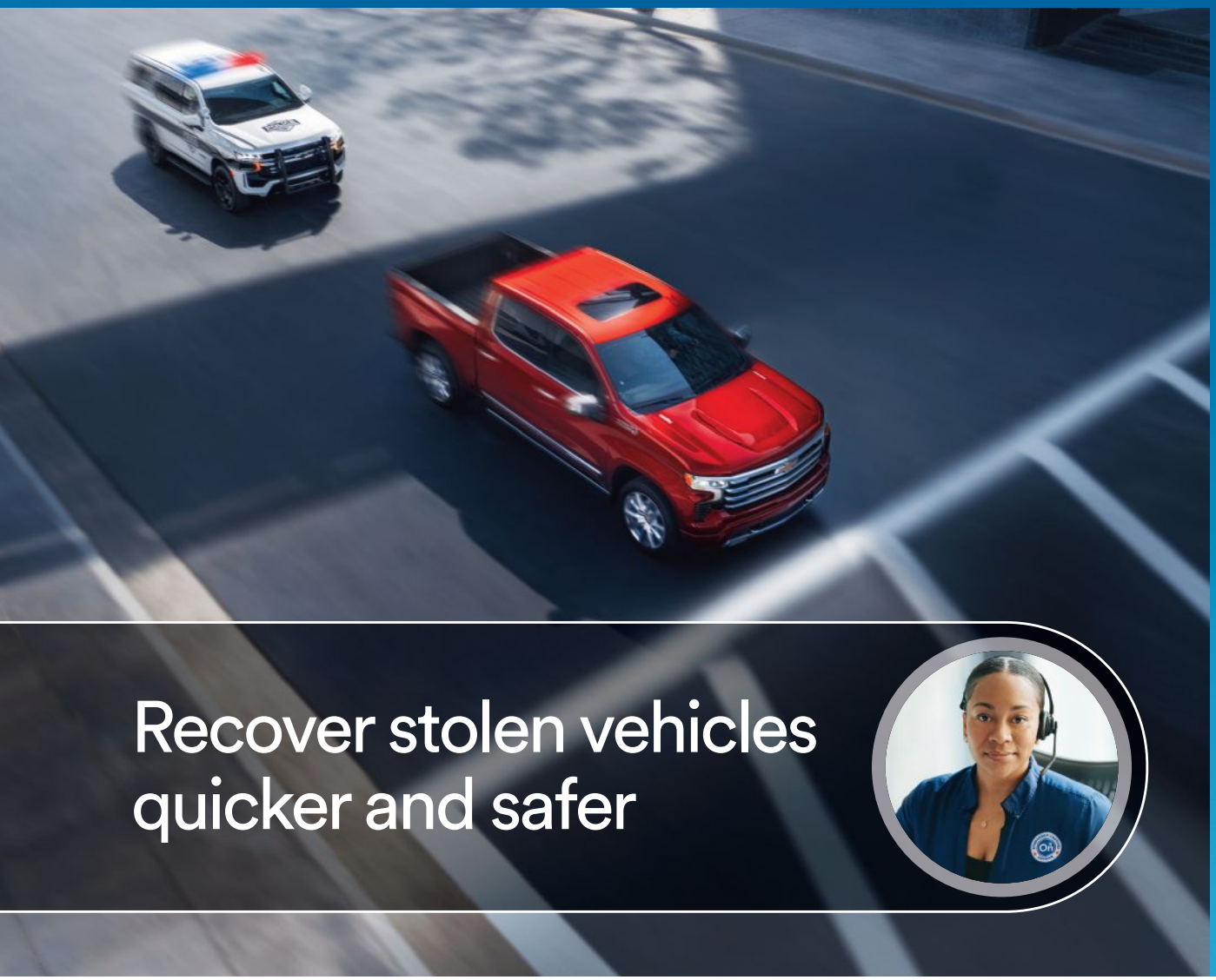
P&SN Police and Security News
Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026
VOLUME 42 ISSUE 5



LAW ENFORCEMENT SURVEILLANCE: What Comes Next

DEEPFAKE COMMANDS
When the Chief's Voice Can't Be Trusted

AI REPORT WRITING
What Police Leaders Need to Know



Recover stolen vehicles quicker and safer

With **Stolen Vehicle Assistance,** OnStar® can use GPS technology, including speed and direction of travel, and aerial imagery to help law enforcement pinpoint the location of General Motors vehicles stolen through theft or carjacking. OnStar can also remotely block the ignition or slow the vehicle to help support quicker, safer recovery.

LEARN MORE AT ONSTAR.COM/PUBLICSAFETY

gm | On Be safe out there℠

See onstar.com for details and limitations. Requires active service plan, working electrical system, cell reception, GPS signal, armed GM factory-installed theft-deterrent system, contact method on file and enrollment to receive alerts. Additional messaging and data rates may apply. Services are intended to assist with vehicle recovery and do not prevent theft or protect against damage or loss. The marks of General Motors, its divisions, slogans, emblems, vehicle model names, vehicle body designs and other marks appearing in this advertisement are the trademarks and/or service marks of General Motors, its subsidiaries, affiliates or licensors. ©2026 General Motors. ©2026 OnStar LLC. All rights reserved.



25 YEARS AFTER 9/11:

Remembering Those Who Answered the Call

On September 11, 2001, an ordinary Tuesday morning changed America forever. Today, the images remain difficult to comprehend: smoke pouring from the World Trade Center; the Pentagon burning; a scarred field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania; firefighters climbing stairways as civilians descended; and police officers directing people away from danger while others moved toward it.

The terrorist attacks claimed 2,977 lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and aboard Flight 93. For America's public safety community, September 11 also demonstrated what the oath to protect others can require.

Law Enforcement's Sacrifice

Police officers were among the first to respond to the World Trade Center and among those who paid the highest price. The FBI recorded 72 law enforcement officers killed as a result of the attacks. Twenty-three were members of the New York City Police Department. Another 37 were members of the Port Authority Police Department – the largest loss of personnel by a single American police force in one event.

Yet, statistics tell only part of the story.

Officers evacuated buildings, cleared streets, helped the injured, and tried to establish order as conditions changed by the minute. Some had been dispatched. Others simply saw what was happening and responded.

FBI Special Agent Leonard W. Hatton was traveling to work when he saw smoke and fire coming from the North Tower. He went directly to the World Trade Center and joined FDNY firefighters evacuating people. He was still inside when the towers collapsed. His actions were extraordinary, but the instinct behind them was repeated throughout that morning.

A Public Safety Loss without Precedent

Nearly 1,000 FDNY firefighters deployed to the World Trade Center and 343 died that day. Firefighters, EMS personnel, police officers, communications personnel, medical personnel, and others responded in New York, at the Pentagon and near Shanksville.

Many remained long after the cameras were gone. Rescue became recovery. Personnel searched debris, collected evidence, recovered remains, and assisted victims' families.

For law enforcement, an enormous investigative responsibility was also beginning. The FBI launched PENTTBOM, the largest investigation in Bureau history. More than 4,000 special agents and 3,000 professional employees participated, pursuing more than half a million leads and conducting more than 167,000 interviews.

The Toll Did Not End in 2001

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund recognizes 535 additional law enforcement officers who later died from illnesses associated with their 9/11 response. Together with the original 72, the number of officers honored for 9/11-related deaths stands at 607.

The FDNY has likewise reported more than 400 members lost to World Trade Center-related illnesses since the attacks. The federal World Trade Center Health Program now serves nearly 150,000 responders and survivors nationwide.

How 9/11 Changed Policing

September 11 reshaped American law enforcement. The attacks underscored the need for stronger communication and intelligence sharing among local, state and federal agencies. Counterterrorism became a responsibility extending far beyond Washington and New York.

Today, approximately 200 FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces operate around the country, while fusion centers provide state and local hubs for sharing threat information. Training, communications, emergency planning, and interagency relationships have evolved. The underlying responsibility has not.

Law enforcement must prepare for dangers not yet visible, recognize warning signs, share information, and respond when prevention fails, while continuing to protect the constitutional rights and freedoms the profession exists to defend.

They Reported for Duty

There is now an entire generation of public safety personnel with no personal memory of September 11. That makes remembrance more important, not less.

Those entering the profession today should understand not only what happened, but what their predecessors did when confronted by it.

They established evacuation routes and perimeters. They carried the injured. They searched rubble. They guarded critical infrastructure. They worked crime scenes of unprecedented size and investigated hundreds of thousands of leads. Many continued serving while carrying illnesses caused by their work at the attack sites.

Some never returned home. Others returned home, but ultimately surrendered their lives years later.

On this 25th anniversary, we remember all 2,977 people murdered on September 11, 2001, and the families who have lived with that loss for a quarter century.

Within the public safety community, we offer particular remembrance to the police officers, federal agents, firefighters, EMS personnel, and emergency workers who answered when their nation needed them.

Their legacy lives in every officer who reports for duty and every public safety professional who accepts a simple, but profound, responsibility: **When others need help, we go.**

P&SN Police and Security News
Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2026
Volume 42 • Issue 5
policeandsecuritynews.com





FOCUS: HARDWARE/SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

28 Beyond the Alert: Gunshot Detection in Modern Investigations
Melissa Krum Dooher
For more than two decades, acoustic gunshot detection has helped law enforcement respond faster to gunfire, but its value increasingly extends beyond the initial alert and into the investigation itself.

32 When the Chief's Voice Is a Deepfake
Carl Mazzanti
Picture a patrol officer working a late shift when the phone rings. Caller ID appears to show the chief's direct number. The voice on the other end sounds right; the cadence, inflection and manner of speaking are unmistakable. Then comes an urgent order.

42 AI in Police Report Writing: What Law Enforcement Leaders Need to Know
John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., and John Black, D.B.A.
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping public safety work and nowhere is that shift more visible than in AI-assisted Body-Worn Camera (BWC) report writing.

FEATURES

48 Surveillance after *Chatrie*: The Rules Are Changing
James E. "Jeb" Brown, Esq., Shield Public Safety Training, Inc.
What the Supreme Court's geofence ruling could mean for ALPRs, pole cameras, drones, and the growing ability to reconstruct a person's movements

56 Traffic Safety and Enforcement 2026: New Tools, Tech and Tactics
Stephenie Slahor, Ph.D.
New technology, smarter strategies and practical solutions are reshaping traffic enforcement and roadway safety.

COLUMNS

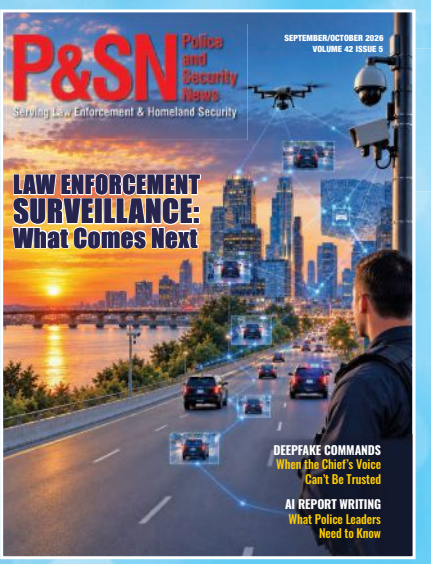
…and nothing but the truth 6
What It Takes to Make a Case Stick

Focus on Technology 10
Hardware/Software Solutions

The Wheels of Justice 16
Where Have All the Cruisers Gone?

Product Highlight 26
Vehicle Storage Solutions

Busted! 66
Real Stories of Genuine Absurdity



ON THE COVER

The front cover reflects the changing face of law enforcement surveillance explored in "Surveillance after *Chatrie*: The Rules Are Changing." As ALPRs, pole cameras, drones, and other technologies become more interconnected, they can create a detailed record of a person's movements while courts continue to define the legal boundaries of their use.

SETINA FIRST ON THE SCENE WITH

THE LATEST VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

SEE US AT BOOTH 831 - IACP ANNUAL CONFERENCE / ORLANDO 2026



Command Center Console

SETINA COMMAND CONSOLE

www.setina.com

PRECISION DESIGN FOR SUPERIOR FUNCTIONALITY

SETINA

PUSHING INNOVATION FORWARD



Rear Cargo Solutions



Seating With Smart Belt

...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

What It Takes to Make a Case Stick



RAMESH NYBERG

Have you ever gotten pissed off at the prosecutor?

My guess is that, if you have been in law enforcement for more than three years – and especially if you've worked in an investigative capacity – you've had your share of frustration with them. They are, after all, the people whose job is to vigorously pursue a conviction of the people we worked hard to put in handcuffs. Our work is stressful, grueling and often life-threatening. And, more often than we like, that prosecutor drops the charges or tells you, "There isn't enough here to go to trial."

This issue's column is probably aimed more at newer officers, but not exclusively. Cops of all levels of experience grumble and gripe about this issue, so it's worth exploring. Let's look first at what the broader responsibilities of a prosecutor's job are and then let's look at the way our own law enforcement agencies might have fallen short in preparing us for these interactions.

In Florida, we have the *State* Attorney's Office, not "District" Attorney, but they are one in the same: Their job is to prosecute criminal cases. The first step in that job, however, is to carefully *vet* those cases. They have to meticulously look at all of the evidence you bring them – physical as well as testimonial – and make a crucial assessment: Can they prove this case to every one of six (or 12) jurors beyond a reasonable doubt? We cops sometimes get tunnel vision; our arrests are the most important things we have going on. And, they *are* important, but keep a few things in mind. Prosecutors work for an office headed by an elected official and, if they start taking any old case which comes their way, they'll start losing more of them in trial. Acquittals look bad and too many of them causes the public to lose faith and trust in the process and the people responsible for it.

I spent 22 years of my career as a homicide investigator during a period when our jurisdiction's homicide rate ranked among the five highest in the nation from 1980 through 1988.

We were lucky that our State Attorney's Office was one of the most well trained, highly respected prosecutorial entities anywhere. More importantly, we had, at that time, an excellent working relationship with them. When a homicide case came to their office, they wasted little time in getting us in for a "pre-filing conference," a meeting in which they could discuss the case in detail, face-to-face, rather than just rely on what was in the reports, photos and witness statements. They wanted to hear the complete story from us and that meant *everyone* on the case, not just the lead investigator. They knew that the defense would soon file for discovery (if they hadn't already) and that the defense counsel was going to dissect every word of the case file to find inaccuracies, discrepancies and contradictions. It wasn't a game of chess as much as it was a match of wits: How do I fix things so you can't break them? This could be a long, arduous process with many meetings and we would repeat the process again, this time in pre-*trial* conferences to make sure our game plan was tight, we were all on the same page and we knew what the other team was going to try and capitalize on. I never went to trial thinking we weren't ready.

That doesn't mean we didn't have disagreements. Oh, my, we sure did! And they could be intense. I can remember more than one time when voices were raised and curses could be heard coming from a prosecutor's office. But, that was actually a good thing. It meant both sides were passionate about getting the job done and equally committed to making sure it was done the right way.

PEARCE GRIP® PRODUCTS FOR
S&W BODYGUARD 2.0®

PG-BG2.0 adds 3/4" grip length to 10 round magazines. MSRP $10.95

PG-FIBG2 frame insert fills the hole in the back cavity. MSRP $6.00



PEARCE GRIP®
(800) 390-9420
www.PearceGrip.com

THE FORCE MULTIPLIER

Trusted by
Law Enforcement Worldwide

Purpose-built Electric Patrol Mobility for Law Enforcement, Campuses, Airports, and Public Safety Agencies.

- Respond Faster
- Expand Patrol Coverage
- Enhance Officer Visibility
- Improve Community Engagement



Visit our Booth # 2175

IACP 2026

OCTOBER 24-27 | ORLANDO, FLORIDA

TRIKKE™ PROFESSIONAL MOBILITY

POSI.TRON POLICE SPEC

Schedule a Demo

(805)512-8803
trikkemobility.com
Sales@trikke.com

SCAN ME

Continued from page 6

This brings me to police training. I learned a lot about the law during the hundreds of conversations I had with prosecutors, whether we were sitting in their offices or grabbing lunch at a place near the justice building. These were people who went to law school and they understood the nuances of the law the police academy didn't have time to teach us. Our academy was 22 weeks long when I attended from July 1979 to December. I was fascinated by the constitutional law part. They taught us about *Terry v. Ohio* and, of course, *Miranda*. But, beyond that, there wasn't a ton of time for other legal principles. The rest of it we learned on the job and, often, in those cramped offices of the State Attorney. Some of those lessons shocked us.

One case we worked on for 17 years drove this point home in the most emphatic terms. We rejuvenated the case and got a DNA hit that identified our subject. We hadn't quite gotten enough probable cause to charge him with the murder yet. We were close, but in the words of the prosecutor assigned to the case, "I'm not comfortable with this yet. If we go to trial, I would feel better with more. Keep working it."

We did just that; we found an ex-girlfriend (oh, how we loved finding ex-girlfriends, especially when they had an ax to grind!) in Chicago and she told us on the phone she had information for us. We flew up to Chicago and had a great interview with her. She was with him during the time of the murder and she remembered him telling her that he once killed a man in Miami during a burglary. The times and circumstances he described to her all fit. Her story, plus DNA and some other circumstances, gave us the PC we needed. We hired a stenographer in Chicago and took a great sworn statement from her. The steno typed it up and we flew home on cloud nine, because now we could go to the prosecutor and charge him with the murder. The prosecutor was happy and said that her statement pushed it over the edge. Come trial time, we couldn't get ahold of the woman. After numerous attempts, we had the Chicago PD detectives try to find her – and they did. She had been murdered in a domestic fight with her new boyfriend.

But, we said, we have her sworn statement, all typed up and signed by her. Sorry, the prosecutor said, we can't use it in court. It's an "out of court" statement and, courtesy of the Sixth Amendment's *confrontation clause*, it would be a violation of the defendant's "right to face his accuser." The typed statement served only as a documented way to see what she said. It does not qualify as evidence. Defense counsel can't cross-examine a stapled bunch of papers.

Frustrating? Sure. But, these are the types of legal principles it would be helpful for us cops to be more familiar with before we go and talk to prosecutors. The Supreme Court archives are replete with case after case in which police officers erred – or outright broke the law – for lack of knowledge and their cases were thrown out or the convictions were reversed. In the Sixth Amendment example you just read, the landmark *confrontation clause* case occurred as recently as 2004, in *Crawford v. Washington*. In that case, a witness' tape-recorded statement (she could not testify because of marital privilege) was played for the jury and he was convicted. But, SCOTUS reversed the conviction: The recording was inadmissible and could not replace a live witness.

There are many, many other instances in which our police training could be better in these areas, so that we can avoid wasting time and energy arguing with prosecutors who are simply helping us stay within the boundaries of the law. *Brady* issues, search warrant guidelines – they all serve an important purpose. *Mapp, Miranda, Brady,* and others forced our profession to be better and work harder. Some prosecutors can be a pain in the ass, yes, but we don't help matters by coming in blind to important legal decisions which are in place to create due process. In a way, that knowledge can be considered the ounce of prevention which is worth a pound of cure.

After all, if *we* end up sitting in that defendant's chair, we would sure like these protections to work for us, wouldn't we? P&SN

Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006 after 27 years of police work. He lives in Miami and teaches criminal justice at a local high school. He also teaches regional law enforcement courses through Training Force, USA. He enjoys getting feedback from readers and can be reached at ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com. Also, Ram has written a new book, Badge, Tie and Gun: Life and Death Journeys of a Miami Detective, *which is available on Amazon in both Kindle eBook and paperback. You can find it by visiting* ***amazon.com/dp/B0CTQQKQTV***




SAINT VICTOR
NEW MODELS
Versatile and adaptable, with 16 variations, each SAINT Victor configuration delivers premium shootability at a great value. Available in 5.56, 7.62, and 9mm, there is a SAINT Victor configuration perfectly suited for your application.
Visit us at the IACP Conference – Booth #889
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY
GEAR PAC

FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY



BrassOps Modernizes Law Enforcement Firearms Training Management

BrassOps is a firearms training management platform developed specifically for law enforcement agencies, replacing spreadsheets, paper scoresheets and binders with a centralized system accessible from tablets, phones and computers. Instructors can record qualification scores on the range, instantly review an officer's training history and automatically initiate remedial training when performance falls below required standards.

For range masters and command staff, **BrassOps** provides real-time visibility into qualification status, upcoming expirations, officer readiness, and firearms assignments. The platform also tracks weapons, ammunition, inspections, and repair histories while maintaining timestamped, audit-ready training records.

BrassOps incorporates analytics to identify individual and agencywide skill gaps, along with AI-assisted target and shot group analysis, dry fire assignments and skill-based instructor/officer pairing. Automated alerts help departments address expiring qualifications before they lapse, while reporting tools organize compliance documentation for administrative, accreditation and legal review.

Security features include AES-256 encryption, role-based access, full audit trails, multi-server redundancy, and US-based hosting, helping agencies modernize range operations while reducing paperwork.

brassops.com

HARDWARE/SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

BRINC, Nova Partner on Aerial Mapping and Intelligence for First Responders



BRINC and Nova Software Company have announced a strategic **partnership** integrating advanced aerial mapping and data analysis capabilities for public safety agencies.

The integration allows agencies using BRINC Responder drones to turn captured imagery into actionable intelligence. Through BRINC LiveOps, crews can create mapping missions, collect aerial footage and upload data directly to Nova for processing, with no additional hardware required. The resulting operational picture combines mapping, analysis and real-time intelligence to improve situational awareness, incident coordination and field decision-making.

The **partnership** will expand further with BRINC's next-generation Guardian drone which features two radiometric HD thermal cameras designed for public safety applications. When combined with Nova's processing software, Guardian will support real-time heatmap generation, hotspot identification and analysis of developing incidents.

Together, BRINC and Nova provide an end-to-end aerial intelligence solution combining purpose-built drones, operational management software and advanced data analysis for emergency response.

brincdrones.com

eCare Automation Keeps Pace with Emerging Cyberthreats



Law enforcement agencies cannot afford system downtime or cybersecurity breaches, making automated network protection increasingly critical. eMazzanti Technologies' **eCare Network Management** provides enhanced System Automation with real-time updates deployed at least every two hours.

A lightweight **eCare** agent is installed across department workstations, tablets, cruiser laptops, and servers, automating essential cybersecurity and system health functions which can otherwise overwhelm limited IT staff.

Following each reboot, **eCare** performs a complete device inventory, giving administrators current visibility into network changes and helping identify unauthorized software, rogue devices or remote access tools.

The platform also combines zero-day defenses with DNS-layer security to help detect dormant malicious code before it can be activated. Frequent updates further reduce the vulnerability window created by traditional weekly or monthly patching cycles.

As AI-enabled cyberattacks become faster and more adaptive, **eCare** is designed to help agencies respond at comparable speed while protecting critical systems, sensitive data and operational continuity.

emazzanti.net

BACKTRACE Streamlines Criminal Intelligence Searches



BACKTRACE, a data management and analytics platform developed by GTBM, with input from New Jersey law enforcement stakeholders, is designed to help authorized investigators search connected criminal justice data sources, subject to agency permissions and access controls. The web-based system combines more than 30 criminal justice databases into a single search environment, allowing users to query information on people, places, vehicles, criminal histories, and other records without moving between separate systems.

Used by every New Jersey law enforcement agency as well as state, local and federal agencies, **BACKTRACE** includes a Global Search function which provides a search engine-style approach to law enforcement data.

Its companion **BACKTRACE** CGI suite focuses on crime gun intelligence, incorporating NIBIN information, firearm trace submissions and data on fatal and nonfatal shootings.

BACKTRACE supports investigators by helping them connect surveillance relevant records and potential investigative leads for human review and validation. The information with browser-based platform requires no additional software, while initial user training typically takes 30 to 45 minutes.

gtbm.com

New NarcRangerFS Brings Rapid, Non-contact Narcotics Identification to the Field



The **Narc RangerFS** is a new portable narcotics identification system designed to provide law enforcement officers and forensic professionals with rapid results while reducing direct exposure to potentially hazardous substances.

Using Raman spectroscopy enhanced by artificial intelligence and machine learning, the system analyzes the molecular structure of suspected drugs. Unlike traditional 785 nm Raman instruments which can struggle with heavily dyed samples and fluorescent street drug mixtures, **NarcRangerFS** incorporates ECLIPSE Technology and an advanced 828 nm laser engine designed to suppress background fluorescence and improve identification of challenging samples.

Testing is nondestructive and can be performed through transparent packaging, allowing evidence to remain sealed while reducing officer contact with substances such as fentanyl and its analogs.

NarcRangerFS can identify up to three drugs within a single sample, along with cutting agents and other mixture components, with results available in less than 60 seconds.

The system includes a forensic library of more than 3,000 narcotics, precursors and cutting agents and an automatically updated drug database. Designed for field and laboratory use, **NarcRangerFS** can also integrate with Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) for data sharing.

narcranger.com

SoundThinking Introduces SafetySmart® Field Agent™

The new **SafetySmart Field Agent** from SoundThinking is an AI-powered decision intelligence layer which turns large, disconnected public safety data sets into actionable intelligence agencies can act on faster and with more confidence.



Purpose-built for public safety, **Field Agent** lets authorized users query agency data by voice or text, reducing reliance on manual exports, spreadsheets, and specialized analytical tools. It surfaces gunfire patterns and trends and generates pre-shift briefings, command reports, deployment plans, grant narratives, and City Council summaries in minutes rather than hours. **Field Agent** draws on ShotSpotter® and related SafetySmart data today, with expanded investigative, vehicle intelligence, and third-party integrations expected.

Built around human-in-the-loop oversight, **Field Agent**'s outputs support – not replace – decisions made by authorized personnel. It is now in beta with more than 20 ShotSpotter agencies, with broader availability targeted for later in 2026. English, Spanish and Portuguese are supported.

https://tinyurl.com/mspjr5me



White Paper Shows How Schodack Police Are Using Patrolfinder to Improve Patrol Visibility

A new white paper from Patrolfinder offers a real-world look at how Schodack (NY) Police Chief Ralph Southworth is using patrol intelligence technology to improve coverage, increase officer visibility and make more strategic deployment decisions.

The paper, "**Seeing the Whole Town**," examines how the department uses Patrolfinder to identify under-patrolled areas, monitor activity and gain a clearer picture of patrol patterns throughout the community.

Patrolfinder combines real-time officer tracking, patrol analytics, CAD integration, shift handoff reporting, and map-based intelligence. Officers can access BOLOs, alerts and location-specific safety information, while supervisors can review coverage patterns, time-on-task and activity by shift or zone.

Southworth said the platform helped reveal neighborhoods which were not receiving the level of patrol attention he expected, giving supervisors actionable information to address those gaps.

The complete white paper is available through Patrolfinder's Website at **https://tinyurl.com/47z4kxv6**

Panasonic TOUGHBOOK® 56 Raises the Bar for Rugged Computing

Panasonic Connect North America has introduced the **TOUGHBOOK 56**, a modular rugged laptop designed for law enforcement and public safety users, as well as utilities, enterprise, and federal users working in demanding environments.



Building on the TOUGHBOOK 54 and 55, the new model features Intel Core Ultra Series 2 processors, optional AMD Radeon PRO W7500M graphics, Wi-Fi 7, and upgraded 5G connectivity. It supports major wireless carriers and responder networks, including FirstNet and Verizon Frontline.

The **TOUGHBOOK 56** offers a 14 inch WUXGA 16:10 display, up to 64GB of DDR5 memory and up to 4TB total storage. Six modular areas allow users to configure batteries, RAM, storage, and expansion options to meet changing operational needs.

Additional features include optional FIPS encrypted drives, optional TOUGHBOOK Guard hardware integrity and supply chain security, enhanced firmware and battery protections, louder speakers, improved thermal management and up to 24 hours of battery life. The laptop is MIL-STD-810H tested, IP53 rated and designed to withstand three foot drops.

For fleet users, the **TOUGHBOOK 56** remains compatible with existing TOUGHBOOK 54 and 55 vehicle docks, helping agencies upgrade computers without immediately replacing installed docking systems.

connect.na.panasonic.com/toughbook56

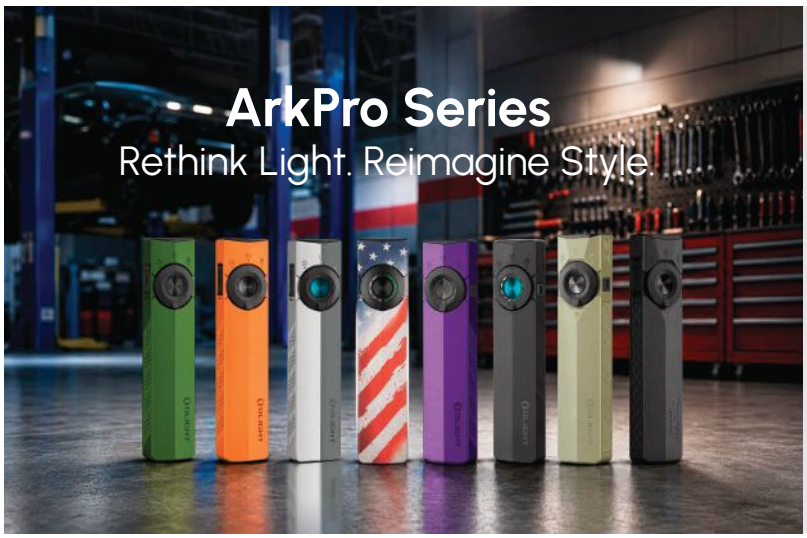
OLIGHT
ILLUMINATE YOUR WORLD



PL X

DUAL BEAMS ONE MISSION

The Olight PL X redefines tactical lighting with an industry-first dual-beam design, instantly switching between a 1,200-lumen flood for close-quarters clarity and a 22,500-candela throw reaching 300 m. Its ratchet-lock rail mount ensures a rock-solid fit under heavy recoil, while the 6061-T6 aluminum body with Type III hard anodizing provides IPX7 water resistance and 1.5 m impact protection. Compatible with leading holsters and featuring universal USB-C charging, the PL X delivers unmatched reliability, adaptability, and performance trusted by professionals and enthusiasts alike.



ARKPRO

4-in-1 Lighting | 1,500 Lumens | 205 Meters | 14 Days

ARKPRO ULTRA

4-in-1 Lighting | 1,700 Lumens | 205 Meters | 14 Days

ARKPRO LITE

3-in-1 Lighting | 1,200 Lumens | 94 Meters | 10 Days

BALDR S / BALDR S BL

POWER AND PRECISION



The Baldr S is one of the most powerful compact light/laser combos on the market. It delivers an incredible 800 lumens with a 130-meter beam distance, along with a highly visible green laser (Baldr S BL: Blue Laser) to boost accuracy. Using the mode setting switch, you can choose among white light, green (or blue) beam, and light & laser combo easily without turning it off. The built-in lithium polymer battery is increased to 3.7V 380mAh, ensuring a maximum runtime of 140 minutes. The Baldr S still features the patented sliding rail mount to easily adjust the light to your desired position and includes two types of rail adapters to fit both Glock and Picatinny rails. With the quick installation system, you can attach and release the light in seconds.

LUMENS 800 | METERS 130 | MINUTES 140

ODIN S

COMPACT RAIL-MOUNTEDTACTICAL LIGHT

Odin S delivers up to 1,500 lumens with a 250m beam distance, powered by a rechargeable 3500mAh 18650 battery or two CR123A batteries. With an optional Strobe mode, secure screw-cap pressure switch, improved mounting system, and rugged aluminum construction, it's built for reliable performance in demanding conditions.



LUMENS 1,500 | METERS 250 | MINUTES 310

Find the Right Light and Optic for Your Mission

H.L. Dalis Inc.
35-35 24th St., Long Island City, NY. 11106
Tel: 718.361.1100 – Fax: 718.392.7654
www.hldalis.com

OSIGHT SE SERIES



OSIGHT SE



OSIGHT SE 6MOA GN



OSIGHT SE DPP



OSIGHT SE MOS



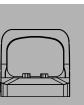




OSIGHT XR

2/6 MOA Dot & 32 MOA Circle

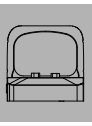
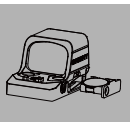
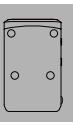
The Osight XR is a next-gen enclosed RMR-footprint pistol optic, ruggedly built for full-size and compact duty pistols. It features an innovative 2/6+32 MOA multi-reticle system, patented magnetic charging with real-time battery monitoring, and a built-in collapsible backup rear sight. Boasting distortion-free lenses, motion activation, and durable 7075-T6 aluminum construction, it delivers superior clarity and reliability as a mission-ready duty optic.

			
Enclosed Emitter Optic with Ruggedized Miniature Reflex Footprint	Industry's First Collapsible Backup Rear Sight	Industry's First Patented Magnetic Charging Cover	Aspherical Lens



OSIGHT XE AMRS

Industry's First 2/6+32 MOA Advanced Multi-Reticle System (AMRSTM)

			
Industry's First Collapsible Backup Rear Sight (CBRSTM)	Side-Loading CR1632 Battery	Enclosed Emitter Optic with RMR Footprint	Compact Size



NEWS

IPICD Takes 2026 Public Safety Conference Online with PULSE Innovation Forum

The Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths (IPICD) will replace its 2026 in-person conference with **PULSE: Public Safety Innovation Forum**, a virtual event scheduled for November 10, 12, 17, and 19, 2026.

Conducted via Zoom from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time, the forum will consist of four separate four hour sessions addressing current issues affecting law enforcement training, operations and supervision. The virtual format allows agencies to participate without the travel, hotel and per diem expenses normally associated with an in-person conference. Individual sessions may be attended separately.

Topics will include emerging public safety technologies, restraint practices and human performance research, legal developments, and advances in human factors science. The program will also examine a restraint system intended to reduce the need for prone positioning.

Presenters will include public safety practitioners, attorneys, researchers, and other subject matter specialists.



Each session will also feature a demonstration of a new public safety product.

Attendees will receive access through the end of 2026 to IPICD's AI-powered Public Safety Lesson Plan Generator.

Program information and registration are available at **ipicd.com**




ActionStreamer
ActionStreamer
Live Streaming Cameras for First Responders
5G camera designed specifically for first responders.
Unlike traditional body cameras designed primarily for evidence capture, the ActionStreamer platform was engineered specifically for live operational use cases where real-time collaboration and remote decision-making are critical.
SCAN TO LEARN MORE
Learn more at safewareinc.com
SAFEWARE®
Visit us at the IACP Conference – Booth #531

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE



Where Have All the Cruisers Gone?

"Where have all the cruisers gone; long time passing?
Gone to junkyards, everyone. Oh, when will they ever learn?"

SERGEANT JAMES POST

My appreciation to the late Pete Seeger, as his 1960s war lament seemed perfect to "customize" for this article because we currently have a police car shortage in the land of the free. Sure, there are "new" cruisers which can be seen, sat in and driven at the LE expos, but the most are rebadged earlier models or humongous SUVs and just not what cops want or need.

In the last several years, American automakers have faced a perfect storm of supply chain disruptions, semiconductor shortages, production changes, model discontinuations, rising costs, and an industry-wide shift toward SUVs, trucks and electrified vehicles. Police fleet production has been caught in the middle. New LE units are available, but choices have narrowed and prices have increased at a remarkable rate. Manufacturers also point to the growing amount of safety, communications and electronic technology now built into modern vehicles. Even online auctions for used cruisers have become expensive, as discontinued Crown Vics and Dodge Chargers – still favorites among many cops – continue to command astonishing prices.

Departments with large fleets are increasingly forced to keep vehicles in service well beyond the mileage which once signaled the end of their useful life which can also reduce their eventual trade-in or resale value. As a result, these units may sit out of service for extended periods while awaiting costly replacement parts.

For example, Washington, DC's Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has faced serious fleet availability problems. Earlier this year, nearly 200 MPD units were reportedly sidelined for maintenance or repairs. Average daily fleet availability has also declined: 95.5% in 2023, 92.8% in 2024 and 90.9% in 2025. MPD spent approximately $8.47 million in FY 2025 for vehicle parts and repairs – an average of roughly $5,100 per vehicle annually.

As we reported recently, the Illinois State Police (ISP) are also facing a serious replacement problem. More than 1,000 vehicles have reportedly reached, or are approaching, recommended replacement thresholds and ISP officials have warned that, at current funding levels, replacing the agency's aging fleet could take approximately 18 years. That means many sedans, SUVs and pickups will continue accumulating miles long after agencies traditionally would have replaced them.

While the Arkansas State Police (ASP) still have a fair number of Ford® Police Interceptor® Utility vehicles and Tahoes in-service, some ASP troopers are still driving high mileage 2023 Charger Pursuits until replacements can be purchased. (The popular Chargers were discontinued in 2024.)

This situation is being repeated across the country as production constraints, procurement delays, limited model choices, and rising costs continue to complicate fleet replacement.

Where Can I Find a Cruiser?

Some agencies have filled shortages with used cruisers purchased from area departments and online auctions, and it's been reported

VISIT US AT IACP - BOOTHS **1611** + **2115**









HAVIS + Pro-gard PRODUCTS LLC.

Coming Together as One to Protect Those Who Protect Us

What does this mean for you?
Scan to find out.









Continued from page 16

that some departments have even loaned extra units to shorthanded neighboring PDs.

During a shortage, previous one officer units may have to carry two officers and some "take-home" programs may be temporarily reduced or suspended. Major special events can put still more pressure on available fleets. The 2026 FIFA World Cup, for example, required host cities and surrounding jurisdictions to commit large numbers of officers, specialty units and support vehicles for extended periods.

Dare to Be Different

Police departments may also have options beyond traditional fleet purchases, including short-term leases and rentals where state and local procurement rules, insurance requirements and vendor agreements permit them. Because laws and purchasing regulations differ substantially among jurisdictions, fleet managers should have their legal, risk management and procurement personnel review any temporary vehicle arrangement before signing a contract.



For covert work, sometimes the best police vehicle is the one nobody notices.

If leasing or renting, shorter agreements may provide greater flexibility while permanent fleet shortages are resolved. Agencies should also confirm in advance that the vendor allows law enforcement use, including the installation of emergency equipment and removable graphics.

To avoid return charges or contract violations, agencies should use removable, no drill equipment and temporary vinyl graphics whenever possible. Any agreement should clearly spell out insurance coverage, permitted modifications, maintenance responsibilities, and vehicle return requirements.

When considering temporary vehicles, don't overlook nontraditional choices, such as SUVs, which are readily available in preferable white or light colors, such as gray or silver. However, agencies should carefully match the vehicle to its intended assignment. Standard civilian vehicles may lack the braking, cooling, handling, tires, and other heavy-duty components found in police package vehicles and may not be appropriate for pursuit or other high-speed emergency operations. If non-pur-



TEAM GJ™

IACP 2026 BOOTH #781



CRITICAL TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT WITHIN REACH

GAMBER JOHNSON

THE NEW MOTORCYCLE DEVICE MOUNT

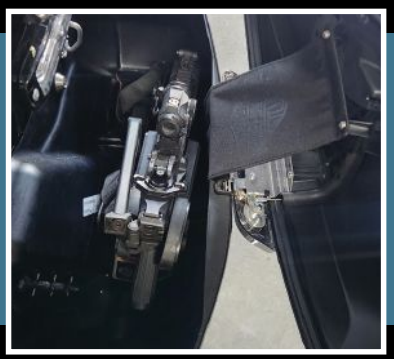
features smooth deployment, an integrated electronics tray for accessory and device management, and flexible VESA 75 and AMPS compatibility to help motorcycle officers keep critical technology organized and ready when needed.

Scan here to learn more about Team GJ

THE NEW BLAC-RAC® SADDLE BAG MOUNT

utilizes the trusted Blac-Rac 1083 weapon retention system to securely mount a weapon inside the 2026 saddle bag, helping maximize storage space while keeping essential equipment protected and accessible.

SECURE. ACCESSIBLE. READY WHEN NEEDED.



GAMBER JOHNSON · AMERICAN ALUMINUM ACCESSORIES, LLC. · BLAC-RAC WEAPON RETENTION SYSTEMS · InfoCase · LIND · PMT · PREMIER MOUNTS · zirkona

Continued from page 18

suit capable vehicles are used for patrol or support duties, their operational limitations should be clearly established by agency policy. Changes in color or body style from the permanent fleet should also be communicated to the public when appropriate.

Covert Assignments

Undercover and surveillance operations open up a variety of rental/lease possibilities not ordinarily considered for patrol. For these assignments, the primary consideration is the ability to blend in. The goal is to use the types of vehicles common to your area. Also, avoid bright colors, expensive sports cars and vehicles which have been customized.



The Georgia State Patrol is among the agencies using Ford® Mustang® GTs for specialized traffic and highway enforcement.

During several years supervising vice and narcotics units, I had good results using ordinary, older vehicles for surveillance assignments. In some jurisdictions, agencies may be able to obtain temporary vehicles through approved agreements with dealers or other legitimate sources. Vehicles should be safe, properly registered and insured, and any arrangement should be documented and authorized under agency policy and applicable state law.

As with rentals and leases, responsibilities for maintenance, repairs, insurance, and permitted use should be agreed upon in writing. Depending on local law and agency policy, unconventional vehicles – such as work vans, tow vehicles, delivery vehicles, and other commonly encountered models – can provide excellent cover because they blend naturally into the community.

Remember, you are only limited by your imagination; however, using an officer's personally owned vehicle for covert assignments can create unnecessary security, liability and privacy concerns. A vehicle directly connected to an officer may expose identifying information or make it easier for a suspect to associate the vehicle with the officer or the officer's family. Agency owned or properly authorized covert vehicles are generally the safer choice.



CLARITY MATTERS

OPTICAL CLARITY YOU CAN COUNT ON.



BALLISTECH®

VEHICLE ARMORING SOLUTIONS

STRENGTH WHEN YOU NEED IT

PROVEN PROTECTION THAT WON'T QUIT.



PROTECTION WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST

DANA SAFETY SUPPLY



LOCATIONS NATIONWIDE!

SCAN TO FIND A LOCATION NEAR YOU!

DANASAFETYSUPPLY.COM

Continued from page 20



For the first time in more than 30 years, the RCMP is updating the look of its frontline police vehicles to improve visibility and provide a modern, distinctive appearance.

Mustangs

In the past, we discussed the growing popularity of Ford Mustangs for highway patrols. They have reentered duty as interstate enforcers by a number of states, many of which had used the earlier 1982-1993 version, the Fox Body SSP (Special Service Package).

The return of Mustangs to highway enforcement comes as agencies look for alternatives to the traditional high-performance police sedan. The Crown Victoria Police Interceptor® disappeared years ago, while production of the previous generation Dodge Charger Pursuit ended after the 2023 model year. With fewer rear-wheel drive police sedans available, some agencies have turned once again to the Mustang for specialized traffic and highway enforcement.

Although Ford does not currently build a police package Mustang, departments have found that the rear-wheel drive Mustang GT works quite nicely for specialized enforcement. The GT's standard 5.0L Coyote V8 produces 480 horsepower and available factory performance equipment can include upgraded brakes and exhaust components. Police radios, lighting, graphics, and other LE equipment must be added by the agency or its upfitter. An added benefit is that Mustangs attract attention at community and recruiting events – especially from younger car enthusiasts – and historically maintain strong resale appeal. Saddle up.

Our neighbors to the north are also changing the appearance of their police fleets. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police recently unveiled its first major redesign of frontline vehicle markings in more than 30 years. The new design uses highly reflective black-and-white graphics intended to improve visibility while retaining the familiar RCMP identity. The redesigned vehicles will gradually appear across Canada as the fleet is replaced.

New Graphics for an Old Cruiser

Another way to modernize your fleet while waiting for new cruisers (you can't find) is to change your graphics. Many American departments are changing graphics now to those which celebrate our 250th anniversary. We're not suggesting changing the fleet colors by repainting or even "wrapping" them in another color, just updating the graphics.

The Indiana State Police took advantage of adding Mustang GTs and Dodge Durangos to its fleet by introducing a retro-style white over blue appearance inspired by earlier Indiana State Police cruisers. When possible, new graphics can be added to remaining fleet vehicles to present a uniform appearance.

The Arkansas State Police recently took a different approach as their garage repainted one of their 2023 Chargers in a 1960s two-tone paint scheme with current markings. They changed the lighting to a contemporary lightbar, as this beauty is used for enforcement every day, with an occasional appearance at a town parade or festival.

Remember, any graphics or color change should be announced in the media to the public.

New Units and Squads

As part of the Missouri State Highway Patrol's commitment to supporting the FIFA World Cup activities in Kansas City this summer, specialized troopers and additional resources were assigned to help manage large crowds and address other public safety situations associated with the tournament. State and local agencies devoted substantial personnel and equipment to the event, and officials reported that the Kansas City World Cup celebrations concluded without major public safety problems.

Cop Vehicle News

There are a couple of new vehicles of particular interest to law enforcement fleets you need to check out.

Are you tired of counting all those



I like this scenario.

WHAT IF IT COULD DO MORE?

Now it can.

SCENARIO TRAINING **EVOLVED.**

MILO AI

CREATE FASTER | TRAIN CONVERSATIONS | ENHANCE AAR

SEE WHAT IS POSSIBLE AT **IACP 2026**
BOOTH 2161

Continued from page 22



Ford® goes big with the 2028 Expedition Police Responder, a full-size SUV designed for demanding law enforcement duty.

black Suburbans in DC convoys? Well, never fear, because Ford has announced the 2028 Expedition Police Responder. It comes standard with four-wheel drive, a 3.5L EcoBoost® V6, ten-speed automatic transmission and an electronic locking rear differential with 3.73 gears. Police-specific features include Police Dark Car, Police Engine Idle, Police Perimeter Alert, and a 360 degree camera system. Inside are two rows with seating for five occupants and durable police-duty upholstery.

The Expedition joins Ford's established LE lineup which includes the Police Interceptor Utility – America's best-selling police vehicle – and the F-150® Police Responder pickup.

Ram has also announced the 2027 ProMaster City®, a midsize van available in cargo and passenger configurations and a smaller partner to the full-size ProMaster vans already serving as SWAT, CSI, equipment, and prisoner transport vehicles. The ProMaster City uses front-wheel drive and a 1.6L turbocharged four-cylinder engine, with approximately nine feet of available cargo floor length.

New Names for Old Friends

Two familiar public safety vehicle equipment companies have recently undergone significant corporate or branding changes, although their established product lines remain available.

Pro-gard™ Products has been acquired by HAVIS, bringing together two familiar public safety vehicle equipment companies and expanding HAVIS' portfolio of integrated law enforcement vehicle solutions.

Tenhold™, formerly Jotto Desk and now a Kiefer Sage sub-brand, continues to supply law enforcement vehicle equipment and mounting systems. The company has also introduced a new Suppressor Lock Head for its Weapon Mounting System, designed to secure weapons equipped with suppressors. Tenhold says its equipment is currently used by agencies in more than 25 states. **P&SN**

Sergeant James Post has 27 years of experience in a variety of assignments in the Kansas City, MO, Police Department, as well as other police and fire agencies and the US Marshals. He can be reached at kopkars@arkansas.net.



Aftermath®

ALWAYS READY WHEN YOU NEED US

When responding to biohazards or trauma at a crime scene, an investigation, or an incident in a squad car or jail cell, Aftermath offers fast, professional cleanup services that support your work.



24|7 RESPONSE 1-800-295-5460

100+ Locations Nationwide
150+ Vehicles Equipped and Ready to serve you anywhere in the lower 48.

Aftermath.com
Scan to learn more about how we can support you!

BIOHAZARD REMEDIATION & CRIME SCENE CLEAN-UP

With over 30 years of trusted service, we specialize in crime and trauma scene clean-up. Our highly trained emergency response teams do this with discretion, compassion, speed, and accuracy. Our teams are available 24/7, always ready to help.

Dedicated, Trained Professionals
"Always Ready when You Need Us"

For additional information
and to have a packet sent to your agency.

Please contact: John Tyler
Phone: 855-752-4739
Email: jtyler@aftermath.com

Aftermath.com | US-based call center | 24/7/365 Response

PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT

Vehicle Storage Solutions



BLAC-RAC

The **Blac-Rac Model 1082 gun rack** is designed to securely retain AR-15 and M4-style rifles in patrol and tactical vehicles while maintaining quick access when needed. Its dual opposing side plates clamp around the lower receiver, securing the firearm while protecting critical components, including the trigger, magazine release and takedown pins, from unauthorized access.

The rack accommodates AR-15 and M4-style rifles equipped with optics, lasers, flashlights, and magazines up to 30 rounds without requiring accessories to be removed. When paired with the standard AR Retention Post, the system provides added stability while supporting rapid firearm deployment.

Constructed from cast 304 stainless steel and precision machined for durability and corrosion resistance, the **Model 1082** is also capable of securing other tactical firearms and some conventional stock rifles, shotguns or handguns. (Additional parts may be required which are sold separately.)

Blac-Rac's proprietary Cold-Wire® Technology prevents the lock from being defeated through an external power source if wiring is cut. The **Model 1082** is available with or without an electronic release and includes two proprietary keys for manual access.

blacrac.com

HAVIS



Havis has recently introduced **side-by-side dual drawer storage systems for the 2025-2026 Chevrolet Tahoe and 2025-2026 Ford Expedition SSV**, expanding its vehicle-specific cargo management options for law enforcement fleets.

Both systems are designed to provide deeper, secure storage and support for under-mounted electronics, while remaining fully compatible with Havis Standard K9 inserts. The Tahoe configuration raises the drawers six inches above the floor and uses OEM mount points for a no-drill installation. The Expedition SSV system raises the drawers 12 inches above the floor, enabling quick and easy access to the side-by-side drawers, while the lower half of the split tailgate remains closed and uses OEM mount points.

According to Havis, the new systems are intended to improve organization, equipment security and access to mission critical gear in the field.

havis.com

PRO-GARD PRODUCTS



Pro-gard has introduced **Cargo Storage Drawers** designed to give law enforcement agencies secure, configurable storage for weapons, equipment and other essential gear.

Available in large and small sizes, the **drawers** are constructed from lightweight aluminum with a textured black powder-coat finish. Their stackable, interchangeable design allows departments to configure storage to suit specific operational needs. Features include locking slides, protective rubber mats and a no-drill installation which mounts directly to existing OEM holes with no assembly required.

Three lock options are available: no lock, a manual T-handle lock or an electronic lock rated for up to 12,000 openings.

The **drawers** can be used with or without a Pro-gard Cargo Barrier and are compatible with Pro-gard Cargo Storage Floors for Chevrolet Tahoe and Dodge Durango vehicles. Optional accessories include a slotted equipment-securing top, sliding electronics tray with removable mounting surface, and Magpul® DAKA® Grid Organizer integration.

pro-gard.com

TRUCKVAULT



TruckVault has introduced the **TacLock**™, a high security mechanical combination lock designed to provide tamper-resistant protection for firearms, duty gear, tools, and other mission-critical equipment stored in law enforcement vehicles and fleet trucks.

Engineered exclusively for TruckVault drawer systems, **TacLock** requires no batteries or electronics, providing dependable access without concerns about power failure. The lock offers more than 1,500 combination options, along with a key override for alternate access.

Built for demanding field conditions, **TacLock** incorporates a tamper-resistant clutch, larger combination dials and smoother operation for improved ergonomics. A noise-dampening design helps reduce unwanted sound during vehicle operation.

The system also features a compression-style closure, protected key access and reinforced Strike Guard protection to help keep drawers securely closed and equipment protected. Made in the USA, **TacLock** combines TruckVault's durable construction and precise fit with an all-mechanical design.

truckvault.com

SETINA MANUFACTURING CO., INC.



Setina's **Pro Performance EZ-Lift Command Center** provides law enforcement fleets with a modular, customizable approach to organizing and accessing equipment in a vehicle's rear cargo area.

Designed to accommodate everything from firearms and communications equipment to spare tires, drawers and other mission-critical gear, the system can be configured with a variety of locks, storage components and accessories to meet individual fleet requirements. Components can also be collapsed when needed to preserve rear window visibility.

At the heart of the system is Setina's **EZ-Lift Cargo Deck** which replaces the vehicle's factory rear compartment deck and makes use of otherwise underutilized space beneath the cargo floor. Hydraulic-assisted operation provides quick access to lower storage areas, including radio and electronics compartments and the spare tire.

The three-piece design simplifies installation and incorporates a removable rear locking hatch for convenient access to equipment below the deck. For additional capacity, Setina recommends pairing the **EZ-Lift Cargo Deck** with its **Rear Cargo Storage Box System**.

setina.com

WESTIN PUBLIC SAFETY



Westin Public Safety has introduced an updated **S.O.S. Slide Out System**, a two-tier storage and organization solution designed for law enforcement, public safety and professional fleet vehicles. Made in the USA, the system provides secure, accessible storage for mission-critical equipment while maximizing available cargo space.

The **S.O.S. Base Tier** features a full-width steel slide out assembly which mounts to factory attachment points without drilling. Heavy-duty Accuride slides provide smooth operation, while a full-width latch allows access to the spare tire and a sliding, double-wall electronics tray. Additional features include anti-rattle cushioning, integrated MOLLE side panels, a rubberized no-slip mat, and a 500 pound total weight capacity.

An optional Top Tier Weapons Vault/Storage Drawer adds secure firearm and equipment storage with a high-security Simplex push-button lock, tamper-resistant latch striker plates, removable foam insert, and two weapon tie-downs. Top-mounted rails provide additional tie-down points for securing gear.

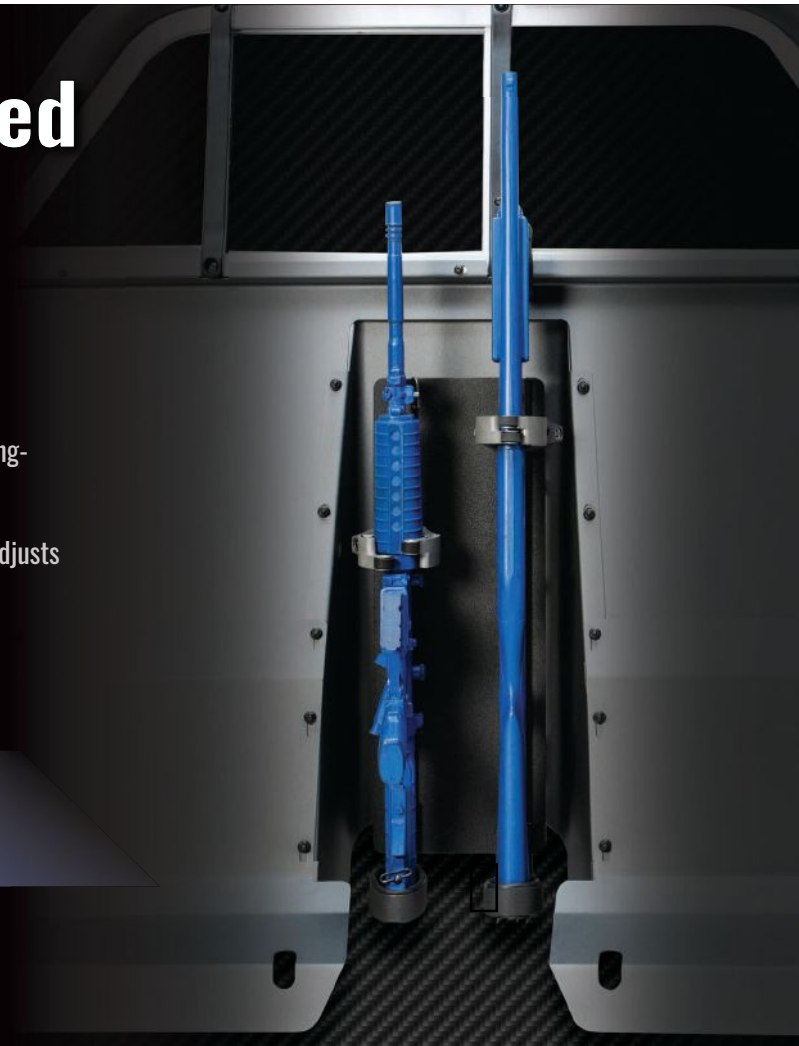
westinpublicsafety.com

Quick, one-handed gun access.

X-LOCK

When seconds count, officers can depend on X-Lock's spring-action arms for fast, easy gun retrieval.

The X-Lock's patented locking mechanism automatically adjusts to a tight, custom fit when the gun is pressed into place.



TUFLOC®

800-321-0870 / tufloc.com

BEYOND THE ALERT: Gunshot Detection in Modern Investigations

MELISSA KRUM DOOHER

For more than two decades, acoustic gunshot detection has helped law enforcement respond faster to gunfire, but its value increasingly extends beyond the initial alert and into the investigation itself.

Properly utilized, acoustic gunshot detection can provide investigators and prosecutors with essential forensic evidence of when a shooting occurred; where it occurred; and, in some cases, how it unfolded.

As gunshot detection technology becomes more common in criminal investigations, courts and practitioners must understand the legal principles governing its admissibility. The legal analysis varies depending on whether the evidence consists of audio recordings and business records or expert forensic analysis.



Gunshot Detection Technology Overview

Gunshot detection systems operate through a network of acoustic sensors positioned throughout a coverage area. When gunfire occurs, multiple sensors capture the sound and transmit recordings and timing data to a central processing system.

The most advanced systems determine the location of gunfire using the same basic scientific principle seismologists use to locate earthquake epicenters. Using a process known as multilateration, the system compares the slight differences in the time the impulsive sounds reach each sensor to estimate where the sounds originated.



Trained analysts verify potential gunfire events before alerts reach law enforcement – typically within 30–60 seconds.

Proprietary algorithms serve as an initial screening mechanism, filtering out sounds inconsistent with gunfire. Potential events are then reviewed by trained human analysts who make the final determination on whether to issue a gunfire alert – a process used by systems such as ShotSpotter®. Once confirmed, gunfire alerts are transmitted to law enforcement in near real time, typically within 30-60 seconds of the shooting.

PART I: When the Audio and General Timeline Are Enough

In many criminal cases, the investigative value of acoustic gunshot detection is relatively straightforward. There, investigators and prosecutors simply want to establish that gunfire occurred at a particular time and place, or they want the judge or jury to hear the recorded gunfire because the number and cadence of the shots is relevant to intent and premeditation.

The recordings can establish a timeline, corroborate witness testimony or physical evidence, and help understand the sequence of events.

A recent homicide prosecution in St. Louis County illustrates the point. In a domestic violence incident, the defendant confronted his former girlfriend outside her mother's home. The mother intervened in the heated argument. The defendant pulled out his gun and fired 16 rounds, striking both women multiple times, killing his former girlfriend.

The recorded gunfire revealed three distinct volleys separated by pauses of up to two seconds – details which could not have been fully appreciated from witness testimony alone. Prosecutors relied on the audio to argue that the breaks between volleys provided the defendant with time to reflect before resuming fire, supporting a finding of deliberation and premeditation. The jury returned a first-degree murder conviction.

From an evidentiary perspective, cases seeking to admit audio recordings generally involve traditional authentication principles.

Field Agent

What if the next breakthrough in public safety isn't collecting more data?

What if it's making better decisions?

Introducing SafetySmart® Field Agent
Decision Intelligence
AI purpose-built for modern public safety

- Connect public safety data across your operational ecosystem
- Transform CAD, RMS and other information into operational understanding
- Strengthen operational decision-making



Visit us at the IACP Conference – Booth #1109

SOUNDTHINKING®
Creator of ShotSpotter®

See Field Agent at the SoundThinking Booth #1109 and Scan QR Code to Learn More.

Continued from page 28



Acoustic gunshot detection data can help investigators clarify complex multi-shooter incidents and conflicting accounts.

The technology provider should be able to provide the audio recordings along with an affidavit verifying that they were recorded and maintained in the ordinary course of business.

At SoundThinking (the company where I oversee the team of ShotSpotter forensic experts), we have seen courts routinely admit recorded gunfire once a proper foundation has been established. The relevant principles are similar to those which govern the admission of surveillance video, body-worn camera footage, and automated license plate reader data.

In the St. Louis example, the audio recording was admitted into evidence using a certified business record. But, if needed in other cases, a custodian of records can testify to authenticity and explain the general operation of the gunshot detection system. When gunshot detection technology is used primarily for the value of the audio recording, the focus is not on complex scientific analysis, but on establishing the reliability of the recording process and the integrity of the evidence.

Used in this manner, acoustic gunshot detection evidence rarely presents controversy akin to novel scientific methods.

PART II: When Forensic Analysis Becomes Critical

Some shootings, however, are far more complicated.

Investigations may involve multiple shooters, competing claims of self-defense, or conflicting evidence about who fired first. In these cases, acoustic gunshot detection data can provide insights well beyond timeline, shot count and cadence.

In advanced gunshot detection systems, forensic analysis can help determine whether multiple firearms were used; distinguish gunshots from echoes; identify shots not automatically classified by software; and clarify the sequence of fire. This analysis is performed by forensic experts – including in-house specialists at the technology provider – who examine waveforms, spectrograms, timing data, and other acoustic characteristics to evaluate the evidence.

A case I charged in Oakland a few years ago illustrates the value of forensic analysis in cases involving competing self-defense claims.

Two men exchanged gunfire from their vehicles while positioned driver-side to driver-side, resulting in the death of an innocent passenger. Both defendants claimed self-defense, so the timing of shots became a critical issue at trial. Forensic analysis of the recordings showed that gunfire from two firearms was simultaneous, supporting the prosecution's theory that the defendants were engaged in mutual combat. The jury convicted both defendants of homicide.

Unlike the mere authentication of audio recordings, forensic analysis can place the reliability of the underlying scientific methods at issue.

HYDRA RAM
USED BY ONE FIRE COMPANY TO FORCE 109 DOORS AFTER THE FIRST EXPLOSION AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER IN 1993
THE FIRST AND ONLY ONE-PIECE INTEGRATED, PRESSURIZED HYDRAULIC FORCIBLE ENTRY TOOL
Truly a one man operation.
Weighs only 11 lbs.
Full Extension in Only 7 Pumps.
Other Spreaders Require Up To 30 Pumps.
CALL FOR FREE CATALOG OF ALL OUR
FORCIBLE ENTRY TOOLS
The KAYO
With the 1–2 Punch
30,000 LBS. OF FORCE.
THE HIGHEST KINETIC IMPACT OF ANY RAM ON THE MARKET
Weight: 40+ lbs. of longlasting epoxy/steel construction. Only 30 inches long with two forward handles and one rear, but enough for the second man to hold. Exclusive Celtex shock absorbing grips.
E-Z to stow, E-Z to carry, E-Z to use...$390.00
One man battering ram – $330.00
The Pro-Bar – A 30 inch Halligan-type forcible entry tool. One piece construction. Length: 30" Weight: 8.5 lbs., Ship. wt. 10 lbs. $299.00
Li'L Pro-Bar – Type "A" lockpuller on adz and gas shut off key on fork. Length: 12", Weight: 2 lbs., Ship. wt. 3 lbs. $84.00
Mini Pro-Bar – Diamond knurled grip, type "A" lockpuller on adz, and gas shut off on fork. Length: 20", Weight: 3 lbs., Ship. wt. 4 lbs. $102.00
FIRE HOOKS UNLIMITED, INC.
1827 Old Mill Road, Wall, NJ 07719
PHONE: (732) 280-7737 • FAX: (732) 280-7792
www.firehooksunlimited.net

STRONG
Badge Cases, Gear Bags & Holsters
Breast Cancer Awareness
81PX7
Show your support for Breast Cancer Awareness and treatment by displaying your own Pink Badge holder proudly around your neck or on your belt. Our 81PX7 comes with its own custom made pink chain. All models are custom cut to fit your badge.
Proudly Made in America
StrongBadgeCase.com Since 1932
Contact your local dealer or email us at sales@strongbadgecase.com

Visit us at the IACP Conference – Booth #643



Qualified forensic experts help agencies explain gunshot detection evidence and strengthen their response to courtroom challenges.

By example, federal courts and numerous state courts have subjected (ShotSpotter) recorded gunfire evidence to *Daubert* scrutiny and determined that the underlying science is well-established and the technology reliable. The *Daubert* test is flexible and focuses on overall reliability rather than rigid criteria.

A smaller number of jurisdictions continue to apply the older *Frye* standard which asks whether the scientific methodology has achieved general acceptance within the relevant scientific community. State courts in California, Illinois, New York, and Pennsylvania have concluded that this technology is generally accepted and thus admissible in court.

When forensic conclusions are central to the issues in dispute, courts may examine the underlying science and methodology through *Daubert* or *Frye* hearings. Gunshot detection technology providers should have expert witnesses to explain the relevant scientific principles and the methodologies employed during forensic analysis. Agencies which have access to qualified forensic experts through their technology provider are generally better positioned to address these evidentiary challenges.

Targeting Violence, Not Communities

Despite its proven investigative and evidentiary value, acoustic gunshot detection technology faces criticism from some advocacy groups and commentators who allege its deployment is discriminatory because it is often concentrated in nonaffluent urban neighborhoods.

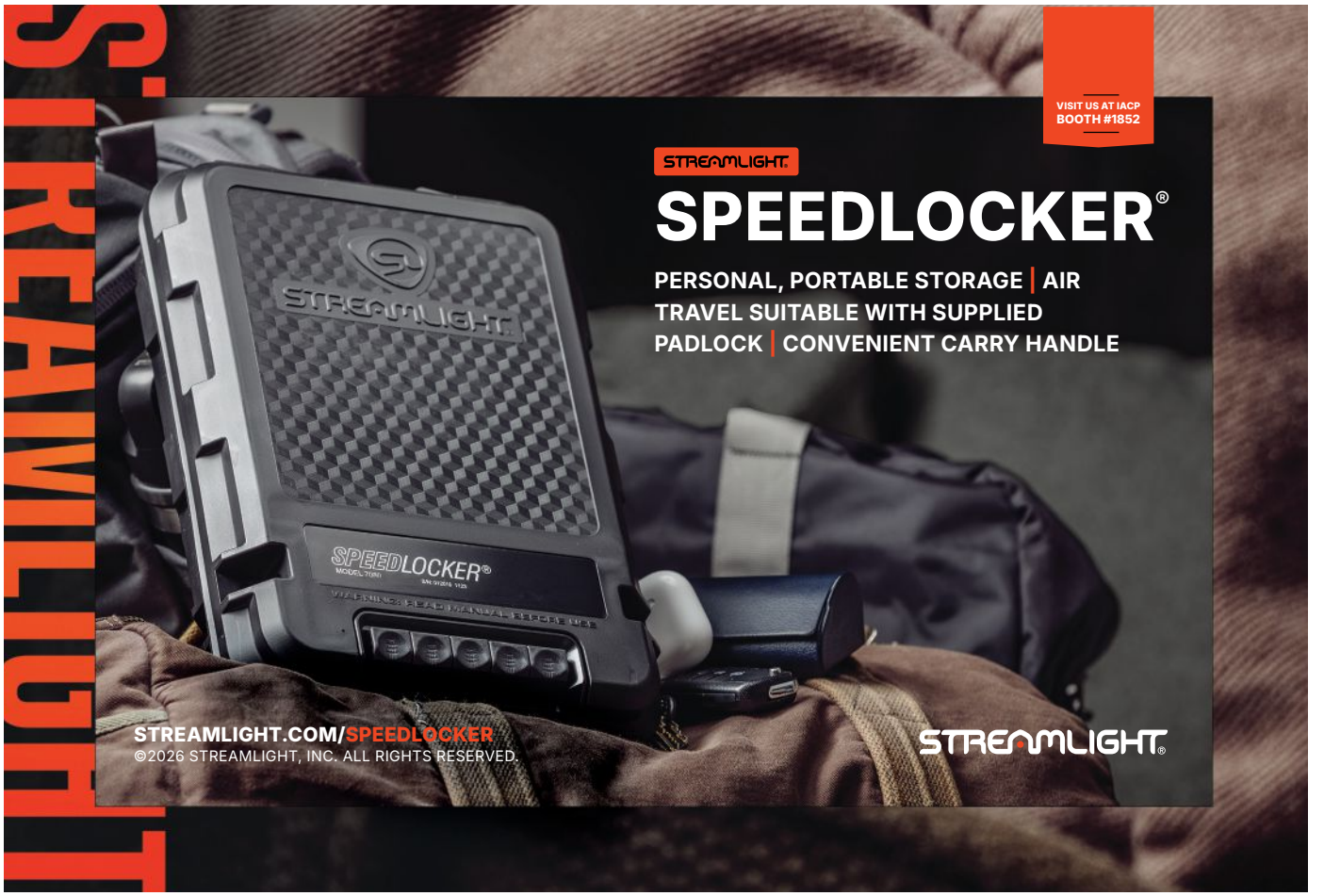
That argument confuses the location of the technology with the location of the violence. Shootings are disproportionately concentrated in a relatively small number of communities. Deploying lifesaving technology where gun violence is most prevalent is not discrimination – it is a targeted, data-driven response to a documented public safety problem.

Residents of violence plagued neighborhoods deserve the same access to public safety resources and rapid emergency response as any other citizens.

Conclusion

As its use becomes more widespread, acoustic gunshot detection is increasingly serving not only as a rapid response tool, but also as a reliable source of evidence in criminal investigations. Understanding both its investigative and legal dimensions is essential for effective use in the field and the courtroom. **P&SN**

Melissa Krum Dooher retired from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office in Oakland, California, after 25 years of service as an Assistant District Attorney. She now serves as the Senior Director of Forensics & Litigation Support at SoundThinking, where she manages the team of forensic experts who produce the ShotSpotter forensic reports and testify in court. For ShotSpotter-related forensics questions, contact the team at forensics@soundthinking.com





When the Chief's Voice Is a Deepfake

Picture a patrol officer working a late shift when the phone rings. Caller ID appears to show the chief's direct number. The voice on the other end sounds right; the cadence, inflection and manner of speaking are unmistakable. Then comes an urgent order.

CARL MAZZANTI

Leave the scene. Provide credentials to an internal system. Transfer funds for a confidential operation. Send sensitive information to another officer immediately. Perhaps even disregard an instruction received minutes earlier.

The officer has every reason to believe the order is legitimate. After all, it sounds exactly like the chief – except it isn't.

Advances in artificial intelligence have made it increasingly easy to clone a person's voice or manipulate existing video and audio. For law enforcement agencies, that undermines an assumption which has existed for generations: Hearing a familiar voice is no longer proof that the person speaking is who he or she claims to be. And, the threat is no longer theoretical.

When the Chief Becomes the Impostor

In October 2024, the Salt Lake City Police Department warned residents about an unusually sophisticated impersonation scam involving Chief Mike Brown. A Woods Cross resident received an email from what appeared to be a police-related account. Attached was a video incorporating footage from an interview Brown had given to a television station several years earlier. The accompanying audio had been artificially generated to closely mimic the chief's voice. The supposed chief told the recipient that a wire transfer had failed and claimed that nearly $100,000 was still owed to the federal government.

At first listen, the recording was convincing. Salt Lake City police said the audio closely impersonated Brown's voice and could lead someone to believe the message was genuine.

Closer examination exposed the deception. Speech patterns were unnatural, certain words received unusual emphasis, the tone varied, and edits could be detected between sentences. There was another clue: The message came from a Google account incorporating the department's name rather than an official slc.gov email address.

The case demonstrated how easily television interviews, press conferences, social media videos,

GORE-TEX

WaterShed®

PREMIUM QUALITY RAINWEAR

BUILT TO SPEC

Stormforce™
Tango



MADE IN USA
SALEM, OREGON

scan me

WeAreWaterShed.com

800-848-8092
Orders@gowatershed.com

POLICEAMMO F



FORCE ON FORCE

SIMUNITION



• Marker Rounds • Conversion Kits
• Blanks • Protective Gear

REALITY BASE

The BEST Way to Be Rea

Readiness Come

RBT SHOOTHOUSE DESIGN

With Variable Configuration Walls



Assembled with Interlocking Plastic Blocks



* Must not be used with lethal ammo.

60 Main Street #D | Vincentown, New Jersey 08088-8870 |

FROM **THE GUN SHOP**

T4E

TRAIN MORE. SPEND LESS.

High Impact, Cost-Effective
Training Pistols, Rifles, and Ammo

Designed to the specs of their firearm counterparts, these markers provide an authentic feel to training exercises.

• Paint Rounds • Powder Rounds • Rubber Rounds

ED TRAINING:

dy for a Lethal Encounter

es with Practice

Komodo Self-Propelled 100 kwh Rechargeable Backup Battery

Charge it where you have power and use it where you don't.

The Komodo can be charged either from the grid or by solar; transported to an area where electricity has been interrupted or never existed; then moved into final position under its own power to run power tools, emergency lights or even a whole building.



Tel: 609-859-1997 | Fax: 609-859-3099 | info@policeammo.com

Continued from page 32

and other recordings already in the public domain can provide the raw material for an impersonation attempt. For police executives, it raises an even more troubling question: What happens when the target is not a citizen, but an employee accustomed to acting on orders from that official?

A Familiar Scam Gets More Convincing

Law enforcement impersonation scams are not new. What is changing is the technology available to make them more believable.

In 2024, the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office in New Hampshire received dozens of reports of scam calls involving people pretending to be law enforcement officers or relatives. Sheriff David Croft said scammers were manipulating voices with artificial intelligence while also spoofing caller ID information so calls appeared to originate from his office. Some victims were told there was a warrant for their arrest and that money, sometimes cryptocurrency, had to be paid to resolve it.

The problem has also expanded well beyond individual police departments. In May 2025, the FBI warned of a malicious messaging campaign in which attackers used text messages and AI-generated voice messages to impersonate senior US officials. Significantly, many of those targeted were themselves current or former senior federal or state government officials or people within their contact networks.

Then, in July 2026, the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center issued another warning. Criminals were creating AI-generated videos depicting a senior FBI leader and using them to encourage victims to submit information through a fraudulent website masquerading as the FBI's IC3 complaint portal.

The combination is particularly concerning. Artificial intelligence helps establish trust, while familiar government branding, spoofed websites, phone numbers, and email identities reinforce the deception.

From Spoofed Sheriff Calls to AI Kidnappings

Traditional impersonation scams continue to evolve alongside their AI-powered counterparts. In August 2026, Pennsylvania Attorney General Dave Sunday warned of an increase in calls impersonating local county sheriff's offices. Scammers spoofed telephone numbers so the calls appeared legitimate, then claimed recipients had missed federal grand jury duty or a court hearing and faced arrest unless they paid "bail" or a "bond."

The problem was evident in York County, Pennsylvania, where the sheriff's office reported numerous calls from scammers posing as department employees. The callers used the names of real personnel and, in some instances, spoofed the sheriff's office telephone number.

Victims were told they had an active warrant, had missed jury duty, or had a relative in prison or the hospital. They were then pressured to make an immediate payment to resolve the supposed problem.

A July 2026 incident in Boone County, Missouri, showed how much more convincing the same strategy can become when artificial intelligence is added. A resident received a call displaying the contact name and telephone number of the person's daughter. A voice sounding like the daughter said she had been kidnapped at gunpoint. Another voice then demanded ransom money.

Authorities later located the daughter safely in Jefferson City, unaware that the call had even occurred. The Boone County Sheriff's Office said the daughter's voice had been generated with AI. The technology may change, but the underlying strategy remains remarkably consistent: establish authority or familiarity, manufacture urgency and discourage the target from taking time to verify what is happening.

When a Police Captain Gets the Call

Lorain Police Captain Jacob Morris saw that playbook firsthand. Morris, a 16 year veteran of the Ohio department, received a call from a man identifying himself as "Captain Michael" with the Medina County Sheriff's Department warrant division.

The caller said Morris had failed to report for jury duty and that a warrant was about to be issued for his arrest. There was, however, supposedly a way to resolve the matter: Pay $2,400.

The scammer had chosen the wrong target. Morris quickly recognized red flags, including the caller's mispronunciation of Medina and a story that did not fit his understanding of court procedures. Rather than hang up, he began recording the conversation on his personal phone and allowed the caller to continue.

After roughly 20 minutes, Morris revealed that he was a police officer and had recorded the exchange. The recording was subsequently shared to help the public recognize similar scams.

There was no sophisticated AI clone involved in the Morris call. That is precisely what makes the incident useful.

The caller relied on the same elements which make technologically advanced scams effective: authority, fear, urgency, and the assumption that the person on the other end of the line is legitimate. Add a cloned voice, a spoofed agency number or a manipulated video and recognizing the deception becomes considerably more difficult.



MINIMIZE THE DELAY. RESPOND INSTANTLY.

When a duty weapon locks up, seconds matter.



REAL MALFUNCTION. REAL-TIME DECISION.

The patented T3MR™ creates a true Type 3 double feed under live-fire conditions – building fast recognition and automatic, correct response under stress.



WHY T3MR™ WORKS

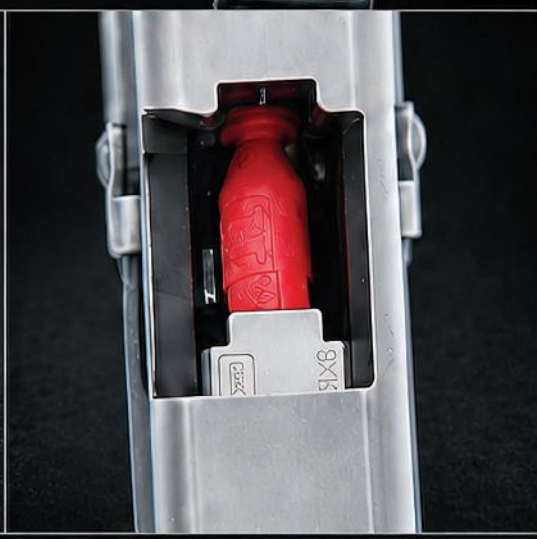
- Replicates the exact feel of a true double feed
- Load into the magazine with live rounds
- No manual setup. No staged malfunctions. No pretending.
- Up to 500 realistic training repetitions
- Nylon construction helps protect the firearm
- Made in the USA

Ideal for departments, academies, large-scale training programs, and CCW instructors.



.223 RIFLE T3MR™ ROUND

9MM T3MR™ ROUND



Available in: .380 ACP | 9mm | .40 S&W | .45 ACP | .223 rifle

CLOSE THE TRAINING GAP. RAISE THE STANDARD.

Type3MalfunctionRound®
Train Double Feeds in live fire

LiveFire TACTICAL TRAINING LLC

Proud Partners of the NRA Law Enforcement Division

livefiretacticaltraining.com/military-law

Continued from page 36

The Risk Inside the Agency

For police agencies, the danger extends far beyond fraudulent requests for money. A convincing impersonation of a chief, sheriff, commander, or supervisor could potentially be used to obtain credentials, request sensitive files, authorize financial transactions, or persuade an employee to take an action which would never normally be approved through an informal communication.

That makes impersonation a cybersecurity issue as much as an awareness and training issue. Agencies should begin with one simple principle: **No high-risk request should be authenticated solely**

Free Resources for Fighting AI Impersonation

Law enforcement agencies do not have to build their defenses against AI-enabled impersonation from scratch. Several federal resources are available at no cost and can help agencies recognize synthetic media, strengthen cybersecurity, train personnel, and prepare for impersonation attempts.

FBI Artificial Intelligence/Deepfake Guidance

The FBI identifies warning signs associated with AI-generated audio, images and video, including unnatural pauses, unusual inflections, abnormal phrasing, inconsistent background noise, visual distortions, and unnatural movement. The Bureau also cautions that synthetic media has become sophisticated enough that visual or auditory clues alone should not be relied upon.

Official link: https://tinyurl.com/3834xa88
Easy search: *FBI AI deepfake guidance*

NSA/FBI/CISA Deepfake Threat Guidance

Contextualizing Deepfake Threats to Organizations addresses synthetic media impersonation, organizational preparedness, authentication procedures, employee training, and responses to deepfake exploitation attempts. The guidance also encourages organizations to rehearse how personnel should respond before an actual incident occur**s.**

Official link: https://tinyurl.com/y4w7xpm2
Easy search: *NSA deepfake threats organizations*

FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3)

A July 2026 FBI warning describes criminals using AI-generated videos of FBI personnel along with fraudulent websites and other impersonation techniques. The advisory provides practical indicators for identifying suspicious videos, messages, URLs, telephone numbers, and contacts, as well as information victims should preserve when reporting an incident.

Official link: https://tinyurl.com/zf3th5mz
Easy search: *IC3 PSA260720*

CISA Cyber Hygiene Services

CISA provides no cost vulnerability scanning and web application scanning to eligible US federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government organizations, including qualifying police and sheriff's agencies. These services can help identify weaknesses which attackers may attempt to exploit during credential stealing or impersonation campaigns.

Official link: https://tinyurl.com/3d6xx6dz
Easy search: *CISA Cyber Hygiene*

CISA Cyber Security Evaluation Tool (CSET®)

CISA's free CSET software helps organizations evaluate their IT and operational technology cybersecurity posture. Agencies can use it to identify potential weaknesses involving authentication, network configuration, access controls, and other areas which may become targets during social engineering or impersonation attacks.

Official link: https://tinyurl.com/mr5wvjr3
Easy search: *CISA CSET*

CISA Tabletop Exercise Packages

CISA provides downloadable tabletop exercise materials covering phishing, ransomware, insider threats, and other cyber incidents. Although there is not a specific "deepfake police chief" exercise, agencies can readily adapt social engineering scenarios for roll call or command training. For example: *A lieutenant receives an urgent voice call apparently from the chief ordering credentials released or a financial transaction approved. What happens next?*

Official link: https://tinyurl.com/bdhjpp26
Easy search: *CISA tabletop exercises*

DOJ COPS Office CRI-TAC

The Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center provides no cost, individualized technical assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies. Assistance can include consultation; training; policy development; strategic planning; and resource referrals in areas including technology, intelligence and information sharing, leadership, management, and supervision.

Official link: https://tinyurl.com/2fbf4m42
Easy search: *COPS CRI-TAC*

FORENSCOPE

SuperSpectral CORE

64 MP

Superspectral Ultra High Resolution
Mobile Forensic Imaging System

ESSENTIAL POWER
FORENSIC PRECISION



Available Exclusively From

www.grimmforensics.com

GRIMM FORENSICS

Continued from page 38

by a familiar voice, video image, email address, or caller ID.

Verification procedures should be established before an incident occurs. Sensitive or unusual orders may require a callback to a known telephone number, confirmation through a separate communications channel or another predetermined authentication method.

The objective is not to make routine communication cumbersome. It is to ensure that consequential decisions cannot be authorized simply because a phone screen, email address, face, or voice appears familiar.

Building a Layered Technical Defense

Departments should also examine the technical safeguards surrounding their communications and information systems. Email systems should be configured to identify spoofing and impersonation attempts, with properly implemented SPF, DKIM and DMARC protections for agency domains. Advanced email security systems can also flag suspicious sender behavior, unusual links and look-alike domains.

DNS layer security remains valuable for blocking connections to known malicious domains, phishing infrastructure and command and control systems.



However, it should be part of a layered defense rather than treated as a complete solution.

Security Information and Event Management, or SIEM, technology can help agencies correlate activity across email, endpoints, servers, identity systems, and other network resources. A Security Operations Center (**https://tinyurl.com/3bbb6k6w**) can then monitor those alerts and investigate unusual behavior, such as abnormal login attempts, suspicious account activity or access from unexpected locations.

For agencies without the personnel or resources to operate those capabilities internally, a qualified managed service or managed security provider can supply some or all of that monitoring and response capability. Multifactor authentication, preferably phishing-resistant MFA (**https://tinyurl.com/4vvwankw**) where technically feasible, should also be required for accounts providing access to records systems, dispatch applications, administrative networks, and financial functions. A scammer may be able to clone a chief's voice. That alone should never be enough to gain access to an agency's systems.

Build the Policy Before the Call Comes

Technology alone will not solve the problem. Departments need policies which recognize the changing definition of identity in the AI era. Officers and civilian employees should understand that caller ID can be spoofed; email addresses can be imitated; video can be manipulated; and even the unmistakable voice of a trusted supervisor can now be reproduced. High-risk requests deserve verification regardless of who appears to be making them.

Jacob Morris recognized his scam because he understood the warrant process well enough to know that the caller's story did not make sense. The recipient of the Salt Lake City video had enough doubts to alert police.

Future attempts may provide fewer obvious warning signs. That is the larger lesson. The next impersonator may not mispronounce the name of a county or send a poorly written email. The next request may arrive from what appears to be the right telephone number, accompanied by the right face and delivered in the right voice.

Law enforcement agencies cannot prevent criminals from creating those deceptions. They can, however, make certain that a voice, even the chief's voice, is never enough by itself to authorize a consequential action. P&SN

*Carl Mazzanti is president of eMazzanti Technologies (**emazzanti.net**) in Hoboken, New Jersey, providing IT consulting services for organizations ranging from home offices to multinational corporations, municipalities and police departments.*

patrolfinder

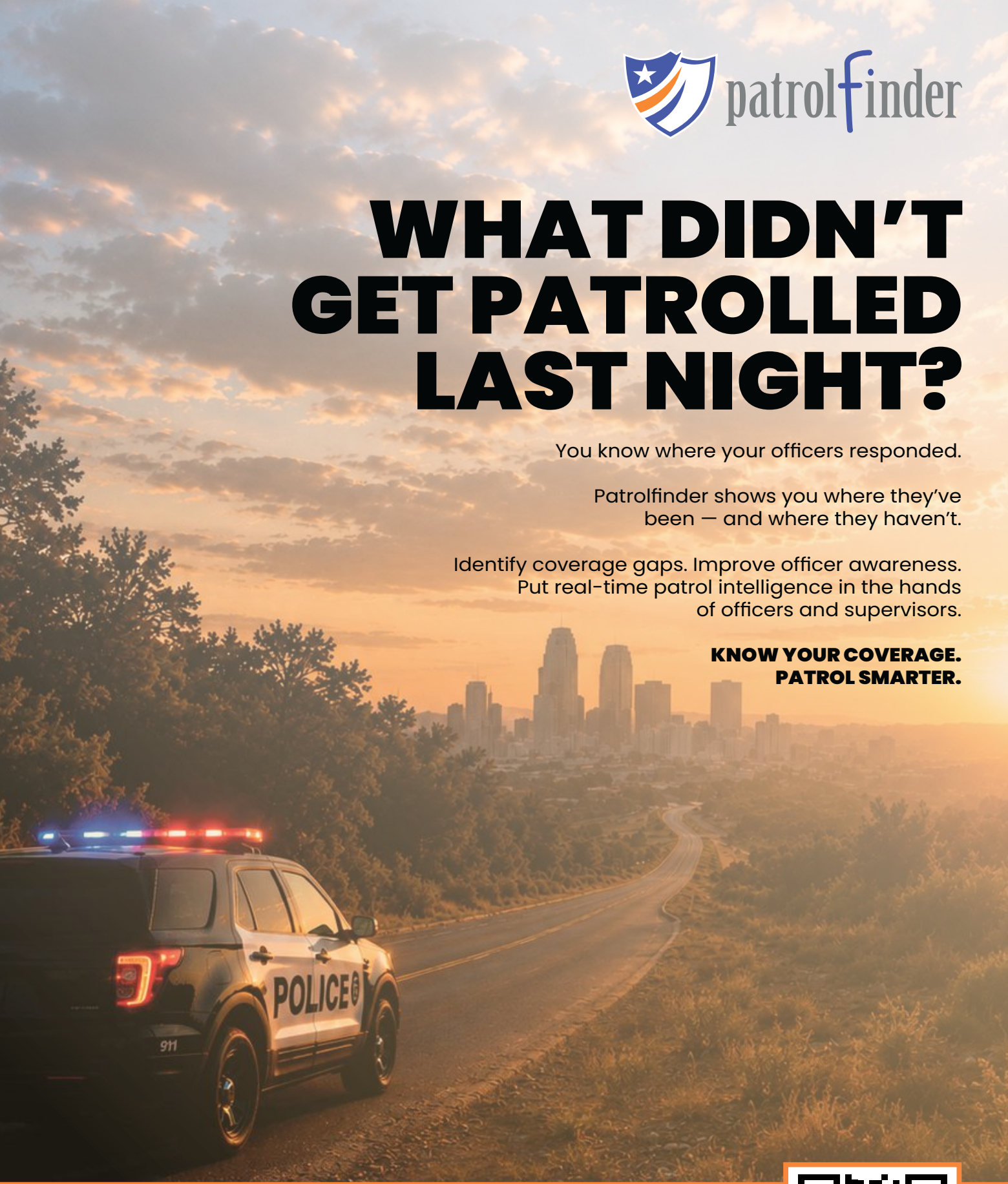
WHAT DIDN'T GET PATROLLED LAST NIGHT?

You know where your officers responded.

Patrolfinder shows you where they've been — and where they haven't.

Identify coverage gaps. Improve officer awareness. Put real-time patrol intelligence in the hands of officers and supervisors.

KNOW YOUR COVERAGE.
PATROL SMARTER.



getpatrolfinder@patrolfinder.com
800-373-3609
patrolfinder.com

See Patrolfinder in action
Request a Demo

AI in Police Report Writing: WHAT LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS NEED TO KNOW

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping public safety work and nowhere is that shift more visible than in AI-assisted Body-Worn Camera (BWC) report writing.

JOHN G. PETERS, JR., PH.D., AND JOHN BLACK, D.B.A.

©2026. A.R.R.



The term "artificial intelligence" was introduced by John McCarthy and colleagues in a 1955 proposal for the 1956 Dartmouth Summer Research Project on Artificial Intelligence. AI still has no universally accepted definition; Ian McCulloh, Ph.D., of Johns Hopkins University, offers a working one: "a machine that can sense, reason and act" (personal communication). What began as an academic research field seven decades ago is now a rapidly evolving technology which agencies and researchers are working to understand and evaluate.

Law enforcement agencies are exploring AI across a wide range of technologies and tasks, including AI-enabled drones and robotic systems, analytics, transcription, and report writing. In report writing and investigative settings, AI-assisted tools can generate transcripts, organize recorded information, flag possible inconsistencies for human review, and help users reconstruct events from recorded information.

Human in the Loop

That growing reliance comes with an important requirement: human review. AI generated content can contain errors, omissions or misleading information, and someone must remain responsible for verifying its accuracy. In AI-assisted BWC reporting, the officer remains responsible for reviewing and approving the report, while supervisors may conduct additional review as part of their normal responsibilities. That review can add to existing workloads and, where job duties materially change, may also raise labor management issues requiring discussion or bargaining.

A Need for Scientific Study

Despite this rapid adoption and the operational and labor questions it raises, little scientific research has examined how well AI-assisted BWC reporting actually works and its use in the workplace. Does it save employees time? What concerns do they have about using it? Do agencies have written policies governing their use? And what training, if any, is given before employees rely on it?

To begin answering these questions, the Institute for the Prevention of In-custody Deaths, Inc. (IPICD), through its Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (AI Center), conducted a national survey distributed independently by E-mail through the California Force Instructors Association, Police1, Xiphos, and other professional interest channels.

The 18 question survey was reviewed for content relevance prior to being E-mailed to individual law enforcement personnel across the United States. Select descriptive statistical findings are presented in this article. Space con-


VARUSTELEKA
WHATEVER YOUR PROBABLE CAUSE
CASUAL / COMBAT READY
BORN IN FINLAND.
UNLEASHED IN THE USA.
Gear shown:
• Merino Wool Beanie / • Balaclava • Helmet Cover
• Coolmax T-shirt
• Merino Wool Hoodie / • L4 Combat Shirt
• Plate Carrier • GP Pouch
• Tactical Jeans / • L4 Combat Pants
*15% off eligible products. Use code PROBABLECAUSE15. Valid through 10/31/2026.
US customers only. Exclusions apply. Cannot be combined with other offers.
Shop online: varusteleka.com
NOW SHIPPING IN USA
GET 15% OFF * > USE PROMO CODE PROBABLECAUSE15

Continued from page 42

straints prohibit listing and discussing each finding. A complete finding report with both quantitative (descriptive and inferential statistics) and qualitative analyses is forthcoming and will be published by the IPICD.

Survey Methodology

The survey was developed using SurveyMonkey and peer reviewed before being distributed through law enforcement professional interest channels with an estimated combined audience of approximately 225,000 individuals. A total of 214 usable survey responses were received from 34 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Not every respondent answered every question, so the number of responses (*n*) varies by survey item. All responses were anonymous and are reported in aggregate. The survey was conducted for research and educational purposes.



The survey findings offer a starting point for understanding AI-assisted report writing in law enforcement – highlighting both emerging practices and unanswered questions about training, policy, experience, and perceived risk.

Using the estimated distribution audience of 225,000 as the denominator, the 214 usable responses represent approximately 0.1 percent of that audience. Because the survey was distributed through multiple professional interest channels and respondents opted in rather than being randomly selected, the findings describe this self-selected group and should not be interpreted as representative of American law enforcement as a whole.

Respondent Characteristics

The largest single age group, 43 to 54, comprised 48 percent of respondents; another 33 percent were 55 and older, and only 1.9 percent were 25 to 30 years old (N=214). Supervisors – including sergeants, lieutenants, captains, and higher ranking personnel – accounted for 49 percent of respondents, while patrol officers and deputies accounted for 13 percent (*n*=212). The specific subgroup size (*n*) varies throughout the survey because not every respondent answered every question.



The survey drew heavily from law enforcement leadership, with supervisors accounting for 49% of respondents and patrol officers and deputies comprising 13%.

AI-assisted Report Writing Platforms

Among the 73 respondents who an-





Agencies with written AI policies were far more likely to report training, although the survey does not establish that policy adoption causes training – or vice versa.

swered the question about AI-assisted report writing platforms, 40 percent reported using Axon Draft One and 38 percent reported using another AI-assisted report writing platform. In a separate question about agency authorization, 34 percent said their agency authorized the use of an AI-assisted report writing tool, 57 percent said their agency did not and nine percent were unsure (*n*=191).

Policy and Training

When asked whether their agency had a written policy governing the use of AI to assist with report writing, 62 percent replied "yes," 31 percent replied "no" and seven percent were unsure (*n*=96). Among the 78 respondents who answered the training question, 47 percent said their agency had trained them to use AI-assisted report writing tools.

Among respondents for whom both policy and training information were available, agencies reporting having a written AI policy also reported training at a rate of roughly 60 percent, compared with about 15 percent among agencies reporting no policy. This was a strong association within the survey sample, but it does not establish that having a policy causes training; that training leads to policy adoption; or that either is responsible for the other. Other factors, such as agency size, available resources or leadership priorities, may influence both. The forthcoming full report will examine this relationship in greater detail.

Using AI at Work

Among the 77 respondents who answered the question about frequency of use, ten percent said they used an agency authorized AI report writing platform daily; 12 percent used one two to three times per week; 25 percent used one occasionally – a few times per month or less – and 53 percent said they never used one. Open-ended responses also indicated that some respondents used AI tools at work even when those tools were not agency approved, a practice often referred to as "shadow AI."

In a separate item (*n*=210), 21 percent of respondents reported using an agency approved AI platform, while 22 percent said they did not use one. Thirty-one percent reported that their agency did not have an approved AI platform and 15 percent reported that their agency did not have a specific policy identifying approved AI platforms.

When usage frequency responses (*n*=77) were compared with respondents' reported training status, trained respondents did not report regular use at a clearly higher rate than untrained respondents. The descriptive results suggest that training alone may not explain adoption. Other factors, such as trust in the technology, workload or ease of use, may also play a role, but this survey cannot establish which factors, if any, cause employees to use an AI tool regularly.

How Respondents Use AI at Work

Respondents identified a variety of reasons for using AI at work. Among respondents to this item (*n*=42), frequently cited benefits included saving time (22 percent); improving report clarity (18 percent); improving spelling, grammar and readability (21 percent); and capturing information the user may have overlooked (13 percent).

AI Use Concerns

Sixty percent of respondents to the report writing concern question (21 of 35) expressed concern about accuracy errors; 51 percent (18 of 35) cited incomplete information; and 46 percent (16 of 35) expressed concern about legal liability if errors went undetected before a report was submitted. Separately, 11 percent of respondents to the time-saving question said AI-assisted report writing did not save them time.

Independent research has also questioned whether AI-assisted report writing necessarily produces the expected time savings. Adams, Barter, McLean, Boehme, and Geary conducted a preregistered randomized controlled trial involving 85 officers and 755 reports in a single police department. The researchers found



Continued from page 45



For respondents using AI at work, the leading benefits centered on efficiency and report quality – saving time, improving readability and clarity, and helping capture overlooked details.

no statistically significant reduction in report writing time attributable to Axon Draft One in that setting. The finding does not establish that AI-assisted report writing can never save time, but it cautions against assuming that time savings will occur in every agency or application.

Other reporting has raised similar concerns while also illustrating the importance of distinguishing between different AI tools. In July 2026, *Forbes* reported that officers in Lafayette, Indiana, testing Axon's Form One – an AI tool designed to help populate administrative report fields – said correcting errors sometimes caused the process to take longer. Form One performs a different function from Draft One's narrative generation capability, so those experiences should not be treated as a replication of the Draft One study. An ACLU review published in May 2026 cited the Adams study as finding no time savings from Draft One and also cited a separate 2025 evaluation of another AI tool that found increased time per incident.

Legal and prosecutorial responses are also developing. The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office in Washington has told area law enforcement agencies that it will not accept police report narratives produced with AI assistance. California requires disclosure when covered AI is used to generate police reports, verification by the report's author, retention of the original AI generated first draft, and an audit trail. Utah requires an AI disclosure and certification by the author that the AI-assisted report or record was read and reviewed for accuracy.

Technology has also changed in response to concerns about preserving the original AI-generated draft. Axon now provides agencies with the ability to retain original Draft One narratives and records audit events associated with their generation, access and retention. The original draft retention setting is off by default; however, allowing agencies to determine whether and how retained drafts fit their policies and records retention requirements.

When asked more generally about AI use, 72 percent of respondents expressed concern about AI accuracy, while 59 percent were concerned about AI generated reports being submitted without adequate human review (*n*=212). Respondents also raised concerns involving vendor data security, public trust and employee discipline. An exploratory analysis of these responses suggested two broad patterns: concerns about the accuracy of the work product itself and concerns involving institutional trust and accountability. Because this analysis is preliminary and will be detailed in the Center's forthcoming full report, the findings should be treated as hypothesis generating rather than conclusive.

Beyond the Percentages: What a Deeper Look Is Beginning to Show

The percentages above tell only part of the story. A deeper statistical review of the same survey responses, now underway as part of the Center's forthcoming full report, is identifying patterns which warrant additional study. One involves years of service. Respondents with fewer than ten years on the job reported avoiding workplace AI at a rate of approximately 35 percent, or eight of 23 respondents, compared with approximately 13 percent, or 21 of 160 respondents, among those with 17 or more years of service. This descriptive difference should not be generalized beyond the survey sample, but it raises a useful question for future research about whether years of service are associated with willingness to use workplace AI.



While AI-assisted reporting may promise greater efficiency, respondents raised significant concerns about accuracy, missing information and legal liability – and independent research suggests time savings are not guaranteed.

A second early finding may be particularly relevant to policy writers. Among respondents for whom both policy and training information were available, agencies reporting a written AI policy also reported training at a rate of roughly 60 percent, compared with about 15 percent among agencies reporting no policy. The relationship does not establish that policy adoption causes training, but it suggests that policy and training frequently occur together. For agency leaders, the practical question is whether implementing an AI policy without accompanying education and training could leave employees uncertain about how the technology should be used.

Leadership and line personnel also reported different perspectives. Supervisors and higher ranking respondents were more likely than line personnel to report knowing their agency's AI authorization status – approximately 41 percent versus 24 percent (*n*=111, leadership; *n*=79, line). Leadership respondents were also more likely to express concern about AI-generated content being submitted without adequate review, approximately 67 percent versus 49 percent among line personnel (*n*=212). These descriptive differences may reflect different job responsibilities or experiences, but the survey does not establish why the groups responded differently.

Another early result may be relevant to command staff. Among the 77 respondents who answered the usage frequency question, receiving training was not clearly associated with more regular use of an AI tool. Training may expose personnel to the technology, but these survey results do not show that training alone leads to adoption. Other factors – including trust in the tool, workload, perceived usefulness, and ease of use – may also influence whether personnel use AI regularly. Additional analysis will be needed to determine which factors are most closely associated with adoption.

When respondents were grouped according to the concerns they reported about AI – including accuracy, unreviewed content, vendor data security, public trust, and discipline – an exploratory analysis suggested two broad patterns. One centered primarily on institutional trust and accountability, while the

other centered primarily on the accuracy of the work product. This preliminary finding will be examined in greater detail in the Center's forthcoming report and should not yet be interpreted as establishing two definitive categories of law enforcement personnel.

Respondents were asked separately what AI training they wanted for themselves and what training they believed their agencies needed (*n*=127 and *n*=119 open-ended responses, respectively). The response patterns differed depending on the question. Responses about personal training tended to emphasize skills and uses extending beyond report writing, while responses about agency needs more often emphasized governance issues such as policy clarity, data security and accountability. Because not every respondent answered both questions, these findings are best understood as differences between the two sets of responses unless a matched response analysis confirms that the comparison involves the same individuals.

A caution belongs here, too: When we broke respondents into smaller groups by rank or job title, some categories were thin, a handful of respondents in certain title categories, for instance, and raw percentages in those small groups should be read as suggestive, not conclusive, until a larger sample confirms them.

There is a broader point worth naming here about method, not just findings. Percentages alone establish that concerns exist and roughly how often. It was only by reading respondents' own words, not counting checkbox answers, that a distinction emerged: The same people asked for noticeably different things depending on whether the question was about themselves or about their agency. A closed-ended survey question would have missed that shift entirely. Understanding AI adoption in policing, in other words, is not only a technology question; it is also a question about the tacit, on-the-job judgment officers bring to it which shows up in their words long before it shows up in a percentage.

Summary

This survey offers an evidence-based snapshot of how this self-selected group of law enforcement personnel is experiencing AI-assisted report writing, where respondents say policy and training are keeping pace with adoption, where gaps may exist, and what kinds of assistance personnel say they want. It also raises questions for further study: why respondents with fewer years of service reported more AI avoidance than longer-serving respondents; why training status was not clearly associated with regular use in this sample; and whether line personnel and command staff view AI-related risks differently. The AI Center views these findings as starting points for additional research rather than final conclusions.

Readers should therefore treat the findings as descriptive of this survey sample, not as national estimates of law enforcement attitudes or practices. The results identify issues worthy of further discussion and study and provide a foundation for the Center's forthcoming quantitative and qualitative analyses. **P&SN**

John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., serves as President and Chief Learning Officer of the IPICD. He is a graduate of several AI programs from leading institutions including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School and Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, University of Las Vegas, and the Whiting School of Engineering, Johns Hopkins University. A former law enforcement administrator and officer, he has been judicially qualified as an expert witness in international, federal, and state courts.

John R. Black, D.B.A., is Director of the IPICD Center of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence. He is a graduate of AI programs, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and his post-doctoral graduate research and studies include metacognition, sensemaking, and decision-making; subjects on which he presents routinely to a range of audiences nationally and internationally. He is a certified thinking leader (CTL) from the Cabrera Research Labs. A retired law enforcement officer (patrol, corrections, investigations, training, and command rank) and a retired US Army Sergeant Major (Special Forces, Psychological Operations, and Civil Affairs), Dr. Black has been judicially qualified as an expert witness in international, federal, and state courts.



SURVEILLANCE AFTER *CHATRIE*: THE RULES ARE CHANGING

What the Supreme Court's geofence ruling could mean for ALPRs, pole cameras, drones, and the growing ability to reconstruct a person's movements

JAMES E. "JEB" BROWN, ESQ.,
SHIELD PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING, INC.



On June 29, 2026, the Supreme Court decided *Chatrie v. United States*, holding that a geofence warrant used to obtain a person's cell phone location history from Google is a search under the Fourth Amendment. The opinion does not specifically address Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs), pole cameras or drones, but its reasoning challenges some of the legal principles courts have traditionally relied upon to uphold the use of these technologies. In the Fourth Circuit, that conflict already has a name: *Schmidt v. City of Norfolk*, a pending appeal which could become the first circuit level test of what *Chatrie* means for camera systems departments have already deployed. This article traces that doctrinal line; explains the mosaic and time machine theories driving it; and offers guidance for building programs which can withstand the direction in which the law is moving.

From *Katz* to *Chatrie*: The Line Being Redrawn

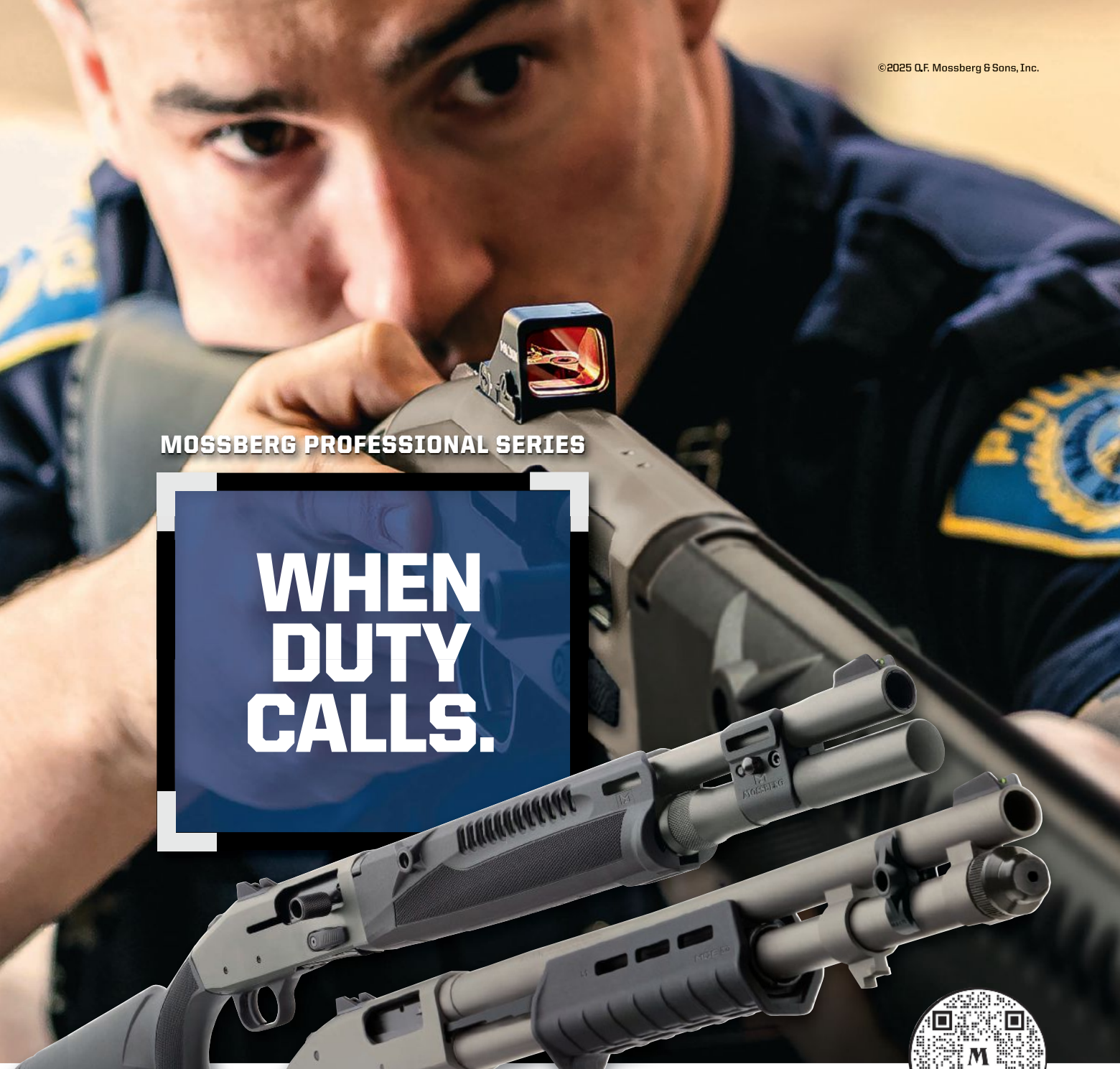
Modern search doctrine begins with *Katz v. United States* which asks whether government conduct intrudes on an expectation of privacy which society recognizes as reasonable. For decades, *Katz* coexisted with the third-party doctrine: a person generally has no privacy interest in information voluntarily conveyed to a third party. *United States v. Jones* began to disrupt that balance. The Court held that attaching a GPS tracking device to a vehicle constituted a search under the Fourth Amendment because it involved a physical trespass. In separate concurring opinions, several justices went further, warning that continuously tracking a person's public movements for an extended period — in this case, about a month — could also raise Fourth Amendment concerns because of the detailed picture of a person's life such monitoring can create. *Carpenter v. United States* made that concern part of the Court's holding. The Court concluded that 127 days of cell site records constituted a search because the records gave police an all-encompassing account of a person's whereabouts, even though the defendant's carrier possessed the data. *Chatrie* confirms that *Carpenter* was not an isolated decision. The government's request reached back only about two hours, yet the Court found a protected privacy interest and declined to adopt a categorical duration rule. As the Court explained, where the Fourth Amendment applies, it applies regardless of the quality or quantity of information obtained. Duration is now a factor courts weigh, not a threshold on which a short program can rely to avoid the Fourth Amendment altogether.

Commentators call this the mosaic theory. Individually innocuous data points, such as one ping, one plate read or one camera frame, can collectively reveal a portrait of a person's movements and associations which no single observation could provide. In *Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle v. Baltimore Police Department,* the en banc Fourth Circuit struck down a citywide aerial monitoring program and emphasized that combining it with tools police already possessed, including ALPR, magnified the constitutional concern. A related time machine concern is that comprehensive and cheaply searchable records let police reconstruct a person's past after an investigation makes that person relevant, even though officers had no reason to watch the person when the events occurred.

License Plate Readers: Where the Doctrine Stands

Most courts which have considered ALPR directly have declined to find a search, but their reasoning is narrower than is often suggested. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court upheld four bridge cameras in *Commonwealth v. McCarthy*, while leaving open the possibility that historic ALPR data collected by enough cameras in enough locations could invade a reasonable expectation of privacy. The Ninth Circuit resolved *United States v. Yang* on standing grounds, with a concurrence cautioning that a warrant might eventually be required if the technology developed toward Carpenter level comprehensiveness. In January 2026, the Eastern District of Virginia upheld Norfolk's 175 camera network in *Schmidt*, reasoning that a rolling 21 day retention period kept the system from producing an all-encompassing record. The court nevertheless acknowledged that the system could become too intrusive as camera density increased and upheld it only under the circumstances then presented. This line of cases applies a scale and density

©2025 O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc.



SCAN CODE FOR MORE INFO ►

940® Pro Tactical Semiauto
8-Shot, Optic-Ready
#85170

590A1™ Pump-Action
9-Shot, Optic-Ready
#50797

SAFETY TIP
Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.

Consult and comply with any and all applicable federal, state, and local: laws, regulations, requirements, and/or restrictions, including but not limited to those regarding the purchase, ownership, use, transport, and carrying of a firearm. Not all products are available in all states or jurisdictions.

MOSSBERG'S NEW PROFESSIONAL SERIES SHOTGUNS ANSWER THAT CALL.

The tools you use while on duty– vehicles, communication devices, protective gear– have all evolved over time. So too, should your shotgun. Introducing the Mossberg Professional Series, featuring 15 new shotgun offerings, purpose-built to help you protect and serve. With innovations such as optic-ready receivers, adjustable stocks, ghost ring sight systems, and multiple QD and MLOK® attachment points, Mossberg upholds its longstanding commitment and tradition of manufacturing shotguns that have served with distinction, both at home and around the globe.

When it counts, you will not find a more reliable partner than Mossberg.

MOSSBERG® SINCE 1919

Learn about the entire Mossberg Professional Series lineup, and request more information by visiting: LawEnforcement.Mossberg.com

Visit us at the IACP Conference – Booth #2580

Continued from page 48



Courts have generally upheld ALPR use, while warning that larger, denser networks could raise Fourth Amendment concerns.

analysis, not a categorical rule. *Schmidt* is now before the Fourth Circuit, with the ACLU and Electronic Frontier Foundation participating as amici. The district court relied in part on a Fourth Circuit *Chatrie* panel opinion which was later vacated en banc and reversed by the Supreme Court. ALPR is not a cell phone case and stationary cameras trace to an older line of authority holding that drivers ordinarily lack a privacy interest in movements exposed to public view. *Chatrie* nevertheless weakens the argument that voluntary exposure and short retention alone defeat any privacy interest.

Pole Cameras: A Split *Chatrie* Has Complicated

Pole camera doctrine is older and the government prevails more often than is sometimes assumed. Eight federal circuits have upheld long-term, warrantless exterior monitoring as conventional technology comparable to a security camera. An older Fifth Circuit decision, *United States v. Cuevas Sanchez*, found a search where the defendant had fenced the observed area from public view. The First Circuit divided evenly en banc in *United States v. Moore Bush* over eight months of continuous footage. Three judges reasoned that duration transformed public moments into a comprehensive record which no one would expect to be perfectly preserved for future examination. Many government favorable decisions rely heavily on duration, treating shorter monitoring periods as conventional while expressing greater concern about many months of continuous observation. *Chatrie* does not resolve that division, but it removes a significant premise from any opinion that treats a shorter period as sufficient by itself. Legal scholars commenting on *Chatrie* have noted that, because the Court declined to treat the length of surveillance as the deciding factor, it may now be harder to predict how courts will evaluate challenges involving pole cameras used continuously for several months.



Chatrie ***has further complicated the legal divide over prolonged pole camera surveillance, making duration a less certain measure of when monitoring becomes a Fourth Amendment search.***

Drones: An Already Skeptical Doctrine Meets a Fast-growing Program

Aerial observation doctrine dates to three Supreme Court cases from the 1980s holding that warrantless observation from public airspace generally is not a search because members of the public flying overhead could see the same area. Drones do not fit comfortably within that framework. In *Long Lake Township v. Maxon*, a Michigan appellate court required a warrant for low altitude, targeted drone observation of a home, reasoning that drones can reach altitudes and intimate spaces which conventional aircraft cannot. *Leaders of a Beautiful Struggle* remains controlling Fourth Circuit authority on persistent aerial monitoring and provides an important analytical framework for drone programs. According to the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Atlas of Surveillance and related public reporting, Drone as First Responder programs have expanded rapidly since 2018. Many platforms can be integrated with plate reader and identity linking data which presents the type of data combination the Fourth Circuit identified as a constitutional multiplier. The practical risk is less about one flight than about the record a program accumulates. A drone network with months of retained, searchable footage cross-referenced against an ALPR database begins to resemble the aggregated record which concerned the Court in *Carpenter* and *Chatrie*.

A Concrete Illustration: Leonardo's SignalTrace™ and Multi-sensor Data Fusion

Leonardo S.p.A., through its ELSAG public safety technology business, offers SignalTrace as a capability designed to operate alongside automatic license plate reader systems. Rather than relying exclusively on a camera image and license plate number, SignalTrace adds another layer of information by detecting electronic signals being transmitted by nearby consumer devices.

The technology can detect and develop electronic signatures associated with signals such as Bluetooth®, Wi-Fi and radio frequency identification (RFID). These signatures do not, by themselves, provide an investigator with the name of the person carrying a phone, smartwatch or other device. Instead, the system is designed to recognize when the same electronic signatures, or recurring groups of signatures, appear at different locations and times.

Consider a vehicle which routinely passes an ALPR location while two smartphones and a smartwatch are located inside it. The plate reader provides the vehicle information, while SignalTrace detects electronic signatures associated with devices moving nearby. If substantially the same combination repeatedly appears with that vehicle, the system can establish an association between the vehicle, those device signatures, along with the location and the time of detection. The value comes from recognizing the pattern again later.

For example, if one of those previously observed device signatures subsequently appears near a different vehicle or at another location relevant to an investigation, an investigator may be able to search the historical information and identify the earlier association. Conversely, a recurring combination of device signatures may provide another means of recognizing a vehicle or travel pattern in situations where a usable license plate image was not captured.

Leonardo's product materials and patents describe capabilities for correlating electronic signatures with license plate records, analyzing movement patterns, identifying devices which repeatedly travel together and developing information about possible routes. In this respect, SignalTrace expands the traditional ALPR model from a record centered pri-

Understanding *Chatrie*: Geofence Warrants and the Fourth Amendment

LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.

Unlike a traditional warrant aimed at a known suspect, a geofence warrant works in reverse. Officers identify a crime location and time period, and a technology company searches its location database for devices which were in, or near, that area. The tool can help identify unknown suspects or witnesses, but it also raises significant Fourth Amendment concerns because it may capture location information for people who happened to be nearby.

In *Chatrie v. United States,* 609 *U.S.* ___ (6/29/2026), the U.S. Supreme Court addressed a geofence warrant used to investigate a Virginia bank robbery. The robber entered the Call Federal Credit Union in Midlothian, Virginia, displayed a handgun, threatened bank employees, forced the manager to open the safe, and fled with approximately $195,000. Surveillance footage showed that the robber appeared to be using a cell phone before the robbery, but investigators had no suspect.

Officers obtained a geofence warrant directed to Google. The warrant sought Location History data for phones within a 150 meter radius of the credit union during a one hour window surrounding the robbery. Google's response eventually identified three users, one of whom was Okello Chatrie. His location data placed him near the credit union shortly before the robbery and showed him leaving the area afterward. Officers later executed search warrants at residences associated with Chatrie and found robbery demand notes, nearly $100,000 in cash and a 9mm pistol. Chatrie pleaded guilty and was sentenced to nearly 12 years in prison.

The Fourth Circuit upheld the conviction, reasoning that obtaining Chatrie's Google Location History data was not a Fourth Amendment search because he had voluntarily provided the information to Google. *The Supreme Court disagreed.* Relying heavily on *Carpenter v. United States,* the Court held that police conduct a Fourth Amendment "search" when they obtain a person's cell phone Location History data from Google. The Court explained that individuals have a reasonable expectation of privacy in detailed records of their cell phone location, even when that information is held by a third-party technology company.

The Court emphasized that Google Location History may be even more revealing than traditional cell site location information. It can record a phone's location frequently, pinpoint location with greater precision and even estimate elevation, potentially showing which floor of a building a person entered. The Court also rejected the government's argument that two hours of location data was too brief to trigger Fourth Amendment protection. Even short-term location tracking can reveal sensitive information, such as visits to a home, doctor, lawyer, religious site, political event, or other private location.

The Court also declined to apply the traditional third-party doctrine. Although Google stored the data, the Court concluded that ordinary smartphone use does not mean a person has surrendered constitutional protection in detailed digital location records.

Importantly, the Court did not decide whether the geofence warrant was valid. Instead, it remanded the case for the lower court to decide whether the warrant was supported by probable cause and described with sufficient particularity. For law enforcement, the practical lesson is clear: Geofence warrants are searches under the Fourth Amendment and must be drafted with careful attention to probable cause, narrow time and location limits, minimization procedures, and particularized standards for moving from anonymized data to identifying a specific user.

It should be noted, however, that Google has now instituted a significant change which apparently insulates Location History data from geofence warrants. In July 2025, years after the geofence warrant used in this case, Google now stores Location History data on individual users' devices rather than on its own servers. As a result, Google is no longer capable of responding to geofence warrants which seek Location History data.

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 a leading author for 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.

Continued from page 50



Expanding drone programs raises new Fourth Amendment concerns as persistent aerial surveillance is combined with searchable data from other systems.

marily on a vehicle and plate number to one capable of correlating several types of observations.

From an investigative standpoint, that additional information can help develop leads when investigators begin with incomplete information. They may know a plate number, a vehicle, an electronic signature, a location, or a recurring group of devices and use the system to search for related observations. SignalTrace therefore does not necessarily require an investigation to begin with the identity of a particular person.

An important distinction is that detecting an electronic signature is not the same as identifying the individual carrying the device. A phone can be borrowed, left inside a vehicle or detected while its owner is merely nearby. Likewise, two devices which repeatedly appear together establish proximity, not necessarily the nature of the relationship between their users. Any association produced by the system remains an investigative lead which must be evaluated and corroborated using other information.

That distinction is also what makes SignalTrace relevant to the developing Fourth Amendment questions discussed here. The constitutional issue is not simply whether an individual plate read or wireless device signature reveals a person's identity. The larger question is what can be learned when those observations are retained, made searchable and combined over time. A recurring electronic signature which initially contains no name may become considerably more informative when correlated with vehicle registration information, ALPR records, locations, other device signatures, or additional investigative data.

SignalTrace thus provides a useful example of the broader evolution of surveillance technology: Separate pieces of information which reveal relatively little on their own can become more useful – and potentially more revealing – when a system is able to associate them across multiple locations and encounters. For agencies, the technology's investigative capabilities make questions involving retention, access, data sharing, and the combination of information from different systems particularly important when developing policy.

The Pushback Is Not Only Constitutional

A second, faster moving front has little to do with the Fourth Amendment: state statutory law. California's ALPR Privacy Act, Civil Code sections 1798.90.5 through 1798.90.55, requires a public usage and privacy policy, access logging and limits on data sharing. The statute authorizes damages of $2,500 for each violation. In *Bartholomew v. Parking Concepts, Inc.,* the California Court of Appeal held in 2026 that failure to publish the required policy can itself support a claim, without a separate data breach or misuse allegation. The California Supreme Court denied review. Other states have considered or enacted restrictions after agencies learned that vendor default settings allowed broader sharing than governing bodies had approved. NPR and local news organizations also reported contract cancellations during 2025 and 2026 involving camera, plate reader and drone platforms.

Building Programs for Where the Law Is Going

None of this requires agencies to abandon ALPRs, pole cameras or drones. The SignalTrace example, likewise, is not a criticism of a particular company or product. The relevant question is whether the agency has built a lawful, transparent and auditable program. The following measures provide a practical compliance framework.

- **Retention:** Set the shortest period each technology's purpose is justified and be able to explain why. A short window helps after *Chatrie*, but no longer guarantees an outcome.
- **Sharing scope:** Disable default nationwide sharing settings; require case-by-case, documented authorization before another agency can query local data.
- **Fusion review:** Combining ALPR, aerial platforms, facial recognition, or device-signature add-ons like SignalTrace should get independent Fourth Amendment review before deployment.
- **Duration discipline:** Avoid open-ended camera and drone deployments; use defined windows with periodic reauthorization.
- **Policy and audit trail:** Confirm that a compliant and genuinely public usage policy exists and is followed. Under some statutes, the absence of the required policy can itself create liability.
- **Contractual control:** Vendor agreements should give the municipality, not the vendor, control over every sharing, retention and fusion setting, with audit rights.
- **Periodic legal review:** Reassess each program's Fourth Amendment posture annually and after any decision which touches the doctrine directly.

Conclusion

Chatrie is not an ALPR, pole camera or drone case, and it resolves none of those questions directly. It does confirm that the Supreme Court will look beyond the third-party doctrine's traditional formalities and ask whether a technology allows the government to reconstruct a revealing account of a person's movements. It also establishes that short duration is not, by itself, a safe harbor. The programs most likely to withstand legal scrutiny will be those designed now with narrow retention, controlled sharing, documented access, periodic review, and careful limits on the combination of data sources. P&SN

*James E. "Jeb" Brown, Esq., is the cofounder of Shield Public Safety Training, Inc. (**shieldpst.org**), a national law enforcement legal education organization. He previously served as Supervising Deputy City Attorney for the City of Riverside and as Chief Assistant County Counsel for Riverside County, California, in a career centered on representing and advising law enforcement officers and agencies.*

BLUERIDGE ARMOR™

IACP 2026 | BREACH PRO

SEE OUR SHIELDS AT
IACP CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 24-27 2026
BREACH PRO BOOTH #231



PROTECT WITH A

VENGEANCE™

VENGEANCE® X8

HARD ARMOR BALLISTIC SHIELDS - NIJ 0108.01 III & SPECIAL THREAT TESTED

MODELS SHOWN: XLR Series X8 18x30 with optional top mount LED and hi-vis ID. Standard color: Black. Standard sizes 18x30, 18x34 and 20x34. Additional sizes and colors available for quote upon request.
US PATENT D857,997 and other patents pending.

MADE IN THE USA

844-556-6855 | info@blueridgearmor.com | **blueridgearmor.com**

MISSION DRIVEN – PURPOSE BUILT

NEWS

DOJ Releases National Standards for Law Enforcement De-escalation Training

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), working with the National Policing Institute, has released National Standards for Law Enforcement De-escalation Training, establishing requirements for training programs seeking certification under the Law Enforcement De-escalation Training Act of 2022 (LEDTA).

The document establishes 14 national standards – seven addressing training development and delivery and seven covering training content. Requirements include interactive and scenario-based instruction, use of scientific research and real-world examples, participation by crisis response subject matter experts, and trauma informed approaches.



Training content must address de-escalation techniques such as communication, active listening, rapport building, tactical repositioning, and use of time and distance. Other areas include recognizing and responding to people in crisis, relevant use-of-force and disability laws, community crisis resources, decision-making, preservation of human life, and first responder wellness.

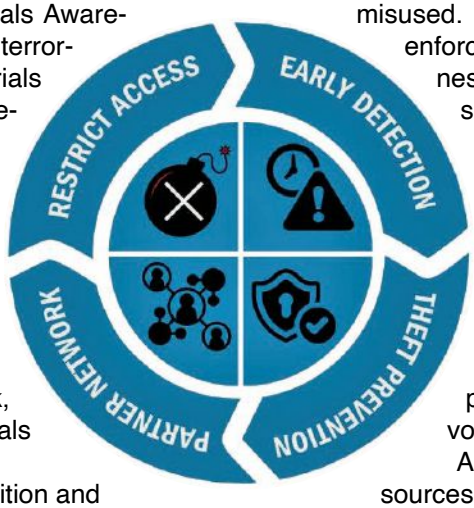
Under LEDTA, DOJ funding for de-escalation and crisis response training following release of the standards must support LEDTA certified programs or courses. The standards are currently in a pilot phase and may be revised as guidance and policy considerations evolve.

The guide can be downloaded free from the COPS Office Resource Center at **https://tinyurl.com/5s7b4wcn**

CISA Program Targets Access to Bomb-Making Materials

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers the Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) to help prevent terrorists and criminals from obtaining materials which can be used to construct homemade explosives and improvised explosive devices.

Sponsored by CISA's Office for Bombing Prevention, BMAP focuses on restricting access to explosive precursor chemicals, powders, target materials, and associated components. The program concentrates largely on the planning phase of a potential attack, particularly the acquisition of materials and bomb-building stages.



BMAP also works to improve recognition and reporting of suspicious purchasing behavior and reduce the theft or diversion of materials which could be misused. Outreach efforts bring together law enforcement, emergency services, businesses, and other public and private sector partners to create a broader network capable of identifying potentially suspicious activity.

Among its resources are free awareness materials, videos and online training. CISA and the FBI also operate Operation Flashpoint, an outreach initiative encouraging businesses which sell potentially exploitable materials to recognize and voluntarily report suspicious activity.

Additional information, training resources and a downloadable BMAP fact sheet are available at **cisa.gov/bmap**

SHOT SHOW

EVERYONE EVERYTHING ALL TOGETHER















REGISTRATION OPENS IN OCTOBER

2027

JANUARY 19–22

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

THE VENETIAN EXPO + CAESARS FORUM

Everyone supporting the mission. Everything built for performance. All in one place.

Connect with manufacturers, technologies and training designed for law enforcement and security professionals. Evaluate equipment, exchange knowledge and strengthen your approach to real-world challenges. **See what's new and what matters in the field.**

SHOTShow.org/psn

The SHOT Show® is a trade-only event. Professional affiliation and department purchasing or training authority required.

AN EVENT OF NSSF® The Firearm Industry Trade Association



Traffic Safety and Enforcement 2026: New Tools, Tech and Tactics

New technology, smarter strategies and practical solutions are reshaping traffic enforcement and roadway safety.

STEPHENIE SLAHOR, PH.D.

Although traffic fatalities have declined from their pandemic-era peak, tens of thousands of people continue to die on America's streets, roads and highways each year. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 36,640 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in 2025, a 6.7 percent decrease from 2024. The US Department of Transportation continues to seek comprehensive and effective approaches to reducing traffic deaths, including safer vehicles, safer speeds and road conditions, improved driver behavior, and higher standards of post-crash care. With law enforcement playing a key role in preventing and reducing traffic-related fatalities, injuries and property damage, both public education and upholding safety laws come to the fore. Among the recent measures focusing on this are combating impaired and distracted driving, speeding, and determining solutions to safety challenges in a jurisdiction's streets and highways. These measures also include the law enforcement collected data which identifies and deters unsafe conditions. That information leads to media campaigns; countermeasures to deter unsafe driving; testing programs for laboratory and technical improvements; and initiatives to reduce high-risk situations.



The Grappler is a vehicle-mounted pursuit management device installed on the front of a police vehicle. It carries a deployable net which can be released to wrap around the rear wheel or axle of a fleeing vehicle, helping bring it to a controlled stop.

Grappling with Safe Pursuits

When something is bothersome and interferes with sleep, it might be the moment in time when a new and unique solution occurs. Such was the case for Leonard Stock who had seen a disturbing traffic accident account in the news. His

ALL TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS® is now part of TAPCO® Safe travels.

Now Offering the Industry's

LARGEST

Connected Traffic Safety Portfolio

Everything you need to make roads safer — all from one trusted source, backed by 70 years of expertise.



STOP BY

BOOTH #1049

AT IACP

Together, we now offer a broader, more customizable range of tools — driven by U.S. manufacturing and stateside customer support.

No matter the size of your community or the scale of your goals, we'll help you find the best approach for your community.

Contact Us

Continued from page 56



A Ram Special Service Vehicle deploys the Grappler during a simulated pursuit, using a high strength net designed to entangle the rear wheel of a fleeing SUV and bring the vehicle to a controlled stop.

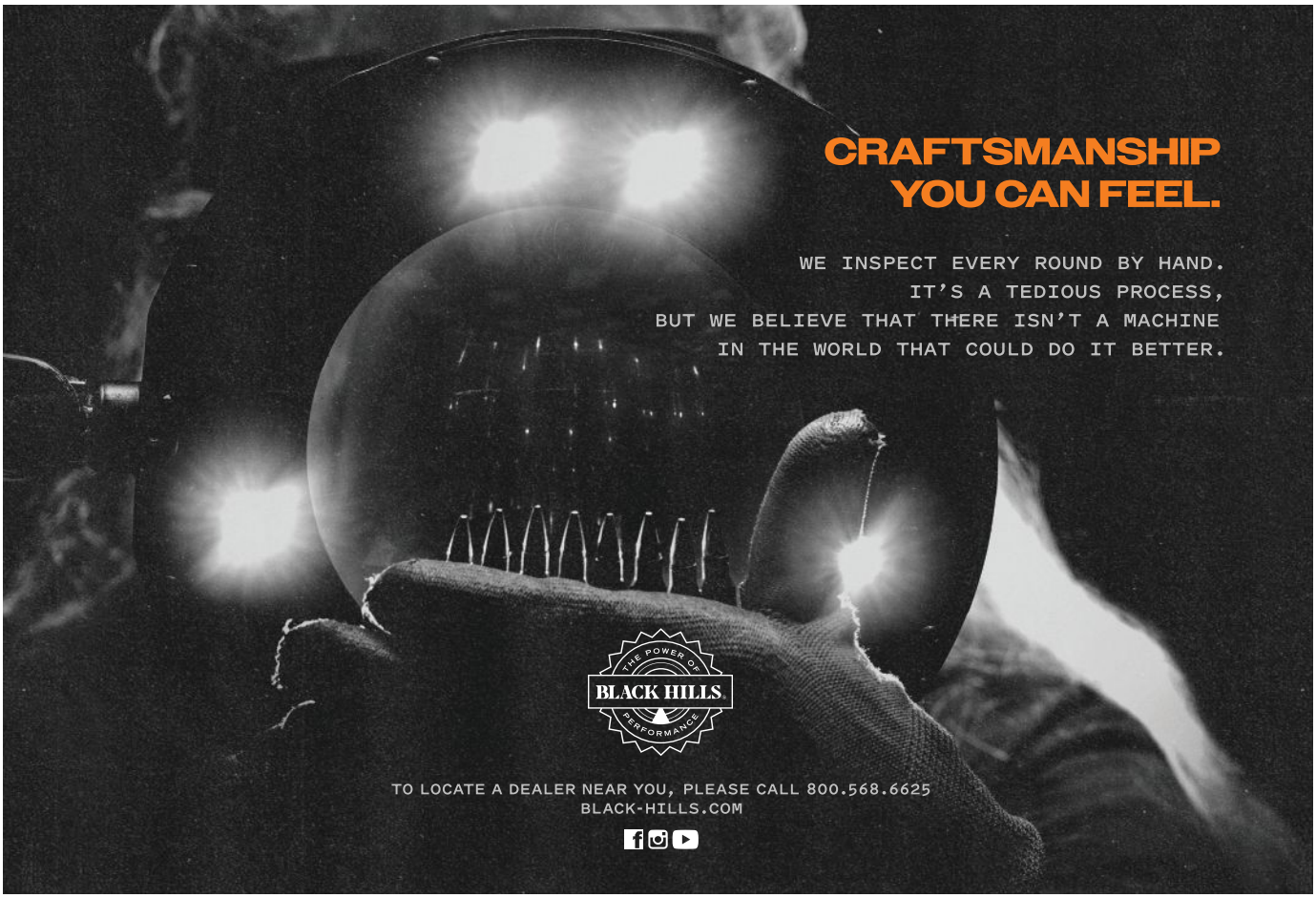
creativity was jogged and he developed the idea of the "Grappler," a device which could avoid the dangers associated with pit maneuvers and spike strips and, instead, bring a fleeing vehicle and driver to a slower and safer stop.

The risks are not merely theoretical. In August 2026, an Arkansas State Police pursuit provided a dramatic example of how quickly a PIT maneuver can produce unintended consequences. During a pursuit on Interstate 555 near Trumann, a fleeing Hyundai Sonata had reportedly reached approximately 130 mph when a trooper performed a Tactical Vehicle Intervention, Arkansas' term for a PIT maneuver. The Hyundai lost control and struck an uninvolved Toyota SUV occupied by a 68-year-old woman and a 73-year-old man. Their SUV left the highway and overturned several times, leaving both occupants seriously injured and requiring emergency extrication and hospitalization. You can watch the dash cam video on YouTube: Arkansas State Police pursuit ends in rollover crash involving an uninvolved vehicle (**https://tinyurl.com/yrcvcx65**).

The incident illustrates one of the inherent risks of PIT maneuvers: Deliberately causing a fleeing ve-



The Grappler's high strength net wraps around the rear tire of a simulated fleeing SUV, illustrating how the system quickly disables a vehicle.



hicle to lose directional control can produce unpredictable consequences, particularly at high speeds or when other motorists are nearby. It is precisely this type of risk which Leonard Stock sought to address.

His invention, the Grappler, activates with an in-vehicle switch which releases a heavy-duty nylon net from an assembly mounted on the front of the pursuing vehicle. The net is designed to entangle a rear tire or other rotating component of the fleeing vehicle, while a tether allows the pursuing officer to help slow and bring the vehicle to a controlled stop. Unlike a PIT maneuver, the Grappler does not rely on intentionally striking the fleeing vehicle and causing it to spin. When successfully deployed, it can bring a pursuit to an end within seconds. Among the agencies which have added the Grappler system to their fleets is the Riverside County (CA) Sheriff's Office (RSO). Lt. Jason Santistevan reports that Grappler systems are installed on the K-9 Unit's Chevrolet Tahoe patrol vehicles. Additional Grappler systems are scheduled to be installed on select K-9 Unit Chevrolet Silverado patrol vehicles.

At present, only the Sheriff's K-9 Unit is authorized to operate vehicles equipped with the Grappler system and this is intentional, not only because their vehicles are the right strength and size, but also because the RSO K-9 handlers receive extensive, specialized training in multiple law enforcement disciplines. Among these are high-risk vehicle stops, pursuits, tactical operations, and critical incident response situations. Assigning the Grappler system only to the K-9 Unit ensures it is deployed by personnel with the training, experience and judgment necessary to use the device safely and effectively. This promotes consistent oversight, accountability and operational control of the Grappler program while maximizing the system's effectiveness in the field, says Lt. Santistevan.



A Waymo driverless vehicle moves through city traffic as new research puts autonomous safety claims to the test against human drivers.

The Grappler Certification Course itself is an eight hour training program consisting of both classroom instruction and practical application. Participants receive instruction on the capabilities, limitations, deployment considerations, safety protocols, and operational use of the Grappler. Each participant must successfully complete both portions of the course and then demonstrate proficiency in the safe and effective deploying of the Grappler system. Only then is the person authorized to operate a vehicle equipped with the Grappler.

The Grappler's manufacturer does not establish a single minimum or maximum deployment speed applicable to every situation. According to Lt. Santistevan, Riverside County deputies are instructed not to deploy the Grappler at speeds below five mph or above 70 mph. "As with any vehicle intervention technique, deputies shall continually evaluate the totality of the circumstances including vehicle speed, roadway conditions, traffic volume, weather, and public safety" when determining whether deployment of the Grappler is appropriate.

As a onetime use item, after the Grappler has been deployed, a new net must be installed, but can be done so within about five minutes. Reloading a new service net is a simplified process so that the Grappler system can be quickly returned to operational status.

After deployment, the used service net is returned to the Grappler manufacturer and a credit can be issued toward the future purchases of replacement service nets. That exchange program helps reduce replacement costs while ensuring that the Grappler system remains ready for continued field operations, notes Lt. Santistevan.

A Grappler system is only approved for installation on specific vehicle makes and models which are approved by Grappler. A comprehensive list of vehicles which are compatible with the Grappler system can be obtained from the manufacturer at **policebumper.com**

The Riverside County Sheriff's Office is planning to add ten more Grappler systems to its K-9 fleet to bring the total in use to 20.

"Nobody's At the Wheel!"

Fully driverless vehicles continue to provoke debate about their safety and effectiveness. While it might appear that vehicles operating without a human driver would pose greater hazards, Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Adkins recently responded to an Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) study which found that Waymo's driverless vehicles were involved in 68 percent fewer police-reportable crashes per vehicle mile traveled than human-driven vehicles in the same cities. Adkins states, "Progress, not perfection, must be the standard for AVs, just as it has been for seat belts, airbags, automatic emergency braking, and every other safety technology that eventually earned the public's trust." The new research by IIHS indicates why these technologies should be judged by consistent

Continued from page 59



A motorist enters a flooded roadway despite a closure, creating a potentially life-threatening situation for both the driver and the public safety personnel who may be called to respond.

data over millions of miles, but not by overreactions to a single video or incident not supported by data. Waymo's AVs crashed far less often than the people driving around them, Adkins noted, adding, "Safety officials must have the tools and information they need to monitor performance, identify emerging safety issues and respond effectively."

The GHSA and Waymo have partnered to develop virtual, self-paced training to help first responders learn how to interact safely with Waymo's driverless vehicles. The training consists of three modules which take approximately 30 minutes or less to complete (**https://tinyurl.com/mwucb4bx**).

Impaired Driving

The GHSA, Responsibility.org and the National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving (NASID), a coalition established and led by Responsibility.org, have partnered to support efforts addressing alcohol, cannabis and polysubstance impaired driving. One-year grants of $40,000 each were awarded to Kansas, Oregon and Pennsylvania to improve their ability to identify impaired drivers and remove them from the road through enhanced toxicology testing, mobile breath-testing tools and specialized officer training.

The Kansas Department of Transportation has partnered with the Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center to expand the laboratory's ability to detect the full range of drugs which appear in impaired driving cases. Toxicology scientists will train in advanced

Free Traffic Safety Resources for Law Enforcement

National Law Enforcement Roadway Safety Program

The National Policing Institute offers no cost training and a downloadable resource toolkit designed to reduce officer injuries and fatalities on the road. Resources address distracted driving, vehicle pursuits, commentary driving, struck-by incidents, emergency vehicle technology, peer accountability, and agency policy development.
Resource: National Policing Institute – National Law Enforcement Roadway Safety Program (**https://tinyurl.com/3mstmbkf**)

2025 MADD Impaired Driving Toolkit

Impaired Driving Toolkit: A Law Enforcement Leader's Guide to Saving Lives provides practical information on high visibility enforcement, impaired driving task forces, ARIDE and DRE training, impaired driving investigations and reports, search warrants, prosecution, community engagement, and funding resources.
Download: MADD Impaired Driving Toolkit (**https://tinyurl.com/34ttu5u9**)

IACP Distracted Driving Toolkit

Designed for police executives, supervisors and patrol officers, the IACP toolkit addresses distracted driving education and enforcement, as well as distraction inside patrol vehicles. Downloadable materials include promising practices, talking points, a press release template, resource lists, and officer safety posters.
Resource: IACP Distracted Driving Toolkit (**https://tinyurl.com/2w7v5yjm**)

New $20 Million for Traffic Enforcement Innovation

In August 2026, the NHTSA announced $20 million for its new Innovative Traffic Safety Enforcement (ITSE) Grant Program to develop, test and validate new approaches to impaired and distracted driving, speeding, reckless driving, and seat belt enforcement. Potential projects can include new safety technologies, predictive and data-driven analytics, specialized training, and other scalable enforcement strategies. The NHTSA anticipates making up to ten awards, with individual awards starting at approximately $300,000. No matching funds are required and applications are due September 1, 2027.
Program information and application: **Grants.gov** – Funding Opportunity **NHTSA-693JJ926R000024-FY26 (https://tinyurl.com/ys2wr64s)**

mass spectrometry technology to support faster and comprehensive substance identification and accurate detection of polysubstance use referrals for screening and assessment.

In Oregon, the Department of Transportation has partnered with the Oregon State Police to enhance the scope of a high visibility enforcement unit with mobile evidentiary breath testing instruments. These instruments will allow law enforcement to collect roadside breath samples and will reduce investigation time to improve identification of polysubstance impaired drivers.

In Pennsylvania, the State Highway Safety Office and the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education will address the problem that more than a third of all DUI arrests now involve multiple drugs rather than alcohol alone. Complex toxicology data will be transferred into practical, field-ready guidance resources to give access to the most current information.

All Traffic Solutions Offers Foldable InstAlert Message Sign

All Traffic Solutions' InstAlert is a portable variable message sign designed for law enforcement, traffic management and public safety applications. According to the company, InstAlert is the only foldable variable message sign currently on the market.



InstAlert is the only foldable variable message sign currently on the market.

The sign folds in half for transport and can be carried in the trunk of a patrol vehicle. It can be deployed on a portable post, vehicle hitch, mobile trailer, or pole, providing agencies with a flexible way to communicate traffic guidance, roadway incident information, special event notices, and other public safety messages.

InstAlert can be remotely managed and monitored through a secure online portal using a computer, smartphone or tablet. Messages can be scheduled in advance for specific dates and times. A tamper detection feature can also capture a photo and send a real-time alert if the sign is disturbed.

The full-matrix LED display supports multiple rotating screens with customized text and graphics. The unit is designed for all-weather use and is manufactured in the United States.

A video demonstrating InstAlert is available on YouTube at **https://youtu.be/kvCjYMahmR0**

Are *You* a Distracted Driver?

Distracted driving poses dangers to self, other drivers and pedestrians, but might an officer also be distracted? Technology in the patrol car, texting, calling coworkers, or looking at information on the MDC can each cause distracted driving.

Recognizing this problem is the US Department of Justice-supported VALOR Officer Safety and Wellness Program (**valorforblue.org**). VALOR stands for Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement Officers and Ensuring Officer Resilience and Survivability. The program focuses on a wide range of officer safety and wellness issues, including tactical safety, resilience, decision-making and vehicle safety. Among the less obvious risks addressed is distracted driving. Officers, like other motorists, can become distracted behind the wheel and those distractions can contribute to crashes, injuries, fatalities, property damage, and "close calls."

Staying safe, attentive and focused on driving is the goal. Chat messages need to be audited regularly. Technology might be needed to stop the in-vehicle computer at a certain speed. Policy must be set to enforce adherence to staying attentive. With most agencies, technology is regarded as a keen addition to officer and vehicle capability, but, often, that same technology keeps adding more gadgets, screens and distractions which can cause an officer to lose focus on the road and driving attentively. And, there may be a problem with having a ride-along, or worse, that prisoner in the back who might also be a "distraction." Visual and cognitive distractions just might require stopping and pulling over to read or acknowledge a message, rather than doing so while driving.

So, Field Training Officers might want to consider – or reconsider – what might be necessary for better officer safety. Ask about those "near misses" and "close calls" which were caused by distractions like an officer using the phone while driving. Officers must lead by example and be standard bearers

Continued from page 61

ers against inattentive or distracted driving.

"Commentary driving" is a tool some agencies have borrowed from Europe. It involves talking about everything you see as you drive. That can point out problems in attention – or lack thereof. And, now, there is technology which can focus on a driver's eyes to see where they are looking and announce what needs to be done to "come back" to attentive driving. The National Law Enforcement Roadway Safety Program and VALOR offer similar safety and wellness concerns with no cost training, technical assistance and resources to prevent officer injuries and fatalities from officer-involved collisions and "struck-by" incidents. Log on to **policinginstitute.org** for courses ranging from mid- and executive-level officers, patrol officers and "train the trainer" resources and skills. The courses are self-paced in commentary driving, managing distractions, peer-to-peer accountability, mitigating struck-by incidents, and vehicle pursuits. The website's program catalog details the courses available.

And It's Not Just on Roadways

Public safety might bring to mind patrols, roadside signage, media reports, and traffic officer training, but another often overlooked "traffic control" is that involving waterways. While many agencies have personnel or volunteers who can assist with specific enforcement on lakes and rivers, there is also a "road" component in some situations in which traffic law enforcement may need to take a role.

One example is preventing unauthorized access to areas where water hazards exist, including those short-term events when a roadway has standing or flowing water impeding safe usage of the road. Turn Around Don't Drown® signage and large, lighted barriers might prevent most unauthorized access, but some drivers want to dare the water or believe their vehicle will be able to go around or through standing or moving water.

Public education efforts are needed to remind drivers that even relatively shallow moving water can be dangerous. According to the National Weather Service, six inches of fast-moving water can knock an adult off his or her feet, while approximately 12 inches can carry away a small car. Eighteen to 24 inches of fast-moving water can carry away many larger SUVs, vans and trucks. Drivers should never attempt to determine the depth or strength of floodwater by driving through it. Drownings can occur, along with property damage and the additional hazards involved in recovering stranded or swept-away vehicles.

Monitoring conditions during heavy rains and flash floods must be done to patrol and block potentially dangerous areas. Plans must be in place for quick deploying of assistance to victims and also to secure the area to prevent further problems in both roadways and waterways. Coordination with local media keeps the public informed of closures and potential problems.

The Road Ahead

As traffic enforcement continues to evolve, new technology alone will not determine success. The most effective approaches will combine useful tools, accurate data, sound policy, proper training, and good judgment to improve safety for officers and the public alike. P&SN

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



Visit us at the IACP Conference – Booth #2586

ACKERMAN
BY WaterShed®



CUSTOM
UNIFORM
JUMPSUITS

GORE-TEX® PRODUCTS

MADE IN USA
SALEM, OREGON

WeAreWaterShed.com

800-848-8092
orders@gowatershed.com

NEWS

Public Venue Security Resources Guide Now Available



The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has released its *Public Venue Security Resources Guide*, a 2026 publication designed to help venue managers strengthen security and resilience against evolving physical and cyber threats. The guide addresses facilities which routinely attract large crowds, including stadiums, arenas, convention centers, theaters, fairgrounds, festivals, museums, zoos, libraries, and other public gathering locations.

The guide brings together federal resources covering risk management; suspicious behavior; emergency planning; active assailant preparedness; vehicle ramming threats; cybersecurity; unmanned aircraft systems (drones); and coordination with federal, state and local partners.

Among the resources highlighted are CISA's Mass Gathering Security Planning Tool, Security Planning Workbook, Vehicle Ramming Self-Assessment Tool, active assailant emergency planning materials, Incident Management Review training, and more than 100 available tabletop exercise packages.

Separate sections address cybersecurity threats and mitigation, suspicious drone activity and UAS detection, as well as security considerations specifically for houses of worship.

The complete Public Venue Security Resources Guide can be downloaded directly from CISA at **https://tinyurl.com/49m3a8wk**

The NCJA Center for Forensic DNA Policy & Practice Website Is Now Live!

The National Criminal Justice Association is excited to announce the launch of the new NCJA Center for Forensic DNA Policy and Practice Website – a national resource designed to support policymakers, state administering agencies, forensic laboratories, law enforcement leaders, the media, and criminal justice practitioners.

NCJA Center for Forensic DNA Policy & Practice

As the use of forensic DNA continues to advance, policymakers and criminal justice leaders need accurate, accessible information to support policy development and implementation. The NCJA Center for Forensic DNA Policy and Practice serves as a national hub for advancing, assessing and connecting critical areas of forensic DNA system improvement. This work will maximize the potential of forensic DNA technology nationwide.

At the heart of the website are two resources:

- **State DNA Legislation Database** – Search and compare forensic DNA legislation across all 56 states and territories, covering topics including DNA collection, Rapid DNA, forensic genetic genealogy, lawfully owed DNA, privacy issues, and more.
- **Interactive State Policy Map** – Explore forensic DNA laws and policies through an easy to use visual map which allows users to compare states, identify legislative trends and inform policy development.

You can also explore the Center's broader work on the expansion of offender collection, implementation of Rapid DNA, lawfully owed DNA sample audits, and system partner communication and hit follow-up. These sections are designed to connect agencies with the Center's ongoing efforts in tracking legislation, policy analysis, technical assistance, education, and emerging forensic DNA topics, making it easier to find resources relevant to your work.

This recent launch is just the beginning of an effort to build a comprehensive repository of forensic DNA policy and practice resources. Over the coming months, the website will continue to be expanded with additional legislation; policy analyses; implementation guidance; best practices; state success stories; emerging technology updates; and other tools to help justice leaders make informed, evidence-based decisions.

Whether you're developing legislation, implementing new technologies, supporting crime laboratories, or simply looking to stay informed on the latest developments in forensic DNA, the NCJA DNA Center is designed to be a trusted resource for your work.

You can explore the new website at **ncjadnacenter.org** and see what's available today.

ADVERTISER INDEX

Page #	Advertiser	Website
25	Aftermath Services, LLC	aftermath.com
57	All Traffic Solutions, A TAPCO Brand	alltrafficsolutions.com
58	Black Hills Ammunition, Inc.	black-hills.com
53	BlueRidge Armor, LLC	blueridgearmor.com
44	ChamberSnake	chambersnake.com
21	Dana Safety Supply	danasafetysupply.com
45	DASCOM Americas	dascomamericas.com
62	Earphone Connection Inc.	earphoneconnect.com
22	eMazzanti Technologies	emazzanti.net
30	Fire Hooks Unlimited, Inc.	firehooksunlimited.net
19	Gamber-Johnson, LLC	gamberjohnson.com
39	GRIMM Forensics, LLC	grimmforensics.com
34-35	Gun Shop, The	policeammo.com
12-13	H.L. Dalis, Inc.	hldalis.com
14	Info-Cop by GTBM, Inc.	gtbm.com
20	John Jones Police Pursuit Vehicles	policepursuitvehicles.com
18	Liberty Art Works, Inc	libertyartworks.com
37	LiveFire Tactical Training, LLC	livefiretacticaltraining.com/military-law
23	MILO Range	milorange.com
49	Mossberg	mossberg.com
Cover 2	OnStar	onstar.com/publicsafety
Cover 4	Panasonic CONNECT	connect.na.panasonic.com/toughbook56
41	Patrolfinder	patrolfinder.com
6	Pearce Grip, Inc.	pearcegrip.com
47	Printek, LLC	printek.com
17	Pro-gard Products, LLC	pro-gard.com
15	Safeware	safewareinc.com
5	Setina Manufacturing Co., Inc.	setina.com
55	SHOT Show 2027	shotshow.org/psn
40	Sniper Tools Design Co., LLC	snipertools.com
29	SoundThinking, Inc	soundthinking.com
8	Southern Police Equipment Co., Inc.	southernpoliceequipment.com
9	Springfield Armory	springfield-armory.com
31	Streamlight, Inc	streamlight.com/speedlocker
30	Strong Leather Co.	strongbadgecase.com
Cover 3	Traka ASSA ABLOY	traka.com
7	Trikke Professional Mobility	trikkemobility.com
24	Tufloc	tufloc.com
27	Tufloc	tufloc.com
43	Varusteleka US Inc.	varusteleka.com
33	WaterShed, LLC	wearewatershed.com
63	WaterShed, LLC	wearewatershed.com

P&SN Police and Security News
Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

PUBLISHER: Al Menear
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER: Toni Saturno
MANAGING EDITOR: John G. Stephenson
ART DIRECTOR: Jeanne Daubner
GENERAL MANAGER: Cindie Bonsall
CIRCULATION MANAGER: Bill Zadlo

ADVERTISING:
Al Menear
Toni Saturno

Performance Publishing, LLC
145 Main St., Ste. B-1
Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372
Phone: (215) 538-1240
E-mail:
info@policeandsecuritynews.com

Police and Security News is published bimonthly by Performance Publishing, LLC, 145 Main St., Ste. B-1, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372.

Published photos and written material are the property of Performance Publishing, LLC and may not be reproduced without permission from the publisher.

Opinions expressed in cartoons and editorial in Police and Security News are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the management or ownership of Performance Publishing, LLC

Standard Rate Postage Paid at Bellmawr, NJ (permit #1239).

POSTMASTER: Please send form #3579 to Performance Publishing, LLC, 145 Main St., Ste. B-1, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372

All subscriptions and editorial should be directed to: Performance Publishing, LLC, 145 Main St., Ste. B-1, Pennsburg, PA 18073-1372

Performance Publishing, LLC does not assume, and hereby disavows, any liability to any person for any loss or damage caused by errors or omissions in the information contained herein, regardless of any cause whatsoever.

Police and Security News is edited to provide accurate and reliable information in relation to the subject matter it covers. Police and Security News is distributed with the understanding that its publisher and employees of Performance Publishing, LLC are not engaged in rendering professional advice in absolute terms. It is strongly recommended that expert assistance be utilized whenever such advice or information is required.

VERIFIED® AUDIT CIRCULATION

BUSTED!

JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.

"Holy guacamole, Batman!"… A Mexican vigilante, who locals call "Batman," is being hunted by police after he allegedly chased down suspected thieves and taped them to lampposts. At least five men were found taped and unable to move from lampposts over ten days in the area of Lagos de Moreno in Jalisco in western Mexico. Many of them had "ratero," the Spanish word for "thief," scribbled on their faces by the anonymous crime hunter. Some of them also appeared to have been beaten up, with bloody faces and visible cuts. The men were eventually cut free and released by local emergency services. Local police confirmed they are now in search of a suspect after they had recorded five such incidents. A Jalisco prosecutor said they are investigating alleged thefts by the men, but that "at this moment they are victims" because they had been unlawfully assaulted and restrained. (*The Tape Crusader strikes again*!)

Talk about junk in your trunk... A 30-year-old Florida woman who denied ownership of the bag of cocaine which fell from her buttocks while being booked denied it was hers and told jailers that the drug must have been placed there during an "intimate encounter." According to an arrest report, a car she was driving was spotted veering across a highway. Upon being pulled over, she refused to exit her Nissan Altima which smelled of "burnt marijuana." Officers say she was "slow and lethargic" and was pulled from the vehicle after she refused to remove her seat belt and tried to lock the car. During the jail intake process, she passed through an X-ray scanner which is used to spot contraband. When jailers detected an anomaly in her "lower region," she was brought to a room where she was subsequently seen "trying to cover her buttocks area with her hand." Upon moving her hand, a baggie containing 3.8 grams of cocaine fell from her butt. With the coke at her feet, she denied knowing anything about the drug. She speculated that somebody must have placed the narcotics inside her during a sexual encounter. (*I'm sure that story has worked before.*)

That must be a great neighborhood… A 29-year-old Odenton, Maryland, man managed to have his own car stolen while he was busy allegedly burglarizing a business across the street. Police were responding to a stolen vehicle report when a burglary was reported just minutes later at a Verizon store. Officers began to connect the dots after noticing blood on the store's window, as well as blood on the glasses of the man who reported his vehicle was stolen. When asked to show his hands, officers discovered blood on his hand and shirt and placed him in handcuffs. Bodycam footage posted by the department shows the man repeatedly denying being at the Verizon store, while surveillance footage allegedly shows him burglarizing it. Police have yet to release details about the suspect who stole the alleged burglar's vehicle. (*The irony would be if he wound up in the same cell as the person who stole his truck*!)

I just play one on TV… A 30-year-old Palm Bay, Florida, man was arrested for obstruction and practicing law without a license. Officers in Brevard County pulled over a woman during a traffic stop and discovered a controlled substance in her car. The woman immediately lawyered up and called a friend of a friend who claimed to have all the right credentials for practicing law. The friend of a friend soon showed up at the scene in a suit and tie, claiming to be certified to practice law in both Georgia and Florida. The "practitioner" then set about trying to negotiate a deal for his "client." But, when officers insisted that he produce said credentials, he was unable to do so. Further investigation revealed that man was, in fact, not a lawyer and he was placed under arrest. (*In all fairness, he DID stay at a Holiday Inn Express last night.*)

Th-Th-That's All Folks!... A 43-year-old man whose actual name is Loony Toon was sentenced to prison after leading a police chase and shooting at Oregon police officers. Mr. Toon pleaded guilty to several felony charges stemming from a traffic stop and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. The Milwaukee police had stopped his vehicle just before 3:00 a.m. and found Toon and a female passenger inside. After discovering Toon had an outstanding felony warrant, another officer responded, placing spike strips under the back tires to prevent his escape. Police said he then reversed the car, backed into a police vehicle, ran over the spike strips, and sped away along Highway 224. During the police chase, Toon fired a pistol out of the window in the direction of Milwaukee police officers following behind. His criminal history involves 25 criminal convictions, including 16 felonies. (*His brother, Spit, chews tobacco.*) P&SN

REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



Robotaxis are evolving into RoboCops…

A self-driving Waymo taxi reported two teens to the police in San Mateo, California, after they were found drinking alcohol and shooting toy guns in the back of the vehicle. The San Mateo Police Department detained two 15-year-olds after the Waymo they were riding in contacted the department and stopped in a parking lot until law enforcement arrived. Officers removed both teens from the vehicle and determined they were using toy guns to shoot Orbeez water beads (similar to the BBs) at objects from inside the vehicle. A video posted on social media shows at least five officers and a police dog responding to the scene and approaching the Waymo with their weapons raised. Waymo vehicles have internal cameras and microphones. (*They got Waymo than they bargained for…*)



Accountability, built into every shift.

From facilities and fleet to field operations, Traka ensures
the right personnel can access the keys and assets they need,
while automatically tracking every transaction for total accountability.

traka

ASSA ABLOY

Learn more at traka.com

See us at IACP Booth #2781

TOUGHBOOK®

TOUGHBOOK 56

Built for Patrol and Command.
Trusted in the Field. No Excuses.

HARDWARE | SOFTWARE | SERVICES

SINCE 1996
30
YEARS
TOUGHBOOK



Booth #1313 at IACP. See it in action!

connect.na.panasonic.com/TOUGHBOOK56

Panasonic CONNECT