Rolice and security News

MAY/JUNE 2021 VOLUME 37 ISSUE 3

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

Can ELECTRIC Patrol Vehicles
Get the Job Done?

Duty Handgun Modifications

NEW VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT

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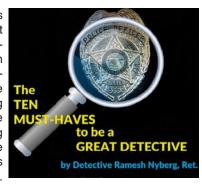
Policing Reform Legislation: Conditions on Funding and New Grant Authorizations

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) has released several new reports detailing topics related to policing. The first report, "Policing Reform Legislation: Conditions on Funding and New Grant Authorizations," discusses the new police reform legislation, the George Floyd Justice Policing Act of 2021 (JIPA, H.R. 1280), as an omnibus measure which would address a variety of policing reform topics and approaches, including police funding. The second report, "Programs to Collect Data on Law Enforcement Activities: Overview and Issues," discusses how JIPA would establish programs for law enforcement agencies to collect data on a variety of activities, such as the use of force, racial profiling and in-custody deaths. The third report, "Proposals for Systems of Records on Decertified Officers and Police Misconduct." discusses how JIPA will attempt to curb so-called "wandering officers" (i.e., law enforcement officers who are fired or resign under threat of termination, but are later hired by another law enforcement agency, often in another

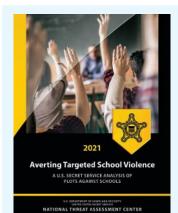
All three reports can be found at https://tinyurl.com/37ktasd7; https://tinyurl.com/22vyd6tk; and https://tinyurl.com/vstt2kb8

New Investigations Book Available: The Ten Must-Haves to Be a Great Detective

Retired Homicide Detective Ramesh Nyberg shares tips and techniques from his 27 year law enforcement career and his ten years of operating a private investigation agency. This new book is filled with information and guidance you can use to be the best detective possible. Surveillance, tech tools, interviews, and valuable investigative strategies are included. Detective Nyberg worked in one of law enforcement's most elite homicide offices at the Miami-Dade Police Department starting in the 1980s. He was right in the thick of the Cocaine Cowboys, Miami River Cops and the hunt for James "Whitey" Bulger of Boston's infamous Winter Hill Gang.



After he retired, he started his own private investigation agency and would like to share the knowledge he has learned from both law enforcement and private investigation. Ramesh's conversational writing style will have you feeling like you are in the detective squad room, being mentored by one of the best. This book is for law enforcement investigators, as well those in the private sector. *The Ten Must-Haves* is also very useful for investigative journalists. It is currently available from Amazon books at https://tinyurl.com/hwc2xajm



New Report: Averting Targeted School Violence – A US Secret Service Analysis

Published by the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC), Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools describes why threat assessment is important in preventing targeted school violence. The averted attacks in this report confirm what NTAC's research has found on school attacks, specifically that students display a variety of observable concerning behaviors as they escalate towards violence. To identify, assess and intervene with students who may pose a risk of harm to themselves or others, schools and communities should develop multidis-

ciplinary threat assessment programs, as outlined in the NTAC's *Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence.* This strategic approach should be guided by the research findings contained in this report, along with NTAC's 2019 examination of school attacks which occurred from 2008 to 2017, titled *Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence.*

A copy of the full report can be downloaded at https://tinyurl.com/asjseurb

New Online Training Course: Post-Seizure Evidentiary Concerns

Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and hosted by the National White-Collar Crime Center (NW3C), Post-Seizure Evidentiary Concerns addresses legal issues which appear relatively late in the investigative and judicial process. Topics include the Fifth Amendment as it applies to passwords and login credentials, determining the ownership of files on digital devices, and the admissibility of online evidence. This is the sixth module of the training series Legal Concerns for Digital



Evidence Responders. It can be completed as a stand-alone course or in combination with the other modules.

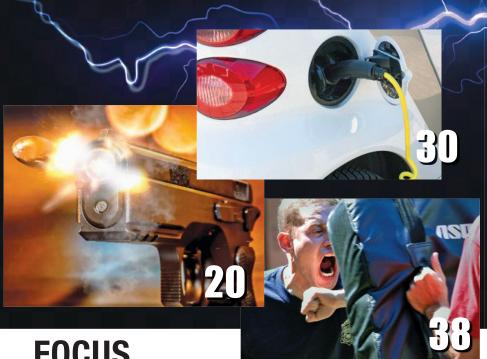
Visit https://tinyurl.com/5wvm6fzc to register for the training course.

Police and Security News

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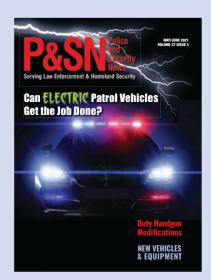
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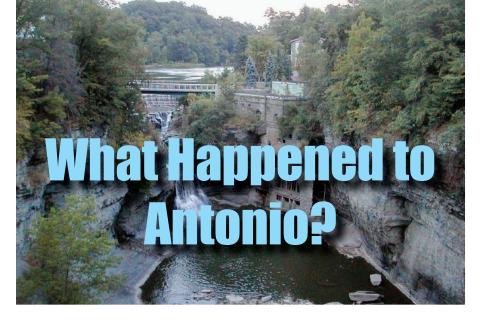


...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

RAMESH NYBERG

ovember 30th of this year will mark 15 years since I retired. On that day, someone said something you've probably all heard before: "You never get police work out of your blood." I scoffed.

You think I miss getting called out in the middle of the night for a dead crack dealer? Do you think I miss my uniform days, getting shot at, bricks and bottles thrown at me, and getting called every name in the book? I, likewise, am very content that I no longer get the endless calls from next of kin on my homicide cases: Why haven't we caught the killer yet? When are we going to trial? What do you mean you're working on other cases? What about my son's death?



Detective, there's no way this is a suicide; there's no way he would ever do that...

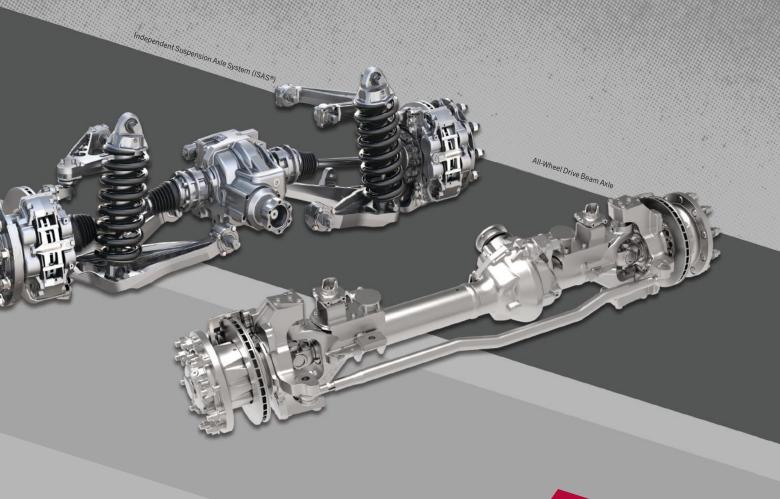
I sure don't miss any of that. Every so often, though, a case catches my attention and I find myself thinking, "I'd love to work that one." I also still bristle when I see poor police work, especially in a major case investigation. On October 24, 2019, a young college freshman named Antonio Tsialas was found dead near Cornell University. The location

was a short walk from campus, a waterfall park well-known for Cornell students' late night drinking revelry and fraternity dares. Tsialas' death hit close to home. He was an honor student at the school where both my wife and I currently work. He was a soccer star, bright, energetic, and well-loved by students and faculty alike. He was my wife's former student. We went to his funeral service where his parents — reeling in shock, confusion and grief — stood graciously, smiling and



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...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

greeting a line of classmates and faculty members which went out the door and down the hall.

You never want to jump to conclusions when you investigate, but you also follow the smoke to see if it leads you to a fire. When a promising college freshman is found dead near a popular gorge where college kids liked to jump and swim, the smoke is usually billowing up from a campus frat house.

In the last five years, there have been nine documented college hazing deaths in the US. One might shrug and say, "That doesn't sound like much." Remember that we are not talking about a student getting into a car accident, or even overdosing on drugs by themselves, or being involved in a non-fraternity-/sorority-related homicide. These are accidental deaths directly related to hazing activities and almost always involve colossal amounts of alcohol use. In other words, it's fair to say that, if these students had not been a part of a fraternity or sorority, they would not have died. This brings the problem into sharper focus, doesn't it?

Antonio Tsialas' parents are, by all accounts, very respectable, responsible people who were fortunate enough to send their child to an excellent private school. All Antonio did during his years at this school was flourish and excel at everything he did in a very challenging and demanding academic environment. On its face, that tells you he didn't have an alcohol or drug abuse problem. Anyone who does will not survive a high functioning college prep curriculum and have the ability to be a star soccer player on top of it all. To say that his death was a shock to everyone who knew him would be a major understatement.

But, young people are...young. They want to be accepted and they feel like they can survive anything. They're often willing to leave their comfort zone to gain the acceptance of their peers. Once the first couple of drinks go down, well, taking risks gets easier and easier. It's terribly sad that his "friends" were willing to get so out of control that they, too, were willing to throw all caution to the wind when putting the newbies through the fraternity rites of passage.

Even sadder is the fact that, to this day, 18 months later, we don't know exactly what happened to Antonio. What we do know is this: He went to a Phi Kappa Psi induction party called "Christmas in October." Though this was

forbidden by the school (they are supposed to wait until the second semester to recruit freshmen), the fraternity routinely thumbed their noses at the rule and engaged in "dirty rush." of which the Christmas in October event was a part. At the frat house were Christmas decorated rooms, each with alcohol which the freshmen were expected to drink all night. At one point, according to the investigation, Antonio was drunk, but he was approached by another student who insisted that he hadn't had enough. Antonio was told to open his mouth while the other student poured straight vodka down his throat.

What happened after that point is not to make light of any of it – hazy. No one could contact Antonio the next morning or the rest of the day and night. No one reported anything, either. Nearly 100 students were at this drunken hazing party and no one bothered to make even an anonymous call to anyone to say that Antonio was in any kind of distress. His body was discovered two days later on a ledge at the Fall Creek Gorge. His vomit stained shirt - with an unknown individual's shoeprint on it was found nearby above the body. Fall Creek Gorge is a ten minute walk from the frat house.

A lot has been written about the investigation which was conducted by the campus police. I am going to tread lightly here because I have been on the other side of the fence when investigations are criticized by outside entities. What is appalling to me, though, is that no one - not one solitary member of Phi Kappa Psi - has come forward to tell the truth about that night. In fact, they all lawyered up. I've been involved in hundreds of death investigations. The more people you have who know things, the greater the chance you have of "flipping" someone. It takes some strategy and some investigative teamwork. I'm not sure what was done and what wasn't. These aren't hardened criminals, however, they're young college students. most of whom have never been involved in anything illegal in their lives (save for a few joints now and then). With nearly 100 attendees, you should get at least one or two decent statements which can flesh out the fact pattern. It's doubtful that, in a drunken stupor, Antonio would wander ten minutes in the dark to Fall Creek Gorge by himself. Someone knows what happened. Someone left him to die on that rocky ledge and dozens more witnessed the events leading up to it. Someone stepped on that shirt.

There is a lot to rub one's chin about here and it starts with a culture of colleges which aren't willing to exact greater discipline and oversight on these fraternities and sororities. There might have been some sloppy police work involved, too. Again, I'm not going to pass judgement on a case I wasn't involved in, but a drone flight over the Gorge revealed something which appeared to be a cell phone. The campus police have said they declined to go and retrieve it because of "icy conditions." After the ice thawed, the police never went back. Antonio's phone has not been found to this day.

We as an institution have no excuses these days to do bad police work. The training, the technology and the resources are all within reach. And, if they are not, and you don't have experienced investigators who have the skill sets to do this critical work, bring in your state police or some other agency which does.

On the other side, our institutions of higher learning need to also start stressing higher ethics and greater oversight on their student body – kids who are for the first time free of the bonds of their parents and ready for adventure. Fall Creek Gorge has been a Cornell party and recreation spot for decades, centuries in fact. Students have swam, jumped and died there *since* 1873, when a blindfolded freshmen died after falling in the water there. But, the parties, the hazing and the insane alcohol consumption all continue.

Police investigators, college deans and university presidents, please hear the cry of the Tsialas family: Let's get better at our jobs. If we don't, promising young people will continue to needlessly die.

A Web site dedicated to this case has been established and it can be found at antoniohelp.com P&SN

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years in police work. He is the Director of Security & Auxiliary Programs for Ransom Everglades School in Miami. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has recently announced his newly published book, The Ten Must-Haves to Be a Great Detective, available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle eBook. You can find it by visiting https://tinyurl.com/hwc2xajm



FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY



Three New Lights for Slick Tops

Code 3 has announced three new emergency warning lights which are ideal for slick top units and command vehicles. The CD3974 and CD5051VDL2 are two new interior lights and the MegaFlex™ is a new LED device.

The CD3974 can be mounted on the interior of any vehicle window and provides warning with two dual-color light heads. Four color combinations are available, each producing up to 67 flash patterns.

The CD5051VDL2 Deck, Dash and Visor Light is only 1.2" high and, with adjustable mounting options, is practically undetectable when not in use.

The **MegaFlex** utilizes a silicone lens and its flexible design allows the LED warning light to bend up to 120° on hard to mount vehicle surfaces. The compact light delivers 69 flash patterns with its six dual-color light heads.

code3esq.com

Police Vehicles and Equipment

Havis VSX Console Redefines Workspace

The all-new Havis VSX Console, C-VSX-1800-INUT, for the 2020-2021 Ford® Interceptor® Utility, provides a comfortable workspace by organizing control heads, armrests, cup holders, and other essential equipment. The console incorporates new materials with key legacy features to ensure compatibility with mission-critical accessories.

The construction of the polycarbonate housing provides a high degree of strength, rigidity, impact resistance, and thermal perfor-



mance while lowering weight by 30%. It's designed and textured to seamlessly blend with the Ford Interceptor Utility's styling and is color matched to the vehicle's interior. This design allows for easy access to vehicle controls, such as the parking brake, rear seat climate and SYNC® USB ports. A versatile front bin can be configured for a Brother PocketJet® printer mount, optional control heads or additional storage.

https://bit.ly/3IUo6M8



New CopBox Available

A CopBox Cabinet™ tactical trunk storage solution for the 2021 Chevy Tahoe PPV is now available from CTech Manufacturing.

One important advantage of **CopBox** storage is that it utilizes factory mounting points due to a dedicated "QuickLink" mounting plate. In many cases, a **CopBox** cabinet can be transferred from vehicle to vehicle by simply swapping out the mounting plate. This saves money and time compared to similar trunk storage solutions.

Every CopBox Cabinet is engineered to the same standard with a host of CTech-exclusive features: lightweight fastener constructed assembly; MotionLatch® full-length dual-latching drawers and doors; hammertone powder coat finish; radius end corners; and QuickLink factory mounting plates.

ctechmanufacturing.com



All-new 2021 F-150 Police Responder®

Ford® recently unveiled its new 2021 F-150 Police Responder, America's only purpose-built, pursuit-rated pickup truck. The new Police Responder features increased capability, including an improved 120 mph top speed, automatic four-wheel drive mode with Torque-On-Demand® transfer case to help transition from busy urban streets to dusty country roads.

The F-150 Police Responder is built on the 2021 F-150 SuperCrew® platform and is engineered to meet a wide range of agency needs – from allowing officers to travel with more emergency response gear to transporting mobile command centers. The truck continues to deliver greater towing capacity, payload capacity and interior passenger volume than any other pursuit-rated police vehicle.

https://tinyurl.com/e756cruw

All-new Havis Solutions for the 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe Police PPV and SSV

Havis, Inc. has recently introduced a **new suite of products** to support the 2021 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle (PPV) and Special Service Vehicle (SSV).

Various console heights, lengths and widths are offered for the 2021 Tahoe PPV and SSV to meet diverse equipment and comfort requirements. An assortment of vehicle-specific, heavy-duty device mounts provides secure stowage for laptops, tablets and other mission-critical equipment. Standard accessories, such as motion devices, printer mounts, armrests, and cup holders, are offered to complete any vehicle upfit.

Havis K9 transports are available in standard or extended lengths and a combination K9/ Prisoner Transport is offered as well. Featuring black or white durable powder coat finishes, Havis K9 transport solutions reduce rattle, maximize visibility, improve operability, and increase versatility.

Vehicle-specific rear storage mounts are also available to support Havis' modular storage line, consisting of easily stackable drawers with various size and lock options.

havis.com



Modular Designed Components

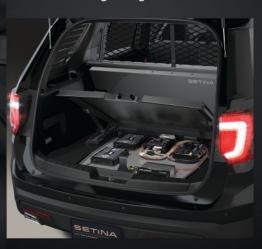
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DESIGNING FOR THE FUTURE



New Patrol Craft

Lake Assault Boats recently placed a **30 foot patrol craft** into service with the Superior, WI, Police Department.

The Superior Police Department **craft** is a modified "V," Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) with an overall height less than13' 6". It weighs approximately 3,100 lbs. and has a person and cargo capacity of 2,500 lbs.

The craft's estimated top speed is 50 knots and is powered by twin 350hp Mercury outboard motors, power trim and tilt, and a fuel management system. The boat's draft is no greater than 18" when the motors are trimmed up and 24" when trimmed down.

A T-top pilothouse features a narrow aluminum hard top and offers a built-in seat in front of the console, a weapons storage box, an overhead waterproof electronics box, and an adjustable windscreen. The dash console is outfitted with two Garmin 12" multifunction displays and provides ample room for electronics, throttles and switches.

lakeassault.com



New 500 Series Siren

The new **500 Series Siren**, from Sound-Off Signal, features full-size siren functionality with a built-in bluePRINT® central controller. Users can control two lightbars without the need for an external breakout box, or control additional lightbars using external BOBs

The **500 Series** offers enhanced I/O capability with the same small footprint. Twenty outputs are available, 15 of which are solid-state which can be flashed/dimmed and include diagnostic and self-protection features.

Featuring USB programmability, along with the newly released SoundOff Signal Central bluePRINT software app, the standard siren is fully expandable and customizable. It also allows real-time diagnostics and firmware updates.

soundoffsignal.com



Westin Public Safety has recently announced the availability of **on-dash keyboard and tablet mounts for the Ford 2020 Police Interceptor Utility**. These new HINT equipment mounts offer a spacious design which provides more space for the driver. Additionally, these mounts occupy only two inches on the passenger side.

Their ease of installation eliminates the need to cut the dashboard and they feature full adjustability – tilt and swivel for both the display and keyboard, as well as telescopic keyboard height adjustment. The rugged design features steel construction and black powder finish, along with G.R.I.P. tilt/swivel articulation.

westinpublicsafety.com

Pinellas County Mobile Command Vehicle



The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in Florida recently took delivery of a **new mobile command center manufactured by LDV**. The vehicle includes many features such as four in-house fabricated flat-floor slide outs; Intel-I-Touch™ vehicle automation touchscreen system which simplifies start-up and shutdown; dual weatherproof exterior workstations; and body storage compartments.

The interior features a front conference room with two workstations and a center conference table. The 75" 4K smart TV monitor at the front wall is used to display a variety of video sources. Custom aluminum cabinetry was also included, as well as a lavatory with pressurized water system which is accessed from the outside.

The rear of the vehicle features workstations with dual monitors, communications radios and a stowable center collaboration table, along with a cell phone booster system.

A nonlocking telescoping mast with dual dome network IP cameras was also installed, as well as a rooftop satellite antenna and a PA system with exterior speakers and microphone. A video walk-through can be viewed at https://youtu.be/wDzdQ5OhFSU



Stowaway Whiteboard

Setina's **Slide-Out Whiteboard** comes in both top and bottom mount configurations. The ultradurable, magnetic, dry erase whiteboard provides a 17.5" x 33" writing surface. The sliding, hide-away storage allows for easy access, deployment and organization, and features a durable, heavy-duty, lightweight aluminum framework with an easy to clean, wax free, high performance polyester coated surface.

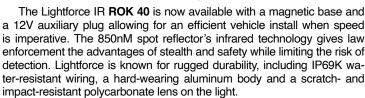
setina.com

New Rear Cargo Deck

Setina's new Rear Cargo Deck for the 2021 Tahoe PPV provides a flat surface for storage with a removable vented access plate for electronics and lower storage. Easily installed and designed to work with Setina's Single and Dual Drawer Cargo Management Systems, these Cargo Storage Systems are available in multiple tiers and configurations to meet any department's needs. The top tier is available with a lock option and the lower slide out equipment tray tier is designed with 300 pound capacity, lock-in/lock-out Accuride® slide rails. Constructed of heavy-duty, lightweight, aircraft grade aluminum, this storage system's universal design also provides for a quick and easy no holes drilled installation.

setina.com

New IR from Lightforce



lightforce.com



Introducing the 500 Series Siren



The most complete, innovative and user-friendly siren in its class. Never before have you had more features at your fingertips, giving you control of your vehicle in a single product.

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- ➤ Available in remote, console and handheld models for installation adaptability

Contact your SoundOff Signal sales representative to learn more.



soundoffsignal.com



An Unsuccessful Attempt to Stop a Suspect Is a "Seizure"

LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.



n Torres v. Madrid, (US 3-25-21), the United States Supreme Court addressed the question of whether a seizure occurs when an officer shoots someone who temporarily eludes capture after the shooting. The answer, according to the Court, is "Yes. The application of physical force to the body of a person

with intent to restrain is a seizure, even if the force does not succeed in subduing the person."

The facts of the case unfolded at dawn in the middle of July 2014, when four New Mexico state police officers went to an apartment complex in Albuquerque to execute an arrest warrant for a woman accused of white collar crimes, but was also "suspected of having been involved in drug trafficking, murder and other violent crimes."

Upon arrival, the officers saw the plaintiff, Roxanne Torres, standing with another person near a Toyota FJ Cruiser in the parking lot of the complex. The officers did not believe that Torres or her companion were the target of the warrant. As the officers approached the vehicle, the companion ran into the apartment, "while Torres - who, at the time, was experiencing methamphetamine withdrawal - got into the driver's seat and started the engine.

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The officers attempted to speak with her, but she did not notice their presence until one of them tried to open the door of her car."

"Although the officers wore tactical vests marked with police identification, Torres saw only that they had guns. She thought the officers were carjackers trying to steal her car and she hit the gas to escape them. Neither Officer Madrid nor Officer Williamson, according to Torres, stood in the path of the vehicle, but both fired their service pistols to stop her. All told, the two officers fired 13 shots at Torres, striking her twice in the back and temporarily paralyzing her left arm."

Officer Madrid testified that the Cruiser "drove at [her]" and she fired "at the driver through the windshield" in order "to stop the driver from running her over." Officer Williamson said that he shot at the driver because he feared being "crush[ed]" between the Cruiser and the neighboring car, as well as to stop the vehicle from going towards Officer Madrid.

Torres accelerated away from the officers' use of force, drove a short distance and stopped in a parking lot. After asking a bystander to report an attempted carjacking, Torres stole a car which happened to be idling nearby and drove 75 miles to Grants, New Mexico. Ultimately, she was airlifted to a hospital in Albuquerque, properly identified and arrested by police.

Torres sued the officers in federal court, under 42 U.S.C. §1983, asserting that the officers used excessive, unreasonable force. In the appeal to the Tenth Circuit, the court held that the officers were entitled to qualified immunity, for the officers had not "seized" Torres at the time of the shooting. The United States Supreme Court disagreed.

"This case concerns the 'seizure' of a 'person,' which can take the form of 'physical force' or a 'show of authority' that 'in some way restrain[s] the liberty' of the person." The main question here is "whether the application of physical force is a seizure if the force, despite hitting its target, fails to stop the person." In short, the Court held:

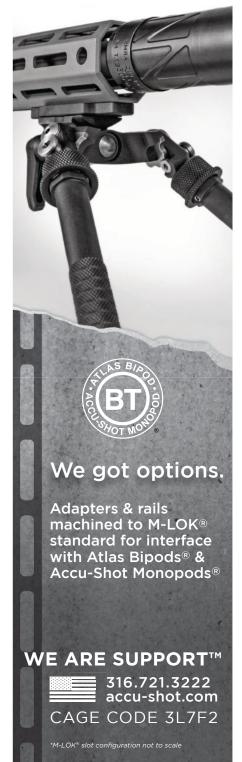
"[T]he application of physical force to the body of a person with intent to restrain is a seizure even if the person does not submit and is not subdued. Of course, a seizure is just the first step in the analysis. The Fourth Amendment does not forbid all or even most seizures – only unreasonable ones. All we decide today is that the officers seized Torres by shooting her with intent to restrain her movement. We leave open on remand any questions regarding the reasonableness of the seizure, the dam-







got m-lok?



LEGAL UPDATE

Continued from page 15

ages caused by the seizure, and the officers' entitlement to qualified immunity."

According to the Court, this rule is narrow. "In addition to the requirement of intent to restrain, a seizure by force – absent submission – lasts only as long as the application of force. That is to say that the Fourth Amendment does not recognize any 'continuing arrest during the period of fugitivity.'"

Applying these principles, the Court held that "the officers' shooting applied physical force" to Torres' body "and objectively manifested an intent to restrain her from driving away." Therefore, "the officers seized Torres for the instant that the bullets struck her."

During the course of its opinion, the Court stressed that the application of this rule "does not transform every physical contact between a government employee and a member of the public into a Fourth Amendment seizure. A seizure requires the use of force with intent to restrain. Accidental force will not qualify. ...Nor will force intentionally applied for some other purpose satisfy this rule. In this opinion, we consider only force used to apprehend." Thus, the "appropriate inquiry is whether the challenged conduct objectively manifests an intent to restrain[.]"

"While a mere touch can be enough for a seizure, the amount of force remains pertinent in assessing the objective intent to restrain. A tap on the shoulder to get one's attention will rarely exhibit such an intent. ... Nor does the seizure depend on the subjective perceptions of the seized person. Here, for example, Torres claims to have perceived the officers' actions as an attempted carjacking. But, the conduct of the officers - ordering Torres to stop and then shooting to restrain her movement - satisfies the objective test for a seizure, regardless whether Torres comprehended the governmental character of their actions." P&SN

Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey, and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is the Managing Editor of Blue360° Media, the largest US provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement.

Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.

RANKED #1



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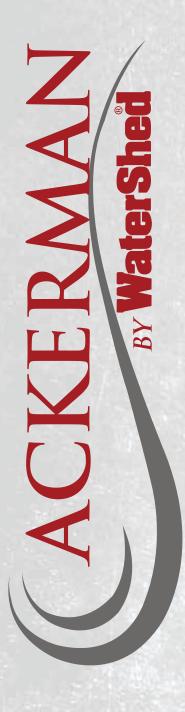
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PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



LASER SHOT SIMULATIONS

Laser Shot's **SimRange™** is purpose-built to provide crucial marksmanship and use-of-force training while maintaining a small footprint, ease of use (setup in five minutes or less), and a cost-effective price tag. With 1,000+ realistic use-of-force scenarios, science-driven marksmanship drills, and true to life training weapons, the **SimRange** benefits your department or agency by maximizing officer performance.

lasershot.com



MILO RANGE

The MILO Live Ready Range® is a reliable solution for live-fire training requirements. Ready Range is an engineered, modular, 100% ballistic enclosed live fire trainer. The Ready Range system is complete with roofing, insulation, all access doors, electrical, HVAC, filtration, and metal siding in 20 different colors. Inside, the Ready Range comes complete with one or two shooting lanes, shooting stalls, target retrieval systems, bullet traps, and lighting. The Ready Range can also be configured to a wide-open layout with custom lane widths per user requirements.

milorange.com

Firearms Simulators and Training Equipment

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inveristraining.com



QUALIFICATION TARGETS, INC.

The **B-27E Paper Target Pack** contains a sampling of their Standard B-27 Silhouette Paper Targets and includes six varieties: B-27E Black, B-27E Blue, B-27E Green, B-27E White, B-27 PRO-G and the B-27 Q Black. There are 25 of each target in the **B-27E Paper Target Pack** for a total of 150 targets.

targets.net



TI TRAINING

Ti Training's RECON Training System is a reconfigurable simulation training system designed to allow an agency to purchase the system which best meets its needs in the present and upgrade it for their needs in the future. The single screen RECON Core system is a full-feature, full-function training simulation system priced to make it affordable. Upgrade to the three screen RECON EX for 180 degrees of scenario-based training or to a five screen 300 degree training environment.

titraining.com



VIRTRA®

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Each **Recoil Kit** is engineered using durable stainless steel, complete with a laser which ensures accurate firearm practice in a simulator – whether it's used in virtual marksmanship ranges or simulated scenarios.

virtra.com

NEWS

SAKI Toolkit

The Sexual Assault Kit Initiative (SAKI), sponsored by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, has published an informative toolkit which brings awareness to the topic of sexual assault and sexual assault investigations. The SAKI program works to eliminate backlogs of untested rape kits. As part of these efforts, SAKI created this toolkit which includes practices and procedures which should be used in every sexual assault investigation and is designed to help law enforcement personnel ensure that all critical steps are taken and documented according to nationally accepted practices. SAKI also has numerous resources for criminal justice professionals, as well as resources for survivors.

To access the toolkit, please visit https://tinyurl.com/snfrhcr2



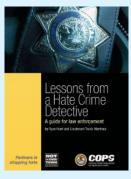
New Report from the DEA

The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) announced the release of the 2020 National Drug Threat Assessment. This report outlines the threats posed to the United States by domestic and international drug trafficking and the abuse of illicit drugs. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 83,000 people lost their lives to drug-related overdoses in the 12 month period ending in July 2020, a significant increase from 2019, when more than 70,000 people died of overdoses.





New PSP Toolkit: Hate Crime Resources



Funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance and published by the National Public Safety Partnership (PSP), "Hate Crime Resources" is a new toolkit which includes several documents and relevant resources related to hate crime. The toolkit titles include *Police Legitimacy and Reducing Victimization in Immigrant Communities; Lessons from a Hate Crime Detective; Uniting Communities Post-9/11: Tactics for Cultivating Community Policing Partnerships with Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian Communities; Responding to Sexual Violence in LGBTQ+Communities: Law Enforcement Strategies and Considerations; NYPD and Victim Assistance; Improving the Identification, Investigation and Reporting of Hate Crimes; FBI*

2019 Hate Crime Statistics; Responding to Hate Crimes as a Police Officer: A Police Officer's Guide to Investigation and Prevention; and Federal and State Hate Crime Laws and Statues.

To download a copy of the toolkit, visit https://tinyurl.com/p8vti65v



How to Enhance Your Performance with Firearms – PART 1

These days, law enforcement officers are operating in an increasingly hostile environment.

MIKE BOYLE

he past year has been particularly rough on law enforcement officers. Between the COVID-19 pandemic and large-scale social unrest, the police have been stretched to the limit and bear the brunt of public frustration. To further compound the problem, calls to defund the police have actually gained traction in some areas, although it appears this position is not widely held.

One very disturbing trend largely ignored by the popular media is the fact that 283 law enforcement officers had been shot in the line of duty in the first 11 months of 2020 for an all-time high. Forty-four of those officers died as a result. I can only speculate that the widespread use of soft body armor and better trauma treatment prevented the number of fatalities to rise as high as in the 1970s.

Despite these challenges, we can probably expect public safety budgets to shrink. This will have an adverse effect on staffing and training, putting officers at even greater risk. Even in the best of times, the resources dedicated to that intangible quality called training are not what they should be. In short, if you are serious about your personal safety, you have to take the bull by the horns.

What follows are a few tips which might go a long way in keeping you safe in a worst-case scenario. Best of all, many can be practiced at home or might only require a modest expenditure of ammunition. When a box of practice ammo costs about the same as dinner for two, it is important that our training be focused.



hoto by Andy Choinski

Holster Skills

Can you quickly react to a sudden threat? Although in most instances officers have forewarning of danger, it doesn't always play out that way. The faster you get into action, the greater the likelihood that you will prevail in a deadly encounter.

Practice of the draw stroke can be accomplished off the range. Go to a safe area where you are not likely to be disturbed and verify your handgun is indeed empty. From a secure holster, draw and drive the pistol to eye level. Your effort should be focused on a perfect, efficient draw stroke. Initially, concentrate on form rather than speed. Once you feel you are hitting on all cylinders, try to pick up the pace and add the trigger press.



Serious injury is a very real possibility in a confrontation. Practice one-handed shooting and operational skills, as well as firing from nontypical positions.

Make it a point to return the pistol to the holster with one hand. This is especially important with concealment holsters which are soft or obstructed by clothing. You should be practicing with the type of clothing typically worn with the gun. If that holster collapses on return, junk it and get another.

By investing five minutes of time here and there, your draw stroke will become very smooth. In the age of Level III duty holsters, it is important that you practice this critical skill.

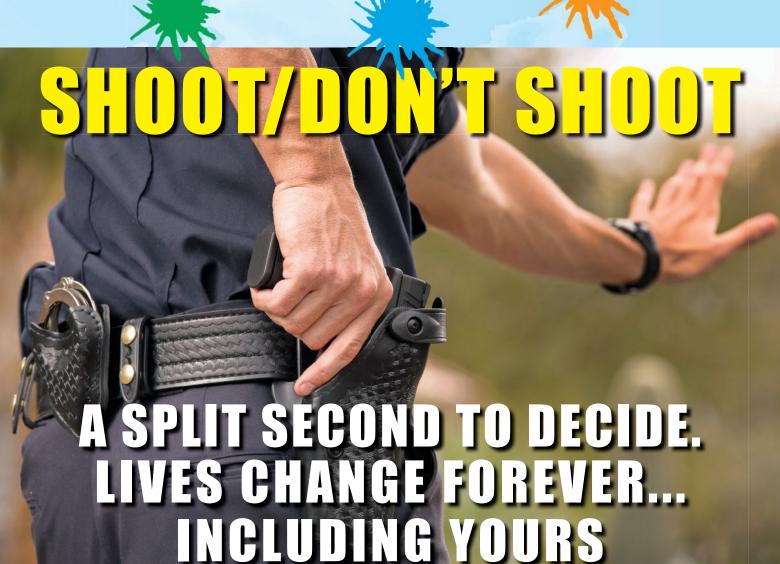
Reloading

One of the advantages of modern autopistols over the revolvers of old is the fact that they offer greater continuity of fire. The absolute need to reload during a gunfight is greatly diminished, yet it does happen. In view of that, this is another skill which we need to refine.

Many outfits focus their entire effort in having the troops achieve a level of competency in marksmanship, but ignore the equally important component of gun handing. Without some solid instruction, cops will find a way, but it may very well be the wrong way. A very common mistake I see is improperly drawing the spare magazine from the pouch. This will slow you way down and may even result in a dropped magazine at time of need.

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HOW TO ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE WITH FIREARMS – PART 1

Continued from page 20



The draw stroke can be refined outside the range environment. Double-check to verify that your weapon is unloaded.

Make it a point to run the index finger of the support hand along the front of the magazine tube. The floorplate should be in the palm and the tip of the index finger even with the mouth of the magazine. This will allow you to quickly guide the magazine into the magazine well without looking at it. Index the magazine in the pistol

and drive it home in one continuous, positive motion.

Traditionally, combat loading falls into one of three categories: speed, emergency and tactical. In the speed reload, the partially depleted magazine is replaced without regard to the disposition of any remaining rounds. One simply drops the magazine and replaces it with a fresh one. The instructors at the old HK® International Training Division were fond of saying, "Load when you can, not when you have to" and it's a point well taken.

The emergency reload is a little bit more involved and requires an additional step. The pistol is now totally empty with the slide locked to the rear. You not only have to replace the magazine, but you also have to send the slide forward to chamber a round. To return the pistol to battery, one can either hit the slide catch or pull the slide all the way to the rear and let it go. Ultimately, the individual user will have to evaluate what works best for their needs. Some pistols have an ambidextrous slide release which work equally well for right- and left-hand shooters. Others have single side controls which require left-hand users to run the slide.

Quite frankly, I'm not a big believer

in the classic tactical reload which requires the shooter to manage two magazines in the hand after being subjected to life-threatening stress. The idea behind this is that the partially depleted magazine should be saved for possible future use. To cut right to the chase, I would rather invest my time for scenarios which are more likely to happen. If you feel otherwise, by all means have at it. The tactical reload remains a great range technique, but I have reservations as to whether the average officer could pull it off in the middle of a gunfight.

Get yourself some inert, dummy rounds and practice. Be sure there is no live ammunition on your person or in the immediate area. Again, a few minutes of practice will speed up your game considerably.

Solo Hand Shooting

Just about all police firearms training involves shooting with two hands on the pistol. We do, in fact, shoot significantly better when we can get both the dominant and support hand around the gun, but we shouldn't ignore solo hand skills. Some common examples of one-handed shooting include spontaneous threats in





Occasional practice of reloading skills will pay dividends. This, too, can be practiced off the range with dummy rounds.

close quarters, injury or when managing a flashlight in the support hand.

Some trainers teach a specific stance when firing solo hand. Since this is pretty much an emergency technique, I don't make a big deal out of the footwork and suggest you simply utilize your usual balanced fighting stance, the same as you would when firing with both hands. By all means, avoid stepping forward with the strong side foot and blading your body 90 degrees. This forfeits the advantage of your body armor and gives an adversary an open window to the vital chest area.

My one-handed practice is conducted at seven yards and closer and I fire two to three shot bursts with both the dominant and support hands. By all means, don't neglect the "stupid hand." The ability to fire decisive hits at typical combat distance with either hand may very well determine whether or not you go home at the end of your shift.

Just about any sort of humanoid target can be utilized. For targets with an overly optimistic high value scoring area, one can use small paper plates or overlays to make it more challenging. You will indeed notice a little more muzzle flip when firing at speed when shooting single hand and you may have to back off the gas pedal just a bit in order to surgically place those subsequent shots. This is another area where some significant dry fire practice will help out prior to hitting the range. 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.





he current crop of duty handguns is the best ever produced. They work reliably with a variety of ammunition, such as hollow point

duty ammo and full metal jacket training rounds. Some also don't require as much maintenance as the duty guns from years past.

As good as they are from the factory, they are still designed and equipped for the masses. Today, most manufacturers duce user adjustable handguns to fit different hand and finger sizes. Duty handgun manufacturers recognized a demand for better fitting handafter seeing guns growth in aftermarket companies performing grip and frame reductions.

When it comes to enabling your duty handgun to be better suited to fit your needs, operating environment and physical abilities, there are some simple modifications available which don't break the bank. With that said, I've never been a proponent of fundamentally changing

the operating system of a duty handgun. I would never encourage anyone to make changes which would decrease reliability, dependability or accuracy. I want to make it perfectly clear that I'm not endorsing modifications which make the trigger lighter or the ignition system less reliable. The modifications I propose simply enhance an officer's ability to apply accurate marksmanship to save lives

Grip Changes

One of the biggest contributors to bad marksmanship is a shooter with an inadequate grip on the handgun. This is often due to a lack of training and bad habits, but it can be caused by a poor fitting handgun, physical limitations or environmental factors. It can even be an officer safety issue. With good grip strength and an adequate gripping surface on your handgun, the ability to re-



This GLOCK® 19 has had grip reduction work which includes the trigger guard and magazine well.





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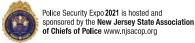
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Continued from page 24



tain your handgun if someone attempts to disarm you is greatly improved.

If a handgun is too big, the shooter won't be able to get 360 degrees of hand coverage around the stock. When this happens, recoil energy will cause the gun to twist in his (or her) hand during recoil. This makes movement of the gun unpredictable, causing a delay in getting the sights back on target. Another problem with an ill-fitting handgun is a trigger reach which is excessive. If the trigger is positioned too far forward for the shooter, it makes proper trigger finger placement very difficult or impossible. This results in the trigger finger putting lateral pressure on the trigger during the trigger

press. The lateral pressure moves the sights off target resulting in off-center shots or misses.

If the smallest grip inserts or backstraps don't provide an adequate solution, I recommend investing in grip reduction work from a reputable and qualified gunsmith. Should you decide to go this route, don't trust Joe's Garage Gun Services to do the job. Second-rate work may affect the gun frame's structure and durability, causing problems in the future. Spend some time doing research and you will greatly appreciate the quality of work performed by a highly competent gunsmith who may also guarantee their work. Quality grip reduction



The stippling on this Smith & Wesson® M&P® grip insert works well to keep the backstrap of the handgun planted securely in the hand.

work will cost \$185 to \$250, depending on the extent of the work performed, but the resulting fit of the handgun can make a huge difference for an officer. However, keep in mind that altering the original grip of your handgun will void the factory warranty.

A less common problem is a handgun which is too small for the officer. I have encountered this a couple of times in my career, but it is rare compared to handguns which are too large. The interchangeable grip inserts and backstraps available from duty handgun manufacturers have mostly solved this problem. If these aren't large enough, there are several aftermarket backstraps available to fit the most popular duty handguns. These can add palm swell to the sides of the stock panels, lengthen the trigger reach, or both, depending on the shooter's needs.

A common problem for officers is having stock panels which are too smooth, causing the handgun to move around in their hands. Sometimes, this is due to lack of grip pressure or strength which can be improved with strength training and better fundamentals. Other times,



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The magazine on the left has a stock magazine baseplate, compared to the other one which has an aftermarket baseplate from Springer Precision. I've used these baseplates for the last 15 years with great success.

the shooter's hands may be sweaty or bloody making it difficult to keep the handgun planted in his (or her) grip.

If it isn't a strength or training issue, there are several good solutions to fix a slippery gun. Grip tape can be applied to the handgun stocks to provide a rougher surface which anchors the gun in the shooter's hand. Many shooters use skateboard tape and cut it to fit their handgun. Grip tape is also available custom cut to strict tolerances for a precision fit to different makes and models of handguns. This grip tape is usually more aggressive than skateboard tape. This can be good for hot climates, but it can also be overly aggressive for some shooters. Grip tape is meant for handguns carried in duty holsters or outside the waistband holsters. You would quickly regret carrying a handgun with grip tape against bare skin using an inside the waistband holster.

A more permanent solution is to have aggressive stippling applied to the stock panels, front strap or backstrap of the handgun. Stippling is done by burning a pattern into the plastic frame to improve gripping power. Just like grip reduction work, this should be done by a qualified gunsmith to ensure it is done right and doesn't destroy the frame of your duty

handgun. Stippling can be applied very conservatively and only where needed, or it can be very artistic and extensively applied to the grip, trigger guard and side of the frame. Again, one must keep in mind that altering the original grip will likely invalidate the factory warranty.

Magazine Baseplates

I am a fan of changing out the baseplates on my handgun magazines, as most factory magazines place the magazine at an odd angle for smooth reloads. I have also experienced numerous blood blisters after getting bits of my hand caught between the baseplate and the magazine well.

About 15 years ago, I started replacing my factory magazine baseplates with units from Springer Precision. I discovered how a well-designed, slightly taller baseplate makes reloads smoother, quicker and more efficient. The taller design of most aftermarket baseplates helps to ensure the magazine is fully seated during reloads. If you notice in the accompanying photo, the baseplate has grasping groves along the sides making removal much easier if you need



SIMPLE DUTY HANDGUN MODIFICATIONS TO FIT YOUR NEEDS

Continued from page 27

to grab the magazine to remove it during malfunction clearance.

There are magazine baseplates available which increase ammunition capacity, but I do not necessarily recommend them for duty use. These are designed and intended for competition use where magazine capacity trumps reliability.

The magazine baseplates for duty use should retain the factory magazine follower, spring and capacity. This assures reliable feeding and function.

Sight Upgrades

During my very first handgun training class, one of the instructors had a



er to see.

handgun with a black rear sight and a front sight painted bright orange. When I asked him about his sights, he told me that, as he got older, it became increasingly difficult to see his front sight. The bright orange aided him in seeing his front sight faster and helped him maintain visual focus during recoil. Now that my eyesight has changed with age, I have gained more appreciation for how different sights can affect different shooters.

Handgun manufacturers have started to improve in this area, but there is a wide variety of aftermarket sights available for duty handguns to fit the needs and preferences of different shooters. Different shapes, heights, colors, and materials have different advantages for different shooters. Personally, I prefer black rear sights and a brightly colored front sight. I'm not a fan of the traditional three white dot setup and I don't care one way or the other about tritium night sights. On the other hand, I know many officers like night sights and rear sights with some type of alignment indicator. Sights on a handgun is a matter of individual needs and preferences.

If you're looking to upgrade the sights on your duty handgun, the first consideration is sights which are capable of enduring the abuse of duty work. They must be rugged and designed for harsh environments. For example, an angled rear sight which doesn't lend itself to doing one-handed reloads may not be the best choice for duty use. Another issue would be sights which are easily adjustable. Target sights are great for



shooting bull's-eyes, but officers need sights which don't move easily to ensure that they stay zeroed – even under hard use.

Fragile sights which rely on replaceable fiber-optic rods are a "no go" for duty use. Fiber-optic sights are good at capturing light and are available in a variety of bright colors to attract the shooter's eyes. The downside to most fiber-optic sights is that chemical solvents, dirt and the abuse of police work can degrade their functionality. This has been addressed by some manufacturers who use nonreplaceable fiber optics built into a protective enclosure. This helps protect the fiber-optic tube from the abuses of police work.

The ultimate sight upgrade for duty use is the addition of a red dot sight. Duty ready red dot optics have proven themselves reliable and rugged. Battery life for duty capable optics is now a nonissue, lasting at least a year of continuous use. Many officers first notice their eyesight changing in their early to mid-40s. Suddenly, the printing on packaging gets smaller and we need more light to read comfortably. For some, being able to focus on objects in the distance means not being able to see at arm's length. In other words, if we can see the threat, we may not be able to see our front sight. This is where the benefit of red dot sights on duty handguns really shines. We can stay threat focused, see our sights and place accurate shots on target, if needed.

There is no gadget or gizmo to bolt onto a handgun which can magically turn a poor shooter into a champion. It takes practice, a solid work ethic and a desire to improve. Every officer has different strengths and weaknesses. Making some of these small changes to your duty handgun may help it work better for you. I urge you to know your department policy before making any modifications; use high quality, duty ready gear; and get good training to make the best use of your equipment. If it fits you better; improves your ability to control and retain it; and helps you put accurate rounds on target, then you will be better equipped and prepared to save lives. P&SN

Sgt. Todd Fletcher (ret.) has over 25 years of law enforcement experience, with assignments to patrol, criminal investigations and training. He has presented instructor development training

nationwide and at multiple regional, national and international training conferences. He owns Combative Firearms Training, LLC which provides firearms

training and instructor development classes to law enforcement, military, private security, and armed citizens. He can be contacted at todd@combativefirearms.com.



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nless you've been hiding in your basement during last year, you know that besides the virus, riots and other depressing news, our 100+-year-old mode of transportation is being threatened with extinction...and that goes for cop cars, too. By eliminating coal, fossil fuels, gas, diesel, and even bovine emissions, we are all going to live in a climate-friendly, plug-in America – like it or not.

Electric Vehicles X Three

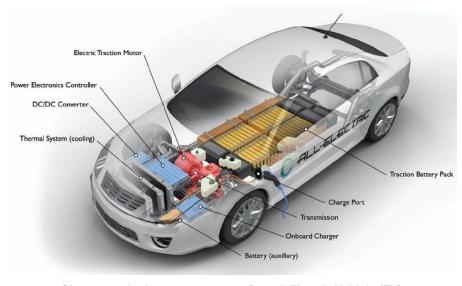
According to USAFacts, nearly 5.4 million hybrid Electric Vehicles (EVs) and 1.4 million plug-in electric vehicles have been sold since first coming on the market in 1999. *Bloomberg Businessweek* predicts that, by 2040, more than half of new car sales and one third of the global fleet (559 million vehicles) will be electric and the Edison Institute estimates 18 million EVs will be on US roads by 2030. Let that sink in for a minute...but first, here's the 401 on electric vehicles as defined by the DOE.

Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEVs) are powered by a traditional gasoline (or diesel) internal combustion engine and by an electric engine which uses energy stored in a battery which is charged by the gas engine. The electric motor provides an extra power assist to the gas engine.

Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEVs) are similar to HEVs, but they have larger batteries which provide the ability to travel on electricity alone. They

must be recharged by plugging into a power source or may be assisted by the gas engine. PHEVs can be driven with either source of power.

All-Electric Vehicles (EVs) run on electricity alone. They usually have two batteries: a normal 12V lead-acid battery which handles accessories and a

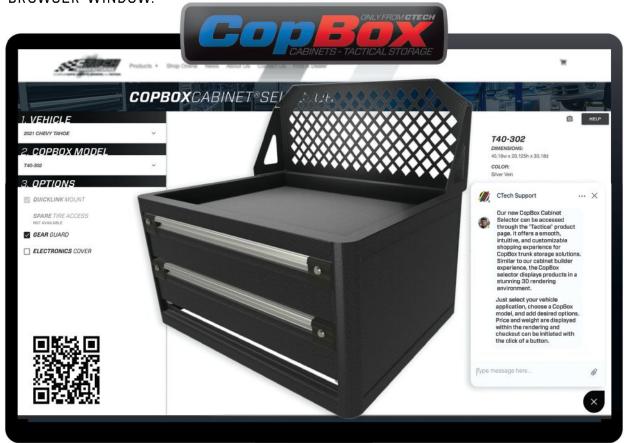


Shown are the key components of an all-Electric Vehicle (EV).



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THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 30



LAPD's Tesla police cruiser

large lithium-ion battery which powers the vehicle and must be recharged by plugging into a power source. This battery, or series of batteries, occupies the entire undercarriage of most EVs. Unlike the hybrids, distance traveled is determined by the amount of the battery charge.

The first HEV sold (in 1999) was the Honda Insight with just 17 sold; however, by 2013, sales had peaked with almost 500,000 plug-ins sold, the most popular models being the Toyota RAV4, Ford Fusion and Toyota Prius. The first PHEV came on the market in 2010 and the first EV appeared the next year, but, by 2019, three-fourths

of all electric vehicles sold were the EVs and 47% of those were the Tesla Model 3.

The Big Three

The American Big Three manufacturers have been a little slow joining the electric race because Americans love their horsepower. While GM and Ford® already have hybrids on the streets, in the next 12 years, every manufacturer will be in the game. GM recently unveiled 11 new EVs to be available by 2025, including a Silverado electric pickup truck with a range of 400 miles on a full charge; Buick has two SUVs and Hummer will field both an SUV and a Sport Utility Truck.

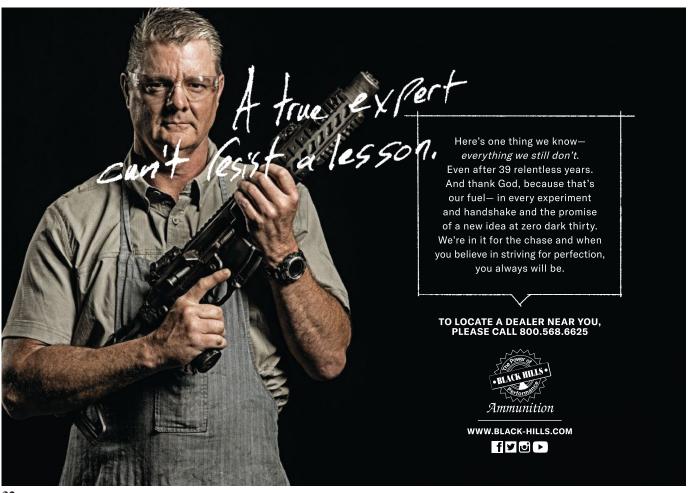
By 2023, Ford's F150 EV (starting at \$70,000 – estimated) will be on show-room floors offering 300 miles on a charge. Ford's Police Interceptor® Utility Hybrid has been a popular option for LE for a few years and a Hybrid F150 has joined their lineup. Much to the disdain of Mustang fans, the new 2021 Mustang Mach-E is an all-electric SUV which looks nothing like its predecessors.

Later this year, the Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid and Hybrid RAM® 1500 will be available. The Pacifica boasts a 520 mile range (32 electric, 488 gas) in two driving modes and may be the perfect vacation mobile. However, the bad news from Dodge CEO, Tim Kuniskis, is that the popular HEMI®'s days are numbered. After nine years of production, the 5.7 V-8, the venerable engine grew into a 6.2L, and bigger HP, as found in fire-breathing brands like Hellcat, Demon, Scat Pack, Durango and Red Eye. In fact, Mother Mopar® sold over 50,000 Hellcat-powered units in the last five years. Kuniskis predicts federal regulations will ultimately kill the HEMIs and he sees electrification as the future of Dodge.

The Cops Go Electric

American LE agencies have been slow to get on the electric train. Police departments historically are resistant to change and following trends. FWD cruisers were initially hard sells due to the expense of front-end repairs, but, eventually, they became a viable option to RWD and were offered by all three companies.

Seeing the electrical storms brewing in the future, some US police agencies have been experimenting with all-electrics and Teslas have been a frequent



choice (despite costing nearly double that of a Charger). Some departments currently evaluating Teslas include: Spokane, WA; Holland, MI; Fremont, CA; and Hastings on Hudson, NY. Ann Arbor, MI, took a different approach and has ordered two Mustang Mach-Es for patrol, at a tab of \$47,000 each.

Ford's PI Utility Hybrids have proven to be very popular. Eugene, OR, PD recently purchased nine PI Utilities (\$42,854 each) under the auspices of the city's Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO) which requires the city to reduce fossil fuel use by 50% by 2030. They also purchased a GEM, a four-door EV, for downtown parking enforcement (\$20,000), and four E-Bikes, two each from SPECIALIZED® and Trek. These are pedal-assist bicycles, costing \$4500 each, fully outfitted. Going green ain't cheap folks.

New York City has led the transition to electric vehicles due to Mayor de Blasio's Executive Order 54 (aka the NYPD Clean Fleet Program of 2020) which calls for a reduction of emissions of 50% by 2025 and a transition to an all-electric fleet by 2040. Every new police car purchased during FY20 was a hybrid (374 Police Responder™ Hybrid Sedans



EVs and hybrids cannot be used to jump-start another vehicle, as there is a legitimate risk of damage to their 12V battery.

and 35 Interceptor Utility Hybrids). With the new hybrids added to their fleet, the NYPD now operates 2,199 alternative fuel vehicles.

Good News/Bad News

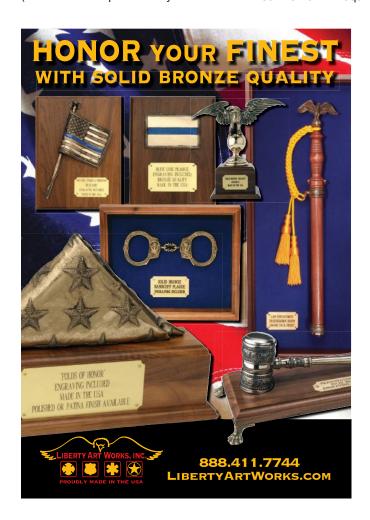
Expense: The obvious worst news is that EVs are darned expensive and battery replacement costs will shock you worse than any TASER®. A Tesla 3 battery is warrantied for eight years, but the cost of replacement and labor is \$16,000.

<u>Charging</u>: Lithium-ion batteries cannot be charged with a simple extension cord. Your home will require a separate 240V charging station hardwired into your system. Studies have shown that 80% of privately owned EVs are charged at home to take advantage of lower residential rates. The problem is that the majority of residential homes are wired for 100 amps while most EVs require 32 amps (at the rate of 25 miles an hour) to fully charge. You can boost your system to 50 amps (for a 37 mile charge), while Teslas require a massive 75 amp service.

Rewiring is definitely not a DIY project and you'll have to hire a licensed electrician to evaluate your household system before rewiring. But, I can guarantee you that, if you call your local electrical provider telling them you want to add another 100 amp service to your home, they will be there before you hang up the phone.

What if you have a can't-miss meeting at work, your power goes out and your EV is deader than Elvis? To prevent this from happening, you'll need a whole house generator (at ten grand or more) to provide emergency power. Oh, I forgot... home generators are powered by diesel, gasoline or propane which isn't very "green."

DrivingElectric reports that EVs and hybrids can be "jumped," but cannot be used to jump-start another vehicle. The





THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 33



As of February 2021, the US has almost 100,000 charging outlets for electric vehicles. However, a great number of these are located in California which has almost 32,000.

12V battery used in an electric car lacks the power required to crank an internal combustion engine. Attempting to do so creates a risk of damage to your electric and/or hybrid vehicle.

If you live in an apartment or condo, you probably won't be able to rewire your own dwelling, so you'll need some type of "community" charging station which can service several vehicles at once.

Although 78% of US commutes are less than 40 miles (round trip), remembering the range of your all-electric vehicle is a constant concern. While gauges should keep you informed, remember

that "pedal to the metal" driving and green light bursts of acceleration will zap your power faster than normal driving. Another concern is that you should always be cognizant of the location of charging stations on your regular routes and other travels. When planning a vacation, you'll need to check ahead to ascertain if motels and hotels have ample charging stations and locate charging stations along your planned route.

President Biden's administration has promised a charging station at every exit in the American Interstate Highway System. A single charging station (one vehicle) costs around \$6,000.00, not including site preparation and getting power to it, whereas multiple vehicle chargers can cost as much as \$20,000.00. There are 17,000 Interstate exits in America today, so it may take a while to get them all electrified. Of course, there are charging stations at retail locations and service stations and most operate around-theclock, but, as more EVs are sold, they will become busier. Tesla has its own network of chargers at their dealerships; however, due to the demand, customers are limited to one hour charges. Some 6000 other charging stations were added across the US in 2020 and BMW is making touring our National Parks easier by installing 100 charging stations at the most scenic destinations.

Fires: You've undoubtedly seen videos of lithium-ion cellphone and laptop batteries erupting in flames while being charged. Consider your EV batteries cellphones on steroids. Another You-Tube video making the rounds shows three vehicles hooked up to a charging station and one erupts in a fireball. In 38 seconds, it is totally involved and, in 1.15 minutes, the fire engulfs all three vehicles.

Lithium-ion batteries may suffer "thermal runaway" and cell rupture if overheated, overcharged or damaged in accidents. Home fires have been started by EVs being charged in attached garages and fire departments across the country have had to receive extensive training on fighting EV battery fires in accidents and structures because of their volatility and lethal toxic gasses emitted during fires. Lithium-ion batteries cannot be extinguished with water and many fire departments won't even approach a burning battery powered car fire because of the HAZMAT dangers to







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personnel. GM, Nissan and Tesla have published a guide for firefighters and first responders on how to properly handle a crashed EV.

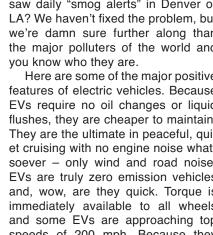
Disposal: An entire worldwide industry has grown from the environ-

mental concern about the disposal of EV batteries. They can't be placed in typical landfills because they can continue to discharge electricity, called "dirty energy," long after they are removed from vehicles. Disposal of lithi-

um-ion batteries is more dangerous to the environment than used motor oil. Recyclers will not accept these batteries and salvage yards have had to establish isolated areas for wrecked electric vehicles.

Positives: I'm not all doom and gloom about electric cars, despite being a reporter fully committed to V-8s for police work. But, I can see the writing on the garage wall...despite America making huge advancements in cleaner, fuel efficient vehicles, we're doomed. When was the last time you saw daily "smog alerts" in Denver or LA? We haven't fixed the problem, but we're damn sure further along than the major polluters of the world and you know who they are.

Here are some of the major positive features of electric vehicles. Because EVs require no oil changes or liquid flushes, they are cheaper to maintain. They are the ultimate in peaceful, quiet cruising with no engine noise whatsoever - only wind and road noise. EVs are truly zero emission vehicles and, wow, are they quick. Torque is immediately available to all wheels and some EVs are approaching top speeds of 200 mph. Because they don't use gasoline, owners don't pay fuel tax. Of course, they use (and abuse) the same roads paid for by the fuel taxes paid by the rest of us.

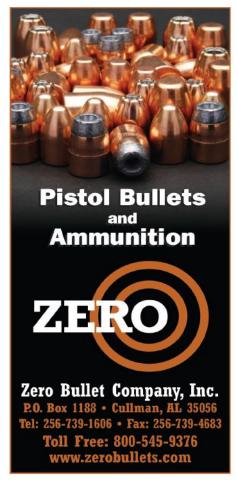


The Power Grid(lock)

The CEO of Toyota, Akio Toyoda, recently agreed with Elon Musk: America and Japan don't have enough electricity to power the electric cars which are coming. The majority of our electric power generation (61%) comes from fossil fuels, whereas wind and solar only make up about 17%. Japan relies more heavily on nuclear power, due to its lack of indigenous oil.

The Pinehurst Press News agrees and gave this example. Because a home charging system for a Tesla requires a 75 amp service and most homes have 100 amp service, the electrical infrastructure (grid) for an average US neighborhood street with 25 homes would be able to power only three homes with one Tesla each. If just half the homeowners on that block purchased electric cars, the system would be overloaded and likely shut down.

America's dream power grid solution happens to be wind and solar







instead of fossil fuels; however, the wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine, but oil and natural gas always burn. Texas currently generates more wind power than any state in the US. You can literally drive for miles through wind farms in Texas, but, amazingly, all of those thousands of windmills only generate about 15% of Texas' electricity. We're just emerging from a brutal winter in America with record busting subzero freezing, blizzards and more, and we learned that, when the windmills were erected in Texas, the power companies opted to save money and not install deicers. We saw the results, too, as thousands froze up. The windmills' stoppage caused rolling blackouts all over the state and could only be remedied with gas powered helicopters using gas powered deicers to defrost the windmills.

Solar panels around the world were victims of this winter, too. A friend in Germany relayed to me that they had rolling blackouts due to deep snow covering the panels, their preferred green power source. If your thermostat is set at 70 degrees during extreme winter conditions and the outside temperature drops to zero (a 70 degree difference), it is difficult for your HVAC heat pump system to maintain a constant temperature causing high peak blackouts.

Rob Boaz, President and CEO of the Carroll Electric Cooperative (my home electric provider), recently wrote, "If United States energy policy is on the desired trajectory (wind and solar), we need to prepare for more rolling blackouts and volatile price swings." He continued, "But some positive changes are possible through a diverse mix of available resources [which] include nuclear, coal and natural gas; and end unfair subsidies to unreliable forms of power generation wind and solar."

From Where | Sit ...

Those of you who have followed my ramblings for the past two decades know my motivation for writing this column. First, and always, is my concern for the safety of the male and female Blue Line flag bearers of the profession I have proudly represented for the past two-thirds of my life. Second is my pledge to provide all of you with information on the latest vehicles and equipment available so that you can make educated decisions.

We all know electric police vehi-

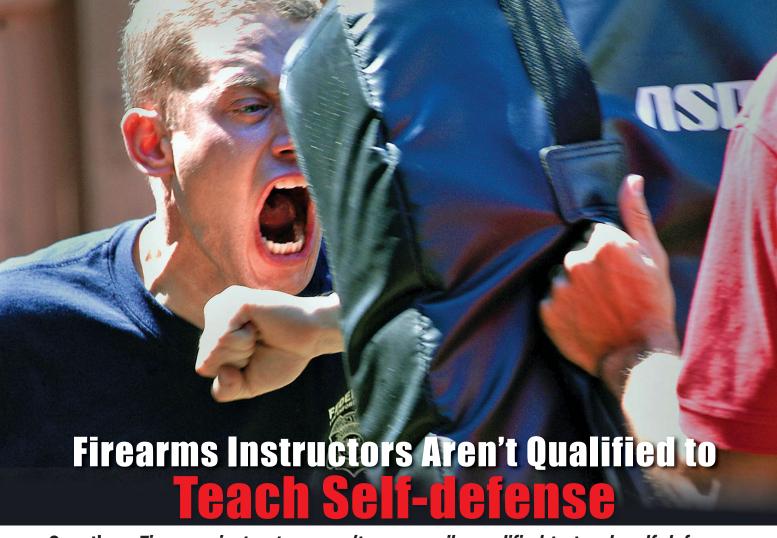
cles are likely the future, so I have a couple suggestions about how to ease yourselves into Ready Kilowatt's world. Your first concern should be upgrading your infrastructure by adding adequate charging systems to every building, precinct, substation, or HP troop so you are prepared. Second, I suggest you continue to buy gas powered LE vehicles – Dodge Chargers and Durangos, Chevy Tahoes and Ford PI Utilities – while

electric technology improves and prices come down (as tech stuff always does). For a first transition into plug-in power, I recommend the Ford PI Utility Hybrid. With two power sources, it's unlikely your cops will get stranded. P&SN

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



REGISTRATION IS OPEN, DON'T MISS OUT!



Or rather: Firearms instructors aren't necessarily qualified to teach self-defense.

RALPH MROZ

hese days, there are legions of firearms instructors. I'm not ashamed to say that many of them have skills far, far exceeding my own and who purport to teach you how to deal with an armed encounter. Most of them are seemingly unaware that dot "A" of shooting skill doesn't necessarily connect to dot "B" of handling same. And, of course, there's the legion of fast and

fancy shooting gurus who never question their assumption that their high level of skill is all they need to deal with the bad thing. It just never occurred to them that it might be otherwise.

Rather than go into the specifics of what I mean, let me illustrate the point with a hypothetical. Let's suppose that you knew you'd be faced with a dangerous situation next Friday which you couldn't avoid – one which may well require you to shoot your way out. Are you smarter if you A) spend the intervening time shaving a second off a shooting drill which you can now do in seven seconds, or B) spend the next week practicing awareness and visualizing tactics?

Too many instructors out there completely ignore the issues of awareness; de-escalation; intermediate weapons (OC, etc.); handling bizarre people and situations; and proper tactics, including pre-event tactics. They assume that technique and tactics during the event are all which are necessary to know. Truth be told, that's because it's all they themselves probably know. Teaching



clearing techniques and tactical medical skills is of far less value than showing you how to not have to use those skills to begin with as the situation presents itself. A reasonable level of gun skill, coupled with a reasonable level of these other skills, is of far more real-world survival importance than exceptional gun skills without them.

I've seen first-hand how exceptional skill with a gun can get you into trouble when all you've ever practiced is the gun...when you've neglected the beforehand and aftermath skills.

This is one reason I prefer firearms instructors to have LE experience. Cops have to know all of the rules concerning use of force and they have usually developed a keen appreciation for the proactive skills of awareness, etc. Plus, they are paid to go into situations which demand these non-gun tactical skills every day. A civilian, no matter what his (or her) level of gun skill, usually doesn't have this experience. Ex-military guys often have a lot to teach, too, but often it's the in-the-event skills. Ex-military guys who have gone on to become sworn LEOs may offer the best of both worlds. P&SN

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

NEWS

New Report: Insider Threat Mitigation

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) published a new report, Insider Threat Mitigation for

U.S. Critical Infrastructure Entities: Guidelines from an Intelligence Perspective, which highlights the importance of mitigating insider threats within US critical infrastructure entities to meet the expanding nature of threats from foreign, state and nonstate actors. The National Insider Threat Task Force (NITTF) has produced standards to assist organizations in building an effective insider threat program. The model is fo-



cused on human behavior and seeks to identify irregular behavior before significant damage is sustained by the organization. Threat awareness is the first step to successful mitigation. Industry and government must share a sense of organizational citizenship and trust among employees to communicate their

A full copy of the report can be read at https://tinyurl.com/3ep7xb55

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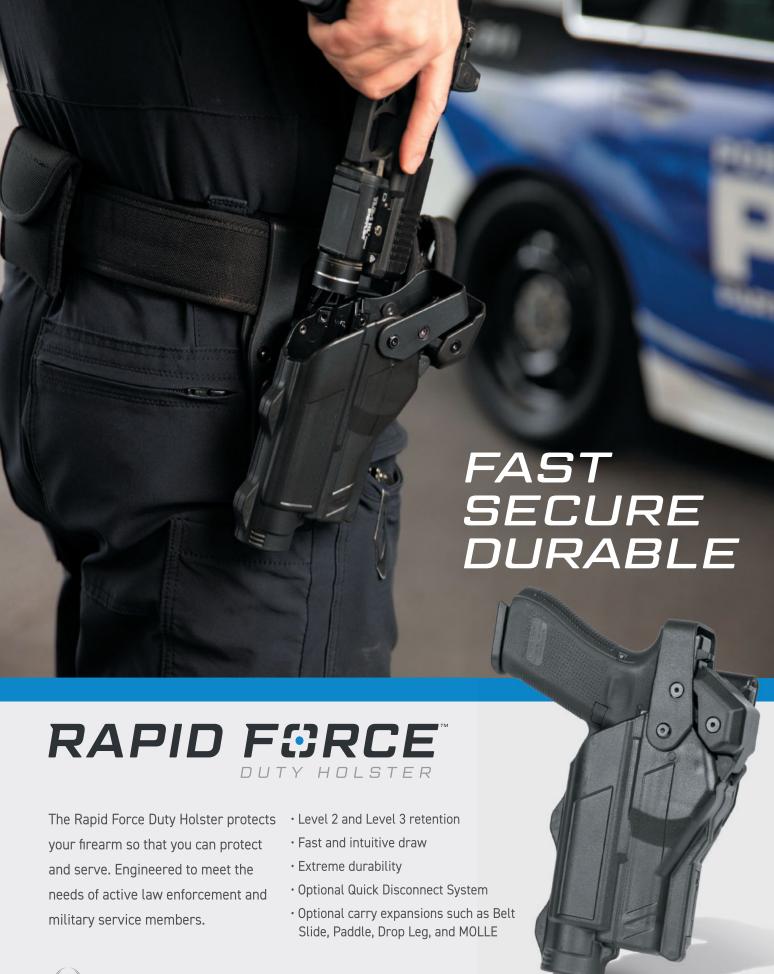




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BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

It ain't easy being cheesy... In Oklahoma, a Tulsa woman was arrested in connection to an attempted home burglary after police found CHEETOS® residue on her teeth. A woman at the residence told responding officers that she was home with two small children when a woman climbed inside through a window. Officers discovered that the suspect had pried a screen off the window in order to get inside, but left before stealing anything or harming anyone. Police said the suspect left a bag of CHEETOS and a bottle of water on the floor near the open window. Police said the suspect was subsequently found with residue from the snack still on her teeth and she was arrested to face charges of first-degree burglary. (It's kind of like putting a dye pack in a money bag.)

"Hold my drugs while I write down these directions"... A hoodlum in Joliet, Illinois, spotted a car which was left running while the owner was inside a convenience store. Seizing the opportunity, he climbed in and drove off into the sunset. But, it wasn't long before he realized that he wasn't familiar with the area. So, when he spotted a police officer, he stopped and asked the officer for directions. It hadn't dawned on this mastermind that the owner of the car had already reported it as having been stolen. (Afterwards, he was given an escort.)

Cat-scratch fever... A 56-year-old woman was arrested at her home in Largo, Florida, after throwing her cat in her 73-year-old male roommate's face. Arrest records reveal that the cat reacted by scratching the roommate. Police say the woman then struck the male roommate in the face. She was charged with domestic battery on a person over the age of 65. As it turns out, the woman had been arrested in 2018 for allegedly battering the same man, described in court documents as a platonic roommate. (Talk about having a catfight.)

Guilty of love in the first degree... A man engaged in a video chat with a woman in Broward County, Florida, and thought he'd let her know what he thought about her. "I just had to tell you: You're gorgeous," said the man. "Flattery will get you everywhere," the woman replied. "But, maybe not here." "Here" was actually the man's bond hearing as it was being conducted in a virtual courtroom. By the way, the woman he tried to butter up was actually the judge. A prosecutor asked her to set

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY

The "wurst" story of the day...

US Border agents caught a vehicle carrying 194 pounds of contraband Mexican bologna into the US at the New Mexico border, Customs and Border Protection announced. Agents stopped a Nissan SUV at the Columbus border crossing; searched the vehicle; and found 22 large, red packaged rolls in the trunk and some "hidden" in the driver's luggage. The agency says "bologna is a prohibited product because it is made from



pork and has the potential for introducing foreign animal diseases to the US pork industry." ("What are you in for?" "I was apprehended smuggling deli meat.")

bail at \$7,500, leading the man to shout "WHAT?!" The judge ended up setting the bond at \$5,000, but the man still had to go back to jail. (*You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.*)

Is the irony lost on anyone that robbers usually wear masks?... A California man who was denied service for not wearing a mask at a fried chicken restaurant in Pasadena allegedly returned with a gun and held up the restaurant, robbing the business of fried chicken and waffles - but not cash. According to police, the suspect initially entered the restaurant to order food, but was denied service by the staff because he was not wearing a mask.. The man then left, but soon returned with a gun. Brandishing the weapon, he told an employee to put all the chicken in the bag. He didn't take or demand any cash from the restaurant - only chicken, syrup and waffles. Ironically, surveillance cameras were able to capture images of the man's face due to the fact that he was still not wearing a mask. ("Leave the gun, take the chicken.")

That's one way to get quick service... Paramedics were recently dispatched to an apartment complex in Houston, Texas. While they were dealing with the emergency, a man jumped into their ambulance and drove away. But, his criminal act was doomed to fail because the ambulance was equipped with GPS technology which allowed the police to pinpoint exactly where he went. It appears that the thief may have stolen the ambulance because he was hungry – GPS revealed that he went straight to the nearest Jack in the Box® drive-thru.

He had the emergency lights on and was ordering food when he was arrested. (*No "Happy Meal®" for you today!*)

After three months without a bath, his stolen ID wasn't the only thing which gave him away... At Chicago's O'Hare International Airport, two employees of United Airlines approached a man and asked for his ID. The 36-year-old resident of Orange, California, produced an employee badge, but it was not his: Another employee had previously reported it missing. Authorities said the man had arrived at O'Hare and was too afraid to fly back home because of COVID-19, so he hid in a secured area of the airport for three months, living off food given to him by strangers. The man is unemployed, but has a master's degree in hospitality and doesn't have a criminal background. He was charged with felony criminal trespass. (He could have walked home in that time.)

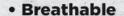
'Give me all your money or I'll shoot this gun into the pneumatic tube"... In Michigan, Bay County Sheriff's deputies are investigating a bank robbery committed at a drive-thru window. Bank employees told the responding deputies that a male had driven up to the drive-thru window and passed a note demanding money through a pneumatic tube, he explained. The teller surrendered an undisclosed amount of cash to the robber, the sheriff said. The robber then drove away from the scene. The sheriff could not provide further details, including the reason why the teller handed the money over to the drive-thru robber via a pneumatic tube. (Criminals have become lazy these days.) P&SN

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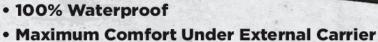
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