical design. Because of the completely new

design, variable focal length system design tools had to be developed from scratch, including analytical expressions

and computer models which trace rays of light through optical systems.

### Like a Human Eye

A piezoelectric actuator electromechanically changes the flex of the lenses, achieving the correct position within 250 milliseconds to an accuracy of 100 nanometers, about 1/100th the thickness of a human hair. These actuators operate the way the muscles of the human eye change the curvature of the eye's lens to focus far away or up close. Voltage is applied at an ultrasonic frequency to vibrate and move a rotor and lead

screw which causes the lens to flex. A "zero-power hold" feature, unlike camera-based zooms, maintains focus if the power is switched off. Thus, the RAZAR scope can still be used with dead batteries, although the focus can't be changed.

The Sandia researchers perfected the manufacturing process of the lenses so the quality of the prototype could be replicated. When the polymer is sealed, no



#### Cutaway of the RAZAR

air bubbles or specks of dust can remain in the lenses or on the surrounding rings which would affect the optical qualities.

## NEWS

Biodetection Technologies for First Responders: 2014 Product Guide Now Available as an App

First responders know that white powder scenarios - or suspected biological threats - require quick and decisive action, and that having the right field equipment available to identify suspicious substances can be complicated, challenging and expensive. Biodetection Technologies for First Responders: 2014 Product Guide (http:// tinyurl.com/lgpay94) summarizes and compares an extensive list of commercially available, hand-portable technologies. Produced by the U.S. Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate, the quide has been downloaded more than 10,000 times since its release. Since many first responders do not always have immediate access to a computer, the lab has developed a mobile version for cell phones and tablets.

You can download the free app version of *Biodetection Technologies for First Responders: 2014 Product Guide* from the iTunes store at http:// tinyurl.com/poynv8u.



The RAZAR scope is lightweight and easy to use.

### **New Versions Coming**

Since 2010, Bagwell began demonstrating it to the military with very positive feedback. He is currently working on a night vision version of RAZAR and recently demonstrated an adaptive zoom which works in the thermal infrared waveband. Sandia says the scope is not only easy to use, but rugged, lightweight, extremely accurate, compact and very energy efficient. It can complete 10,000 actuations on two AA batteries.

In addition to military riflescopes, RAZAR technologies are now being considered for other applications like law enforcement where speed, size, weight and power are important. Other possible applications include medical imaging; binoculars for an entire range of users, from the military to bird-watchers; hunters' scopes; and cell phone cameras where optical zoom is needed to avoid the pixelated images associated with digital zoom. **P&SN** 

About the Author: Bill Siuru is a retired USAF colonel. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University. For the past 45 years, he has been writing about automotive, aviation and technology subjects.

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E-mail: hclark@sandia.gov Phone: (505)844-3511



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## NEW Technology

### New Long Gun Carry System



Point Blank's newest **Weapon Retention System (WRS)** is a one of a kind, unique, totally hands-free, long gun carry system which is designed to carry shotguns, scoped rifles and most long guns, as well as AR platformed rifles with, or without, accessories. The **WRS** creates little to no pressure points and its stable, secure platform protects the weapon/optics while giving the ability to select the safest muzzle direction, allowing you to deploy your gun instantly.

**Circle 3157 for More Information** 

### New SMART 650 Radar Speed Trailer



Kustom Signals, Inc. announced the release of the **SMART 650 radar speed trailer**. This highly visible trailer has a 12 inch rounded character, full matrix LED display with flashing overspeed violator alert and multiple optional violator alerts, including red "SLOW" LEDs, red/blue flashing bars and white LED photo strobe. It comes standard with a five year warranty which includes all trailer electronics covering the display, Kustom directional radar and the optional solar panel and traffic statistics computer – all of this (delivered) for \$5,000 in the continental US.

### Circle 3161 for More Information

### New Poster from Dick Kramer

Due to demand from bike cops around the country, a new poster, titled "**Bike Cops**," is now available from renowned artist, Dick Kramer. This beautifully illustrated pencil drawing (order #1700) measures 18" x 24".

### Circle 3156 for More Information

### **New Butt Stock**

Lightweight and designed for fast shouldering, the newest **butt stock** from CAA fits tightly on both commercial and MIL-SPEC tubes. It comes complete with a locking system; a removable rubber butt pad; three sling mounts; and the overmolded cheek weld is contoured and texturized to maximize user comfort. Weighing only 10.88 ounces, it also features an easy to use stock latch which simpli-

fies length changes and can be used with gloves or in low light conditions.

### **Circle 3158 for More Information**

### **Emergency Lighting** for the 2015 Charger

Code 3<sup>®</sup> recently released the **SuperVisor<sup>®</sup> Flex**, an interior windshield light, which is available in MultiColor (18 up) and single color (nine up) using the latest Torus LED technology. The **Flex** lightheads are situated so that they shine

straight ahead, while the LEDs in each lighthead are designed to spread light, so they do not require aiming. This interior windshield light, along with the WingMan

in the back deck, are ideal for the 2015 Charger. Additional products for crucial lighting are the grille area, side mirrors and the license plate(s). All provide optimal lighting for straight on and off angle performance.

**Circle 3159 for More Information** 

### **New Suppressor Covers**



**MANTA®** Suppressor Covers resist the extreme heat generated from suppressors, thus protecting operators and gear from accidental burns while helping to reduce mirage and IR signature. The covers will not melt! They feature a rubberlike tactile feel and can easily be cut to length. Radial heat sync fins dissipate heat while internal convection channels draw ambient air into the cover with every shot. MANTA's proprietary material, coupled with its heat mitigating features, allow operators to hold or remove the suppressor even after sustained use.

Circle 3160 for More Information

### **New Gun Lock**



Overland Safety Systems recently released the **TL-1 Tactical Lock** for law enforcement vehicles which interfaces directly with a patrol rifle's rail system. While other law enforcement in-vehicle gun locks operate by enclosing some portion of the rifle's fore grip, the **TL-1** leaves three faces of the rifle's rail open at all times, so that officers can accessorize their individual rifles to their mission specific needs. The **TL-1** also works with any firearm which utilizes a Picatinny rail, as do many tactical shotguns and bull pup style rifles.

**Circle 3162 for More Information** 

### Updated Drawing Software



**Crash Zone** and **Crime Zone Version 10.5**, from FARO Technologies, Inc., have more features to help you finish scene drawings faster and more accurately, including powerful satellite image clean up tools; simultaneous viewing of the 2-D and 3-D drawing windows; the ability to draw bullet trajectory cones; and a new drawing preview window which saves you a huge amount of time. Their high resolution, 3-D graphics produce realistic 3-D drawings and animations which are ideal for courtroom presentations.

### **Circle 3163 for More Information**

### Active Response Breachers Kit



The TACOPS® ARBK (Active Response Breachers Kit), from TSSi, is a portable breaching tool system with full-size telescoping and folding handle tools which provide a full force solution to breaching requirements. It is designed to allow responders to active shooter situations to gain entrance into a structure while wearing the TACOPS Active Response Breachers tool quiver and have the ability to tactically employ a sidearm. This design allows the responding officer to retain the breaching tools throughout the entry to address any other barricades which may be encountered.

### New Models from Sniper Tools Design

Sniper Tools Design Company, LLC has introduced the patented Angle Cosine Indi-

**cator Level (ACL)** and the **Angle Degree Indicator Level (ADL)** which have an anti-cant device incorporated into them. Opened with a flip of your thumb, the device is in full view and can rotate vertically, maintaining a zero degree profile on the Z axis. When your weapon is canted, the upward component of velocity for the specified range gets tilted with it, introducing a "Y" component of initial velocity. The **ACL** and **ADL** are impervious to the elements and completely mechanical.



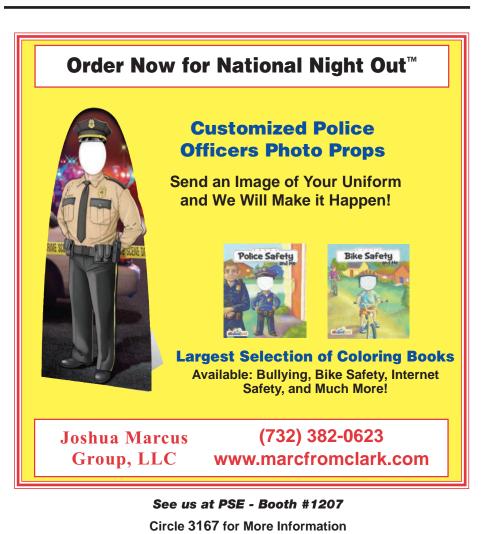
### **Circle 3164 for More Information**

### **New Thermal Cameras**

FLIR Systems, Inc. recently released the new **FLIR LS-X** and **LS-XR handheld thermal cameras** which feature enhanced high resolution color displays, extended range performance and video output for recording and external displays. The **LS-X** has a 320 x 240 sensor and up to 4X e-zoom, while the **LS-XR** has a 640 x 480 sensor with up to 8X e-zoom for superior vision. Both are designed for simple, single hand use in rugged conditions.



### **Circle 3165 for More Information**



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## NEWS

### License Plate Readers Double Stolen Car Recoveries

A report is available on the results of a randomized field experiment with License Plate Readers (LPR) conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum and the Mesa (AZ) Police Department to target the problem of auto theft. The experiment sought to determine whether. and to what extent, LPR use improves the ability of police to recover stolen cars, apprehend auto thieves and deter auto theft. The National Institute of Justice funded project examined the operations of a specialized four car police auto theft unit which worked in auto theft hot spots over a period of time - both with and without LPR devices. The study showed that LPR use considerably enhanced the productivity of the auto theft unit in checking license plates, detecting stolen vehicles and plates, apprehending auto thieves and recovering stolen vehicles. The use of LPRs resulted in eight to ten times more plates checked, nearly three times as many "hits" for stolen vehicles and twice as many vehicle recoveries. A copy of the report can be found at http://tinyurl.com/ lpt5lpq. (This report is the result of a National Institute of Justice-funded project, but was not published by the U.S. Department of Justice.)

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### **REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY**



James L. McClinton, Ph.D

Sleeping on the job can have consequences... Deputies in Santa Rosa County, Florida, arrested a 37-year-old man after he fled on foot from a recent traffic stop. Deputies chased him a while, then called for K-9 backup. By the time the dogs arrived, a sound resembling a "snorting wild boar" saturated the area. Officers easily located the snoring suspect who was found asleep under a tree and was arrested. (I'm sure this human buzz saw will be real popular with his fellow inmates when it's "lights out" time!)

His friends never should have "goated" him on ... Police in Georgia said they arrested a group of teenagers accused of stealing a goat so one of the boys could use it to ask a girl to "goat" with him to the prom. Milton police said three 17year-olds were seen with a 16-year-old accomplice stealing the pet goat, named Chip, from a Milton home about 11:30 p.m. The witness called 911 and the teens were pulled over with the goat still in the back of the pickup truck. The police report said one lad told officers he wanted to use the goat as a prop to ask a girl, "Would you goat with me to the prom?" (Her response: "Iguana think about it.")

This man learned the hard way that "selfie" can also mean "selfinflicted" .... Police caught up to a man trying to flee assault charges because he posted a selfie on Facebook while sitting on a Greyhound bus, a police chief said. The suspect had been living in the borough about 20 miles northwest of Pittsburgh when he was charged with assaulting a woman and refusing to let her leave her apartment after an argument. An hour after the woman called police, they learned that the man posted the Facebook message, "IT'S TIME TO LEAVE PA." Police couldn't find him right away, but the woman called the chief after she noticed the Facebook selfie with the message saying, "OMW TO SPARTANSBURG SC SAY A PRAYER FOR ME." The picture showed the man sitting on a bus and, acting on a hunch, police called the Pittsburgh Greyhound bus terminal and learned a bus to Spartanburg had left 15 minutes earlier. After learning it would stop in Youngstown, Ohio, officers arranged for Youngstown police to arrest the man on a warrant they faxed them. (Self duh-struction...)



### Tomaszewski throws a hard uppercut that wobbles Tomaszewski. Tomaszewski retaliates with a right to Tomaszewski's jaw...

Oregon authorities have released a video of a man who claimed to have been assaulted by detectives. The four minute video shows Aleksander Tomaszewski punching himself in the face 45 times while in his jail cell. The Lane County Sheriff's Office said the 33-year-old man claimed to have been physically assaulted by detectives while being questioned, but deputies reviewed security tapes from the county jail and saw him repeatedly punch himself in the face to give himself black eyes. (If he was trying to knock some sense into himself, he needs to give it another shot.)

This was not the first public restroom in a retail store which resembled a toxic waste dump... Indiana police dispatched to a Walmart store in Muncie said they discovered an active meth lab in the men's restroom. The Pendleton District Meth Suppression Team said workers at the Muncie Walmart called police when a suspicious backpack was found abandoned in the men's restroom. Officers discovered the backpack contained an active methamphetamine lab and the meth suppression team was called in to dismantle the apparatus. Indiana State Police said meth dealers are increasingly leaving labs in public places to cook rather than risk explosions or contamination at their own homes. They said the dealers leave the chemicals to cook and later return for the finished product. (It was probably the only thing in the entire store which wasn't made in China.)

If I had to guess, I'd say he was just desperate to get his company's direct mail campaign out on time!... A man in Muhlenberg Township, Pennsylvania, applied his vast intellect to a scheme which would earn him lots of cold cash. He would stake out an ATM machine, wait for someone to approach it, and then rob the victim at knifepoint. Things were going according to plan - his victim was at the machine, so he sprang into action. But, then, the surprised woman told him she had no money and couldn't get any out of the machine. There was a good reason for that - the ATM was actually a stamp dispensing machine at the local post office. After the woman screamed, post office workers ran to her aid and the failed robber fled on foot. The police caught him a short time later hiding in a dumpster at a nearby business. (Those wedding invites aren't going to mail themselves.) P&SN

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