

MAY/JUNE 2023  
VOLUME 39 ISSUE 3

# **P&SN** Police and Security News

Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

## **IMPLEMENTING RED DOT SIGHTS FOR YOUR AGENCY**

**BALLISTIC  
SHIELD**  
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**Giving  
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# P&SN Police and Security News

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The use of red dot sights for duty carry handguns is steadily increasing within the law enforcement community. Shown is a Springfield Armory® Prodigy™ 9mm with a HEX™ Dragonfly™ RDS.

Photo by Jeremy Tremp,  
Offensive Marketing Group

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# ...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

## RAMESH NYBERG

The percentage of audiences – in print or in person – who recognize the name Joe Friday or the TV show “Dragnet” are dwindling faster than my eyesight. For that reason, allow me to provide a quick preamble to this column.

Sgt. Joe Friday was the hard-nosed, no-nonsense LAPD detective from the show “Dragnet,” one of the most popular police shows of all time. Friday was famous for conducting interviews of witnesses and, when they rambled too much, interrupting with “Just the facts, ma’am.”

Interviewing is an indispensable police skill. It is very much an art form, since no two people are alike and the investigator conducting the interview needs to tailor the conversation to the individual’s personality type, age, gender, race, and a host of other variables. There is no one

# Just the Facts...



rubber stamp formula for conducting a successful interview of a suspect or a witness. Interviewing people was our bread and butter in homicide and we always tried to get better at it. The department sent us to interview/interrogation seminars and training schools, but I always found two things were going to make you a better interviewer: a) watching the best interviewers work, and b) getting in the interview room yourself and doing it as much as you can.

The importance of this aspect of police work cannot be overstated, especially

since good interviewing skills are getting harder and harder to find. In fact, I will go out on a limb and say that the future of the police interview is in *danger*. Hear me out.

Today’s teenagers don’t read or write as well as they did just 12 years ago. I don’t have all of the data, but I taught high school from 2010 to 2013, took an eight year break, and came back to teaching last year. I teach juniors and seniors. Writing scores for high school students around the country are down. From time to time, I call on students to read aloud from our text books. Some of these kids have a tough time *reading* simple sentences. When my assignments have called for them to write, they struggle even more. Many of the papers I get are rife with grammar and punctuation errors. In class discussions, I see that many (not all) have difficulty expressing themselves verbally. I fear this has been going on for a couple of generations. Today’s kids will have less examples of good communication to pass on to *their* kids.

Folks, today’s teenagers are tomorrow’s cops. To believe that they will be skillful interviewers is pure fantasy.

Gee, Nyberg, you’re saying that now – thanks for the cheery predictions! It’s not all gloom and doom, alright? In the last issue of this magazine, I celebrated the kids in my Mock Trial team. I talked about how well they communicated and I stand by that. But, they are the outliers in today’s schools. The gap between them and the rest of the student populace is wide and the ones in the lower rungs are barely cutting it when it comes to literacy and verbal skills. Interview room scenarios aside, police officers need to communicate effectively on the average “disturbance” call. If our law enforcement ranks get worse at discourse, verbal problem-solving and writing reports, then the most routine calls – domestic fights, etc. – will result in an increasing number of major events, including injuries to civilians and officers. I

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## ...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

Continued from page 6

don't think I'm overanalyzing this. We as a profession are suffering from a decade or more of negative public image, volatile incidents and seemingly endless bad propaganda on social media.

When I teach my interview techniques class to regional law enforcement audiences (if you're interested, contact Training Force, USA), I contrast the outdated witness interview methods with today's "cognitive" interview strategies. In cognitive interviews, the focus is on the witness; their comfort level, establishing a welcoming, nonstressful environment which helps them in the process of recall. Rather than chop the interview into questions which restrict the witness to certain answers, we are supposed to encourage them to tell the *story* of their experience, before and after the incident. A good example might be if I asked you where you went on your last road trip and you said, "We drove from Miami to Atlanta." You might tell me how long it took (if I asked), but not much else. In a cognitive conversation, I want you to tell me where you stopped for gas or to buy boiled peanuts, and how the weather

might have changed during the trip. Maybe the guy who sold the boiled peanuts on the side of the road was weird or interesting and you had a conversation with him. What was that like?

I'm sorry, Sgt. Joe Friday, but "just the facts, ma'am" is not what we are looking for. We *want* the witness to ramble a bit, to tell us details which might not be terribly important, but that will assist the witness in filling in the details of the picture. Those details help sustain and bolster something neurologists call "pattern completion." If a witness can't remember exactly when she heard the gunshots, maybe we need to find out what time she got up, when she started watching her favorite soap, and when she vacuumed the living room. Those events, pieced together, might just allow for that missing piece to drop in and pinpoint the activity she was involved in when she heard the shots. These things, the experts say, complete the patterns our brains need to sharpen recall.

My fear is that it's going to be much tougher for present and future generations to conduct sound, effective, productive interviews, whether it is at someone's door or in an interview room. I fear this because my perception is that the overall communication skills they will need in the future aren't being used or cultivated *now*. My perceptions might be completely off-kilter and I welcome feedback from any of you who would like to tell me that I've lost my mind (my wife would welcome the company).

And, if these concerns we have for the state of education in our country weren't enough, we have AI entering the scene. Maybe we won't have to worry about all the things I just wrote about. Maybe a highly adept AI program will conduct the interview for us. If that day comes and I am in my grave, don't knock on my casket, because I would rather truly rest in peace than know what we've become.

**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](mailto:ramesh.nyberg@gmail.com). Also, Ram has recently announced his newly published book, *The Ten Must-Haves to Be a Great Detective*, available on Amazon in both paperback and Kindle eBook. You can find it by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/hwc2xajm>*



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# FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY

## POLICE VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT



### NEW MOBILE COMMAND CENTER

The Pasadena (CA) Police **Mobile Command Center** is built on a Freightliner MT-55 forward control chassis and features an all aluminum body construction. The vehicle is powered by a Cummins B6.7™ diesel engine with 300 hp and has an Allison transmission. The vehicle incorporates LDV's Intel-I-Touch™ vehicle automation system touchscreens, along with a vehicle leveling system. An Extron HDMI Matrix Switcher has been installed to handle video signal distribution within the vehicle and a rear telescoping mast has three dome network IP cameras installed for surveillance.

Inside the vehicle, there is a front conference room with fixed bench seating and a center table. The curbside wall has a large SMART Technologies collaboration monitor (65") and the street side wall has dual 43" display monitors.

The rear workroom in the command center has three workstations and each features four 24" display monitors and dual communication radios. Dual 32" display monitors have been wall mounted to the rear wall.

A video walk-through of this new **Mobile Command Center** can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/bdft4wv7>  
[ldvusa.com](http://ldvusa.com)



### H3COVERT™ SIREN

The compact design of the **H3COVERT**, from Code 3, is a simple and cost-effective solution for undercover units and unmarked vehicles. The remote compact siren produces 100 watts of power with excellent clarity. First responders have complete control over the siren, lights and public address microphone via a handheld controller. The **H3COVERT** siren has an instant-on function, adjustable amplifier mounting, short-circuit protection, and a remote switch panel. Tones include wail, yelp, hi-lo, hyper-yelp, hyper-lo, whoop, and air horn.

[code3esg.com](http://code3esg.com)

### PANASONIC TOUGHBOOK® 40 DOCKING STATION

A new Gamber-Johnson **docking station** is designed for reliable compatibility with the Panasonic TOUGHBOOK 40 rugged computer. This **docking station** features Quad RF antenna pass-through and full port replication, including Ethernet, Serial, HDMI, USB-A, USB-C, and USB-C with Display-Port.

It features access to all computer control buttons and most ports while docked, with rear facing I/O ports, integrated cable strain relief and a cable management system. An LED indicator light confirms your docking connection to ensure proper docking and the unit has been designed to the footprint of the computer to preserve cabin space. Its right facing docking/release latch allows for easy docking and undocking. It has a keyed lock for theft deterrence and its composite design offers reduced weight and durability.



[gamberjohnson.com](http://gamberjohnson.com)



### NEW REAR HATCH LIGHTS

Adamson Industries recently introduced the all-new **Enforcer** – a pair of 180 degree warning lights (blue, red or amber) which also do double duty as area lighting. These new warning lights are designed to install on the underside of the SUV rear hatch to protect the rear of the emergency vehicle when the hatch is raised which can block the roof mounted lightbar. Its white high-power LEDs face downward, lighting the rear cargo space area.

[adamsonindustries.com](http://adamsonindustries.com)

### FORD® POLICE INTERCEPTOR® UTILITY PASSENGER PARTITION

The newly redesigned 2020+ **Ford Police Interceptor Utility Passenger Partition**, from Gamber-Johnson, installs easily and provides a rugged and reliable barrier between the front and rear of the vehicle. The offset, sliding poly window with mesh covering offers ample airflow while maintaining optimal visibility through the rear window. The scratch-resistant center poly window provides maximum visibility through the rear window and long-term durability, and extended footwells allow for a wide range of seat motion.

[gamberjohnson.com](http://gamberjohnson.com)



## PATROL VEHICLE SECURITY SYSTEM

The **Defend IR Security System**, from Jotto Desk, has been designed specifically for patrol vehicles. This programmable infrared system which fits either in an equipment console or stand-alone, monitors the interior of your vehicle. The **Defend IR** automatically arms upon the ignition being turned off and not sensing movement for an adjustable period. If movement/temperature change is sensed (within an adjustable amount of time), **Defend IR** will then activate the vehicles' lights and siren, alerting the officer and scaring off any potential criminal. In the case of an accidental alarm trip, simply start the vehicle and the **Defend IR** will disarm.

[jottopublicsafety.com](http://jottopublicsafety.com)



## FULL LINE OF F-150® LIGHTNING™ VEHICLE EQUIPMENT

Setina Manufacturing is "First On-Scene" with **equipment for the Ford® F-150 Lightning**, including the Frunk Box. Ideal for mounting electronics, it is lockable and can be used for multiple purposes, such as sensitive gear storage. There are mounting provisions for dual fans utilized for electronic cooling, if required. All essential police vehicle products are now available for the Ford Lightning, including Setina's "Super Max" System and Push Bumpers. Setina Mfg. is actively working to provide a range of options for law enforcement agencies who are looking for high quality equipment for their vehicles.

[setina.com](http://setina.com)



## NEW PARTITION INTEGRATED ELECTRONICS BOX

Setina's **Partition Integrated Electronics Box (PIEB)** enclosures are constructed of steel and aircraft grade aluminum and designed to be lightweight; durable; and resistant to shock, vibration and temperature fluctuations. They are also designed so that electronic components are easily removable and replaceable for maintenance purposes.

The unique feature of the new **PIEB** is that it is integrated into the rear cargo partition which helps to save space and reduce weight. By integrating the electronics box into the partition, the need for separate mounting brackets or supports is eliminated, reducing the overall weight and vibration.

[setina.com](http://setina.com)

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SoundOff Signal recently announced the launch of its **bluePRINT Connect® powered by ACETECH™ technology** which is the next generation of the bluePRINT controls system platform. This system centralizes fleet management, improves the efficiency and safety of vehicles, and provides comprehensive analytics data.



Advanced features offered with bluePRINT Connect include: real-time vehicle location monitoring; vehicle health updates; geofencing capabilities; on-site crash reports; driving behavior evaluation; and HAAS Alert digital Safety Cloud® alerting which will be standard on every unit.

bluePRINT Connect uses a combination of cellular service, proprietary software, applications, and GPS which allow vehicles, equipment and other assets to connect to the cloud where it monitors and reports on nearly every detail of information about the vehicle. Through easy integration to your bluePRINT Control System, bluePRINT Connect includes all necessary hardware to bring the vehicle online.

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[soundoffsignal.com](http://soundoffsignal.com)



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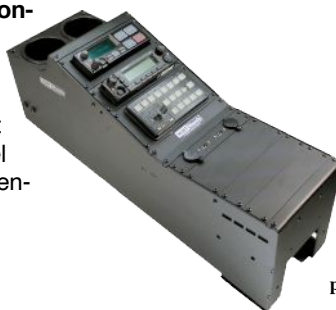
Lund's all-new SF-21TAH **Sub-Floor Cargo Storage System for the 2021+ Chevy Tahoe** expands the rear storage area, allowing you to securely stow equipment, radios, weapons, and more. It creates a slightly raised level floor in the cargo area allowing for "SubFloor" storage with two hinged locking compartments. The rear compartment can be used for weapon and equipment storage while the front compartment is ideal for radios or additional gear storage. It is designed to work with or without a rear cargo partition and mounts to OEM mounting points.

[lund-industries.com](http://lund-industries.com)

## NEW CONSOLES FROM WESTIN PUBLIC SAFETY

Designed for the 2023 Police Interceptor Utility, the new **consoles** feature a low ergonomic design to maximize space inside the vehicle; a front mounting area for cup holders or a storage tray; and an inclined 14" opening to mount equipment.

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[westinpublicsafety.com](http://westinpublicsafety.com)

# LEGAL UPDATE



## Clarifying the Process for Malicious Prosecution Claims

LARRY E. HOLTZ, ESQ.

In *Thompson v. Clark*, 142 S.Ct. 1332 (2022), the plaintiff, Larry Thompson, lived with his fiancée and their newborn baby girl in an apartment in Brooklyn, New York. At the time, Thompson's sister-in-law was also staying there. The sister-in-law apparently suffered from a mental illness. On the day in question, the sister-in-law called 911 and claimed that Thompson was sexually abusing his one-week-old baby daughter. When several EMTs and four police officers arrived, Thompson told them that they could not come in without a warrant. The police officers nonetheless entered and, after a brief scuffle, handcuffed Thompson. The EMTs examined the baby, and after finding red marks on the baby's body, the EMTs took the baby to the hospital for evaluation. "The marks turned out to be a case of diaper rash ... no signs of abuse."

"Meanwhile, the police officers arrested Thompson for resisting their entry into the apartment. Thompson was taken to a local hospital and then to jail. While Thompson was in custody, one of the police officers prepared and filed a criminal complaint charging Thompson with obstructing governmental administration and resisting arrest. Thompson remained in custody for two days. A judge then released him on his own recognizance."

"Before trial, the prosecution moved to dismiss the charges and the trial judge in

turn dismissed the case. The prosecutor did not explain why she sought to dismiss the charges, nor did the trial judge explain why he dismissed the case." Thereafter, Thompson sued the police under 42 U.S.C. §1983, seeking money damages from the officers in federal court. Thompson alleged several constitutional violations, including that, under the Fourth Amendment, he was "maliciously prosecuted" without probable cause and that he was unlawfully seized as a result.

The elements of the malicious prosecu-

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tion tort are as follows: (1) the proceeding was instituted without probable cause; (2) the “motive in instituting” the suit “was malicious,” which was often defined in this context as without probable cause and for a purpose other than bringing the defendant to justice; and (3) the prosecution “terminated in the acquittal or discharge of the accused.” This third requirement – a favorable termination of the underlying criminal prosecution – is the focus of the parties’ dispute in this case.

The point of contention was “what a favorable termination entails.” In particular, “does it suffice for a plaintiff to show that his prosecution ended without a conviction? Or must the plaintiff also show that his prosecution ended with some affirmative indication of innocence, such as an acquittal or a dismissal accompanied by a statement from the judge that the evidence was insufficient?” Lower courts have split over how to apply the favorable termination requirement to sustain a claim for malicious prosecution. In addition to the Second Circuit, other Courts of Appeals have held that a favorable termination requires some affirmative indication of innocence.

After extensive analysis, the Supreme Court settled the issue, holding that that “a Fourth Amendment claim under §1983 for malicious prosecution does not require the plaintiff to show that the criminal prosecution ended with some affirmative indication of innocence. Rather, a plaintiff need only show that the criminal prosecution ended without a conviction.” And, here, Thompson has satisfied that requirement.

On remand, the lower courts are to determine whether Thompson was ever seized as a result of the alleged malicious prosecution, whether he was charged without probable cause, and whether the police are entitled to qualified immunity.

**P&SN**

*Larry E. Holtz has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey, and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Presently, Mr. Holtz is the Managing Editor of Blue360° Media, the largest US provider of legal information which is solely focused on serving law enforcement. Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis. He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.*



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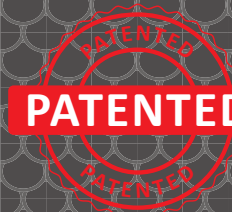
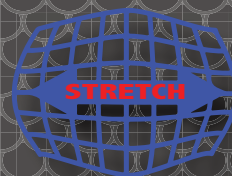
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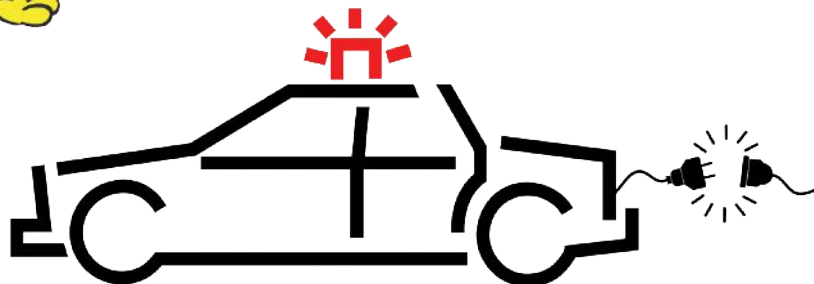


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## Unplugging the Controversy about EVs

SERGEANT JAMES POST

We've talked about EVs several times before in these pages, but the discussions (pro and con) continue unabated.



Here are the latest developments in this debate, as well as vehicle news from around the country – new vehicles purchased, recalls and more.

But, first, here's a real-world EV experience from a Midwestern state trooper who has requested to remain anonymous. "I was sent to a motorist assist at the start of a snowstorm recently. The car was described as a Tesla with a dead primary (high voltage) battery on the side of the interstate. Upon arrival, I found the callers with the right front door open. They told me they couldn't open any of the other doors (from inside or outside) because the battery was dead. I asked the driver for her license and registration, but she could not provide them as they were in the electronic glove box which wouldn't open either; again, because of the dead battery."

"She stated the rented Tesla 'told' her she had 10% battery left so they were en route to a charging station (eight miles away) when it died and coasted to the shoulder. I proceeded to order them a tow, but I soon discovered that very few companies will tow an EV. I finally located a company which agreed to tow the Tesla to the charging station...for \$1000! A 'normal' (non-EV) tow would likely have been around \$150."

"Upon arrival at the charging station, we couldn't open the electronic charging port because, you guessed it, the battery was dead. I took the occupants to a business where they could stay warm and call the rental company. I'm not sure of the outcome because I was dispatched to an accident, but I do know I'll stick with my gas burner V-8 as long as possible."

### The Rush to Electrify

For several years, we've been force-fed the idea that Internal Combustion Engines

(ICE) are a bad thing and their emissions (along with those of cattle, HVAC systems, gas ranges, farm equipment, NASCAR, refried beans, lawn mowers, Harleys, and Little Deuce Coupes) will cause the world to end any day now due to global warming which will cause glaciers to melt, oceans to rise and a shortage of bikinis. This dire future is being predicted by a handful of fearmongering politicians who, by the way, continue to fly around the world in private jets and own multiple mansions and expensive limos.

We're told the solution is solar panels on every roof, despite them being impotent in sunless skies or when covered with snow; or wind farms which are a lethal hazard to animals, birds, whales, and your grandma and are also useless in freezing winter temperatures.

In addition, our primary and only salvation, the doomsday predictors claim, will only happen when everyone on our planet buys electric cars, trucks, motorcycles, and lawn mowers powered by lithium batteries built from rare earth minerals mined by child labor in Third World countries. Total compliance will guarantee us clean air, blue skies, green trees, and pretty flowers, but the "experts" forgot to invite the world's greatest polluters – China, India and Russia – to join us in their earth saving mission.

Being a 27 year police veteran, I'm naturally a skeptic (my wife would add paranoia as well), but after our normally balmy Midwest winter, this year consisted of copious rain and floods, days of subfreezing temps, occasional snowstorms, and being stranded at home due to two inches of ice, I have a hard time buying into the global warming scare tactics.

Of course, many public safety agencies run by "green" politicians are caught up

in this madness to go electric ASAP, too. The irony is that Americans currently find ourselves in the midst of the worst crime wave and fewest cops in decades due to defunding, retirements and resignations, and lackluster recruitment results. But, instead of hiring more cops, increasing salaries and creating safer environments for them, they see electric cruisers as the politically correct solution. This, despite electric police cars costing nearly twice as much as traditional units; the cost to "electrify" facilities with sufficient chargers; and EV charging times which will increase downtime, some departments prefer to dive headfirst into shark infested waters without a snorkel.



**Stop, look and listen to other agencies before making the move to EVs for your department.**

Most LE publications (including this one) have cautioned departments to slow down and study the results of long-term EV usage by other departments first; do the research on all of the available vehicles; and even compromise by purchasing hybrid vehicles (instead of all electric) at first.

The Institute for Energy Research has reported that the EV "mania" might be ending, or at least slowing down, due to

# **The Future Is Built Here!**



## **NEW Enforcer Lift Gate Light**

*The all-new Enforcer - dual 180-degree warning lights (blue, red or amber) which also doubles as area lighting.*

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## THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 14

concerns about supply chains, lithium sourcing, inflation, and consumer demands decelerating. The industry leader, Tesla, is cutting prices by 20% in America and the UK markets, sacrificing profits to raise sales volume. Even Tesla's founder, Elon Musk, has voiced his concern about overloading the electric grid with an EV proliferation before improving it.

Brian Moody, editor of Kelley Blue Book®, has reported that, in the used EV market, researchers have found that low mileage, used EVs hold more value within the first few years, but then drop off steeply when compared to ICE vehicles, especially if they are out of warranty. After five years, Moody stated the Chevy Volt fared the best and retains about 55% of its original value, compared to other EVs, with as little as 27% for the Hyundai KONA. For comparison, Tesla models typically sold for 40-45% of their original price during the same period.

Moody also commented he doesn't foresee many discounted new EVs being sold to the fleet market, given that manufacturers with limited supplies will prefer to sell more expensive models to higher paying consumers.

### Who's Buying What

Following, we have listed departments which have gone (either fully or partially) electric and their EVs of choice.

The Cambridge, MA, PD is aiming for lower maintenance costs with their purchase of their first EVs – 2023 Ford® Mustang Mach-E SUVs. The city purchased three Mustangs to be incorporated into their existing fleet. The first is fully marked and used by the department's traffic unit, while the others are unmarked and will be used for criminal investigators and administrative duties.

The Northfield, MN, PD has also purchased a 2023 Mustang Mach-E SUV for a two year evaluation to determine if it can meet the needs of police service in the cold winter environment. It is fully marked as well.

Hoping for anticipated taxpayer savings due to reduced operating expenses, the Somerset, WI, PD chose a Tesla Model Y for their department. It is fully marked and Chief Trepczyk is hoping the Tesla will outperform two previous EVs tested by the department. In 2019, the department tested a "less than ideal" Ford Fusion Hybrid Responder®, he said.

The Westchester County, NY, DPS has added a 2022 Mustang Mach-E to their fleet of hybrid cruisers. It is marked and will be used to patrol the village of Mount Kisco in a pilot program to test the Mustang's capability as their first all-electric patrol vehicle.

### New Cars and Equipment

Mopar® friendly departments and Mopar enthusiasts everywhere have long been dreading the predicted end of the HEMI® engine in all of its configurations, from injected to supercharged, and horsepower ranging from 370 hp to over 1000 hp. Well, Stellantis has made it official – 2023 will see the last HEMI engines, finding themselves under the hoods of seven limited Challenger and Charger editions, all with the 797 hp Hellcat V-8s.

There is some good news, however, for state troopers, city cops, departments which still use the last REAL police car, and all of us with heavy right feet – the popular Dodge Charger Pursuit will continue to be built through 2023! They will still be available in the AWD 300 hp Pentastar V-6 and the 370 hp RWD HEMI V-8, both bolted to column shifted eight-speed



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autos. Thanks to Stellantis for building another year of American cops' best friend!

### Other Industry News

Gamber-Johnson, LLC has acquired Lind Electronics, following their acquisition of Premier Mounts in 2021. This makes them a huge, multifaceted partner to law enforcement and the military.

Setina Manufacturing Co., Inc., a leading innovator and producer of law en-



**Setina Manufacturing is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Pictured above is an advertisement for their BodyGuard Partition from back in the day.**

forcement vehicle equipment worldwide, recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. Today, the company founded by John Setina in 1963 proudly remains a family operation, with John's children, Terry and Judy, at the helm, as they have been for over 30 years.

### Recalls

No matter how sophisticated and innovative new vehicles are designed and built, they are still, after all, built by humans (with the help of a couple thousand robots) and they can be flawed. Here are the latest recalls of those flaws.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is recalling 139,019 2021-2023 Dodge Durangos for a potentially defective rear spoiler which could detach from the vehicle. On some units, the spoiler was mounted too close to the tailgate and can partially detach from the vehicle, or even detach completely, which could cause vehicles following behind to crash.

The recall did not mention Durango Interceptors, but since they are built at the same Canadian factory, if your department uses them, you should consider contact-

ing a dealer for possible replacement of the spoiler.

In a separate recall, Ford is recalling 220,000 2021 F-150 pickups due to windshield wiper arms which may break while in use. Indicators are an erratic or slow wiper speed. This recall will likely include F-150 Responder and SSV units you may be operating.

The NHTSA has recalled 120,000 2023 Tesla Model Y units after two reports of steering wheels falling off while being driven. Apparently, the cars were delivered missing the steering wheel retaining bolt and the wheels detached from their columns while the cars were in motion. This recall should also include Teslas in police service. There have been no injuries or fatalities reported in these incidents which surely required underwear changes for drivers and occupants.

### The Continuing Saga of Police Car Shortages

It seems we report on police car shortages every issue, but the following is not hearsay or a secondhand tale. It's the real deal as reported directly by the agency left stranded.

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## THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Continued from page 17

The November/December 2022 issue of *Patrol News*, the official Missouri State Highway Patrol (MSHP) publication, carried an article by Director Cathy Brown of the Fleet Facilities informing troopers of the status of the fleet, currently experiencing a vehicle shortage not seen for 80 years (1943) which then was due to WWII. However, the current shortage is more complex than a war and these multiple reasons date back to the COVID pandemic. Following is Director Brown's synopsis.

For over a year, the Patrol experienced vehicle orders completely or partially cut; deliveries taking months longer to receive than normal; and significant, ongoing price increases across all manufacturers and she provided the following examples.

During the fall of 2021, they ordered 80 new Dodge Charger Pursuits, but, in early March 2022, only three were delivered. Fortunately, the Ford PI Utility order bank was still open so they were able to order from Ford. Attempting to maintain the same allotted budget as the Dodges (that were not delivered), they could only order 67 of the more expensive PI Utilities. However, the new order of the 2022 Utilities was also cancelled, so then they ordered

2023 models, but had to reduce that order to 58 Utilities due to a price increase of the 2023 units. At the time of publication, they have 385 vehicles of mixed makes/models ordered with little certainty that those orders will even be built.

Based on the uncertainty of fleet pro-



***An unfortunate sign of the times – the Missouri State Highway Patrol has been forced to suspend all used police vehicle sales through their popular resale program.***

grams throughout the industry, the Patrol was forced to make the difficult decision to cease all used vehicle sales in their very successful resale program (P&SN has reported on it several times) until their

new car ordering and delivery improve. This decision also requires operating the MSHP fleet beyond the normal mileage cutoff (when they would usually sell a vehicle).

Director Brown stated that this was the first time in agency history they faced the need to cease vehicle sales. The impact of not selling vehicles every month will directly affect the fleet budget; and, likewise, negatively impact the numerous departments around the country needing the used patrol vehicles to keep them mobile.

Of course, emergency vehicle manufacturers cite many reasons (excuses) for their poorly performing fleet programs – supply chain issues/delays, computer chip and tire shortages, inflation, government pressure to “go green,” and more – leaving industry experts to predict vast changes for future fleet programs, such as price increases, and even the way departments order new units, including fleet vehicles being sold at MSRP prices. Welcome to retail, y’all! **P&SN**

*Sergeant James Post always appreciates comments and suggestions for future columns. Feel free to E-mail him in Tornado Alley at [kopkars@arkansas.net](mailto:kopkars@arkansas.net).*

The advertisement features a blue background with a stylized American flag pattern of stars and stripes. At the top left is the LETC logo, which includes a shield with wings and the text "LETC LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CAMP". To the right of the logo is the text "LETC" in large, bold, white letters, with "LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CAMP" underneath. Further right is the "ACTION TARGET" logo, which consists of a target symbol and the text "ACTION TARGET". Below the logos is a QR code. The main text reads "AUGUST 21-25, 2023" and "SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW!". At the bottom of the advertisement, there is a photograph of three men in tactical gear, including caps and sunglasses, holding rifles and aiming them.

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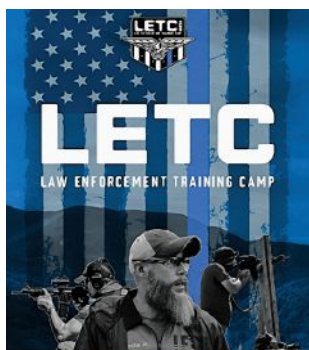
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# PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT



## ACTION TARGET

For over three decades, Action Target has combined world-class instructors and a comprehensive training curriculum into a single event – the **Law Enforcement Training Camp (LETC)**. LETC is a fast-paced shooting school which equips attendees with the tools needed to give their department or agency the next level in training.

**LETC 2023** will take place over five days, with four days of full instruction. After registering for the event, attendees will choose four subject-specific classes (one each day) from a multitude of options. These classes are taught by world-class instructors with backgrounds in every aspect of firearms training.

Participants can register at [actiontarget.com/letc-2023/](http://actiontarget.com/letc-2023/)

## T4E



The Smith & Wesson® M&P®9 M2.0™ **T4E platform** makes for a perfect force-on-force training pistol. This .43 caliber paintball pistol uses common 12-gram CO2 cartridges and can shoot paint, chalk or reusable rubber ball projectiles. The **M&P 9 M2.0** features identical ergonomics and controls compared to duty pistols and gives the shooter recoil impulse via the live blowback action slide. It is officially licensed so it fits most duty holsters and accepts most aftermarket accessories.

[t4eguns.com](http://t4eguns.com)

## Law Enforcement Training Resources and Equipment

### INVERIS TRAINING SOLUTIONS

The **SURVIVR® Virtual Reality Training System** utilizes Virtual Reality (VR) for critical, real-world preparation for de-escalation of force situations. Utilizing VR headsets with 360 degree capabilities and weapons tracking, officers train in fully immersive environments which improve their communication skills, decision-making ability, adherence to policies and procedures, and situational awareness. Depending on the trainee's actions, the instructor can dynamically escalate or de-escalate the scenario and review their decision-making skills from any angle during after-action review. These dynamic training environments and endless branching options increase the trainee's psychological immersion and focus when dealing with the situation at hand. The **SURVIVR** system can accommodate up to four simultaneous trainees for cooperative training, with up to 12 simultaneous weapons/tools per system configuration. Its scalable footprint measures from 10' x 10' to 35' x 35'.



[inveristraining.com](http://inveristraining.com)

### MILO RANGE

The new "**Hoberman series**" video simulation training scenarios from MILO Range/Arotech are the result of their partnership with human behavior experts, Arcadia Cogenerati. These new training scenarios are designed to increase the critical thinking skills of any officer, regardless of their experience level, so they can make better decisions faster.



Each scenario is designed to be an intense cognitive engagement which places officers into challenging, but solvable, situations. Rather than trying to exactly replicate specific law enforcement interactions which lead to a specific outcome, The **Hoberman Series** is designed

to optimize numerous possible outcomes and interventions in order to produce a variety of distinct critical thinking insights which each lead to an acceptable outcome or decision.

The **Hoberman Series** allows the training officer and trainee to acquire, interpret, store, and then use a set of specific, cognitively essential knowledge, skills, and attitudes. These essential skills can be used during any citizen contact, traffic stop or encounter – no matter how challenging the circumstances.

**Hoberman** training reinforces good habits and safe, positive interactions. Officers learn to establish a culture of understanding and de-escalation by viewing what "right" looks like and the consequences of wrong choices. **Hoberman** instills an advanced critical thinking mindset which creates and fosters a legal, moral and ethical decision-making framework and lays out a set of psychological de-escalation techniques which provide public safety professionals with "the gift of time and distance."

[milorange.com](http://milorange.com)

### QUALIFICATION TARGETS INC.

Qualification Targets Inc. develops products specifically designed to enhance and improve firearms training and firearms safety. The target shown in the image is available in five different versions, including a cardboard model, and is known as both a transitional target and a training target.

It was originally designed at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and is offered in blue or green and in a variety of sizes and multiple color toned zones. The **TSR-II** target is printed on 24" x 40" paper and the **TSR-I** is printed on 14" x 20" paper.



[targets.net](http://targets.net)

## AMMO-SAFE, LLC

The **ChamberSnake™** was invented by a retired police captain/certified firearms instructor who had enough of recruits pointing their handguns toward him in class, not knowing if any had a live round in the chamber! Hence, his patented invention, **ChamberSnake**, the original and most effective Chamber Safe Indicator (CSI). This durable, nylon 6/6 plastic chamber blocker has a bright flexible “electric yellow” colored strip which extends out of the muzzle to provide immediate visual confirmation that a firearm is unloaded and safe.

Other Empty Chamber Indicator (ECI) devices do not allow the weapon to be dry fired. These chamber flags and chamber blockers can also accidentally fall out when handling the weapon. With a **ChamberSnake** device inserted, this will never happen. **ChamberSnake** is more effective than snap caps or other dummy rounds because they are designed to be ejected as the weapon is cycled. **ChamberSnake** is designed to stay engaged in the weapon so it continues to be safe.

[chambersnake.com](http://chambersnake.com)



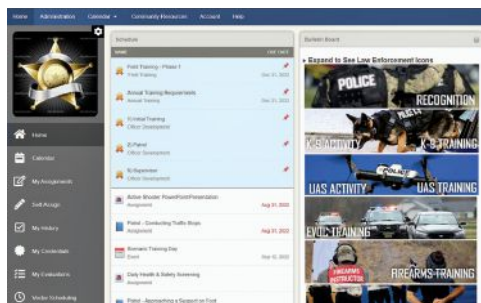
## TI TRAINING

The latest generation of laser-based, use-of-force simulator is the **RECON SmartCase**. Packed into a single 10U hard shell case, it is capable of functioning as your primary training sim or it can be used as a “satellite system” to any of your department’s other Ti Simulators, immediately increasing and enhancing the standard single screen simulator into a double (2) screen, with further connectivity for up to nine (9) screens. The **SmartCase** can also be your primary system and projector/camera system for your RECON 180 to make the system even more portable and reconfigurable. The **SmartCase** can be moved anywhere within your training facility. The mobility and durability will also allow you to transport the Simulator to any off-site location for further training.

[titraining.com](http://titraining.com)

## VECTOR SOLUTIONS

Amid staffing shortages, personnel burnout, new legislation, and other challenges, there is increasing demand for public safety leaders to provide more training while maintaining shift coverage, and keeping out-of-service/overtime personnel costs to a minimum. Currently, more than 10,000 agencies rely on Vector Solutions to assign, deliver, track, and report all types of training, whether on-line or in the field.



Vector’s **training management system** offers online POST-approved courses, including courses certified by the IADLEST National Certification Program™, and enables agencies to also deliver and track their own custom training in one system.

Training officers and supervisors can assign, deliver, track, and assess their entire training program – from FTO/PTO through annual required training and ongoing professional development training – in one system. Assess competencies during live skill demonstrations with a convenient mobile app which makes it easy to manage your FTO or PTO program, evaluate personnel, record videos, and more.

[vectorsolutions.com/lawenforcement](http://vectorsolutions.com/lawenforcement)

## VIRTRA®

Red dot optics are becoming increasingly common due to a multitude of advantages. Since many law enforcement officers are switching to handguns with Red Dot Sights (RDS), it is important to realize not only the basics of use, how to best transition from iron sights to RDS, but the differences and the pros and cons.

VirTra has created a four hour course in collaboration with Victory First® utilizing the Acro P-2 by Aimpoint® and other sights found on the market. The course not only includes written materials such as pre-tests, surveys, rosters, and an instructor’s manual, but also 21 training drills to test officers’ knowledge and skill with the red dot sight.



Like other V-VICTA® courses, this course – titled “**Red Dot Optic Training & Sustainment**” – gives officers NCP-certified coursework which is POST-approved and reviewed thoroughly by IADLEST. The all-in-one approach to simulator training saves time for law enforcement instructors by providing coursework materials which are already certified and ready to teach.

[virtra.com](http://virtra.com)

## VECTOR SOLUTIONS

Vector Solutions’ **law enforcement training catalog** features 250+ hours of online training, including video-based courses featuring real-life scenarios, engaging lessons with learner interactions, and quizzes to test comprehension.

Vector Solutions partners with IADLEST and the National Certification Program (NCP)™ to deliver quality and timely training, along with the technology to help law enforcement professionals simplify their training management administration to save human effort, improve compliance, up-level skill sets, and return home from their shift safely. NCP certified courses are accepted by all participating POST organizations for in-service or advance training credit.

Critical training for today’s officer in the Vector **law enforcement course catalog** include NCP-certified courses like Active Shooter Preparation and Response, Officer Rescue, Use of Force and more. The **law enforcement catalog** also features courses on firearms, health and wellness, critical incident response, and more.

[vectorsolutions.com/lawenforcement](http://vectorsolutions.com/lawenforcement)



# WHY YOUR SHOULDER WEAPON NEEDS A LIGHT



*The Model 10 was a 12-gauge semi-automatic shotgun which featured a bullpup design and built-in flashlight.*

are now sporting a pistol with a weapon mounted light and as patrol rifles now dominate the territory formally ruled by the shotgun, these are also being equipped.

## What You Can't See Can Hurt You

Now more than ever, the ability to discriminate between life-threatening or non-threatening behavior is even more critical than in the past. Clearly, we are in an era when violence directed at law enforcement officers is at an all-time high. For years, the number of officers feloniously slain in the line of duty was declining, but that is no longer the case. Conversely, law enforcement officers are under the microscope and even the most righteous of shootings will be challenged by certain elements. Shoot too soon without justification and you will be taking an extended vacation in the Graybar Hotel; however, a delay may cost you your life.

The bottom line is that we have precious few seconds to sort it all out and darkness compounds the problem. The obvious solution remains a light source. Some years ago, I was able to take a trip

**Mike Boyle**

The concept of mounting a light to a firearm is nothing new and this practice has been around since World War I. However, lights which were designed for pistols may not work as well when attached to patrol rifles.

In the 1960s, High Standard marketed the Model 10 shotgun to law enforcement agencies, a self-loading bullpup design which came complete with an integral light. Fast-forward 30 years and there was considerable interest from the police community on tactical lights for both handguns and shoulder weapons. Weapon mounted lights were once pretty much limited to SWAT operators, but are now common among patrol officers and investigators. Locally, just about all the coppers

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# WHY YOUR SHOULDER WEAPON NEEDS A LIGHT

Continued from page 22



**Lumen ratings only tell part of the story. Candela refers to the intensity of light emitted in a certain direction. A good analogy is a common garden hose.**

out to the Surefire Institute and I came away with a wealth of information. One of the points which stuck with me all these years was a statement by one of the staff instructors that "light helps us make an informed decision." Light will no doubt keep us out of trouble, but will also put the bad guy at a huge disadvantage.

Fortunately, today, we have a wide selection of lights available which are dedicated for weapon use. Where it begins to get a little dicey is that the performance

characteristics of lights optimized for a pistol may not be the best bet for a rifle. To arrive at the best possible answer, consider the context in which you may be using that light.

So, why do you need a light on a shoulder weapon? After all, scenarios when the police use a rifle or shotgun are far rarer than times when a handgun is used. Couldn't we just use a handheld light along with our rifle or shotgun? Sure, you can, but I'm here to tell you that it all goes down the commode after the first shot and if you factor in a little movement. A weapon mounted light on the shoulder weapon is really the only way to go.

Also, consider the following: Service pistols are reactive weapons. They allow us to perform our routine duties with minimum inconvenience, yet give us the ability to instantly react to a deadly threat. Rifles and shotguns are proactive weapons and you make a conscious decision to bring them into the fight. In the dark of night, you may be excused should an errant round fired from your pistol hit something or somebody it shouldn't. The fact that you chose to bring that shoulder

weapon into the fight may, in fact, cause you to be held to a higher standard. Have a light and be absolutely sure of your target and beyond.

## What Does All of That Stuff Mean?

Illumination tools, like many other products, are described in their own special language. For many people, these terms can be somewhat confusing, or even misleading, but by paying just a little attention to the details, you, too, will have no problem at all selecting the right light for your needs.

It goes without saying that we want a bright light. Total light output is expressed in lumens and the higher the number, the greater the potential for selecting a winner. However, the lumens rating represents only part of the picture. Another dimension is candela or the amount of light emitted in a particular direction. A light may very well have a high lumen output, but a modest candela rating. At typical pistol fighting distance, that particular light may be a very good choice. However, it may very well come up way short on a rifle when used at extended distance.

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## WHY YOUR SHOULDER WEAPON NEEDS A LIGHT

Continued from page 24

Perhaps the best analogy I can offer on lumens versus candela is a simple garden hose. The volume of water of passing through the hose equates to lumens while candela is the stream. Cranking down on the nozzle will certainly extend the distance the stream will travel. However, there are times a wider cone of spray is desirable. A high lumen count with a modest candela rating is ideal for pistols and indoor applications. On the other hand, if you need to reach out well beyond practical pistol distance, a higher candela rating is advisable. Consider the application for your weapon and you will have no problem making the right choice.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has now approved criteria for rating flashlights. In addition to lumens and candela, beam distance, runtime, water resistance, and shock resistance are also rated. This basically helps the end consumer make an educated decision and puts manufacturers on a level playing field. With rare exception, a high quality, cop-proof light is going to cost more than a few bucks. For many years, Streamlight® and Surefire dominated the tactical light game; however, in recent years, outfits such as



**Streamlight's TLR® RM 1 Rail Mounted Tactical Lighting System is yet another addition to their extensive line. It puts out 500 lumens and can reach out to 140 meters.**

Cloud Defensive, INFORCE®, Modlite, and Nightstick® have been putting out some great stuff. By all means, go with quality – buy cheap, buy twice!

### Streamlight

Streamlight has been an industry leader in tactical lights for years and their current offerings for rifles are indeed top-shelf. I have been running a Streamlight TLR-9® on one of my rifles for some time and it has yet to disappoint. Brand-new additions to the extensive Streamlight line are the

TLR® RM 1 and TLR RM 1 G Laser Rail Mounted Tactical Lighting System.

The TLR RM 1 is a low profile, rail mounted light which puts out an impressive 500 lumens and 5,000 candela. The beam is rated for 140 meters, certainly up for all but the most unusual low light scenarios. This unit features an independently operated push-button switch and remote switch, plus a safe-off feature which prevents accidental activation and saves batteries. In designing the TLR RM 1, Streamlight's engineers incorporated a concentrated central beam with optimum peripheral illumination to make it ideally suited for a wide range of tactical applications.



**The Streamlight® TLR® RM 1 Laser Rail Mounted Tactical Lighting System features both an intense white light and a green laser aimer.**

## HPG100

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The Streamlight TLR RM 1 G Laser boasts all of the desirable features of the TLR RM 1, but includes a green laser aimer. Lasers do indeed bring something to the table and are in fact the ultimate night sight. The mode selector on the TLR RM G Laser features a toggle switch for laser only, white light only, or the combination of laser and white light.

Recently, Streamlight introduced an improved version of their very successful PROTAC® series of lights, with handheld and weapon mounted offerings now available. The PROTAC 2.0 Rail Mount is designed to put out an incredible amount of light without sacrificing runtime. The user can draw on multiple settings including high (2000 lumens), low (250 lumens), or high/strobe. At the highest setting, the PROTAC 2.0 generates 17,700 candela with a beam distance of 266 meters.

The PROTAC 2.0 is rendered from 6000 series aircraft grade aluminum and wears a Type II Mil-Spec finish. However, the thing which sets it apart from most other lights is the new SL-650 battery which charges the light using a USB-C cord without removing the battery. This eliminates the need to remove the light



**The dual fuel SureFire® M6000DF runs off 123A lithium batteries or a rechargeable lithium-ion battery.**

from your rifle. Runtime at the highest setting is estimated at 2.5 hours with an incredible 11 hours when set on low.

### SureFire®

For many years, I have run a SureFire WeaponLight on my personal shotgun and many of my outfit's Remington 870™s are similarly equipped. I also have an original Scout Light® affixed to one of my rifles. A recent addition to the line is the M6000DF Scout Light which takes performance to a whole new level.

One big advantage the newer M6000DF has over my original Scout Light is dual fuel capability. It can run off

the provided 18650 rechargeable lithium-ion battery or a pair of three volt 123A lithium batteries. Clearly, having that flexibility is a big plus. With the lithium-ion battery in place, the M6000DF is rated at 1500 lumens while the 123A batteries will produce 1200 lumens.

The M6000DF is easily attached to the Picatinny rail of your rifle by a thumb-screw clamp. The high performance LED, combined with a total reflection reflector lens, produce a hybrid suitable for a wide variety of real-world applications. With the lithium ion battery in place, the beam will reach out to 250 meters with 1.5 hours of runtime. For most patrol rifle applications, the M6000DF would be just the ticket.

### Viridian®

Viridian is probably best known for their extensive line of lights and laser sights for pistols. A very short while ago, Viridian moved into new territory with the 4LUX CQ Grip Light which brings a very different dimension to the table.

The 4LUX CQ Grip Light is a very lightweight illuminator which can be affixed to any M-LOK direct attachment system. It also functions as a hand stop and activa-

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# WHY YOUR SHOULDER WEAPON NEEDS A LIGHT

Continued from page 27



Viridian® now offers the 4LUX CQ which might be just the ticket on a SMG or PDW used in close quarters.

tion is very intuitive when taking a shooting grip. Power is supplied by a pair of CR2 3V batteries which deliver 90 minutes of runtime. Built to stand up to hard knocks, the 4 LUX is impact- and weather-resistant.

As the name implies, the 4LUX CQ Grip Light is designed specifically for work in close quarters. Rated at 400 lumens, the floodlight lens saturates a room with intense white light. It is indeed different than the other prod-



An intense white light mounted on your long gun can help cut through the smoke and confusion of a turbulent situation.

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ucts reviewed herein, but it would be a performer on a pistol caliber carbine, PDW or SMG which are typically used at shorter ranges than a rifle.

### Final Thoughts

Threat discrimination and target identification remain the strong suit of weapon mounted lights. Although it can be done, coordinating a handheld light with a shoulder weapon is by and large an exercise in futility once the first shot or two has been fired.

Introducing intense white light into the night adapted vision of an aggressor will certainly help your cause. No, his face isn't going to melt and he is certainly going to see your light, but he may not be able to define your form. To me, that sounds like a big advantage. A weapon mounted light may indeed help you gain compliance without any shots being fired and that, too, is another plus. And, if things get ugly, that intense white light can cut through the confusion, smoke and oncoming headlights to help you prevail. Next to a sling and a good set of sights, a weapon mounted light on your shoulder weapon is the way to go. **P&SN**

Captain Mike Boyle served with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been involved in firearms and use-of-force training for over 40 years. He has been a police academy director and rangemaster and remains active as an instructor providing basic, in-service and instructor level training. He is a member of ILEETA and NALEFIA. His book, Everything You Need to Know About Police Firearms Training, was recently published by Blue360 Media.

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# GIVING LAW OFFICERS VALIDATED EFFECTIVENESS



**JOHN G. PETERS, JR., PH.D., AND DARRELL L. ROSS, PH.D.**

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**The G.L.O.V.E. is a conductive distraction and de-escalation device integrated into a glove which enables users to quickly bring individuals into compliance or restrain them from further violence.**

Following a 2019 incident, two law enforcement officers were charged with manslaughter by their state's Attorney General's office after an inmate suddenly died. The officers were attempting to gain control of the inmate after he had "turtled" (placed both arms under his chest). Surveillance video footage showed several officers struggling to pull both arms from under him while another officer forcefully propelled his knee into the inmate's right side at least three times. After being on administrative leave for more than 1.5 years, the two officers were relieved when a jury returned a "not guilty" verdict in 2022.

The optics of seeing an officer repeatedly and forcefully driving a knee into the side of a person who is actively resisting may be seen as excessive force by jurors. Admittedly, using force is not pretty to watch, either in person or on video footage. To improve the optics and the efficacy of using physical force, one low-level and proven de-escalation force option is the G.L.O.V.E. from Compliant Technologies. G.L.O.V.E. is an acronym for Generated Low Output Voltage Emitter. It is easy to

use, regardless of your age, strength or size, and has proven its effectiveness with over 3000 real-world applications by Law Enforcement Officers (LEOs).

## Applications

The approximate 3000 uses were actual street or jail utilizations, not conducted in a controlled laboratory. When training uses are added, the sum increases to approximately 15,000. Check out the "Use Cases" testimonials on Compliant Technologies Web site ([complianttechnologies.net/testimonials](https://complianttechnologies.net/testimonials)). To date, approximately 400 law enforcement agencies have adopted the G.L.O.V.E. in 36 states and nine countries, with no reported LEO injuries.

Per Jeff Niklaus, founder of Compliant Technologies, LEO feedback consistently confirms that subject "resistance to compliance" time is approximately three seconds following G.L.O.V.E. application. Several LEOs who volunteered to see if they could defeat the G.L.O.V.E. during the 2023 SHOT Show confirmed the resistance to compliance statistic. View this short video (<https://tinyurl.com/5c5r3tpa>) showing a volunteer "turtling" on the mat and who

may have beaten the average resistance to compliance. Consider the favorable use-of-force optics when using the G.L.O.V.E. on a turtling person, compared to thrusting a knee into the side of a resisting inmate or demonstrator.

## Medical and Other Scientific Research

In 2019, inventor Zhiyong Jiang and Dorin Panescu, Ph.D. compared the G.L.O.V.E. device with relevant electrical compliance safety and efficacy standards. They found the G.L.O.V.E. follows these relevant international standards, such as UL 69, IEC 60335-7-26, IEC 60479-1 and -2, and ANSI/CPLSO-17. Jiang and Panescu reported more than 550 volunteers had been exposed to the G.L.O.V.E. at the time of their research with no reported physical or cardiovascular injuries. Today, that number is significantly higher.

Other significant safety issues to consider are no probe penetration injuries; no collateral damage because most people can break their fall during a takedown; no arcing sounds; no Neuro Peripheral Interference (NPI); no potential weapon

confusion (think TASER® ECW and handgun); gloved hands are able to use handcuffs, baton, firearm, or another force option; and low, positive optics.

Also, the G.L.O.V.E. cannot be “disarmed” from the LEOs hands and the G.L.O.V.E. does not have the significant risks associated with a TASER (e.g., probe injuries and rare, but possible, cardiac issues).

### Current Scientific Study

The authors of this article are conducting a prospective, scientific study which will analyze submitted data by several agencies which have adopted the G.L.O.V.E. These agencies have agreed to describe G.L.O.V.E. applications using a customized “Response to Resistance Data Collection Form.” Data collection began on July 1, 2022, and ends on July 1, 2023. The data will be statistically analyzed and then aggregately reported (look for a follow-up article in a future edition of *Police and Security News*).

The form will capture “clinical” data about G.L.O.V.E. usage including environmental factors, incident characteristics, subject characteristics, subject/inmate injuries, officer injuries, and other force measures after the subject was grounded.

### Compliant Technologies

The founder and CEO of Compliant Technologies, Jeff Niklaus, retired from the United States Army in 2008 as a CW4 Blackhawk helicopter pilot where he served as an instructor pilot, instrument flight examiner and standardization officer. Jeff still has a passion for service and a keen desire to help the men and women in public safety by providing a low-level force option.

“I wanted to provide a force option multiplier that [public safety] leadership can back with low optics [which] will protect officers, and is safe and effective at the same time,” said Niklaus. “I believe this is the most humane tool I can put on the belts and in the hands of law enforcement officers.” Unlike many “police” defensive products, the G.L.O.V.E. is not sold to the general public. A man of faith and principle, Niklaus is quick to “give God the credit” for any G.L.O.V.E. success.

### Invisible De-escalation Partner: G.L.O.V.E. Characteristics

Through proper training and application, the G.L.O.V.E. is a low-level force option and serves as an “invisible de-escalation” tool which enhances the LEO’s ability to help control a resisting person safely and quickly. Because of its unique design and flexibility, the G.L.O.V.E. allows officers to transition to these force



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**There are conductive electrode pads on the palm side of the G.L.O.V.E.**

options: use empty-handed control tactics; use and apply handcuffs; and obtain and effectively use an impact tool, firearm or other force option while wearing them.

### G.L.O.V.E. Construction and Characteristics

The structure of the G.L.O.V.E. is similar to other commercially manufactured gloves. These include strips of leather, called fourchettes which make the sides of the fingers. There is a trunk which comprises the palm and back side of the hand. There are VELCRO® strips at the cuff (glove opening) to secure it to the wrists.

# GIVING LAW OFFICERS VALIDATED EFFECTIVENESS

Continued from page 31



**The low voltage pulse generator is comprised of a battery operated power supply which is stored within a zippered enclosure on the glove, along with a microcontroller.**

The G.L.O.V.E. is activated by pressing on the power switch embedded inside the trunk (below the thumb) for one second. (This feature prevents activation by “brushing” against the person or an object.) De-activation requires a three second press on the power switch, designed to prevent accidental de-activation during a struggle.

Embedded on the palm side of the G.L.O.V.E. are two sets of contact electrodes which are separated and insulated from one another. They are also separated from the wearer. One set of these conductive fabric electrodes is located in the palm area and base of the thumb, with the other set located at the base of the fingers. Jang and Panescu established that the pulse output from the electrodes was

“strong enough to cause significant muscular contractions resulting in neuromuscular *interference*, not incapacitation.”

Constructed of high-grade leather, together with man-made materials, the G.L.O.V.E. is available in eight models. The CT-F2P (patrol) G.L.O.V.E., for example, comes in black, yellow or orange (training) colors, with the size of some models ranging from small, medium, large, extra-large, and double extra-large. They weigh between nine and 23 ounces (260-750 grams) depending upon the model and size.



**Compared to other use-of-force tools, utilizing the G.L.O.V.E. against a combative individual tends to be more subtle.**

## Electrical Characteristics

The G.L.O.V.E. is not a TASER Electronic Control Weapon (ECW); it's not a “stun gun”; and it is not classified as a firearm (think TASER 10 with its gunpowder-based propulsion system). Its primary role is to serve as persuasive distraction and a de-escalation tool. It can be easily worn and used to de-escalate a situation or to supplement an LEO's defensive tactics and/or escort techniques. It does not shoot probes and is primarily used after making physical contact. The low-level electrical discharge becomes a force multiplier when using redirection techniques, escorting people or helping to change a resisting opponent's mind who is hiding one of both hands or refuses to walk. The LEO controls the discharge intensity. Light pressure against a person's body produces an unpleasant feeling, whereas firm pressure intensifies the electrical discharge. The G.L.O.V.E. will not electrocute; is within the “no fibrillation region” per the IEC 60479-2 standard; and its microprocessor records device activations which can be downloaded for review, for investigative purposes and for storage. In short, the G.L.O.V.E. enables a smaller and/or weaker LEO (compared to the opponent) to help capture and control a resisting person.

The G.L.O.V.E. is safe to use in the rain and will not cause low-grade burns to the skin like traditional stun guns or ECWs. The electrical shock will not penetrate clothing, hair, metal, or fur and doesn't negatively affect individuals with implanted defibrillators or pacemakers. When grabbing a subject, other officers who also grab the individual can stay focused on task without worrying about secondary electrical energy, unlike some other ECWs.

## Competency-based Training and Testing

Currently, there are three levels of G.L.O.V.E. competency-based classroom and hands-on training: User-level (three to four hours); Instructor (approximately six hours); and Master Instructor (three days). Exact training hours vary depending upon class size. Competency-based training and testing are required before permitting LEOs to use the G.L.O.V.E.

## E-Band Restrictors, E-Vest and Shields

The G.L.O.V.E. is one component of Compliant Technologies' CD3 family of electronic devices, where CD3 is shorthand for a conductive, distraction and

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# ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

**Normal operating voltage:** 210-320V (it cannot go above 380V)

**Maximum current:** 0.9-1.5A

**Pulse duration ( $\mu$ s):** 105-115 (.000115 second)

**Pulse charge ( $\mu$ C):** 84-125 (.000125 amp-second)

**Pulse repetition rate:** 29.7-30.8 pulses per second

**Duration of charge:** two days to several months (a function of "on time" usage)

**Charge time:** two hours

**Battery:** 3.7V lithium-ion battery

**Temperature range for maximum operation:** 14°F to 122°F



**Compliant Technologies provides other devices which utilize the same technology as that of the G.L.O.V.E.**

de-escalation device. Compliant Technologies' E-Vest and E-Band use the same technology as the G.L.O.V.E. and are devices for prisoner transport, medical visits or use on prisoners in a courtroom setting.

Additionally, Shield models are available which can be used in riots, demonstrations and similar events to help protect both demonstrators and LEOs. The Shields come in a variety of models, shapes, sizes, and capabilities.

## Summary

The G.L.O.V.E. is not only versatile, but, like other gloves, it can also be readily accessible as the officer can carry them in field pants or in a vest. In a confinement facility, the G.L.O.V.E. may be stored with other devices and made accessible in the booking area, and prior

to their application during a forced cell extraction or cell insertion.

In today's litigious society, public safety administrators and governmental entities are actively seeking technology which will reduce lawsuits alleging their LEOs using excessive force. However, prior to adopting "new" technology, the focus is on cost, risk management and officer safety. Unlike many new public safety technologies, the G.L.O.V.E. has been scientifically and practically evaluated, with more scientific study ongoing. The G.L.O.V.E. has proven its safety and effectiveness in helping to control actively resisting subjects and in reducing LEO injuries. Imagine what might not have happened if the two LEOs who were charged with manslaughter (mentioned at the beginning of this article) had been utilizing the G.L.O.V.E. **P&SN**

*John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D. is a frequent contributor to Police and Security News. A former police administrator, deputy sheriff and police officer, he serves as president of the internationally recognized training firm, Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc., and as Executive Director of the Americans for Effective Law Enforcement, Inc. A judicially qualified expert witness, he has testified in international, federal and state courts.*

*Darrell L. Ross, Ph.D. is the Chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice at Valdosta State University and is the Director for the Center for Applied Social Sciences. A former corrections officer, Dr. Ross has been retained as an expert witness in over 1,000 cases providing testimony in 31 states on behalf of police, correctional and private security agencies.*

# Ballistic Shields Part 2: BALLISTIC SHIELD TECHNOLOGIES

JAKE GANOR

In Part One, we covered the characteristics and construction details of ballistic shields and reviewed general “best practices” for their use.



Emerging trends in ballistic shield development look like they’re soon going to lead to improved tactics and more widespread shield use. With that, there are a number of emerging shield technologies which are worth highlighting.

## NEW MATERIALS

The first advance on the horizon is the most general and the most straightforward: New ballistic materials are enabling lighter body armor plates – and, by extension, lighter shields.

Advances in UHMWPE materials can now make for Level III body armor plates as

light as 1.6 pounds for 10" x 12" – this translates directly to shield development and implies that, if everything is optimized and all fat is trimmed to the bone, the rifle-rated Level III shields of tomorrow could be very nearly as light as the handgun-rated Level IIIA shields of today. Similarly, advances in next gen ceramics and amorphous materials are beginning to facilitate armor rated for steel core rifle threats at a lower weight than is currently possible with the “legacy” ceramic materials. What’s absolutely certain is that shields are going to decrease in weight over the coming few years, at least on the high-end of the market, via the use of advanced new materials.

## MOUNTING SYSTEMS

Another possible near future advance is in the development of new mounting systems for ballistic shields. The US Army has been researching a steadycam-style mounting system which they call “Third Arm” (3ARM). This was developed as a weapons platform “with the intention of reducing the physical demands of marksmanship. Specifically, 3ARM was designed to mitigate fatigue development associated with firing military weapon systems while also providing improved weapon stability and shooting performance.”

3ARM was evaluated by the military



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## BALLISTIC SHIELDS PART 2: BALLISTIC SHIELD TECHNOLOGIES

Continued from page 34



**Originally designed to displace the weight of heavy firearms, the Third Arm can be adapted to support ballistic shields.**

and that evaluation was released in a publicly available 2020 report titled, "Evaluation of a Prototype Body-Borne Weapon Mount System during Live Fire," which is available via [DTIC.mil](https://www.dtic.mil). Ultimately, the prototype system was well received by the personnel tasked with evaluating it, but they commented that it makes it difficult to quickly drop into a prone firing position and that the Q-arm can potentially obscure the sight picture when the user is prone.

Ballistic shield operators, as a general rule, *very rarely* go prone. Prone ballistic shield use is practiced, but I've never heard of a dynamic situation when a shield operator had to *drop* into prone. Ballistic shields are also considerably heavier than most rifle systems. It should therefore be apparent that a 3ARM-style platform could reduce operator fatigue and increase performance with no obvious drawbacks. There may be further benefits in that the shield operator will be able to keep one hand or both hands free which could facilitate the use of an offensive weapon and would surely make reloading much easier. With reduced physical strain, user situational awareness, reaction time and mobility will improve.

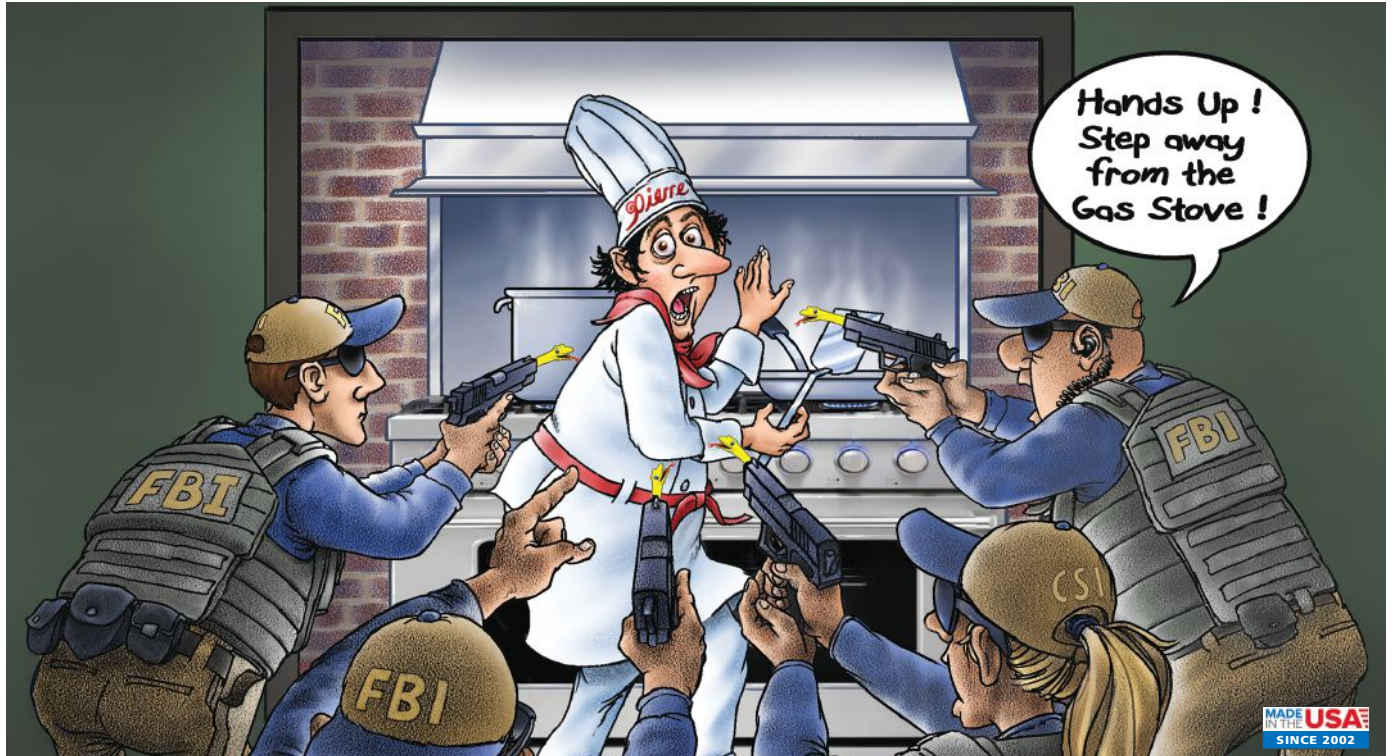
Although the military's evaluation did not mention the use of 3ARM as a shield-bearing platform, the system's developers at the US Army Research Labs have publicly commented that it can be used to mount shields and they have already developed a custom mounting bracket for ballistic shields. So, it's safe to say that the shields of tomorrow will not only be lighter, but may also benefit

from improved ergonomic mounting hard points modeled after 3ARM.

Another shield support system was created several years ago in a joint effort between Baker Ballistics and Advanced Accuracy Solutions, LLC. "The Reaper™" is an exoskeleton device which enables a ballistic shield operator the ability to carry a heavy ballistic shield (such as Level IV), while maintaining mobility, and delivering accurate firepower from a long gun.



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## BALLISTIC SHIELDS PART 2: BALLISTIC SHIELD TECHNOLOGIES

Continued from page 36

### ADVANCED OPTICS

As mentioned in the tactics section of Part One, many ballistic shields feature ballistic viewports. These are small windows, made of a thick glass-polycarbonate or glass-acrylic laminate which are generally built to stop the same ballistic threats as the main body of the shield.

Transparent armor materials are not weight efficient and small ballistic shield viewports can be heavy. Take one example: A rifle-rated 24" x 36" shield with a viewport weighs 46 pounds. That same

shield with the same ballistic rating, and in the same size (24" x 36"), weighs 30 pounds without the viewport. In other words, that viewport is adding 16 pounds to the shield.

But, viewports are tactically useful and make it much safer to aim and engage targets from behind a shield. So, what can be done?

An answer is emerging and, perhaps unsurprisingly, it leans heavily on smart-phone camera and screen technologies.

It's possible to mount small, energy efficient cameras or sensors to the external surface of the shield. These can be of any type – NIR, UV, Vis, thermal, etc. – and can be used in any combination. The external cameras can connect to a tablet-type or phone-type LED screen on the inner surface of the shield, thus approximating, for all practical intents and purposes, a multi-spectrum window with enhanced functionality.

The benefits of such a strategy are obvious: You're able to view through the shield and, if so equipped, are able to switch from, e.g., IR to visual at the push of a button. The screens and cameras also add no appreciable weight to the shield –

in all, about half a pound or less. The drawback is that it can be difficult or impossible to aim "through" a simulated viewport composed of cameras and screens – it can be disorienting unless it's set up perfectly and it's much less intuitive than a viewport. Proper use shall doubtless require a great deal of practice on the part of the shield operator with a lot of trial and error surrounding camera placement and viewing angle.

### The Shield Bearer of the Future Is a Robot

There are two trains of thought here: the very light and the very heavy.

Light autonomous armor has been conceptualized in a 2016 MIT paper titled, "Toward Ambient Armor: Can New Materials Change Longstanding Concepts of Projectile Protection?" The idea, in brief, is to mount very lightweight composite and fabric armor materials onto small aerial drones or autonomous ground vehicles. These small bots would move around and in front of the people they're tasked with guarding, placing themselves along the expected trajectories of incoming threats.



**Mounting small cameras or sensors to the external surface of a shield offers benefits as well as disadvantages.**

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**Lightweight composite materials mounted onto autonomous ground vehicles**

This, termed “ambient armor,” could be extraordinarily useful. Do you need to turn a dangerous corner? A drone with a Kevlar® curtain will fly in front to both conceal your presence and disrupt or destabilize incoming threats. Is there suspicious roadside debris? Small drones with UHMWPE-polyurea panels will screen it as you pass.

A particularly interesting characteristic of these systems, and something that hasn't been lost on the people who first conceptualized them, is that armor deformation simply doesn't matter if the standoff between the armor and the projectile's target is large enough. There's no need to set backface deformation limits. What's more, projectiles don't need to be stopped cold, as it may be enough to destabilize them or increase their drag coefficient.

So, by that token, the number of potential ambient armor materials is much broader than the small palette of traditional armor materials used in shield construction. Aramid felt – a lightweight, very soft, fleece-like fabric – appears to be particularly effective as a large standoff barrier material. And, of course, lightweight nanomaterial composites which are not yet fea-

sible have been the research focus of ambient armor designers on account of their potential for incredible performance.

With all of that said, the *other* way to make a drone-mounted shield is to improvise on current trolley-mounted heavy shields/barriers. Already, the heaviest ballistic shields have wheels and are pushed into conflict situations. It's very simple to imagine, with off-the-shelf technologies and tools, that these wheeled barriers can function much as drones do – via simple controls or even autonomously.

Before they were acquired by Textron 2019, Howe and Howe Technologies had developed armored “SWAT Bots” as an unmanned ballistic shield solution. The SWAT Bot was extremely large and heavy and seems to have been deployed only a



**A buckler-style ballistic shield can protect a much larger area than its size would otherwise indicate if held away from the user's torso.**

handful of times. It's highly plausible that similar technologies, likely streamlined and with a reduced noise and signature profile to facilitate their use indoors, will emerge over the next few years.

## Optimized Geometries

The first ballistic shields were flat rectangles. Up to the early 2000s, shields which weren't flat rectangles were rare. Today, the flat rectangle is far less common and curved shields with cutouts and other design advances are increasing. As methods of shaping and molding UHMWPE composite materials advance, shield design will eventually converge on a small number of optimal forms.

Some would argue that the shield had already been ergonomically “optimized” by the bygone generations of men who fought with them and that new materials and technologies will simply enable shield designers to take more inspiration from the shield designs of the past.

The buckler, for instance, was a small handheld shield extremely popular throughout the medieval and renaissance periods. Bucklers were designed to be used with arms outstretched and were very light and mobile. Adept Armor is building a ballistic buckler designed to be held away from the body. As such, it can protect a significantly larger area than its size would otherwise indicate. Though just 12.2" in diameter, if held properly at arm's length, it should offer a much larger area of protection than most armor plates or vests and would protect areas which are typically unarmored, like the neck and face.

Interlocking shields modeled after early shield walls are another possibility which could make for modular barriers.

The shield will continue to evolve in materials – there's considerable room for improvement with current ballistic materials – and it's a fair assumption that shields will keep getting lighter and more capable with time, indefinitely. But, there are only a handful of ideal shield forms, even in principle, and current materials and processing techniques are allowing them to come to light. Between advances in materials, mounting platforms, optics, robotics, and human factors optimization, the future of the ballistic shield is very bright. **P&SN**

*Jake Ganor is a materials scientist, armor engineer and a designer of ballistic shields. His company, Adept Armor ([www.ade.pt](http://www.ade.pt)), is pioneering next generation armor systems. His book, Body Armor and Light Ballistic Armor Materials and Systems, is now available on Amazon.*

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# Implementing Red Dot Sights for Your Agency

**RON LAPEDIS**

*Photo by Jeremy Tremp, Offensive Marketing Group*

**Red dot sights place the target and the reticle roughly on the same optical plane, allowing a single point of focus. This enables fast acquisition and allows the officer to keep his/her attention on the field of view in front of him/her.**

**T**he results of a four year handgun Red Dot Sight (RDS) study by Aaron Cowan of Sage Dynamics (<https://is.gd/gG5n9J>) show substantially increased hit accuracy using an RDS over iron sights. Multiple agencies which have issued an RDS to trained officers are seeing the same trend. Higher hit accuracy equals lower collateral damage. And, this is a good thing.

The key word here is “trained.” An officer with an RDS equipped sidearm is the destination – and there are many steps needed to get there. Slapping an RDS onto an officer’s pistol without taking time at each stop along the way is a lawsuit waiting to happen.

Let’s look at the activities needed to get RDS into your agency:

- Train range staff how to select an RDS.
  - Footprints
  - Select a sidearm/RDS/holster system.
- Train armorers and range staff how to mount and sight an RDS.
  - Test fit the RDS using an adaptor plate, if necessary.

- Properly mount the RDS.
- Properly sight the RDS.
- Train range staff to teach RDS tactics.
  - Train sworn staff.
  - Train recruits.

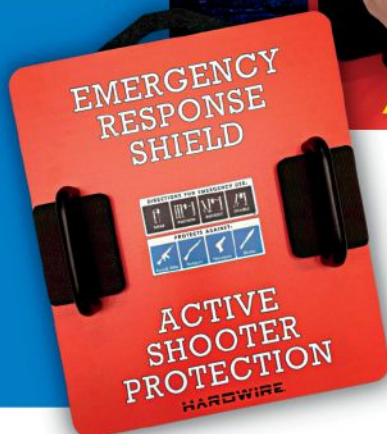
## **1. TRAIN THE TRAINERS (1)**

The first *train the trainers* activity is to give your range-master or range staff enough information to perform a needs analysis for a move to RDS. The odds are high that your current issued sidearms may not support an RDS or, if they do, they may not support the RDS you want. How can a sidearm not support the RDS you want?

While there is no single standard for the mounting footprint of an RDS, the good news is that the industry seems to be coalescing around a handful of more popular footprints. For example, many sights use the Trijicon RMR® footprint, but there are actually two different footprints for this sight – one licensed from Trijicon and one a workaround.

From top to bottom, the left side of figure 1 (on page 44) shows a Trijicon RMR next to an upside-down OEM GLOCK® MOS plate and an aftermarket C&H Precision

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Remember the days when fire was fought with buckets of water and a line of humans? Then someone invented the fire extinguisher, the smoke detector, and Smokey the Bear to promote fire prevention. The same is needed for active shooter prevention and protection. Emergency Response Shields are the fire extinguisher for gunfire. Distributed throughout schools and public facilities, they stop bullets and are easily available in an emergency. Teachers today face the problem bare-handed. The ERS is a tool to help – a tool that empowers survival until first responders arrive.

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Mass shootings are community-shattering events. That's why Hardwire donated 1,600 shields to their tri-county schools on the lower Eastern Shore of Maryland. If you'd like to see this protection in your community, scan the QR code above and contact us. It is our mission to protect every school in America.

# IMPLEMENTING RED DOT SIGHTS FOR YOUR AGENCY

Continued from page 42



**Figure 1 – Left side: OEM GLOCK® MOS slide with OEM and aftermarket plates. Below that are two aftermarket slides for a GLOCK 19 Gen3; Right side: A badly machined slide which has no bosses needed to take the G forces. (photo courtesy of Christopher Galli)**

Weapons 509T MOS plate. The GLOCK MOS supports dozens of footprints just by changing the plate. Note the raised metal down the center of the slide cut and the small boss at the ejection port side of the cut (red arrow) which keeps the plate in place. Now, look at the slide on the right side. The machinist didn't leave recoil bosses, but cut the slide flat. When mounted, the RDS has approximately 1/16th of an inch movement in the pocket side to side and will likely come off in use.

The aftermarket slide in the middle has flush cut screw holes and four machined bosses to hold the optic in place. Which optic? That's a good question and this Web site, <https://tinyurl.com/k689js42>, can help you figure that out. This slide is cut for the Docter/Noblex standard and is compatible with a Vortex Viper®.

At the bottom is a "ZEV cut" Trijicon RMR slide with a fully enclosed Holosun HE509T-RD X2 and the included mounting plate. The 509T is designed so that the optic slides onto the plate from the side and is locked into place. However, the plate is designed for the patented Trijicon footprint and not the ZEV cut footprint. In fact, the included plate won't mount on the bottom slide because the screw hole bosses are too big for the holes in the plate for the plate to be mounted. Enlarging the holes doesn't work because, now that the plate fits

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## IMPLEMENTING RED DOT SIGHTS FOR YOUR AGENCY

Continued from page 44

flush, the optic won't clear the screws.

At this time, many manufacturers are still using their own proprietary set of length, width, mounting holes, and bosses (an indentation or protrusion on the firearm's slide which matches the opposite type of boss on the RDS to help hold it against the stresses of recoil). For example, the SIG ROMEO1, ROMEO1PRO and ROMEO2 were all designed to mount directly on a SIG P320 slide.

If you want to use a SIG ROMEO on a non-SIG sidearm or want to use an Aimpoint® Acro® on a P320, you need to purchase an appropriate adaptor plate which is machined to fit the supported footprint of the slide on one side and the RDS on the other, letting you mount an "un-supported" sight.

Your selection team must understand the requirements and tradeoffs needed to select a sidearm and RDS combination at the same time. And, don't forget the appropriate holster as one may not be available for the combination you want.

Your final list of choices are chicken and egg because there will be tradeoffs for the sidearm, RDS and holster.

### 2. SELECT A SIDEARM/RDS SYSTEM

One way to hone in on the right selection for your agency is to do what San Mateo County Sheriff's Office (SMSO) Rangemaster Sergeant David Weidner did. He and his 18 member range staff attended training classes, carried and ran with deputies for a year with multiple firearms, RDS and holster systems.

He also called each manufacturer to ask about their warranty, if they cross ship replacements and where the defective unit needed to go for repairs if they don't cross ship. Several companies told him that his RDS needed to be sent to Europe for repairs and he would be waiting several months for it to come back.

Other important features are reticle type, size and brightness setting; battery life/auto-off/shake awake; if the sight needs to be removed and re-zeroed to replace the battery; window size; and parallax/cowitness.

In the end, the SO settled on three finalists. Remember that chicken and the egg? They did come home to roost. Sgt. Weidner called the three finalists and asked how quickly each manufacturer could equip his range staff and the first wave of deputies. Without naming names, one choice was a year out while another was six months. However, one vendor was ready to ship firearms, RDS and holsters within ten days.

Many operators like their RDS cowitnessed with their iron sight. When the RDS and sights are cowitnessed, they are aligned with each other. If the RDS fails, the iron sight can be used as a backup, along with several other methods.

As you move backwards or forwards from the distance where the RDS was zeroed, your sidearm won't shoot true to zero. There are two reasons for that. One is the parallax due to the difference in height of the RDS over the bore of the barrel and the second is the trajectory of the bullet which only comes into play at longer distances. Instinctive holdover and aiming with a failed RDS are both parts of RDS training.

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## IMPLEMENTING RED DOT SIGHTS FOR YOUR AGENCY

Continued from page 46

If you must remove your optic to replace the battery in a pinch and cannot get to the range, you may get it close to re-zeroed using cowitnessed iron sights – if you know what you are doing.

### TEST FITTING

Once you have selected the combination of sidearm, RDS and mounting plate (if required), the next step is to test fit everything together as a single unit, then properly secure them into place. I have seen more than one RDS come loose and lose zero, fly over a shooter, fly downrange, or bounce off a shooter's forehead, then fly downrange.

The lesson learned is that your RDS, mounting plate and slide all need to have complementary mounting bosses; the correct screws need to be used; the screws and mounting holes need to be degreased; and the RDS needs to be torqued to spec using the appropriate threadlocker. Helpful hint: Never, ever use permanent threadlocker.

There are tremendous G forces acting on a slide and RDS. An ad in a past issue of *The American Handgunner* states that a 1911 slide develops nearly 2000 Gs when fired. Now look at those itty-bitty screws which came with your RDS and/or adaptor plate. Do you think they will stand up to 2000 Gs? No, they won't. While the screws hold the RDS and plate **down**, it is the machined bosses which are tak-

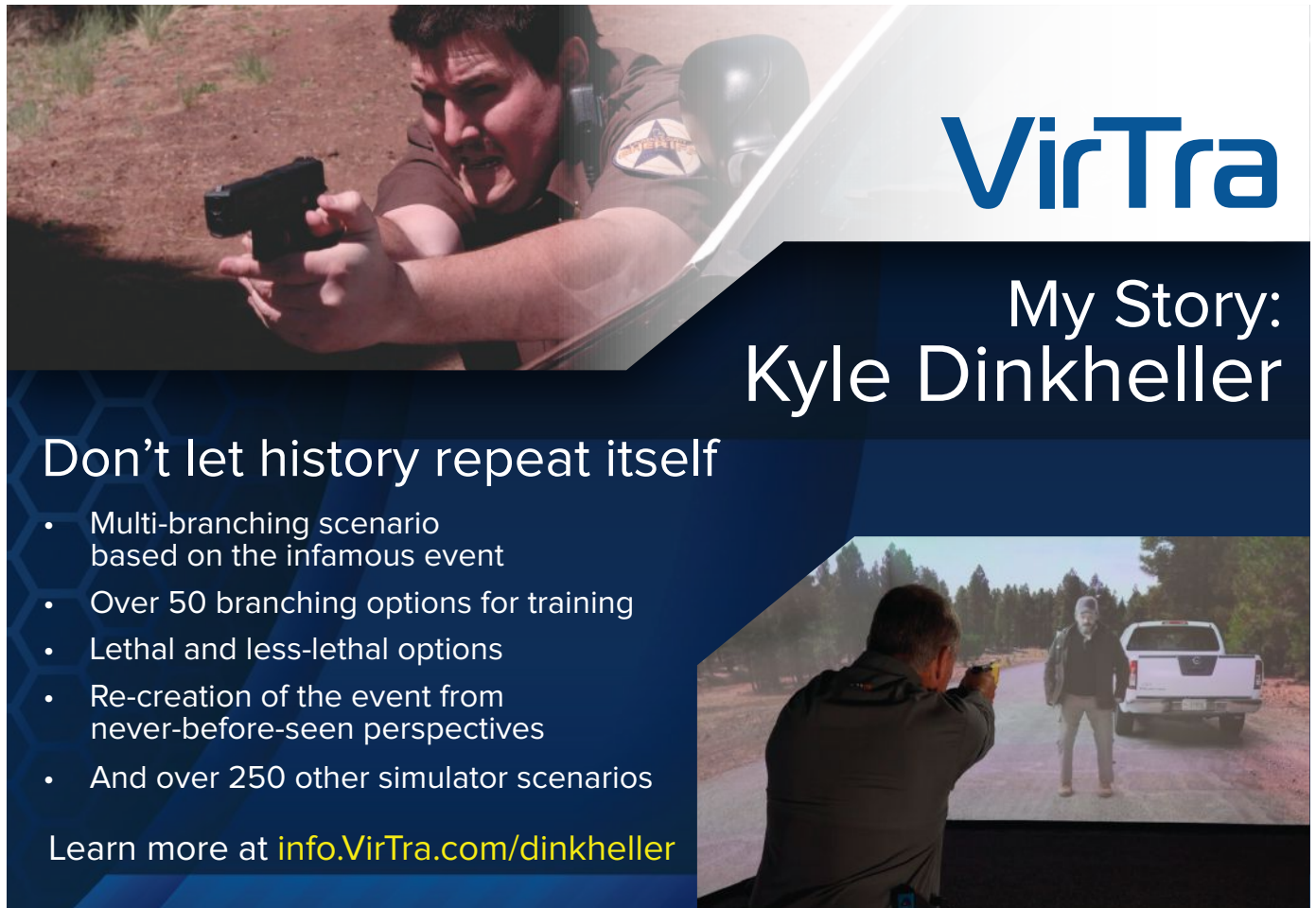
ing the horizontal force as the slide reciprocates. What this means is that you cannot take a non-RDS slide and machine a flat cut and drill holes for the RDS mounting screws. Without those bosses to take the G forces, the screws will shear off no matter how much threadlocker you put on them.

And, speaking of screws, the ones which come with the sight should work, but it depends. Some RDS come with screws in different lengths and what you think is a pair of short screws and a pair of long screws may not be.

Because most slides are not symmetrical, mounting the RDS might need one of each length. An extractor channel might run to the back of the slide on one side. Install a screw which is too long and you could dig into the extractor depressor plunger causing malfunctions. If you have any questions, get answers from the manufacturer of the RDS and the adaptor plate before proceeding.

If you are using an adaptor plate like that in figure 2 (found on page 50), you should test mount the RDS to the plate, then fit the plate to the slide to ensure that the screws won't dig into the slide, thus warping the plate. Some slides which are designed to use adaptor plates are manufactured so that the RDS screws can extend a short distance through the plate. Check the documentation for details.

Some RDS or firearms manufacturers may recommend plates from specific manufacturers.



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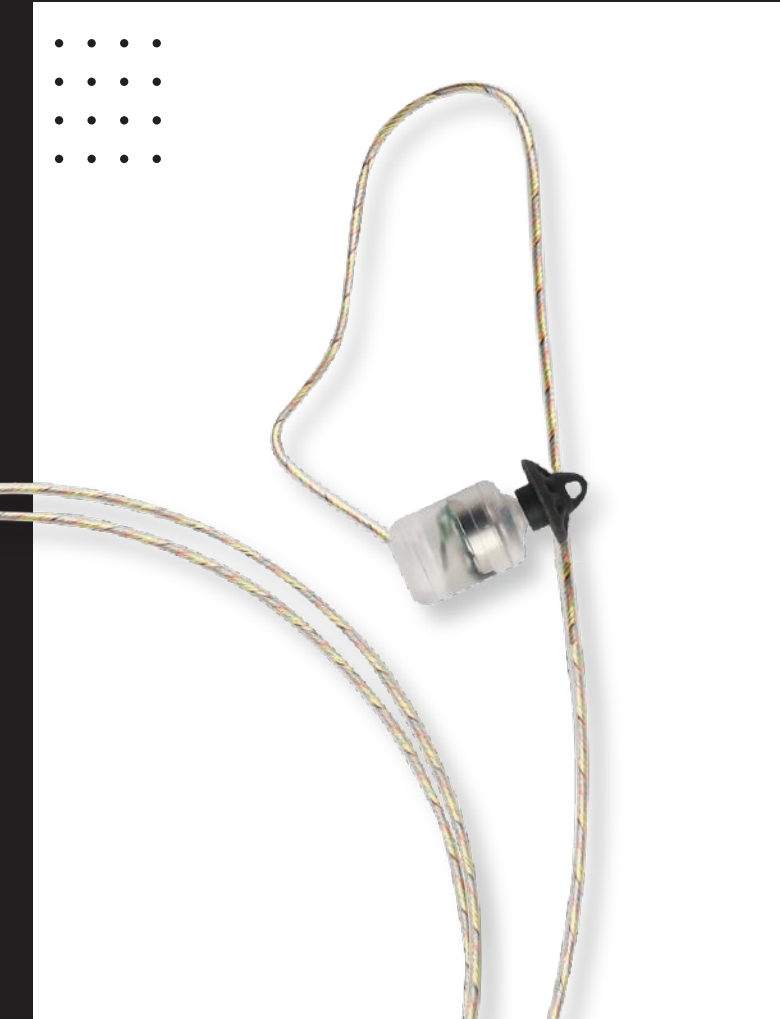
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## IMPLEMENTING RED DOT SIGHTS FOR YOUR AGENCY

Continued from page 48

Check the message boards before using included plates or buying third-party plates. There is plenty of discussion about the GLOCK Modular Optical System (MOS) plates and their front to back wiggle, lack of bosses from plate to slide and minimal bosses from slide to RDS. Several companies sell aftermarket plates for GLOCK firearms which are designed to eliminate these issues.

With the screws lightly tightened, there should not be any wiggle between the plate and the slide or the plate and the RDS. If there is, try to figure out why or call the manufacturer for assistance. The purpose of the screws is to hold everything in place, not to keep things from wobbling around. That's what a precision fit and the bosses are for.

### PROPERLY MOUNTING THE RDS

Once you are certain that everything fits properly, it is time to mount the RDS. Along with the firearm, RDS and possibly a plate, you need a torque wrench and the specs for every screw you will be working with. The two traditional torque wrenches on the far right side of figure 2 might be great for working on cars, motorcycles and perhaps AR rifles, but they are not well-suited for working on pistol sights.

Pictured top to bottom to the left of the large torque wrenches are precision torque screwdrivers from Borka® Tools, Fix It Sticks and Capri. Before buying a torque wrench, determine the torque range you will need by look-



Figure 2 – L-R: Close-up of GLOCK® MOS plates showing the holes and bosses, upside-down MOS plate, torque screwdrivers, and torque wrenches.

ing at the firearm, plate and RDS torque specs. Most are included in the manufacturer's documentation or on their Web site.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully for the order of assembly and torque. If an adaptor plate is used, most of the time, the plate will be mounted to the slide first, then the RDS will mount to the plate.

Ensure that all screws and mounting holes are degreased. Even if the screws already have threadlocker

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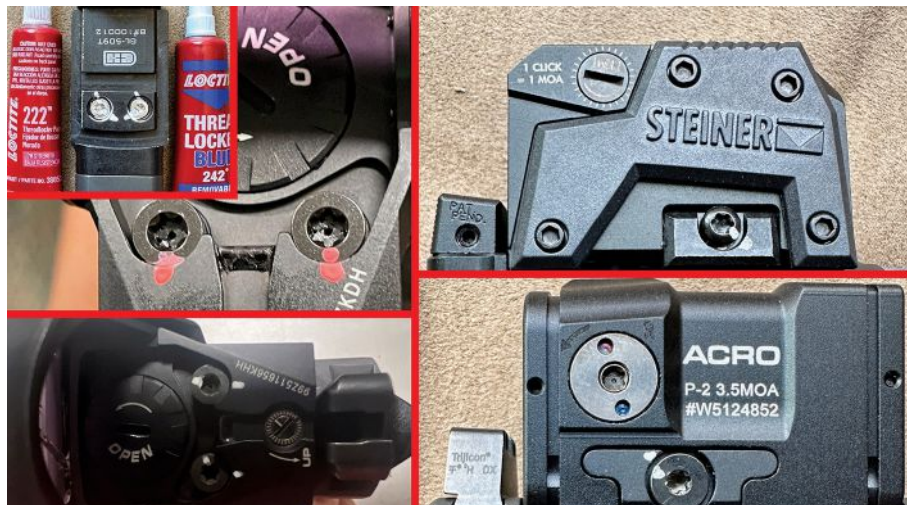
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# IMPLEMENTING RED DOT SIGHTS FOR YOUR AGENCY

Continued from page 50



**Figure 3 – Painting a line from screw to adaptor plate or screw to RDS body will tell you if the screw has loosened. Top: Screws are tight. Bottom: Screws have loosened.**

on them, add a small drop of Loctite® Blue (recommended) or equivalent. Whatever threadlocker you use, do not use more than a drop as it might leak into the slide’s internals, caus-

ing malfunctions.

If you need to remove the RDS for any reason, such as to replace the battery or to check the adaptor plate screws, best practice is to use

new screws, as the old ones have been stressed and can break off if stressed again. The manufacturers JagerWerks and C&H Precision Weapon Systems are some options.

At the beginning of every shift, check that the RDS window is not cracked and that the RDS illuminates and the screws have not loosened. Any of these failures should mean a trip to the armorer. While an officer could go on shift with an inoperative dot in a pinch, they risk injury if the screws have loosened (see figure 3). If this happens, the firearm should not be used until it is repaired.

At the beginning or end of shift, the optic window should be cleaned with a high quality lens cleaner and cloth. The emitter and hard to reach areas of the window can be cleaned with a cotton swab and lens cleaner.

## SIGHTING IN AN RDS

There are three parts to sighting an RDS. First, what distance to use



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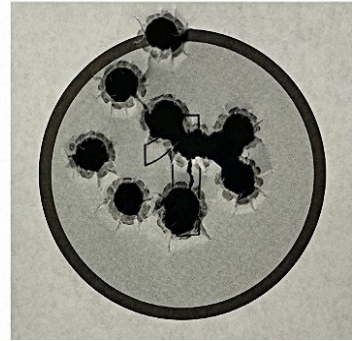
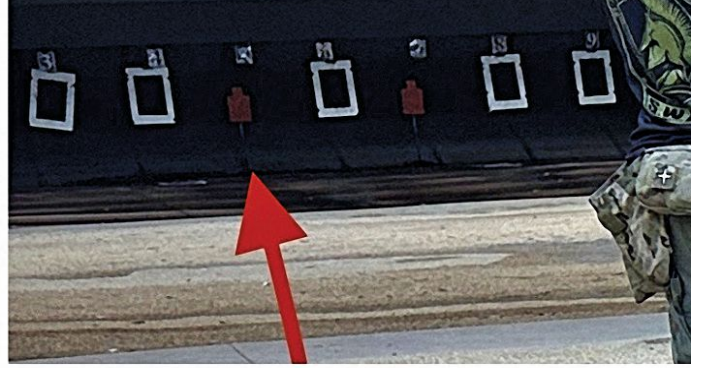
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**Figure 4 – Clockwise from left: Sighting in at 15 yards; shooting B-27 sized iron in the shadows with a handgun at 100 yards – it can be done with an RDS using holdover and proper trigger control; two inch circle standing at five yards with proper trigger control; same target with bad trigger control.**

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## IMPLEMENTING RED DOT SIGHTS FOR YOUR AGENCY

Continued from page 52

for zero; proper trigger control when sighting in; and, finally, the actual sighting in. After testing with 115-, 124- and 147-grain ammo, the SMSO chose a 15 yard zero as the best for holdover purposes.

From a kneeling position using hands and arms for support on a barrel (figure 4), three touching shots are taken before adjusting the sight. After each adjustment, a new aiming point is used to take another three shots until the firearm is sighted.

Why is proper trigger control re-

quired when sighting in? After running their RDS Transition Class a few times, range staff noticed that students had problems getting small groups even with untimed fire (figure 4, second from bottom right). Unless a shooter can get touching shots at 15 yards, they cannot properly sight their firearm. After spending time on trigger control, groups improved (figure 4, bottom far right). After this experience, trigger control exercises were moved before the sighting exercise.

How can you learn proper trigger

control without a sighted firearm? Use the same point of aim and strive for a consistent point of impact versus hitting the ten ring. That is, grouping is more important than where you hit the target. After your firearm is sighted and you practice aim and holdover, your small group will be exactly where you want it.

### 3. TRAINING — TRAIN THE TRAINERS (2)

The last step is RDS Transition Training. There are three populations which need to be trained; range staff, sworn staff and new recruits.

The most important skills for competent shooters transitioning to RDS are to ignore their irons, find the dot immediately on punch out and focus on the threat. Many shooters try to align the dot with their irons before taking a shot or will focus on the dot as if it was their front sight. One of the biggest advantages of an RDS is that the suspect is the front sight. Therefore, you don't need to take your eyes off the suspect.

SMSO learned that the best way to prevent students from focusing on the dot is to occlude the front of the optic with blue painter's tape. The dominant eye sees the dot; the nondominant eye sees the target; and the brain does the rest by fusing the images.

It is important that your range staff take their training from competent instructors respected in the industry. Once bad habits are learned, it is hard to unlearn them. After taking dozens of classes, teaching their best shooters and comparing notes, SMSO took the best of the best and developed their own curriculum, tweaking it along the way.

### SUMMARY

Moving your agency to RDS is a lot more than handing RDS equipped sidearms to sworn staff or allowing them to use the RDS of their choice. It is a process with well-defined steps and checkpoints.

It took San Mateo County well over a year just to determine what they wanted to implement and, a year after that, they still are improving their train-



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ing process with every class.

Without appropriate tools and training, you could be putting sworn staff in danger and opening your agency and jurisdiction to liability. An officer “fishing” for the dot or trying to aim with broken glass without proper training is a danger to himself and the community. An improperly mounted RDS which loses zero or goes downrange also presents a problem.

But, by following the steps outlined here, you will be on your way to developing and implementing a successful RDS program at your agency.

Stay safe! **P&SN**

*Ron LaPedis is an NRA certified Chief Range Safety Officer; NRA, US-CCA and California DOJ certified instructor; is a uniformed first responder; and frequently writes and speaks on law enforcement, business continuity, cybersecurity, physical security, and public/private partnerships.*

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With this solicitation, the Bureau of Justice Assistance seeks to support small and rural agencies in their efforts to combat violent crime. This program will provide funding to small and/or rural agencies and/or to prosecutors who are interested in implementing or improving the capacity of their organization around one or more critical elements found in the Violent Crime Reductions Operations Guide (<https://tinyurl.com/3c3546yc>) or the Prosecutors' Guide to Reducing Violence and Building Safer Communities (<https://tinyurl.com/4azk2hjj>).

#### Eligible Applicants:

- City or township governments;
- County governments; and
- Native American tribal governments (federally recognized)

**Grants.gov Deadline: June 13, 2023**

**JustGrants Deadline: June 20, 2023**

See the Training: Application Submission (<https://tinyurl.com/59faczme>) section of the JustGrants Resources Web site to learn how to submit an application for funding. Included is a step-by-step breakdown of the application process, training videos, reference guides, and more.

### Tools for States to Address Crime

Published by The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center, these tools help provide state leaders with a plan to advance safety and justice. To equip state leaders, the CSG Justice Center has analyzed the most recent 50-state data on crime, arrests, and prison populations and has developed a list of ten ways states can lower crime.

**Tools for States to Address Crime**

50-State Crime Data 10 Ways States Can Lower Crime

To view these tools, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2jkker6w>

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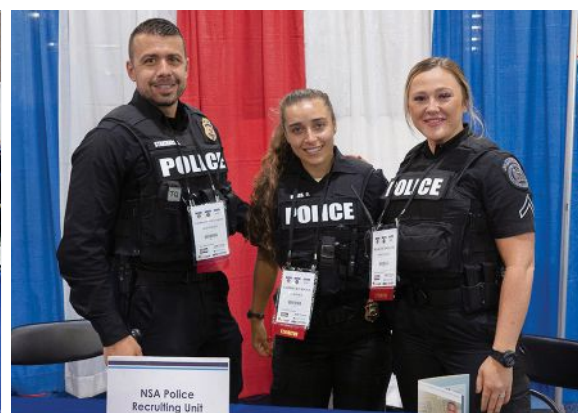


# 2023 POLICE SECURITY EXPO SHOW GUIDE

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3M Peltor	1240	Cranbury Custom Lettering	1213	Hanwha Vision	2116
911 Circuits	1031	Critical Response Group	1444	Harley-Davidson Motor Company	2222
Action Target	1336	Crossing Guard Services	1019	Havis, Inc.	1421
Action Uniform	1738	Datum Storage Solutions	1145	HELLA Automotive Sales, Inc.	1237
Advanced Security Technologies	1437	Delaware Antique Police Car Collectors Assoc. Display	618	Henry Repeating Arms	2217
AeroDefense	813	DetectaChem, Inc.	1837	Heroes Vacation Club	1038
All Traffic Solutions	837	Digital Forensic Training	1302	Hertrich Fleet Services, Inc.	2223
Altia	1207	Duckbill Enterprises Inc.	926	Holt and McArdle Associates, Inc.	2138
AmChar Wholesale Inc.	1239	Durabook Americas, Inc.	1539	HOTFOIL-EHS Inc.	2148
American Aluminum Accessories	1301	ESI Equipment, Inc.	945	Hunter Technologies	1139
American Public Safety	2036	ESS, Inc.	1021	I. Spiewak & Sons, Inc.	1660
American Recycling Technologies	1540	Eagle Point Gun/T.J. Morris & Sons	1455	ICPC Region #5	748
Arizona State University	2049	Earphone Connection	912	INFO-COP by GTBM, Inc.	1645
Armor Research Company	1853	East Coast Emergency Lighting, Inc.	1415	Intermotive Vehicle Controls	922
Atlantic Signal	726	ecos systems	1355	Intl. Police Association NJ - Region 10	824
Atlantic Tactical	1849	Elbeco	2038	Intl. Police Mountain Bike Assn. (IPMBA)	1438
Atlantic Uniform Co.	1951	eMazzanti Technologies	1847	Island Tech Services, LLC	1345
Atlas Flasher & Supply Co. Inc.	1027	Emergi-Clean, Inc.	819	Issured LTD	1055
Axis Communications	1725	Enforsys, Inc.	1550	J. Harris Academy of Police Training	1717
Axon	913	EOTECH	1751	JCT Solutions	1551
Badge Company of New Jersey LLC	1936	Equitable Advisors, LLC	1927	JAMAR Technologies, Inc.	1736
Bancorp Bank	1246	Everything But Stromboli LLC	937	Jersey Tactical Corp.	1555
Benelli Law Enforcement	1248	EvidenceIQ	1754	Jotto Desk	1219
Bernstein & Associates, Inc.	2023	EVIDENT	1836	KD National Force Security	1025
Blauer Mfg. Co.	1830	Extra Duty Solutions	1737	Keystone Mid-Atlantic	1644
Block Communications	619	Fairleigh Dickinson University	1537	Keystone Public Safety, Inc.	1940
Blockchain Intelligence Group	2241	Federal Premium LE/Speer LE/Remington	725	KeyTrak	1337
Blue360° Media	1308	Federal Signal	1119	KOVA Corp.	1923
BnB Knives	1046	Firing Line, Inc.	2016	Kustom Signals	2046
Bob Johnson's Computer Stuff	1433	First Vehicle Services/First Mobile Technologies	2059	LBI Computers	1149
Boss StrongBox	2229	FirstNet, Built with AT&T	1200	LDV, Inc.	919
Boston Leather	2236	Flock Safety	1739	L.E.A.D., Inc.	803
Bridgestone	1952	Flying Cross	627	Laser Tech	1033
Brother Mobile Solutions	2025	Foveonics Document Solutions	1729	Lawsoft, Inc.	2029
California Coast University	2141	FUSUS	914	LeadsOnline	1205
Carahsoft Technology Corporation	1516	GFMD LTD. - Narc Gone	1929	LensLock	1441
Card Data Systems/Toshiba	1244	GH Armor	1741	Leonardo/ELSAG LPR Systems	1106
CardioPulmonary Diagnostic LLC	1136	GTS (Global Technology Systems)	1306	Let's Think Wireless, LLC (LTW)	1637
CARFAX for Police	2139	Galls	1536	Lexipol	940
Certified Speedometer Service, Inc.	2028	Garden State Highway Products, Inc.	507	Lifehammer	1339
Chief Talk Podcast	845	General Motors - Chevrolet Police Program	1856	LifeSavers Inc.	2234
Chiefmart.com	1755	Getac	1138	Logo Mat Central	2335
Choice Sports Cards	826	GLOCK, Inc.	1950	Loyal Order of Police	939
Clearview Asset Protection	2159	Go Rhino	1648	Lund Industries	1644
Click Heaters	941	GovDeals	1944	M&W Communications, Inc.	2334
Code 3	1245	GovDesigns	2122	MES-Lawmen Supply Company	1823
CODY Systems	1445	Guardian Protective Devices Inc.	1916	Mack Camera & Video Service	2039
Compliant Technologies	1044	GunBusters	2238	Major Police Supply	1225

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Medical Essential Diagnostics	1938	Planet Networks	1451	Telrepc	631
Metropolitan Medical Corporation	1440	Plugout	907	Terrestrial Imaging	1839
Middlesex County Police & Fire Pipes & Drums	951	Point Blank Enterprises	2129	The Gun Shop	2317
Milestone	848	Police & Fire Federal Credit Union	840	The Headrest Safe	2135
Millennium Communications Group	2045	<i>Police and Security News</i>	Entranceway	The Hill Group	1756
MILO Range Training Systems	1338	PoliceBikeStore.com	1436	The Institute for Forensic Psychology	1538
Mobizent LLC	1548	PowerFlare Safety Beacons	2328	The Safariland Group LLC	1844
Modern Materiel	827	Premier Custom Carts	955	Thomas Edison State University	2239
Monmouth University Graduate Admission	928	Premier Podiatry	1039	Tiffin Metal Products Co.	2125
Morse Watchmans	836	Prepared	1749	Tracker Products	1946
Motorola Solutions, Inc.	1820	Printek Mobile	1657	Traffic Logix	1745
Municipal Equipment Enterprises-Gentilini Motors	1458	Procomm Systems, Inc.	1544	Traffic Plan	1845
Municipal Parking Services (MPS)	1255	Pro-gard Products, LLC	1321	Traffic Safety Service, LLC	1427
Municipal Safety Supply	1040	PropertyRoom.com	527	Transamerica Agency Network	1147
NJ Division of Criminal Justice	713	ProPhoenix Corp	1848	Troy Products	931
NJ Div. of Temporary Disability-Insurance & Family Leave	709	Public Safety Training of South Jersey LLC	1036	Tyler Technologies	1354
NJ Division of Criminal Justice - CODIS Unit	714	Recovery Solutions and Title LLC	844	US Duty Gear	1656
NJ Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor	715	Reflex Protect	1655	United Safety & Survivability Corp./Valor	632
NJ Transit Police Department	1059	RespondersPro.com	1347	United Shield International	1650
Network Security Group	1304	Rocky Boots	1640	Utility, Inc.	2216
New Jersey Business Systems	1349	Route 23 Automall, LLC	2053	V-COMM LLC	1931
New Jersey Department of Children & Families	711	Royal Truck & Equipment	526	VCS - Workforce Management Solutions	1401
New Jersey Emergency Vehicles	529	ROYER	2126	V.H. Blackinton & Co., Inc.	1941
New Jersey Neck & Back Institute	449	Ruger Firearms	1716	Vector Solutions	1241
New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police	845	Safe Fleet - COBAN & Mobile-Vision	1723	Veritone, Inc.	2118
Nexbelt	1658	Schedule Express by SafeCities	2041	Verizon	1549
Nielsen Fleet	1111	SecureIt Tactical, Inc.	2044	Victims of Crime Compensation Office - NJ	712
NightRide Thermal LLC	1023	SecureWatch24	1641	Vidisco USA	1747
North American Rescue	2140	Seiko Instruments, Inc.	1144	Volcanic Bikes	1947
Northeast Communications, Inc.	2245	Sellmark Corporation	740	WTH Technology	2027
OSI Technology	936	Sentinel Consulting, LLC	1127	Warshauer Electric Supply	1037
Ocean Computer Group, Inc.	1201	Setina Mfg. Co., Inc	1956	Westin Public Safety	601
Off Duty Management	1532	Simsi, Inc. - Online Policing Solutions	2144	WHELEN Engineering Co., Inc.	1313
Officer Media Group	1238	Sitework Associates, Inc.	Registration Area	Will-Burt	855
Online Policing Solutions	2144	Snore No More	2240	Winner Ford	1131
Onyx Armor	1341	Sound Uniforms (Bratwear & Olympic Uniforms)	1945	Wireless C&E	1545
ORIUX	1840	SoundOff Signal	1521	XINSURANCE	2330
Otis Technology	1654	Spacesaver Corporation	736	York Guard Shack	1100
OTTO	615	Stalker Radar	821	Zebra Technologies	1236
PAC - Performance Advantage Company	1731	StarWitness by Signalscape	1045	ZETRON	1449
PMC Wireless	918	Storage Systems USA	2123	ZOLL Medical Corporation	1616
Packetalk	2145	Streamlight, Inc.	2136		
Panasonic Connect	1329	Strong Leather	1937		
Pascack Data Services	1137	Stryker Emergency Care	2236		
Patrol PC	1636	Symbol Arts	1917		
Peerless Handcuff Company	1939	SyTech Corporation	2017		
Pellegrino Auto Group	1953	T-Mobile For Government	1153		
PFC Brakes	1721	TG3Electronics	1727		
Philabundance Food Drive	619	Tactical Public Safety	2022		

Exhibitor listings are as of date of publication.

**NOTE: Exhibitor names and booth numbers are subject to changes and/or revisions.**

# SEMINARS/PRODUCT DEMOS

Free Admission – Open to Industry Professionals Only  
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**TUESDAY, JUNE 27, 2023**

Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Booth #845**

## Welcome to Chief Talk

An ongoing conversation about the latest issues and trends in law enforcement, brought to you by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police

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**11:00 a.m.**  
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## Fairleigh Dickinson University – Leadership Training “Measuring Community Engagement: A Practical Guide”

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**12:30 p.m.**  
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(New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police)

**1:00 p.m.**

## Accreditation Managers Briefing

(This course would benefit accreditation managers who successfully completed the online course.)

**Overview:** Come join NJSACOP accreditation assessors in a discussion about new or revised standards, file maintenance and PowerDMS Power Standards, addressing new developments in law enforcement. Bring your questions. A representative of PowerDMS will be available as well.

**Presenter:** Harry J. Delgado, ED.S (NJSACOP LEAP Accreditation Program Director)

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023**

Exhibits Open: 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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Booth 1537

## Measuring Community Engagement: A Practical Guide

June 27 at 11:00 a.m.  
on the Show Floor

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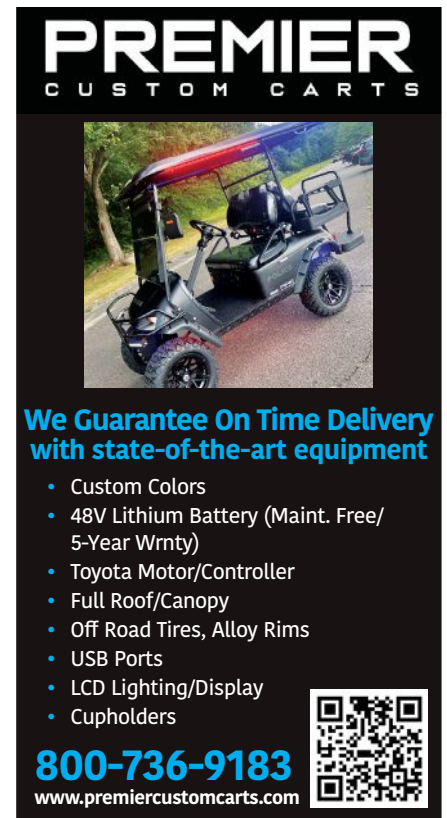


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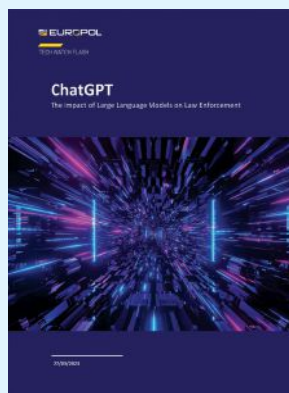
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## Understanding How GPT Is Changing Law Enforcement

Published by Europol, this report analyzes a number of workshops held by subject matter experts on the positive and negative potential of ChatGPT. The report emphasizes that law enforcement must be prepared for the negative impacts of this artificial intelligence system. Although OpenAI has included many safeguards on ChatGPT to prevent malicious use, they can be easily bypassed through prompt engineering. An unprecedented amount of available data is used by criminals to learn about topics such as potential crime areas, how to break into a house, terrorism, and cyber-crime. In addition, ChatGPT's ability to create human-like text makes it a highly useful tool for phishing attempts. Whereas phishing scams were previously detectable by grammatical and spelling errors, artificial intelligence now makes it possible to impersonate an individual in a more realistic manner.



Visit <https://tinyurl.com/ykmk5bdt> to read the full report.



## COPS Article – “Human Trafficking: The Crucible of Training”

Hosted by the Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), this article discusses the unprecedented demands that the issue of human trafficking places on law enforcement. While states and local communities have adopted legislation and regulations related to prevention, enforcement and intervention, enforcing these laws and combating trafficking requires widespread awareness of the issue, development of specialized investigation units, greater collaboration with prosecution, a focus on training for recruits, and enhanced training for veterans.

A copy of the article can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/yd5vsukh>

# NEWS

## Prevention Resource Finder



### Prevention Resource Finder Tool

Published by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), this online tool provides stakeholders with information on the resources needed to help prepare for and prevent targeted violence and terrorism across our country. Within each of the categories, users can search keywords for relevant resources and filter the results based on Department/Agency/Organization and Key Audience.

This online tool can be found at [dhs.gov/prevention](https://dhs.gov/prevention)

## 2022 Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection

Published by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), this report is a result of the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act which was passed to better understand the factors related to law enforcement officer suicides and attempted suicides. The Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection (LESDC), managed by the FBI, provides law enforcement agencies with a system to report data about officers who have died by or attempted suicide. For the FBI's inaugural release of this information, as an infographic, 22 agencies from law enforcement, corrections, telecommunications, and the judicial system provided data for the 2022 Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection. The LESDC Act requires the collection of certain data such as:

- Circumstances and events that occurred before each incident;
- General location of each event;
- Demographic information of each law enforcement officer;
- Occupational category of each law enforcement officer; and
- Any wellness or counseling resources the reporting agency offers.

A copy of the full report can be read at <https://tinyurl.com/2v98bpbpy>

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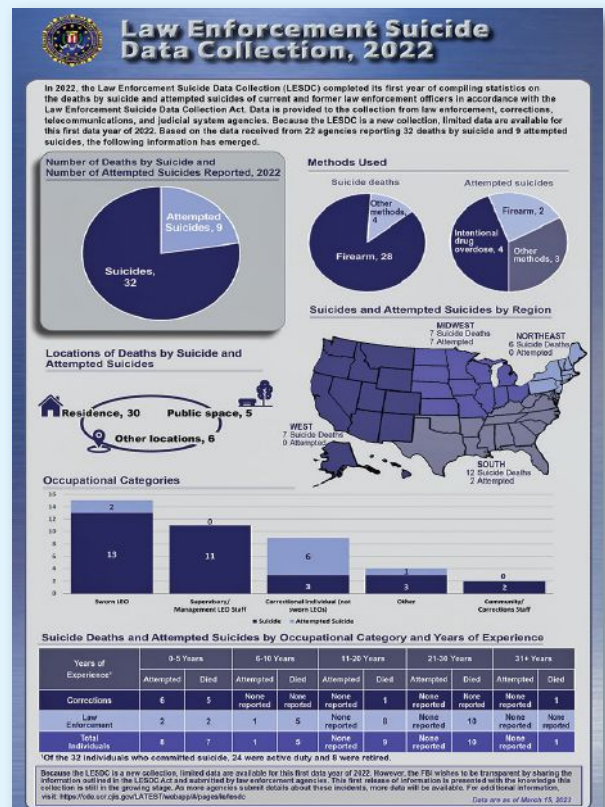
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Serving Law Enforcement & Homeland Security

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# BUSTED!

**JAMES L. MCCLINTON, PH.D.**

**No word yet on the origins of the bird...** A Dutch police officer in Boxtel posted about his moment while driving that he was concerned that the city was the subject of international espionage. "During my surveillance rounds, my eyes fell on a suspected 'spy balloon' above my neighborhood," the officer wrote. "I decided to keep following the balloon and it soon became clear that the balloon was hanging over the district," he added. He decided to pull his car over to investigate. That's where he discovered that the object he was following was actually bird poop on his windshield. Once he cleaned the bird droppings off his windshield, the suspected spy balloon was no longer visible. With tongue in cheek, he posted for all the world to see, "Boxtel is safe!" (*The spy balloon is doing 20, now 40, now 60, now 80 down the boulevard – I'm struggling to keep up with it!*)

**Love is in the air...after she tried to put him in the ground...** A man and wife in Allentown, Pennsylvania, recently celebrated 57 years of marriage. The husband told reporters, "We have been blessed that we had all these years," adding "there was that one [point] when we had a rough time." He was referring to the period in 1983 when his wife hired hitmen a total of five times to kill him. "I don't think I was thinking straight," she said. "It was like it was a love-hate kind of a thing." Of course, the murder attempts weren't successful and the wife and the hitmen were arrested. She spent four years in prison, but their love remained strong and unwavering. The two "lovers" got counseling and committed to better communication and now, decades later, have a long marriage to show for their efforts. (*They say what doesn't kill you makes you stronger!*)

**Did he include the PIN number?**... Authorities arrested a Florida man who they said broke into a convenience store and stole some items, while leaving his debit card behind. The Flagler County Sheriff said the suspect told deputies he left his debit card so he "could come back later and pay" for the items he took. After deputies responded to an alarm at a closed Palm Coast gas station in the early morning, the store owner showed them surveillance video and they also located a debit card with the suspect's name on it on the counter near the register, the sheriff said.

## REAL STORIES OF GENUINE ABSURDITY



## But, they were helping to save the environment...

Criminal masterminds in Gwinnett County, Georgia, carried out a foolproof plan. The criminals broke into a store and stole several pieces of gaming equipment. However, it seems that their departure was quickly stopped in its tracks. These eco-friendly thieves made their getaway in a Tesla. But, as it is with all electric vehicles, it needed to be charged. And, that's where the police located them – at a Tesla charging station not far from the crime scene. But, it didn't end there! In addition to the gaming systems, the thieves were also found with two pounds of marijuana. (*Oh, they got charged...with grand larceny and possession!*)

The Sheriff said, "Leaving a debit card behind does not absolve you from theft or committing a burglary." Deputies said they tracked the man down to return the debit card – and arrested him for burglary and theft. (*Here, just put my theft on the card.*)

**Let's just hope the police can "ketchup" with these criminals...** Catalytic converter thefts in Las Vegas put the bite on one of America's most famous hot dogs. The catalytic converter was recently stolen from the 27-foot-long Oscar Mayer® Weiermobile® while the vehicle was parked at a hotel parking lot. The converter was sawed off and illegally sold which is a growing problem nationwide. Acquiring new catalytic converters is sometimes on a four month backorder. Metro Police said it has not yet received a theft report, but the hotel where it was stolen says its corporate division is investigating...relish the thought! (*No cat for this dog!*)

**Baaaad boy...baaaad boy...what ya gonna do when they come for ewe?**... A convicted murderer serving 15 years in a Bolivian prison thought he had found the perfect way to escape – by dressing as a sheep. The convict used a fleece coat

to sneak past security guards and even made it to a field – where he was caught crawling around on all fours impersonating the farmyard animal. Officers quickly noticed that he was not in his cell and scrambled to find him. It wasn't long before they realized that one of the sheep in the field looked a little unusual. The director of the Bolivian Penitentiary Regime quickly reassured locals living close by that the killer had been captured. (*He was feeling a little sheepish after getting caught...*)

**The school lunches are enough to keep most from returning...** A 29-year-old woman was arrested and charged after allegedly using a forged birth certificate to enroll at a local high school. The New Brunswick, NJ, Police Department said the woman faces a single, third-degree charge for providing a false government document with intent to verify age or identity. She is accused of presenting a fake birth certificate in an attempt to attend public high school classes "as a juvenile" student. Her charade didn't last long and she reportedly managed to attend classes for only four days. (*I guess that she identifies as a teenager.*) **P&SN**



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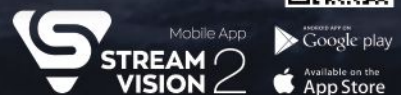
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